

**Series: PRAY FIRST**  
**Title: Jacob: Change Me**  
**Speaker: Kip McCormick**  
**Date: February 24-25, 2018**

Start this week like each other in the series by asking what God's teaching and challenging you to do through Pray First. INVITE EVERYONE TO BRING THEIR PRAYER GUIDE.

Read Jacob's painful and prayerful encounter with God in Genesis 32.

Some of the most important conversations/prayers we have with God, come at night. We're alone with our thoughts yet under attack from our greatest fears. Tomorrow looks like the end of our world.

1. In this story prayer is painful; it's like wrestling with God. Try and come up with at least 5 things prayer and wrestling have in common.
2. But, isn't prayer all about God making things better? Why does God ambush/mug/attack someone he loves? What is he trying to do?
3. Look at Genesis 32:26. What has God been waiting decades for Jacob to say?
4. How is this wrestling match a picture of the gospel? If God is stronger than Jacob, then how can he lose and why does he lose? How does Jacob win?
5. True prayer is wrestling with God until we finally admit our false self, our shadow side, our sin, what we've been running from all our life, what we prefer to ignore. How does the all- night-long wrestling match with God change the core sin/problem/perspective of his life?
6. Why does God want to give Jacob a new name? Why is it important to see how God sees us instead of how we've labelled ourselves, or seen in ourselves, since birth?
7. Think about several derogatory names you've been given. As a group name 10 names or descriptions, or conditions God gives his children. Which one has extra meaning for you and your future?

Kip closed the message with 4 penetrating questions.

*God, where in my integrity am I a deceiver?*

*Where in my heart is there a need for transformation?*

*Where in my life am I struggling with You?*

*Where in my character am I about me?*

8. Anyone brave enough to answer?

Recall Joni Erickson Tada's prayer: "God, do something in my life to jerk it right side up; to bring me closer to you because I'm living it all wrong." And recall Jacob's, "I will not let you go until you bless/change me."

