

# family

a study on dysfunction in Genesis



**Creekside**  
BIBLE CHURCH

[CreeksideBibleChurch.org/FAMILY](http://CreeksideBibleChurch.org/FAMILY)

series booklet

## God Intended it for Good | October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Genesis 37:1-36

Notes:



Families are important, but they are also a source of worry, struggle, and pain. While we don't like to use the word "dysfunctional" about our own families, we know that certain aspects aren't right. Jealousy, anger, vengeance, secrecy and lies are more common than they ought to be. In this dysfunction we are not alone. In fact, the first family ever created had crazier things going on than most today. This series examines family dysfunction in the book of Genesis in the hope of helping your family become all that God intends it to be.



This series is for anyone who's family struggles with shame, anger, dishonor, jealousy, deceit, or any of the other issues that consistently infect our families. It is for people who long to overcome the dysfunction. It is for those wondering why God has given them their family and if there is any hope of it getting better.



### Questions:

1. How has God worked family sins for your good (development, growth, strength, etc.)?
2. What is the worst thing a family member has done to you?
3. How are you trying to punish a family member (silent treatment, bitterness, etc.)?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: How can knowing that God will work things out for good make you a better family member?
- Activity: Look through old family photos and discuss how God has used bad things for good purposes in your family
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Spend 10 minutes thanking God for your family or how he's worked in you despite your family.

### Further Reading

Romans 8:28

## Deceit | October 16<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 26:34-28:9

### Notes:

### Questions:

1. How has deceit hurt your family?
2. Why do people (you) lie?
3. Given the problems deceit causes, and strong condemnation of it in the Bible, (Romans 1:29), why is it taken so lightly?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: What are some implications of Jesus saying that deceit “defiles” the person who speaks it? How can it also defile a family?
- Activity: Play go fish, consider how the game, like a family, doesn’t work properly without honesty
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Be honest, all day. If you’re sad and someone asks how you are, say, “sad.”

### Further Reading

Genesis 32 & 33

“Genesis makes it abundantly clear that you are not alone, that what we now call dysfunctional families are the norm, not the exception. Every family in that biblical book is deeply troubled.” – Dennis Prager



### Notes on Family in Genesis:

Genesis begins with a broad picture of mankind’s early history and gradually narrows its focus to one family.<sup>1</sup>

Family chronology and realistic detail characterize much of Genesis.

Genesis 12-50 regularly depicts strife within the family.<sup>2</sup>



### Key Verse

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Genesis 50:20

\* 1. David L. Peterson, “Genesis and Family Values,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 124:1 (2005).

\* 2. T. Desmond Alexander, “From Adam to Judah: The Significance of the Family Tree in Genesis,” *The Evangelical Quarterly* 61:1 (1989). Family time questions from Ray, Seldomridge, *The Family Project Devotional: Reflecting God’s Design In Your Home (Focus on the Family)* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2014) Kindle Edition

# Genesis Family Tree

Jealousy | October 9<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 25:19-34

Notes:

## Questions:

1. If jealousy is a sickness, what symptoms have you seen in your family?
2. What things are you jealous of in a family member's life?
3. How have your parents factored into your jealousy? Are you factoring into your kids jealousy?

