

**PRAYER**

- Ask God to give you more passion to know His will in your life.  


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- Pray that God will reveal some areas in your life that need to be transformed. Pray also for the grace to respond right to Him.  


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- Intercede for people you know who are experiencing struggles in their walk with God.  


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**NOTES**

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**CONNECT**

- Share a time when you struggled in making a decision. How did you go about it?
- Have you had any requests that you bargained with God in a particular season of your life?
- What lessons have you learned from the difficult circumstances in your life?

## WORD

<sup>24</sup>So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup>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.

Genesis 32:24,25

## WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

Jacob had a unique experience in his wrestling bout with the angel of the God. This angel of God alluded to Jesus even before Him being born as a man on earth. The attributes that described the angel of God showed this. After wrestling with the angel, Jacob was never the same again. What lessons can we learn from Jacob's experience?

- **Wrestling with God changes our outlook.**

*Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."*

Genesis 32:26

When something collides with a material stronger than itself, which is changed? This is what happened to Jacob. Upon realizing that he was wrestling with God, he changed his position from struggling away from the man to clinging on to him. Why is it reasonable to surrender our own outlook to God's wisdom and ways (Isaiah 55:9)?

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- **Wrestling with God changes our identity.**

*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."*

Genesis 32:28

After Jacob struggled with God and clung to Him for blessing, God changed his identity by changing his name to Israel—the name that God's chosen nation will eventually carry. Notice that it was God who did the change. Who knows our true identity? What can we follow from Jacob's response so God can restore us to His intended purposes for us?

- **Wrestling with God makes us more like Him.**

*<sup>29</sup>Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.*

Genesis 32:29-31

The name "Jacob" means "deceiver" which God changed into Israel, where His chosen people is named after. After God touched Jacob's hip, he never walked the same way again not just physically but spiritually. An encounter with God is what we need to be changed in our character and to become more and more like Him. Recall a time when you first had an encounter with God. How did this affect your life?

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## SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- What do you usually do when you are about to make an important decision? Who are the people you run to for advice? How does God's Word help you in this?
- How much do you trust God's ways? Where there times when you didn't understand what He was doing? How did you respond?
- Why do you think is it important to obey God completely and immediately?

## NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What specific mindsets do you have that are still not in line with God's ways? How willing are you to embrace God's wisdom and let go of your own thinking?
- Where can you encounter God on a regular basis? What can you commit to attend or do regularly?
- How can you help someone have an encounter with God? Who can you invite this week for a small gathering or the worship service?