

AWESOME GOD

Group Guide: Week 5

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What does your name mean?
- What nicknames did people have for you growing up? Were any of the nicknames mean or unkind?
- When you hear the name "God Almighty," what comes to mind?

READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This is the final week in our Awesome God series. We're going to look at an encounter between God and Jacob in which God describes himself as "The Lord Almighty." This might bring up images of superhero-like power. However, although God's power is certainly immense, God shows how his power is deeply connected to Jacob's own identity. Jacob is a man with a tension between his two names, Jacob and Israel, and he needs the transforming power of the Almighty God.

<i>READ</i>	<i>DISCUSS</i>
Genesis 35:1-7	These verses are filled with names and places that remind us of Jacob's entire story—especially painful moments. They represent moments in his life when he lived up to his name, which means "to grab at the heel" (a euphemism for dishonesty or deception). It makes us ask how on earth someone like Jacob can live up to his calling from God. Do you ever feel this tension in your own life between who you're called to be and your weaknesses? How do you typically respond to the tension?
Genesis 35:9-15	Surprisingly, Jacob's failures and weaknesses don't disqualify him from embracing his identity as Israel. Instead, God Almighty patiently and thoroughly brings him into the reality of his new identity. How have you experienced God's transforming power in your life? In what ways are you currently asking him to transform you?
John 1:9-14	In the same way God renamed Jacob, God gives a new name to everyone who believes in Jesus—child of God. A sinner's past can never disqualify him or her from this new identity because Jesus took our failures upon himself when he went to the cross. He became sin so that we might become his righteousness. How does the work of Jesus change the way you think about the tension of your two names?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Spend time thanking Jesus for his mercy in giving us a new name. Pray for an experience of his grace over past failure and present weakness. Pray for the patience while God does his work of transformation.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?