



Part 2

Jacob Wrestles

Genesis 32:22-30

32 ²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Chapter 1. Abraham & Sarah

Notes:

Chapter 2. Isaac & Rebekah

Notes:

Chapter 3. Jacob, Leah & Rachel

Notes:

THE PATRIARCHS PROBLEM (OURS TOO!)

They feared what men might do to them instead of trusting what God had promised them

WHEN YOU TRULY ENCOUNTER GOD YOU WILL FOREVER BE CHANGED

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

AFFLICTION CAN DRAW US CLOSER TO GOD

I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

THE GREAT CHANGE WE EXPERIENCE IN CHRIST IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY

Here is a reminder that undergoing the great change—becoming a Christian—is not always quick and easy. It is not just a matter of repeating a prayer, making a decision, or filling out a card. True conversion often comes only after intense wrestling with God.

Strassner, K. Opening up Genesis



Community Group Questions:

1. In what ways have you run from God or wrestled with his will in your life?
2. Can you think of a time where affliction has brought you closer to God?
3. Is it helpful for you to understand faith as a life-long journey, rather than a one time decision? How would you explain this idea to a friend?