

strength, in his own way, by means of his own cleverness.

He sends all his possessions across the border into the Promised Land, and is about to follow, but something detains him. It is night. He feels a strong hand laid on him. Someone is guarding the land to keep Jacob from entering without his leave. (Explain the duty of a gatekeeper or guard.)

Jacob is determined to go in. He fights with the stranger, is baffled and fights again. The stranger at last touches Jacob's thigh. It is injured so that his strength is gone. He falls down in weakness. He sees that it is useless to fight with this stranger.

Then it flashes upon his mind, "This is God Himself who is keeping me out of the Promised Land, till I yield myself entirely to Him and accept the land as His gift." Jacob clings to the stranger (God) and will not let Him go. Jacob says, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me."

God's Answer—As soon as Jacob gave himself up to God and prayed with his whole

heart for blessing, God answered him. God changed his name to Israel, meaning "one who has power with God," for as a prince's word has power, so had Jacob's prayer power with God. He was a "Prince with God." God yielded to him and blessed him, and allowed him to enter the Promised Land, and Esau received him kindly, (ch. 33).

Golden Text—Print text, repeat and explain. Erase "men" and print "boys and girls." Erase "faint" and print "give up."

Lesson Thoughts—(1) Hold on to God (Draw an anchor and explain use.) Keep asking for His blessing and He will bless you.

"For His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much."

Illustrate by a story of an answer to a child's repeated prayer. (2) God sometimes makes us weak, so that we will trust Him more. "He lays us on our back that we may look heavenward." "When I am weak then am I strong." (2 Cor. 12 : 10.)

Story Book—"The First Prince."

Picture of an anchor—HOLD ON TO GOD.

Jacob
I can be

A PRINCE in Prayer gets and gets **A BLESSING**

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

A Strong Weak MAN Conquered Conquering

Have some conversation with the scholars about the strange unseen forces that lie about us—the force of gravitation or electricity—and of how quietly and unexpectedly these may come into play. Wireless telegraphy is a good example; or if a destructive force is desired as an illustration, the dread power of some unseen but deadly gas or malaria. We cannot match ourselves against the unseen current of the heavily charged electric wire. On the other hand, when, instead of fighting them we utilize the hidden powers, how marvellously strong we become. The Bible is full of examples of those who have arrayed themselves against the unseen, but all powerful Jehovah, and of the inevitable defeats that followed; full also of examples of those who have cast their weakness upon His strength and have triumphed. Jacob is but one. Such as David in his battle with Goliath, Daniel, Elijah with the priests of Baal, the apostles in the face of their enemies, are others.