



Becoming the Church in the Community, not the Church on
the Corner

“Every few hundred years throughout Western history, a sharp transformation has occurred.

In a matter of decades, society altogether rearranges itself – its worldview, its basic values, its social and political structures, its arts, its key institutions.

Fifty years later a new world exists. And the people born into that world cannot even imagine the world in which their grandparents lived and into which their own parents were born.



Our age is such a period of transformation. ”

~Peter Drucker, “The New Society of Organizations,” Harvard Business Review, 1992.







How were the shoes sold differently in each era?



P 288 km

Navigation

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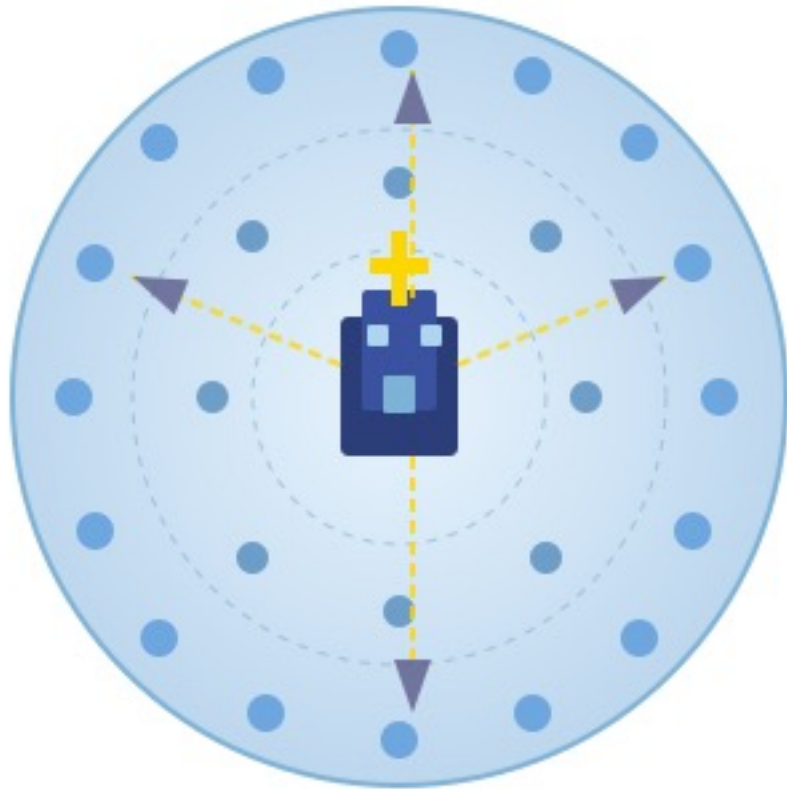
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, © Mapbox, © Mapbox, © Mapbox

Navigation icons: Home, Music, Phone, Wi-Fi, Signal strength, Battery, Temperature, Volume, and a large volume knob icon.

NOUVEAU

CHRISTENDOM ERA

Church at the Center of Community

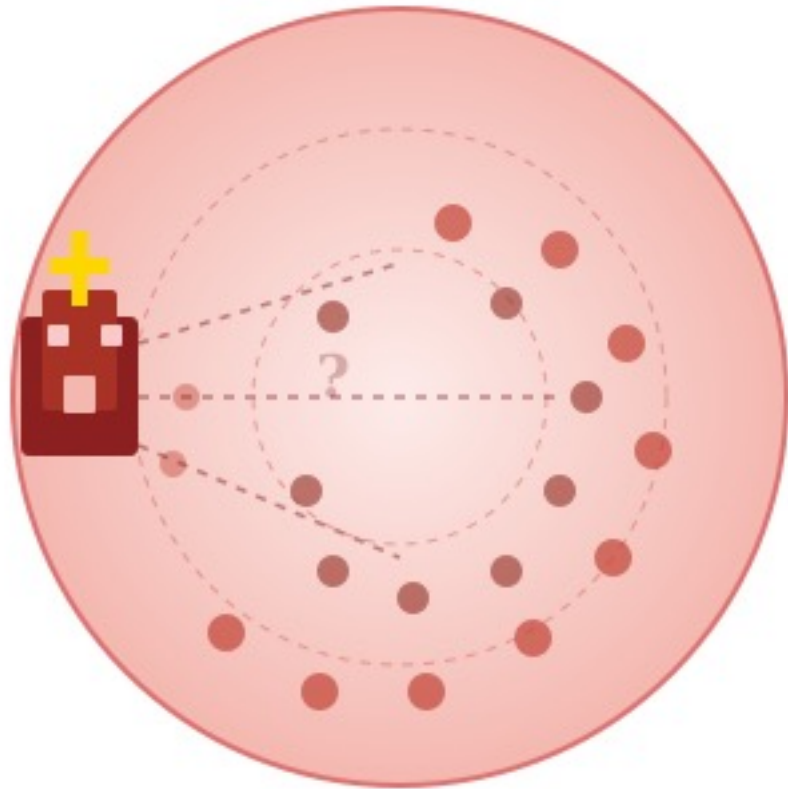


Church shapes culture from the center

POST-
CHRISTENDOM
SHIFT

POST-CHRISTENDOM ERA

Church at the Edge of Community



Church marginalized; disconnected from culture





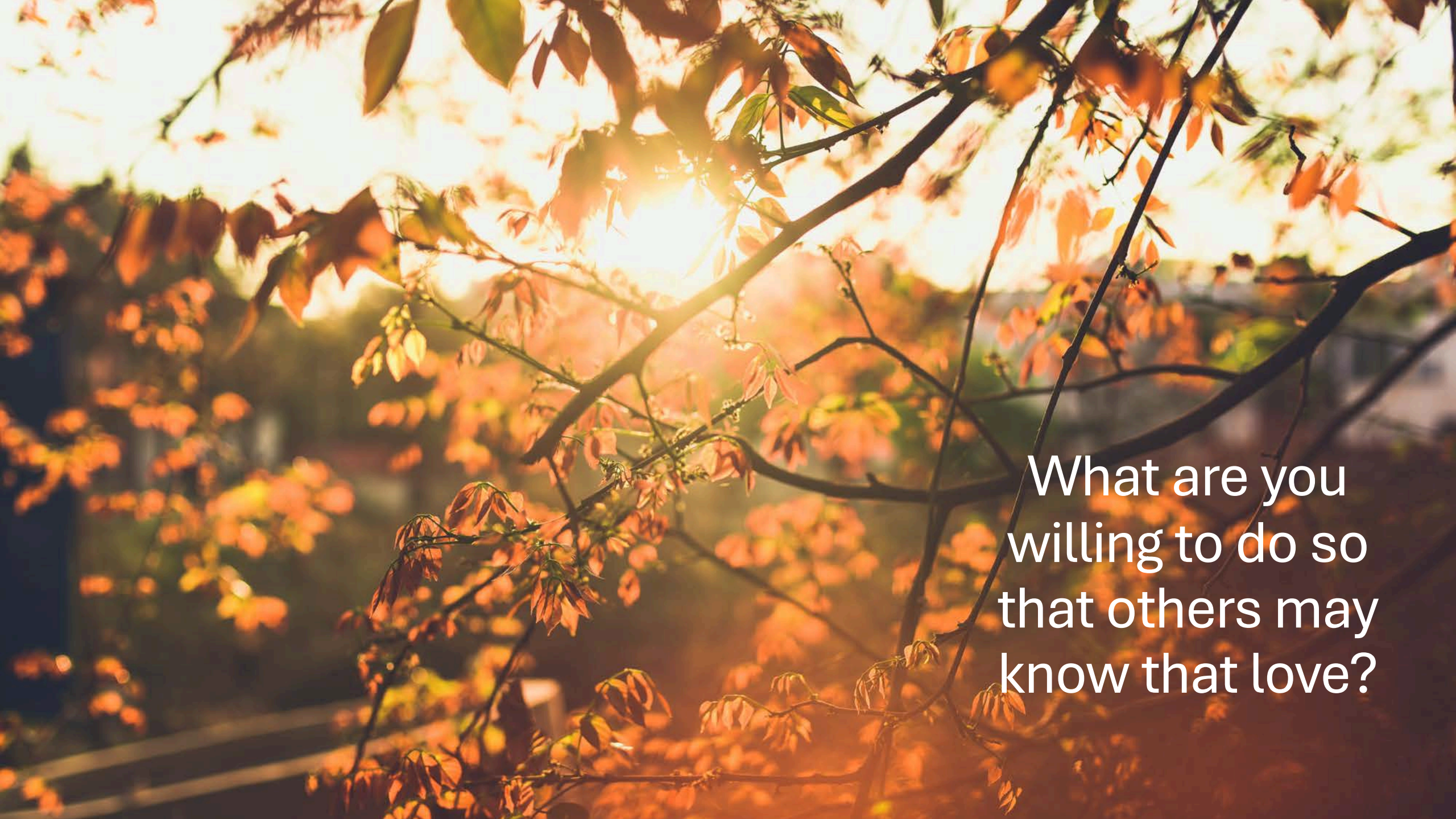
**It's about real
people.**

People you know.

People I know.



Remember again a particular moment of
beauty, grace and truth in Jesus in your life



What are you
willing to do so
that others may
know that love?



