Curious God

In Scripture, God asks questions not because He doesn't know the answers, but for our benefit. God asks so we can reflect, learn and understand what we need to see.

Read This Week's Passage: Genesis 32: 9-12; 22-30

Jacob's name literally means *one who grasps at the heel*, which is a way of expressing that he grabs at what may not be his, he is cunning or deceitful (Genesis 25:24-28). How has a given label from parents or others affected your self-understanding?

Jacob lived up to his name's meaning, using deception or cunning to manipulate situations for his benefit (see Gen 25:29-34 & Gen 27). Why do people try to control life and others rather than trust God's care? Have you done this?

In Genesis 32, Jacob is going back home to face his family, including Esau, the one he deceived before. God 'picked a fight' with Jacob and wrestled with him asking *What Is Your Name?* Why do you think God asked him this?

God then blessed Jacob with a new identity, *Israel* (one who wrestles with God) which became the name for his descendants. What does it mean to your faith that God meets us in our struggles and wrestling in our relationship with him?

What is a label or identity that you struggle with? Where does that come from? Do you know what God says about who you really are? Where can you find God's truth?

What else do you notice from this week's passage?

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Week 3: What Is Your Name?