



## Family Can Be Hard

We all have relatives who can be difficult. With the holidays, we think of who is coming to dinner. It can be anxious. But...**God does hate Family Feuds.** During this series, we are looking at what the Bible teaches about how to deal with Family Feuds. Today, we will draw hope from dysfunctional families in scripture that God redeemed in the end.

Series Scripture:

A Family Splintered by Feuding will fall apart Mark 3:25

## PRIDE Can Create Family Feuds

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph, a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3

**Jacob made peace with Esau but never dealt with the habit of favoritism he learned from his mother.**

**But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more** than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. Genesis 37:4

**Joe has a dream of ruling and tells his brothers.**

His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" **And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.** Genesis 37:4

**Don't let your pride or offense cause a Family Feud**

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, **making allowance for each other's faults** because of your love. Ephesians 4:2

**Joe was sent to check on his brothers.**

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing.<sup>24</sup> Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:23-24

**They sold him into slavery and told their dad Joe was dead!  
Jacob's favoritism & Joseph's pride led to jealousy and betrayal!**

## **Family Feuds Lead to BETRAYALS**

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Genesis 39:1

**Because of the dysfunctionality in their family, there was bondage.**

From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. Genesis 39:5

**Potiphar gave Joseph authority over his whole house.**

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man,<sup>7</sup> and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. Genesis 39:6b-7

**Joseph refused. She lies and says he attacked her.**

Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her.<sup>20</sup> So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. Genesis 39:19-20

**It's the second time Joseph is betrayed, but he doesn't get bitter.**

Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.

Genesis 39:22

## **Joseph meets the King's baker and cupbearer in prison.**

**Two full years later**, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. Genesis 41:1

**Pharaoh has a dream that no one can interpret.**

**7 fat cows, eaten by 7 scrawny, thin cows. Same dream with corn.**

“You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours.” Genesis 41:40

### **The famine hits.**

So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. Genesis 42:3

**Joseph recognizes them. A lot happens.**

But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. Genesis 50:15

But Joseph replied, “Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:19-20

### **Reconciliation begins when one chooses grace over pride.**

## **Be the PEACEMAKER, Ending Family Feuds**

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9

**This is an active phrase describing those who WORK for peace.**

Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

**Do you want to see God? Work at peace as part of holiness.**

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8

**Jesus said blessed are those that are pure in heart, for they shall see God. How's your heart?**

## **Ending Family Feuds Requires FORGIVENESS**

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

**Our family relationship with God requires us to forgive.**

God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But for rebels, there is only famine and distress. - Psalm 68:6

### **My Next Steps:**

- Be A Peacemaker This Holiday**
- Forgive Someone Who Hurt You**

### **Tithes and Offerings**

They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. Psalm 112:9

**HOW TO GIVE**

**WAYS  
TO GIVE**

ONE

**GIVE IN SERVICE**

*CASH OR CHECK IN OFFERING BUCKET*

TWO

**GIVE ON WEBSITE**

*[NOPERFECTPEOPLEHERE.COM/GIVE](http://NOPERFECTPEOPLEHERE.COM/GIVE)*

THREE

**GIVE BY MAIL IN**

*1688 ROUTE 9 CASTLETON, NY, 12033*

FOUR

**TEXT GIVE TO  
518-730-4686**