



INTRODUCTION

Jacob is alone and afraid and so God shows up ... to fight him. Once Jacob realizes the identity of the one with whom he wrestles he clings to him and prays for his blessing. A blessing he receives. A blessing that will mark him the rest of his days.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?

REVIEW

- Read **Gen 32:22-32**
- Why does God show up and fight Jacob?
- Why does God dislocate his hip?
- Why won't Jacob let of God?
- What is the blessing of God?
- Why does he ask Jacob his name?
- Why does God not tell Jacob his name?
- Why does God rename him? What is the meaning of the name Israel?

APPLICATION

- Do you meet with God in community or individually? Why are both important? Do you find it difficult to meet with God alone?
- Has your encounters with God ever been painful? Why do we think meeting with God is always a pleasant experience in light of the narratives of the Bible?
- What have you learned from trial or suffering that you could not learn simply from a sermon or bible reading?
- Are you clinging to God? How do you know? Why or why not?
- Would you rather limp with God's blessing or skip without it?
- What is the relevance of Jacob's limp for us? In what way must you limp?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?