

## Mended, Blended, and Extended

Sunday, March 31, 2019 Dave Michel Stepping Stones Community Church

## 1. Biblical examples: The Josephs

• Joseph #1: Jesus' stepdad... sort of

Joseph #2: Blended... eventually mended

<sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly... <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Matthew 1:19, 24 NLT

<sup>3</sup> Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. <sup>4</sup> But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. **Genesis 37:3-4** NLT

<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. <sup>24</sup> Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. <sup>25</sup> Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders... <sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. <sup>27</sup> Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

**Genesis 37:23-28 NLT** 

## 2. Blended and mended families

- Family can cause hurt and pain
- This is why we are doing Family 30
- Family should be <u>expanded</u> not <u>reduced</u>

## 3. God's word on family

- Care for your family
- Adoption

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27 NLT

But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers. 1 Timothy 5:8 NLT

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:5 NLT

Next 9	Step	S:
--------	------	----

☐ Read the story of Joseph #2 (Genesis 37 to end)
☐ Commit to embrace "Family 30" and invest in mending my family:
☐ Accept my place as an adopted child of God
☐ Expand my "family" by showing love to the people in my life: