

# WRESTLING WITH GOD

December 17, 2023

## MESSAGE RECAP

This week's Matt Cooper explored the countdown to Christmas, continuing to focus on Christophanies—pre-incarnate appearances of Christ—before Bethlehem. Using Jacob's story from Genesis 32:24-32, he highlighted Jacob's wrestling match. This struggle symbolized the challenges individuals face in their faith journeys. The message emphasized the importance of honesty before God, acknowledging past mistakes, and allowing Him to redefine one's identity. It encouraged coming to Jesus, trusting in His sacrifice, and engaging honestly with God during struggles, promising His sustaining presence. Ultimately, the message emphasized transformation, redemption, and triumph through Christ's victory, using the image of Jacob limping but victorious at sunrise.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How are you...really?
2. Take a moment to have the group read Genesis 32:24-32 individually. What stood out to you?
3. This week we took a look at another Christophany in the Old Testament. How does the idea of Christ appearing before Bethlehem impact your understanding of God's involvement in human history?
4. Jacob was described as a trickster and a deceiver during his life. Can you relate to Jacob in any way? Share a personal experience or struggle where you felt the need to confront your true self.
5. Matt mentioned that in our faith in Jesus, we will encounter moments where we wrestle with God. Have you ever felt like you were wrestling with God? How did you handle those moments?
6. Consider the transformation of Jacob, where his name is changed to Israel. In what ways have you experienced a transformation or change in your identity through your faith journey?

## PRAY

*End your group time in prayer.*