

JESUS CHANGES OUR HEARTS



Let's do a little scientific experiment!
You will need:

1 small clear cup or glass. You may also use a clear bottle or container. It's important for the glass or container to be clear and transparent.

Water
2 Tbsps of cooking oil
A spoon/fork

Fill the cup or bottle halfway with water. Now, put in the 2 tbsps of oil. Stir the water and oil so that they mix together. Does the water and oil mix? Try harder and faster.

Oil and water will not mix no matter how fast or hard you try to do it. Oil will always go to the top while water will always stay at the bottom.

There are some things in life that we struggle with, but no matter how hard we try, we will not be able to change the results. One of these things is God's will in our lives and how much God wants to change our hearts.



In our story today, Jesus visits Jacob, whose name means deceiver. When he was young, he deceived his father and stole the blessing that was meant for his brother, Esau. Esau was very mad at Jacob so Jacob ran to a far away place to hide from Esau. Many years later, he had to go back home but he was afraid of what Esau would do to him. He came up with a plan to send many gifts to Esau so that he can save himself and his family. Let's read what happens next:

Genesis 32 :22-32

22 The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had.

24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken."

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 And he said to him, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Jacob."

28 Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

In the middle of the night, a man came and wrestled with Jacob. That man was Jesus. He was clearly stronger than Jacob and when Jacob refused to concede, Jesus touched Jacob's hip and broke it. Still Jacob refused to surrender and insisted the man bless him. Only after the man blessed him did he surrender. Jesus blessed him and gave him a new name as proof of this blessing.

Jacob was used to deceiving others to get his way. But that night, God wanted to change him by showing him that he needed to surrender to God. Jacob walked away a new man. He may be walking with a limp but God gave him a new identity by giving him a new name.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- Do you always obey Jesus?
- Will you obey Jesus even when you do not want to?

7-12 years old

- What is one thing Jesus is asking you to obey him but you struggle to do so?
- What area in your life do you need to surrender to God?

Kid/s to Parent:

- How can Jesus change our hearts?
- Is there anything that Jesus needs to change in your heart?

Just like with Jacob, Jesus does not want us to continue living in our sinful ways. He wants to change us. On our own, we can try as hard as we can and do things our way, But remember the water and oil that do not mix? It is like insisting on doing things our way and yet expecting God's blessing. It will never mix. But when we surrender to God and allow him to change our hearts, He blesses us and even gives us a new identity in Jesus Christ.



Dear God, thank You for knowing what is best for me. Forgive me for all those times I have chosen to do things my way instead of following your way. Please continue to change my heart so that I would continue to follow You and choose to obey You no matter how hard it may be. Help me listen to you and obey you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



Do you know why water and oil don't mix? It's because water is more dense than oil so oil will always float on water even if they're both liquid. Here's a fun way to see this even more. You can create your own lava lamp or just watch this fun video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6a3nX-aLcw>