

A person with a backpack is hiking through a dense forest. The person is seen from behind, wearing a white cap and a dark backpack. The forest is lush with green trees and moss-covered ground. The title 'Origins' is written in a large, white, cursive font, and 'Studies In Genesis' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Origins

Studies In Genesis

Origins: Jacob Gets Tackled by God

Date: Sunday 3rd March 2019

Speakers: Ruth Page & Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: Genesis Chapter 29-33, Focus on Genesis 32: 22-28

Talk Summary:

God wants our encounters with him to change us, so that our will becomes aligned with his. Like Jacob, we need to let go of our self-interest, defence and reliance as we are drawn deeper into God's grace. That grace then flows out and restores our relationship with others and our world. We can see that in Jacob's story on his journey from self-sufficiency, into struggle and then finally surrender.

Group Discussion Questions:

- When have you experienced times of weakness and how have they helped you experience more of God's grace?
- Where are you most tempted to act or react in your own strength or in your own self-interest? What are the consequences of this?
- What about Jacob's encounter with God in the 'wrestling' scene of Genesis 32 is most puzzling, interesting or applicable to you? Try reading the passage several times, imagining yourself in Jacob's position.
- How do you think walking in greater dependence on God would change you and change what you do in the coming week?

To ponder or pray about this week:

- Try praying the Lord's prayer every day this week, pausing on the lines 'your kingdom come, your will be done' and ask God to align your will with his will.
- Listen to this song on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lg2AfzvZvk>