



Part 1: Surviving an Imperfect Family

GET GOING

Many of us feel scarred by our past and limited by our history. We don't believe we're cut out for greatness because of what we've done or from where we've come. Yet, throughout God's story, we see Him using broken imperfect people to do the extraordinary!

Doubt It- Family Edition

This week we looked at Joseph's dysfunctional family. The truth is we all have some family drama we wish were not there. Tonight, let's break the ice by spilling the beans on some of our family's imperfections.

Directions: Pick two or three volunteers to share two true imperfections about their family and one lie. The other group members have to guess what the lie is. The goal is to stump the other group members.

DISCUSS

1. How does it make you feel knowing that your family isn't the only one with a little dysfunction?
2. Why do you think people are scared or ashamed of their families' imperfections or their personal past?
3. How can knowing that no family is perfect help us become more vulnerable about our family struggles and dysfunctions?
4. Joseph's family had one dad, four moms, and thirteen kids. Are you surprised to find a dysfunctional family in the Bible? Why do you think God includes Joseph's backstory?

Read Genesis 37

5. Mark mentioned that many people live under the assumption that when life is good, God is near. Why do you think we equate positive circumstances with God's presence?
6. On the flip side, many people feel that when life is not good, God must not be near. Why is this such a dangerous assumption?

Read Romans 8:18-30

7. Only God can cause all things to work together for the good for those who love Him. Genesis 39:1-2 shares that God was with Joseph, even in his crummy circumstances. How can knowing that God is by our side in the good and bad times change the way we handle difficult circumstances?
8. God is not absent in life's difficult moments, but He uses those circumstances as a prelude to something great! Share a time when like Joseph, God was able to bring something good into your life out of a negative situation.

BONUS ROUND:

God uses imperfect people with imperfect backgrounds to do amazing things for His kingdom! Check out these three examples.

- **Abraham: Father of the Nation of Israel**

Abraham's family definitely had some dysfunctional moments. He pretends that his wife is his sister, and later on, he has a child with another woman.

- **Isaac: Father of Jacob (aka Israel)**

Isaac was father to Jacob, the father from Genesis 37. He loved his son Esau more than his son Jacob--and we wonder where Jacob got his parenting skills! His wife Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau. So Rebekah and Jacob plot against Esau and Isaac and eventually, Jacob had to run away.

- **Jesus: He doesn't really need an introduction**

Besides the above examples in Jesus' family line, Jesus was related to two others with dysfunctional pasts. King David committed murder and tried to cover it up, and Rahab was a prostitute.

9. So what's the point? Your destiny is not decided by your history. How have you been letting your past determine your destiny?
10. How can you begin to experience the freedom that comes with being made new by Jesus?

PRAY.

Spend a few minutes thanking Jesus for making us new and giving us a new trajectory. Thank God that he doesn't require us to have a perfect pedigree to be used by Him. Thank Him for always being present with us, in the good circumstances and in the unthinkable circumstances.