



PRODIGAL

The Perfect Father

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- The background is a blurred photograph of a miniature model. On the left, there is a small Japanese flag with a red circle on a white field. To the right of the flag, a small figure of a person in a white shirt and dark pants is visible. The entire scene is out of focus, with a light beige background.
- Lost Son
 - Angry Brother
 - Loving Father


God as:

- Fisherman – Mt 13
- Farmer – Mt 15, Mk 4, Mk 12, Lk 13
- Shepherd – Mt 18
- King – Mt 18, Mt 22
- Landowner – Mt 20, Mt 21
- Master – Mt 24, Mt 25, Mk 13
- Friend – Lk 11
- Judge – Lk 18, Mt 25
- Grim Reaper – Lk 12
- Loving Father – Lk 15, Mt 21

How do you picture God?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us....We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.”

- AW Tozer



How do you picture God?

- Wal-mart Greeter

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How do you picture God?

- Wal-mart Greeter
- Angry Boss
-



How do you picture God?

- Wal-mart Greeter
- Angry Boss
- Siri



How do you picture God?

- Your Father

-

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How do you picture God?

- Your Father
- 19 times - Old Testament
-



How do you picture God?

- Your Father
- 19 times - Old Testament
- 189 times - Jesus

A Father that Claims Us

See what great love the Father has lavished on us
that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!...

- 1 John 3:1

A Father that Provides for Us

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find...
For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds...”

- Matthew 7:7-8

A Father that Knows our Needs

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

- Matthew 6:8

A Father that Seeks us

“...If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?”

- Matthew 18:12

A Father Who's Love is Sacrificial

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16



“He came to his senses” - Luke 15:17

"Clearly realized his situation"

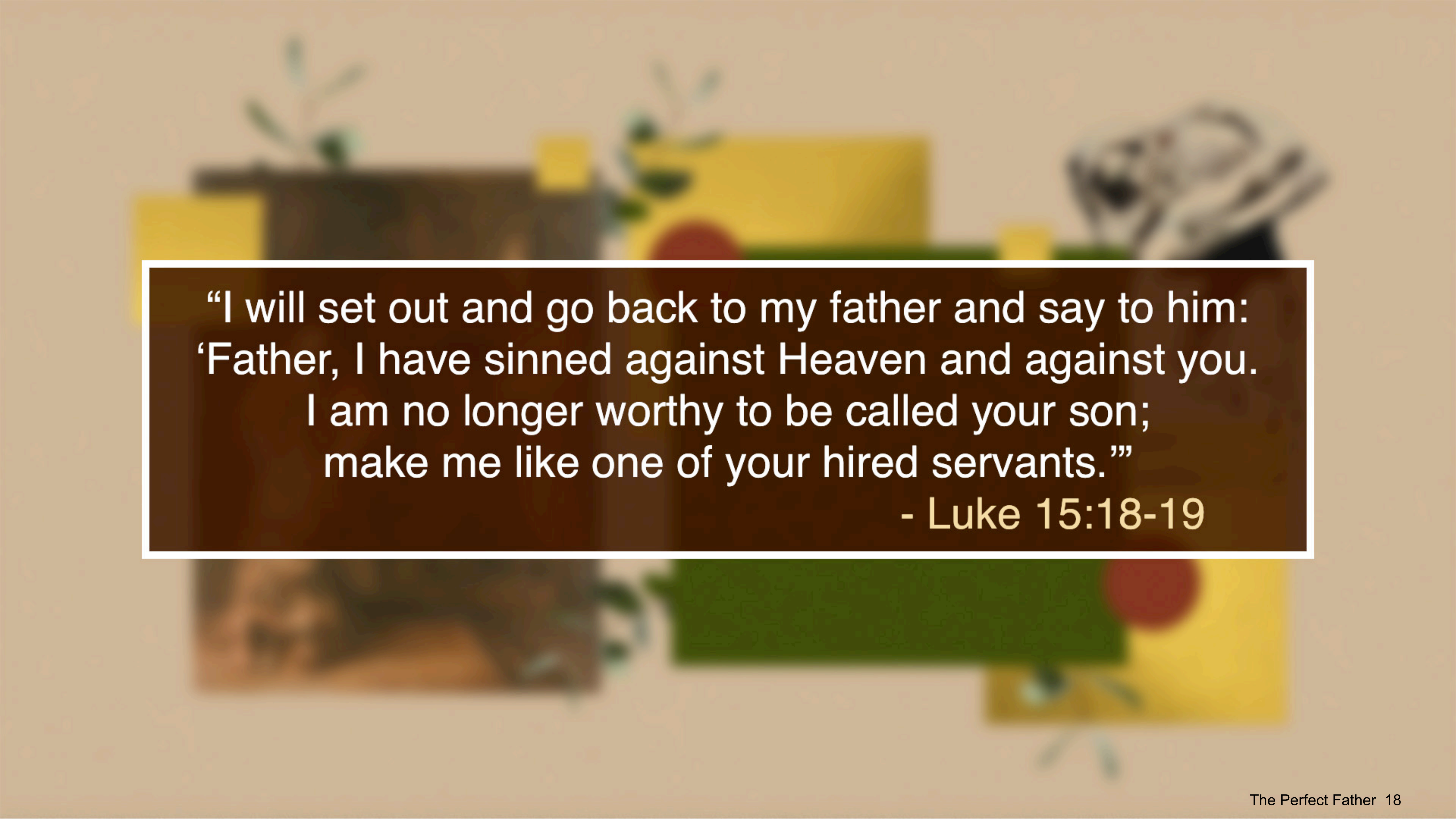
"Came back to his true self"

