

## #DeathToSelfie ~ Part 5

“Hi, I’m Jacob...”

*<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.*

*<sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."*

*But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."*

*<sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?"*

*"Jacob," he answered.*

*<sup>28</sup> 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."*

*<sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."*

*But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.*

Genesis 32:22-29 (NIV)

## Questions for Discussion

### #DEATHTOSELFIE

Read Genesis 32:22-29. God blessed Jacob, but he was complicated. How do you relate to him?

### ME FIRST IS MISERABLE

Read Matthew 20:16. We know that we live in a “me-first” world. Why is the Biblical perspective of “the first will be last” so difficult for us to embrace?

Read Luke 9:25. When was the last time you got something you really wanted, only to realize that it didn't satisfy you as much as you would have thought? What did you learn from that?

How does serving others help us to break free from the misery of “me-first”?

### GOD CANNOT BLESS WHO YOU PRETEND TO BE

Genesis 27 & 28 captures the deception Jacob embodied throughout his life. Who was he pretending to be? Why couldn't God truly bless him in his deception?

If you had to be honest with yourself, who is one person you regularly compare yourself to? How do you react when that person succeeds? When that person fails?

Do you ever find yourself trying to do things in life like the people you compare yourself to? Why isn't that healthy? What do you need to stop pretending to do so that you can fully appreciate God's blessings?

### CHANGE IS CONFLICTING

Even after Jacob wrestled with God and received His blessing, he appears throughout Scripture as both Jacob (the liar and deceiver) and Israel (he who triumphs with God). Do you ever wrestle with the conflict knowing that you're made new, but still struggling with your “old self”? How?

Why do you think God allows us to still struggle with some of the same things even after he has given us a new name? How does this affect your faith with Him?

### HE'S THE GOD OF JACOB TOO

Read Exodus 3:14-15. What does this tell you about the way God loves both our good and bad sides?

Have you ever believed God didn't love you because of something you've done? Why isn't that true? What advice would you give to someone who feels that way today?