



If God is For Us: The Life and Trials of Joseph

The First Test

Genesis: 42:1-38

The first run in between Joseph and his older brothers, after twenty years of estrangement, results in an awkward encounter filled with harsh accusations, guilty consciences, and an intricate test of integrity. But as the story unfolds, it's apparent that Joseph's actions are a severe mercy designed to expose the true character of his brothers. That's what biblical tests are meant to do. They reveal the true nature of a person – the true state of our soul.

1. The severe response of Joseph in testing his brothers
2. The severe mercy of God in testing his children
3. The severe need for a better firstborn brother