

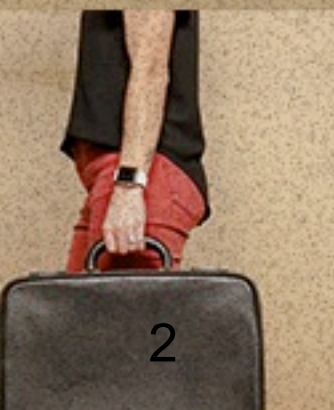


# UNPACKING FAITH

## Genesis 32:23-31

After taking [his family] to the other side, he sent over all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.

When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"



## Genesis 32:23-31

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."



## Genesis 32:23-31

“Please tell me your name,” Jacob said. “Why do you want to know my name?” the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.” The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.





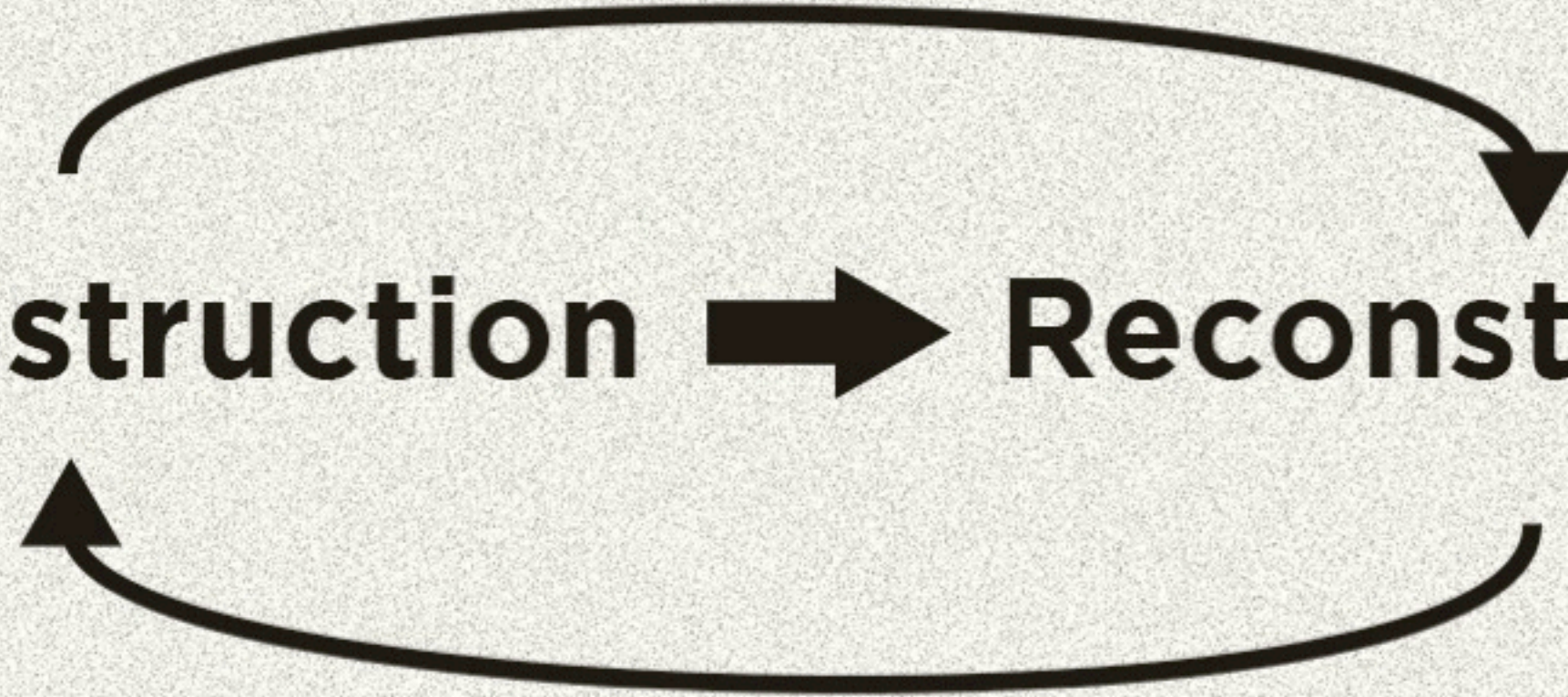
- To look at the good beliefs and the bad beliefs we were given as kids.
- To look at the questions we have that remain unanswered.
- To talk about the trauma and pain we've experienced *from the church*.
- To learn how to deal with hypocrisy and idolatry *inside the church*.
- To understand how we should handle faith disappointment.
- To figure out how to deal with doubt and deconstruction.

