

WRESTLING WITH GOD

“It is only in his struggle with God at the Jabbok that Jacob is assured of the unfailing commitment of God’s grace, the pledge of God to struggle and persist with him until he becomes like God. The contest at the Jabbok is thus not only a dark night of the soul; it is a transforming encounter for Jacob. There are striking ironies in this tug-of-war between God and Jacob as there are whenever we ourselves meet God. . . . The outcome of the contest comes to symbolic expression at the end of the story: the sun rises, but Jacob is limping. The dark night of the soul has, to be sure, given way to sunrise. But even so, no one who struggles with God walks away the same. In the faith that heals him, Jacob is wounded by God . . . A true meeting with God is always a transforming meeting, even a ‘wounding’ meeting. It must inevitably dislocate and displace all other loves in our lives . . . God wants us, not our untarnished performances and records. Few of us are able to surrender such without suffering, like Jacob, some dislocation in the process.”

James Edwards, The Divine Intruder, p. 46

*Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because
You have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.
Genesis 32:28*

Read [read passage twice]

Silence 3-5 minutes* - silently repeat a word or phrase that interests you...

Sharing aloud (if in group): Simply share the word or phrase that spoke to you. No elaboration.

Reflect [read once]

Silence 3-5 minutes - reflecting on “Where does this touch my life?”

Sharing aloud: “I hear, I see, I was struck by...”

Respond [read once]

Silence 3-5 minutes - reflecting on “How is God calling me to Respond?”

Sharing aloud: Briefly pray - spontaneously expressing your response to God’s call.

Rest [read once]

Rest in God’s grace, in silence 2-3 minutes

*The time allotted for each period of silence can vary.