

**Rockford Reformed Church**  
**Genesis 32:22-32 - “Wrestling With a Limp”**  
11/25/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

**Questions for family/small group discussions:**

Three observations about how to get back to life, blessing, and abundance:

**1. A cloud of curse/chaos follows the \_\_\_\_\_.**

a. We saw from our story about Jacob how a mess develops out of our self-reliance and self-centeredness. What are some ways that sin has ricocheted through your life? Can you see why God would work somehow to intervene?

b. We said that someday, somehow, all our self-efforts to self-save or self-provide will self-destruct. What are some ways that you tend to self-save or self-provide? Have you seen these efforts self-destruct?

**2. God \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ against us so that we will limp, depend on, and \_\_\_\_\_ with him.**

a. Read 1 Peter 4:12. As you reflect on your own life, do you see how God has in the past, or is perhaps even today, leading you through trials to test you and your faith? How do you see God’s working against you also being a working for you?

b. Read James 1:2-3 and Psalm 102:23. What is God doing when he “breaks our strength” and leads through trials? Why does he do this?

**1. God’s \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ shines on those who persevere, strive, and \_\_\_\_\_ with him.**

a. Read Psalm 23:6. How does Jesus ultimately make this goodness and mercy possible for you?

b. We see that Jesus humbled, crippled himself, gave up his life, and suffered under the chaos and curse so that we who deserve the curse of death can receive blessing. And, Jesus suffered, not so that we would not suffer—but that in our struggles, we could become like him and know his joy. How does this change your view of the struggles and trials that come your way? Have your struggles and trials worked toward making you more like Jesus? If not, why not?

c. What does your prayer life reveal about the degree to which you rely and depend on God?

d. How does being bought by and belonging to God change the way we relate to him and the way he relates to us?

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