

THEOPHANY: WRESTLING WITH GOD

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Genesis 32:22-32

I. WRESTLING WITH YOUR ESAU FOR BLESSING

- 1) Adam said the wrestling match of our lives is to have the blessed life. We want people to like us, admire us, and applaud us. Is this true of you?
- 2) We say to money, "I will not let you go until you bless me." What does money mean to you?

Money = Security
Money = Happiness
Money = Respect
Money = Pleasure
Money = Possessions
Money = Reward

- 3) Discuss the following quote: "What you think you deserve will turn you into a slave. What you think you can control will devour you."
- 4) What is your Esau?

II. WRESTLING WITH YOUR GOD

- 5) Jacob learned that God can respond to us at times in counterintuitive and shocking ways. He can allow difficulties and wounds because he is wise and loving. Have you ever experienced the "severe mercy" of God? Has he ever answered one of your prayers in a way that you totally didn't expect?
- 6) What are the two ways that people typically respond to suffering? How do you typically respond to suffering? What are some ways you could cling to God next time you find yourself in the midst of suffering?

III. WRESTLING TO VICTORY THROUGH DEFEAT

- 7) God gives Jacob a new name, Israel. What does Israel mean? Why is it significant?
- 8) Explain what Adam meant when he said, "Even in the sins of others it is God we must wrestle with first."

- 9) James 4:6 says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
How did Adam's story about his son illustrate this truth?