

- I. Jacob's Life
  - A. What stands out to you about the story of Jacob's life? What do you think the author of Genesis is trying to tell us about his life, personality, and actions?
  - B. What does Abraham's and Isaac's faith have to do with Jacob, and why is it so significant that Jacob, Isaac's second son and a scoundrel, would receive the promises and inheritance of his father?
  - C. We see clearly in this text that God loves and adopts sinful people. What does this mean for us? How might this affect the way we interact with the sinful people around us?
- II. Wrestling with God
  - A. Read Genesis 32:22-32. Why do you think God wrestles with Jacob, when he could have just pronounced blessing upon him like he had before? What does God do to Jacob in this passage?
  - B. Why does our loving God wrestle and wound Jacob? What is the relationship between love and struggle? What is the relationship between love and wounding?
  - C. God is faithful to pursue, discipline, and even wound us, in love. Have you ever grabbed hold of God? Have you ever come away limping from an encounter with God?
- III. Redemption is a changed name
  - A. The word "name" here is more than what people would call Jacob—it's his whole reputation and history. How is God able to change Jacob's name and our names? How can God affect our histories and our reputations?
  - B. *Israel* means, "He who has wrestled with God and has prevailed." Why is this the name God applies to the rest of his people, even today (see Rom.11)? More specifically, in what way does wrestling define the people of God? In what way have the people of God prevailed?
  - C. In what way has God changed your name in your encounters with him? In what way does the name *Israel* apply to Hope church and to you?