Discussion Guide
Encounters — Part 5
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

"When you wake up every day with that limp, you're going to remember that you *were* Jacob, but (God) changed you."
[Katy Kazadi]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

If we had to pick one person from this group to represent us all in a wrestling match, who are we picking? How doomed are we?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, as we look at someone in the Bible willing to cling to You and wrestle with You, we know there are things in our hearts that You need to confront. Please be merciful and gracious with us. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.'"
[Joshua 1:9]

BIG IDEA ||

God's presence often brings victory and deliverance through defeat. God conquers Jacob before He blesses him.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || *Genesis 32:22-32*

1. If you were to ask God to bless you, what are you imagining that blessing to look like?
2. What was God's blessing to Jacob?
3. How is your faith now compared to five years ago?
4. What did this encounter with God do for Jacob's faith?
5. What is God working to defeat in you?
6. When has God picked THE WORST timing (we all know it's actually the best) to deal with you about something?
7. What kind of time are you in–a time of intense work with God, a time of rest where He gives space to process it, or something else?

8. Who do you know who is marked by the time they've spent in God's presence? Are you one of those people?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

Jacob becomes a marked man–a different man. A transformed man.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How much of God do you want? 2) What do you need to wrestle with God about?

PRAYER FOCUS ||

"Lord, we want to be blessed, too. If that means we need to wrestle with You, to lose something and be changed, so be it. Please be with us. Be our God. Draw close. Amen."