



I Surrender All – to His Blessing

November 13, 2025

The Big Idea

Best Practice

Surrender to God's best even when it's tough, challenging, and difficult to do.

Passages

Genesis 32:22-32

Group Goal

God wants you to surrender to Him so that He can fully bless you. We don't surrender to get a blessing, but we are more blessed by being transformed in Him when we do.

If we are going to fully surrender, we have to believe that what God wants to do in us and through us is going to be better than anything we could ever dream up ourselves.

In this story of Jacob, he is about to find out that some of the best blessings aren't ones he can manipulate to receive – but has to cling to God desperately with no other options on the table until God blesses Him. He was stripped of everything in order to fully appreciate God completely. But in doing so, he is blessed beyond measure.

Group Talk

For Starters

What is a difficult experience you went through that you initially resented, but now feel grateful for?

To Discuss

Wrestling with Glory (Genesis 32:22-32)

As Jacob wrestled with God, he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." What does this struggle reveal about Jacob's perspective on his relationship with God?

Jacob was blessed after a night of intense struggle. How does this narrative challenge a common perception that blessings are always easily received (or pleasantly obtained)?

Jacob's wrestling match took place in isolation, away from his family and possessions. How might this arrangement create the space for Jacob to focus on the wrestling moment with God?

What practices help you create space for solitude and reflection in your own life to encounter God more deeply?

Despite the intensity of the struggle, Jacob ultimately received a blessing from God. How does this outcome challenge the idea that struggling with God is a sign of weakness or doubt?

Jacob walked with a limp after wrestling with God. What "limps" or scars do you carry as a result of your own spiritual battles?

This passage highlights the paradox of clinging to God while simultaneously being blessed by Him. What does it show us about the nature of faith and perseverance in the face of adversity?

Can you recall a time when you felt God's blessing was preceded by a period of intense struggle or difficulty?

Where have you limited God because the process to walk through it didn't look quick or easy?

How has a struggle later turned into an area of surrender for you? What did you see happen as a result?

Jacob received a new name ("Israel") after wrestling with God. What does this illustrate about the ways that encountering God in the midst of a struggle can become transforming for you?

How might God be inviting you to embrace a new identity or purpose through your current (or past) challenges?

Where do you think you can be a blessing to others as a result of what you experienced?

Next Steps

- **Name Your Wrestling:** Write down a specific area where you feel you are currently struggling with God or holding tightly to something you're reluctant to surrender.
- **Identify Potential Blessings:** Reflect on what blessings or transformations might emerge from this struggle, even if they aren't immediately apparent or happening.
- **Record Your 'Limp':** Note how this struggle is changing you. What marks or lessons will you carry forward from this experience? Journal through all this to get clarity.

Prayer Focus

What struggles are you experiencing? How can the group pray for you and lift you up while you wrestle with it? Often times, we share safe issues or 'finished business.' See if you are willing to be vulnerable and share the current 'unfinished' issues you are wrestling through.

Follow this sequence for your prayer time:

1. **Center your heart** – take a few deep breaths, sit in silence, release any distractions.
2. **Acknowledge your struggle** – Hold your struggle before God without words, simply acknowledging its presence.
3. **Open your hands** – palms up, signifying surrender and openness to God's blessing.
4. **Receive His blessing** – imagine God meeting you in your struggle.

Leadership Tip

The healthiest groups don't just connect or meet once a week for a meeting. They are in touch outside of meeting times, sometimes even planning a fun event (a meal, a night out, a movie night with kids) to continue to develop solid friendships. We call these **IBM's** – *In-Between-Meeting* occasions. See what your group can plan over the next few weeks before the holidays begin. Also consider a time during the holidays to gather and just enjoy each other's presence, celebrate Jesus, and maybe sing a few Christmas carols as well.