



Small Group Discussion Questions
"How to Wrestle With God"
Genesis 32:22-32
Pastor Scott Farmer
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Opening Remarks

Many of us live self-reliant, scheming lives by our strength, wit, broken relationships and fear – like Jacob. Midnight wrestling alone with an unknown God brings both brokenness and blessing, crippling victory, magnificent defeat. Like Jacob of old, may we move from self-reliant to God-blessed.

The setting: Jacob is returning from servitude for his uncle Laban in Haran to his homeland where he must face his broken relationship with his brother Esau before taking his place in the Promised Land. Just before he enters the land, he has a midnight encounter.

Warm it up

1] Why are you named as you are? How did you get your name?

Talk it over

2] Read Genesis 22-32. Is Jacob's opponent "a man" [v. 24] or "God" [v. 30]? How do you understand these references?

3] What do the following tell you about power and weakness:
"Wrestled with him till daybreak" [v.24]
"Hip was wrenched" [v.2]
"I will not let you go unless you bless me" [v. 26]?

- 4] Think about the importance of names:
Why do you suppose the man asked Jacob "What is your name?" [v. 27]
What is significant about the name change from Jacob to Israel [v. 28]?
Why would the man not tell Jacob his name [v. 29]?
- 5] What resulted from Jacob seeing God at Peniel? To him? Beyond him personally? For human history?

Work it out

- 6] Let's get personal. Can you find yourself in this story? How are you like Jacob wrestling alone with a mysterious Opponent before you face a life-shaping encounter with your past, present, or future?
- 7] What would "blessing" from God look like in your life? How good are you at yielding control over the form of God's blessing? Are you asking God to bless you in whatever way He sees fit, rather than defining what that blessing should look like? Are you demanding from strength or pleading from brokenness and trust?
- 8] What identity and experience has God given you as you face the challenges and relationships God has placed before you?

Pray it through

Enjoy praying Lord's Prayer together as a group in light of this discussion! Pray the honor of your Father, His will being done amid your challenging relationships, provision, forgiveness, leading, protection and deliverance!