

Small Group / Personal reflection material

UNRAVELLING

(28 February 2021)



1. Listen to Cory Asbury's song *Unravelling* and discuss your reaction to it.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mg8CYx8QR-A> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgf5Lkee8SQ>
2. In what ways do you feel like you have experienced unravelling?
3. Jacob experienced unravelling and dislocation in his wrestling with God. Read Genesis 32:24-29

“And Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 And when [the [Man] saw that He did not prevail against [Jacob], He touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob’s thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with Him. 26 Then He said, Let Me go, for day is breaking. But [Jacob] said, I will not let You go unless You declare a blessing upon me. 27 [The Man] asked him, What is your name? And [in shock of realization, whispering] he said, Jacob [supplanter, schemer, trickster, swindler]! 28 And He said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob [supplanter], but Israel

[contender with God]; for you have contended and have power with God and with men and have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked Him, Tell me, I pray You, what [in contrast] is Your name? But He said, Why is it that you ask My name? And [the Angel of God declared] a blessing on [Jacob] there.”

4. Can you think of a time in which you wrestled with God? Did you, like Jacob, experience a blessing, even in the pain of the situation?
5. Elijah unravelled in the running, when everything just became too much and he cracked under pressure. What is significant for you about the way God responded to Him (see 1 Kings 19:1-8 below):

“Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, ‘May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.’ 3 Elijah was afraid^{2a} and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. ‘I have had enough, LORD,’ he said. ‘Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.’ 5 Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat.’ 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

7 The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.’ 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night.”

6. Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life (John 6:35) and the Living Water (John 4:10). How do you think you can depend on Jesus for His nourishment and sustenance right now?
7. Isaiah was unravelled by revelation. Read about his experience from Isaiah 6:1-8 and discuss what he discovered in the unravelling of his perspective as he saw reality differently:

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined (undone)! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’ 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has

touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

8. When Isaiah confronted himself and the world as it really is, he was able to respond to God’s call to go and make a difference in it. How do you think God might be calling you in a similar way?
9. Which of the three portraits (Jacob, Elijah or Isaiah) resonate with you most and why?
10. What will you take away from this discussion and what will you practically do about it this week?