

NOTES:

SERIES: The Story Begins (Gospel Project)

SERMON 11: "The God Who Gives New Names"

TEXT: Genesis 32:24-32; 35:9-15

DATE: November 19/20, 2016

1. Jacob's old name reflected his _____ character.
Genesis 32:24-27

2. Jacob's new name reflected the _____ God showed him.
Genesis 32:28-31

Jacob gets a blessing and future he doesn't _____.

If we _____ the living God and put our faith in him, we can be given a new life.

Why the wrestling match?

- Jacob, like all of us, is dense—we don't _____ of what we've got.
Receiving grace and living in grace is never _____.
- It often takes a _____ encounter with the living God for us to come to our senses.
God's discipline is a kindness meant to lead us to repentance and change so that we reflect our new _____.

3. Jacob's new name reflected the _____ God gave him.
Genesis 35:9-15

God changes people so that they can be _____ of change for others.

With a blessing comes a new identity leading to a new _____.

WRESTLING WITH GOD

- P_____ not Passivity

“Like a child trying to push against the hand of a parent, the parent gives only enough resistance to test the resolve of the child, so God resists us in prayer, to see our resolve in his goodness.” (Martin Luther)

- D_____ not Independence

- C_____ not Control

Faith is depending on the power of God and _____ with it.

We know that his will will be done, and his will will always be good and perfect and right, and we can trust him.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important for our family to forgive one another's past mistakes?
2. For what have you been shown grace in our family?
3. What difficult circumstances has God used to lead our family to trust more in him?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Did you ever wish for another name or for a particular nickname? If so, what was it and why?
3. Read Genesis 32:24-27. The man asks for Jacob's name. Jacob's name reflected his flawed character. What might your name be if it reflected on of your flaws?
4. Read Genesis 32:28-32. Jacob's new name reflected the grace God showed him. How has God shown you his grace despite your flaws?
5. Read Genesis 35:9-15 Jacob's new name reflected the task God gave him. It's implied in the passage since this is the same blessing God gave Abraham, his grandfather. How does this illustrate that the blessing we have in Christ comes with a new identity leading to a new responsibility?
6. Jacob wrestled with God and asked for a blessing. How is this still a story about grace?
7. Wrestling with God to win requires persistence, dependence, and cooperation. How will you apply one of these to your life this week?
8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's renaming of individuals in the Old Testament reflects both privilege and responsibility. As Christians, we bear the name of Christ. We receive both the privilege of salvation and the responsibility of mission.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What can stop God's plan?