



Small Group Discussion Guide

May 28, 2017

Sermon Title:

“Family Matters: Family Dynamics”

Sermon Text: *Genesis 25, 27 - selected*

Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 3:1-12*

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: What words would you use to describe the relational health of your family? Does your family have an “interesting” dynamic? What makes it so?

Discussion:

1. Consider the pastor’s message. What is the difference between an interesting family dynamic and a dysfunctional one?
2. **Keep a Godly focus** (25:21-23). What does a family need to do to maintain a Godly focus? How can such a focus be maintained when family issues begins?
3. **Love individually, not “favoritely”** (25:24-28). Is it possible to love individually without showing favoritism? What causes feelings of favoritism? How do you avoid them?
4. **Look past the moment** (25:29-34). Do you know someone like Esau, always living the moment but never considering long-term implications? What is the future that motivates your present? How does it make a difference in your behavior?
5. **Do not play someone else’s game** (27:5-13). Jacob knew his mother’s suggestion was not a good one, but he followed her lead anyway. Was this the only means available for God to honor his promise for Jacob (25:23)? Why did Jacob give in? Why do so many people accept another family member’s drama?
6. **Check your motivation** (27:30-36). What do you think upset Esau the most? What was his motivation? How does maintaining an awareness of your motivation help in the midst of family tensions?
7. **Communicate** (all). Place yourself in this story as anyone of the characters, how could you have communicated to achieve a different result? Why is it so difficult for many people to communicate effectively with others they are deeply connected to? What ideas can you suggest to increase family communication?

Closing: *Close by sharing pray requests. Praying for one other and each other’s families. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!***