



## Sermon-based Guide Questions for Reflection and Discussion

### Week of April 18 *The Joy of Limping*

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

You might find it helpful to spend some time this week reading more of Jacob's story: Genesis 25:19-34 and Genesis chapters 27-35.

#### **Sermon Themes**

- The story of Jacob and his family has something to say to us about relationships based on manipulation and transactions rather than on love.
- In this particular part of Jacob's story he wrestles with God. God doesn't let go of Jacob and Jacob doesn't let go of God.
- The result of the wrestling is that God blesses Jacob; gives him a new name and a limp.

#### **Questions**

1. What does it look like to have a relationship built on transactions? In what ways might we treat our relationship with God as transactional? Contrast that with what it means to have a covenantal relationship with God.
2. What does it mean that God might want to wrestle with us? Do you see the potential of this as a gift or a threat?
3. If God were to give you a new name what do you hope it would be?  
(ie. Beloved, Forgiven, Blessed, Child)
4. Is there a time when you have wrestled with God? Is there a new name, blessing and/or limp that was the result? Is there something God might want to give you as a result of wrestling but you are resistant to receive it?