

# Name-Changer

Week #5: Loner to Limper

Genesis 32:22-32

*Week #5: Loner to Limper—In the strangest scene of Jacob’s story, God appears and wrestles with him for hours. Despite God’s superior strength, “Jake the Snake” refuses to loosen his python grip until God blesses him. After decades of grabbing onto sin, Jacob finally grabs on to God. In the same way, we grip God in prayer, holding onto his promises until he blesses us. Text:*

- Genesis 32:22-24a - *That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone...*

Even though it may feel like it, remember you are not **alone**.

- Isaiah 41:10 - *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*
- Genesis 32:24b - *And a man wrestled with him till daybreak.*
- Hosea 12:3-4 - *Jacob...as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel...*
- Genesis 32:25-29 - *When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."*

Even though you may feel like letting go, remember to not **let go!**

- Hosea 12:4 - *Jacob...He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor.*
- Genesis 32:27-29 - *The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.*
- Genesis 32:30-32 - *So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." 31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob’s hip was touched near the tendon.*

### **Name-Changer Take Aways**

#### 1) Don't let go of your **identity**

- Isaiah 43:1 - *But now, this is what the Lord says - he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

#### 2) Don't let go of God's **promises**

- Psalm 130:7,8 - *Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.*

### **Points to Ponder**

- 1) Compare Jacob's situation with your own life. What struggles are you experiencing both externally and internally? How are you handling them?
- 2) Reflect on the "new Jacob" who wrestled with God instead of going his own way. What lesson does God teach him? What lesson can you learn and apply from Jacob's wrestling match?
- 3) How does your perspective on life's struggles change when you realize "the only one who can help you is the one you're wrestling with"? Read Romans 5:1-11 and recall how Jesus endured the greatest struggle and won the victory for us!

***Homework: John 8:1-11***