“He came to his senses” - Luke 15:17

"Clearly realized his situation"

"Came back to his true self"

“...he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’”



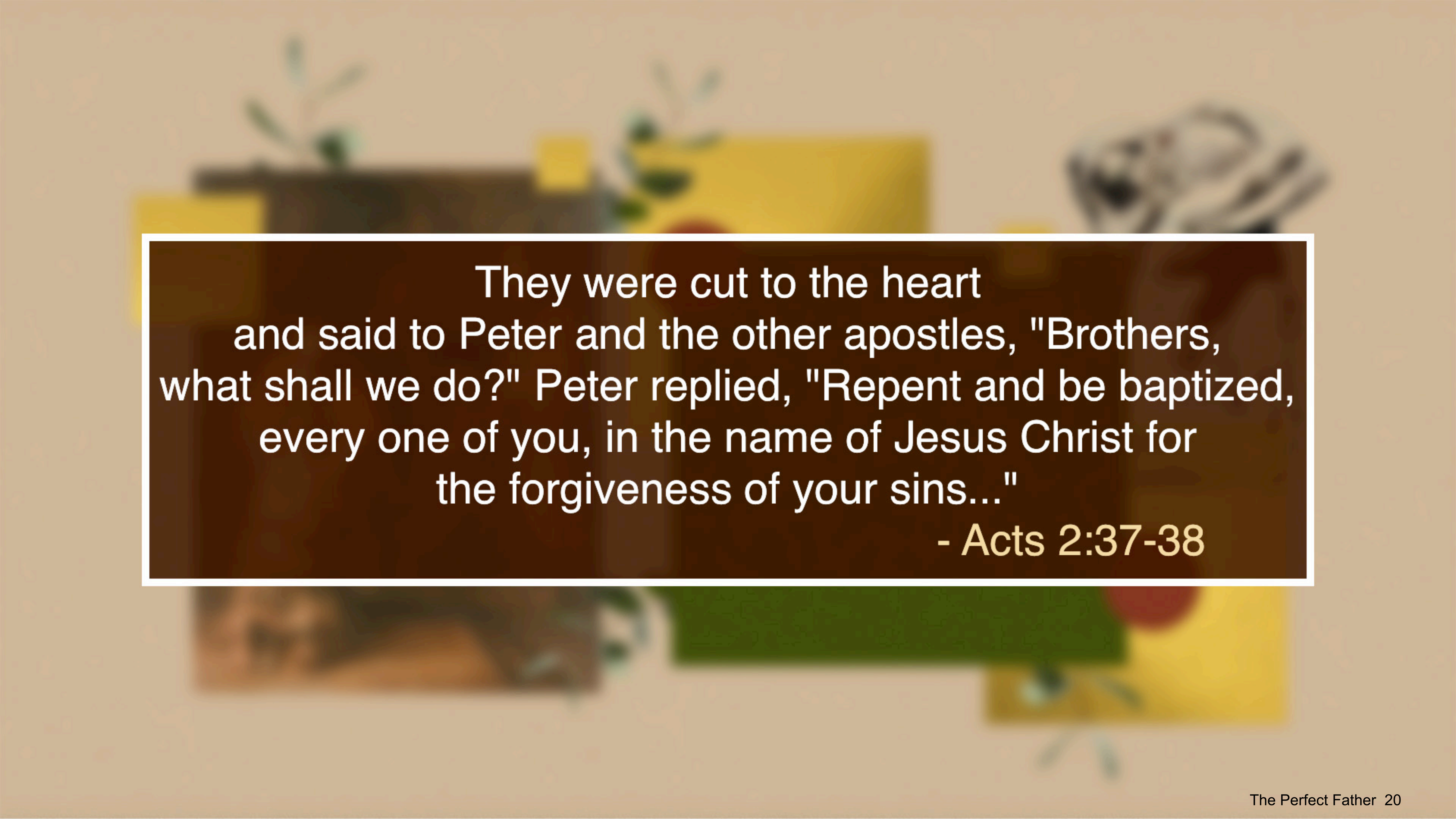
“I will set out and go back to my father and say to him:
‘Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you.
I am no longer worthy to be called your son;
make me like one of your hired servants.’”

