Family Tree
Every Story Has A Place In God's Story

A Family Of Misfits
Matthew 1:2



Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | November 29, 2026

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...

– Matthew 1:2 (ESV)

God's Plan Is Bigger Than Our Imperfections.

God Often Meets Us In The Middle Of Our Mess.

God Uses Our Struggles To Shape Our Character.

God's Grace Gives Our Story A Greater Purpose.

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Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. When you hear the phrase "a family of misfits," what comes to mind? Why do you think God chose to include imperfect people like Jacob in Jesus' family tree?

2. Jacob spent much of his early life manipulating circumstances to get what he wanted. Where do you see that same tendency in people today? Where might you see it in your own life?

3. Read Genesis 28:10-15. What stands out to you about God's decision to meet Jacob while he was running away from home? What does this reveal about God's character?

4. Have you ever experienced a season when God seemed to meet you in the middle of a difficult or messy situation? How did that experience affect your faith?

5. Jacob experienced the consequences of his deception when Laban deceived him. What does his experience teach us about the relationship between God's grace and the consequences of our choices?

6. Read Genesis 32:24-30. Why do you think God allowed Jacob to wrestle through the night? What do you think Jacob learned about himself and his dependence on God?

7. Jacob walked away from his encounter with God with a limp. How might our most difficult experiences become reminders of God's presence and our need to depend on him?

8. What's the difference between believing that God accepts us despite our imperfections and using God's grace as an excuse not to change?

9. How does knowing that Jacob became part of the family line leading to Jesus change the way you think about your own past and your potential usefulness in God's kingdom?

10. What is one area of your life where you need to stop relying on your own strength and begin trusting God more fully?