

Turning Home Into Something Better

Life-Sharing Lesson 1 “Let’s Deal With Attitudes” Genesis 25:19-34

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would others in your home or family rate you on how often you have a positive attitude with 10 being 24/7, every day of the week.

1. When was a time your attitude got you in trouble in your home?

Genesis 25:19-34 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

Jacob and Esau ¹⁹ This is the account of the family line of Abraham’s son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram^[a] and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ The LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.^[b] ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.^[c] Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.^[d]) ³¹ Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

³² “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

2. Do you think the going twenty years without a child in their marriage helped or hurt the attitudes of Rebekah and Isaac toward each other?

3. What kind of attitudes did they need to keep their marriage on a positive level during those first twenty years?

4. What kind of attitude problems do you think developed between Isaac and Rebekah as the boys grew up?

5. Do you think the attitude of jealousy was a problem for Esau and Jacob?

6. Was jealousy ever a problem in your household growing up?

7. Where do you see any instances of jealousy in your family today?

8. Have you ever been accused of playing favoritism when in fact others just did not understand your real motives?

9. What causes favoritism in families and how should it be handled?

10. Do you think God has favorite individuals or favorite churches today? Why or why not?

11. When the bible speaks of having the same attitude as Christ Jesus in the above verse, what are we being challenged to do?

12. What attitude do you have at home, or in your family that God is most likely to challenge you on?

13. Do you think Jacob took advantage of his brother with the issue of the stew? Why or why not?

14. What are ways that we take advantage of each other in the home, that leads to resentment?

15. What changes were needed in the attitudes of this family of four?

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Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “Let’s Deal With Sharing The Load” Genesis 24:12---31

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would others in your home or family rate you on the laziness scale with 10 being super duper lazy.

1. Was someone not doing their fair share of the chores in the house ever a problem in your house? If so, give an example.

2. Is being lazy something a person is born being, a sin to be repented of, or something that is learned to avoid doing work.

Proverbs 10:4 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

⁴ Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 12:27

²⁷ The lazy do not roast^[a] any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.

Proverbs 26:15

¹⁵ **Sluggards bury their hands in the dish and are too lazy to bring them back to their mouths.**

Proverbs 6:9 (NIV)

⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

Proverbs 13:4 (NIV)

⁴ The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 20:4 (NIV)

⁴ A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 22:13 (NIV)

¹³ The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!"

Proverbs 26:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.

3. What are images you get from a person being lazy (sluggards) from the above passage and can you identify one of them in your past or current family? Has anyone accused you of being lazy in the home?

4. Is it okay for a person living by himself or herself to be lazy in his or her home when it comes to housework? Why or why not?

5. What should be the motivation for a Christian to do his or her part in the home or at the church?

Genesis 24:12-31 (NIV)

¹² Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

¹³ See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴ May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'--let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.

¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷ The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking."

²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels.

²¹ Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels.

²³ Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

²⁴ She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor."

²⁵ And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night."

²⁶ Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD,

²⁷ saying, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not

abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

²⁸ The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.

²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and he hurried out to the man at the spring.

³⁰ As soon as he had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man and found him standing by the camels near the spring.

³¹ "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD," he said. "Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

6. Why do you think Rebekah responded in the way that she did in agreeing to water the man's camels as well as giving him a drink?

7. Has there ever been a time when you went above and beyond in doing something at home or for the family that was unexpected? Describe it.

8. How was Rebekkah's extra efforts a blessing to her entire family?

9. Where is God asking you to either do more with a positive attitude, or being more willing to help someone else out with a positive attitude in your home or in your family?

Matthew 5:44-45 (NIV)

⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons and daughters of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

10. Do you think we are eager to adopt God's method of showering blessings upon the just and the unjust alike? Why or why not.

11. What are some of the more subtle ways we may have of forcing people to earn our love in our homes or families before we freely give it out?

12. What should you do with family members who are unwilling to do their part in the home?

13. Is it ever loving, to send a family member back out into the streets?

14. What should be our goal in loving a family member who has really blown it?

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Life-Sharing Lesson 3 Encouragement 1 Samuel 30:1-6

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would others in your home or family rate you as an encourager?

1. Who was the last person to give you some encouragement and what did it do for you?

2. What are some ways in which children discourage their parents?

3. What are some ways in which parents discourage their children?

4. What are some ways in which children discourage other children in the home?

5. What keeps us from having a steady flow of encouraging words from flowing through our homes or our families?

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

6. Why are we told in the Scriptures to encourage one another?

7. What are some practical ways in which we can encourage one another beyond just speaking words?

8. What does God do for you when God knows that you need encouraging?

1 Samuel 30:1-6 (NIV)

¹ David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ² and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. ³ When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

⁵ David's two wives had been captured--Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

10. Why do you think David's men were so angry with him?

11. Is it possible that some of the anger we see in our families is actually displaced anger? Why or why not? How might it manifest itself.

12. What does it mean to find strength in the Lord when it seems like you have lost everything?

13. How does one know if he or she has the spiritual gift of encouragement?

14. Who can you identify in your home or in your family that you could offer a little more encouragement to in order to help them in life.