

5 DYSFUNCTIONS OF A FAMILY

1. FAVORITISM

Isaac pleaded with the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The Lord answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.

Genesis 25:21 (NLT)

As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home. Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 25:27–28 (NLT)

2. DECEPTION

Genesis 26:1–6 (NLT)

Genesis 26:7–8 (NLT)

3. CONTROL

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)

4. INABILITY TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. Ephesians 4:25–27 (NLT)

5. BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

At the age of forty, Esau married two Hittite wives: Judith, the daughter of Beerj, and Basemath, the daughter of Elon. But Esau's wives made life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah. Genesis 26:34–35 (NLT)

From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: "I will soon be mourning my father's death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob." Genesis 27:41 (NLT)

WHAT DOES A FUNCTIONAL FAMILY (GOOD ENOUGH) LOOK LIKE?

1. SAFE

2. OPEN

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP

1. ADMIT MY BROKENNESS

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:8–9 (NLT)

2. ASK GOD FOR HIS HELP AND DIRECTION

He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him. Psalms 72:12–14 (NLT)

3. GET AROUND PEOPLE THAT APPEAR TO BE DOING FAMILY WELL

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)