

"Surviving a Dysfunctional Family"

Wednesday Evening Adult Class by Ray Reynolds (September 18, 2013)

Introduction: **The Story** gives us a glimpse into the stories of the early Genesis account, but not all of the stories appear in the book. Therefore, in our time together on Wednesday nights, we are going to consider some of the details between the stories. Tonight, we are going to notice how God uses a few dysfunctional families to bring about a great nation. Our goal is not to demean or devalue their influence, but simply to notice the patience, longsuffering, and grace of God in their lives. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. Abraham Survived a Dysfunctional Family

- A. Abraham was raised in an ungodly region (**Genesis 11:27-32, Joshua 24:1-2**).
- B. Abraham was called to build a godly home (**Genesis 12:1-5**).
- C. Abraham was encouraged to let God lead (**Genesis 12:6-8**).
- D. Abraham was blessed with a chosen son (**Genesis 21:1-7**).
- E. Abraham was forced to make difficult choices (**Genesis 21-25**).
- F. What other facts can be gleaned from his life?

II. Isaac Survived a Dysfunctional Family

- A. Isaac was raised in an ungodly region (**Genesis 24:1-25:18, 35:2**).
- B. Isaac was called to build a godly home (**Genesis 25:19-34**).
- C. Isaac was encouraged to let God lead (**Genesis 26:1-35**).
- D. Isaac was blessed with two sons (**Genesis 25:23, 27:1-46**).
- E. Isaac was forced to make difficult choices (**Genesis 28:1-5, 35:27-29**).
- F. What other facts can be gleaned from his life?

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III. Jacob Survived a Dysfunctional Family

- A. Jacob was raised in an ungodly region (**Genesis 28:1-5**).
- B. Jacob was called to build a godly home (**Genesis 29:1-32:21**).
- C. Jacob was encouraged to let God lead (**Genesis 32:22-32**).
- D. Jacob was blessed with twelve sons (**Genesis 35:23-26, 46:8-27**).
- E. Jacob was forced to make difficult choices (**Genesis 32-49**).
- F. What other facts can be gleaned from his life?

IV. Joseph Survived a Dysfunctional Family

- A. Joseph was raised in an ungodly region (**Genesis 35:2**).
- B. Joseph was called to build a godly home (**Genesis 37:1-11, 41:50**).
- C. Joseph was encouraged to let God lead (**Genesis 45:7-8**).
- D. Joseph was blessed with two sons (**Genesis 41:50, 46:27**).
- E. Joseph was forced to make difficult choices (**Genesis 39-50**).
- F. What other facts can be gleaned from his life?

Conclusion: God is truly an awesome God! He can work with those who are dysfunctional. In fact, he does some of His best work with those everyone else rejects. He loves the favored son and the rejected son. He loves the rich and the poor. He loves the lover and the fighter. He loves the functional families and the dysfunctional ones. God used these families to do great things for Him. They all play a vital role in His story. If God could use them, what does that tell you? Are you playing your part in God's story? Have you surrendered to His will?