***Phase 1***

***Phase 2***

***Phase 3***

**Construction** ➔ **Deconstruction** ➔ **Reconstruction**





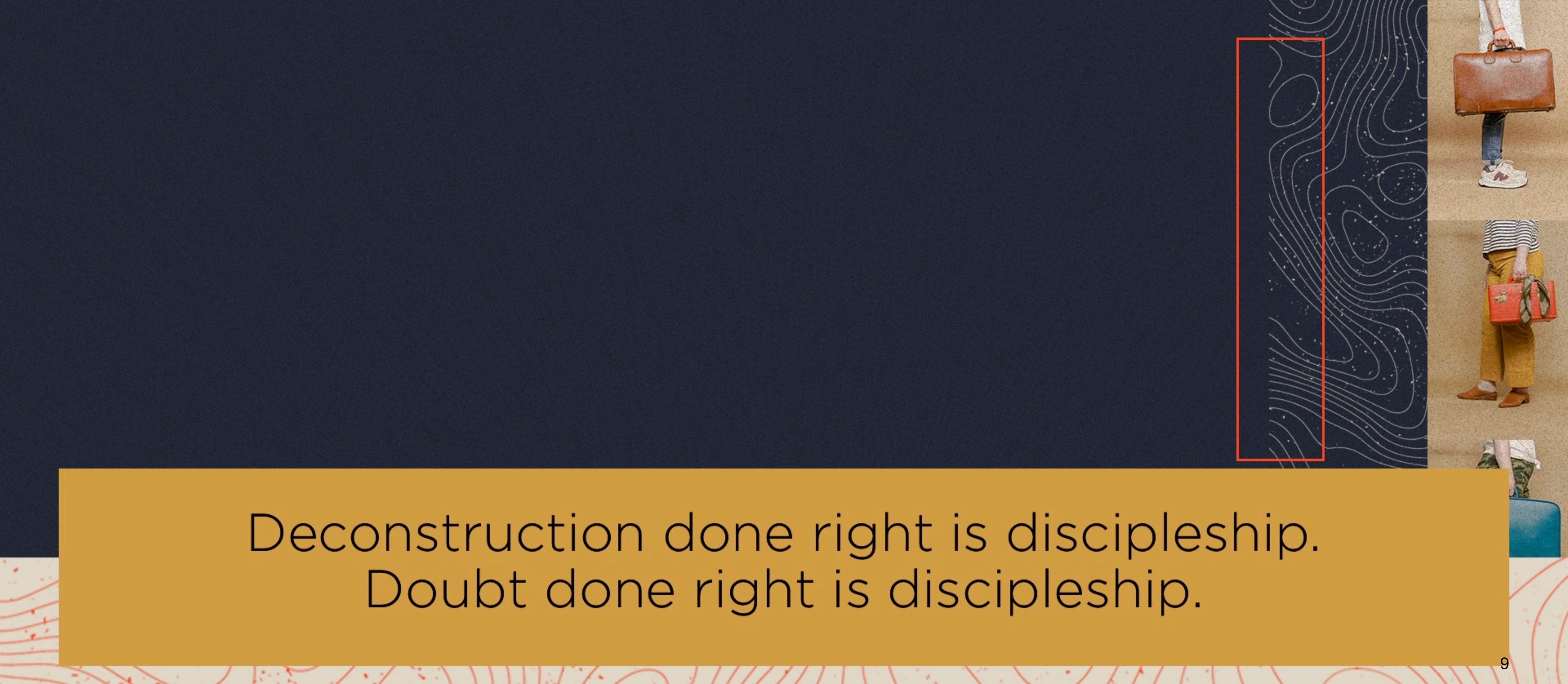
At some point, your kids are going to test the faith and values they inherit from you.



## **Question #1 from the Youths**

What do you do when you feel doubt in God?





Deconstruction done right is discipleship.  
Doubt done right is discipleship.



## Question #2 from the Youths

"The way some Christians present it makes me doubt if this IS a religion of love."



# **Question #3 from the Youths**

What is the best way to keep your faith strong and to keep away the doubt?



## Question #4 from the Youths

Can I doubt TOO much?

