WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Family Sins

Study Guide

Family Government

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins - Part One of Two 3

Major Themes 3
Key Arguments 4
Scripture References 6
Discussion Questions 8
Applications 11
Personal Application and Notes 13

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins - Part Two of Two 14

Major Themes 14
Key Arguments 15
Scripture References 16
Discussion Questions 19
Applications 21
Personal Application and Notes 22

Online Lecture Resources 23

Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins

Part One of Two

February 02, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Individual Accountability for Sin

Each person is responsible for their own sin and will face consequences personally.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Ezekiel 18:20 and Deuteronomy 24:16 to establish that the soul that sins shall die and each is put to death for his own sin.

Corporate Influence of Sin

No one lives or dies to himself; sins affect family members and others.

Lecture support: Romans 14:7 is quoted to show that our actions impact others, and the story of Jacob and Dinah illustrates how one's sin leads to another's suffering.

Learned Sin Patterns

Children often learn sins from their parents, such as greed, anger, and rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver references 2 Chronicles 30:8, Zechariah 1:4, and Acts 7:51 to show that children can imitate their fathers' sins.

Obedience to God's Commands

Disobedience to God's clear instructions leads to negative consequences for oneself and one's family.

Lecture support: Jacob's failure to return to his kindred as God commanded resulted in his family being in Shechem where Dinah was defiled.

Parental Authority and Protection

God gave parents to lead, guide, and protect children; disregarding parental authority is sin.

Lecture support: Dinah went out without permission, and Weaver emphasizes that children must obey parents and that parents must rule their homes.

Guarding the Senses

The eyes and ears are channels to the soul; we must avoid seeing and hearing wicked things.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Peter 2:7-8, Matthew 6:22-23, Psalm 119:37, and Psalm 101:3 to urge guarding against vanity and wickedness.

Honoring Parents

Children must honor and obey parents; failure to do so brings shame and dishonor.

Lecture support: Proverbs 17:2, 19:26, 10:5, and 29:15 are used to show various ways children bring shame, including wastefulness and laziness.

The Consequences of Disobedience

Disobedient lives often end in obscurity and lack of lasting significance.

Lecture support: Dinah's story ends with her merely being mentioned as going to Egypt; her life had no notable legacy.

Key Arguments

Jacob's sin of disobedience set the stage for Dinah's defilement.

Had Jacob obeyed God and gone to his kindred, Dinah would never have been in Shechem to be defiled.

Lecture support: Weaver traces Jacob's journey and God's command to return to his country and kindred, showing Jacob stopped in Shechem, bought land, and built an altar contrary to God's direction.

Dinah's sin was her curiosity and disregard for parental authority.

Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land, likely without permission, exposing herself to danger.

Lecture support: Weaver analyzes the Hebrew word for 'see' and cites commentators like Calvin to argue Dinah's action was sinful curiosity and rebellion.

Sins are often learned from parents.

Children imitate the attitudes and actions of their parents, sometimes exceeding their parents' wickedness.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Judges 2:19 and other passages to show that children can become more corrupt than their fathers.

No one's sin is isolated; it affects the entire family.

Jacob's sin affected Dinah, and Dinah's sin affected her brothers and the whole family.

Lecture support: The narrative of Genesis 34 shows the chain of events from Jacob's settlement to the massacre by Simeon and Levi.

Parents must provide godly example and instruction.

Children will likely become carbon copies of their parents; therefore, parents must live obediently.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'in all probability, your children will turn out to be a carbon copy of you' and emphasizes the need for parents to be prophets, priests, and kings.

Guarding eyes and ears is essential to avoiding sin.

What we see and hear can vex the soul and lead to darkness; we must set no wicked thing before our eyes.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Lot's example and David's prayers to argue for intentional avoidance of sinful sights and sounds.

Dishonoring parents takes many forms, including laziness.

Shame is not only from gross sins but also from a lack of work ethic and discipline.

Lecture support: Proverbs 10:5 and 29:15 are cited to show that a lazy son brings shame.

Disobedience leads to an insignificant legacy.

Dinah's life ended in obscurity, mentioned only in a genealogy, as a result of her and her father's sins.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Genesis 46:15 as the last mention of Dinah, noting the lack of any happy ending or notable legacy.

