

- 1) What television family most resembles what your family was like growing up? Why?
E.g., The Brady Bunch, Simpsons, Huxtables (Cosby Show), Bunkers (All in the Family), Barones (Everybody Loves Raymond), The Partridge Family, Keatons (Family Ties), Etc.

Read Hebrews 10.20-22, Genesis 27.27-40, 48.8-20, and 50.24-26 (see next page).

- 2) What stood out to you from these passages and the sermon?

- 3) What were the five ways that we can pass on a blessing? How was each demonstrated in the blessings given by Isaac and Jacob?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- 4) Growing up, which of these five ways did your parents or caregivers do well? Not so well? What effect do you think this has had on you today?

- 5) Commit to making one of these five ways of blessing a priority this week with your children (or spouse, friends, coworkers, etc.). Tell the group what you plan on doing.

- 6) Recall that the family curse(s) of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob...) was lying and favoritism. What seems to be a curse in your family? Do you believe God can end it with your generation? Why or why not? If not, pray for faith to believe. If so, what is God asking of you in the process?

Pray for your blessing of _____ by _____ (#5) and for family curses to be broken (#6).

Hebrews 11.20-22 (p. 927)

20 It was by faith that Isaac promised blessings for the future to his sons, Jacob and Esau. 21 It was by faith that Jacob, when he was old and dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons and bowed in worship as he leaned on his staff. 22 It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to take his bones with them when they left.

Genesis 27.27-29 (p. 22)

27 So Jacob went over and kissed him...and he blessed his son. He said... 28 "From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine. 29 May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed."

Genesis 27.34,38-40 (p. 22)

34 ...[Esau] let out a loud and bitter cry. "Oh my father, what about me? Bless me, too!" he begged.

38 Esau pleaded, "But do you have only one blessing? Oh my father, bless me, too!" Then Esau broke down and wept. 39 Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him, "You will live away from the richness of the earth, and away from the dew of the heaven above. 40 You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you decide to break free, you will shake his yoke from your neck."

Decades later, when in Egypt, Jacob blessed Joseph's sons...

Genesis 48.8-20 (p. 41)

8 Then Jacob looked over at the two boys. "Are these your sons?" he asked. 9 "Yes," Joseph told him, "these are the sons God has given me here in Egypt." And Jacob said, "Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them." 10 Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them. 11 Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I never thought I would see your face again, but now God has let me see your children, too!" 12 Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather's knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground. 13 Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob.... 14 ...Jacob...reached out to lay his hands on the boys' heads... 15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked—the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day, 16 the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm—may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly throughout the earth."

Genesis 50.24-26 (p. 43)

24 "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you." 26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.