

Hudson writes, “We need to acknowledge in God’s presence those parts of our lives that need transformation.” We have to confront our anger, fears, our critical and gossipy sides, our prejudice, dishonestly and deception, our desires and addictions. The idea of our life of faith as a series of conversions was discussed in the message. What part or parts of your life need transformation? What changes do you believe you need to make in order to honor God and improve our relationships with others? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, August 6

Read Genesis 32:22-31. Jacob wrestled with God and for a blessing. He would not release his grasp on God until he received a blessing. Think about what wrestling would look like for you. How would you ask God to bless you? What expectations for that blessing do you imagine?

Jacob received a new name for his blessing from God. Israel means “wrestled with God.” When giving Jacob his new name, God commended him for prevailing in his struggle with God. As a lasting reminder of that blessing, Jacob walked away with a limp. He was a changed man. On scholar said that since there was no mention of God and Jacob/Israel parting ways, we can assume that Israel lived his life in God’s presence for the rest of his life. What new name would you like to receive from God? Contemplate the lasting change you’d like for your life. Write your thoughts here.

Friday, August 7

Read Genesis 33:1-20. This is the story that after his blessing, new name and transformed life, Jacob/Israel reconciled with his brother. Our transformed life can lead to better relationships with others. How might your relationships be better because of our closeness with our loving Creator? It makes sense that our transformed lives will lead to transformed relationships. Contemplate these ideas and write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – August 2, 2020

Questions from God – What Is Your Name?*

- I. Besides life itself, our names are often the first _____ we are given.
 - A. Names symbolized the _____, expectations and _____ that parents had for their children.
 - B. The importance of names become apparent as we learn about _____ and specifically the story read earlier this morning.
- II. To fully understand today’s story we must realize that Jacob is going _____; Jacob and his brother, Esau, have been alienated from each other for _____ years.
 - A. To make peace with Esau, Jacob sent ahead of him a _____ of goats and sheep and camels and cows, bulls and donkeys.
 - B. In the dark of night, Jacob wrestled with _____; and there _____ asked the question, “What is your name?”
 - C. When Jacob answered that question, his _____ life was changed; he was transformed for God’s purposes.
 - D. In that moment Jacob experienced God’s _____.
- III. Transformation and inner change require us to be _____ with ourselves.
 - A. The meaning of the name Jacob in Hebrew is “_____” or “deceiver.”
 - B. For years, Jacob _____ using his own name.
 - C. God wanted Jacob to recognize who he _____ was.
 - D. Hudson writes, “We need to acknowledge in God’s

*Genesis 32:22-31

presence those parts of our lives that need transformation – our _____ and fears, our critical and gossipy sides, our _____, our dishonesty and deception, our lustful desires and addictions.”

- IV. When we are honest and real with God and ourselves, we can then joyfully receive God’s _____.
- A. God always wants to bless us; the issue is whether or not we are _____ to truly receive God’s blessing.
- B. The blessing Jacob received from God was a new _____.
- C. The name Israel means “_____ with God.”
- D. Two things I want to lift up at this point.
1. There is no mention of how God departed from Jacob, possibly meaning that God and Jacob are now _____ at the hip – pun intended.
 2. Second, that new identity is lived out in relationship with _____.
 3. When God changes our lives then our relationships with others bear new _____ and possibilities.
- V. What blessing would you like to receive from God; what new _____ would you like God to call you?
- A. Friends, you might experience God giving you a new identity and name that is more _____ and marked by a particular giftedness you possess.
- B. Having said that, “_____” is a great start!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, August 3

The question for this week from the message on Sunday is “What is your name?” Let’s just consider that question in its simplest form: What is your name? How do you feel about your name?

Do you know what your name means? Where did your name come from; was it a family name or inspired by a well-known personality? Take some time today to think about your name, perhaps Google it to find its meaning and contemplate how your name might describe you. Write some of your findings here.

Tuesday, August 4

Read Genesis 32:22-31. In the first week of this series of message we contemplated why an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving creator would ask questions of us. We explored the idea that God wants a conversational relationship with humanity and give us the dignity to contribute to that conversation. Questions are also more effective in their transformative power. Questions allow us to participate in a conversation and grow deeper in our understanding of life, God and relationships.

In struggling with Jacob, God asks Jacob his name. It’s not that God didn’t know Jacob’s name but needed Jacob to know his name and all that name means. Jacob means “cheat” and “deceiver.” If you know the meaning of your actual name, consider whether or not that name describes you. What other names might describe you? Take the opportunity to consider what words describe you. You may want to write some thoughts here.

Wednesday, August 5

Read Genesis 32:22-31. When asked his name Jacob answered truthfully. That may seem obvious, but Jacob regularly did not use his name. He identified himself to his own father by his brother, Esau’s, name. He described himself as a relative of his future father in law to the woman he ultimately married. To be clear, Jacob lived up to his name and all that it meant.

To make a meaningful and lasting change in one’s life, you have to honest and open with yourself and others. Pastor Trevor