



7/30/23 Message — “Wrestling With God”

CONNECT: Does anyone have a background in combat sports? Is there one you’d like to try (e.g., karate, kickboxing, jiu-jitsu, etc.)?

GROW:

1. Scott walked us through a fascinating study of the life of Jacob. What part of Jacob’s personality and story do you relate to the most?
 - o Striving for blessing/approval, fighting to get ahead in life, living in the shame of past mistakes, running from consequences, feeling the need to control/manipulate your way to your preferred outcomes, only going to God as your last resort, etc.
2. Let’s take another look at the transformational moment in Jacob’s life we’re honing in on this week: **Read Genesis 32:22–33:4**. What details stand out the most to you?
3. At this point in Jacob’s life, he was well on in years and had spent a long time striving and doing things his own way. Why do you think God waited so long to confront Jacob like this?
4. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel, meaning, *“He strives with God,”* and the entire nation of God’s people who came from this family line was known by the name Israel, too. In Scott’s words, “God’s people have always been those who strive, struggle, and contend with God. God’s people are those who take God so seriously that they don’t let go when they don’t understand; instead, they wrestle with Him.”
 - a. What has “wrestling with God” looked like in your life in the past?
 - b. What kind of transformation have you experienced on the other side?
5. Just like Jacob, the challenge for us is this: “Don’t let go of God.”
 - a. When you are in tension with God, is your natural inclination to wrestle with Him, or do you run from the mat? What does that response typically look like in your life?
 - b. What are you facing right now that’s making it hard to hold on to Him?
 - c. “He is not safe but he’s good.” Do you trust God’s intentions toward you? What do you think He may have for you on the other side of what you’re facing?
 - d. What do you need right now to help you hold on?

PRAY: Split up into pairs, and take turns praying specifically over the biggest battle(s) that each other is facing. Pray for the strength to keep holding on and wrestling with God, for trust in what His purposes and intentions are, and for transformation through the struggle.

NEXT: Write this sentence out on a piece of paper, and finish it with the biggest battle(s) you’re facing right now: “He’s bigger than _____.” Stick it where you’ll see it every day.