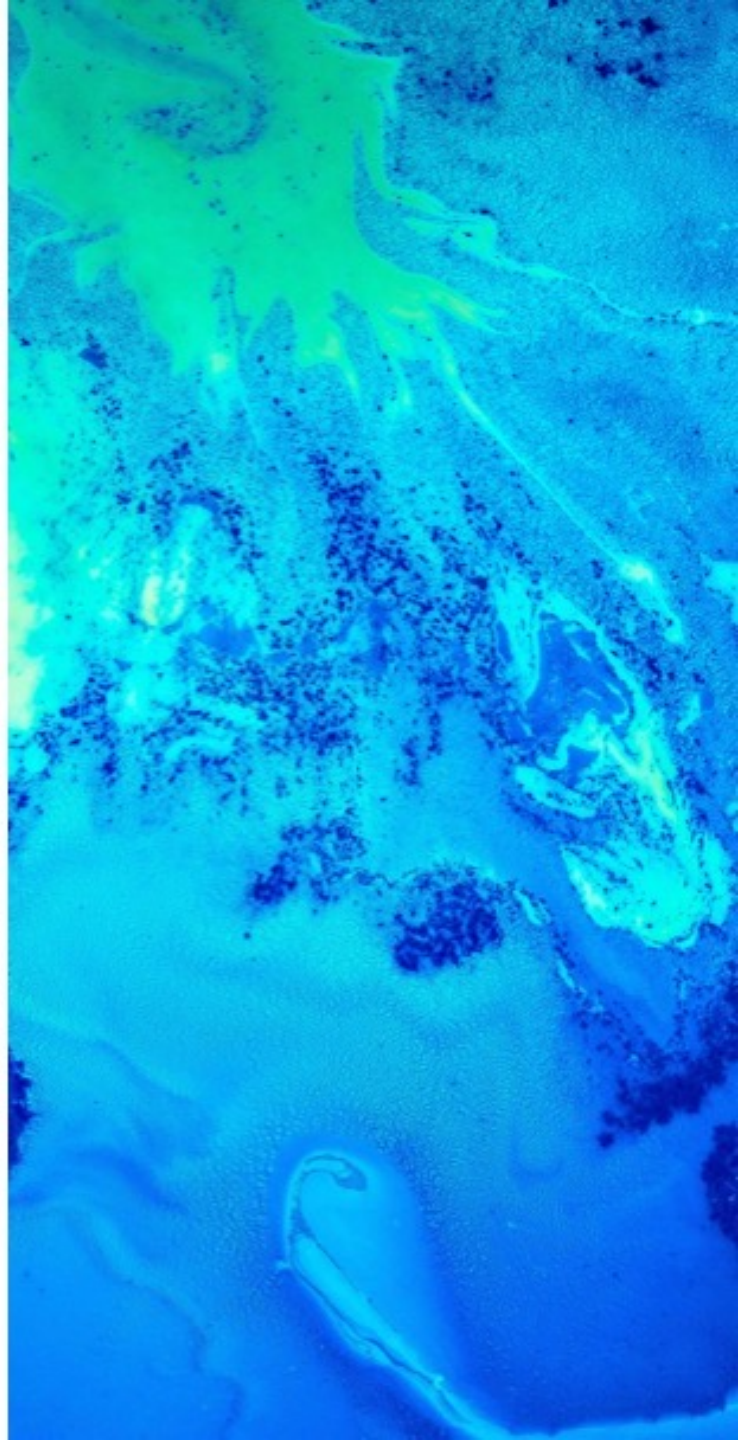
What would you do? How far would you go to share this life-changing good news with another?



A Discipleship Heart Leads to FX Reality

Fresh Expression Leadership involves energizing a community of people **toward their own transformation** in order to experience a new reality.

A FRESH EXPRESSION is a
form of church for our
changing culture
established primarily
for the benefit of
people who are NOT YET
members of any church



A Fresh Expression:

- Will come into being through principles of listening, service, contextual mission and making disciples.
- Will have the **potential** to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its **cultural context**.



**Fresh expressions reach out to a
changing, increasingly diverse society**



**Fresh Expressions is about taking
the church Jesus loves**

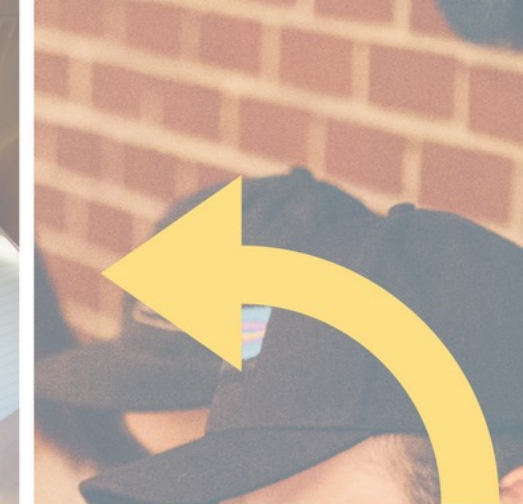
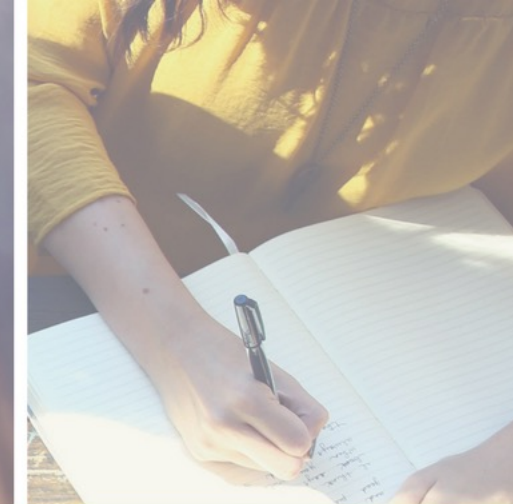


**closer to
the people
Jesus
loves**

3 Characteristics of Fresh Expressions

- 1. Strong Mission Focus**
- 2. Willingness to Imagine Church**
- 3. Commitment to Existing and New Forms of Church**





1

2

3

4

5

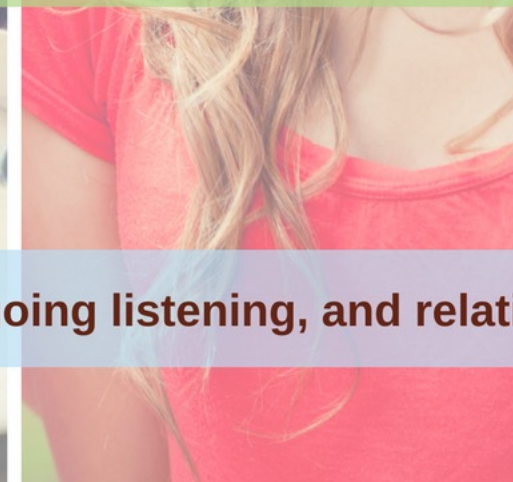
LISTENING

**LOVING &
SERVING**

**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**

**EXPLORING
DISCIPLE-
SHIP**

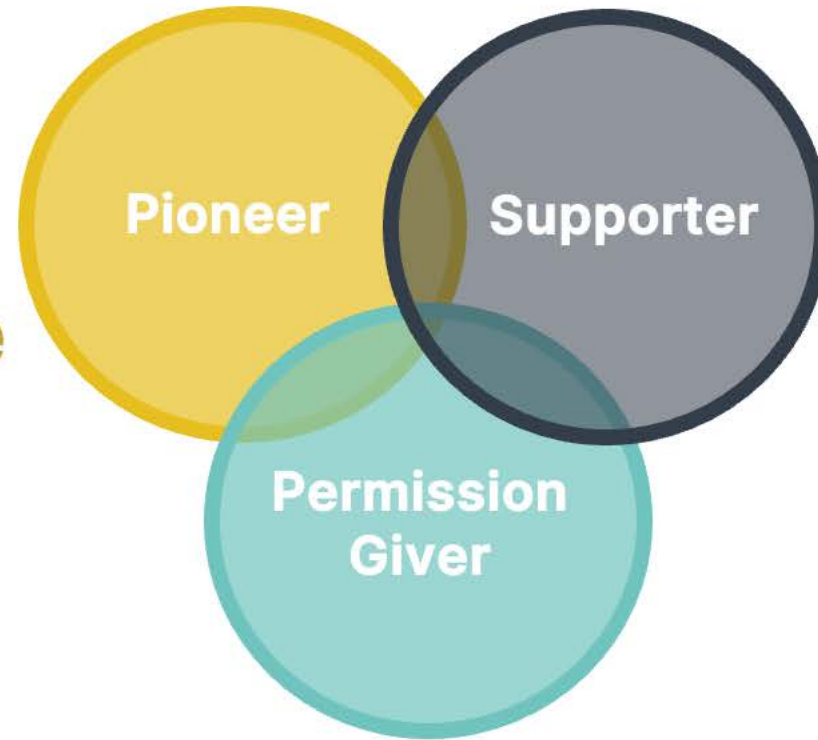
**CHURCH
TAKING
SHAPE**



Underpinned by prayer, on-going listening, and relationship with the wider church

Key Roles in the FX Movement

PIONEERS:
People who are passionate about mission on the edges.



SUPPORTERS:
People who are passionate about supporting and releasing pioneers.

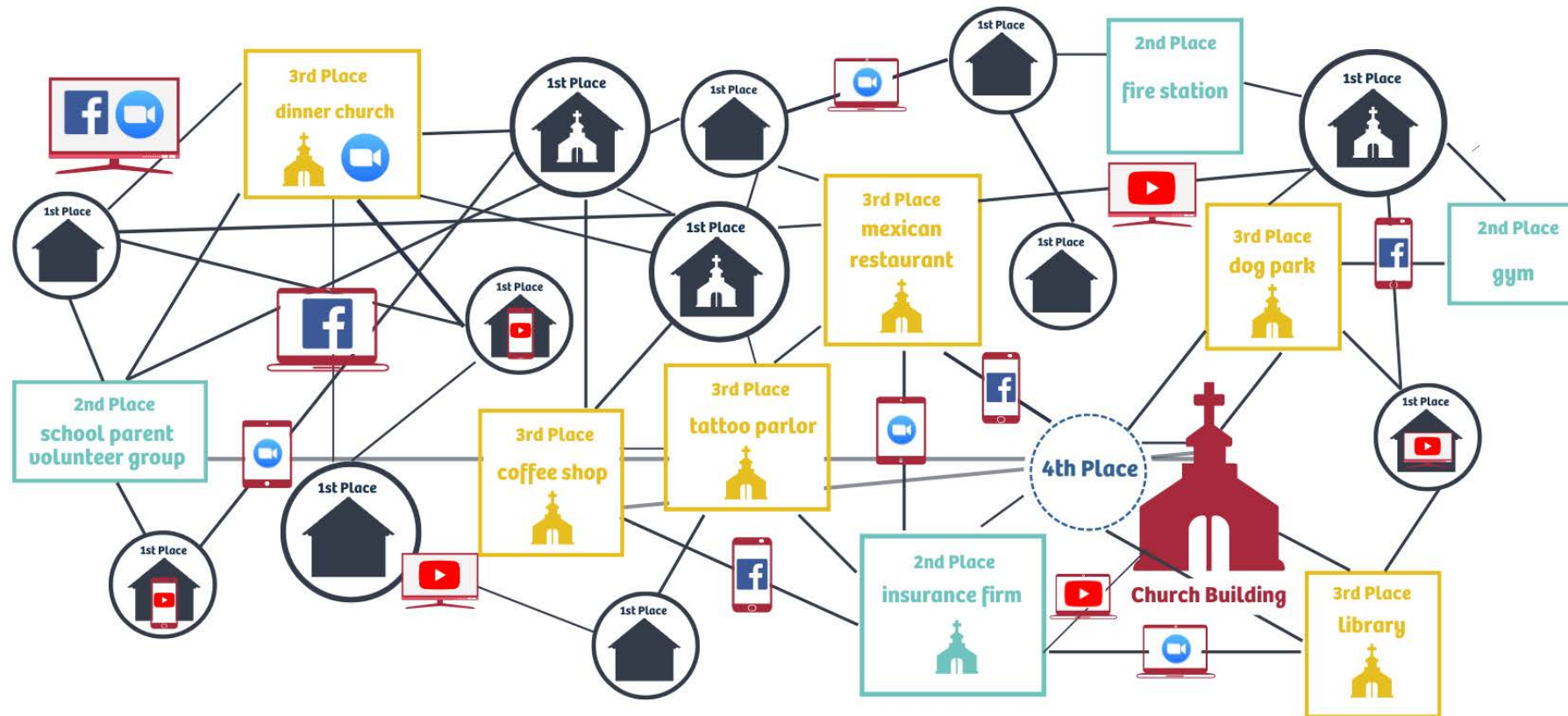
PERMISSION GIVERS: People who use their role to foster release of pioneers and to influence the system to be more willing to experiment.



From...

To...

■ The Blended Ecology Ecosystem



Expect Sabotage

“People do not resist change, they resist loss.”

Leadership experts: Marty Linksy,
Alexander Grashow, Ron Heifez

This = why discipleship is so important











... Thy kingdom come,
... his day our daily bread
... trespass against us.
... evil. For thine is the
... er. Amen."













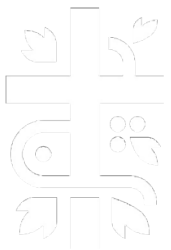


Not as a
COMPETITION

WITH EXISTING CHURCHES

but as a
COMPLEMENT

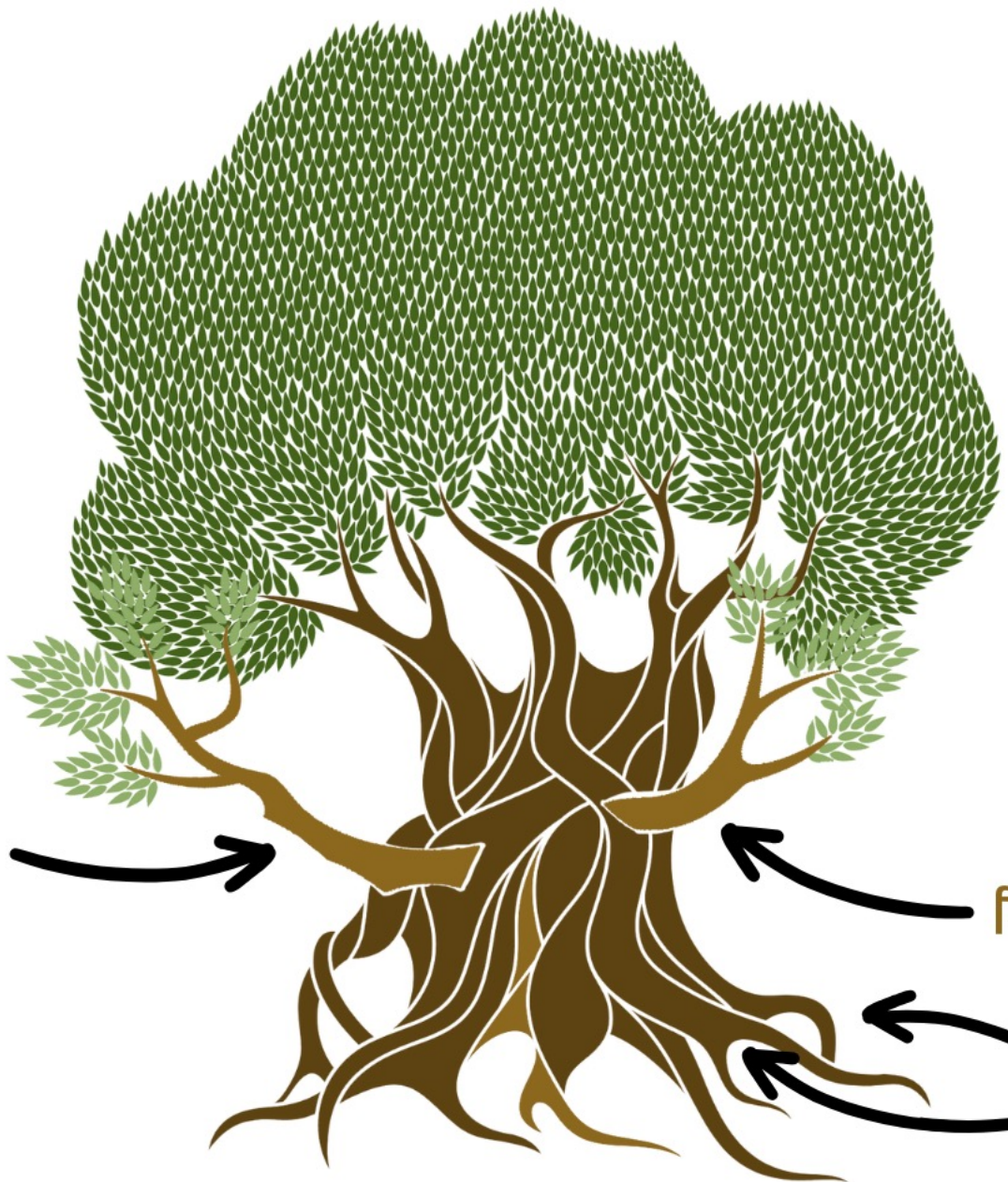
TO CONNECT WITH THOSE THE
EXISTING CHURCH IS NOT LIKELY TO REACH



Blended Ecology



fresh expression



fresh expression

inherited church



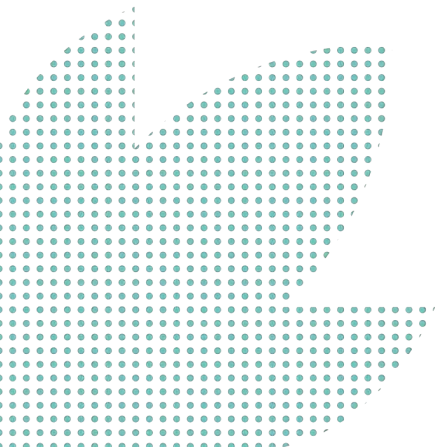


**A KEY
QUESTION**

What would it look like to reach 100 people in 10 groups of 10 instead of 100 people in one location?

Who in your community or life

would you like
to know Jesus?





Weak Passwords:

- chocolate
- judy
- 45678



Strong Passwords:

More resilient password:

- Upper case letters
- Lower case letters
- Numbers
- Symbols

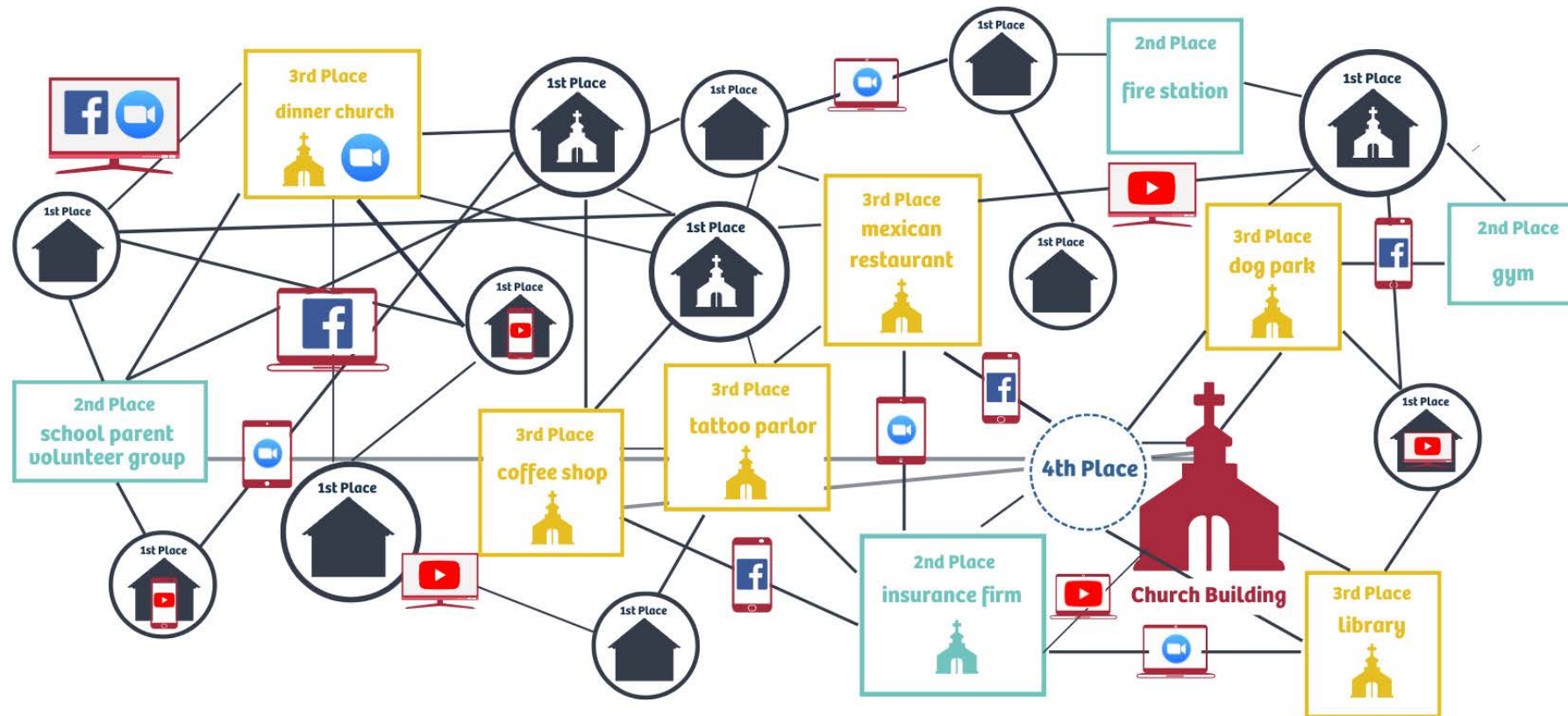
Example:

