

The Great Sending

What is it?

How do we get involved?

The Great Sending

The Great Sending is God's eternal plan for restoring His entire creation to Himself.

(Ephesians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

The Great Sender

- Our God is first and foremost a missionary God.
- From the moment of the Fall, God became the Great Missionary.
- God's Word from Genesis to Revelation is a Missionary's story.
- God would have us read His Word through His Missionary eyes.

Reading God's Word through His Missionary Eyes

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance to the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things (Luke 24)

Reading God's Word through His Missionary Eyes

- Christopher Wright in *The Mission of God*:
 - “Luke tells us that . . . *Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures,*’ or, as we might put it, he was setting their hermeneutical orientation and agenda. The proper way for disciples of the crucified and risen Jesus to read their Scriptures is *messianically* and *missionally*.”

Reading God's Word through His Missionary Eyes

- Jesus' mission to save the world (John 3:16-17) is the sum and substance of His Messianic anointing.
- Embracing the Lord Jesus as Messiah also means embracing His universal mission to reconcile the world to His Father.

Messiah = Missionary

- As God's Missionary, Jesus stands as the corner stone upon which He builds His Church.
- *“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”*
- Jesus posed this question in the district of Caesarea Philippi. the vortex of human darkness, both Jew and Gentile.

You are the Christ



ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE SANCTUARY OF PAN

LEGEND

1 THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS

הצעת שיחזור למתחם המקודש לאל פאן

מקרא

1 מוסדא אונסקו

Messiah = Missionary

- The stone of stumbling for God's people
 - Jesus' kinsmen at Nazareth (Luke 4)
 - My house shall be called a house of prayer *for the nations*. (Matthew 21)
 - The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (Matthew 21)

The Great Sending

- God's Mission is the Holy Spirit's road map
 - Guiding our understanding of His Word.
 - Guiding our footsteps into His world.

The Great Sending

- Three basic points:
 - Our heavenly Father has a missionary heart; He sent His Son to restore His broken creation to Himself.
 - Our heavenly Father delights in having us join His Son in His missionary service to the world.
 - The Lord will accomplish His Mission

