

MARINERS CHURCH



**Maintaining Hope Through
the Tough Stuff**
February 9-10

Hope is an assurance that a loving God is in control of life, and of my life, and no matter what happens, good or bad, He is in charge and it is OK.

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the **hope** that you have. 1 Peter 3:15*

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

How can I live on the Right side of the comma?

Reframe my view of life.

"In this world you will have trouble." –Jesus, John 16:33

Live with a limp.

Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

"What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob."

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. From now on you will be called Israel." Genesis 32:26-28 (NLT2)



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Look big and look beyond.

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB)

Know God and know about God.

The people who know their God will display strength and take action. Daniel 11:32 (NASB)

I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. Lamentations 3:20-25 (NLT2)

For your LifeGroup and time of growth with others...

What shakes your hope more, big problems or a lot of little problems? Why?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:5.

What stands out to you about these verses? Name the things that Paul (the author) list that give hope through is experiences.

Read Genesis 32. Put yourself in Jacob's position. Why was this such a devastating moment for him?

Do you have any "limps" because of challenges in life?

Why is it important to both KNOW God and KNOW ABOUT God?