

## Embracing Peniel

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*Genesis 32:22-32*

Little boys laugh and giggle  
as they wrestle with their father on the lawn:  
his massive hands restrained in love,  
carefully making his measure –  
yet their whole joy grows.

Teenagers tease and pick on their friends  
and wrestle to prove their strength, their love:  
at the slightest hint of hurt,  
they pull back  
and clumsily, tenderly care.

Throughout the night, alone,  
a sullied man wrestles  
and cannot win, nor is he won;  
to find his hip hurts, at a touch,  
and to know, "My God!" it's been my God,  
whose restraint  
safely embraces -  
almost in a kiss -  
and grows and grows.