

w/b 21st June 2015 (Fathers Day) Life application/study: JACOB - AN UNLIKELY HERO (DWP)

PASSAGE: GENESIS 32

LAUNCH

- Think about a film or book that involved a significant escape from danger. What plans were made, and did they work?
- Think about a time when you were caught up in a tricky situation that it was difficult to escape from. What plans did you make to try and deal with your crisis? Did any of them work? Why or why not?

DISCOVERY

- What strategies did Jacob employ to try and ensure that his brother Esau did not harm him? What were the advantages and disadvantages of these plans?
- If you were one of Jacob's servants, wives or children at this point in time what would your impression of Jacob be?

UNDERSTANDING

- What are the key elements of Jacob's prayer in this chapter?
In what ways might these elements improve the way in which you pray?
- Was Jacob's praying consistent with or at odds with his planning? Why or why not?
- Fear was a strong emotion that drove Jacob's behaviour.
What are the areas in which you find yourself overtaken by fear?
- Why did God choose to interact with Jacob in the form of a wrestling match?
- What sort of things do you find yourself wrestling with God over? Are there any particular areas of your life where you find it difficult to hand control over to God? Why do think this is?
- Jacob's name was '*deceiver*' in the Hebrew. As he handed it over to God he gave permission for God to rename him. In what aspects of your character might you benefit from being renamed? If appropriate, pray about this together? (please note this question calls for a certain amount of vulnerability and trust within the group)
- Why did God dislocate Jacob's hip at the end of the wrestling match?
Does he do the same to us sometimes? If so how?

APPLICATION

- Pray for anyone who is fearful about a particular situation at the moment.
- Pray for anyone you know who needs to admit, confess and submit their lives to Christ.