A. The Need for Grace (vs. 1-4):

1. Jacob, with no end in sight, gave his full attention to his brother’s approach.
2. Jacob continuously came to a full understanding that the person approaching was Esau. This could mean that Esau did not accept his gifts and he therefore may not have found favor in his brother’s sight.
3. His full attention was on his brother coming towards him.
4. Jacob used all his power and authority to organize the plan he had created (Genesis 32:13-21). His maids and their children were up front, Leah and her children were next, Rebekah and Joseph were right in front of him.
5. As Esau approached Jacob moved through the women and his children to greet his brother. He seems to be making a last ditch effort to gain sympathy from his brother as if to say he has a lot of wives and children so he cannot kill him.
6. He was going to be the first to greet his brother face to face.
7. He prostrated himself, as an act of total respect and complete submission to his brother. Esau is older so Jacob provided him respect that Esau was the one in authority. He was going to give him back the birthright but he provided to him all that the birthright means – Esau had the authority and the blessings (all the animals that were sent a head). Jacob did this even after God reaffirmed Abraham’s blessing to him (Genesis 12:1-3; 32:24-32). Sometimes when people are living well and are in positions of authority they put aside the need to restore relationships because they know they are doing well; not Jacob. Jacob needed his brother no matter how blessed he was (Genesis 32:1-5).
8. Jacob, as he approached his Esau, kept prostrating himself over and over until it was seven times. As he came near his brother his mind was the same as someone in a court of law ready to argue his case.
9. Esau with no end in sight continuously hugged his brother Jacob. This carries a sense that he really missed his brother.
10. Esau’s embrace was highly emotionally. He had not seen or heard from his brother in twenty years.
11. This is a demonstration of a strong outward emotion by crying very loudly. It did not matter to Esau that four hundred of his warriors heard him. This is the same emotional expression we see in Joseph when he saw his brother Benjamin and his father (Genesis 43:29-40; 46:29).

B. Grace Erases Wrongs Done (vs. 8-11):

1. After all of Jacob’s family were introduced to Esau, they showed reverence to him, Esau spoke up.
2. Esau wanted to know what was Jacob’s intention because his entire family is bowing to him so that he is now completely in a state of recognizing who they are.

3. Jacob stated to Esau that his intention was to restore what was lost (Genesis 27:38-46). It was because Esau threatened to kill him that Jacob was sent to Laban. This is a nation that knows the story of Cain and Abel.

4. Jacob knew what he did to his brother was wrong so now that he is free from Laban, his father-in-law, he badly wanted to experience Esau’s kindness towards him.

5. He wanted to rediscover his Esau’s love for him after all they were twin brothers (Genesis 27:24-27 – ‘the boys grew up’ – the sense that they grew up together as twins even though they had different natures).

6. Jacob fought with God because he wanted God to be bless him (Genesis 32:28-30). There was no fight with his brother (could not anyway – he know walked with a limp – Genesis 32:31) because he desired grace.

7. Jacob wanted to experience his brother’s kindness while in his presence. He did not just want to know his Esau forgave him he needed to experience it.

8. Jacob loudly expressed in the presence of all the people present that he respected his brother to be the oldest and with Isaac and Rebekah gone (their parents) Esau is the head of the tribe. Even though Esau did not have the birthright Jacob accepted his position in the family.

9. Esau did not accept Jacob’s gifts because God had also blessed him in the same manner.

10. God was a head of the meeting so that two brothers are united once again. God did this after blessing Jacob and second time (Genesis 32:24-32).

11. Jacob relentlessly with intense urgency insisted that his brother reap from the blessings that came from Jacob having his birthright. Jacob could have learned what this felt like dealing with how his uncle threatened him because of his desire to marry Rachel (Genesis 31:36-42).

12. Jacob earnestly and sincerely wanted to experience his brother’s forgiveness and kindness. Jacob did this before an audience that included his wives, children, his servants and four hundred mighty warriors. His need for grace humbled him no matter how blessed he was even blessed by God Himself.

13. Jacob wanted Esau to select from all that was under his authority what he presented to him so that it completely belongs to Jacob. To take from his hands also demonstrates a personal transfer to his brother.

14. This means the same as bringing a sacrifice to God in order to establish peace with God so that a fellowship with God is reestablished.

15. Giving his brother these gifts was to finally correct the wrong done to his brother. The wrong done to his brother was something God demanded Jacob to address.

16. Seeking grace from his brother was the same as seeking grace from God.

17. Jacob has now come to grips that his brother had given him grace.

18. God blessed Jacob despite the fact he tricked his brother. God remained with His structure – the birthright. God forgave Jacob so Jacob now seeks forgiveness from his brother.
19. God’s blessing of Jacob (not through his father or because of a birthright) did not take place until Jacob was on his way to his brother.
20. God blessed Jacob because of Esau’s birthright (Esau as result received no blessing – Genesis 27:39-40), while Esau was sent away with nothing. Jacob earnestly pleaded with Esau to reap from his birthright.
21. Esau accepted the gift so that it endlessly blesses him. After all Esau was sent to a barren place to live by the sword. The yoke was broken – Isaac’s prophesy was fulfilled (Genesis 27:39-40).

C. Grace Settles a Heart to Live at Peace (vs. 12, 15-17):

1. Esau responded with an endless desire to rekindle his relationship with his brother.
2. This means that Jacob and Esau would pull up their tents and continuously share their lives together.
3. Jacob responds with a concern for his family and wants left of his blessings.
4. Esau wanted to leave some of his warriors with Jacob so that he is protected while he traveled to Succoth. Jacob said that his traveling companions were frail (vs. 13). Esau continues to extend grace.
5. Jacob wanted to experience their renewed friendship more than receive his brother’s blessing.
6. Jacob maintains that his brother is still his older brother and therefore was always going to receive that respect. Order always sustains and maintains relationships. Relationships always function on respect even our relationship with God requires reverence and awe.
7. This was the place where Esau would establish a nation.
8. This was a temporary place where Jacob would live. It was the beginning of a journey that was completed by Joshua.
9. Jacob established his authority over this place so that it became a memory to his people.
10. Grace gave birth to a nation that produced Christ who provided us grace.
11. Grace creates, establishes, and sustains relationships forever.