

Youth



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).

✓ Struggles

Show the "Jacob's Match" video

Read Genesis 32:22-31.

- How has Jacob's life been a constant struggle with his brother, father, father-in-law, etc?
- Why do you think Jacob separated himself from his family? Why might he have preferred to be alone before meeting his brother?
- Why would God choose to wrestle with Jacob? Why would God want Jacob to go through this struggle before blessing him? What might Jacob have learned from this experience?
- Did Jacob win the fight? Why or why not? How do you think it changed Jacob to struggle with God, yet overcome?

Watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

✓ Perseverance

- What do you think would have happened if Jacob had simply given up? What did he win by persevering?
Show the "Karate Kid" clip.
- How would others have looked at him for withdrawing from the competition? What more did Dre have to prove by continuing to fight? How did his fear motivate him to continue?
- How might this be similar to Jacob's experience with God? What might he have been afraid of?

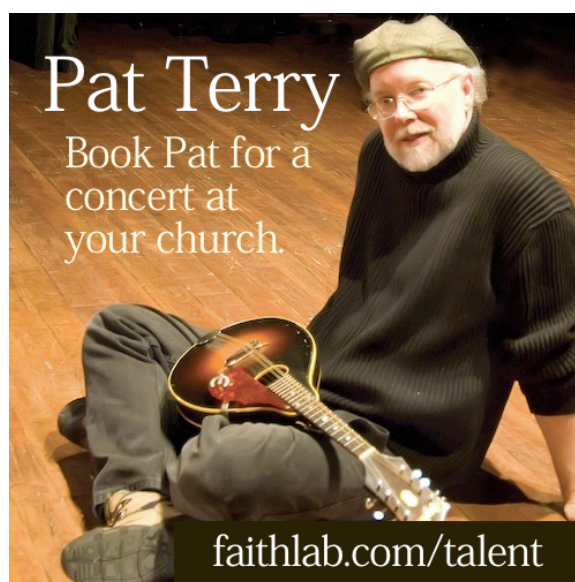
✓ Victory

Play the "Nike Human Chain" video.

- What is the message of this commercial?
- How might this commercial apply to what we know of Jacob's experience?
- What does it say about Jacob that he was able to hold on in spite of the obvious pain he was going through?
- How would you relate this commercial to our faith journey?

- Do you think it is necessary to struggle before we are able to appreciate God's blessing? Why or why not?
- Why might our pain be necessary for our faith? What does it say about us if we are able to hold on in spite of our pain?
- What kind of pain do teenagers wrestle with? What kind of pain do you personally wrestle with? How can this group help you to persevere through that pain?

by Don Breeden



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