

The **Call** of God
The **Response**
of the Faithful

October 12, 2008
Genesis 32:22-32
Running, Clinging, Limping, Blessing

Power, success, happiness, as the world knows them, are his who will fight for them hard enough; but peace, love, joy, are only from God. And God is the enemy whom Jacob fought there by the river, of course, and whom in one way or another we all of us fight-God, the beloved enemy. Our enemy because, before giving us everything, he demands of us everything; before giving us life, he demands our lives-our selves, our wills, our treasure.” - Fredrich Buechner

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22

To Get Started . . .

Review from last week.

Did you get a chance to contemplate these questions this week: Why did it take the sacrifice of God's son to enable us to have a loving relationship with him? What role does our sacrifice play? Did you explore scripture and talk to God about this? If so, what did you discover?

In what ways were you able to demonstrate God's love by sacrificing something of yourself?

Dig into the Scripture

Using a bible with headings, look through Genesis 25-32 and summarize the story of Jacob's life.

What do you notice about Jacob?

How would you describe the relationship between God and Jacob?

Read Genesis 32:22-32

How would you describe God from these verses?

Why do you think God injured Jacob's hip?

Apply It

Which phase of Jacob's story best describes where you are right now – running, clinging, limping, blessing?

What is it that you, in the deepest longings or your being, want more than anything else in life?

Have you ever wondered if God has a new name for you? What would it be? Would it be Grateful or Cherished; Joyful or Merciful?

Pray Together!

Leaders – please guide your group through a time of silent prayer using the following script.

Read: Confess the ways you are running after the things of this world so that you aren't able to receive the real blessings God has for you.

(allow time for silent prayer)

Read: Cling to God and tell him what you are most longing for.

(allow time for silent prayer)

Read: Thank God for being a God who changes us. Give thanks for "limps" and "new names."

(allow time for silent prayer)

Read: Ask God how you can be a blessing because you have been blessed.

(allow time for silent prayer)

Read: Genesis 33:1-11

Read: God, be with us on this journey so that we can greet everyone we encounter with your blessings of peace, love and joy. AMEN.

Live It

Write the verse to the left (Gal. 5:22) on a note card and post it in a place where you spend a lot of time. Pray the Spirit's being into your being.

Genesis 22:1-19 (New International Version)

Jacob Wrestles With God

22That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. 24So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25When 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. 26Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

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

27The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

28Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

29Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

30So Jacob called the place Peniel (*Peniel* means *face of God*) saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

31The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. 32Therefore 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.

To read as a part of your prayer time. (See directions on the guide.)

Genesis 33:1-11 - Jacob Meets Esau

1Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two maidservants. 2He put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. 3He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother.

4But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. 5Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant."

6Then the maidservants and their children approached and bowed down. 7Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

8Esau asked, "What do you mean by all these droves I met?"

"To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said.

9But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself."

10"No, please!" said Jacob. "If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. 11Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need." And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.