

## STUDY 5 - GOD & THE PAST - GENESIS 42

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### Share

What is a moment from your past that still shapes the way you respond to situations or people today? In what way?

### Observe and Reflect

*Read Genesis 42:1-5*

1. How do we see the past continuing to shape Jacob and his sons, even after many years?

*Read Genesis 42:6-17*

2. Why do you think Joseph tests his brothers instead of immediately revealing himself? What does this show about forgiveness, trust, and wisdom?

*Read Genesis 42:18-24.*

3. What do the brothers' words reveal about the burden of guilt and the role of conscience? Why do you think their actions still weigh on them after twenty years?
4. The brothers say, "We are being punished for what we did to our brother" (v21). In what ways can guilt distort the way we interpret suffering or hardship in our lives?
5. Joseph weeps after hearing his brothers acknowledge their wrongdoing (v24). Why can honest acknowledgment of sin and hurt be such an important step toward reconciliation and healing?

### *Read Genesis 42:25-38*

6. Why are the brothers frightened rather than relieved when they discover the money has been returned? What does this reveal about grace and about their understanding of themselves?
7. Joseph provides generously for his brothers before they deserve it or even recognise him. How does this help us understand the grace of God shown in Jesus Christ?

### *Read John 1:10-13*

8. Joseph's brothers fail to recognise the identity of the one showing them mercy. How is this similar to the way people respond to Jesus Christ?

### **Next Steps...**

9. Are there relationships, sins, wounds, or unresolved issues from the past that you may need to honestly face rather than avoid or bury?
10. What would it look like this week to respond rightly to guilt, either by confessing sin, seeking reconciliation, extending wise forgiveness, or trusting more deeply in God's grace?