

ENCOUNTERS

Jacob

Growth Group Opener:

Have you ever had a scar, limp, or mark, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, that you would not trade because of what came with it?

Read Genesis 32:22-32

What do you notice about the timing and setting of this encounter?

How does the way Jacob encountered God match the way Jacob lived his life?

Has your faith ever felt like a wrestling match with God? What has that shaped in you?

Where in your life might you need to hold on like Jacob did?

Why do you think Jacob was required to speak his name, which means “deceiver,” before he could be renamed and blessed?

What version of yourself do you need to confess in order to let God rename you?

What does it mean that Jacob’s new identity was built around his encounter with God rather than his past or his performance?

If your name was based on the way you have engaged with God, what would it be?
What do you want it to be?

Why do you think God gave Jacob a limp along with the blessing?
What might the wound be protecting, or perhaps teaching him?

Is there a “limp” you carry from an encounter with God?
How has that wound become part of your witness?

What can we learn about God from this story?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for being a God who comes close enough to your children to be gripped, and patient enough to be wrestled with. Lord, help us confess who we are so that you might change us into who you would have us become. Give us the strength to endure and the trust to submit to your will over our own. In the name of Jesus, amen.