



It's been said that the family is the most important thing, but families can be difficult. We all have relatives who can be difficult. Who's coming to dinner at your house? Does God hate Family Feuds?

During this series, we will learn what the Bible teaches about how to deal with Family Feuds. Today, we will look at a very dysfunctional family dinner and welcome new members to God's family in baptism.

Series Scripture:

A House divided against itself is doomed. Mark 3:25

Seven things God detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, **a person who sows discord (*strife*) in a family.** Proverbs 6:16-19

Among the things the Lord hates is causing family strife.

Gossip, constant criticism, arguing, saying hurtful things...

Competition Fuels Feuds

Today we will look at one of the most famous feuds in the Bible. Two brothers, a lifetime of bitterness.

Rebekah was pregnant with twins, but the two children struggled with each other in her womb.

And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! ²⁵ The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau. Genesis 25:24-25

Esau was hairy and red-headed! All over his whole body.

Then the other twin was **born with his hand grasping Esau's heel**. So they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born. Genesis 25:26

He's grabbing his brother's heel.

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. Genesis 25:27

Esau was a rugged outdoorsman. Jacob was a mama's boy. Each parent had a favorite.

Favoritism Fuels Feuds

Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but **Rebekah loved Jacob**. Genesis 25:28

But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. James 2:9

**Parents shouldn't have favorites.
It breeds competition and contempt.**

For God does not show favoritism. Romans 2:11

God loves us all equally!

One day, when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness, exhausted and hungry. Genesis 25:29

Give me some stew, I'm starving!

"All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son." Genesis 25:31

Esau did. It was the most dysfunctional family dinner ever!

Jacob was willing to let Esau starve to death unless he changed the will for his inheritance!

One day when Isaac was old and turning blind, he called for Esau, his older son, and said, "My son." "Yes, Father?" Esau replied. Genesis 27:1

I may die soon, make me some of your venison stew.

“Prepare my favorite dish, and bring it here for me to eat. Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you, my firstborn son, before I die.” Genesis 27:4

It's never about the dinner but the family blessing.

Rebekah overheard what Isaac had said to his son Esau. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game,⁶ she said to her son Jacob, “Listen. I overheard your father say to Esau...” Genesis 27:5-6

Rebekah hatched a plan to deceive her husband.

Family Secrets Fuel Feuds

She makes the stew to taste like Esau's and brings Esau's clothes.

She covered his arms and the smooth part of his neck with the skin of the young goats. Genesis 27:16

Jacob replied, “It's Esau, your firstborn son. I've done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing.” Genesis 27:19

Jacob steals the inheritance and the blessing from Esau.

Isaac said, “Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has taken away your blessing.” Genesis 27:35

It should be different among you.

Esau says he will kill Jacob! Jacob runs. He encounters God. Years go by. He changes. He asks forgiveness.

Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept. Genesis 33:4

Forgiveness heals families.

I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Exodus 3:6a

God identifies Himself with Jacob.

God decided in advance to **adopt us into His own family** by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:5

My Next Steps:

- ☐ **Sign Up to Be Baptised**
- ☐ **Attend the Next 3 Sundays to Learn
How to Build Healthy Relationships**

Tithes and Offerings

There is treasure in the house of the godly, but the earnings of the wicked bring trouble. Proverbs 15:6

Next Week: Pastor Joanne