

JACOB AT THE JABBOK

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Week of Sept 25

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-32 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- Share something about yourself with the group. How many siblings do you have? What is the birth order? What are their names?

Scripture Reflection:

- The man who wrestles Jacob never claims to be God. Some have said it's a dream, some have said Jacob is wrestling himself, some have said it's Jesus. Who do you think Jacob is wrestling? Why?

Sermon Reflection:

- Jacob's deepest desire is to receive the love of his father Isaac. What, at our core, do you think we human beings desire most in this world?
- Jacob has lived life trying to earn and steal every blessing he can. How does Jacob's lifelong struggle mirror the struggle many of us have in our culture?
- Josh started the service with the image of "phosphorescent moments" in life. As you look back at your life, what are some of these moments for you?
- Josh mentioned that a metaphor for faith in the bible is one's walk with God. Why has this encounter so changed Jacob's walk? What are the ways we wrestle in life and wrestle with God? What are you currently wrestling with?

Closing Question & Application:

- Given our discussion, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

Prayer: *(save a little extra time for this)*

- As the leader let the group know they will repeat after you in order to close with prayer. You will say as follows: "Repeat after me. Be still and know that I am God (Leave 10 seconds of silence) "Be still and know that I am" (silence) "Be still and know that I" (Silence) "Be still and know" (Silence) "Be still" (Silence) "Be" (Silence) Amen.