

Genesis 32 — Wrestling with God

Warm-Up Question:

Has there been a time in your life where you ran away from God? If so, what did that look like to run away and return to God?

READ: Genesis 32:22-32

I. WRESTLING WITH GOD: From Self-Sufficiency to Dependence

- ▶ Discuss how Jacob got ahead in life, and then discuss why God would come wrestle with him and for so long. What is God hoping to accomplish?
- ▶ Once God put Jacob's hip out of socket, how does Jacob show he has moved from self-sufficiency to dependence?
- ▶ If God came and wrestled with you, what would be possible areas of self-sufficiency that he might target that might keep you from clinging to Jesus?

II. WRESTLING WITH GOD: From Scheming to Confessing

- ▶ Why did God ask Jacob his name in VS. 27? (Think about the meaning of Jacob's name and what God wanted him to admit and confess)
- ▶ Read Hosea 12:4. Why do you think Jacob wept after God had prevailed?
- ▶ Do you think of yourself as one who is quick or slow to confess sin or wrongdoing to God or others? How do you need to grow in this area?

III. WRESTLING WITH GOD: From Strutting to Limping

- ▶ After Jacob encountered God, VS. 31 said he left limping. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 and discuss why God wants us to walk with a limp.
- ▶ How did Jesus live a life of dependence on God and "limping"...even to the point of suffering on the cross?
- ▶ How might you grow in living with a limp before God? What about others?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

"There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride to the depths that the gift of Jesus Christ requires us to do. Christmas means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. That means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life."

— Tim Keller

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