

God's Story and Our Story

Week of February 7 – February 13, 2016

Wrestling with God does not equate to disbelief or disloyalty. In fact, in the scriptures it means quite the opposite. Wrestling with God's promises is what faithful people do; Abraham bargains with God in an attempt to save the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah. Jacob wrestles with the divine beside the Jabbok River and is rewarded with the blessing of a new name. Moses questions God's plan for him to stand up to Pharaoh, and even Jesus questions God's intentions on the cross crying, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" The good news is that God is committed to wrestling with us. For it is in our fierce pursuit to understand God that we come into a deeper awareness about God's unconditional love for us and the world.

May God speak to you in new ways through these daily scriptures and reflections and may it challenge you to interact with the scriptures in an ongoing way that deepens your engagement with them.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

Genesis 32:24-26: *Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

Exodus 3:9 -12a *"The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you..."*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

Isaiah 43:2 *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

John 3:1-3 *Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.*

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2016

As you read the scripture slowly, notice what word(s) related to the concept of wrestling stands out to you. Hold onto that word(s) and take a deep breath in. As you release the breath say to yourself, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief."

Romans 5:1-5 *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*