- Luke 15:18-19



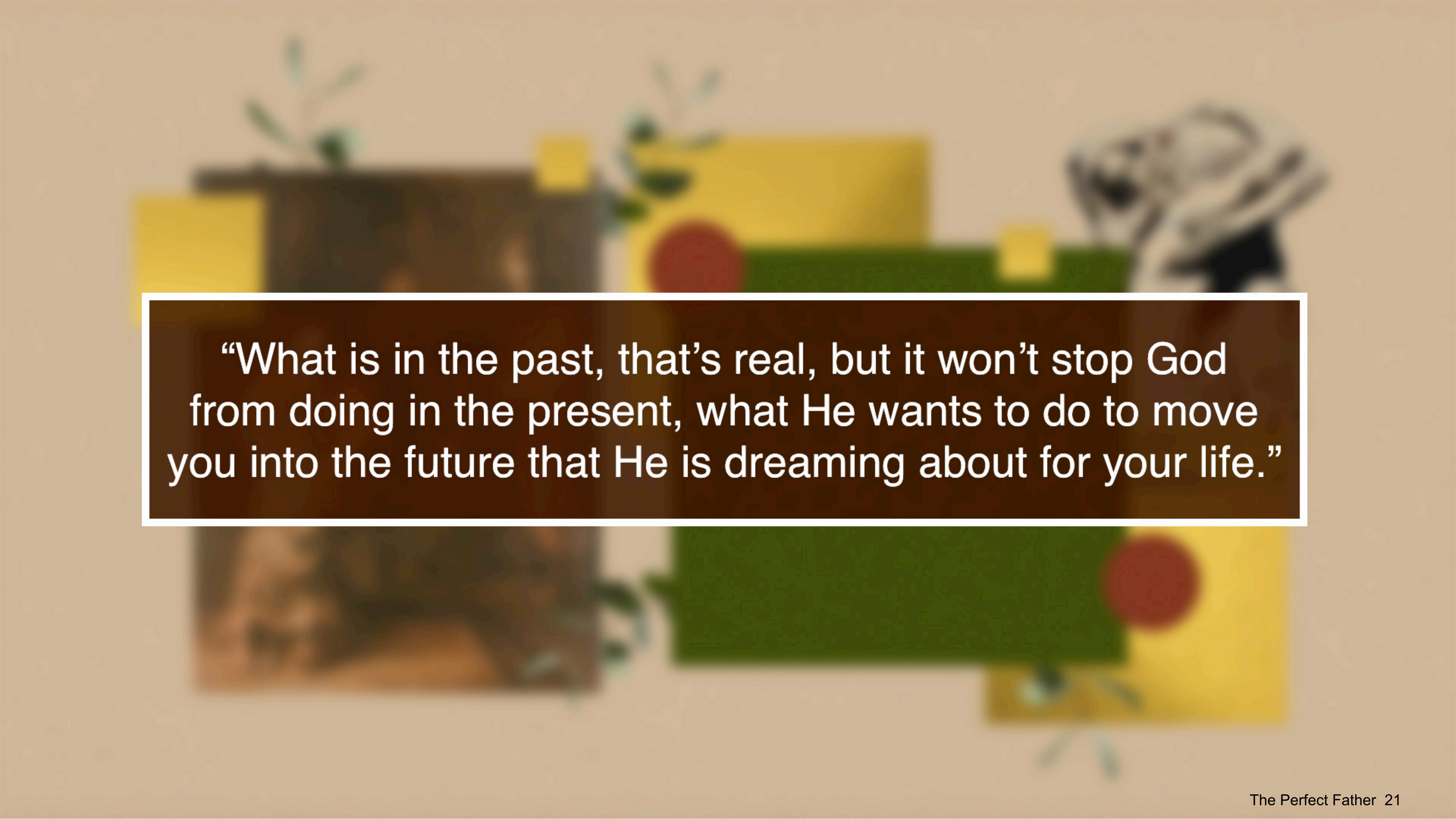
Repentance

He not only clearly saw how loving his father was,
but how messed up he had become.

