

OUR FAMILY IS FOR THE LORD

Stories

HOW TO LEAVE A GODLY LEGACY

PRECEPT

GENESIS 25:24-34

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb.

²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. ²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.

(Read the rest of verses 28-34)

PROMISE

The truth is, no matter how put-together a family may appear, every family has its own set of messes. Christian families do not automatically equate to healthy families. Even the families in the Bible were far from perfect. The Bible is filled of imperfect and dysfunctional families. Take for example the following stories:

THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM. God called Abraham to go to an unknown land, promising to make him into a great nation (Genesis 12:2). Abraham stepped out in faith and went, but his faith faltered along the way. In Egypt, he told his beautiful wife Sarah to pretend to be his sister so that he would be treated well for her sake. He gave her up to be Pharaoh's wife and he received cattle and servants in return. Their family problems multiply as the book of Genesis unfolds: a long and painful battle with infertility, an arranged affair with a slave woman to try to bring about the promised child that God seemed to have failed to provide (Genesis 16), and a son "born according to the flesh" that would produce generations of bitterness, pain, and turmoil (Galatians 4:23). But God is faithful to His promise. Through all the brokenness, He blessed them with the promised son, Isaac.

THE FAMILY OF ISAAC. The brokenness continued in Isaac's family system. He married Rebekah and they had two sons together, Esau and Jacob. There was a problem in the family system, an issue of favoritism that brought dysfunction to the family: Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob (Genesis 25:28). The division in the family came to a head one day. Isaac, who was old and dying, wanted to give his blessing and inheritance to Esau. Rebekah wanted it to go to Jacob. So she came up with an elaborate scheme to make it happen. In the end, a dying man was tricked out of his last request by his conniving wife. Esau burned with hatred and wanted to kill his brother Jacob, who ended up fleeing for his life. Esau was so embittered by the ordeal that he impulsively took another wife in a desperate attempt to please his father. This was a family steeped in sin and deception, torn apart by division, and riddled with dysfunction.

THE FAMILY OF JACOB. The record of Jacob's twelve sons is strewn with deception, jealousy, violence, immorality, and revenge.

Our family background shapes us, but we can also shape someone's family background. Our parents have some influence on how we live today; how we see things and perceive things today is because of the family we came from. We must realize that one day, it will be our turn to shape someone's family background. Whatever family relationship we have today, God placed us there for a purpose. Our family systems are broken by sin, but God is faithful to accomplish His purpose and build His kingdom through them.

Whatever our situation, our God is the God who Sees. He knows the details that feel too messy to share, and He was there in the moments that feel too overwhelming to admit. So no matter the dysfunction – big or small – God has a plan and a purpose to restore you and your family. Let us, by God's help and grace, write our story correctly because the next generation will follow our footsteps.

PRACTICE

1. Joshua 24:15. How can you imitate Joshua's commitment to serve God? What specific steps are you going to take?

2. Serving God and His people. In what areas are you currently serving the church? If you are not serving yet, how can you take the initiative to be involved in building His Kingdom?

PRAYER

I. World

- May the whole world come to know Christ, His transforming power, and His saving grace.

II. East Life Groups

- Pray for the Domingo couple as they lead the East groups.

III. West Life Groups

- Pray for the Oliveros couple as they lead the West groups.

IV. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

V. North Life Groups

- Pray for the Imperial couple as they lead the North groups.

VI. Downtown Life Groups

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they lead the Downtown groups.

VII. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they continue to lead our singles and youth to God & His Word.