

Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 11th Sept 2022

licc. Frontline Sundays

Inspiring The Church
As We Live On The

Frontline



1 Peter 1:1-2	All The Difference In The World
Genesis 28:10-22	Wherever We Are
Colossians 3:15-24	Whatever we do
Matthew 6:5-14	Whoever we are
Hebrews 10:19-25	Together we grow

Series Based on Materials produced by LICC (London Institute For Contemporary Christianity)

Week 2 – Wherever You Are

Genesis 28:10-22

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8IDXoWfscM>
2. Watch *Film 2 – All the difference in the world* (licc.org.uk/frontlinesundays)
3. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Genesis 28:10-22 New International Version - UK

Jacob's dream at Bethel

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: 'I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.' ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.'

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

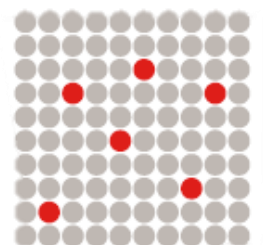
²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.'

[New International Version - UK \(NIVUK\)](#)

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Sermon Reminder:

The sermon explored the story of 'Jacob's Ladder', his encounter with God at Bethel. It's easy to rush over the central point of the story: God meets Jacob! We sometimes think we're most likely to meet God in 'holy' places: churches, chapels, prayer rooms, etc. but the Bible is clear: most of the time God meets people in the least likely places – ordinary, everyday places – and sometimes unexpectedly. God transforms the ordinary place into a holy place. When we go to our ordinary places 'in the name of Jesus', they become the touching points between heaven and earth. Jacob 'owns' the place and knows that it is significant, marking this ordinary place with a stone. God has not finished with him yet. Can we see how God is present in our ordinary places and become attentive to how he meets us there? Let's discover how these places are transformed because God is with us.



Questions For Discussion

Discuss the passage

1. When God met Jacob, God promised to build a new community that would be a means of blessing to the whole world, through Jacob (v.13–15). It's like God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 (discussed in Frontline Sunday 1). God's promise is still with us. If we see ourselves as people who inherit this blessing, how might it change our perspective on our everyday lives?
2. Look at all the assurances that God gives Jacob in these verses (v13–15). How would they have changed Jacob's understanding of his own life? Take a look at Matthew 28:20 (which sounds very similar). What difference can that make for our lives?
3. Have you ever experienced God's presence in an ordinary and everyday place? What happened?
4. Jacob marked the spot by setting up a stone pillar and pouring oil on it. How could you mark a place in your everyday life to remind you that 'God-encounters' can happen there too?

Explore your frontlines

In the last session, you identified your frontlines. Take time now – either as a group or in pairs – to allow each person to explain their frontline situation more fully, using the This Time Tomorrow questions below. Take notes of each person's answers. Make sure to leave time to pray together!

Think about your frontlines. What do you think God might be doing there, or what might he want to do there?

Frontline questions

- Tell us where you are on a typical week day.
- What do you like about it there?
- What's a pressure point there for you?
- What might be God's purpose for you there?
- How do you experience God's presence in that place?
- How can we pray for you?

Close in prayer

The film for week 2 shows people going through the doors into their day, discovering God with them there. As you go through various doors this week know that God is in each place already. Try to sense where he is at work and join in with what he's doing.

You might close with this prayer:

Lord, would you open doors of opportunity for us this week as we learn to live for you.

May we have the courage to walk into opportunities to speak words of encouragement, do acts of kindness, be a listening ear, be a witness to you.

Make a difference through us wherever we are this week.

Most of all, may we be aware of your presence in the places we find ourselves. Amen.