K49vw2?!fG99sQ&L09ce\$B**



To...

■ The Blended Ecology Ecosystem

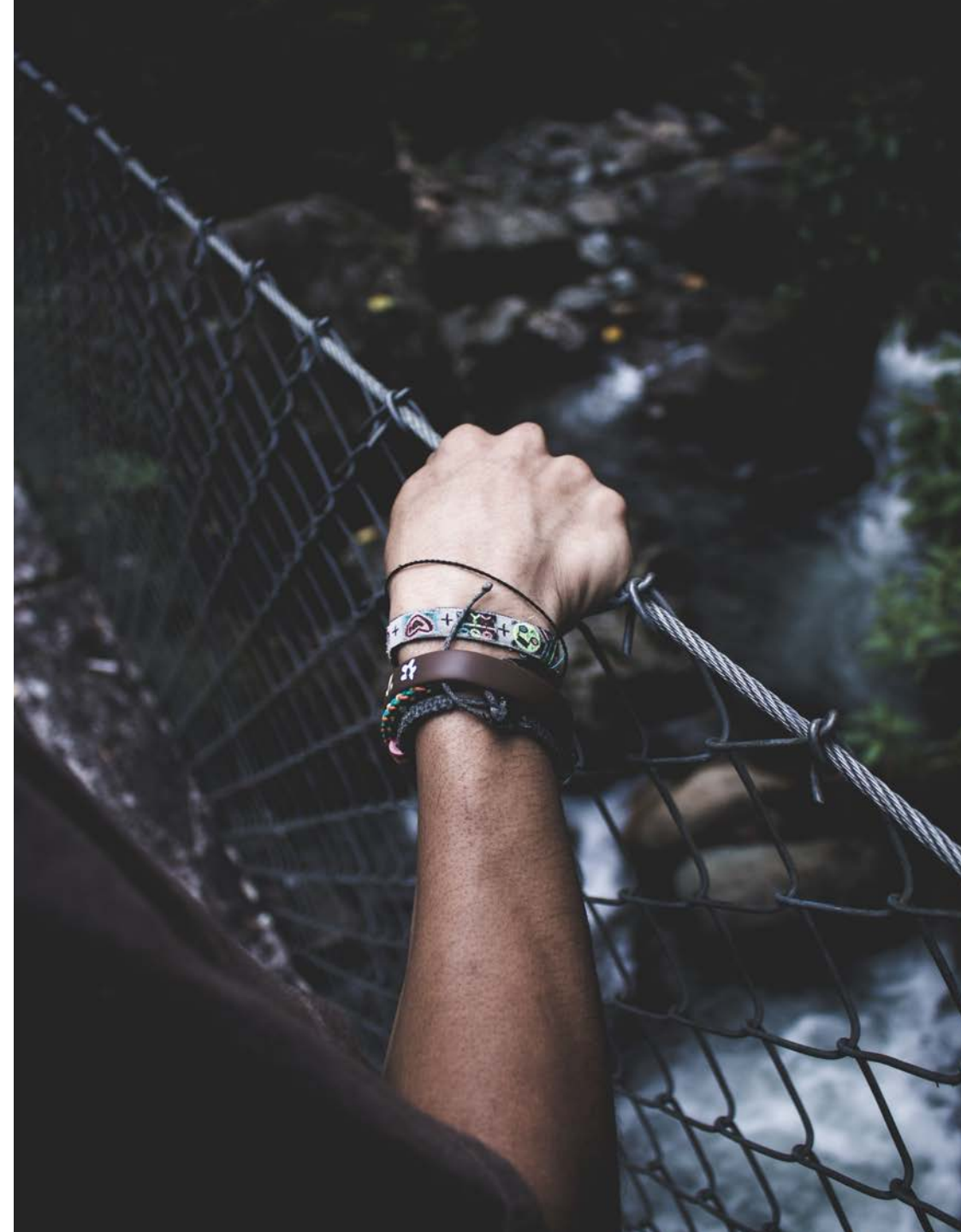




1 Thessalonians 2:8

so we **cared for you.**

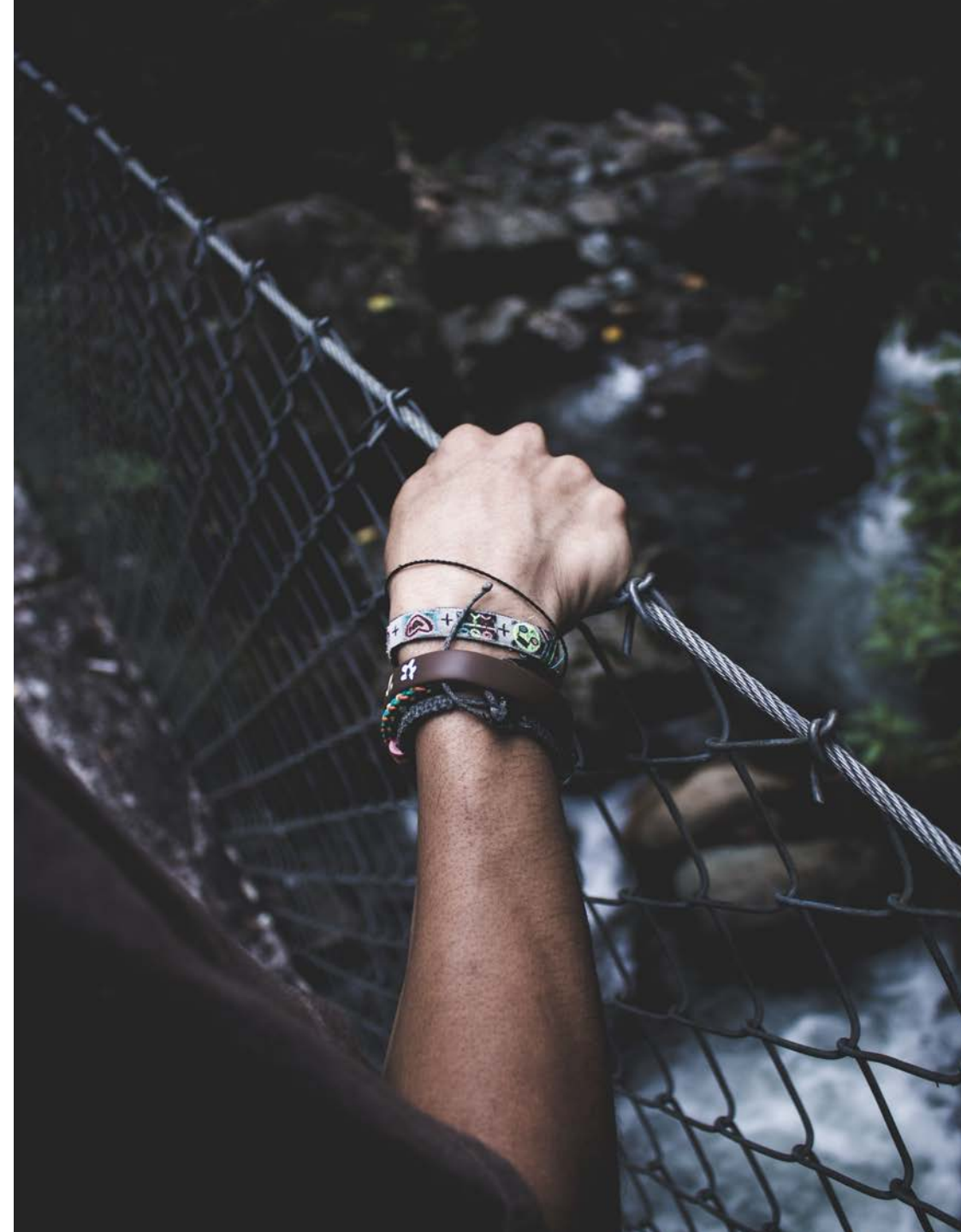
Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.



1 Thessalonians 2:8

so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Which comes more naturally to you? Sharing Gospel or lives? Why? What happens to discipleship with only a focus on one part?





