



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Messed-Up Families*

Text: Genesis 28-29

Service Date: May 18, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- The sermon opened mentioning the term *syngenesophobia* which is a phobia related to relatives and kin. Do you have any current phobias?
- The sermon topic was “Messed-Up Families”. Every person’s family is messed-up because no one is perfect; yet, we all have a longing to do better, both individually and as a family. If you were to make one change in your family or your own life, what would it be (time management, communications, boundaries, or something else)? What benefits do you see occurring if the change was made?

Sermon Discussion

- “Some families have difficulties because of misunderstandings and hurt feelings.” This can not only happen within families but also relationships with others. When difficulties are experienced because of misunderstandings and/or hurt feelings, how do you think Jesus would handle them? Is it different for each circumstance or relationship?
- Paul noted, “Jacob was forced on a journey due to his mother’s manipulation”. Sometimes, we find ourselves in a situation because someone else made a decision that affected us or manipulated things to force “our hand”. In understanding that God can work in every situation and circumstance, why is it important to always try and seek after God, even if the journey isn’t what we wanted?
- Do you think that God can use a bad situation to advance us more in our spiritual walk than if we hadn’t gone through it? Has this ever happened in your own life?

- No one likes to have their plans changed and be interrupted, but one question in the sermon was, “Have you ever allowed yourself to be interrupted by God?” Do you tend to live in a way that is open to God’s “interruptions”, or do you find it aggravating when you get interrupted and must deviate your plans?
- How can we live in a way that views God’s “interruptions” as something better than what we could imagine in our planning?
- Sermon Reminder- Don’t be naïve: Few escape unfavorable circumstances even with God’s promises and presence. How does it change the way you view life knowing that most have to go through unfavorable circumstances?
- One of Tri-Village’s values is transparency. Based upon the sermon topic “Messed-Up Families”, do see Tri-Village as a place where messed-up families/people are welcomed and loved? If not, what can you do to change this?
- Knowing that most everyone will go through a tough season, is there someone God has laid on your heart that could use encouragement this week? What action steps will you take?

Books Mentioned in the Sermon

God Never Gives Up on Us by Max Lucado

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We’d love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village’s values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.