

# ***I AM: The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

## **Unit 1: Into the Cave**

### **Lesson 3: The Greatest Battle:**

#### ***The Cave of Wisdom***

##### ***Cave Opening: The Burning Bush***

(Have all lights off in the cave room until students are settled in their places around the camp fire. You will be instructed when to turn on the “Burning Bush” and the “Circle of Fire”. There should be sufficient hallway light through the open door to the cave for students to be able to find their places. Close the door after last student is in place and pause while they experience the darkness of the room.)

Spirit Woman (Leader): “You have entered the Cave of Doubt. ‘The Greatest Battle of Your Life’ is the battle to accomplish your dreams, the desire and passion of your life which I AM has intended as the purpose of your creation. But there is a great darkness opposing you. One of the strongest forces against you in your quest for God’s Dream for you is Doubt.”

(Turn on the “Circle of Fire” camp fire light.)

Spirit Woman (Leader): “You probably are not aware of it, but right now you are engaged in a tremendous battle: the battle for the dream of your life. This battle began before you were even born, at the wonderful moment in the mind

of God when He thought of you. At this moment, He knew you for the first time, but He also had a Dream for your life. A Dream that would be carried out by one of his children, for that is what you are: God's child.

Your parents will be the human partners with God in the creation of your physical life, but God has already known your spirit. From the moment of that human conception, the battle for your life began; not your physical (although that too will be engaged in battle), but the spiritual battle for you to become the Dream that God had for you in His mind that moment He thought of you. You are special to God, as is each of His Dreams.

Unfortunately, many battles are lost and God's Dream becomes God's disappointment, even though He still loves each one; a love so great that He was willing to sacrifice his only Son in a final attempt to save you and others. But it still comes down to you. Only you can fight and win or lose the Greatest Battle; but you do have help: God provides that help. But you have the choice!"

**Circle of Fire:** The Power of a Dream, and the forces against it.

Spirit Woman (Leader): "There is great power in a dream, for dreams create the passion of our life, either for good or for bad. I AM has given you a dream, so has the world. You must discover the correct dream to accomplish I AM's purpose for you. In this lesson, we will look at the life of a character that fought a great battle to find I AM's dream for

him and to make it a reality. Our scripture tells us the story of a man who, after working for 20 years to obtain his dream, found that he still didn't have his dream. He had to wrestle a man all night to obtain his true dream, the dream God had for him. Jacob will share his story with you."

*Scripture Reference: Gen. 32: 22-26*

*Show the video: "Jacob's Stairway to Heaven" in Appendix 6.*

***Biblical Character: Jacob – A Great Wrestler***

(Dress as Jacob and act the night he fought the angel of the Lord.)

Jacob: "I was cold and the night was so dark it felt like my very soul was being sucked out of my body. It had been twenty years of hard work with my father-in-law since I had fled from the presence of my brother Esau. I feared my brother's wrath for my deception of our father and stealing Esau's blessing. And now, God had told me to return home and that He would bless me. But would God stop Esau from killing me on sight!

I sent messengers with gifts ahead of me to meet Esau and beg his forgiveness. But they returned reporting that Esau was coming with four hundred men! I divided my family and belongings and sent them on ahead of me across a river. If Esau attacked one group, I hoped the other would escape. It was a big gamble and I stood to lose all that I had worked twenty years to obtain.

That night as I camped alone, a man came to me and wrestled me until dawn. I was determined not to let him get away from me without giving his blessing to me. When he saw that I was determined to hold onto him, he touched my hip and wrenched it so I limped badly. He pleaded with me to let him go, but I refused unless he blessed me. He told me my name would no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because I had struggled with God and with men and had overcome.

I saw God face to face, and he spared my life! God blessed me. My brother forgave me and I returned home. I became known as Israel and my twelve sons would become the tribes of Israel. My determination to grab hold of the dream God had for my life was rewarded. It was worth the physical pain of a hip injury.”

Spirit Woman (Leader): “Your life’s journey will also be one of struggle and doubt to be God’s Dream. God will help you, but you must be willing to struggle to obtain it. Jacob fought a great battle to obtain his desire. Are you prepared to fight the battle as well?”

***Modern Character: Dr. Martin Luther King – I Have a Dream***

See Appendix 2: Resources for the link to Dr. King’s speech on Youtube. Show the video to the class.

Spirit Woman: “‘I have a dream.’ Dr. King knew his dream, God’s purpose for his life. And he was willing to give all to achieve it. What are you willing to give to obtain your dream?”

**The Cave Dark Side Journey:** The dark side will use Doubt to block your journey to your dream.

**Key Learning for the Tribe:** The Power of a Dream when it is God's dream can overcome all doubt you will face in life.  
Remember: You are not alone!

**Craft:** "I AM T-Shirts"

Provide acrylic paint and a piece of cardboard for each student. Have the members put the cardboard in the T-shirt to keep paint off the front and paint a representation of their dream, as they see it now, on the back of their T-Shirt.

**Recreation Activity:** "Paper Towel Tube Battle" See Appendix 6 Recreation for this activity.