***Phase 1***

***Phase 2***

***Phase 3***

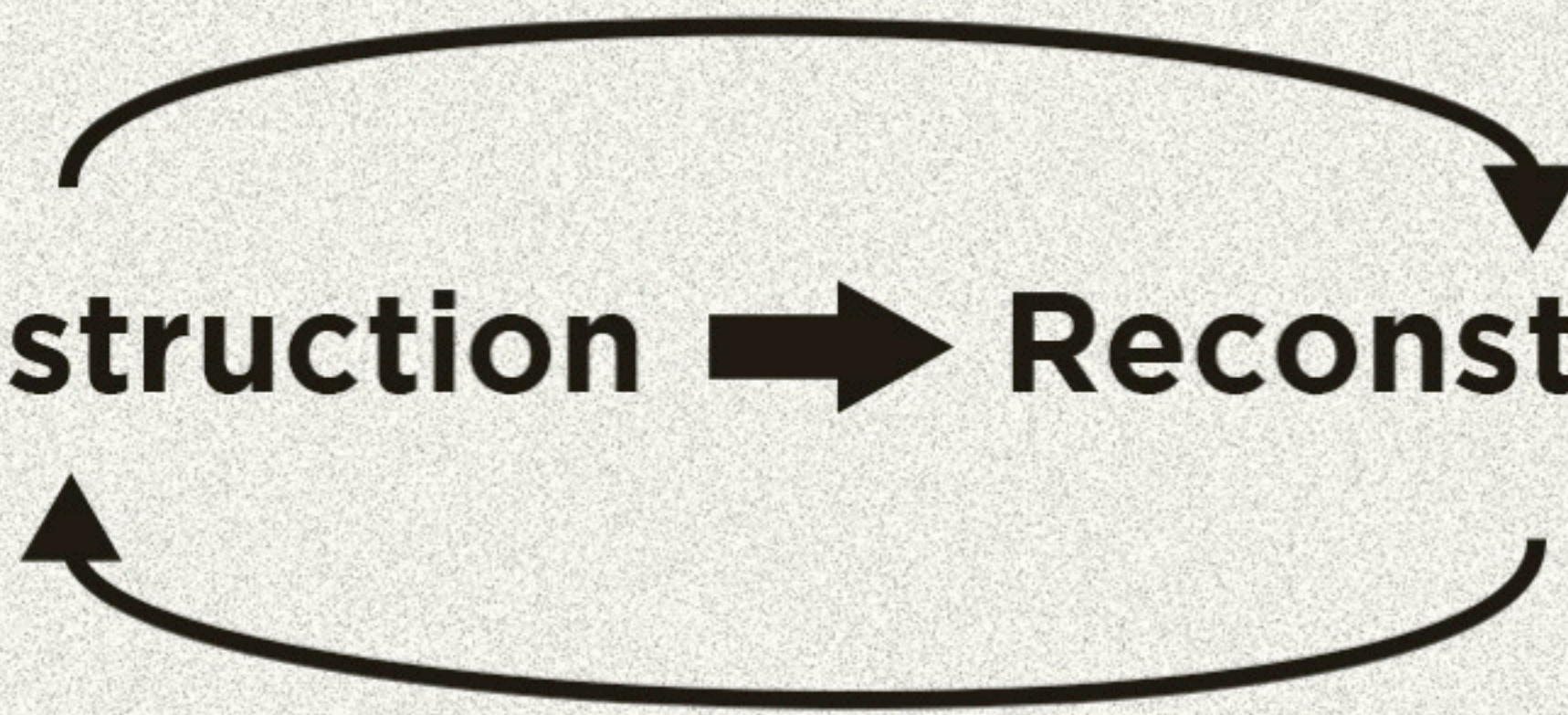
**Construction**



**Deconstruction**



**Reconstruction**



















## Matthew 5:21-48 - The Antitheses

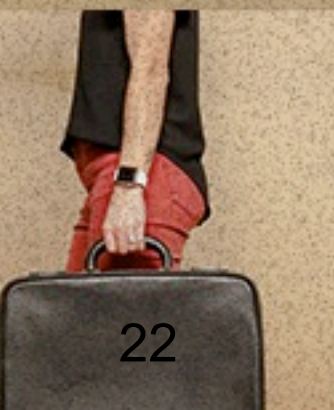
“You have heard that it was said [this].  
But I say unto you [that].”

- Anger
- Lust
- Divorce
- Honesty
- Retaliation
- Enemy Love

- Jacob sends all his family away and is alone in the camp.
- Suddenly he's wrestling with a stranger.
- They wrestle literally all night.
- Fun fact - Jacob is 97yrs old at this point.
- The man he's wrestling with is perhaps God, at least an angel (Hos 12:4).



- God-Angel-Man realizes it's dawn so they need to wrap things up.
- God-Angel-Man can't overpower Jacob.
- Touches Jacobs hip and gives him a bad hip.
- Jacob still won't let go and demands a blessing.
- God blesses him with a new name - "Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with men and have won."





From the beginning, one of the defining traits of God's people is their willingness to wrestle with Him.



True faith is willing to go to the mat with God about whatever questions, doubts, trauma, or complaints we have.





“The ‘blessing’ Jacob received was that his descendants would be known for possessing the same tenacity their forefather had demonstrated in his struggle to receive it...”



“The willingness of Jacob’s descendants to struggle with God and with others as they tried to follow God was the distinctive positive attribute that God conferred on them as a blessing to their forefather who first demonstrated the tenacious audacity that was to be the hallmark of their unique faith.”

**-Greg Boyd, Benefit of the Doubt**



And the Lord changed His mind about the disaster that He planned to bring on His people.

**Exodus 32:14**

# Psalm 13

How long, O Lord?  
Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

# Psalm 13

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes,  
or I will sleep the sleep of death...

O Lord my God, my Holy One, You who are eternal— surely You do not plan to wipe us out? O Lord, our Rock, You have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. But You are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will You wink at their treachery?

Should You be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they? Are we only fish to be caught and killed? Are we only sea creatures that have no leader? Must we be strung up on their hooks and caught in their nets while they rejoice and celebrate?

# Job 30:20-22

I cry to You, O God, but You don't answer.  
I stand before You, but You don't even look.  
You have become cruel toward me. You use  
Your power to persecute me. You throw  
me into the whirlwind and destroy me  
in the storm.





We are a people who have been blessed,  
named and known to wrestle with God.

## John 20:26-28

“Peace be with you,” He said. Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Put your hand into the wound in My side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!” “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.