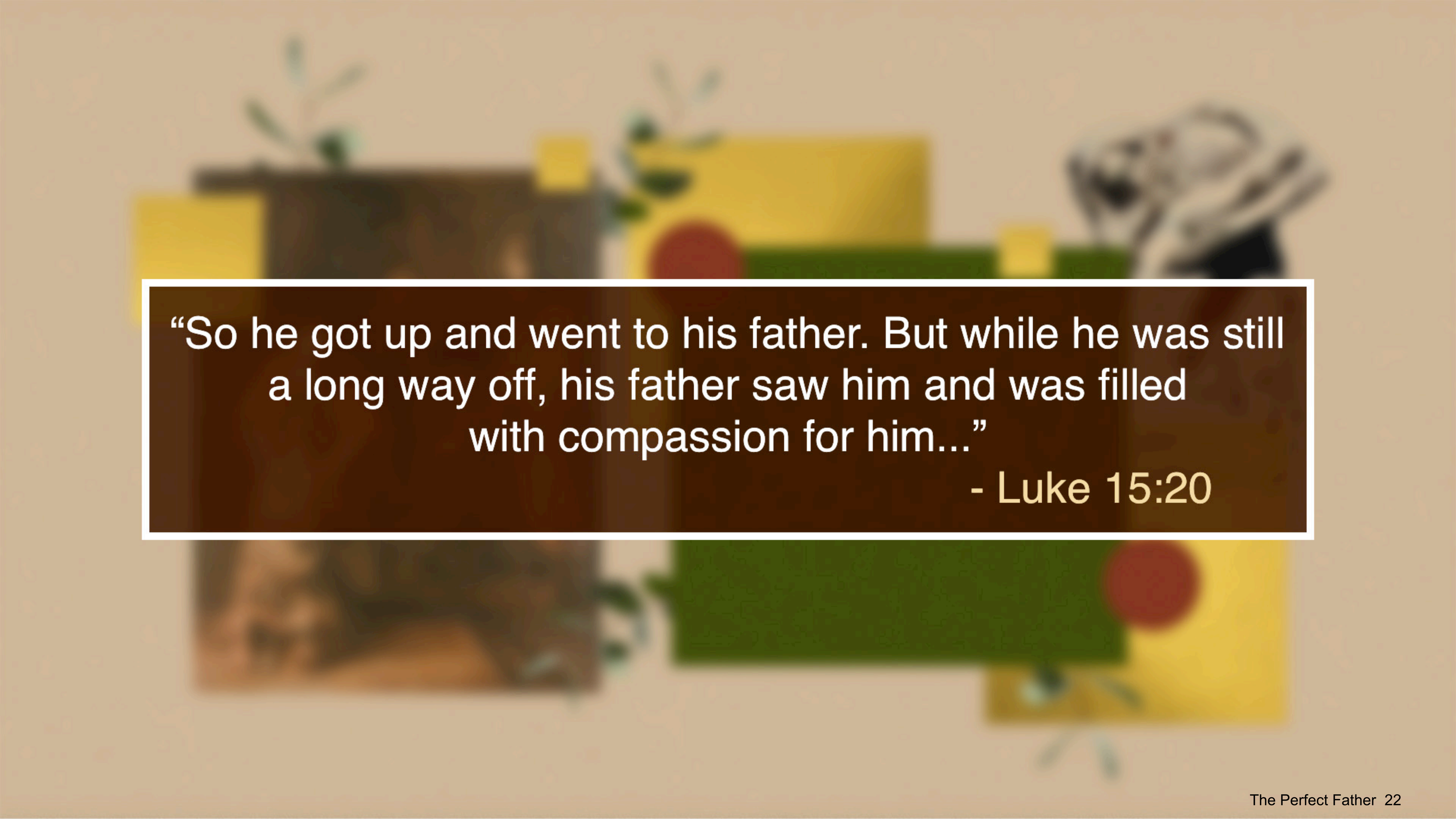


They were cut to the heart
and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers,
what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized,
every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for
the forgiveness of your sins..."

- Acts 2:37-38



“What is in the past, that’s real, but it won’t stop God from doing in the present, what He wants to do to move you into the future that He is dreaming about for your life.”



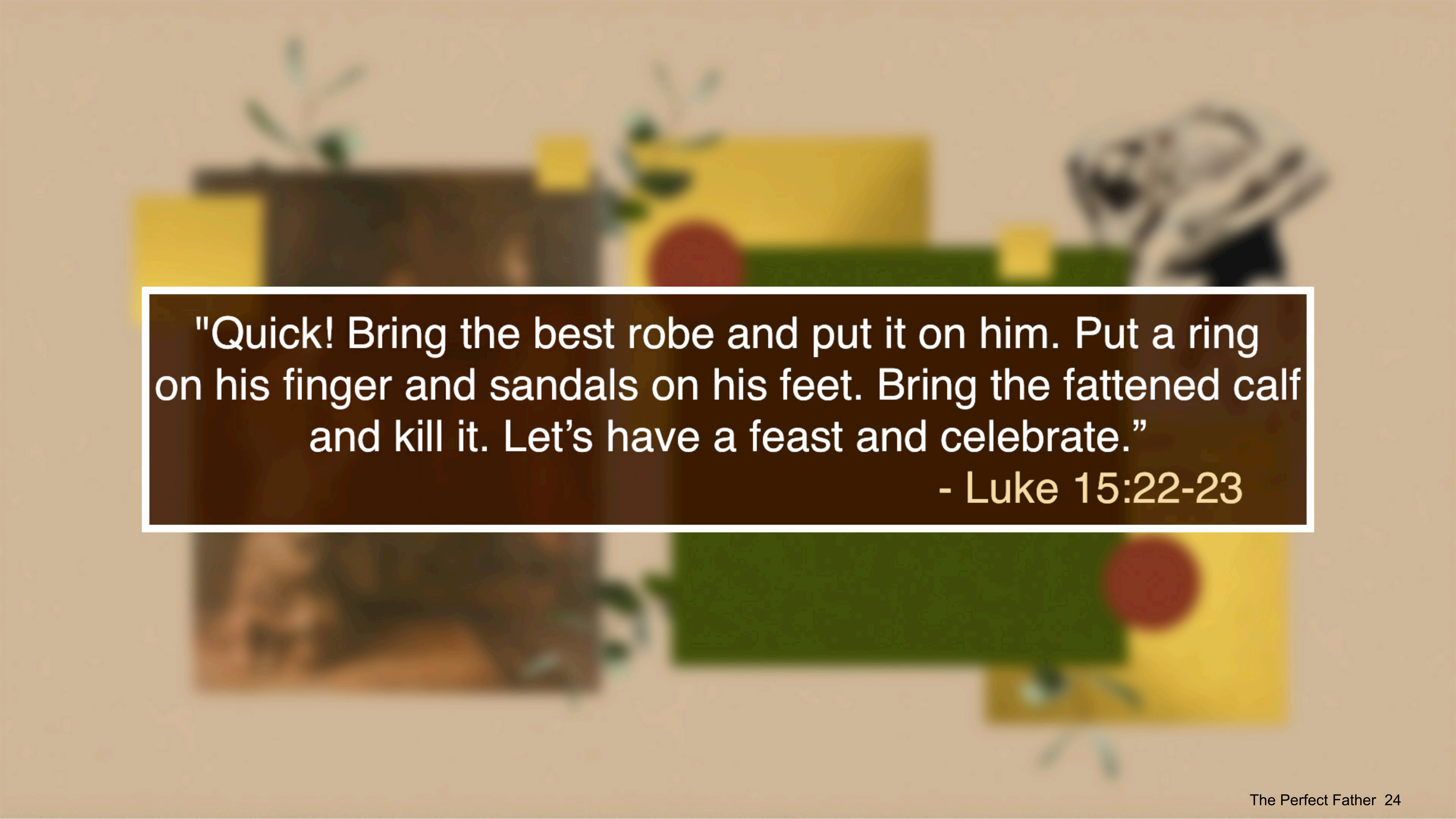
“So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him...”

