

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*  
***The Gospel According to Genesis***  
***From Struggling to Surrender: Gen 30:25-32:32***  
**Pastor John Mahaffey**  
**Sunday, October 11, 2015**

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions or family or personal devotions*

1. What reasons can you discern from the story led Jacob to the conclusion that he should leave and return to Bethel and the Promised Land?
2. Why do you think Moses has included all of the detail about spotted and striped sheep and goats? How does this tie in with the larger story about what God had promised to do for Jacob?
3. Jacob built a significant wealth through his animal husbandry techniques – was it deceitful to compromise the size and quality of Laban's herd for the benefit of his own herd? Can this principle apply in any way to today?
4. Rachel was bold to steal and hide her father's idols (Gen 31:33-35). Do we know enough of Rachel to know her motivations? What might they be?
5. Jacob's departure from Laban's household would potentially put him in conflict not only with his father-in-law, but soon thereafter his own brother. Yet despite this he proceeded to respond to God's direction in his life. How often do we avoid following God's direction in our lives for fear of the challenges that may confront us? How can we overcome this and become more obedient to God's calling in our lives?
6. For the first time there is much “God talk” coming from Jacob. What does this indicate has happened to him during these twenty years in Haran? To what extent is Jacob the deceiver now a changed man? (See 31:6, 38-42). What evidence is there that he has come to a deeper knowledge of God? (See 31:3-13, 42).
7. What can you learn from Jacob's prayer in Gen 32:10?
8. Jacob was bolstered by God's promises to him. What of God's promises to you give you courage and strength to live for Him?

9. Can you give testimony to times when decisions you were making were confirmed by the Lord?
10. After reading this long passage, we find near the end of Chapter 32 that God finally transformed Jacob into the man of God that He wanted him to be by bringing Jacob to the point of total surrender. God had changed him and blessed him because Jacob now submits to God in great humility. Discuss this 'proposition' that God's blessings toward a believer is in direct proportion to a person's willingness to surrender to God. Have you seen this in your Christian experience or have even experienced it yourself?
- What about other Biblical characters where this 'proposition' has shown itself to be true?
  - Along the same train of thought, which Biblical characters come to mind as having 'wrestled' with God and have come out of it very transformed and fruitful?
11. Pastor John concluded his message with a reminder of God's Relentless Grace. In what ways is this relentless grace:
- Tenacious
  - Contending
  - Intrusive
  - Renovating
12. God gave Jacob a new name. Review these passages to see others being given a new name:
- Genesis 17:5
  - John 1:42
  - Acts 13:9
  - Read also Revelation 2:17 - What do you think this might mean about our change of identity when we achieve Heaven?
13. God sent Jacob away with a limp. Has God so touched you when you have struggled with Him over your will and way?