

Darkroom

Week 2 - Brian Kangas
“Agitated”

Icebreaker: Do you have a hobby? What is it?

Topics for Discussion:

- Read **John 3:1-21**
 - What stands out to you about Nicodemus?
 - Do you think Jesus was impatient or patient in teaching Nicodemus?
 - What do you think Nicodemus’s reaction to Jesus was after their conversation?

- Read **Genesis 32:22-32**
 - The backstory for Jacob is one of deceit, cowardice, trickery, and fear. He found himself in a tight spot, afraid of the future and his own survival. His brother, Esau, was on his way to (Jacob assumed) exact revenge upon his younger brother.
 - If you were Jacob, what would be your initial reaction to the event begun in **vs 24**?
 - Taking Jacob’s story and Nicodemus’s story, we get a picture of “wrestling things out” with God.
 - Does God appear bothered by this wrestle? Does he welcome it?

Things to Consider:

- The process of developing film in a darkroom includes an agitation step. This is important from a chemical standpoint, as the liquids involved in developing film act too slowly in stasis, but get them moving (or agitate them) and suddenly you get the pretty, artistic pictures of your thumb over a mountain that you seek.
- Nicodemus, Jacob, and even us today wrestle with big questions. We often seek out the answers from the world around us...but it’s in the same state of confusion that we are in. We are agitated, but need the appropriate agent to develop in us the “solutions” we need. God is that agent. He has the answers and knows what it will take to develop us into the best “us” we can be.
- We often think the wrestling is to be avoided at all costs. But this is the process we work through with God. Don’t stop the wrestle! Stick with Jesus, keep your head in “the game” and you will experience change!

Going Deeper:

- Take a look, in transparent vulnerability, at some of your wrestles with God.
 - Do you feel yourself giving up?

- Are you willing to ask for help? We can't do many things alone, and there is no shame to be had in community. We are meant for it! Seek prayer and advice from people who are walking with God in the direction you want to go.

Prayer: Collect needs and requests for prayers from the group, and don't forget to give praise and thanks to our most precious Lord and savior!

General: Also, don't forget about the [Good Friday Furnace](#) at 7pm on Friday. We hope to see you there! If you're up to for it, try fasting that day until the Furnace dinner!