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# Genesis

**DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION**

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# Dysfunction Junction

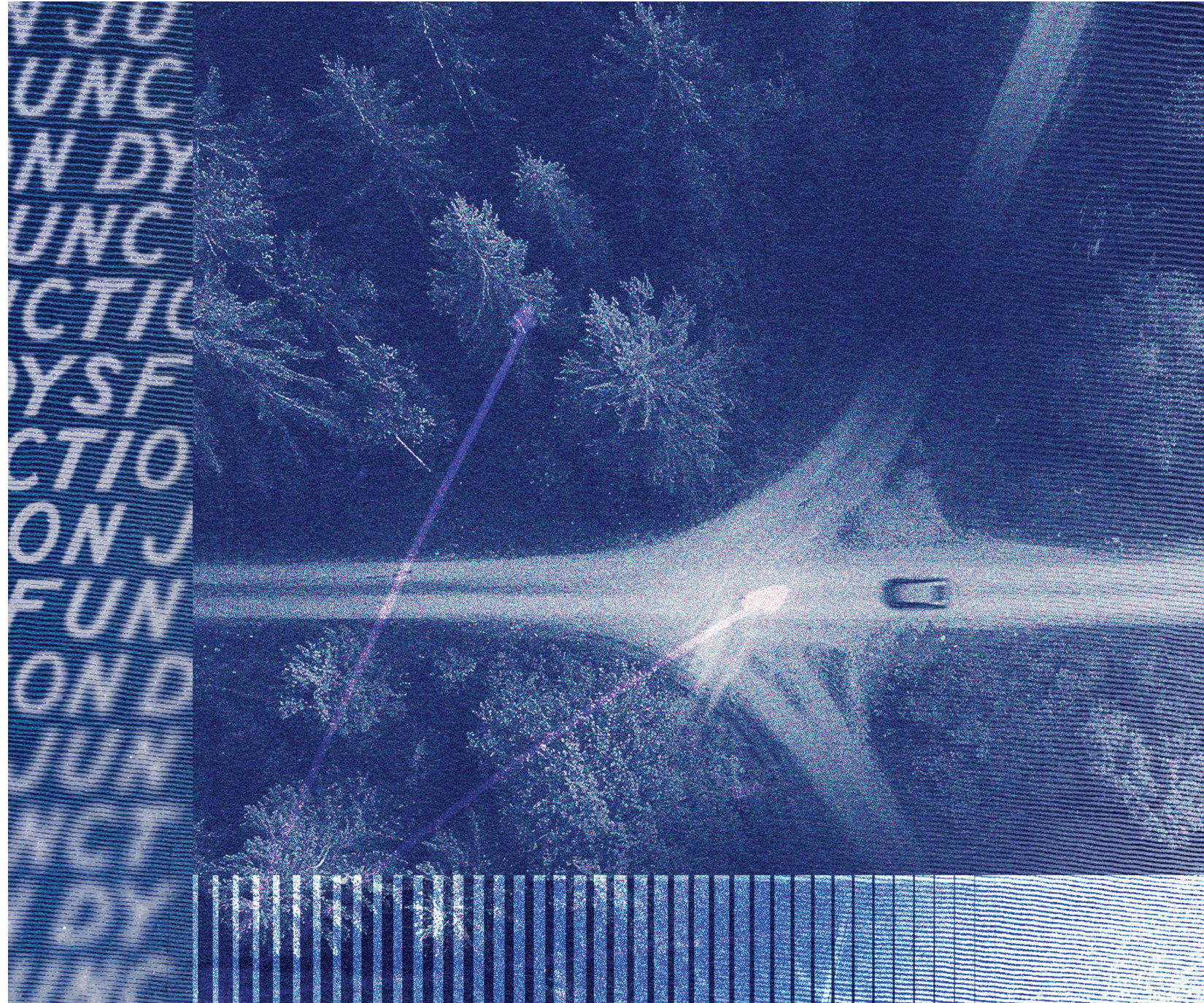
*AN INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS 12-50*

## What's This Series About?

**D***ysfunction Junction* takes us into the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph—the founding fathers of Israel. But this isn't a story of flawless heroes. It's the raw, honest account of real families struggling with favoritism, jealousy, deception, rivalry, and broken relationships. Yet through all the mess, we see God faithfully working out His promises and building a people for Himself.

## Why These Stories Matter

We often think the Bible's heroes must have had it all together. Genesis 12-50 shatters that illusion. These chapters show us that God doesn't wait for perfect people to accomplish His purposes—He works through flawed, broken families just like ours. Their dysfunction doesn't disqualify them; instead, it becomes the canvas on which God displays His faithfulness, grace, and redemptive power.





## The Big Picture of Genesis 12-36

### *Abraham: Faith and Family Conflict* (Genesis 12-25)

God calls Abraham to leave everything and follow Him with an extraordinary promise: he'll become a great nation, his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and through him all nations will be blessed. But Abraham and Sarah's journey is marked by doubt, impatience,

and family conflict. Sarah's maidservant, Hagar, becomes a source of household tension. The rivalry between Ishmael and Isaac begins before Isaac is even born. Yet through it all, God remains faithful to His covenant promises.

### *Isaac and Rebekah: Parental Favoritism* (Genesis 25-27)

Isaac and Rebekah's family is fractured by favoritism from the start. Isaac favors Esau,

the rough outdoorsman; Rebekah favors Jacob, the quiet homebody. This preferential treatment breeds rivalry between the twin brothers and culminates in deception—Rebekah and Jacob conspire to steal Esau's blessing, leaving deep wounds and forcing Jacob to flee for his life. The dysfunction of one generation plants seeds for the next.

### *Jacob: Reaping What You Sow* (Genesis 28-36)

Jacob the deceiver meets his match in his uncle Laban, experiencing firsthand what it's like to be on the receiving end of trickery. Jacob works seven years for Rachel, only to be deceived into marrying Leah. The rivalry between the two sisters over their husband's affection creates a toxic home environment. Their competing attempts to win Jacob's love through childbearing introduces another generation to family dysfunction.

## Key Themes in This Series

### *Generational Dysfunction*

The same patterns of favoritism, deception, and rivalry repeat through the generations, showing how unaddressed family issues impact children and grandchildren.

### *God's Faithfulness Despite Human Failure*

Time and again, these families mess up. Yet, God's covenant promises never fail. He works through their brokenness, not in spite of it.

### *The Consequences of Sin*

Deception breeds deception. Favoritism breeds rivalry. The families in Genesis suffer real consequences for their choices, reminding us that sin always costs something.

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*GENESIS 12-36 IS GOOD NEWS FOR ALL OF US. THESE STORIES REMIND US THAT GOD SPECIALIZES IN WORKING THROUGH MESSY FAMILIES. HE DOESN'T REQUIRE US TO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER BEFORE HE CAN USE US.*

### *Redemption and Reconciliation*

We will see some great redemption and reconciliation in some of these families. And while we're not going to get to the end of Genesis in this series, here's some more encouragement: Despite years of dysfunction, Genesis ends with forgiveness and family restoration, pointing us toward the ultimate reconciliation God offers through Christ.

## Why This Series Matters Today

Maybe you grew up in a dysfunctional family. Maybe you're watching those patterns repeat in your own relationships. Maybe you feel disqualified from God's purposes because of your family history or your own failures.

Genesis 12-36 is good news for all of us. These stories remind us that God specializes in working through messy families. He doesn't require us to have it all together before He can use us. His grace is greater than our dysfunction, His purposes more powerful than our failures, and His ability to redeem goes deeper than our most broken places.

As we journey through *Dysfunction Junction*, we'll see ourselves in these ancient families—and more importantly, we'll see a God who pursues us, remains faithful to us, and transforms us even in the midst of our mess.



CHAPEL IN THE WOODS CAMPUS

# Renee's Story

*My mother contracted whooping cough when she was 5 months old, severely affecting her speech and motor skills. Because of these challenges, she was homeschooled, but her intelligence enabled her to overcome them and earn her high school diploma.*

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SHE CONTINUED LIVING with her parents after graduation. Their pastor—a respected, married man with two teenage children—was good friends with her daddy and was frequently in their home. Momma never had any male attention, and he took advantage of the situation. She became pregnant with me and, when confronted, the pastor gave her \$1,500 and said he never wanted to hear about it again.

Unsure whether to keep me or place me for adoption—and knowing she would need help because of her physical limitations—Momma went to the Salvation Army home and hospital in Louisville. She and my granny planned to keep my paternity private, but another woman soon after became pregnant by this same pastor and publicly confronted him. She learned about my mom and brought her into the situation. The pastor resigned, but the damage was done.

After I was born, Momma moved back to her hometown, but it wasn't long before the challenge of raising a toddler became too much. I entered foster care at the age of 7. At 8, two wonderful sets of foster parents introduced me to Jesus. A year later, I moved to a children's home, where I remained until graduating from

high school. While there, church attendance was mandatory every Sunday morning and evening, as well as during revivals and other special services.

Following graduation, I was burned out on church and carried deep bitterness toward God because of my “dad.” I also felt ashamed and like a burden to my momma, so I stayed away from church for many years. That changed around 2014-15 when I was invited by a friend to Southeast's Easter service. I had no desire to attend a large church, but she wouldn't take no for an answer. Dave Stone was Senior Pastor at the time, and both he and Kyle spoke that day. Their humor and message touched my heart, and I've been attending ever since.

Coming back to church gave me a sense of community and helped ease my feeling of being alone. The fellowship within my small group has been such a blessing and has deepened my understanding of the Bible. Chapel in the Woods, along with my small group and other church friends, has become the spiritual family I needed.

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*COMING BACK TO CHURCH GAVE ME A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND HELPED EASE MY FEELING OF BEING ALONE.*

My story would have had a much different ending had it not been for my foster parents opening their hearts and homes to me. While I never lost my faith in God, I did lose my faith in people. Because of my own experience, I am especially grateful for the *Family Advocacy Ministry* at Southeast, as I know firsthand the difference fostering can make in a child's life.



