

JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD!

Genesis 32:22-32 NLT

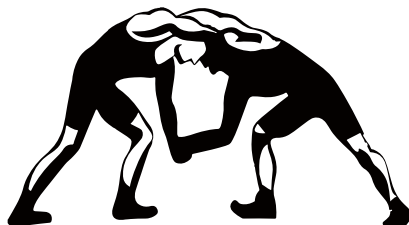
Jacob was on his way back to the promised land, Canaan and he was scared and full of worry. The next day, he would face his brother Esau — the one he had tricked long ago. He didn't know if Esau would forgive him or try to hurt him. So Jacob sent his family across the river and stayed behind, alone with his fears and with God. That night, God came down in human form and wrestled with Jacob. God wasn't trying to beat him — He was trying to break the pride and fear inside of him. Jacob had spent his whole life fighting to get his own way, but now God wanted him to learn to depend on Him instead. When God touched Jacob's hip and it popped out of place, it was a symbol — Jacob's strength was broken so that he would learn to lean on God's strength from now on. Jacob held on tight and refused to let go until God blessed him. God gave him a new name — Israel, which means "one who wrestles with God." Jacob limped away at sunrise, but that limp was a beautiful reminder: he had met God, been changed forever, and would never walk the same again.

FACE TO FACE WITH GOD?

"Have you ever felt like you were fighting against God — maybe by wanting your own way, not wanting to forgive, or not trusting Him when things felt hard? Why do you think it's sometimes easier to fight against God than to trust Him?"

WHY WOULD PEOPLE WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST GOD?

- They don't understand why something happened.
- They want to do things their own way.
- They feel hurt, disappointed, or scared and don't want to give up control.
- They think obeying God will make them miss out on something fun.



Jacob wrestled with God and came out walking differently — not just because his hip was hurt, but because his heart was changed. The limp was a reminder that real strength comes when we stop fighting against God and start depending on Him.