

9. Why was a limp the sign that God blessed Jacob?
10. Why do we more often interpret wealth as a blessing than failure, injury, or shortcoming? What does this say about how we define blessing?
11. Has God given you a “limp?” What is it? When did you receive it? Have you always seen it as a blessing?
12. Read Romans 12:1-10. What do you think Jacob would say to Paul, who wrote 2 Corinthians?
13. How is God made strong in our weakness?
14. What is an area of your life you need to surrender to God?



## **Wrestling with God**

### **The thread of blessing:**

1. God wants to bless us.
2. His blessing is for us and through us.
3. God has to prepare us to receive His blessing.
4. The preparation is always painful, but necessary.
5. The blessing is always worth the pain.

### **Sermon Notes:**

#### **Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32**

Jacob wasn't yet able to call him "my \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Summary:

- Jacob stole the blessing from his brother Esau and was forced to live with his uncle, Laban.
- He worked \_\_\_\_\_ years to marry Laban's daughters.
- He worked \_\_\_\_ more years for his flock.
- Their relationship ended badly. (Gen 31:28-42)

Jacob was out of good \_\_\_\_\_.

- He had achieved everything he wanted, but now he was \_\_\_\_\_.

In the wrestling match Jacob learned the blessing was a \_\_\_\_\_ he could only have when he \_\_\_\_\_.

- It required the confession, "I am \_\_\_\_\_."

Jacob's blessing was a new \_\_\_\_\_.

- With God, we "win" when we \_\_\_\_\_.
- For Jacob, the sign of the blessing was a \_\_\_\_\_.

What are you wrestling with?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. We often forget how profound Old Testament stories are. What is the thing that will stick with you from the story of Jacob wrestling the man/angel?
2. Describe how Jacob had succeeded in getting everything he wanted, but still seemed to have nothing?
3. Why do you think Jacob was so persistent?
4. What kind of blessing would you have expected the man to give Jacob? What was the blessing the man gave to Jacob?
5. Would a blessing like that be satisfying for you?
6. Can you think of modern examples of people who have had great success, but still seemed empty?
7. What does it mean to be casual or ambivalent about your relationship with God? Is that a temptation for you? Why?
8. Talk about a time in your life when you felt you were wrestling with God? When was the last time you were wrestling with God in one of these areas? Can you think of other areas of struggle?
  - a. Faith—doing what God has called you to do regardless of the outcome.
  - b. Doubt—wanting to believe, but struggling with God's existence or love for you.
  - c. Obedience—struggling with a sin or habit you can't seem to kick.
  - d. Why?—Trying to understand the reason God allowed something bad to happen or made you a certain way.