

IV. GROW BY SEEING GOD IN YOUR DYSFUNCTION

See with “But God Trifocals”:

A. See But God’s presence.

⁵ *“and said to them, ‘I see your father’s countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.’”*

Genesis 31:5

¹ *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

Psalms 46:1

B. See But God’s protection.

⁶ *“And you know that with all my might I have served your father.*

⁷ *Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.”*

Genesis 31:6-7

⁴ *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

I John 4:4

C. See But God’s provision.

⁹ *“So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.”*

Genesis 31:9

¹⁷ *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

James 1:17

V. KEEP TRUSTING IN GOD

A. Jacob makes the “Faith Hall Of Fame.”

²¹ *“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.”*

Hebrews 11:21

B. Faith begins where human understanding ends.

⁷ *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

II Corinthians 5:7

BUT GOD

Changes Everything

We Are Dysfunctional, BUT GOD Functions

Pastor Steve Reynolds

Introduction:

A. Two powerful words can change everything. BUT GOD. But God moments occur when life takes a particular course, but God intervenes and presents a fresh path and a glimmer of hope for our lives!

²⁶ *“But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”*

Matthew 19:26

B. Attend the But God Teaching Series and discover how to transform your “But I…” limitations into “But God!” breakthroughs with every challenge you encounter!

April 20 Jesus Was Dead, BUT GOD Resurrects

April 27 We Are Evil, BUT GOD Redeems

May 4 We Are Tempted, BUT GOD Overcomes

TODAY We Are Dysfunctional, BUT GOD Functions

May 18 We Are Weak, BUT GOD Strengthens

May 25 We Are Sinners, BUT GOD Saves

C. **TEXT:** Genesis 31:1-9

Key Verse:

⁷ *“Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.”*

Genesis 31:7

HOW BUT GOD FUNCTIONS CAN CHANGE YOU

I. KNOW THAT EVERY FAMILY IS DYSFUNCTIONAL

A. Jacob came from a dysfunctional family. Jacob's parents, Isaac and Rebekah, chose favorites.

²⁴ *"So, when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.*

²⁵ *And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.*

²⁶ *Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob.*

Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ *So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.*

²⁸ *And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob."*

Genesis 25:24-28

B. Jacob married into a dysfunctional family. Laban's (Jacob's father-in-law) sons became envious of Jacob's prosperity and started attacking him.

¹ *"Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, 'Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth.'*

² *And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before."*

Genesis 31:1-2

¹⁴ *"But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.*

¹⁵ *This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*

¹⁶ *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."*

James 3:14-16

C. There is no such thing as a "perfect" family.

¹⁸ *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find."* Romans 7:18

¹² *"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* II Corinthians 10:12

II. REALIZE GOD CAN FUNCTION IN YOUR DYSFUNCTION

A. God spoke to Jacob.

³ *"Then the LORD said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.'"* Genesis 31:3

B. The perfect God speaks to and works through imperfect people.

⁶ *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

⁷ *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."* II Corinthians 4:6-7

III. FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING

A. Jacob receives direction from God and immediately calls for Rachel and Leah.

⁴ *"So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,"* Genesis 31:4

¹⁰⁵ *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Psalm 119:105