

MAIN POINT

Though others may identify us in various ways, we get our true identity from God.

INTRODUCTION

What are some nicknames you have had throughout your life?

What are some things you are known for by others? How does this impact the way they identify you?

Many of us gain nicknames throughout our lives tied to our actions or what people believe about us. These things are not always flattering, and sometimes we may desire to be known for something else. For those following Christ, we don't find our identity in what we or others believe about ourselves, but according to who God says we are.

DISCUSSION

> READ GENESIS 32:24-32.

Why did God engage Jacob in a wrestling match? What was the purpose of God injuring Jacob?

What aspects of a relationship with God do we miss out on when we are focused on ourselves?

Why do you think Jacob was so reluctant to give up when wrestling God? How can you relate to this in your own life?

God asked Jacob for his name. What might be significant about this question? What was God really asking Jacob?

How does Jacob's new name reflect both who Jacob was and who he would be in the future?

Read Genesis 35:9-12. What additional insight do we learn about Jacob's new name from these verses?

Explain the significance of Jacob's statement that he had seen God's face, yet his life was spared.

Share a brief example of how you have seen God redeem your identity in Him.

What did God teach you about His purposes through your experience? About your character? How did He use you to bless someone else?

APPLICATION

How does finding your identity in Christ change your relationship with Him and others?