- Luke 15:20



“...He ran to his son, threw his arms around him
and kissed him.”

- Luke 15:20



"Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate."

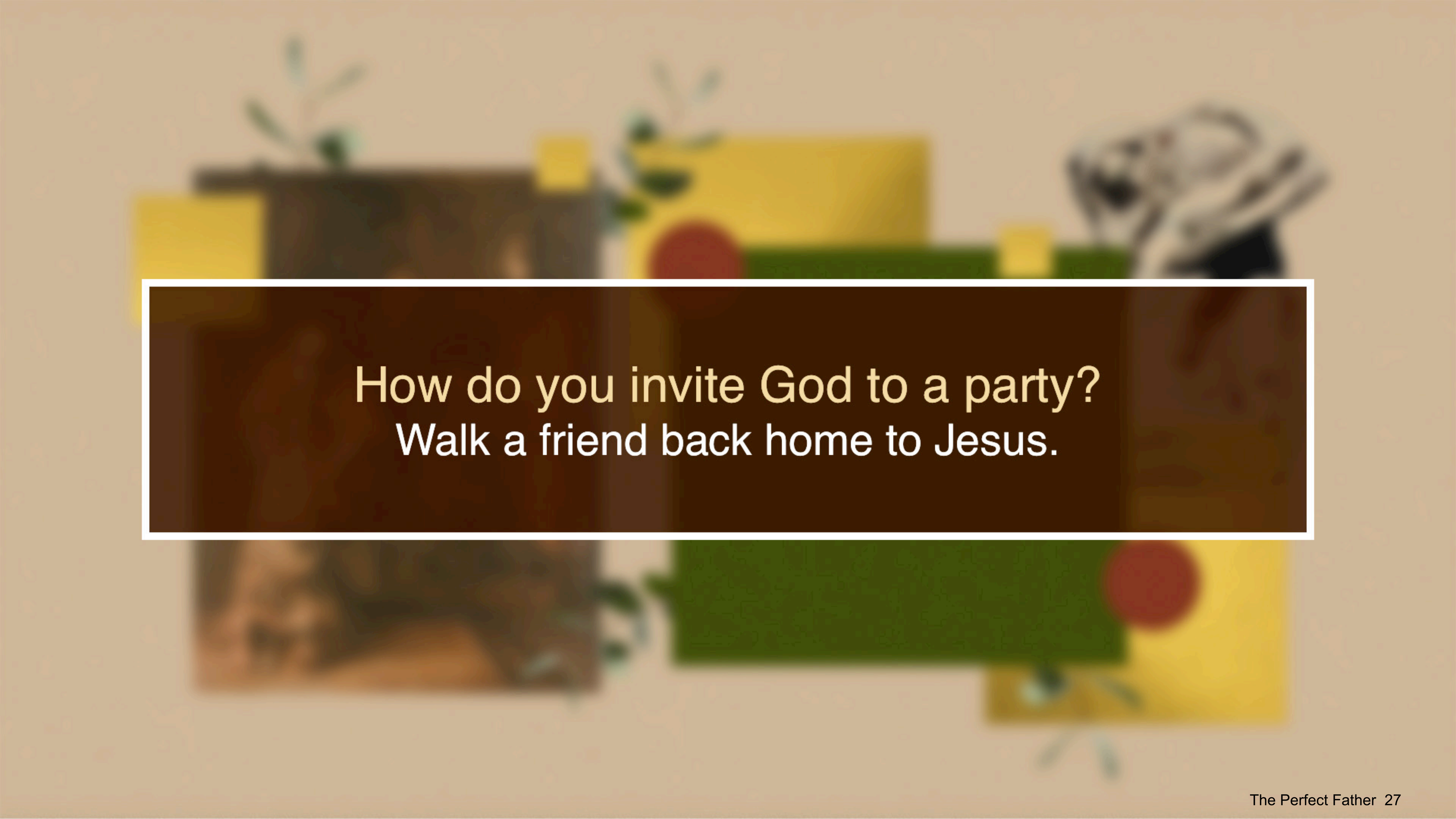
- Luke 15:22-23



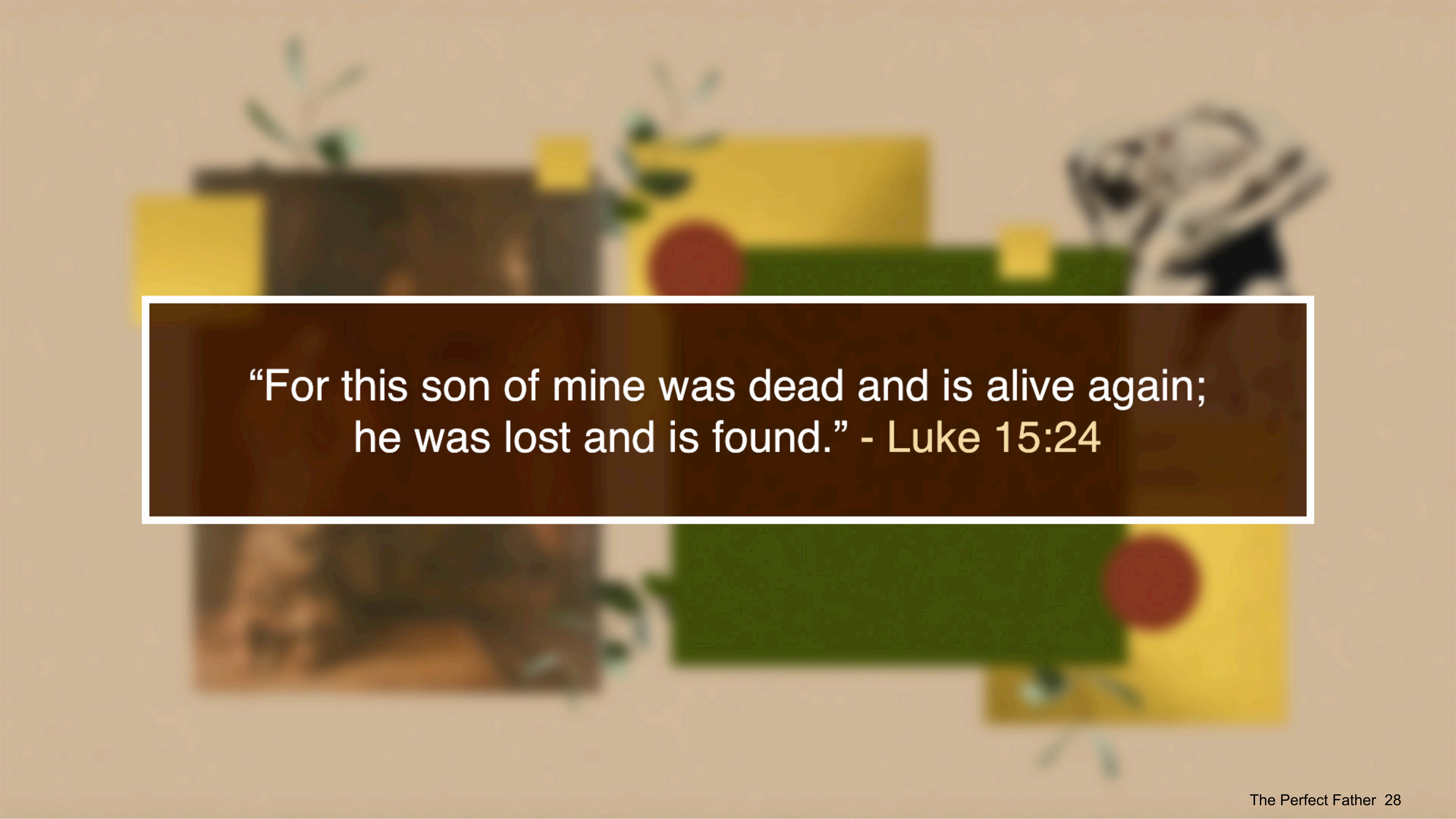
And the Father throws a party in his name.



How do you invite God to a party?



How do you invite God to a party?
Walk a friend back home to Jesus.



