

### The Heart of the Matter

12. For what “showdown” are you preparing? How best should you prepare to face your “brother” and his “400 men”?

13. What can you learn about prayer from Jacob’s prayer in 9-12?

14. When you have wronged someone and want to make things right, how do you show that you are sincerely sorry?

15. With whom or what are you wrestling right now? How can God and our Life Group help you right now?

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## Life Group Study Guide

### Praying for Deliverance Genesis 32:1-32 For the Week of June 24, 2018

#### Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. What was one meeting that you dreaded? When you went through with it, what happened?
3. When has someone tried to “buy” their way into your good graces? What did they offer you? Did you take it? Did you show mercy anyway?

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BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL  
Some questions adapted from: The NIV (c) Serendipity Bible, 1996, Serendipity House, and Bible Study  
Fellowship International @ [www.bsfiinternational.org](http://www.bsfiinternational.org)

### **Digging Deeper**

4. For Jacob, is 20 years away from Esau enough time to heal old wounds? Or does he fear time is on Esau's side, only adding to his desire for revenge? Why do you think so?

5. Jacob recognized the angels he met as God's army. Why were they there?

6. What is Jacob's dilemma at this point? He longs to see his father, but...

7. What do you think of the way Jacob prepares to meet Esau:

- a) Jacob is acting out of fear, not faith.
- b) Jacob is up to his old tricks again.
- c) Jacob is trusting more in Esau's mercy than in God's.
- d) Jacob is demonstrating wisdom and prudence.

8. List the arguments in Jacob's prayer as he asks God to deliver him. What arguments have you used with God in your prayers?

9. Were Jacob's gifts to Esau appropriate since he had just asked God to deliver him? Is it a fair assessment that it seems that Jacob proceeds to try to deliver himself?

10. How can we follow our prayers with action and put feet to our prayers before God? Give an example in your life.

11. Why do you think Jacob chooses to be alone on the eve of Esau's arrival?