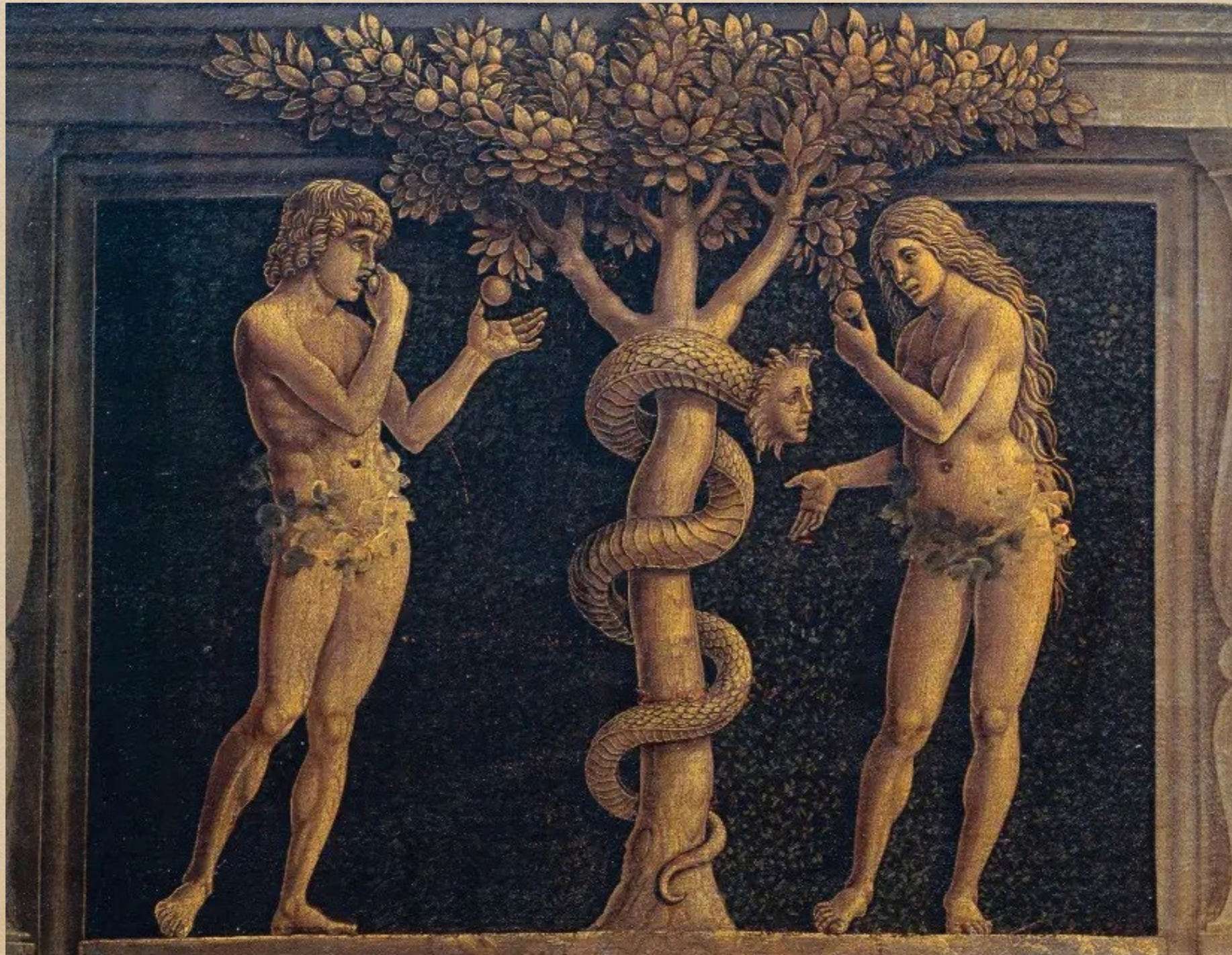
God's Mission to the World



God's "Yes": Adam & Eve



Man's "NO"



God's "Yes"



The Great Sender

Key to God's missionary plan is His decision to call sinful, broken people to participate fully with Him in His great work.

Noah and Family



Man's "NO"



God's "Yes": Abraham



Israel and Mt. Sinai



A Sent People



A Temple for the Nations



God's "Yes": Babylon



God's "Yes": His Son



The Great Sent One

The Great Sending begins and ends
with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Great Sent One

- Jesus' three missionary actions
 - Jesus must suffer
 - Jesus must rise from the dead
 - Jesus must proclaim the Gospel to the nations

The Great Sent One

- Jesus still serves as His Father's Missionary
- Peter stated at Pentecost:
 - *“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool’” (Acts 2)*
 - *Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2)*

The Great Sender

- As Lord of all, Jesus continues The Great Sending throughout the world
 - Being “exalted at the right hand of God,” Jesus poured out His missionary Spirit on His Church.
 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.”

The Great Sender

- Jesus still serves as His Father's Missionary
- Peter continued:
 - *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to himself. (Acts 2)*

