

# Enrichment: Sacred Art

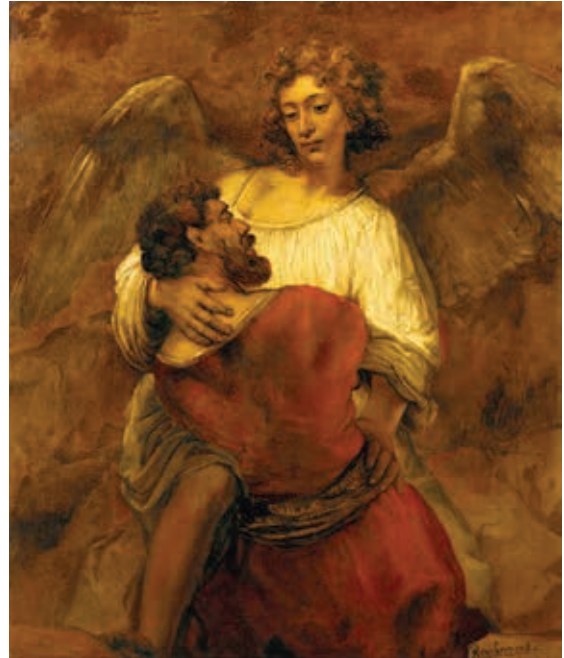
## Praying with Sacred Art: *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel*, by Rembrandt

Full-page image available on page 70 of the Student Text.

When we pray with this sacred art, we learn about God's abundant love and mercy for us. [Begin with the Sign of the Cross.](#)

God's people continued to grow through Abraham's family. Abraham's son was Isaac. One of Isaac's sons was Jacob.

- Here we see an angel with curly hair and dressed in a radiant white garment wrestling with Jacob.
- Look at the face of the angel. **What does it tell us about who this figure might be?**
- Angels are messengers of God who carry out God's saving plan on the earth. If we look at the face of the angel, we see a gentleness in the angel's smile and soft face. The facial expressions of the angel remind us that God is love, rich in mercy and forgiveness.
- God is our loving Father, who created us out of love and for love. The wings of the angel express the protective care of God.



*Jacob Wrestling with the Angel,*  
Rembrandt

Notice what Jacob is doing in this scene.

- Jacob is wrestling with the angel. After they wrestle, the angel blesses Jacob and gives him the name Israel. The angel then tells Jacob, "[You] have prevailed" (Genesis 32:28).
- This wrestling with the angel symbolizes our relationship with God in prayer. Jacob recognized God's love and mercy, so he persevered in this struggle.
- God calls each of us to recognize His love and mercy so that, like Jacob, we, too, can persevere in prayer.
- **We may wrestle with God, like Jacob wrestling with the angel, but do we always persevere in prayer so that we may experience God's abundant love and mercy over us?**
- Look again at the angel's hands and wings protecting Jacob from falling away. **Do you open your heart to God's love and mercy so that He can protect you when you struggle to persevere in prayer?**

### Journal Reflection

**In what situation do you need to trust God and His loving care for you more?** Write your answer on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)

Conclude by praying the Our Father.