



Come Matter Here: Build a Lighthouse | September 30, 2020

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

It sometimes feels cliché to say, but it's the difficulties in our lives that actually gives us meaning. If you want to hear more about this, [click link in bio] to watch our latest video!

Key Verses

Genesis 32:28-30

"Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.' Jacob said, 'Please tell me your name.' But he replied, 'Why do you ask my name?' Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'"

Discussion

In Michigan, locals love to visit and enjoy the beauty of the many lighthouses around the various Great Lakes. Lighthouses stand as a warning to ships that there is danger near, yet rarely do we realize that lighthouses are often placed at the spots of previous wrecks. Similarly to lighthouses, we too can use our previous experiences and mistakes to help others on their journey.

1. What are some lessons that you had to learn the tough way?
2. After making your mistake, what actions did you take to ensure that they didn't happen again?

In *Come Matter Here* by Hannah Brencher, Hannah tells a story of Jacob and Esau, where Jacob decides to return home after 20 years. Upon heading home Jacob wrestles a man that dislocates Jacob's hip. Jacob makes an example of his injured hip and stands as a lighthouse to warn others of his mistake. Similarly, Hannah tells about her struggles with depression, and that through faith, it was only until she was able to share her story of depression with other people that she was able to grow with purpose.

3. Who are some people that have helped you on your life and faith journey? How have they helped you avoid shortcomings from their own pasts?

4. What would it look like to help those in your life? How might you help others?

In the book of Genesis, much like a ship wrecking and running ashore, so too was Jacob when defeated by the man. But rather than simply moving forward, Jacob decided to make an example of his dislocated hip. Like a lighthouse, Jacob decided to mark the land with the name of "Peniel" remarking, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

5. What hardships and struggles have you experienced? What was the outcome?
6. How can you help others by sharing your tale with them? How can you be a "lighthouse" like Jacob?

What's Next?

This week in your faith, build a lighthouse for others. Look for the moments when we need to spend time wrestling with God. Ask questions and think about new possibilities. Then as you reflect on your past, look for the moments when we can use our past experiences to tell a bigger story.

You can find a template of our 5-minute faith journal at faithinfive.com to further engage your goals and connect them with your faith.