■ **What of what we
call church
are we willing to give up to
be church?**



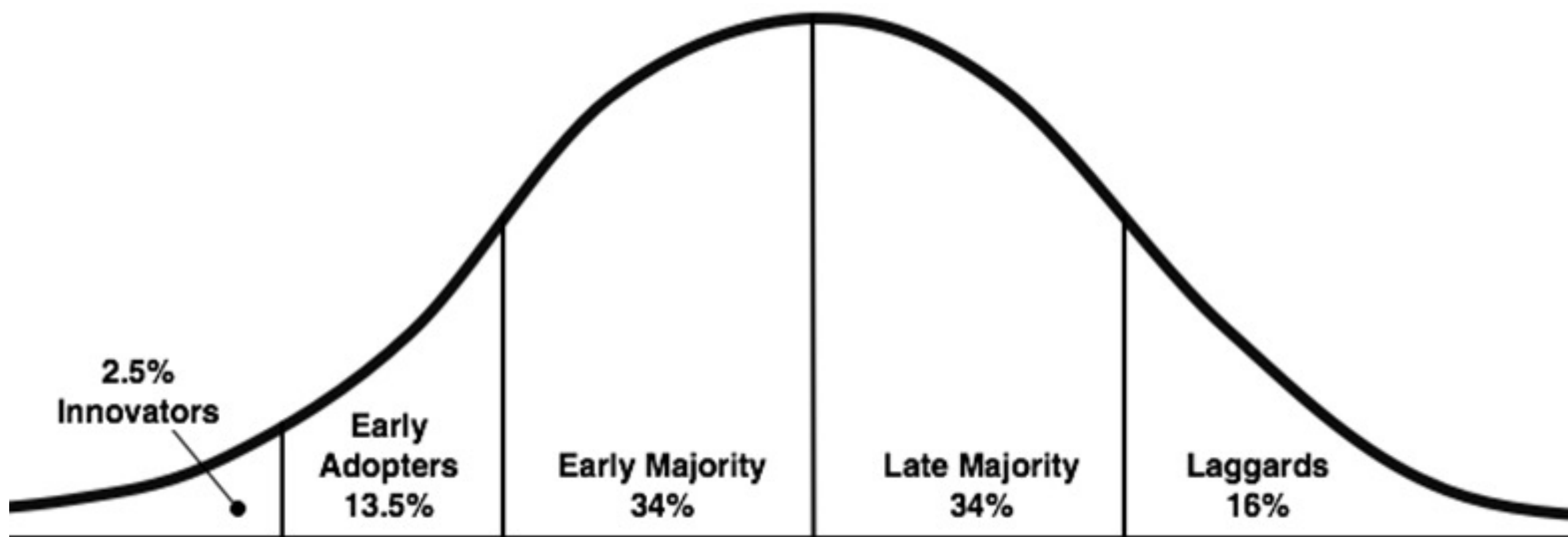
What is church?

- Sanctuary
- Jesus
- Worship service
- Children's Ministry
- Music
- Prayer
- Women's Ministry
- Bible Study
- Softball Team
- Organ
- Book of Common Worship
- Hymnal
- Band
- Sunday School
- Coffee
- Holy Spirit
- Choir
- Potluck dinners
- Preacher
- Communion
- Evangelism
- Outreach
- Money
- Book of Discipline
- Nursery
- Ministry
- Youth
- God
- VBS
- Bible
- Baptism
- Mission
- Hospitality
- Fellowship
- Committees
- Worship
- Offering
- Mission trips

Reflect: Seeds for Fresh Expressions Initiatives

In your ministry context where do you see a more “formal” ministry that could use more more “informal” listening and community? What might the result be?

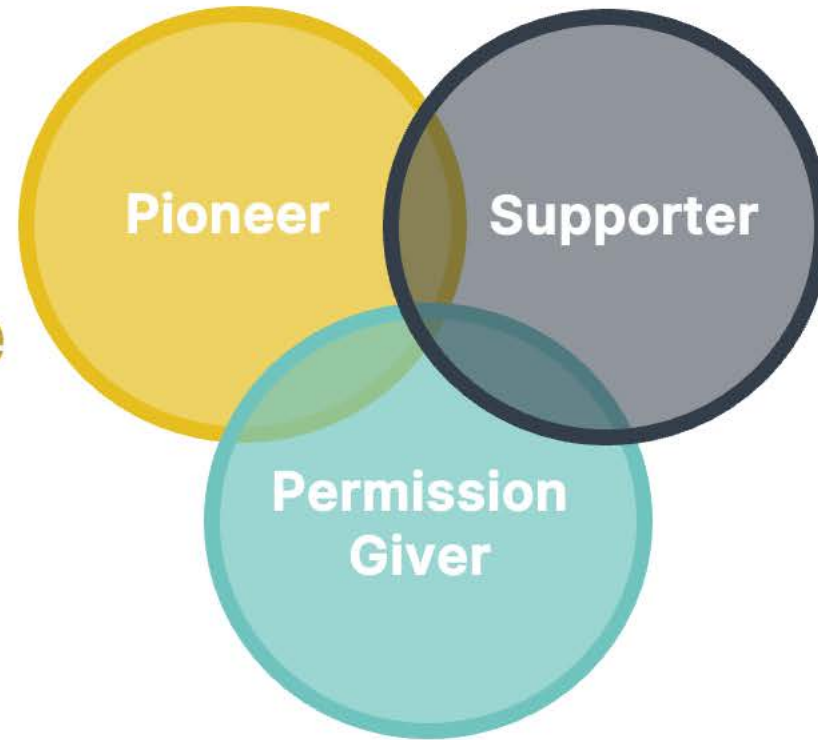
In your ministry context where do you see more of an “informal” outreach focus that could use more “formal” discipleship? What might the result be?



Source: Everett Rogers, Diffusion of Innovations model

Key Roles in the FX Movement

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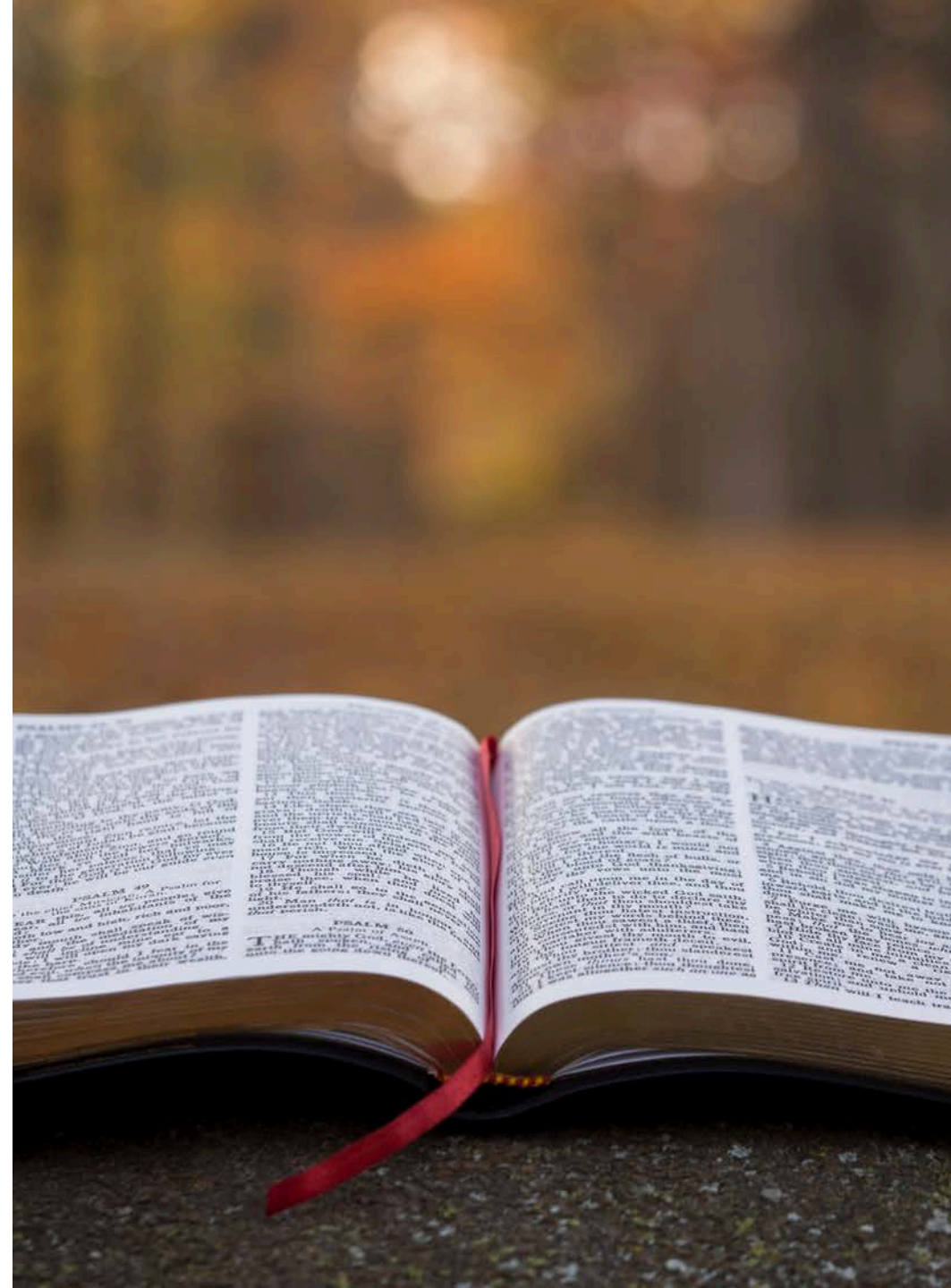


SUPPORTERS:
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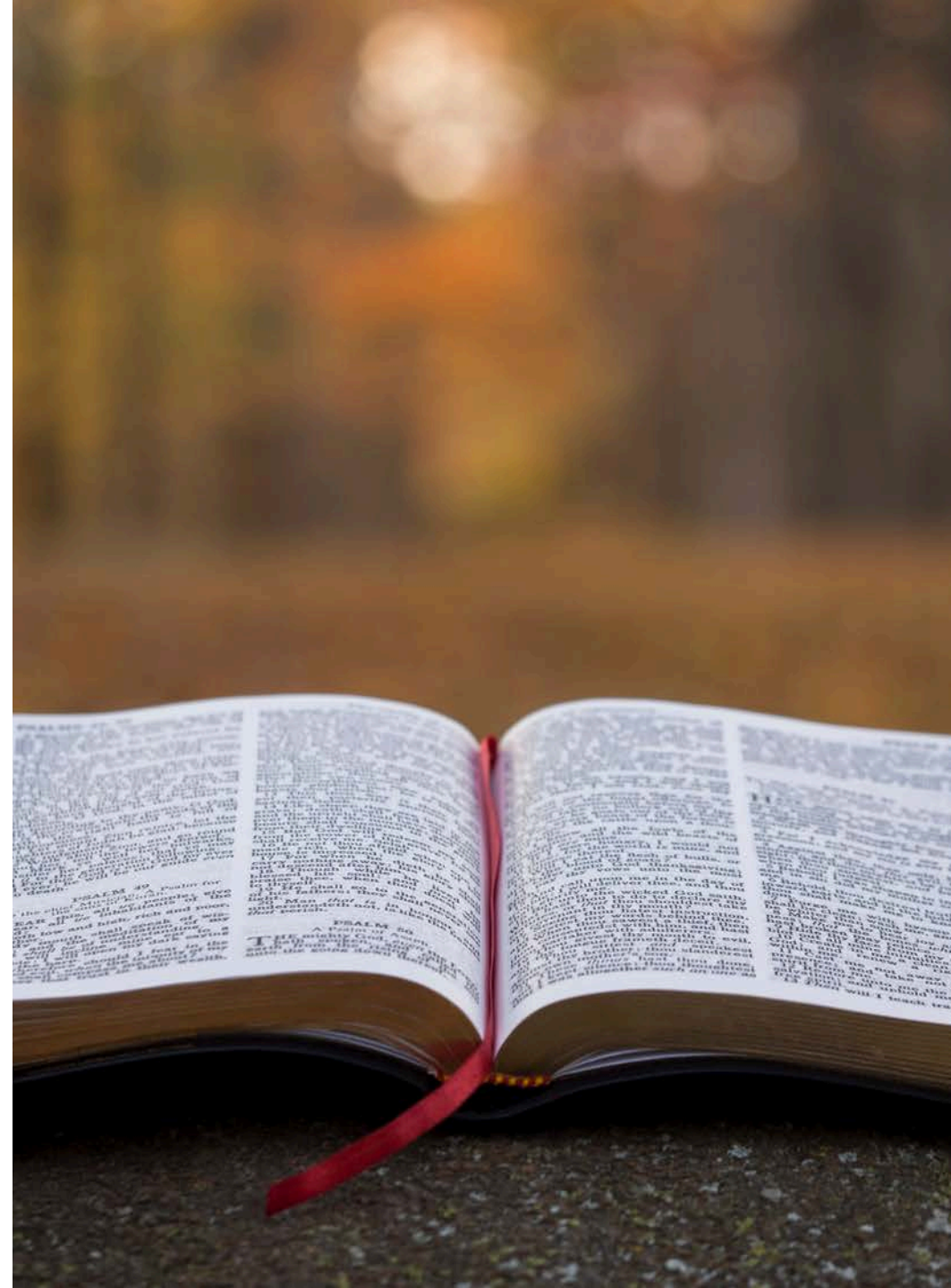
Joshua 1:1-9

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.



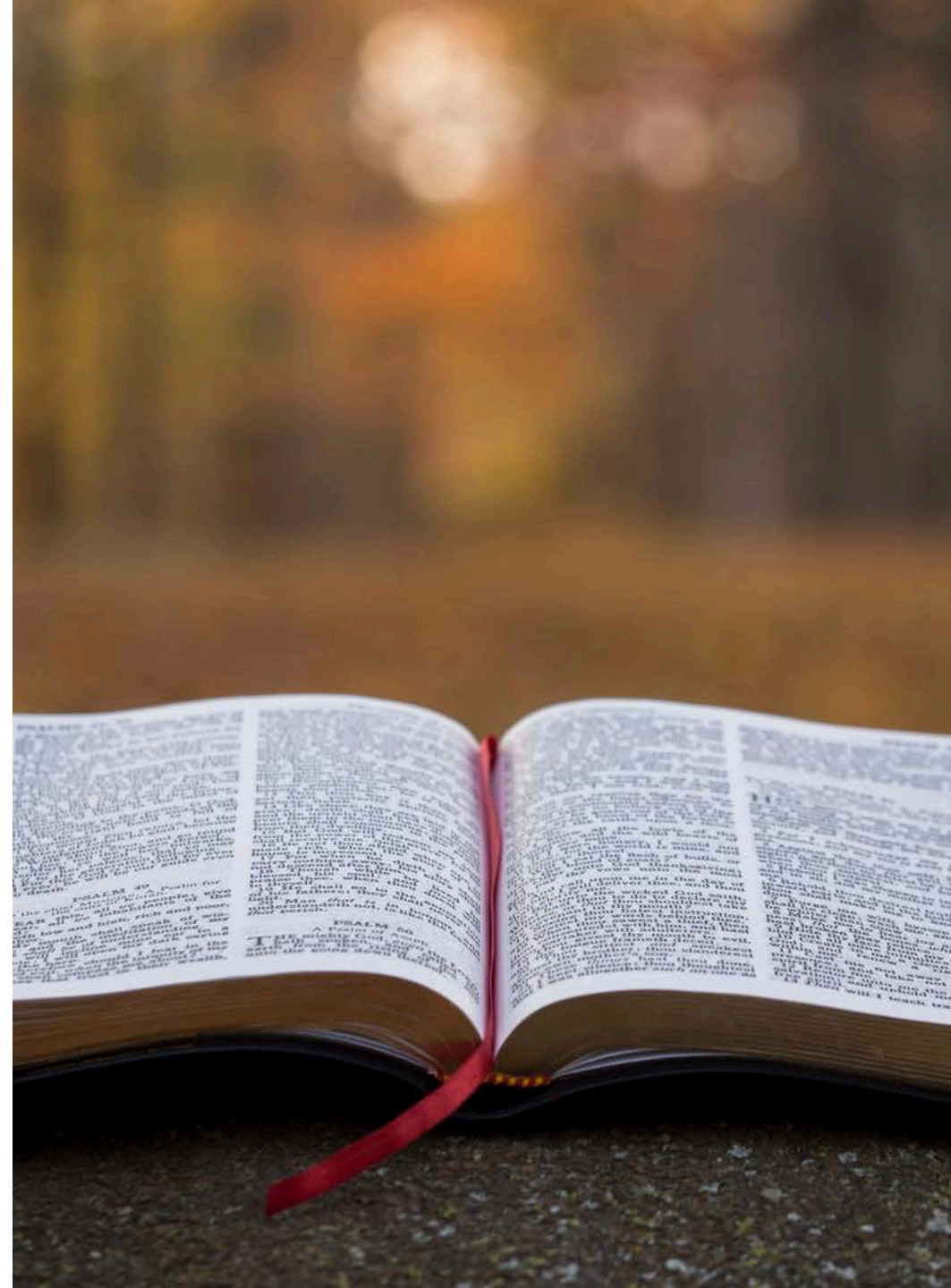
Joshua 1:1-9

⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.



Joshua 1:1-9

⁷ “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

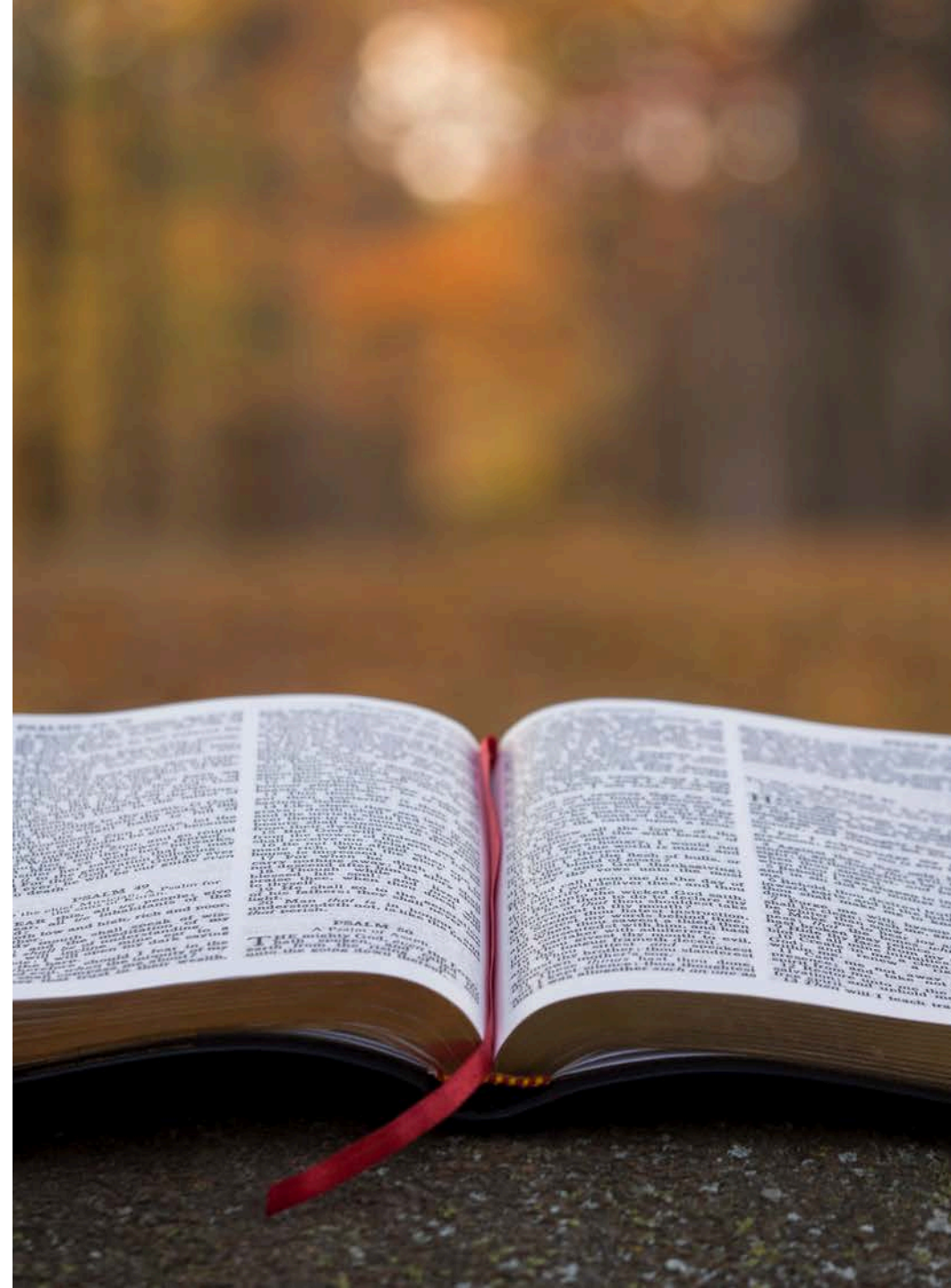


Joshua 1:1-9

One: We are no longer slaves to the past

We are no longer in our past reality. But we do not fully know what our new reality looks like. We are not “there” yet.

