



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 29th September 2024



Grappling with God Genesis 32:3-31

Warm Up

How do you think parents teach their children to trust them? Why is this so important for the child?

Background and context

The story of Jacob wrestling with God is a vital part of his story and journey of faith. Not only that, it is central in the story of the Bible, of the world and of our own lives. All of us wrestle with God at some point or other as we deal with life. This particular incident in Jacob's life brings together three themes that have flowed through Jacob's life; 1. Wrestling 2. Groping around in the dark, 3. Blessing. It is also significant as it is the birth of Israel and we see these things in Israel's story too.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Genesis 32:3-31. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?



The big question people often ask about this story is: How can a human wrestle with God and win?

1. **v28.** God acknowledges Jacob's victory. Why does He let Jacob win?
2. How does Jacob realise he is wrestling God?
3. Jacob refuses to let God go until he has been blessed. What is he now understanding about God?
4. **Read ch 31:13 and 32:9.** Why was this command so problematic for Jacob? How do we know he was fearful?
5. What promise was Jacob given by God and how do we know he was not confident in God's ability to keep it?
6. Jacob spent most of his life trying to use God to get what he wanted. How does the wrestling match change this?
7. Why was Jacob left with a limp? What lesson is being given to him?

Discipleship and Application



8. In what ways can we be like Jacob when it comes to God's promises?
9. How does this story point to Jesus? How is He like the man Jacob wrestled?
10. How is the world's self reliance like Jacob's life?
11. In what ways are you like Jacob?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: