

## THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS JACOB 16

### GENESIS 37:1

1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

### GENESIS 37:2

2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

### GENESIS 37:3

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

### GENESIS 37:4

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

### GENESIS 37:3

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

"Is that you, Pet?" said a father from his bedroom to a little one who stood at the door in the early morning knocking for admission. "No, it isn't Pet, it's only me," replied a sorrowful little voice; and that was the last of "pet" in that family.

## II SAMUEL 13:18

18 And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

GENESIS 37:4

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Unfavored children have consistently been shown to exhibit high levels of depression and aggressive behaviors, and a reduced sense of self-worth and social responsibility.

A painstaking examination of data from three separate North American studies addressed this point by looking at the effects of favoritism on multiple children in the family and comparing results across, as well as within, a total of 5,488 families.

Published in the journal of Child Development, the review found that, on average, parental favoritism had negative effects on all children—not just unfavored siblings.

These effects were categorized primarily as “externalizing” behaviors, which refers to emotional-behavioral problems that show themselves in the form of antisocial and aggressive conduct, but effects in cognitive ability (specifically related to verbal reasoning) were also apparent.

Researchers also suggest the privileged child may feel the loss of what might otherwise have been a close sibling relationship. It is well known among child development researchers that preferential treatment by parents seriously undermines the relationship between siblings,

a relationship that otherwise has the potential to provide tremendous benefits throughout their lives.

Being interested in their children equally requires parents to appreciate the particular blend of talents, abilities and personality strengths that makes each child unique.

Unfortunately, parents often sabotage their own success by making comparisons among their children.

Labeling one child “the creative one” and another “the math genius” can stimulate each child to feel jealous of the other’s talent. “All comparisons, even positive ones, have two problems,”

“They pigeonhole children, limiting their freedom to discover for themselves who they are, what attracts their interest, and in what areas they have the potential to excel. They feed competition among siblings.

In contrast, parents who consistently favor one child over another risk leaving the unfavored child feeling unloved, unwanted and unworthy of affection.

Most parents would never wish to be cruel to a child—but favoritism can hurt very cruelly—and it is all too easy for parents to overlook.

For this reason it is important for parents to take inventory of their behaviors toward each of their children. Do we frequently find ourselves responding negatively toward a particular child; regularly using sarcasm or feeling irritated with him or her?

Do we label one child as “the difficult one,” or perhaps find it less natural to show affection to one child in comparison to others?

Do we notice ourselves overreacting toward any of our children more consistently than others?

When each child is loved for the unique person he or she is, the stage is set for close sibling relationships and healthy family relationships in general. There is no greater gift parents can give to their children or to themselves.

Expert say, "Favoured children tend to have better self esteem, yet can also be spoiled and manipulative.

These children may think the world owes them a living. (They also know they spent their childhood getting away with murder at the expense of siblings, so they are full of guilt. )

Disfavoured children tend to have lower self-esteem, which can either make them try harder or give up too easily, (and also makes them rageaholics who spend a lifetime 'collecting injustices,' as a mode of primary thinking and interpreting. )

Trying to please is one of the characteristics that might make them either compliant or rebellious. It can go either way, depending upon the temperament of the child. "

Brigham Young University professor Alex Jensen analyzed 282 families with teenage siblings for a study that appears in the Journal of Family Psychology. Favoritism in parenting is a complex topic for sure, but here are some important take-aways.

Jensen looked at perceived preferential treatment in different types of family dynamics. For families that aren't very close to each other – so-called "disengaged" families – favoritism was strongly associated with alcohol, cigarette and drug use by the less-favored children.

In these disengaged families, children who view themselves as slightly less favored were almost twice as likely to use alcohol, cigarettes or drugs. If the preferential treatment was perceived to be dramatic, the less favored child was 3. 5 times more likely to use any of these substances.

In other words, favoritism appears to be the most problematic when love & support are generally scarce.

For parents worrying about keeping score and managing perceptions of fairness, Jensen has some very simple advice.

"Show your love to your kids at a greater extent than you currently are," Jensen said. "As simple as it sounds, more warmth and less conflict is probably the best answer. "

That's based on what they saw in the data – the link between substance use and favoritism didn't exist among families that take a strong interest in each other.

Whether mom's golden child or her black sheep, siblings who sense that their mother consistently favors or rejects one child over others are more likely to show depressive symptoms as middle-aged adults, finds a new study by Cornell gerontologist Karl Pillemer.

Prior research has shown that parental favoritism among siblings negatively affects mental health and often triggers behavioral problems in children, teens and young adults,

but the survey of 275 Boston-area families, co-directed by Purdue sociologist Jill Sutor, is the first to show that such harmful effects persist long into adulthood.

"Perceived favoritism from one's mother still matters to a child's psychological well-being, even if they have been living for years outside the parental home and have started families of their own," said Pillemer,

the Hazel E. Reed Professor in the Department of Human Development and associate dean for extension and outreach in the College of Human Ecology.

"It doesn't matter whether you are the chosen child or not, the perception of unequal treatment has damaging effects for all siblings," he added. "The less favored kids may have ill will toward their mother or preferred sibling,

and being the favored child brings resentment from one's siblings and the added weight of greater parental expectations. "

GENESIS 37:23

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

GENESIS 37:24

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

GENESIS 37:25

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

GENESIS 37:31

31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

GENESIS 37:32

32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

GENESIS 37:33

33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

GENESIS 37:34

34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

GENESIS 37:35

35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go

down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

GENESIS 45:25

25 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

GENESIS 45:26

26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

GENESIS 45:27

27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: