

Family dysfunctions In the story of Isaac and Rebekah

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Whom would you award as...



The best family of the Bible

The best family of the Bible



Adam and Eve?

The best family of the Bible



Abraham and Sarah?

The best family of the Bible



Joseph and his family?

The best family of the Bible



David and...?

The best family of the Bible



Joseph and Mary?

Families in the Bible

The Bible does not portray perfect families without challenges and shortcomings. The Bible is full of stories of families who stumble and fall, who are in desperate need of grace and salvation. Just like us!

Isaac and Rebekah



1. Birth

From the first moment of life we enter into a chain of family history that is formed and transferred by the previous generations and which will have an indelible influence on our lives.

Isaac's blended family

Abraham was 100

Sarah was 90

A crossfire of expectations

Hagar and Ishmael

2. Traumatic experiences in the family

A trauma is a dramatic life event in the present, which rewrites the past and makes the future questionable.

Traumata

**Our most important
connections in life:**

Human - God
Husband - Wife
Parent - Child

Traumata

What if something goes wrong:

Human - God: idolatry

Husband - Wife: immorality

Parent - Child: anxiety

3. Wedding

Even if the mate choice is followed by signs and miracles, a marriage needs to be maintained.

A good relationship is not something that happens to us, but something that we create.

Wedding

“ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”

Gen 24:67

4. Repeating the sins of the parents

What our parents do (especially during our adolescent years), burns into our mind and becomes the program of our autopilot.

Wedding

“When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”

Gen 26:7 NIV

5. 2 lonely people in marriage

The struggle of an emotionally insecure husband and a wife, who is deeply wounded in her feminine identity.

6. Parentification of the children

“Isaac [...] loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.”

Gen 25:28 NIV

7. Neglect of basic values

Behind the majority of painful family secrets we find the neglect of basic values.

8. The fathers blessing

“We are OK with each other and with God. I recognize you, I respect you, I am proud of you. I treat you as equal.”

9. Breaking the dysfunctional cycle (and creating new ones)

“Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.”

Gen 33:4 NIV

“Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”

Gen 35:29 NIV

**I have power over the
trajectory of my
relationships!**

Lessons to take away

God loves dysfunctional families, and celebrates fellowship with them.

“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”

Ex 3:6 NIV

“God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

Heb 11:16 NIV

Lessons to take away

Celebrate life! As long as you and your family members live, there is always space for change and growth!

I did always the best I could. But as I grow older, the best I can becomes better and better.

Lessons to take away

Life teaches us to learn to live together with unfinished stories. Everything we see is just a snapshot, never the full movie.



Lessons to take away

The sooner we reveal the hidden patterns of our family dynamics, the better chances we have for a normal and happy life.

Lessons to take away

Even painful life events can be seen retrospectively as something with meaning.

Family life is not only the source of happiness but an instrument of sanctification.

Lessons to take away

Hold on to your values!

They are your spiritual compass in times of need.

Lessons to take away

God doesn't want you and your family to be perfect.

He wants you to be authentic and honest.

He works through imperfect but honest families.

Lessons to take away

Family life is like a computer game.



Lessons to take away

Mission accomplished

“Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me.”
Is 8:18 NIV

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” Mt 25:34 NIV

Let's stay connected



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