



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

*OurMDC.org*  
(925) 354-1096  
1641 Bixler Road,  
Discovery Bay  
California 94505

*Program for Sunday, February 25, 2024*

*Please welcome Joann leading worship music this morning!*

**Call to Praise:** *This Is Amazing Grace*

**Scripture reading:** Psalm 24

**Call to Praise:** *His Glory Appears*

**Welcome, announcements, and prayer:**

- **Good morning and thank you for joining our Worship Service today!**
- **The Weekly Bible Study is this Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.** We will continue on lesson #3. The series is about "Where is God in the midst of suffering?" The bible study (#3) is on the back table. These will also be emailed to those that are requesting them.
- **Please stay after the service today for our annual all church business meeting and potluck,** following the Sunday Worship Service. We will update on the property development, present the 2024 budget, and vote. Please plan on attending.
- **Attention ALL Ladies** – Mark your calendar for this Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM for Breakfast at La Fuente Restaurant in Brentwood.
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  - Pastor Larry Quinnell - PastorLarry@OurMDC.org
  - General Info. - Info@OurMDC.org
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**Adoration:** *Great Are You Lord*

*How Great Thou Art; How Great Is Our God*

**Message:** *Jacob Wrestles*

**Response Invitation:** *It Is Well*

**Assurance Sending:** *Our God*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## Message Notes:

**Friday Devotional: Jeremiah 17:7,8** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD  
And whose trust is the LORD.

8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water,  
That extends its roots by a stream  
And will not fear when the heat comes;  
But its leaves will be green,  
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought  
Nor cease to yield fruit.

### **Understanding the heritage and family dynamics:**

- Grandfather Abraham receives a promise of descendants, land, and a future blessing for all the world.
- Sarah has her maid have a son with Abraham because she did not wait for God. Then Sarah has Isaac, the son of the promise.
- Isaac is a more passive guy. Moves along to get along (conflict avoidance).
- Rebekah is more of a take charge woman, quick decision, quick action, get it done now.
- Esau is the older of fraternal twin brother Jacob (heel-grabber, supplanter, crooked).
- Father loves Esau. Rebekah, who is told that the younger will serve the older, loves Jacob.
- Jacob manipulates Esau with a bowl of bean soup, gains the birthright, which Esau has despised.
- Rebekah and Jacob deceive Isaac for the blessing.
- Esau vows to kill Jacob after Isaac dies.
- Jacob gets the fuller blessing from Isaac and flees to Mesopotamia to find Rebekah's brother, maybe a wife.
- Jacob is homeless, penniless, without homeland, estranged from his father, chased by Esau.
- Jacob is fleeing, and one night has a vision of angels, a staircase and God.
- Makes a vow that if God provides, and protects, God will be Jacob's God.

### **Understanding Jacob's heritage and family dynamics:**

- Inadequately loved by his father.
- In competition for that love with his older twin brother.
- Loved by a smother mother.
- Sees Rachel at the well. Yowsa! Hubba! Hubba! Hubba!
  - If I just have Rachel, then my crummy life will be alright.
- Stays with Laban for a month, more time with Rachel.
- Jacob agrees to 3x-4x price for 7 years of free work to get her.
- Laban and Leah deceive Jacob on honeymoon night.
  - Deceiver deceived. You harvest what you planted.

- In the morning, “Behold, it is Leah!”
- Jacob agrees to work 7 **more** years for free to get Rachel.

### **Jacob’s immediate family:**

- Leah has 4 sons:
  - 1. Reuben (Sees); 2. Simeon (Hears); 3. Levi (Attach); 4. Judah (Praise).
- Barren Rachel’s servant has 2 sons:
  - 5. Dan (Vindicated) 6. Naphtali (Struggle)
- Leah’s servant has 2 sons:
  - 7. Gad (Good fortune); 8. Asher (Happy)
- Leah has 2 more sons:
  - 9. Issachar (wages); 10. Zebulun
- Rachel (finally has a son)
  - 11. Joseph (takes away, or add)
- Leah has a daughter: Dinah

**14 Years  
12 children!**

### **Jacob and Laban**

- Jacob prospers and now he is told it is time to go home.
- Jacob meets with his wives and discusses leaving.
- Jacob’s wives (Laban’s daughters) are done with Laban.
- Jacob, his family, his servants, his herds all leave in secret.
- Laban, 3 days behind pursues Jacob.
- God reveals to Laban to neither bless nor harm Jacob.
- Laban is furious: Jacob is deceitful in leaving and Jacob has stolen Laban’s household gods.
- Laban does not find them (daughter Rachel is hiding them).
- Jacob feels vindicated and unloads on how harshly he has been treated.
- Laban talks about his daughters, his grandchildren, his flocks. Jacob is done with Laban.
- Laban and Jacob make an agreement.

### **Principles and Applications**

- Sometimes God uses broken relationships, and untenable circumstances to indicate a need for change.
- When God puts a Laban in our life; get curious:
  - Laban is demanding, conniving, deceptive, manipulative, and is not a man of faith!
  - Sometimes the obstacle is the way forward.
- All deceit is harmful.
- God uses circumstances to mold leaders.
- If at all possible, live at peace (especially with relatives).
  - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
- Communicate with the other (not past the other).

- Jacob and Laban could have settled earlier.
- Sometimes God's blessings follow the believer to the Laban.
- Resist the temptation to return like for like.
- Talk to God about your Laban.
- Look for how God is using your Laban to refine you.
- God rewarded Jacob's faith.
- All of our successes are the result of God's choices.
- When hard work pays off, give God the glory.
- When God calls for a change, obey.
- Look for God in the midst of chaos.
- Trust God to accomplish His purpose and to honor His promises.
- God sees. God knows. God still speaks. God still loves.
- Everything that God does is an act of love
  - But not everything that happens to us is an act of God.
- Free will and the Sovereignty of God:
  - God used the sisterly jealousy to give Jacob his sons.
  - God used the jealousy of Laban's sons and of Laban for Jacob's benefit.
  - God's providence, God sees beforehand can give us peace.
    - We can trust that God will make it clear..., someday.
  - God used Rachel's theft to embolden Jacob's pushback to Laban.
- If there is a Laban in your life, rest assured, God sees it. God knows.
- God's promises cannot be taken from you.
- God's presence cannot be taken from you.

### **Genesis 32. Jacob fears Esau**

32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim. 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord

32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies; 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

### **Jacob prays.**

32:9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff only I

crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. 11 Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12 For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.'

### **Jacob is alone.**

32:13a So he spent the night there.

32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone...

**Jacob's issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for Jacob?**

**My issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for me?**

### **Jacob's mindset:**

32:7 Greatly afraid and distressed.

32:10 Feeling unworthy.

32:11 Afraid for himself and his family.

32:24 Jacob was left alone.

Jacob crosses Jabbok to "Abaq."

Crooked crosses Emptying to Wrestle.

### **Genesis 32. Jacob is alone..., until he is not!**

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32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." 31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh. 32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

### **Who is the stranger? Hosea 12:3-5**

12:3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,

And in his maturity he contended with God.

4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;

He wept and sought His favor.

He found Him at Bethel

And there He spoke with us,

5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts,

The LORD is His name.

### **Principles and Applications:**

- Are your prayers based on your belief in the love of God for you?
  - God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- Are you praying about the promises of God for you?
  - God never abandons His promises. Full stop.
  - Are you all in on the promises of God?
- God knows our needs and has a plan. We still need to ask.
- God can transform a life. Our past does not equal our future.
  - Freedom comes from the truth of God.
  - We need to allow God's transformational power in us and through us.
- Jacob was where God wanted Jacob to be:
  - Content, Dependent, and Focused on God.
- In what areas in my life do I need for God to show up?

### **Life of Jacob points to Jesus**

- Inversion of common belief structure:
  - In defeat there is victory.
  - In humility, there is glory.
  - In weakness, there is strength.
  - Broken can be healed.
  - Love can triumph over hate.
  - Mercy can triumph over worldly judgment.
  - Humble obedience can triumph over worldly power.
- Jacob: He is me.
- Wrestle with God: Who is He? Who am I?
- We have a new name with a new future: **Beloved.**

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

Prayer Request: [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)

Pastor Larry: [PastorLarry@OurMDC.org](mailto:PastorLarry@OurMDC.org)

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- Loved by a smother mother.
- Sees Rachel at the well. Yowsa! Hubba! Hubba! Hubba!
  - If I just have Rachel, then my crummy life will be alright.
- Stays with Laban for a month, more time with Rachel.
- Jacob agrees to 3x-4x price for 7 years of free work to get her.
- Laban and Leah deceive Jacob on honeymoon night.
  - Deceiver deceived. You harvest what you planted.

- In the morning, “Behold, it is Leah!”
- Jacob agrees to work 7 **more** years for free to get Rachel.

### **Jacob’s immediate family:**

- Leah has 4 sons:
  - 1. Reuben (Sees); 2. Simeon (Hears); 3. Levi (Attach); 4. Judah (Praise).
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- Rachel (finally has a son)
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**14 Years  
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- Laban and Jacob make an agreement.

### **Principles and Applications**

- Sometimes God uses broken relationships, and untenable circumstances to indicate a need for change.
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- Look for how God is using your Laban to refine you.
- God rewarded Jacob's faith.
- All of our successes are the result of God's choices.
- When hard work pays off, give God the glory.
- When God calls for a change, obey.
- Look for God in the midst of chaos.
- Trust God to accomplish His purpose and to honor His promises.
- God sees. God knows. God still speaks. God still loves.
- Everything that God does is an act of love
  - But not everything that happens to us is an act of God.
- Free will and the Sovereignty of God:
  - God used the sisterly jealousy to give Jacob his sons.
  - God used the jealousy of Laban's sons and of Laban for Jacob's benefit.
  - God's providence, God sees beforehand can give us peace.
    - We can trust that God will make it clear..., someday.
  - God used Rachel's theft to embolden Jacob's pushback to Laban.
- If there is a Laban in your life, rest assured, God sees it. God knows.
- God's promises cannot be taken from you.
- God's presence cannot be taken from you.

### **Genesis 32. Jacob fears Esau**

32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim. 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord

32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies; 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

### **Jacob prays.**

32:9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff only I

crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. 11 Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12 For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.'

### **Jacob is alone.**

32:13a So he spent the night there.

32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone...

**Jacob's issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for Jacob?**

**My issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for me?**

### **Jacob's mindset:**

32:7 Greatly afraid and distressed.

32:10 Feeling unworthy.

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Jacob crosses Jabbok to "Abaq."

Crooked crosses Emptying to Wrestle.

### **Genesis 32. Jacob is alone..., until he is not!**

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24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25

When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he

said, "Jacob." 28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked

him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he

said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." 31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his

thigh. 32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

### **Who is the stranger? Hosea 12:3-5**

12:3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,

And in his maturity he contended with God.

4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;

He wept and sought His favor.

He found Him at Bethel

And there He spoke with us,

5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts,

The LORD is His name.

### **Principles and Applications:**

- Are your prayers based on your belief in the love of God for you?
  - God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- Are you praying about the promises of God for you?
  - God never abandons His promises. Full stop.
  - Are you all in on the promises of God?
- God knows our needs and has a plan. We still need to ask.
- God can transform a life. Our past does not equal our future.
  - Freedom comes from the truth of God.
  - We need to allow God's transformational power in us and through us.
- Jacob was where God wanted Jacob to be:
  - Content, Dependent, and Focused on God.
- In what areas in my life do I need for God to show up?

### **Life of Jacob points to Jesus**

- Inversion of common belief structure:
  - In defeat there is victory.
  - In humility, there is glory.
  - In weakness, there is strength.
  - Broken can be healed.
  - Love can triumph over hate.
  - Mercy can triumph over worldly judgment.
  - Humble obedience can triumph over worldly power.
- Jacob: He is me.
- Wrestle with God: Who is He? Who am I?
- We have a new name with a new future: **Beloved.**

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

Prayer Request: [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)

Pastor Larry: [PastorLarry@OurMDC.org](mailto:PastorLarry@OurMDC.org)

Information: [Info@OurMDC.org](mailto:Info@OurMDC.org)

Office Location:

1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay

Mailing: PO Box 1667,

Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Church phone: (925) 354-1096



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

*OurMDC.org*  
(925) 354-1096  
1641 Bixler Road,  
Discovery Bay  
California 94505

*Program for Sunday, February 25, 2024*

*Please welcome Joann leading worship music this morning!*

**Call to Praise:** *This Is Amazing Grace*

**Scripture reading:** Psalm 24

**Call to Praise:** *His Glory Appears*

**Welcome, announcements, and prayer:**

- **Good morning and thank you for joining our Worship Service today!**
- **The Weekly Bible Study is this Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.** We will continue on lesson #3. The series is about “Where is God in the midst of suffering?” The bible study (#3) is on the back table. These will also be emailed to those that are requesting them.
- **Please stay after the service today for our annual all church business meeting and potluck,** following the Sunday Worship Service. We will update on the property development, present the 2024 budget, and vote. Please plan on attending.
- **Attention ALL Ladies** – Mark your calendar for this Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM for Breakfast at La Fuente Restaurant in Brentwood.
- **Attention ALL Men** – Mark your calendar for this Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM for Breakfast at Jalisco’s Restaurant in Brentwood.
- **We are continuing to collect recyclable plastic, glass, and aluminum cans and bottles** as a fund raiser for Children’s ministry.
- **We are looking at the possibility of renting out a few rooms in the green fellowship house.** If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact the church office or let the pastor or a board member know.
- **Please pick up Connect Cards/Envelopes** in the back for offerings, prayer requests and place it in one of the offering boxes. **Please note**, for pledge card donations, please mark your gift “BF” or “Building Fund.”
- **Please contact us** for any needs, suggestions, or prayer requests:
  - Pastor Larry Quinnell - PastorLarry@OurMDC.org
  - General Info. – Info@OurMDC.org
  - Prayer requests – PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

**Adoration:** *Great Are You Lord*

*How Great Thou Art; How Great Is Our God*

**Message:** *Jacob Wrestles*

**Response Invitation:** *It Is Well*

**Assurance Sending:** *Our God*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## Message Notes:

**Friday Devotional: Jeremiah 17:7,8** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD  
And whose trust is the LORD.

8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water,  
That extends its roots by a stream  
And will not fear when the heat comes;  
But its leaves will be green,  
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought  
Nor cease to yield fruit.

### **Understanding the heritage and family dynamics:**

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- Isaac is a more passive guy. Moves along to get along (conflict avoidance).
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