Reading God's World
Through His Missionary
Eyes

Reading God's World through His Missionary Eyes

Pre-Christendom
AD 30-313

Christendom
AD 313-2022

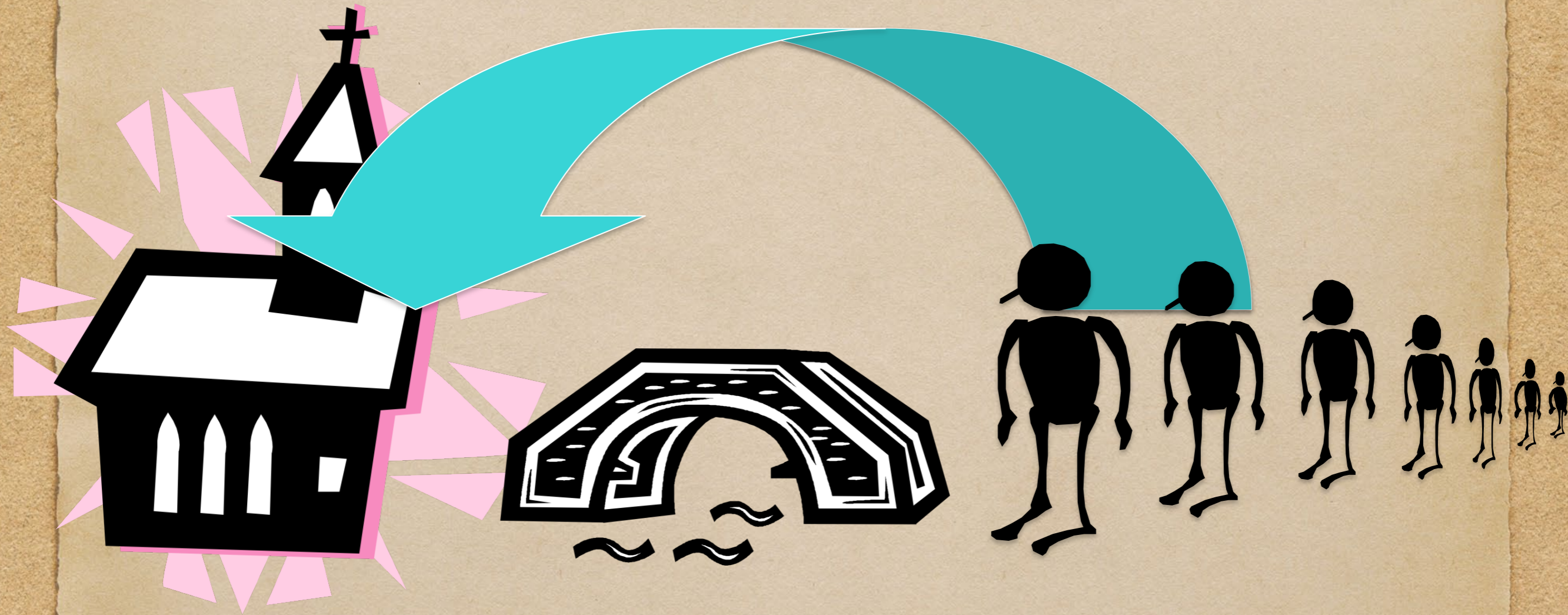
Lutheran
1517-2022

Church in Charge

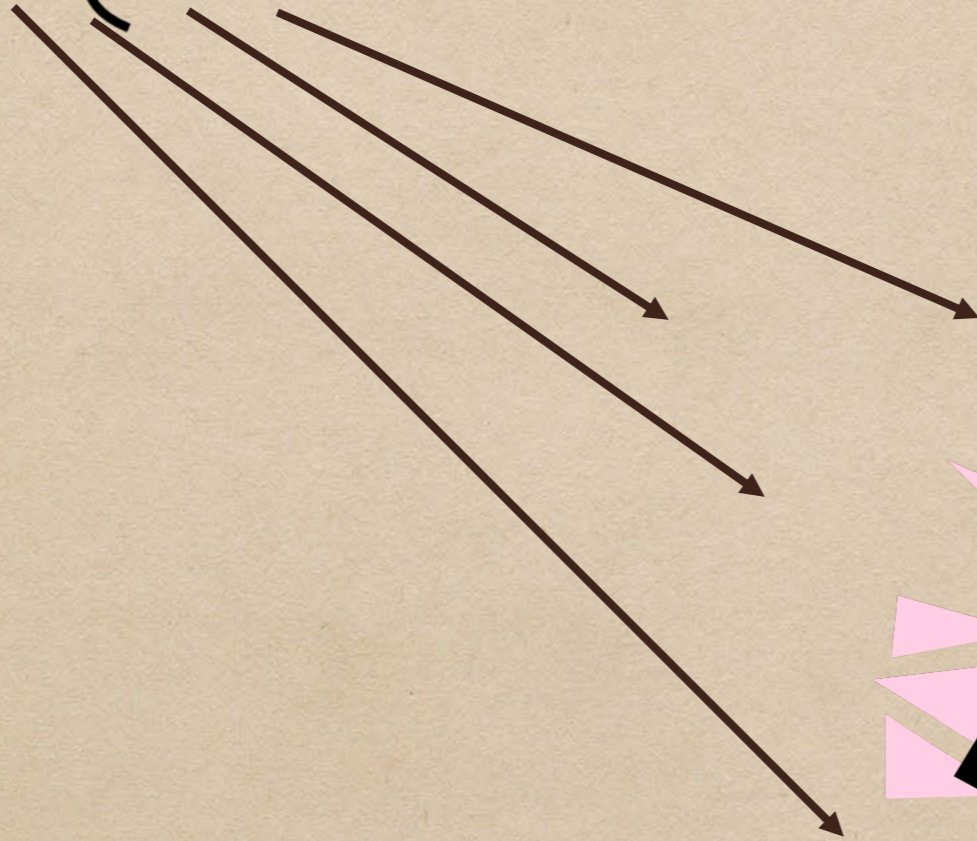


Confident!

