

SERMON: Recognizing God's Blessing
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 32

SERIES: Jacob: Seeking True Blessings
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

November 10, 2019

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. We can face our fears with the assurance of God's presence. Is there something in your life right now that is causing you to fear? How does the presence of God through Christ strengthen you today? Read and discuss 1 John 4:18.
2. Sometimes God's grace will cripple us in order to rescue us. Have you ever experienced what Jacob did when he wrestled with God? How have you seen the pain in your life draw you deeper into a desire for God? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.
3. God's blessing leads to a transformed life. When God asked Jacob his name and then gave him the new name of Israel ("Wrestled with God"), he was confronting Jacob's identity. The new name became his new identity. What keeps you from embracing your new identity in Christ? How does your new identity in Christ encourage you?
4. God blesses us out of his own weakness. While wrestling Jacob and at the cross God lost so that he could win and so that we could win. What does this teach us about our God? About us? About our salvation? If God would lose in order to win how does that inform how we should live our own lives?

Pray: Praise God for his grace that wounding us when necessary in order to change us. Confess ways that you have resisted wrestling with God. Ask God to strengthen you to live a life that loses in order to win.