



SINGLE PARENTING
HOME BIBLE STUDY

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HELP FOR MY CHILDREN
Lesson 3 – The Dysfunction Test
(Part I)

10:00

I. LESSON OBJECTIVE

- ✚ To understand the impact the loss of a parent has on children
- ✚ To detect and correct characteristics of dysfunction in children

10:05

II. EXAMINING THE ISSUE – Your Background Holds the Key

A. Resolving issues of the past in the parent is one of the most important factors to building healthy emotions within the children.



The current emotional condition of your child largely depends on two areas of background in your life and the life of the other parent. These are two of the main areas that determine whether a child has experienced functional or dysfunctional relationships.

Dysfunctional means “the family relationships **don’t work.**” The dysfunctional home lacks the atmosphere and support systems that build stable relationships. Since no one has a “perfect” family, it is important to note that the “functional” home is simply one whose relationships work well **most** of the time. The functional family environment has unconditional love expressed and the family members are in harmony with one another. In the dysfunctional home relationships don’t work well.

The Dysfunctional Home is characterized by:

- Lack of love
- Little expression of emotion
- Little or no trust of family members
- Can exhibit physical or emotional abuse
- Can exhibit substance abuse
- Can end in difficult divorce or break-up of unmarried relationships

B. Dysfunction Detection Test

There are two areas that must be examined to determine whether or not your child is likely to exhibit characteristics of a dysfunctional home:

- The family origin of you and the other parent
- Your current family relationship and environment

Family Origin of Parents

Deuteronomy 5:9-10

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.”

According to Deuteronomy 5:9, dysfunctional relationships (*relationships that don't work*) can be passed on to generations. Relationships that don't work well go against the very character of who God is. God is a God of covenant. Relationships that work well reflect the very character of God. Relationships that don't work well fall short of reflecting Godly character.

Any character that does not reflect God's character and Word reflects iniquity. Basically, “iniquity” is “Perverseness or mischief that originates in the heart or mind.” Sin springs forth out of iniquity. It is not the sin of the fathers that pass on to the children; It is the iniquity that passes on to the children...”*to the third and fourth generation*” of those who are not in covenant relationship with God.

- Approximately 60% of children who come from divorced or broken parental relationships repeat the same offenses in relationships.

FAMILY ORIGIN DYSFUNCTION DETECTION TEST – PART A

- 1** Your family of origin is the family you grew up in. Rate that family by marking on the graph below your family's effectiveness.

dysfunctional

functional

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2 If you could change one thing about the way your family worked back then, what would it be?

3 How does your current family compare to the family in which you grew up?

4 Review your answer to question #2. Is that thing present in your present family?

- A little
 - Maybe, but in disguised form
 - Yes, it's an ongoing struggle
 - Yes, it's a MAJOR problem
 - Other. _____
-

5 As you raise your kids, in what ways are you *like* your parents as they raised you? Similarities:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. More? (*Please write them on the reverse of this sheet*).

6 How do you explain these similarities? Put the appropriate letter next to each similarity listed.

- a. Just my personal makeup

- b. Subconsciously the way I learned to be
- c. I've decided to be like this
- d. Other. _____

7 In what ways do you *differ* from your parents, especially in child-rearing?

Differences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. More? (*Please write them on the reverse of this sheet*).

8 How would you explain these differences? Put the appropriate letter next to each difference listed.

- a. Just the way I am
- b. Subconsciously, I learned that their way didn't work
- c. I decided to not be like them
- d. Other. _____

