**Growth Group (Week of October 13th, 2019)**

**Sermon Series Title: Wonderous Depth – Astonished by God in the Old Testament**

**Sermon Title: *Experiencing Lasting Transformation* (Genesis 32:22-32)**

1. As Christians, we have all experienced conversion (i.e. *a believer’s initial encounter with God in Christ resulting in the reception of God’s gracious provision of salvation*). In light of this, do you recall your conversion story? If yes, please share your conversion experiences with each other.
2. Have you experienced the spiritual growth that you hoped for when you committed your life to Christ? If yes, how has God helped you to grow in the image of Christ? If no, what has caused your growth/progression in the image of Christ to be hampered?
3. In Genesis 32:24 we read, “*Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.”* Why was Jacob being leftalone significant to his spiritual transformation?
   * Hint: *Before God initiates contact with Jacob, Jacob seemingly had to separate himself–for a period of time–from his family, his possessions, and all his sources of security or comfort. He had to get away for awhile from every person or thing that could have acted as a distraction in his life. And it was during this moment of solitude that God initiated contact with Jacob.*
4. Why is it important for Christians to practice solitude?
   * Hint: *To counteract the ill-effects of living a world filled with distracting voices that have the potential to draw us away from God, we as Christ followers, need to embrace and immerse ourselves in periods of solitude so we engage in deep soul searching, that will lead to us being better able to hear God speak to us with even greater clarity.*
5. How can we integrate solitude into our daily lives?
6. Genesis 32:26 reveals to us that Jacob was persistent and determined to receive “a blessing” from God; how can we demonstrate persistence and determination in our spiritual journeys?
   * Note: *Persistence is the spirit-enabled ability to practice habits daily that will help us to develop endurance to persevere through moments of temptations and failures that will inevitable come our way.*
7. During their wrestling match God poses a telling question to Jacob by asking him to state his name, what makes this question integral to Jacob’s transformation?
8. Why is it important for us to be real with ourselves about who we are apart from Christ?
9. Why should the Christian life be lived interdependently? What are some practical things we can do to ensure that we are living lives that are dependent upon God and His church?
10. How can you foster an environment that lends itself to you experiencing spiritual growth and transformation?