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AWESOME GOD

PRAYER, FASTING & CONSECRATION WEEK

WEEK 5 | El Shaddai: Almighty God

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you are El-Shaddai. You are indeed almighty, and I believe that nothing is too hard for you. Thank you that you are all powerful, and in your power, I can be at rest. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you could, would you change your name? If so, what name would you choose?

NOTES

WORD

⁹ God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel.

[GENESIS 35:9-15](#)

God Almighty knew Jacob’s struggle, and he stepped in to offer him a different way. He allowed him to see a connection between heaven and earth (Genesis 28:12) and the activity of God and his angels. He spoke to him, telling him he was the same God who made the promise to Abraham and Isaac, and he said he would give that same promise to Jacob. He told him he would be with him, watch over him, and bring him to the place of promise. God entered into Jacob’s struggle and allowed Jacob to struggle with him. He taught Jacob to hold on to him for what he wanted, and he promised he would be with him through the struggle. God didn’t even fully reveal himself to Jacob, but he did promise to be with him. Life didn’t get perfect after that, but it was obvious that Jacob was blessed and not going through it all alone. In the end, God transformed Jacob’s struggle into a life that had a legacy well beyond him. From that point on, God began to be called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

By Danielle Burkholder (Every Nation Seattle)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to trust in God’s fulfilment of his promises? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Jacob—a name marking him as a “heel grabber”—doesn’t sound very flattering.

Also “Jacob” is a name that was similar to a Hebrew idiom for “deceiver.” Why do you think he had to be renamed “Israel” (one who wrestles with God), and what was its significance? How do you feel, knowing God also transforms your identity?

3. For those who may not be familiar with Jacob, he is the grandson of Abraham, and the son of Isaac, whom we have learnt about over the last two weeks. Jacob lived quite a colourful life that was far from perfect and full of struggles. Referring to verses 9 and 10 in our passage, why do you think God continues to bless Jacob? Why does he keep pursuing Jacob?
4. Do you believe in today’s day and age that God is Almighty? Why or why not?
5. Jacob names the place where his name is transformed and blessed in God’s presence, “Bethel”, meaning, “House of God”. His struggle parallels the struggle of the people of Israel in the wilderness upon their exodus from slavery in Egypt, in that even as they struggled, God was with them. Why is the knowledge of God being with us really important then, now, and for generations to come?

If you do not yet have a relationship with God, would you like to have one? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PRAYER LIST