

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 15-21, 2022

"#TheStruggleisReal"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is/are your nickname/s and how did you get it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 32:22-32

1. When do people feel alone? Jacob tricked his brother out of his birthright. Now many years later, Jacob is preparing to face his brother again. How might that cause him to feel alone? Why do you think Jacob chooses to be alone on the eve of his meeting with Esau?
2. Who wrestled with Jacob? If the scripture passage said that Jacob was struggling with an issue, what might that have been? How could wrestling with such issues also be wrestling with God?
3. In the sermon, it was pointed out that one of our greater battles in life is not with other people but one that is inside/within us. Do you agree? What struggles are you battling right now? How do you wrestle with it?
4. Read Genesis 32:25-26. Have you ever been in a "no win" struggle? Do you let your struggles draw you closer to God or away from him? Discuss a time when you encountered a struggle that caused you to seek the Lord and his blessing.
5. The man asked what Jacob's name was? Why was there a need for God to ask Jacob his name if he is all knowing? What difference does it make when we admit and surrender to God our sins and struggles?
6. Share a time when you said "I give up God, you're in control." How did God respond and what was the outcome?

7. Jacob is changed by his struggle – his hip is injured, and his name is changed to Israel. What role do you think struggling with God has in creating/changing who you are?

8. NEXT STEPS

"Give all your worries and CARES to God, for he CARES about you." - 1 Peter 5:7 NLT

- I will give up control and surrender all my struggles to God.
- I will look to God as my Savior and deliverer in times of struggle.
- I will pray for people I know who are struggling.
- I will remind myself that my identity is in Christ.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for God's strength and blessing in times of struggle.
- Pray for a heart that responds with humility and trust when troubles and difficulties come.
- Take the time to pray for the country, for peace, and for God to work out his sovereign will, with the results of the elections.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through tough times.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

May 16	Genesis 25:19-26
May 17	Isaiah 43:1-7
May 18	Jeremiah 11
May 19	Romans 12:1-3
May 20	2 Corinthians 10:1-6
May 21	Genesis 50:14-21
May 22	Romans 15:14-33