

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

# Let There Be Light

## Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide  
Week #10

## Genesis Series #10: Wrestling for a Blessing

### Genesis 32:22-32 (TNIV)

22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. 28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, [a] because you have struggled with God and with human beings and have overcome." 29 Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, [b] saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." 31 The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, [c] and he was limping because of his hip. 32 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Footnotes:

1. Genesis 32:28 Israel probably means he struggles with God.
2. Genesis 32:30 Peniel means face of God.
3. Genesis 32:31 Hebrew Penuel, a variant of Peniel

### Mark 9:20-24 (TNIV)

20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

# Small Groups

Transforming Community @ RBCPC



## Facilitator's Guide

This marks the end of the Genesis series. We hope this has been a time of growth for you and your group, both spiritually and relationally. This final session may bring personal struggles and/or difficult issues to the surface for some of your group members. Please know that you do not need to have the answers, or even the discernment to pin point the cause of their struggle. What we do want you to know is that there is a wonderful congregational care support team at RBCPC available as a resource. Contact Judy Ronnebeck, Congregational Care Coordinator, [jronnebeck@rbcp.org](mailto:jronnebeck@rbcp.org). (858) 487.0811, ext. 203 for assistance.

The Stephen Ministry is one of the many opportunities. Stephen Ministers are lay persons trained to walk alongside others who are suffering, with a Christian perspective, in a one-on-one confidential relationship. "Who Will Be Jesus?" words and music by Bruce Carroll, merited the Dove award in 1991 for inspirational music. Used as a devotional at the recent Stephen Ministries Leadership training Conference, reminding us of what Stephen Ministers train to do for those who are struggling with personal crises: provide one-to-one care at least weekly, actively listen, hold confidentiality, and be a conduit of God's love. For a referral or more information, contact Dee Crimmel (858) 487-0811, ext. 260.

## What's Next?

There is a two-week break before the next series begins. This would be a great opportunity to participate in service and activity outside the regular small group meeting time. Plan it today!

Check out the webpage at <http://www.rbcp.org/easter/> for the campus activities during Holy Week.

The Spring 2010 series is: **Christ and Culture**, beginning Easter Sunday and continuing for 6 weeks. Small group discussion guides will be available in the usual format.

<http://www.rbcp.org/christ-and-culture/>

*"On Easter we will look at how some followers of Jesus in European history found a meaningful way to interact with their own pagan cultures. In coming weeks we will reflect on how followers of Jesus today can engage in healthy conversations about various aspects of our modern American culture. Some of the coming sermons are titled, "Jesus and Hollywood," and "Jesus and Reality TV." Let's look at positive ways that Christ connects with culture." Pastor Bruce Humphrey*

## Genesis Series #10: Wrestling for a Blessing

### START IT

- What “giant” questions or doubts do you have about God or the Bible?

### STUDY IT

- Read the Genesis passage. What’s the story? Make observations.
- Who is Jacob? Who is the man he wrestles with?
- What happens during their struggle?
- What does the angel say to Jacob?
- Why might he change Jacob’s name?
- What does the Angel do to Jacob?
- How do you think this experience shaped Jacob?
- Why do you think an angel of God wrestles with Jacob? Why does Jacob wrestle with him?
- Read the passage from Mark. What do you notice about the way Jesus interacts with the boy’s father? What can you learn about Jesus from this interaction?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says “everything is possible”?
- What does belief have to do with Jesus?

### LIVE IT

- How are we to bring our doubts to Jesus?
- What doubts do you have about God that He might want you to deal with?
- How might we create space for each other’s doubts, yet not stay there?

### PRAY IT

- For belief to overcome our unbelief.