Scripture References

Genesis 34:1-31

The entire chapter is read as the foundational text for the sermon, detailing Dinah's defilement and the revenge of Simeon and Levi.

Ezekiel 18:20

Quoted to establish individual responsibility for sin: 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.'

Deuteronomy 24:16

Cited to reinforce that each person is put to death for his own sin, not for the sins of parents or children.

Romans 14:7

Used to show that no one lives or dies to himself, emphasizing the corporate impact of sin.

2 Chronicles 30:8

Quoted to warn against being stiffnecked like one's fathers, illustrating learned sin patterns.

Zechariah 1:4

Cited to show God's call not to be like one's fathers who did not hearken.

Acts 7:51

Stephen's rebuke that the people resist the Holy Ghost as their fathers did, demonstrating inherited rebellion.

Judges 2:19

Used to show that children can become more corrupt than their fathers.

Proverbs 22:6

Cited to support the general principle that training a child in the right way leads to godly outcomes.

Genesis 28:5, 16-22

Referenced to show Jacob's original journey and his vow at Bethel, where God revealed Himself.

Genesis 33:17-20

Shows Jacob's journey to Succoth and then Shechem, where he bought land and built an altar.

Genesis 31:2-3

God's command to Jacob to return to his country and kindred.

Genesis 32:9

Jacob's prayer recalling God's command to return to his country and kindred.

Genesis 33:14

Jacob's deceptive statement to Esau about coming to Seir, instead of going to his kindred.

Genesis 36:8-9

Shows Esau dwelt in Mount Seir, which was not Jacob's country.

Genesis 35:27-29

Later, Jacob comes to Isaac in Hebron, showing where his kindred actually lived.

Genesis 35:1

God's command to Jacob after the Shechem incident to go to Bethel, highlighting his earlier disobedience.

2 Peter 2:7-8

Lot's righteous soul was vexed by seeing and hearing the wickedness around him, illustrating the danger of unguarded senses.

Matthew 6:22-23

Jesus' teaching on the eye as the light of the body; an evil eye leads to darkness.

Psalm 119:37

David's prayer to turn away his eyes from beholding vanity.

Discussion Questions

1. How do we balance the biblical truth of individual accountability for sin with the reality that our sins affect our families?

Consider: Weaver presents both Ezekiel 18:20 and Romans 14:7, showing tension between personal responsibility and corporate influence.

2. In what ways have you seen sinful patterns passed down in families, and how can they be broken?

Consider: The sermon discusses learned sins from parents, citing examples like greed and rebellion.

3. What are some modern examples of 'going out to see the daughters of the land' that might seem innocent but lead to spiritual danger?

Consider: Dinah's curiosity about the Canaanite women is compared to contemporary temptations to explore forbidden things.

4. How can parents practically fulfill their roles as prophet, priest, and king in their homes today?

Consider: Weaver describes the parental roles of declaring God's Word, interceding, and ruling.

5. What does it look like to guard our eyes and ears in a media-saturated culture?

Consider: The sermon warns against seeing and hearing wickedness, referencing Lot's vexation and David's prayers.

6. How can adult children honor their parents while still establishing their own households?

Consider: Weaver mentions that there is a biblical way to leave home and that disregarding parental authority leads to trouble.

7. Why is laziness considered a form of dishonoring parents, and how can a strong work ethic be cultivated in families?

Consider: Proverbs 10:5 is used to show that a son who sleeps in harvest causes shame.

8. What can we learn from Dinah's obscure ending about the long-term consequences of disobedience?

Consider: The sermon notes that after Genesis 46:15, Dinah disappears from the biblical record with no legacy.

Applications

Examine your obedience to God's clear commands.

Just as Jacob was told to return to his kindred, believers must follow God's directives without deviation, recognizing that disobedience can harm their families.

Lecture support: Weaver repeatedly asks why Jacob stopped in Shechem when God said to go to his kindred, implying that partial obedience is disobedience.

Guard what you and your family see and hear.

Be intentional about avoiding media and environments that expose you to wickedness, as the eyes and ears are gateways to the soul.

Lecture support: Weaver shares his personal practice of refusing to watch programs with adultery and cites David's commitment to set no wicked thing before his eyes.

