1. Wrestling with the LORD
   a) What circumstances precipitated Jacob’s nighttime encounter with the LORD? Genesis 32:1-8
   b) What impresses you about Jacob’s earnest cry to the LORD at Mahanaim? Genesis 32:9-12
   c) Was the sending of numerous gifts to Esau a strategy directed by the LORD or one of Jacob’s own devising? (Genesis 32:13-21)
   d) Why did Jacob continue his nighttime struggle even after he realized he was wrestling with the LORD? Genesis 32:24-26 (see also Hosea 12:3-5)
   e) What was the significance of Jacob’s new name? Genesis 32:27-30
   f) Should we admire and emulate Jacob’s example of wrestling with the LORD or rest in His presence?

2. Healing of a broken relationship
   a) Was Esau’s reaction when meeting his twin brother caused by Jacob’s carefully implemented strategies or was it a miracle of God’s grace? Genesis 33:1-4
   b) Had Jacob, now called Israel, learned to completely trust the LORD in this situation or was he still trying to work things out his own way?
   c) Why is it vitally important that we have a personal encounter with the LORD before trying to find resolution for the personal challenges we face?

3. Challenges in Canaan
   a) Why is the story of the rape of Jacob’s daughter Dinah recorded in the Scriptures? Genesis 34:1-2
   b) What is your reaction to the deception and violence of Simeon and Levi? Genesis 34:11-17, 25-29
   c) What can we learn about Jacob’s character by his reactions to these tragic events? Genesis 34:30

4. Returning to Bethel
   a) Genesis 35:1 Why is it always appropriate to return to the place where we had a special encounter with the LORD (Genesis 28:11-19), especially when we are facing great challenges in our lives?
   b) What miraculous provision occurred when Jacob decided to fully trust the LORD and discard all the idols his family had been carrying with them? Genesis 35:2-5 (Psalm 34:7)
   c) What additional blessing did Jacob receive from the LORD at Bethel? Genesis 35:9-15
   d) What tragedies occurred as Jacob’s family departed from Bethel? Genesis 35:16-19,22
   e) What lessons can we learn from Jacob’s journey after he decided to fully depend upon the LORD?
   f) How has the LORD worked miraculously in your life since you decided to fully trust Him?