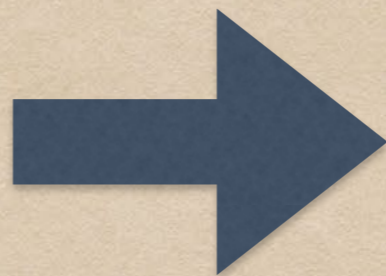
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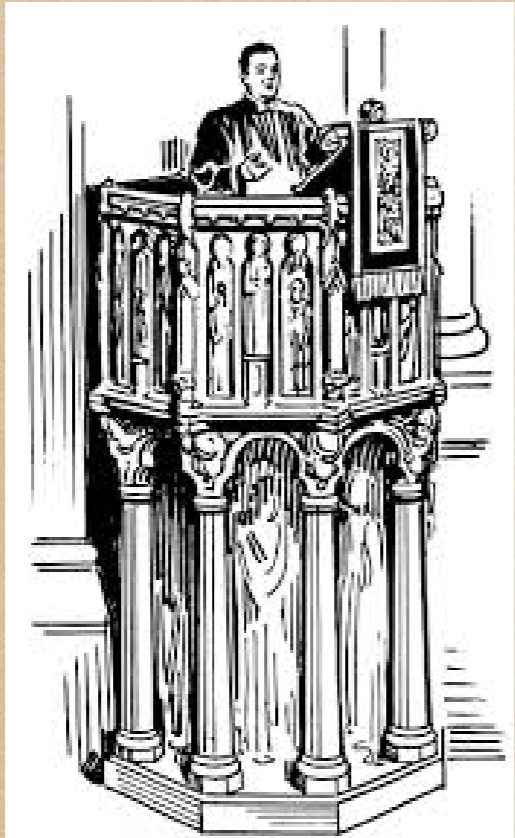


