

## prayer requests

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

## study notes



Eastview Christian Church  
1500 North Airport Road  
Normal, IL 61761

# Sermon Study

Salvation People #4 - Surrender  
Genesis 32:22-32

July 30, 2017

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.



**AUTHOR'S NOTE** (summary of key points for this study)  
*Personality and sibling rivalry are critical factors in setting the context for this week's teaching from Genesis 32:22-32. Brothers Esau and Jacob were wrestling in the womb! They came out fighting and with very different personalities. Esau was a rugged, rough around the edges guy and his brother Jacob was a "heel grabber" known to be deceitful to get what he wanted. Jacob found a way to get Esau's birthright as the first-born and, over time, that fact created a great deal of animosity between the two. It was so bad that when Jacob found out Esau was coming to see him (with 400 men), he was terrified and sought to prepare for war.*

## Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Parents often say that they know the personality of a newborn in the first weeks or months of life. Was that true in your family? As you look at your family of origin (or your children), who was the "laid back" one? – The silly one? – The stubborn one? Which one were you?

2. If you have/had siblings, is rivalry inevitable? What did you and your siblings fight about as kids?

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

Is there a relationship that needs mended in your family? How might you take a step toward reconciliation of a sibling rivalry or other disharmony?

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

It's in Jacob's preparation for his twin's visit that we read:

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, because you have struggled with God and with humans 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, 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, 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.

1. Read Genesis 32:22-32 as a group in two different versions.

-How does this text reveal God's character?

-Where is He present?

-How is He true to His promises?

-How does He use "struggle?"

2. Jacob was created as a wrestler. He wanted the rights of the first-born. He wanted God's blessing. His struggle with his brother was human nature. His struggle with God was about submission and trust. It resulted in his understanding God as "his" God – not only the God of Abraham and Isaac. When he is renamed as Israel, he cements his place as a patriarch "God's people."

-When did you make your faith your own – not that of your parents or grandparents?

-How does struggle help refine us into overcomers?

-When do you still struggle with surrender to God's ways? (We all do!)

-How much of our wrestling is out of fear, like Jacob's?

-What has God taught you through your wrestling times?

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

A challenge for your group: Give the gift of the story of your struggle to surrender your rights to one person this week. We need to know that the struggle is normal, and that our good God is waiting to bless us when we surrender.