**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace in Discipline**

http://faithlafayette.org/west/worship/faith-groups/faith-group-studies

“Blessing” in the patriarchal history represents God’s promise of:

1. Creation fruitfulness (abundance/prosperity/multiplication of descendants)

2. Dominion over the earth (the right to rule)

3. Life-giving relationship with the Creator God

…that would come through ONE seed of the lineage of Abraham

**Genesis 28:10-11** - *Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place.*

3 grace-saturated reasons God disciplines His children

**1) To teach us from where God’s blessings do not come**

a. Not from a position of cultural power

b. Not through unrighteous behavior

**2) To show us the empty end of man’s ways of obtaining blessing**

**3) To assure us of the power of God’s presence in our emptiness**

a. The power of Heaven (God) is promised on earth—“the ramp”

b. God promises His presence with His children—“I am with you”

c. God reigns over discipline to accomplish His good plans—the angelic messengers carrying out God’s decrees from heaven to earth and back.

d. Thus, nothing is out of place in the emptiness of the moment

e. With us, Who does God use as that “ramp”?

**John 1:46-51** - *Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*

**Hebrews 12:4-13** - *You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.” It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.*