

# *the* Purpose *and* Promises of God

## God's Purpose in Our Helplessness

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### Summary

As Jacob is about to reenter the Promised Land, he fears retribution from Esau for Jacob's previous trickery and deception. The overarching theme of this passage is Jacob's reconciliation with Esau. But the underlying theme is how Jacob finally "overcomes" through humility and dependence on God. Before self-sufficient Jacob can enter the Promised Land, God needs to humble him so he will rely on God instead of on himself.

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### Outline

#### Reflection Questions

1. How did Jacob prepare to meet Esau? How did God prepare Jacob to meet Esau?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt helpless? What was that like?
3. Where is life "pressing in" on you right now and causing fear, distress, or anxiety? Have you been honest with God about your fears?
4. Where are you helpless right now? What could it look like for you to stop striving in your own strength and instead to plead for God's blessing?
5. Spend a few minutes reflecting on areas of your life where you are helpless, in over your head. Then confess your helplessness to God and ask for his help.
6. How might a change in your posture toward God affect your posture toward others?
7. How has God fought for you? How can you acknowledge and celebrate that today?

Scene 1: Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau (Genesis 32:1-23)

Scene 2: God Prepares Jacob to Meet Esau (Genesis 32:24-32)

Scene 3: Jacob Meets Esau and Worships God (Genesis 33:1-20)