



Could Someone Please
Change My Name?

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June 7 & 8, 2008

Jacob = “heel catcher” or trickster

Three Steps Into Jacob’s Old Name

1. He takes advantage of a weakness and steals his brother’s birthright. (*Genesis 25:19-34*)
2. He deceives his own father and steals his brother’s blessing. (*Genesis 27:1-40*)
3. He leaves a trail of broken relationships and broken families. (*Genesis 27:41-46, 30, 31*)

But God...

¹³ “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you...” – *Genesis 28:13-15a*

Three Steps Toward a New Name

1. He does the hard work of listening to God’s direction
(*Genesis 32:9*)
2. He does the hard work of repairing broken bridges
(*Genesis 32:13-17*)
3. He does the hard work of struggling with God’s direction
(*Genesis 32:24*)

Genesis 32:24-28

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.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

²⁷ The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”

Israel = One who fights for/with God

***The only name of true consequence is
the one assigned by God.***

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On Your Way Home

Do you know how your parents came up with your name? If you do, share the story with those in the car. If you don't know, call your parents when you get home and ask!

Group Life Discussion Questions



1. If you could choose a name for yourself (for example: Courageous, Broken, Focused) what would it be right now? What would you like it to be in the future?
2. Why do you believe our most profound weaknesses and failures often become our greatest tools to help others in the future?
3. How have your own personal identity crises defined who you are as a person today?
4. In what areas of your life have you struggled with God?
5. Read Genesis 28:13-15 once more. What promise of God are you claiming from God tonight?
6. How can we pray for you tonight?