

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 2-8, 2022

"THE BLESSED LIMP"

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.

When has someone tried to "bribe" their way into your good graces? What did they offer and how did you respond?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read ahead GENESIS 32:1-31.

1. What is the significance of Jacob seeing the angels (Genesis 32:1-2) and what is his response to seeing them? Why do you think God allowed Jacob to see them at this time?
2. What do you think of the way Jacob prepares to meet Esau: (a) Acting out of fear and not faith, (b) Up to his old tricks again, (c) Trusting to get Esau's mercy more than God's? Why do you think so? What attitude does he express in the words he gives his servant to speak to Esau (Gen 32:18)?
3. Jacob becomes restless as he prepares to meet his brother. When facing a hurdle in life, how do you react? What does it look like to slow down and give all our burdens to God?
4. What do you make of Jacob's prayer (Genesis 32:9-12)? Does it reveal the growth in his faith? After praying, what did he do? What instructions did he give his servants? Why? What does this reveal about Jacob? Can you relate?
5. Just like Jacob's story, sooner or later we've got to go back and face our "unfinished business." Are there any aspects in your life that you consider an unfinished business? Read 1 Peter 3:9; Psalm 139:24; Matthew 5:23-24 and Galatians 6:1. Do any of these passages convict you, instruct you or challenge you and why?

6. What is the significance of God wrestling with Jacob and how did this prepare him for meeting with Esau? Who wins the match? Do you agree that "the path to blessing begins at the place of surrender"? How has this been true to you?
7. The wrestling match ends with Jacob's new name and his limp. What is the significance of this? What life lessons have you learned about God, about imperfect faith and about surrender in the sermon series on Jacob's life?
8. **NEXT STEPS**
The way to victory is defeat. The way to win is to lose. The path to blessing starts at the place of surrender.
 - I will trust and lean on God, not my own understanding.
 - I will learn to daily surrender control over to God.
 - I am a new creation in Christ and will live as such.
 - I will use my "limps" to bless and bring honor to Jesus.
 - God is my greatest blessing and I will share him to those in need of his grace.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

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

- Pray for a heart that is truly surrendered to Jesus.
- Praise God for the "blessed limps" in your life.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

October 3	Genesis 32:24-32
October 4	Genesis 33:1-11
October 5	Genesis 35:1-15
October 6	John 15:1-8
October 7	Genesis 48:8-16
October 8	Ezra 3
October 9	Joshua 2:1-14