

Sola Publishing Children’s Message Pentecost 19 – Year C		SOLA 
Jacob Wrestles With God		
Readings	1) Genesis 32:22-30 2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 3) Luke 18:1-8	
Scripture Focus	Genesis 32:22-30	
Take Away		
Aids (pics, props, etc.)	Illustrations from FreeBibleImages.com https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-jacob-israel/	
Message Let me tell you about a guy named Jacob. He and his brother, Esau, were twins, and the Bible says that when he was born, he tried to be first by holding on to his brother’s heel, but he wasn’t. That’s why they named him Jacob, which means “he deceives (lies)” or, some call him a trickster. In Bible times, the oldest son was given the family birthright, which was double what the other sons got, and he would be head of the family when the father died. In Abraham’s family, because of God’s promise, the oldest was also given a special blessing from God, which was passed from father to the oldest son. Abraham gave it to Isaac, who was going to give it to Esau. Well, when sneaky Jacob was a young man, he tricked his brother into giving him the birthright, and he tricked his father into giving him the blessing. So, he cheated to get what was going to his brother. [What do you think Esau thought of that?] Esau was so mad that he wanted to kill his brother, so their mother sent Jacob to her family, who lived far away, to find a wife. Wherever Jacob went, he carried what he had done to his brother and Esau’s anger in his heart, and he always knew that he had cheated to get God’s blessing. A time came when Jacob wanted to go back home and see his brother, but he was scared. He didn’t know if his brother was still angry enough to kill him. When he learned that Esau was coming out to meet him with 400 men, he got really scared. Jacob did what he could to protect his family, and that night, when Jacob sat alone in the dark, a man came to him and started wrestling with him. [If you don’t know what wrestling is, it’s fighting without punching or hitting.] Jacob was strong. When the man knew he would not win, he touched Jacob’s hip so it would be out of joint, and he could win. Then, the man said, “Let me go. The sun is coming up.” Jacob said to him, “I won’t let you go unless you bless me.” The man said, “What is your name?” Jacob replied, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “Not anymore. From now on, your name is Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome. Then, Jacob asked the man his name. The man didn’t say his name, but he did bless Jacob. Jacob knew the man was God and said, “I have seen God face-to-face, and yet, I live.” Sometimes we forget that God does what He does and uses whom He chooses to get it done. We have no idea what He is thinking or going to do. We just need to trust Him and be ready to do what He wants us to do. And you never know what that will be. Even though it didn’t seem like it, God chose Jacob. Be ready! You never know how God will use you, too. Let’s pray.		
Repeat Prayer	Heavenly Father, You want to / use us for your plan. Help us be ready / and want to help. Thank you for loving us. We love you. Amen.	