

# BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

## 2. The Wrestler

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Genesis 32.33-32

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

- This is an unusual, almost surreal passage. What impacts you most about it?
- Can you identify with Jacob in this story at all? Have you ever had an experience of wrestling with God, wrestling with your doubts and questions? If yes, how did you get to that point and what was it like?
- God gave Jacob a brand new name, a whole new way of defining himself – 'the wrestler'. The Bible makes it clear that we inherit this identity as God's people. We are those who wrestle, not those who have it easy, who never experience painful questions and doubts. What does this look like for us as Christians today? Do we live up to this identity? Or are we more like those who avoid struggle, and who give up at the first sign of doubt?
- v25. God was able to overpower Jacob at will, and yet he allowed him to wrestle till daybreak. Why did God indulge him like this? Why does God allow us times of prolonged struggling when He could so easily put a swift stop to it?
- v29. Jacob finally got the blessing of God that he'd been so desperate for. Do you find it encouraging that God blesses the struggler, instead of punishing him? What does that mean for us? How can wrestling with doubt be a pathway to blessing in our lives?

**Big Idea:** Wrestling with God is a part of real faith. God wants us to have a deep and close relationship with Him, where we're honest about our doubts and questions.

Break down into twos and threes and take it in turns to share what you'd most like prayer for as a result of this message. Pray for those going through a hard time right now with their faith – both in the group and out of it. Pray for a new revelation of the God who meets us right where we're at, even at our lowest points. Pray for God's blessing on each other.