

FUMC WESTFIELD • SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Engaged Living



The Story of Jacob (Don't Give Up!) (September 8-14)

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act. Psalm 37:5

Monday – Read Genesis 29:27. ‘Jacob’s life is a story of perseverance. When he asked Laban for Rachel’s hand in marriage, Laban made him work for him for 7 years, and then sneakily substituted his other daughter Leah at the wedding ceremony. Jacob, as recounted in the verse above, had to work an additional 7 years for Rachel. While we don’t do these sorts of activities now, we can learn the reward for persistence from this story. Do you have a goal that will require persistence? Remember Jacob and don’t give up!

Tuesday – Read Genesis 32:24-25. These verses tell of another example of Jacob’s persistence. In this case, though, Jacob was injured. What this tells us is that there may be a price to pay, even if we prevail in a situation. Can you think of a time when it cost you something to reach a goal? Was it worth it? Share the story with a friend.

Wednesday – Read Genesis 32:26-28. This part of the story can be a metaphor for becoming a new person because of perseverance. How have you changed (hopefully for the better!) after persisting to reach an important goal? Have you persisted as much in improving your spiritual life? Pray about your priorities this week, and the blessings you might achieve for persisting in pursuing spiritual growth.

Thursday – Read Genesis 32: 29-31. Jacob ultimately received his blessing, but the limp remained with him as a reminder of the cost of the struggle. Ask someone about their ‘scars’ and their blessings from persisting to reach one of their goals.

Friday – Read Genesis 21:5. God’s promises often seem impossible to us. God promised to make ‘a great nation’ of Abraham’s descendants long before he had even one child. This verse tells us how long Abraham had to wait until that promise started to be fulfilled. Do you have the patience to wait for God’s promises? Ask Rev. Williams for ideas on how to do this better.

Saturday – Read Psalm 37:5. All the Old Testament figures we are studying this month had one thing in common: they trusted in God. This psalm sums up the process. Share its wisdom with a friend or family member.