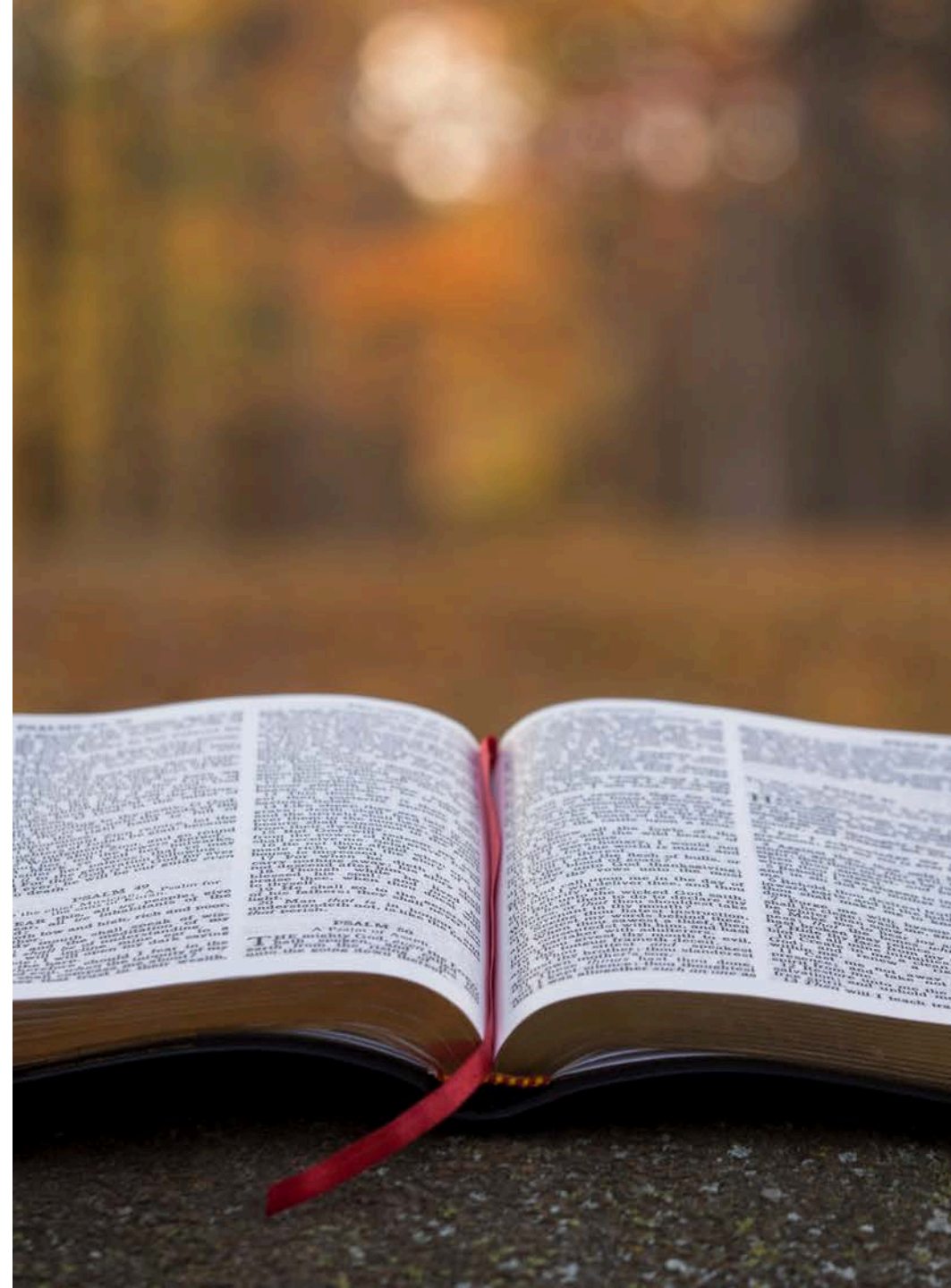
How do we feel about this? Excited? Scared? What are we willing to do today to prepare for tomorrow? Does the unknown of the future feel more threatening than doing something in a new way?



Joshua 1:1-9

Two: New territory awaits. But it will require effort to get there. We must assume there will be intentionality and sacrifice required to live into that new territory—turning neither to the right or left.

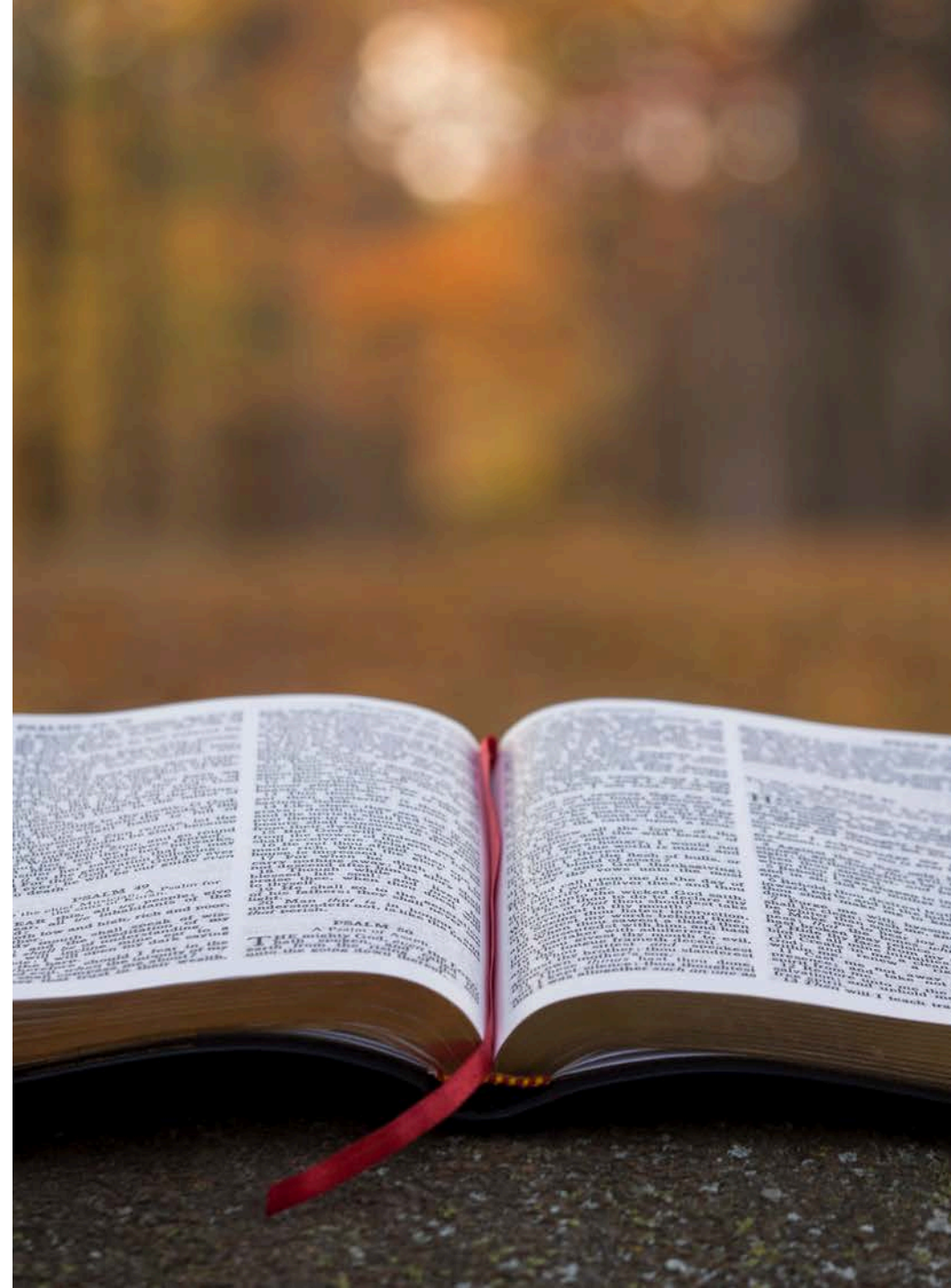
What most excites us about moving into new territories? Onto other people's turf? What most scares us or worries us? What level of sacrifice are we willing to give in order to enter new territories and realities?



Joshua 1:1-9

Three: The Lord goes with us and will be with us wherever we go.

What comfort does this knowledge about God being with us give us? What might we be willing to do knowing God is with us? What assumptions from the past must we let go of? What new reality must we embrace?



