

Authentic Spirituality

Spiritual transformation requires acknowledging the truth about ourselves and trusting God to change us.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Genesis 32:22-32

March 8, 2020

(Gen. 32:22-32) ²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- When you were a child, what pretend games did you play? Who did you pretend to be?
- Do adults in our culture still pretend to be someone they are not? How so? Who do you pretend to be?
- Why is it sometimes difficult for people to face the truth about themselves?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Genesis 32:22-32

- How might pretending to be someone you are not affect your relationship with others? How did this affect Jacob's relationship with those closest to him?
- Why did God engage Jacob in a wrestling match at this particular juncture in Jacob's life? Why did God injure Jacob?
- Do you really think God could not overcome Jacob? Why, then, did God allow the wrestling match to go on so long?
- God asked Jacob for his name. What might be significant about this question? What was God really asking Jacob?
- How does Jacob respond to God's question (v. 27)? How was this answer different from how Jacob had previously answered that question (Gen. 27:18-19)? Why did Jacob answer differently this time?
- How did this encounter change Jacob's view of himself? How did it change his relationship with God?
- Why is accurate self-assessment a necessary first step in spiritual growth?
- How does Jacob's new name (v. 28) reflect both who Jacob was and who he would be in the future?

- If we face the truth about us without Jesus, it will only hurt us. How might facing the truth about ourselves cause us pain? How have you experienced this personally?
- If we face the truth about ourselves with Jesus, it will heal us. How did facing the truth about himself bring healing in Jacob's life? How might doing so bring healing to your life?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Read Romans 12:3-5. What is one step you could take this week toward more honestly assessing your spiritual health? How might we as a group help each other in this regard?
- How has God allowed you to be broken or wounded in order to strengthen your faith?
- How is the current state of your relationship with God impacting your relationship with others? What will you do this week to grow in both areas?

PRAYER: Finish your time together in prayer. Thank God for the grace He gives us to face the truth about ourselves. Pray that we would admit our sins and look to Him for the strength necessary to grow spiritually. Thank Him for His promise to make us new.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Genesis 39-40
 DAY 2 – Genesis 41
 DAY 3 – Genesis 42-43
 DAY 4 – Genesis 44-45
 DAY 5 – Genesis 46-47

KEY VERSE: Genesis 45:4-5

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.