



# START HERE

## GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

*It's Egg Hunt preparation time! We need 170 volunteers and enough candy to fill 16,000 eggs! This is our biggest outreach to the community we do all year. Please help make this event a success by participating. Here's an idea! Volunteer as a Life Group team in the same area and serve along side your Life Group family. Or have a contest to get as many bags of candy as you can as a Life Group! THANK YOU for your help!*

*Scan the code to sign up to volunteer*





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## GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

Week 28 | Wrestling With God | Genesis 32:22-32

### THE LORD CANNOT FULLY BLESS A MAN UNTIL HE HAS CONQUERED HIM. *A.W. TOZER*

Sometimes there's nothing sweeter than a homecoming celebration. When a loved one has been away at college, serving in the military in foreign lands, or on an extensive work trip; a long-awaited return is filled with joyful expectation. Jacob's homecoming was nothing like that. Jacob had been away from home for 20 years. By this time, his mother had died, and his brother was, most likely, smoldering with murderous intentions. Unable to live under Laban's roof any longer, Jacob made the trek back to the promised land a wealthier man but an unfinished man. There was something that God had to deal with in Jacob's life before he crossed the river into his inheritance. There was unfinished business that he couldn't brush off any longer.

God's love for us is so thorough and complete that He won't allow our issues to be swept under the rug forever and sometimes, He will box us in or even bring affliction so that we finally confront the issue and surrender to Him.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

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#### **PRAY** (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time in prayer to express your total willingness to surrender everything to God. With open hearts and hands, ask Him for the new work of His Spirit in your lives.



#### **REFLECT** (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Wrestling with God is part of our sanctification process. For Jacob, a particular lifelong character trait needed to be finally surrendered to God. So God allowed him to be put in a situation where he had to confront the issue.

**Have you been brushing aside something that God has been leading you to deal with? What is it, and how does God want you to handle it?**

**Jacob encountered someone he could not defeat. He overcame Esau's raw power, Laban's sorry scheming but he met more than his match in the Angel of the LORD.**





2. Jacob was returning to the land of promise, but before he could enter into his inheritance, he needed to be changed. The turning point came when he was physically wounded by God. In a moment, Jacob’s resistance turned to surrender, his fighting against God to heartfelt prayer. The character that God is shaping in you matters just as much if not more than His ministry through you.

**What aspects of your character is God working on? How are you submitting to Him and growing in godly character?**

**Come and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.**

**Hosea 6:1-3**

3. Jacob’s limp reminded him that he had been conquered by God. It meant that he could trust God and not rely on himself or his old ways. His tenacious character had to be turned towards God, not used as a tool in place of God.

**Do you trust God, or do you rely on your own abilities?**

**What Jacob perceived as his greatest strength was in fact his greatest weakness because it hadn’t been surrendered to God.**

4. Jacob prevailed with God by tenaciously and humbly praying.

**What have you been tenaciously and humbly asking God to do? If you are praying according to His will and for His glory, don’t give up. God will come through.**



**WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE**

**Hosea 6:1-3**

Come and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.



**REACH** (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, focus tenaciously and humbly on one particular prayer request. Make sure you are praying according to God’s will and for His glory.

**We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how God spoke to you in your times of prayer and how He is answering.**

