



king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 13, 2012

This Week's Focus: God's grace and striving with those who have sinned against Him and each other and bringing them to wholeness in Jesus Christ.

This Week's Text: Genesis 32.

"The great encounter with God came when Jacob knew himself to be exposed to a situation wholly beyond him."

Derek Kidner

*But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **James 4:6***

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. **1 Peter 5:5b-6***

Related Texts: Psalm 50:12-15, Hosea 12:3-4, James 5:13

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- What predicament does Jacob find himself in at the beginning of chapter 32? Who is he sandwiched between? How did Jacob arrive in his fearful predicament?
- Read Jacob's message to Esau (v. 4-5). Through Jacob's words, how do we see his heart changing?
- When we are fearful, what does God give us to reassure us? Do you have a special chapter or verse you go to in God's Word when you are afraid?
- What is Jacob's first response to his fears?
- In the midst of great fear and trial, what is Jacob's next response? (Reference v. 9-12)
 - What did Jacob have to learn about himself in order to come to this response?
 - How do we respond in the midst of trials?
 - What is and is not in his prayer?

- Jacob seeks to gain favor with Esau through the giving of gifts. Do you think Jacob's gifts are provoked solely by fear or out of a heart seeking forgiveness and reconciliation?
- Jacob has been seeking what is best for Jacob since his time in the womb. Jacob sends his family and servants and all he has away from him in verses 22-23. For whom is Jacob now seeking what's best?
- God wrestles with Jacob all night. When have we struggled spiritually with God for a prolonged period of time? What sin(s) are we holding onto, playing tug of war with God?
- Sometimes God is trying to get our attention but we are not listening because we are so focused on our circumstances and our human reasoning. Has there ever been a time when you needed to be alone with God to hear Him?
- How does God's wrestling all night, when perfectly able to take Jacob down in an instant, display a consistent, unchangeable character? (Reference Matthew 27:40-50.)
- Jacob experiences God face to face (Peniel) and he comes out of it humbled and fully aware the grace of God. Think a time you have had a Peniel experience. How has it shaped you?
- For you, what is the spiritual significance in this wrestling with God scene? What does it teach you?
- What does the gospel say to us about fear? Peace? Humility? Pride?

Our Response:

- Praise God for His love and patience.
- Find Peace with God/Peace of God.
- Walk humbly.

Prayer Focus: To walk humbly with our God by repenting of sin and relying on His grace and mercy.

Next Week's Text: Genesis 33.