



BROKEN: STRUGGLE

SESSION FOUR | OCTOBER 18 & 19

Last week's discussion looked at the "negative circumstances" that were a part of Joseph's life before God's stunning conclusion. It is clear that the very issues Joseph faced were the same ones that put him into position to be used by God as a blessing to God's special people, the Israelites. This week, the sermon focused on Joseph's father Jacob (renamed Israel). Jacob struggled with God and was changed. The reading centered on the promises and love that are rooted in the person and character of God.

Watch the Video Summary of This Week's Sermon at www.christchurchil.org/broken under the Study Guide tab

This week we discuss the sermon on Struggle and the reading on Big Ideas about God. (Book 3, Ch. 1-3)

Mike opened the reading describing the varied approaches to "Christmas Card Letters." What are 2-3 parts of your past year that you would be sure to mention in this year's letter (if you were to write one)?



QUESTIONS | BOOK 3 (CHAPTERS 1-3)

1. Describe how at least one of the "Big Ideas about God" (p. 11-13) could help strengthen you through a current challenge you are facing?
2. Throughout the Book of Job, friends and family ask why God would allow the events in Job's life to take place. After listening to those around him, Job offers his complaint to God. God's response (Job 38-40) reminds Job of God's greatness. What activities does God note in His response to Job that are beyond our ability or comprehension? Why does God answer Job's question this way?
3. What does it mean to say "God is love?" How is this helpful to know in life? Are there limitations to his love?



APPLYING THE SERMON: SORROW

1. In the sermon, we learned that God asked Jacob his name. God of course knew his name, but this caused Jacob to say his name and be reminded of its meaning – deceiver or manipulator. Mike said, "Until God changes the way you see yourself, nothing much is going to happen in your life. You're going to struggle the rest of your life." How would you finish this sentence in honesty with God?

"It is just like me to be..."

2. What do you think of the statement, "Our biggest struggles are with God, even though we often do not see that.?" (after you have discussed this) Think of a current struggle. How can you reframe your thinking in terms of a struggle between you and God?
3. What are you tired of tolerating in your life?

One way to share your struggle is to **CARE**:

Complain – to God (not against God) being straightforward and honest

Appeal – to God's nature using statements like, "you know I... (struggle with fear, want to be working, am insecure and lonely, etc.)" and "I know you... (are a loving God, can heal me, love justice, etc.)"

Remind – yourself of God's word and promises and remind God of what he said in Scripture

Express – to God your total trust in his concern for you and willingness to be patient in Him.