



## Week 5: The Tale of Two Tests

Through Joseph's story we have been leaning into the uncomfortable reality that growth with God takes place in the wrestling we do with God. The sons of Israel, in Genesis 42, are all invited to wrestle with God - to step into the discomfort and grow into faithfulness and honesty. Joseph has been walking this journey for years, while his brothers have been running from it. However, in Genesis 42 they claim to be honest men. Joseph presses them and tests them to expose the reality of their character. Joseph's test is to live without vengeance toward his brothers. The twin tests in Genesis 42 invite 11 of Israel's sons to wrestle with God. The other option is to be deceivers or tricksters, sons of Jacob. Will we walk through the test and wrestle with God?

### Discussion Questions:

1. All of us will walk through tests in our journey of faith. What do you think God is doing in your life that is one of those testing moments? How is God challenging or using your circumstances to challenge you toward growth?
2. Israel is mentioned by both his names in the first few verses of Genesis 42, an indication, I think, of the options his sons have. What are our options in our circumstances to be children of the trickster or children who wrestle with God? What do you think wrestling with God looks like in our lives? How can we be accountable to walking like Joseph did instead of running from the challenges to grow like his older brothers?
3. Judah is the father of Kingship in Israel; however, he is missing in this passage. What do you think is going on in Judah that he is so silent in this portion of the story? Are there times when you go silent like that? Is that because we are running from something or is there another reason for our silence?
4. What support could help you lean into the opportunity to grow in the challenges of your life and faith?