



**Big Idea:**

When we become honest with God about who we are, we encounter him in fresh ways that bring new life and identity.

**Thought Exercise:**

- What are some reminders you have about events or activities in your life?
- What's in a name?

**Items for discussion:**

**A Life of Deception**

- Genesis 25-36 – The promise is for the future, but God continues to work in Abraham's immediate descendants.
- Jacob's life of deceit starts young and continues through adulthood.
- What are some of the issues that arise from Jacob's deceit?

**A Life of Perseverance**

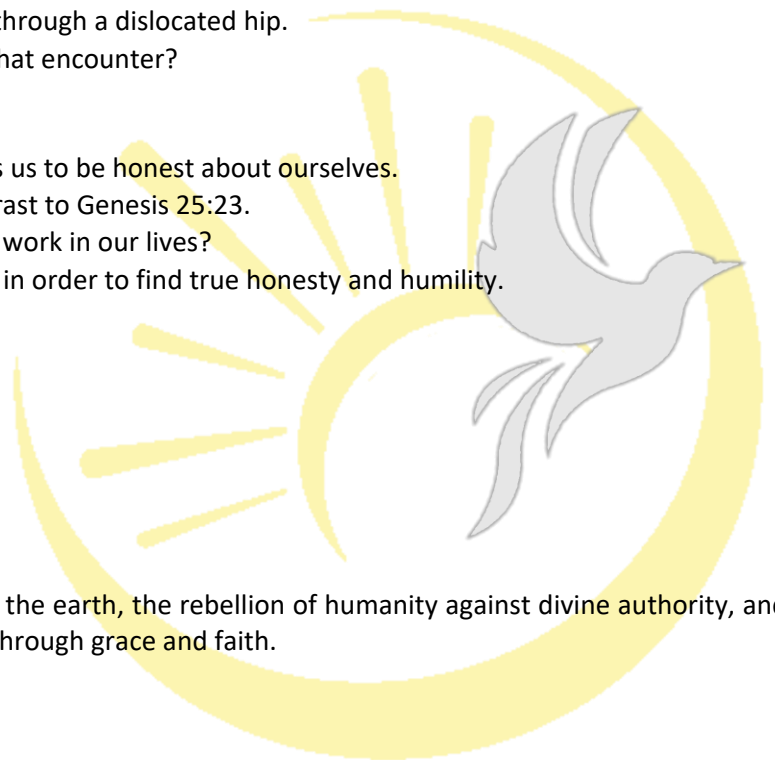
- Jacob's path to humility begins with Laban turning the tables.
- Jacob makes plans to meet Esau even though he is uncertain of his response.
- Jacob wrestles with God and perseveres even through a dislocated hip.
- What was the real test that Jacob endured in that encounter?

**Confession of a Name**

- Genesis 32:27 – Being in God's presence forces us to be honest about ourselves.
- Jacob is a changed man. Genesis 32:28 in contrast to Genesis 25:23.
- How does honesty open ourselves up to God's work in our lives?
- Sometimes we have to be driven to low points in order to find true honesty and humility.

**A New Beginning**

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – A new creation.
- Revelation 2:17 – A new name.



God has created and brought to order and function to the earth, the rebellion of humanity against divine authority, and God's plan to restore mankind to his original purpose through grace and faith.