

## God's Got Questions!

*Lesson Three • Genesis 32:22-32*

### What Is Your Name?

#### Jacob's Life:

Is a picture of God's relentless GRACE to break us to bless us.

Four Phases God Uses to Break us to Bless Us:

### 1. A Crisis: We STRUGGLE with God for Control!

#### *Jacob's Life of Strife:*

Jacob's struggle commenced in LABOR and continued in LIFE.

*Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.  
Genesis 32:24*

*Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother. When he became a man,  
he even fought with God." Hosea 12:3*

### 2. A Confrontation: We Are BROKEN by God in His Grace!

#### *God's Crippling Grace:*

God must on occasion "cripple" us of our SELF-DEPENDENCE so He can bless us,  
and when he does our only hope is to cling to God in brokenness.

*Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip;  
and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said,  
"Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless you bless me!"  
Genesis 32:25-26*

### 3. A Confession: We ADMIT to God We Are the Problem!

#### *God's Question:*

"What is your name?" And he said, "JACOB." vs. 27

#### *The Significance of Jacob's Confession:*

Jacob acknowledged WHO he was and WHAT he had become;  
he was honest with himself and with God for the first time.

### 4. A Change: We Are BLESSED by God with a New Identity!

#### *God's Transforming Grace:*

- God gives Jacob a spiritual BLESSING by changing his name from "Jacob" to "Israel". vs. 28-29
- God gives Jacob a physical REMINDER of his experience by causing him to walk with a limp. vs. 30-32

#### What Is Your Name?

God's question invites us to face up to who we are. This is seldom easy and it takes radical self-honesty. But it's the breakthrough to life-change and God's blessing.

#### Make It Personal:

- ☐ In what areas of your life are you struggling and striving with God for control?
- ☐ Are you still "wrestling" with God or are you "clinging" to God in brokenness?
- ☐ What do you need to admit about yourself? What would your name be if you were named after your biggest character flaw?
- ☐ Will you trust God to bless you with a new identity in His Son Jesus Christ?