



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 2—Genesis Part 2*

*Lesson 3: God Desires Reunion and Reconciliation For His People—Genesis 32-33*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 32-33 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*  
*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*  
*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*What is God's presence?*

- God's presence is powerful. Being in God's presence allows for safety, joy, goodness, security, sustainable strength, gladness, assurance, and the very life that allows us to experience God's presence.

*In what ways can we become more aware of God's presence in our lives?*

- Pray
- Openness
- Scripture
- Ask others
- Contribute to God's mission
- Fasting
- Confession
- Simplicity

#### **OUR STORY**

*Jacob wrestled with God. In what ways do we wrestle with God?*

- We, like Jacob, wrestle with God. We struggle spiritually—emotions, fear, desperation, control—these are all things that, at times, we wrestle with.

*What should we remember when we wrestle with God?*

- First that a wrestling match requires two or more individuals. Meaning this, when we wrestle God engages with us. God desires that we arrive at a decision and God desires to help us with this.
- Second, we ought to remember that God meets us at our level. God, at any time, can and does overpower us (like God touching Jacob's hip socket); but we can prevail as Jacob did when we don't give in and quit. God allows us to prevail when we take action and don't give up.
- Third, when we wrestle, it is important to remember that we wrestle for one-reason—spiritual transformation. Wrestling with God, while at times full of angst, can allow us to find a new way forward removing us from our current situation or events that hold us back.
- Finally, with this new way forward, we chart a new course looking even more deeply to God for guidance.

## OTHERS' STORY

### *When do we win in life?*

- Like Jacob illustrated, we win when we lose. We prevail when we hold onto God long enough to receive God's blessing.

### *What happens when we turn away from self and turn toward God?*

- When we abandon self, God desires us to love more fully as our true selves. If we want to establish peace with others, we must find ways to submit to God's leading.

## THE WORD'S STORY

### *What would it look like if we could live in such a way as to provide the world around us with a new beginning—a chance to start over?*

- This is our role as a blessing in and to this world, which we help people find peace with self and start a new beginning in life.

## PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*God the Father, all powerful and ever-living being, we worship and thank you through Your Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord, for Your presence and action in the world.*

*In the midst of disagreement and disunion, we know it is You, oh God, who turns our hearts and minds to thoughts of peace. Your Spirit converts our hearts: foes begin to speak to one another, those who were alienated and separated join hands in friendship, and countries and lands seek the way of peace together.*

*Your Spirit is at work when acceptance, support and partnership puts an end to conflict, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and retaliation gives way to forgiveness. For this we should never finish thanking You. We join with angels as they sing forever "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty!"*

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Take time this week to make a list of at least three things that you wrestle with God about on a regular basis. Each day, pray about these three things. At the end of the week, or before you meet again, write a prayer to God telling Him why you are grateful that God is engaged in this wrestling with you.

## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

*1 Chronicles 16:27*

*Exodus 33:14*

*Psalms 16:11*

*Psalms 51:11*

*Acts 3:19*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 32-33, consider the following questions:

*How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 32-33?*

*How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 32-33?*

*What is God saying to you through these passages?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 32-33 and read them this week, journaling as you go.