

from the flocks and herds to be sent ahead of him as a present.

Now all is arranged, and he is alone, v. 24.

But the unexpected happens. A wrestler falls upon him in the darkness. Jacob is in the very prime of life, strong, sturdy, determined, a master of men, and so through all the long hours the contest goes on, "until the breaking of the day." Does Jacob begin to suspect that his antagonist is more than man? He assuredly does when, by a touch, his thigh is put out of joint. He is like Saul of Tarsus when the light from heaven blinds him. He perceives he is in the hand of God and surrenders.

But the fight is not over. The heavenly wrestler wishes to quit. But Jacob, with the true instinct of one who has hold of God, says, "*I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*" That is the turning point. When Jacob matched his strength against God's strength, he was beaten. When he casts his weakness upon God's strength, he prevails. His name is changed from "Supplanter" to "Prince," and, although he goes halting all his days, he is a nobler, better, stronger man, because he has learned to trust God's strength, not his own.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Connection—Show Story Book and recall lesson. Jacob lived with his uncle Laban for twenty years. He had then a family of eleven little boys. He decides to return to

the Promised Land. He starts off with his family, his servants, camels, cattle, sheep and tents. Do you remember the name of Jacob's brother? Had they parted "good

friends"? We shall see how Esau welcomed his brother Jacob.

Introduction—What do we mean by a "prince"? Everyone is ready to do what a prince asks. His word has power even with the king.

Lesson—Tell of Jacob's message to Esau and Esau's conduct, of Jacob's plan to "make up friends" by means of presents and by humbling himself to Esau, trying to get possession of the land in his own

Prove from Scripture

That persevering prayer prevails.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

1. A brief outline of Jacob's life.
2. A brief outline of Esau's life.
3. The source of power in prayer.

The Catechism Question

Ques 94. *Baptism, a sacrament.* The symbol used is water, the natural and appropriate symbol of purity. The "washing" is not necessarily immersion, as some assert. The word for "baptism" is applied to such ceremonial acts as the "washing" of beds (Mark 7: 4) and books (Heb. 9: 19) to which immersion could not apply. The old Jewish method was by sprinkling or pouring. Nothing in the New Testament shows that Christ or His apostles departed from the custom. Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is by Christ's own command, Matt. 28: 19. This indicates the new relation to God, of which baptism is the sign and seal. This new relation may be summed up in one word, union. United to Christ, we partake of the benefits which His redemptive work has procured for us and we engage to be His for service all our days.

