

## **Message Title: Fighting Faithfully — How to Wrestle with Disagreement**

**Scripture: Genesis 32:22–32 // Matthew 16:21–23 // Galatians 2:11–14**

### **PART 1 – Wrestling with God**

#### **Genesis 32:22–32 – Jacob Wrestles with God**

##### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does Jacob’s insistence—“I won’t let you go until you bless me”—reveal about his spiritual hunger?
2. How does Jacob’s wrestling reflect a transition from manipulating blessings to authentically receiving one?
3. Have you ever wrestled with God through prayer, disappointment, or confusion? What was the result?
4. Jacob limps after the encounter. What does this say about the cost—and the power—of transformation?

##### **Key Point:**

“Disagreement—even with God—can change us for the better.”

##### **Activity:**

Write a short letter to God about something you’re currently wrestling with. Don’t edit—just be honest.

### **PART 2 – Rebuke and Redirection**

#### **Matthew 16:21–23 – Peter Rebukes Jesus and is Corrected**

##### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What do Peter’s words (“God forbid it, Master!”) reveal about his understanding of Jesus’ mission?
2. Why do you think Jesus’ response was so sharp? What was He trying to protect or clarify?
3. How can correction be an act of love rather than rejection?
4. How can we tell the difference between well-meaning interference and spirit-led opposition?

## **C.S. Lewis Insight:**

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death.”

How does this quote relate to Peter’s reaction and your own experience of hard truths?

## **PART 3 – Facing a Friend**

### **Galatians 2:11–14 – Paul Confronts Peter**

#### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why do you think Paul chose to confront Peter publicly?
2. How do you react when someone calls you out—defensive, receptive, dismissive?
3. What’s the difference between confronting someone out of love vs. confronting someone to “win”?
4. Can you think of a time when confrontation led to deeper understanding and growth?

#### **Key Quote:**

“The gospel was always bigger than their egos.”

Write down what it would look like for you to put the gospel before your ego this week.

## **REAL-LIFE ILLUSTRATION – Potluck Disagreements**

#### **Discussion Prompt:**

Reflect on the potluck story. What did the lay leader’s wisdom teach about priorities in conflict? Have you seen minor disagreements escalate over issues that weren’t eternal?

## **JOHN WESLEY’S WISDOM FOR DISAGREEMENT**

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

#### **How to Fight Faithfully:**

- ✓ Stay in the ring when conflict calls you to growth (like Jacob)
- ✓ Correct with love, not condemnation (like Jesus)
- ✓ Confront with courage and clarity (like Paul)
- ✓ Choose restoration over rupture
- ✓ Put the gospel before your ego

## **CLOSING REFLECTION**

“What if the people you disagree with most are the very ones God is using to refine your faith?”