*Worship the LORD with  
gladness; come before  
him with joyful songs.*

**PSALM 100:2**



BLANKENBAKER CAMPUS

# Josh's Story

*Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to serve on a short-term mission trip to India. Despite the challenges Christianity faces there, our team was given the unique privilege of hosting a Bible-centered camp for more than 70 children from impoverished communities.*



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*HE DOESN'T NEED ANY OF US TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES, YET IN HIS GRACE, HE INVITES US TO TAKE PART IN THE AMAZING WORK HE IS DOING.*

DURING OUR TIME THERE, we saw the children grow in their knowledge of Jesus' character and the truth of the Bible. We also saw them worshiping, reciting Scripture, and praying. It was powerful to watch the Holy Spirit at work in their hearts.

We trust that God is moving and His Word is living and active. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit continues to transform the hearts and minds of these children and they would become the future leaders of the Church in India.

Besides the growth we witnessed in these children, we were encouraged by the fervor Christians there had to disciple and serve them. Despite facing direct cultural and political opposition to their faith, they fearlessly poured into these young people, serving as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Since beginning our MOVE journey, our church has been asking God to move in us and through

us. During my time in India, God moved in my heart by reminding me what a privilege it is to participate in His mission. He doesn't need any of us to accomplish His purposes, yet in His grace, He invites us to take part in the amazing work He is doing. What a blessing it is to know that God has called all His children to join in on His mission!

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” As a Christian, God has commissioned you to join Him on His mission. A short-term trip is an opportunity to see how God is moving around the world while serving as His hands and feet. It is a way to experience God moving in and through you.

I am incredibly thankful that I was able to experience God's power in this way, and I cannot wait to see how He continues to use this experience to transform my heart.

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*Text MISSIONS to 733733 to learn more about short-term mission trip opportunities.*

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*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

**PSALM 139:13-14**



CRESTWOOD CAMPUS

# Leah's Story

*God was always part of my life growing up, as my family was deeply involved in church. Despite that strong foundation, I never truly stepped into a personal relationship with Christ.*

I LACKED SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES and deep-rooted community until I attended *High School Camp* two years ago. It was there that I fell back in love with my Savior. During worship, I felt His presence standing next to me, reminding me where my comfort and peace are truly found. However, I realized that I had only been interested in the Savior part of Jesus and hadn't fully surrendered to Him. So, I recommitted to my walk with Christ and truly making Him my Lord.

Since then, God has worked in ways I cannot explain, blessing me with Christ-centered friendships that stoke my fire for Him and deepen my calling to ministry. He has spiritually awakened my heart, moving me from religion to faith, and has called me to love Him and others passionately—just as He first loved me.



*Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart and  
lean not on your own  
understanding; in all  
your ways submit to  
him, and he will make  
your paths straight.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6

*Therefore encourage one another  
and build each other up, just as  
in fact you are doing.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**



# Next Steps



## Let's Connect

We're all about showing up for people one at a time. So, wherever you are in life or whatever you're walking through, you matter to us—and we'd love to get to know you.



## Find Your Crew

Groups are a great way to do life together, caring for one another as we build relationships and grow in faith. Everybody needs a crew...and yours is waiting for you! Check out our on-campus, home, and online group options.



## Celebrating Baptisms

Baptism serves as a beautiful symbol of the burial of the old self and the resurrection of new life in Christ. If you are interested in learning more about baptism, we invite you to visit the Baptism page on our website.



## Church News

From local church events to connection opportunities, there's something for everyone here at Southeast! Stay up to date weekly with Church News.

CONNECT WITH US!



IT ALL STARTS  
IN A GROUP!



LEARN MORE



LEARN MORE



## Give

In His goodness, God allows us to partner with Him by giving back a portion of what He has blessed us with, using our financial gifts to change lives for eternity. We give because Jesus gave everything.

GIVE



## Serve With Us

God has uniquely gifted each of us. While our talents may look different, each is essential in making Southeast a place known for sharing the love of Jesus. No matter our passion, there is a place for each of us to serve—including you!

I'M READY!



## Resources

Check out past sermons, dive deeper with podcasts, explore Bible plans, and more on the Resources page of our website.

EXPLORE



## MOVE

God is on the move at Southeast! See the latest updates on how we are partnering with Him in Kingdom-building work as we move **together** as one church, **forward** in our mission, and **closer** to those who need Jesus.

LET'S MOVE!



## Follow Us

Stay connected to how God is moving in and through Southeast!



@SE.CHURCH

# Events

## Pray4Camp

Real life-change happens at camp, and we'd love for you to be part of what God is doing this Summer. Join us in praying for each *Southeast Camp* by texting **Pray4Camp** to **733733** to receive specific prayer prompts and ways you can ask God to move powerfully in the lives of every camper.

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## At the Movies

*Begins July 23/26 • 4 Weeks*

Get ready for an unforgettable sermon series where the big screen meets real life. Each week, we'll explore powerful movie moments to help us see how God is moving in our own lives. Bring a friend and join us for *At the Movies!*

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## Looking for More?

There's even more happening around Southeast!



*STAY UP TO DATE  
WITH SOUTHEAST!*

**SOUTHEAST**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**SE.CHURCH**