

Surviving Parenthood

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I. Introduction.

- A. The foundation of our life is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- B. We have a choice as to how we build on that foundation.
- C. Every man's work will be tested. We make choices and live with consequences. (Proverbs 13:20)
- D. There are some circumstances that are not controllable.
- E. Text: Genesis 32.

II. Esau threatened Jacob.

- A. Jacob had a plan.
 - 1. He divided the group into two.
 - 2. Jacob prayed.
 - 3. Jacob sent gifts to Esau.
- B. God also had a plan. (Genesis 28)
 - 1. Jacob survived.
 - 2. Jacob was made aware of his weakness. (2 Corinthians 4)
- C. We will be ambushed in life. The solution is to ask God not to let us go.

III. Our responsibility with our wives and children is to lead softly.

IV. Pain keeps us from mediocrity.

- A. God is not out to get us—he is for us. (Romans 8)
- B. We must be honest with God in pain and not try to fake it.

V. Power will come when we refuse to let God go.

Application questions:

1. How has pain played a role in your spiritual growth?

2. What lesson can we learn from the unexpected surprise Jacob received? Explain.

3. What does it look like for you to cling to God in the midst of trials?
