

# BLUEPRINT FOR MEN – OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Translation used: New Living Translation

## Session #4 – Searching – The Endless Quest for Identity

Identity is where we go to find our worth and value and purpose. It defines who we are. Identity is more than what you see on the outside of a man -it includes HOW he behaves, but it goes deeper. Identity is also the reason WHY he behaves in a certain way.

We spend a great deal of our lives building up our identity, we become Lawyers, Doctors, Architects and such. This is HOW we want the world to recognize us.

1. Work
2. Family.
3. Possessions/Money
4. Being Liked
5. Education
6. Hobbies/Sports

**Group Discussion** - Read [Genesis 32:22-32](#) (NLT) out loud as a group.

### **Jacob Wrestles with God**

<sup>22</sup> During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. <sup>23</sup> After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions.

<sup>24</sup> This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup> "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

<sup>29</sup> "Please tell me your name," Jacob said. "Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

<sup>30</sup> Jacob named the place Peniel (which means "face of God"), for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." <sup>31</sup> The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip. <sup>32</sup> (Even today the people of Israel don't eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob's hip.)

1. What are some other ways or places men go to find their identity?
2. Which ways or places are you most likely to go in order to find your identity?

[Genesis 32:28-33:4](#) – we have already read 32:28-32 so we will pick up on [Genesis 33:1-4](#)

### **Jacob and Esau Make Peace**

33 Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives. 2 He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him. 4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.

1. How does Jacob's identity change when he finally surrenders to God?

Remember the definition of the word "identity"

"Our identity was created to be men made in the image of God for the pleasure and glory of God."

2. What does this story teach us about the difference between finding our identity in God versus trying to find it in places that leave us empty?
3. Describe ways you have seen God wrestling with you in your life. What does it look like to surrender to God and find your identity in Him?

Every day for the next week, read [Genesis 32:22-32](#)