



MAIN POINT

All families are dysfunctional to some degree. Dysfunctions don't come from problems; they come from not doing anything about those problems. Pastor Ken looked at three families, the TV family from *This is Us*, the biblical family of Issac and Rebekah and their sons Esau and Jacob, and finally, your own family. While there are many possible dysfunctions, we examined five: favoritism, deception, control, conflict, and broken relationships. Any of these issues could be problematic and when not addressed, may be passed on to the next generation. Families are only as sick as their secrets. There are no perfect families, but we can aspire to be a more healthy family. Functional families are safe and open. What can you do to make your family and relationships ore function? First, admit your own brokenness. Next, ask God for his help and direction. Finally, get around people that appear to be doing family well and learn from them. Everyone is dysfunctional, in some way. You have the opportunity to break the cycle of dysfunction in your family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [Warm Up Question] Who is/was your favorite TV family? Why?
2. How does favoritism damage family relationships?
3. In what ways are deception and control unhelpful in relationships? Why is conflict difficult to resolve in some situations? What are ways that people avoid conflict? In your experience, is avoid conflict helpful or not?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. What does Paul suggest is NOT love? How does Paul describe love? What does this kind of love look like within a family? How would having this type of love change dynamics in a family?
5. Which aspect of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 are you best at? Which aspect do you need to work on?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is one dysfunction you've faced in your family situation? How did you deal with it?
2. What is one dynamic that you feel is essential for making a functional family?
3. What is your next step: admitting brokenness, asking for help, or finding people to help you?
4. What is one way you can show those in your family love this week?