



**Week 4**

**Blessing follows Surrender**

**Takeaway:**

Blessing Only Follows Surrender

**Before You Begin:**

What is your favorite Board Game?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **Read Genesis 32:3-6.** Why would Jacob feel the need to orchestrate his meeting with Esau? How does this fit with his character based on what you know of him?
2. **Read Genesis 32:7-21.** God had directed Jacob home to meet Esau. Jacob is scared, so Jacob prays to God, but he develops a plan on his own power. How does this show Jacob's trust/skepticism of God.
3. Have you ever vacillated between trust and disbelief? Explain. Why is it so easy to waver in our trust of God? Why is it easier to rely on ourselves, or even others, rather than rely on God?
4. How have you learned to trust in God?
5. **Read Genesis 32:22-26**— Jacob literally wrestles with God.
6. Jeremy stated in his message— *When the text tells us that Jacob's opponent is unable to overcome him, it is not suggesting that Jacob is physically besting the man. The ease with which he inflicts physical damage on Jacob indicated that any inability is spiritual, not physical. If the wrestler is not able to overcome Jacob spiritually, it is because Jacob is unwilling to yield.*
7. Have you ever spiritually or mentally? Why do you think it is so hard for individuals (maybe even you) to surrender and submit to God completely?
8. **Read Genesis 32:27-32-** When Jacob submits, he gets a new identity. Once which confirms the blessing of God. How has total submission to God brought blessing?
9. How can our desire for self-sufficiency keep us from experiencing the total of God's grace?

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify areas of your life where you aren't totally submitting to God. What steps do you need to take, disciplines you need to hone, or habits you need to break so that you can totally submit to God?