Parents must provide a godly example and instruction.

Children will imitate their parents; therefore, parents must live obediently and teach their children God's ways.

Lecture support: Weaver states that children will be carbon copies and that parents must be prophets, priests, and kings.

Children and youth must honor parental authority.

Even grown children should respect their parents' guidance and not remove themselves from their protection without biblical warrant.

Lecture support: Dinah's failure to seek permission and protection led to her defilement; Weaver applies this to modern young people.

Cultivate a biblical work ethic to avoid bringing shame.

Laziness is a form of dishonoring parents; children should learn diligence and responsibility.

Lecture support: Proverbs 10:5 and 29:15 are applied to show that a sluggard brings shame.

Recognize that your sins affect your entire family and community.

No sin is private; it impacts spouses, children, church, and even the nation.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes that Jacob's sin affected Dinah, and Dinah's sin affected her brothers, illustrating the ripple effect.

Seek to live a life of lasting significance through obedience.

Disobedience leads to obscurity, as seen in Dinah's unremarkable end; obedience leads to a legacy that honors God.

Lecture support: The final mention of Dinah in Genesis 46:15 is contrasted with the potential for a meaningful life.

Do not be curious about things God has forbidden.

When God forbids something, we should not explore it or be interested in it; curiosity can lead to sin.

Lecture support: Weaver explicitly states, 'When God forbids something, we do not need to be curious about it or interested in it. Period.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins

Part Two of Two

February 02, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-41 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Interconnectedness of Sin

Sin does not exist in isolation; one sin sets off a chain reaction of further sins, as seen in how Jacob's disobedience led to Dinah's trouble and the brothers' massacre.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Sin does not exist by itself. I'm going to show you this again today that sin begets sin and usually when there is sin in one member of the family there's sin in other members of the family as well.'

Individual Accountability and Corporate Influence

While each person is answerable for their own sins, no one lives in a vacuum; our actions inevitably affect others, especially within families.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Ezekiel 18:20 and Romans 14:7 to show the dual principles of personal accountability and the inescapable influence on others.

The Danger of Uncontrolled Anger

Simeon and Levi's fierce anger led to deceit, mass murder, and long-term consequences, illustrating how unrighteous anger destroys both the angry person and others.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Angry people do not think. Angry people only strike out.' and points to Jacob's curse in Genesis 49.

The Necessity of Repentance and Putting Away Idols

True return to God requires forsaking all idols and secret sins; Jacob's household had to physically put away their strange gods before going to Bethel.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Genesis 35:2-4 and emphasizes: 'You cannot serve the one true and the living God and hold on to your sins.'

The Father's Leadership and Its Impact

The father's spiritual state sets the direction for the whole family; when the father is wrong, the family suffers.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'When the father is wrong, the whole family's wrong. That was true in Jacob's case.'

Generational Transmission of Sin and Judgment

Unrepented sins are learned and passed down to children, bringing God's judgment on subsequent generations.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'If we do not stop and repent and change our lives, we will be passing our sins down to our children... and as we pass down our sins, we also pass down the judgment of God.'

Key Arguments

Jacob's Disobedience Set the Stage for Family Tragedy

Had Jacob obeyed God and returned to his kindred, Dinah would not have been in Shechem, and the subsequent sins would have been avoided.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'Had Jacob been where he was supposed to have been, Dinah never would have gotten into the trouble that she had gotten in.'

Simeon and Levi's Revenge Was Disproportionate and Wicked

Even if Shechem deserved death, the brothers murdered an entire city, violating God's principle of individual punishment.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'If Shechem had raped Dinah, he deserved the death penalty. But if he deserved the death penalty, it was Shechem and Shechem alone who was to die.'

The Family Was Complicit in Idolatry

When Jacob called for purification, the whole household surrendered strange gods and earrings associated with idolatry, indicating widespread secret sins.

Lecture support: Weaver notes: 'It seems as if every family member had their secret sins. Every family member had their earrings.'

Only God's Sovereign Word Brings True Awakening

Jacob was not moved by Dinah's rape or the massacre, but only when God spoke directly to him did he take action.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'It took God speaking to Jacob to open his eyes.'

Secret Sins Still Communicate a Destructive Spirit

Even hidden sins affect others through a person's attitude and spirit, creating a chilling effect on those around them.

Lecture support: Weaver shares a personal observation: 'I had this sinking feeling in my stomach... I just knew there was something wrong.'

Scripture References

Genesis 34:1-31

The entire chapter is read and expounded as the narrative of Dinah's defilement and the revenge of Simeon and Levi.

Ezekiel 18:20

Cited to establish individual accountability for sin; the son does not bear the father's iniquity.

Deuteronomy 24:16

Quoted alongside Ezekiel to reinforce that each person dies for their own sin.

Romans 14:7

Used to show that no one lives or dies to himself; our actions affect others.

Exodus 20:5

God visits iniquity on subsequent generations of those who hate Him, explained as children continuing in the same sins.

Deuteronomy 22:28-29

The law requiring a man who lies with a virgin to marry her and never divorce, cited to show Shechem's willingness to comply.

Exodus 22:16-17

The law allowing the father to refuse the marriage but still requiring the dowry, showing the father's authority.

Genesis 35:1-4

God commands Jacob to go to Bethel; Jacob tells his household to put away strange gods and purify themselves.

Genesis 35:5

The terror of God was upon the cities so they did not pursue Jacob's family, showing divine protection.

Genesis 49:5-7

Jacob's dying curse on Simeon and Levi for their cruelty and anger.

Genesis 28:16-22

Jacob's vow at Bethel, referenced as the place God first appeared to him.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters; you cannot serve God and mammon, applied to holding onto idols.

1 Thessalonians 1:9

Turning to God from idols to serve the living God, used to illustrate repentance.

Numbers 32:23

Be sure your sin will find you out, applied to the exposure of family sins.

Psalm 85:8

I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people; applied to the need for God's word.

Philippians 3:12

Paul's statement that he has not attained perfection but presses on, used to encourage pursuit of holiness.

2 Chronicles 30:8

God's warning not to be stiffnecked like their fathers, illustrating shared family sins.

Zechariah 1:4

Be not as your fathers, another call to break from ancestral sins.

Exodus 34:15-16

God's command not to intermarry with the Canaanites, referenced as background for the brothers' anger.

Deuteronomy 7:1-6

Command not to make covenants with the Canaanites, reinforcing the prohibition of intermarriage.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the principle 'none of us liveth to himself' (Romans 14:7) challenge the idea that our private sins don't affect others?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that even secret sins communicate a spirit that impacts family members.

2. In what ways can anger be righteous, and how can we distinguish it from the unrighteous anger displayed by Simeon and Levi?

Consider: Weaver acknowledges righteous anger but condemns the brothers' uncontrolled rage.

3. What 'strange gods' or idols might modern families need to put away to truly return to God?

Consider: Jacob's household surrendered physical idols; Weaver applies this to secret sins today.

4. Why do you think Jacob waited for his sons before acting on Dinah's defilement, and what does this reveal about his leadership?

Consider: Weaver notes Jacob held his peace until his sons came, raising questions about his passivity.

5. How can we break the cycle of generational sin in our families?

Consider: Weaver warns that unrepented sins are passed down, and the answer is genuine repentance and obedience.

Applications

Fathers must lead spiritually

The father is the head of the home and responsible for the family's direction; when he is wrong, the whole family suffers.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'When the father is wrong, the whole family's wrong. That was true in Jacob's case.'

Recognize the ripple effect of personal sin

Even secret sins affect others through our spirit and attitude; we must be aware that no sin is truly private.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Our sins may be secret, yet there is an effect that is often communicated through our spirit and through our attitude that reaches to every member of our family.'

Pursue individual and family repentance

Family repentance requires each member to personally put away idols and sins; we cannot have family revival without individual repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'When every individual in the family repents, that means the family has repented.'

Guard against uncontrolled anger

Unrighteous anger leads to destructive actions and long-term consequences; we must deal with anger biblically.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'Any anger that is unrighteous will ultimately not only destroy the angry individual, but others as well.'

Break generational patterns of sin

We must repent and change our lives to avoid passing our sins and God's judgment to our children.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'If we do not stop and repent and change our lives, we will be passing our sins down to our children... and as we pass down our sins, we also pass down the judgment of God.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01224

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01224&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Family Sins - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01225

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01225&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.