



HILLSIDE STUDENTS


Struggle

CONNECT

 Set out snacks! Add new students to the groups app! Take Attendance!

 Play **Chicken Run!** Pair up the students. One person in each pair is the farmer, and the other is the chicken. The farmer must guide their chicken from one side of the room to the other, but there's a catch—the chicken must keep their eyes closed the entire time. The farmer cannot touch them and can only make chicken noises (clucking, squawking, flapping sounds) to guide them. The chicken must listen carefully and try to navigate to the finish line using only these sounds. The first pair to cross the finish line wins! To make it even funnier, add obstacles (like chairs or people standing still) that the chickens must avoid.

WATCH

 **Set up Discussion:** Think about a time you struggled with something. Did you feel like you were alone in the wrestling? When we are going through life storms, we can often feel isolated and alone in our struggles – or worse: we feel like we have to hide our brokenness from those we love! Today, we're going to talk about Jacob – a man who lived a truly hard life – until he was forced to confront his struggles and wrestle with them face to face.

 Pre-Video Question: Have your group answer one or both questions below!

- If you had to swap lives with someone for a day, who would it be?
- Socks with flipflops or boots and barefoot – what's worse?

Split up into smaller groups and navigate the discussion below:

READ + DISCUSS

- What stood out from the video?
- What can we take away from the story of Jacob wrestling with God?
- **Read Romans 7:21-25.** Have you ever experienced the tension of wrestling through something with God? How did it turn out?
- Have you ever felt like you couldn't bring something to God that you were wrestling with?
- **Read Matthew 26:39.** How does Jesus bring the things he's wrestling with to His Father? -- What does Jesus' example teach us about how to bring the things we're wrestling with to God?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10.** In your own words, summarize this passage.
- This is a great passage to memorize or keep close! God's power is made perfect in our weakness!
- Is there something you're wrestling with right now? How can we encourage and pray for each other this week?

HILLSIDE STUDENTS

Struggle

Sometimes, we can feel like David in Psalm 13:1-2. “How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thought and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?” When we are struggling or wrestling with our thoughts or emotions, it can sometimes feel like we can’t bring things up to God, or that He might be against us. However, today’s story shows us how God uses these times of wrestling to bring us closer to Him.

Up to this point in his life, Jacob has lived a life of deception and distrust. But now, Jacob is forced to confront his struggles face to face. Jacob learns this through wrestling the power and magnitude of who God is – and this changes not only his perception of God, but also his perception of himself.

When we encounter life storms, we can cry out to God and lift up our brokenness to Him! We can bring God our questions, hurts, anger, and doubts, and we can know that at the end of the day, we can also rest in God’s provision - He is good to us!

Read Romans 7:21-25 *“²¹So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”*

Read Matthew 26:39 *“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 *“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Genesis Reading Plan

Week 8 | Genesis 37

Day 1 – Genesis 37:1-4

Day 2 – Genesis 37:5-11

Day 3 – Genesis 37:12-17

Day 4 – Genesis 37:18-24

Day 5 – Genesis 37:25-28

Day 6 – Genesis 37:29-36

Day 7 – Catch Up/Memorize/Nothing