

# Monuments (Week 3)

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## Genesis 32:24-30

*This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.*

*When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket.*

*Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"*

*But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him.*

*"From now on you will be called Israel, Jacob sounds like the Hebrew words for "heel" and "deceiver." Israel means "God fights." because you have fought with God and with men and have won." "Please tell me your name," Jacob said.*

*"Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel (which means "face of God"), for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared."*

When I ENCOUNTER God...

1. My IDENTITY changes

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

*This means that **anyone who belongs to Christ** has become **a new person**. The old life is gone; **a new life has begun!***

2.. My UNDERSTANDING of God changes

3. I see and understand MYSELF differently

## Talk it Over:

1. Share about a time when you met someone and it totally changed the way you saw them. Was it good? Bad? Why?
2. How do you think developing a relationship with God changes the way you see yourself?

3. Read Acts 26:12-29 together. Share what stands out to you in this account from Paul about his conversion experience. How do you think Paul's testimony reflects what you heard in the message today?
4. Take a few minutes to share your testimony of meeting Jesus (if you have).

**NOTE:** There are 3 basic elements to your story... What did your life look like before Jesus? When/where did you meet Jesus? Where do you see God at work and using you today and beyond?

5. Pray for one another. How can we encourage and lift one another up this week?

## **Take a Deeper Look:**

*This section is dedicated to those who want to explore and study the Bible more deeply. Set aside some time with your Bible and a notebook and no distractions (you can use digital devices too - just put 'em in airplane mode for 30 minutes). Read - Think - Pray - write down your thoughts... then do something - GO BE THE CHURCH!*

### **Read Acts chapter 9:1-22**

- What do you see as some of the key points to take note of when reading Paul's testimony of conversion? Mark or note them somehow in your Bible for quick reference.
- Genesis 28-32 records a few specific ENCOUNTERS that Jacob had with God. If you are familiar with the story, what are some of the similarities you see in Jacob and Paul's "meeting" with God?
- In Genesis, Jacob set up stones and made altars to God in important places. Why wouldn't altars and stone monuments be appropriate as part of Paul's testimony? (Need a hint? read Hebrews 9:12 & 10:10)
- If you haven't before, take some time to write out your testimony of encountering Jesus. There are 3 basic elements to your story: What did your life look like before Jesus? When/where did you meet Jesus? Where do you see God at work and using you today and beyond?
- Pray that God would open your eyes and your heart this week to opportunities that might come your way to share your story and what you've learned from this text.

## **Bible Reading Plans**

[Encountering The Holy God](#)

[God Encounters](#)

[Encountering God: Cultivating Habits of Faith Through the Spiritual Disciplines](#)

## **RightNow Media Suggestions**

[Vol. 2: Everything Happens Somewhere by George DeJong](#)

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