

Families Are Messy **When Mess Is Handed Down**

I. Introduction

- A. Genesis 12:10-20 (NLG)
- B. The past doesn't stay the past!
- C. Genesis 12:10 (NLG) *At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner.*
- D. Genesis 12:16 (NLG) *Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.*
- E. Genesis 12:17 (NLG) *But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife.*
- F. Genesis 12:19 (NLG) *"Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!"*
- G. Abraham was plagued by fear!
- H. Abraham's sin doesn't stay in his generation!
- I. Genesis 26:1, 7-9 (NLG)
- J. Exodus 20:4-6 (NLG) *⁴"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children: the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."*
- K. Our parents' sins have consequences for us!
- L. Our parents' sins form patterns for us!
- M. Exodus 20:5b (NLG) *"I lay the sins of the parents upon their children: the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me."*
- N. Exodus 20:6 (NLG) *"But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."*
- O. Ezekiel 18:1-2 (NLG) *¹Then another message came to me from the LORD: ²"Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children's mouths pucker at the taste?'"*

P. Ezekiel 18:20 (NLT) *"The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness."*

1. You can break the chain in your own personal life!

Q. Ezekiel 18:21-23 (NLT) ²¹*"But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my decrees and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die. ²²All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done. ²³"Do you think that I like to see wicked people die?" says the Sovereign LORD. "Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live."*

1. Nobody changes until they become aware of their need to change.

2. Change begins by getting alone with God.

3. "God, I want this family mess to stop with me."

II. Conclusion