

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION: WEEK 3

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

We're going to start our discussion time with something controversial: Do you think professional wrestling is real? Why or why not? (Okay, that's a joke, but still could be fun!) What makes for a good wrestler? What qualities does someone need before they get on the mat? How are these same qualities important in spiritual wrestling?

Read Genesis 32:22-32. What happened to Jacob on the banks of the Jabbok River? Who did he meet with/wrestle there? What stands out to you about this story? Is there anything surprising or shocking in this story? How do you think Jacob felt throughout this story? How would you have reacted?

Kyle talked about this pattern throughout Jacob's life: "Manipulate - Control - Fix - Disappear - Withdraw - Run." How do we see this pattern reflected in Jacob's story? How have you see it in your own life? What makes us want to run away when we can no longer control or fix a situation?

As you think back through your life, describe some of the times when you were wrestling with God. What were some of the things you struggled with? How did those seasons of wrestling change your life? In what ways did they grow/impact your faith? How did the outcomes of your wrestling compare/contrast to Jacob's wrestling?

Read Isaiah 30:15. How does quietness and silence give us an opportunity to wrestle with God? In what ways does our culture (and our reliance on technology) keep us from sitting with God in the silence? What are some practical steps we can take to create margin for silence in our daily lives?

In Genesis 32, God changes Jacob's name ("deceiver") to Israel ("he wrestles with God"). How do our seasons of wrestling and waiting with God reveal who we really are? Close your time together by praying for those who are currently in seasons of wrestling. Pray for God to do a great work in their season of struggling.