

Leadership Tip!

Pointing out progress in a person's life is one of the most important responsibilities of a leader. Not only does it increase a person's morale, but it will also spur on additional growth.

SECOND WIND

“When you don’t want to stay the same: JACOB”

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Can you relate to a time when you had to point out to someone just how far they changed when they didn't see it themselves?

MAIN IDEA:

The urge to changing for the better is something that most people can easily relate too. But it is not always easy to “see” change happening in our life. Sometimes, God has to grab ahold of us in order for us to realize just how far we have come.

Genesis 32:9-12 (NIV)

“Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, LORD, you who said to me, ‘Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,’ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. 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.’”

What do you think of Jacob's prayer?

Read Genesis 28: 12-15

What did Jacob leave out of his prayer?**Why is verse 12-15 still important for us to remember today?**

It does seem a little odd that God would answer Jacob's prayer with a wrestling match, but you have to admit that it is a powerful way for God to remind Jacob that He is with him and has always been with him. Jacob's fear was based on the man Jacob used to be, not on the man he was now. Jacob had grown to trust God and to lean into God's promise for his life. Now Jacob was on the edge of seeing those promises becoming reality. The only thing holding Jacob back was Jacob's view of himself locked in the past.

We often do the same thing Jacob did; we rise up such a cloud of dust from our past that it obscures our future. It is during these times that we need to hold on to God through the darkest and be ready to recognize the dawning of a new day in our life. (We have changed.) When we do, what lies before us but becoming part of God's promises. God does not say our future will be pain free, but He does say we can lean on Him when we need to.

Can anyone share a time when this has happened to them?

What was the result?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Recognizing change in ourselves is probably one of the hardest things a person can do. It is not easy without a clear and available milepost in your life that you can look back on. Keeping a journal of your spiritual walk with God will help document the achievements you have made and the prayers that God has answered. Looking back on these achievements, no matter how small, will be a visible proof of just how far you have come.

"If you're wrestling with some sort of decision, reflect for a moment and ask yourself, Am I being brave, or am I being safe? In the end, it depends on whether we think God can be trusted." - Gary
Haugen

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

SECOND WIND

“When you don’t want to stay the same: JACOB”

June 4, 2017

How God helps turn the “Flywheel of Change” in our lives:

Turn #1: Crisis

“Then Jacob was left all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the Man saw that he couldn’t win the match, he struck Jacob’s hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket.”
Genesis 32:24-25 (NLT)

Turns #2-5: Persistence

“Then the Man said, ‘Let me go, for it is dawn.’ But Jacob panted, ‘I won’t let you go unless you bless me!’”
Genesis 32:26 (NLT)

Turns #6-20: Honesty

“The man asked him, ‘What is your name?’ Jacob’ he answered.”
Genesis 32:27 (NIV)

Jacob = “Deceiver” (manipulator)

Turns #21-100+: Breakthrough!

“Then the Man said, ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel ... Then he blessed him there... The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.”
Genesis 32:31 (NLT)

Israel = “Triumphant with God”