

**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
**100 Day Challenge: The Backstory**  
**Week 2 – The Patriarchs**  
**Genesis 32:9-12, 22-32 | January 10, 2021**

**Big Idea**

Christian growth requires struggle, and that sometimes involves wrestling with God.

**Opening Questions**

This week we're talking about "wrestling" God. If you were a professional wrestler, what would your name be?

**Key Scripture Questions**

1. Read **Genesis 32:9**. Here we see the family legacy of the patriarchs; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Why was family important during this time? How would you describe your own family legacy?
2. God is often referred to as "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" or some close variation throughout the Bible. Why would God so frequently identify Himself in relation to the patriarchs? What does this say about God's view of relationships?
3. Read **Genesis 32:10**. Jacob was about to cross the Jordan to confront the consequences of his mistakes. Before facing his struggle head-on, Jacob prayerfully thanked God for all He has provided him. What does this reveal about Jacob's attitude? How can gratitude help us as we face struggles?
4. Read **Genesis 32:11, 26**. Even though Jacob was grateful, he still had requests and even demands. Is it wrong to ask things of God? Why or why not?
5. Read **Genesis 32:24-25**. As we learned from the sermon, growth requires struggle. How has struggling helped you grow? If you're willing, share a specific example.

**Concluding Question**

Read **Genesis 32:27-28**. Scholar Walter Brueggemann said, "When daylight comes, the stranger is gone. And so is Jacob. There remains only Israel." Wrestling with God resulted in Jacob being forever changed. How has wrestling with God changed you?

**Application Questions**

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

**Prayer Time**

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for meeting us amid our struggles and loving us despite our wanting to wrestle You. Please help us to turn any pain, suffering, or confusion that we have over to You. Amen."