“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found.” - Luke 15:24

Moses was an outlaw guilty of murder hiding in the wilderness, and he would become a leader who saw God face to face.

Joseph was in a hopeless prison cell and God would take him to a throne room.

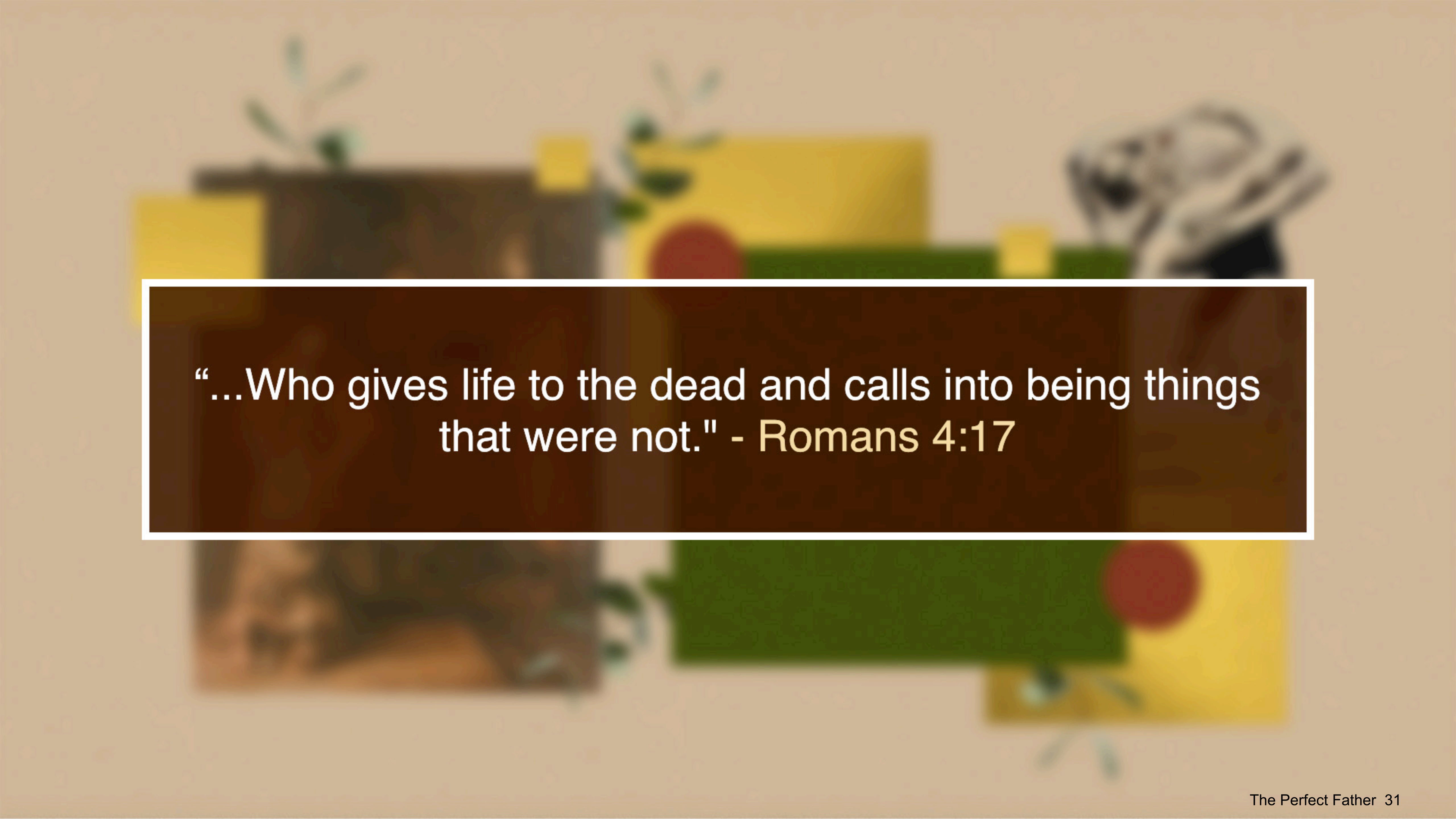
Daniel was the main course in a lion's den and he would go to the right hand of the king.

