

**Community Group Curriculum**  
**For the week of May 25, 2014**  
**“Fear of Rejection”**  
Genesis 32:22-32

**Big “Don’t Miss This” Point**

“WE NEED NOT FEAR REJECTION WHEN WE HAVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF GOD”

**Let’s Dig In!**

1. Read Genesis 32:22-32

- a) When Jacob wrestled with God, he was alone (vv. 23-24, 30). In what ways have you had to wrestle alone with God? What does God’s willingness to wrestle with Jacob tell you about Him?
  
- b) The Lord gave Jacob a permanent reminder of that night of wrestling – his hip was put out of joint (vv. 25, 31-32). What kind of permanent reminders has the Lord given you?
  
- c) While wrestling with God, Jacob desired a blessing. When you have cried out to the Lord, what kind of things have you pled for and how has the Lord answered you?
  
- d) God gave Jacob a new name, and with it, a new identity. In what ways has your own identity been transformed in Christ? God explained the name change to Jacob. What explanation(s) has God given you about who you are in Him?
  
- e) Read the following verses and discuss how they inform you of your new identity in Jesus (John 1:12-14, Romans 8:12-17, Galatians 4:4-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17). How does this new identity and acceptance give you assurance against rejection?

Remember these two points:

- Take time to get alone with God. It was when Jacob was left alone that the Lord came to wrestle with him. When you get alone with the Lord, ask Him to break you of your sinful self-dependence, and then cling to Him in your brokenness until He blesses you.
- Use your victories which come out of God’s breaking you, to teach others. God breaks us of our self-dependence so that He can bless us. As the Lord teaches that to you, pass it on to others.

2. Read Proverbs 29:25. How does one who acts primarily out of a fear of man show that he does not trust the Lord? King Solomon said in the verse that it becomes a snare. How? Why is it difficult to trust in the Lord in all things? What is the solution?

3. Read John 18:12-27. The story of the apostle Peter disowning Jesus three times is the classic story of the danger of fearing man's disapproval. How does this incident show the power of the fear of disapproval? Give present-day examples of how the "fear of man" is seen in:

- a) Your work or home life
- b) In social settings
- c) In church

In each of these situations what can you do to combat the fear of man and rejection?

4. How can prayer combat the fear of rejection and disapproval of men (1 Chronicles 16:11; Psalm 4:1; Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:26; Colossians 4:2)?

5. How can we replace our fear of disapproval (rejection)?

- Read Romans 8:31. Replace your fear of others with His approval of you.
- Read John 21:15-17. Replace your fear of others with love for Him and others.
- Read John 16:33. Replace your fear of others with faith in Him.
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Replace your fear of others with the glory of God.

### **Prayer Please**

- May we not fear the things of this world, but instead place all our trust in God.
- May we be a person of prayer and may RiverLakes be a church of prayer so that we turn to God in all things.
- May we praise and thank our wonderful Father who loves and protects us. May we trust in Psalm 56:11 which says, *"In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

### **Final Thought**

We are all prone to disappointment and feelings of rejection. As a born-again believer we have a resource in God's Word that can bring comfort and clarity to any situation. As believers we are not defined by our past failures or by disappointment or by the rejection of others. We are defined as children of God, born again to newness of life and endowed with every spiritual blessing and accepted in Christ Jesus. So as a child of God, we may suffer disappointment/rejection in this life, but it is a momentary bump in the road. You have the choice to either allow that bump to derail you and walk wounded, or you can choose to claim the heritage of a child of God and move forward in grace.

**FEAR NOT: Fear of Rejection**

**Matt Vorhees**

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**SCRIPTURE:**

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**EXPOSITION:**

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**BOTTOM LINE:**

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**APPLICATION:**

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