

GOD'S HEART FOR THE DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

Dysfunctional: car without a wheel, a day with fever, a parent who spends the family's money on drugs or a gambling addiction.

Most families in the Bible were dysfunctional in some way.

Abraham's son Ishmael despised his brother Isaac. Result: a split in the family.

Isaac's son Jacob deceived his brother Esau. Result: a split in the family.

Children do not always accept what their parents tell them. When children hear the same truth at church from their teachers, they begin to accept the truth and apply it. All families need help outside the family so their kids will seek Jesus, find Jesus, and follow Jesus.

Dysfunctional families all have one thing in common. They need help outside of their family so their kids will seek Jesus, find Jesus, and follow Jesus.

From God's perspective, all families are somewhat dysfunctional because all families need help obeying God.

Family life helps us to see sin and experience our lack of power over sin.

We must experience this before we can call upon Jesus to save us from sin.

King David desired to know the very heart of God.

David learned as a child to talk to God all the time. God taught David how to protect the sheep.

David was willing to face the Philistine giant because God assured him of victory.

David lived in victory over his enemies until David disobeyed God. David repented of his sin, but there were consequences for his sin.

David had a dysfunctional family partly as a result of his own sin.

King David had a son who wanted to be King so much that he schemed to kill David.

David was King of Israel and Judah with his palace at Jerusalem. Absalom plotted to set himself up as King in place of David.

2 Samuel 15:14 David said to his servants, Arise, and let us flee Jerusalem; or else none of us will escape from Absalom.

16:5 On the way, Shemei came out and cursed David continually and cast stones at David. Shemei said, Get out, you man of blood, you base fellow!

David fled over the Mount of Olives and down to the Jordan River wilderness.

Men who were still faithful to David arrived in the wilderness to protect David. When Absalom and his army arrived there was a great battle. David asked his generals to be gentle with Absalom and not kill him. However, Absalom was killed and David was restored to his palace in Jerusalem.

David wrote Psalm 22. He shares his faith in God even when his son, Absalom, wants to kill David and his whole family.

Verses 1,2 David shares how it feels to experience the consequence of sin. It felt like God was turning his back on David. But feeling forsaken is not the same as believing that God has forsaken.

Psalm 22:1,2 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not answer; And in the night season, but I find no relief.

King David is describing what it sometimes feels like when we face a crisis.

David did not believe that God had forsaken him.

David begins to recount his faith in God through all his struggles.

Psalm 22:3-8 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them. They cried out to you and were saved. They trusted in you and were never disgraced. But I am a worm and not a man. I am scorned and despised by all! Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, "Is this the one who relies on the LORD? Then let the LORD save him! If the LORD loves him so much, let the LORD rescue him!

David knows he is powerless without God intervening in his life.

Psalm 22:11,12 Do not stay so far from me, for trouble is near, and no one else can help me. My enemies surround me like a herd of bulls; fierce bulls of Bashan have hemmed me in!

Verses 19-21 David calls upon the LORD to save him from his enemies.

In verses 22-31 David praises God for answering his cry for help and encourages all people to praise God.

In verse 24 David declares his belief that God has not forsaken him and that God has not turned His back upon Israel.

Family harmony is something we desire but is never totally maintained because we have a tendency to sin. Only God can help us overcome sin and help us through the hard times.

The family is God's first tool in bringing us to salvation. We learn to recognize sin and our lack of power over sin as we do family life. The Holy Spirit begins to convict us about sin through family life.

