

Do Over

The Illusion of Control (Wk.1)

LifeGroup Notes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

To break us of the illusion of control God often has to strip us down to our most basic dependency on Him.

Key Scriptures

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." Genesis 32:22-26 NIV

Jacob's focus was on the "wants" in front of him rather than on the power of God around him.

Points to ponder:

- To be more than conquerors we must first be conquered by Christ.
- Is the reality of your faith in Jesus more powerful than your illusion of control?
- Intimacy with Jesus is the antidote to the illusion of control.

Additional Scripture:

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." John 15:5, 9

Start talking.

- How would you define a "Do Over"?
- What are some "Do Over" moments you can think of from your past?

Start thinking.

- Read Genesis 32:22-26.
- Why did God wait for Jacob to be alone?
- How did Jacob's possessions distract him from God's presence?
- Later we learn that the "man" is actually a pre-incarnate Jesus. Why did he wrestle with Jacob?
- What lesson did Jesus want Jacob to learn?

Start sharing.

- What aspects of your life did you spend energy trying to control in 2017?
- Why are those areas tough to release?
- How did your efforts at control impact the situation(s)?
- Pastor Joel said that, "control is an illusion" and that ultimately the only choice we have control over is how deep we will sink into Christ's love. How does that connect to the issues of control in your life?

Start doing.

- Read John 15:5, 9.
- What one choice can you make this week that will draw you deeper into the love Jesus has for you?

Closing prayer.

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us enough to always pursue a deepening relationship with us. Forgive us for the ways we try to control and manipulate circumstances and relationships. Help us to experience your love in deeper and more profound ways in 2018. Help us choose to abide in your presence daily.