

DISCUSSION 1

Dig into the text and discuss how Jacob wrestled with God.

1. Jacob is desperate for God to bless him. Have you ever experienced this type of desperation?
2. Jacob was given a limp, yet he wouldn't let go of God until God blessed him. Why do you think Jacob wanted to be blessed so badly, even after receiving a limp?
3. Read v. 30 again. Why is it important to remember God's character as we wrestle with Him in desperation?

DISCUSSION 2

The concept of wrestling with God closely links with the idea of desperation.

1. Do you think that we, as Christians, should wrestle with God like Jacob did?
2. What are some examples of sinful ways that we bring our desires to the Lord?
3. Share a time that you wrestled with God. What was going on in your heart?
4. Why might God allow us to wrestle with Him before we receive the blessing that He gives?

DISCUSSION 3

Prayer.

1. Read Matt. 26:36-39. What are some things that we can learn from Jesus's prayer to the Father? How does this example encourage us to live with desperation?
2. Read 2 Cor. 12:6-10. Why did Paul say God didn't answer his request? Why might this be difficult for some of us to hear?
3. Prayer is often seen as merely a way to get what we want from God. What are some of the benefits that come from prayer, even when we don't get what we want?

DISCUSSION 4

Community and wrestling.

1. Read Hebrews 3:12-14. Having community with other believers is one way we can fight against the deceitfulness of sin. How would you describe your experience within Christian community?
2. Why might community be essential as you wrestle with God in desperation?
3. Are you in a season where you feel desperate to know more of God? How might your Small Group or community of believers help you cultivate a heart of desperation for the things of God?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. How can wrestling with God be a good thing?
2. What are some things that you are wrestling with God about? Share these. As you feel led, pray for one another.
3. How does knowing God's character (His sovereignty, immanence, love, mercy, etc.) comfort us in times of desperation? How does God Himself actually help us in times of desperation? Talk as a family about how you can remember these truths during the next trial you experience.
4. Read Matt. 26:36-39. What can we learn about desperation through the model Jesus gives us in this passage?

APPLICATION

1. Choose one thing to fast from this week. That can be food, entertainment, social media, etc. Make sure it's something that will be difficult to give up. Then, replace that thing with praying and reading the Word.
2. Outside of your normal Small Group meeting, commit to an intentional time of prayer. Try to spend at least an hour praying as the Lord leads you.

PRAYER

Group: Pray that God reveals some ways that your group can grow together in deeper community.

Personal: Pray that God would give you a better biblical understanding of what it means to wrestle with Him, and that He would show you how you can be more dependent on Him than on your circumstances.