

## **Underdog: Under God Jacob**

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### **Ice Breaker - What is your favorite marketing brand, logo or slogan? Why?**

*Sadly, all of us at some point are labeled with a painful “identity tag”...*

*After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.  
(Gen. 25:26a)*

**This is a personal question, so be sensitive to those answering. What is a label that you have been given by others or even yourself?**

*When we live up to our “label” we can’t help but damage...*

- **Our relationships with people** – “But he said, ‘Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.’ Esau said, ‘Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing!’” (Gen. 27:35-36a)
- **Our relationship with God** – “‘Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. But you have said, “I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.”’” (Gen. 32:11-12)

**How have you been affected by damaged relationships with others when they have chosen to “live up to” their painful labels?**

*God will rip your “label” off, but it requires a willingness to...*

- **Wrestle it out (surrender)** – “So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.” (Gen. 32:24)

‡ **Sometimes God has to “break a hip” before we will tap out** – “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.” (Gen. 32:25)

*“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24)*

- **Call it out (admission)** – “The man asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘Jacob,’ he answered.” (Gen. 32:27)
- **Welcome it in (acceptance)** – “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.’” (Gen. 32:28)

**Which step do you need to be willing to take so that God can rip the label off of you? Will you do it?**

*...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God...  
(1 Peter 2:9)*

**Which new God given label will you claim so that you can live your life in victorious freedom?**

*After the struggle we may limp, but that limp is a symbol of spiritual victory...*

*The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. 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. (Gen. 32:31-32)*