

# Create



## ✔ Prepare in Advance

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

## ✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Genesis 32:22-31. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Have you ever found yourself in a wrestling match with God as Jacob did? Do you ever struggle with God, your faith, or scripture? What would it be like to be nose to nose, toes to toes with God in an argument?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

## ✔ Create — Writing

Have you ever had one of those moments where you walked away from a heated discussion or argument instead of facing it head on? Later, you look back and wish you would have spoken what was really on your mind. Think of a crummy situation in your life when you really wished you could have asked God, “What’s the deal with that?” Think of a life-situation that made you sad, angry, depressed, hurt, or surprised and write a dialogue between you and God. Write several different scripts for the same situation, each time try changing the way you respond and speak to God. For example, if your first script asks several questions, let the next script be more exclamatory and bold. When you finish, read back through your scripts, paying attention to how you feel when speaking to God in ways that may seem unfamiliar.

## ✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create one of these visual items:

Create a piece of art which contains all of the following images from the text: 1.) Jacob wrestling with God, 2.) Jacob’s wives, slaves, and sons watching from a distance, 3.) the sun rising over the Jabbok River. The art you create can focus on one image over the others. Try seeing this “picture” created in our text from a different point of view.

For a bit of light-hearted fun, create a caricature of Jacob. Surround him with images depicting all of his struggles, whether with his father, brother, wives, or even wrestling God. Include a thinking bubble beside Jacob that contains his thoughts after all of this strife. (For an example of thinking bubbles see the link on this session’s webpage).

## ✔ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create outside the box.

This Outside the Box is a group project. Groups of three or more are ideal. If possible, bring a camera for this exercise, although it is not required. Artists have a way of looking at the world and objects around them like no one else even understands. An artist can see a bird perched on a fence post and see something beautiful. An artist can see a child’s hands filthy with dirt and grime and see beauty and creativity. An artist can watch a ballet dancer rise on her tip-toes and see form, sculpture, beauty. For this Outside the Box, choose one person from the group to be the “artist.” Allow the artist to sculpt the scene of Jacob wrestling God using her group members. As the rest of the group stands frozen before her, the “artist” has free reign to manipulate arms and legs, fingers and fists, facial expressions, etc. to create the image she desires. Once the living sculpture is complete, take a photograph of the scene. Allow each group member the chance to be the “artist.”

## ✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and explain their meaning, or tell the stories behind them.

*by Carra Hughes Greer*