

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.
 - How will we live out our family identity in the coming weeks?
 - What needs or opportunities to serve is God is asking us to lean into?
 - Who do we know that needs to hear about the love of Jesus?
- 2) What did you find most helpful, encouraging, or challenging in this message?
- 3) Read Genesis 32:22-32. How did this event change him? What stands out to you about Jacob's encounter? What questions do you have about this passage?
- 4) Have you had an identity-changing encounter with Jesus? If so, share it with your Impact Community. If not, how have you encountered Jesus in your life?
- 5) Read Isaiah 53:4-12. What is your reaction to knowing that Jesus "fought with God" in your place? How should this affect how we live?
- 6) Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Jacob was renamed Israel, and the entire nation of Israel took their name from this encounter. How is this similar to Christians and Jesus? How is it different?
- 7) How, as an IC, can we "bear Jesus' name" in a way that proclaims his love to others?
- 8) Read a few of the letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3. What does it mean to be a Christian whose life is defined by "overcoming"?

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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

Wrestling with God - Jacob

With Phil Harwood

July 30, 2017



The name Jacob in Hebrew sounds like “deceiver”.

Jacob's life was defined by self-sufficiency and deceit

Genesis 32:22-32 (NIV)

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants 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,^[1] because you have struggled with God and with humans 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.”

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Jacob's wrestling encounter with God was an identity-changing event.

- 🕒 Jacob personally encountered God - Genesis 32:30
- 🕒 Jacob wrestled with God until he received the blessing that mattered most - Genesis 32:26 & 29
- 🕒 Jacob (“deceiver”) is renamed Israel (“God fights”) - Genesis 32:28
 - The nation promised to Abraham is named after Jacob's new, God-given identity. Jesus is the true and better Jacob

Jesus is the true and better Jacob

- 🕒 Jesus is our personal encounter with God

John 14:6 (NLT) “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

- 🕒 Jesus fought with God in our place

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT) “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed”

- 🕒 The Church is the “nation” that bears Jesus' name

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NLT) “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Big Idea: Only Jesus can transform our inadequate “self-sufficiency” into life-giving God-dependency.

3 Questions to consider:

- 1) Have you had an identity-changing encounter with Jesus?
- 2) Do you “bear Jesus' name” in a way that proclaims him to those around you?
- 3) Is your life one defined by “overcoming”, like Israel's became?
 - See Jesus' letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3