**Walking in the footsteps of our Forefathers: seeking a redeemed world**

**From Covenant to Fulfillment - Abraham to Shlomo**

**Class # 6 –The Secret to Personal Prayer**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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*Jacob Meets Esau*

32:4 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau, to [Edom's Field](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=32#C597) in the [Seir area](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=32#C598). 32:5 He instructed them to deliver the following message:

'To my lord Esau. Your humble servant Jacob says: I have been staying with Laban, and have delayed my return until now.

32:6 I have acquired cattle, donkeys, sheep, slaves and slave-girls, and am now sending word to tell my lord, to gain favor in your eyes.' 32:7 The messengers returned to Jacob with the report: 'We came to your brother Esau, and he is also heading toward you. He has 400 men with him.'

32:8 Jacob was very frightened and distressed. He divided the people accompanying him into two camps, along with the sheep, cattle and camels.

32:9 He said, 'If Esau comes and attacks one camp, at least the other camp will survive.' 32:10 Jacob prayed: 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac. You Yourself told me, '[Return to the land where you were born, and I will make things go well with you](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=32#C599).' 32:11 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faith that You have shown me. [When I left home,] I crossed the Jordan with [only] my staff, and now I have enough for two camps. 32:12 Rescue me, I pray, from the hand of my brother - from the hand of Esau. I am afraid of him, for he can come and kill us all - mothers and children alike. 32:13 You once said, 'I will make things go well with you, and make your descendants [like the sand grains of the sea, which are too numerous to count](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=32#C600).'

Guiding Questions:

1. What strategies did Yaakov use in this first communication?
2. How would you feel if your brother was coming to kill you with a “seal team 6” squad of 400 men?
3. What experience does Yaakov share with any soldier on the eve of battle of being “very frightened and distressed.”?
4. What are the two the added dimensions unique to Yaakov’s fear? See: [32:12 – 13]
5. What the components of Yaakov’s prayer?
6. If G-d promised Yaakov - “I will make things go well with you” - why does Yaakov have pray at all?

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| Psalms 8:4- 6 |
| **ד**  כִּי-אֶרְאֶה שָׁמֶיךָ,    מַעֲשֵׂה אֶצְבְּעֹתֶיךָ-- יָרֵחַ וְכוֹכָבִים,    אֲשֶׁר כּוֹנָנְתָּה. | **4** When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, **{N}** the moon and the stars, which You have established; |
| **ה**  מָה-אֱנוֹשׁ כִּי-תִזְכְּרֶנּוּ;    וּבֶן-אָדָם, כִּי תִפְקְדֶנּוּ. | **5** What is man, that You are mindful of him? and the son of man, that You think of him? |
| **ו**  וַתְּחַסְּרֵהוּ מְּעַט, מֵאֱלֹקים;    וְכָבוֹד וְהָדָר תְּעַטְּרֵהוּ. | **6** Yet You hast made him but little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. |

The opening Bracha of the Amida

[Psalms 51:17] - My L-rd, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G‑d and G‑d of our fathers, G‑d of Abraham, G‑d of Isaac and G‑d of Jacob, the great, mighty and awesome G‑d, exalted G‑d, who bestows beneficial kindness, who creates all things, who remembers the kindness of the Patriarchs, and who, in love, brings a redeemer to their children's children, for the sake of His Name.

O King, (You are) a helper, a savior and a shield. Blessed are You L-rd, Shield of Abraham.