Esther was a harem girl who became a hero of her people.

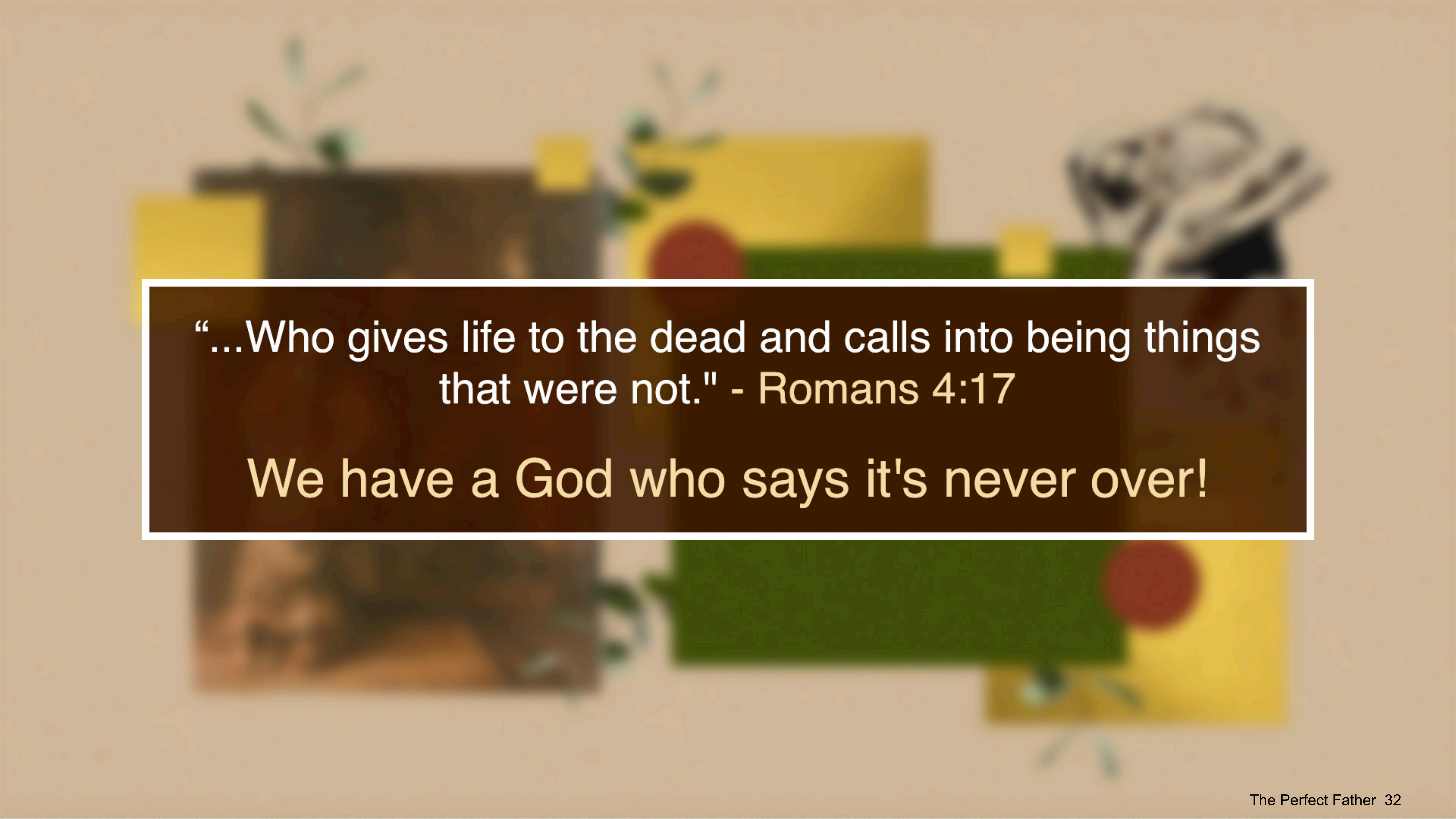
Peter had resigned to be a small-town fisherman for the rest of his life, and Jesus showed up and Peter became the rock of the world-wide church.

