

Wrestle with God

Pastor's message: Genesis 32:22-31

Message Notes:

Wednesday

Read: Genesis 32:27-28 *Jacob's new name*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The man changes Jacob's name from "supplanter" to "Israel." How does this affect Jacob's identity and future?*
2. *What does Jacob's new name say about his relationship with God?*

Prayer Focus Hold strong for us, Holy One. Take hold and challenge us. Give us a new name. How else can we grow?

Thursday

Read: Genesis 32:29 *A blessing*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What might Jacob gain by learning the man's name?*
2. *Do you think Jacob was worthy of a blessing? Why does God keep choosing him?*

Prayer Focus Give us a faith that isn't passive, that perseveres, Faithful God. Help us understand that we sometimes have to strive for a deeper relationship with you.

Friday

Read: Genesis 32:30-31 *Jacob*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does it mean to you to encounter God face to face in your life?*
2. *Pray for a blessing for you and for our world. (Fight for it, if you have to.)*

Prayer Focus Thank you, God of grace, that we don't always have to steal or fight to obtain your blessing. Thank you for creating us with blessings in mind. Help us carry your blessings openly, according to your plan.



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Why?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Genesis 32:22-31**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

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August 6, 2023

Monday

Read: Genesis 32:22-24 *Jacob and a stranger*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Jacob choose to stay alone?*
2. *Jacob is going home to face his brother, finally. Is he ready for this meeting, do you think? Why?*

Prayer Focus You are the God who allows our questions, wrestles with us, confronts us in the nighttime of our fears. Come to us in our weakness, be patient with us when we resist you. Stay with us until day breaks.

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 32:25-26 *Fighting for a blessing*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Jacob tricked his father into giving him his blessing. Now he asks for a stranger's blessing. What is Jacob really seeking?*
2. *Have you ever wrestled with a problem, struggling to find an answer? Do you ever wrestle with God?*

Prayer Focus We need to hang on to you, Creator, and stay in the struggle for your blessing. We have many needs that only your blessing can meet and heal. Bless us so we can stick with you, even in the dark.