

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of October 29, 2017

Genesis 32:22-32

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²² 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, and 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.

New Living Translation (NLT)

²² *During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. ²³ After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions.*

²⁴ *This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. ²⁵ When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"*

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ *"What is your name?" the man asked.*

He replied, "Jacob."

²⁸ *“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”*

²⁹ *“Please tell me your name,” Jacob said.*

“Why do you want to know my name?” the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

³⁰ *Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.”* ³¹ *The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.* ³² *(Even today the people of Israel don’t eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob’s hip.)*

Connection Questions:

1. Read Genesis 32:24. The sentence might sound like a contradiction. How might it make sense?
2. When do people feel alone? Jacob tricked his brother out of his birthright. Now many years later, Jacob is preparing to face his brother again. Describe how that might cause him to feel alone?
3. If the scripture passage said that Jacob was struggling with an issue, what might that have been? How could wrestling with such issues also be a wrestling with God?