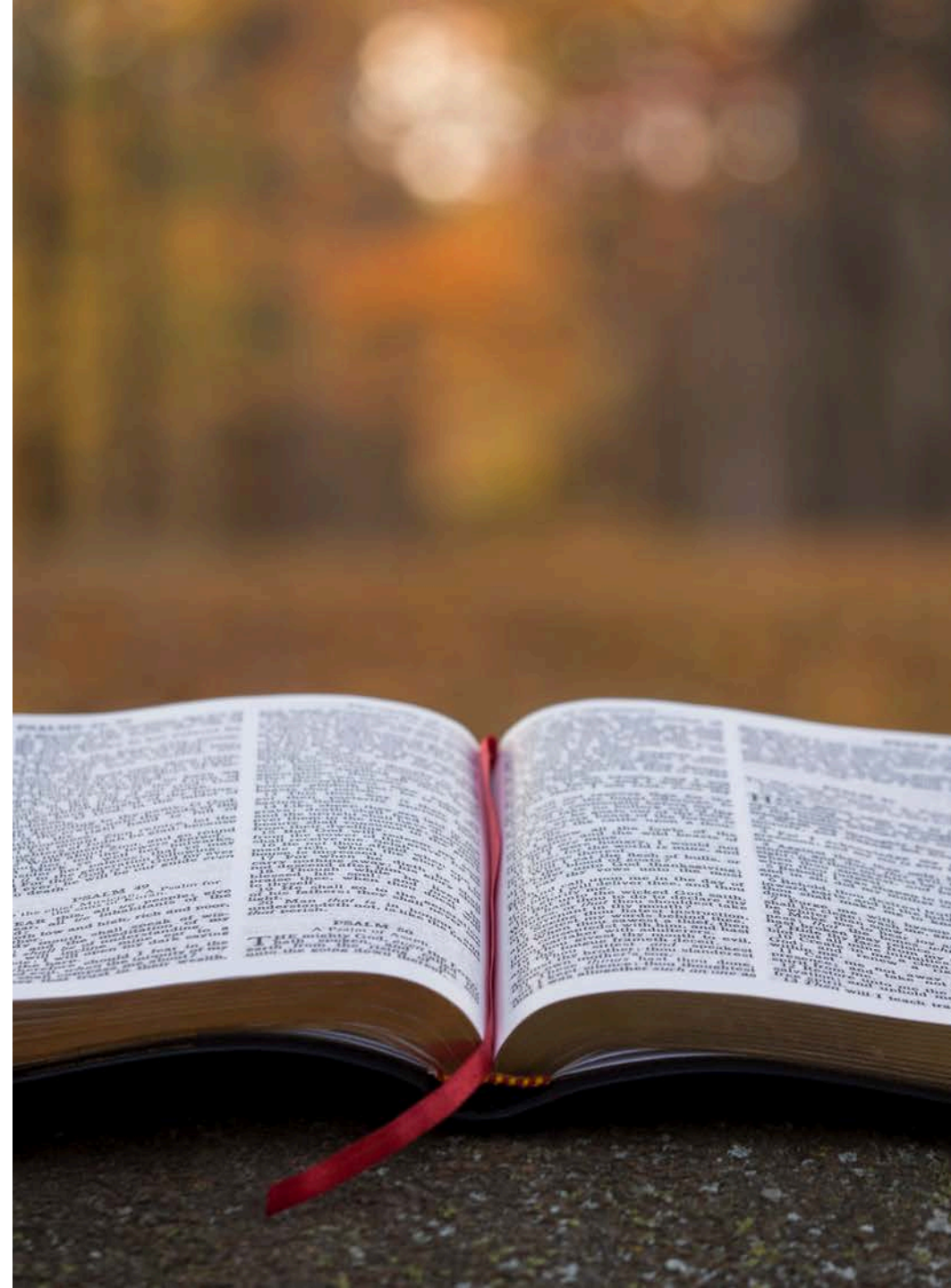
Joshua 1:1-9

Four: The call is for all to make the crossing. Not some.

Joshua 1:2 shares:

² “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, **you and all these people**, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites

How do we help everyone cross? Not just the pastors? What will be required for everyone to make the journey?



Preparing For The Future

It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be. The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships, to how well we know and trust one another...

Preparing For The Future

There is one core principle for developing these relationships. People must be engaged in meaningful work together if they are to transcend individual concerns and develop new capacities.”

--Margaret Wheatley

A Living Testimony from Sunday Slow Down...:

“Yesterday I was praying and just broke down crying. I felt like God was encouraging me to thank you guys for coming each week. I’m religious and it just means the world that you come and pray a blessing for us each week. I’m so grateful that your church prays for us.”



FX on the Soccer Field...

One story from a co-laborer stopped me in my tracks:



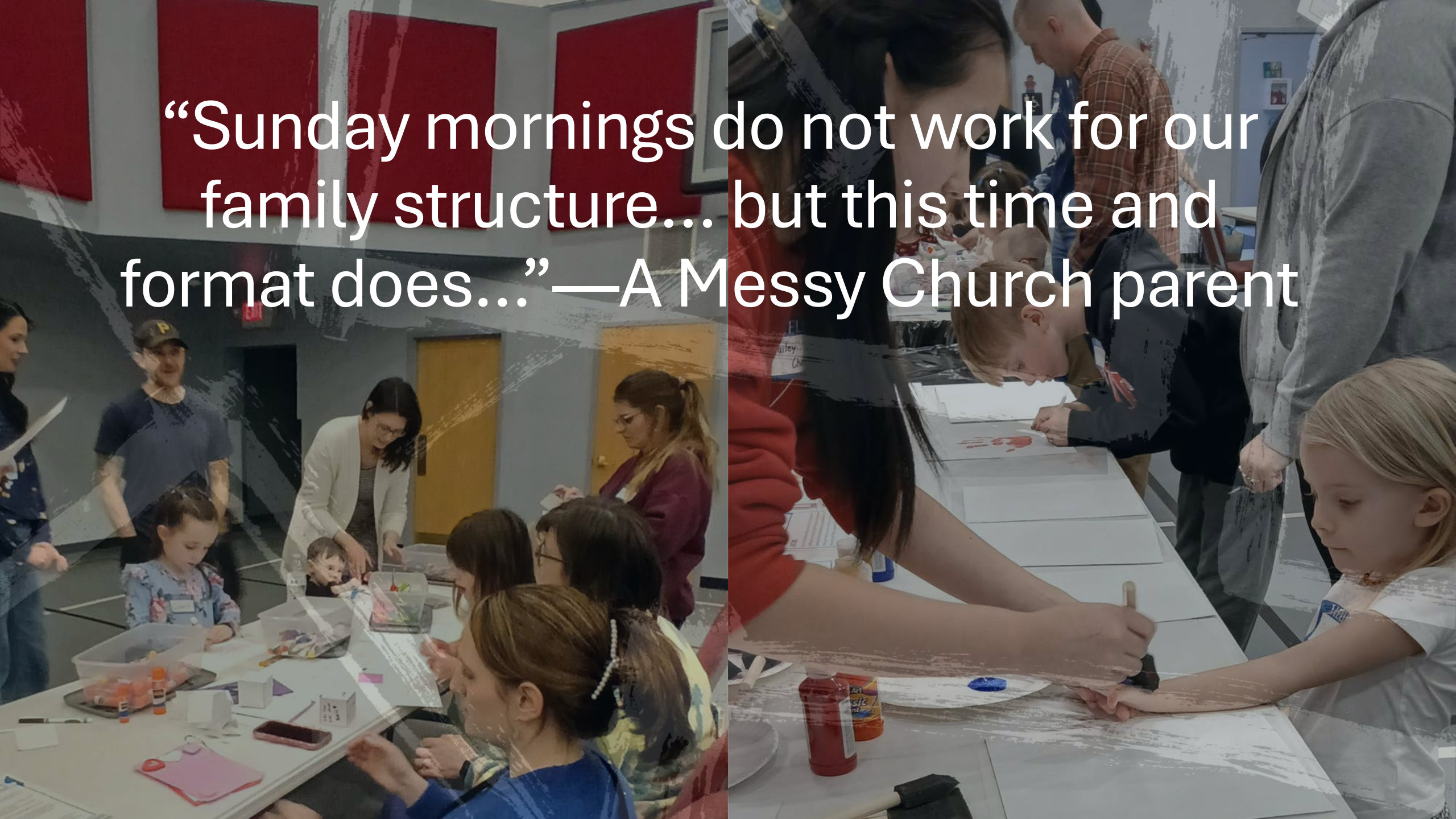
"I ran into a woman this past Sunday at the grocery store. She had first joined us last fall; she was new and didn't know a soul. I remember sitting with her, conversing after the 'Jesus story,' and praying together.

She told me how on that very first night, she had arrived with a plan to commit suicide. She had parked her car and told herself she would eat one last meal, go home, and end her life.

*But as she lingered, she said it was the simple act of someone sitting down, listening, and treating her like she truly mattered that impacted her most. She went home and sat in her driveway crying, overwhelmed by God's love. She actually avoided our dinners for a few weeks following, because—in her words—**she wanted to cuss me out for interrupting her plans!***

She eventually realized it was God's plan to use His table to reach her.

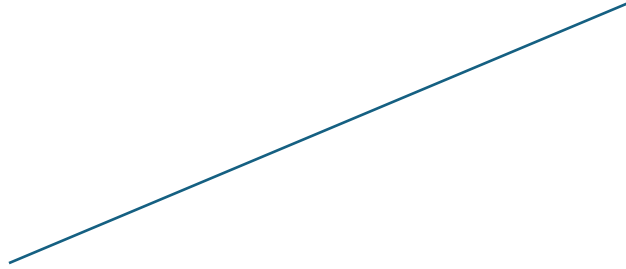
“Sunday mornings do not work for our family structure... but this time and format does...” —A Messy Church parent







How we often think of the Jesus Way



How it often is





Remember Again Your First Passion

Benediction

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father be with you;
and may the Holy Spirit come upon you
and disturb you and trouble you,
and set before you an impossible task
and dare you to do it;
until in your desperation, you fall on your knees
and remain there until he fills you with his power
which alone will enable you to do it;
and then...but only then, may the Lord grant you his peace.
Amen





Becoming the Church in the Community, not the Church on the Corner—Questions? Thoughts? Reflections?