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Week 1 – Dysfunctional Family

Eight Signs You Were Raised in a Dysfunctional Family

(from A. Massey at Huffpost)

1. You feel _____ when you stand up for yourself
2. You _____ being abandoned
3. You're a _____-PLEASER
4. You feel _____ and isolated
5. You _____ incessantly about the future
6. You feel super _____ for others
7. You feel like you're a _____
8. You _____ yourself mercilessly

Miracles and Providence:

Miracles = When God imposes the _____ upon the natural order

Providence = When God works the _____ things in life together for our good

Genesis 37:1-4 – The Story Begins...

Personal Notes / Life Application

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. This week we opened our series on the story of Joseph. It's a story of pain, loss, jealousy, anger – and God's goodness in the midst of it all. Joseph was a young man who loved God, but his father's favoritism would end up bringing harm to him. Have you ever asked the question "Why do bad things happen to good people?" or "If God is in control, why is there so much evil in the world?" Discuss...
2. If possible, describe a time when you felt like the victim of someone else's bad choices or decisions... As you faced these circumstances, where was your mind at in relation to God? Were you upset with Him? Doubting Him? Trusting Him? Explain...

Ponderings:

3. If God would answer one question for you concerning the pain you're facing in your life right now, what question would you want Him to answer?
4. Based on the "Eight Signs that You Grew Up in a Dysfunctional Family," are there any that you really relate to in particular in your own life? How have you seen God bring emotional healing to your life, and are you still in the process of trusting Him to complete that work He has begun in you? Discuss...
5. Discuss the difference between God's *miracles* and God's *providence* as mentioned in the weekend message. While God's miracles are wonderful, would you agree or disagree that in the Bible and in modern life He most often works through providence (i.e. working things out for the good of His children even through times of pain).
6. Do you think there is a difference in God's activity under the New Covenant in comparison to the Old? Discuss....

Promptings:

7. Pray that during our times of learning together in this series, God would meet you powerfully in the midst of whatever pain is currently confronting you. Also, ask the Lord now to reveal whether He might be calling you to be an agent of healing in the life of someone else, whether through encouragement, serving, or some other means of investment or sacrifice.