

Wrestling for Blessing
Sermon Based Discussion (February 28, 2016)
Broken & Mended (Lent 2016)

WARM UP

1. Think of your home or your workplace or school. Is there some appliance, piece of furniture, or fixture that is pretty much broken/not working, but hasn't been dealt with? Share about that.

Almost everyone can relate to having something that's broken but still lying around. Maybe it's an old bicycle in the garage. Perhaps it's a non-functioning cell phone or computer in some closet. Whatever it is, perhaps we just haven't gotten around to dealing with some old, broken piece of our lives.

In this session, we consider not a broken piece of furniture, but a person broken by their own sin and God's grace.

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Genesis 32:3-21)

2. Why is Jacob afraid of Esau?

3. What can we learn about Jacob's attitude from his prayer in verses 9-12?

4. Why does Peter give the name "Peniel" to the place where he wrestled with the angel of the Lord? (see v.30)

UNDERSTANDING

5. If Jacob was so afraid of Esau, why does Jacob bother to go back to face Esau?

6. What's the significance of God changing Jacob's name? (see verse 30)

7. In the Sunday message, Pastor Enoch said that Jacob's situation was (1) dire situation where he was utterly helpless, and (2) convicted of his own unworthiness. Why might the combination of those two things bring Jacob to the point of being broken by God?

DIFFERENCE

8. Can you relate to feeling like you're in dire circumstances, and you feel like it's your own sin that got you there? Share about any such experiences.

9. If you've felt broken by God before, it likely left an impression on your life. How did such an experience influence or change you.

APPLICATION

10. What is one thing you would do this week in response to this Bible teaching?