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W E E K S
O F G R O W T H

Give it a Year
Week 46

WEEK 46

Genesis 32: 24-26

“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

There are moments in our walk with God when prayer feels less like peaceful communion and more like a struggle. The beauty in Genesis 32 is that it invites us into one of those moments. Jacob wrestles with God through the night, refusing to let go until he is blessed.

Jacob is at a breaking point. He is about to face Esau, the brother he deceived years earlier. Fear, guilt, and uncertainty press in on him. Alone in the darkness, Jacob encounters a mysterious man—an encounter that quickly becomes a wrestling match. This is no casual scuffle. It is intense, exhausting, and deeply personal.

What's striking is that God allows Jacob to wrestle. God could have ended the struggle instantly, but instead, He engages Jacob in the tension. When God touches Jacob's hip, permanently wounding him, Jacob still refuses to let go. Limping and weakened, he declares, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Genesis 32:26).

Then Jacob is asked a simple but piercing question: "What is your name?" (v. 27). Jacob answers honestly—"Jacob"—a name meaning deceiver. In that confession, Jacob acknowledges who he has been. God then gives him a new name: Israel, meaning "one who struggles with God." Jacob's identity is no longer rooted in his past failures, but in his perseverance with God.

Wrestling with God is not a sign of weak faith –it is often evidence of deep faith. Jacob’s struggle reveals a heart desperate for God’s presence and blessing, even when the encounter is painful. Sometimes God allows us to wrestle so we learn to cling to Him alone. Jacob leaves the encounter limping, but he also leaves completely changed. His limp carries both a reminder of his weakness and a mark of God’s blessing.

Like Jacob, we may wrestle with unanswered prayers, fear of the future, or the weight of our past. God does not turn away from our wrestling. Instead, He meets us in it. The struggle may last through the night, but morning brings revelation. We may not walk away unscarred—but we walk away known, renamed, and blessed.

READ:

Genesis 32:22-32

James 1:2-4

Romans 5:3-5

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Isaiah 40:29-31

REFLECT:

- How do you handle hardship? Do you ignore it, hold onto bitterness, or bring it to God?
- What are you currently wrestling with in your relationship with God?
- Are there areas where God is asking you to be honest about your “name”...meaning your identity, your wounds, or your struggles?
- What might it look like for you to cling to God, even when the struggle is painful?

PRAYER:

Father God, Thank You for seeing me and still loving me. You know the places where I wrestle with fear, doubt, and uncertainty. Lord, I confess that sometimes I want resolution without surrender. Teach me to cling to You in the struggle. Change what needs to be changed in me, even if it leaves a limp. I don’t want to leave Your presence unchanged—I want Your blessing, Your truth, and Your transforming grace. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.