Paul was an enemy of the cross, and Jesus showed up and he became a martyr of the faith.

Mary and Martha had been mourning at their brother's grave for 4 days, and Jesus showed up, and yelled "Lazarus, come forth."



“...Who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.” - Romans 4:17

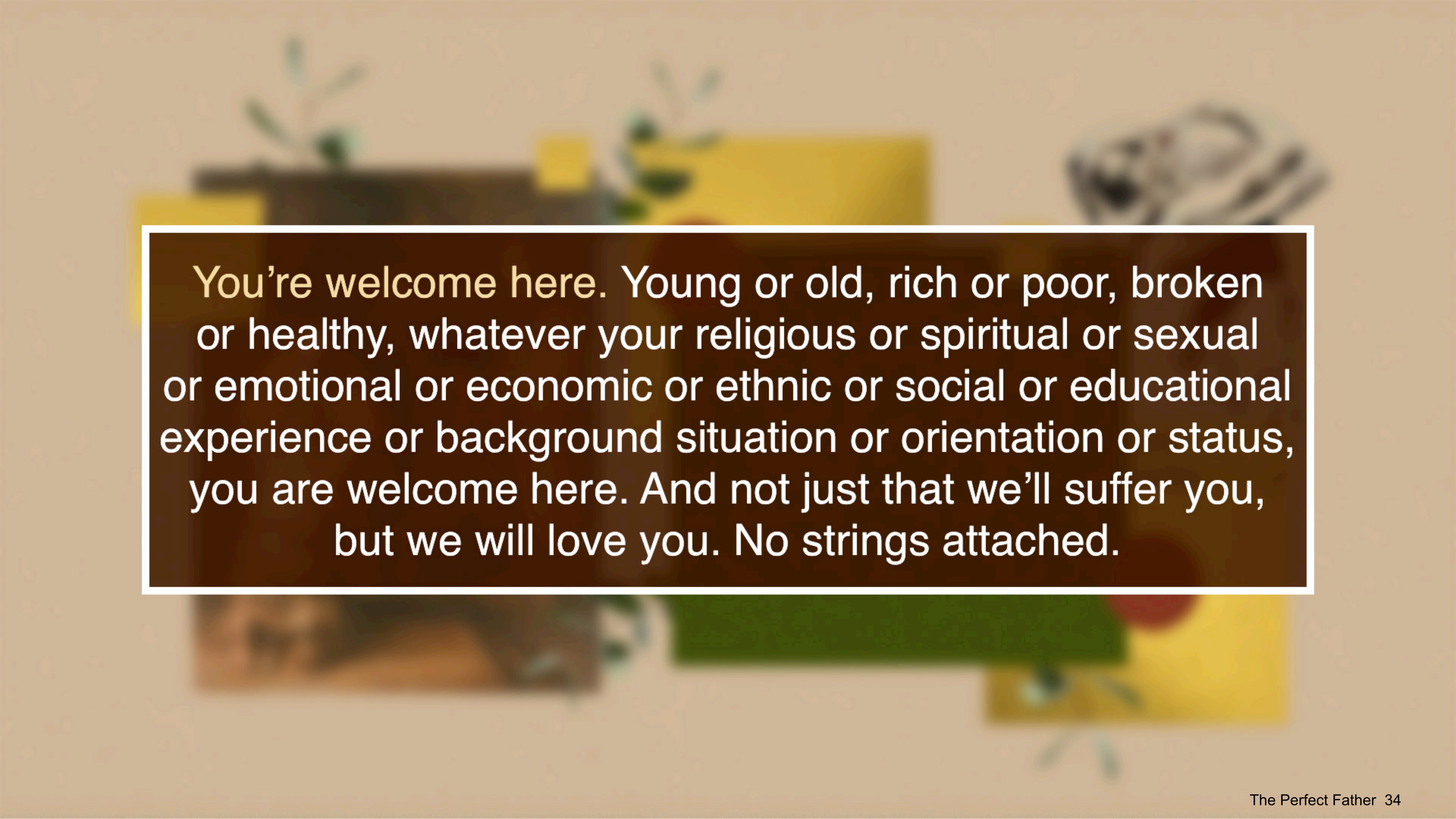


“...Who gives life to the dead and calls into being things
that were not.” - Romans 4:17

We have a God who says it's never over!

Jesus is Why!

That's why we unashamedly want to be the Love the 'Ville Church. Because we endeavor to have a reputation, as a loving, accepting community so that the prodigal has a place to come home to.



You're welcome here. Young or old, rich or poor, broken or healthy, whatever your religious or spiritual or sexual or emotional or economic or ethnic or social or educational experience or background situation or orientation or status, you are welcome here. And not just that we'll suffer you, but we will love you. No strings attached.



Text Jesus is why to 31996