## Family

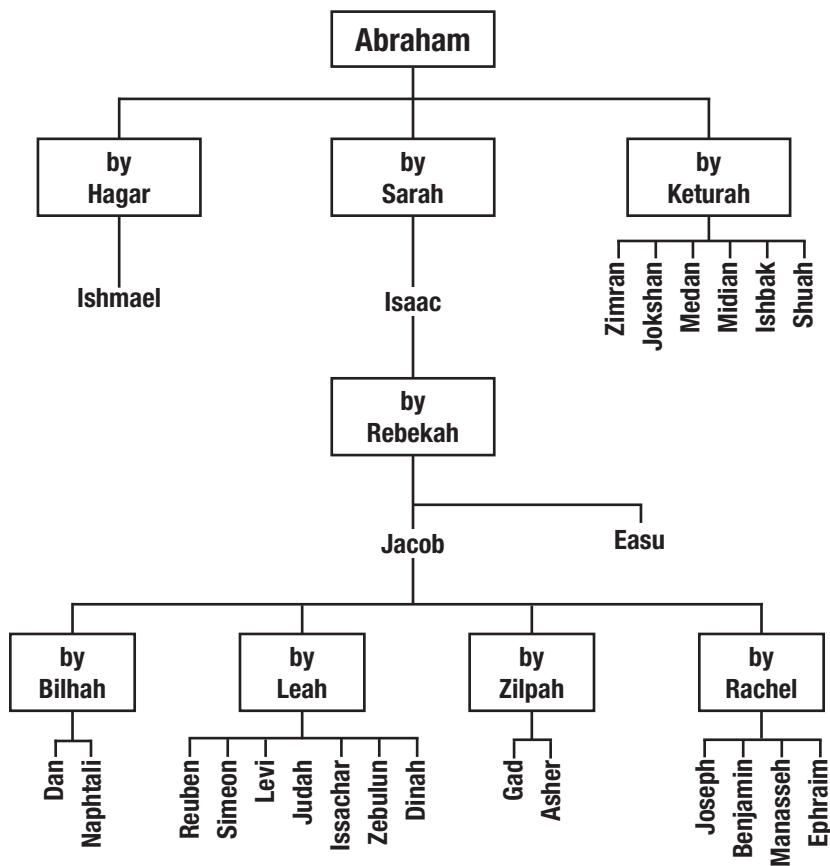
- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: How quick are you to applaud another family member when he or she does something well?
- Activity: At mealtime, start with the youngest family member and have everyone say something about another member of the family that sincerely "blesses" him or her.
- Pray

## Weekly Challenge

Spend some time thanking God for the blessings other family members have received (see question #2). Bonus: Congratulate a family member on their successes.

## Further Reading

Philippians 4:11-12



## In-Laws | October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Genesis 30:25-31:55

Notes:

### Questions:

1. What are some things that create tension with your in-laws?
2. How do you balance being a blessing to your in-laws while also taking care of your own household?
3. What are ways you can help your spouse honor their parents?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: What are reasons for wholeheartedly accepting other members of your family, despite your different outlooks or ways of doing things?
- Activity: Make a card for a family member that doesn't live with you.
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Find a way to serve one of your in-laws.

### Further Reading

Ruth 1

## Shame | September 11<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 2:21-25

Notes:

### Questions:

1. What are some things you are ashamed of in your family?
2. Family has its origins in help, how can you better help your family?
3. If sin had not entered the world, how would your family be different?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: What "gift" can each family member offer the rest of the family?
- Activity: Put music on and do a family chore together
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Create a genogram of sin/shame. A genogram is a graphic family tree that displays details of hereditary data ([genopro.com/genogram](http://genopro.com/genogram)). In this genogram you will include family sins including, but not limited to, anger, dishonor, jealousy, and deceit.

### Further Reading

Romans 5:12-21

## Anger | September 18<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 4:1-16

Notes:

### Questions:

1. Do you harbor anger at any family member because of their accomplishments?
2. Is any wrongdoing in your own life affecting your interactions with any other family member (see verse 7)?
3. How can you use your uniqueness to bring glory to God?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: How can you minimize the enmity, jealousy, and rivalries that break out between your family?
- Activity: Brainstorm and write down everything you'd like to thank God for.
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Express praise to a family member who has succeeded in something.

### Further Reading

1 John 3:11-24

## Parents | September 25<sup>th</sup>

Genesis 9:18-29

Notes:

### Questions:

1. What negative things do you say to or about your parents?
2. How can you honor your parents despite their flaws?
3. Is there a family member you speak poorly of instead of offering help?

### Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable
- Read passage
- Discuss: How quick are you to applaud another family member when he or she does something well?
- Activity: Brainstorm as a family some ways to honor one another often.
- Pray

### Weekly Challenge

Find a tangible way to honor your parents.

### Further Reading

Ephesians 6:1-3