

Enrichment: Sacred Art

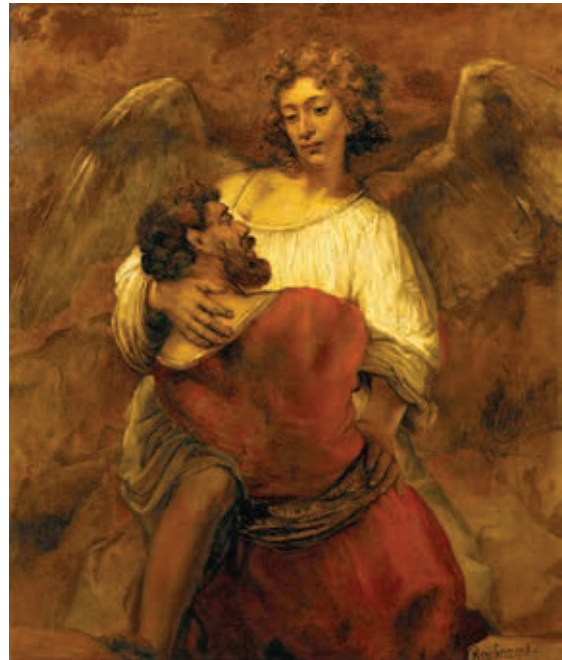
Praying with Sacred Art: *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel*, by Rembrandt

Full-page image available on page 72 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.