Church in Charge

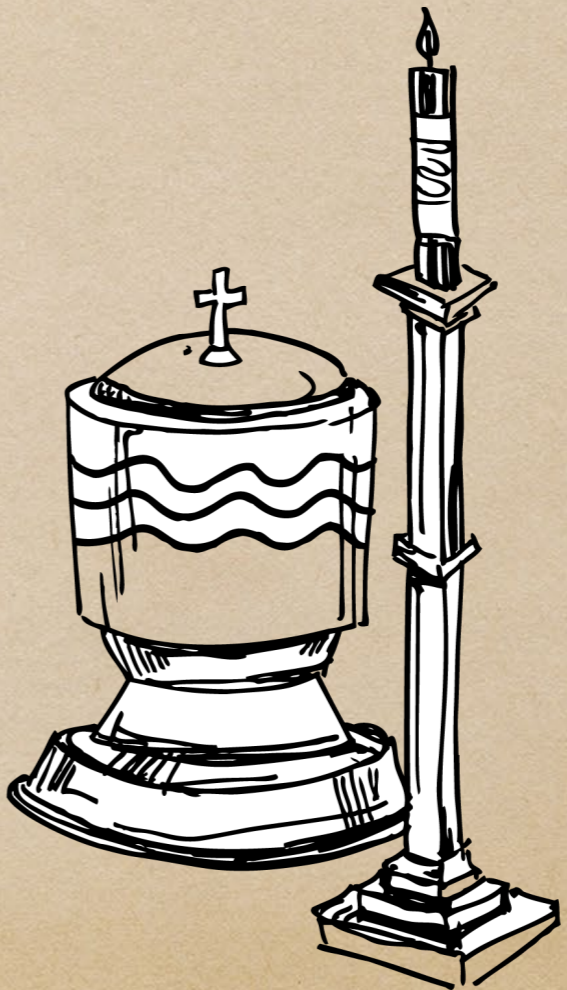


Meeting Jesus





Word &
Sacrament



Oops



Not in Charge

Church not in Charge



The Collapse of Christendom



When the Bridge is Out



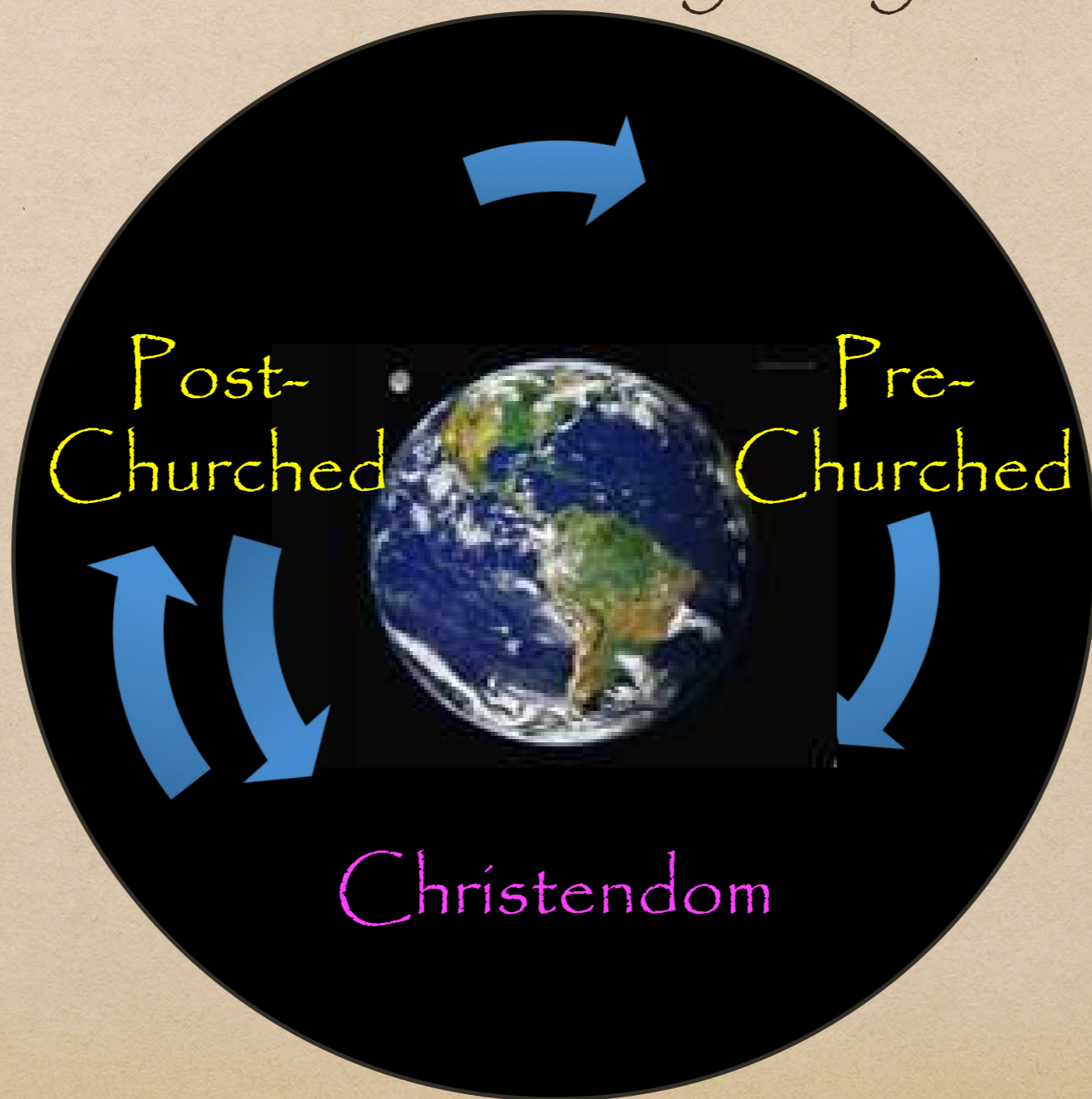
Recalculating!

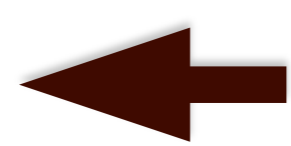
Recalculating

Repent, the Kingdom
of God is at hand.

Matthew 4

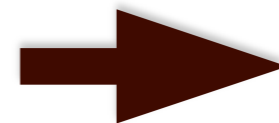
Reading God's World through His Missionary Eyes





Christendom

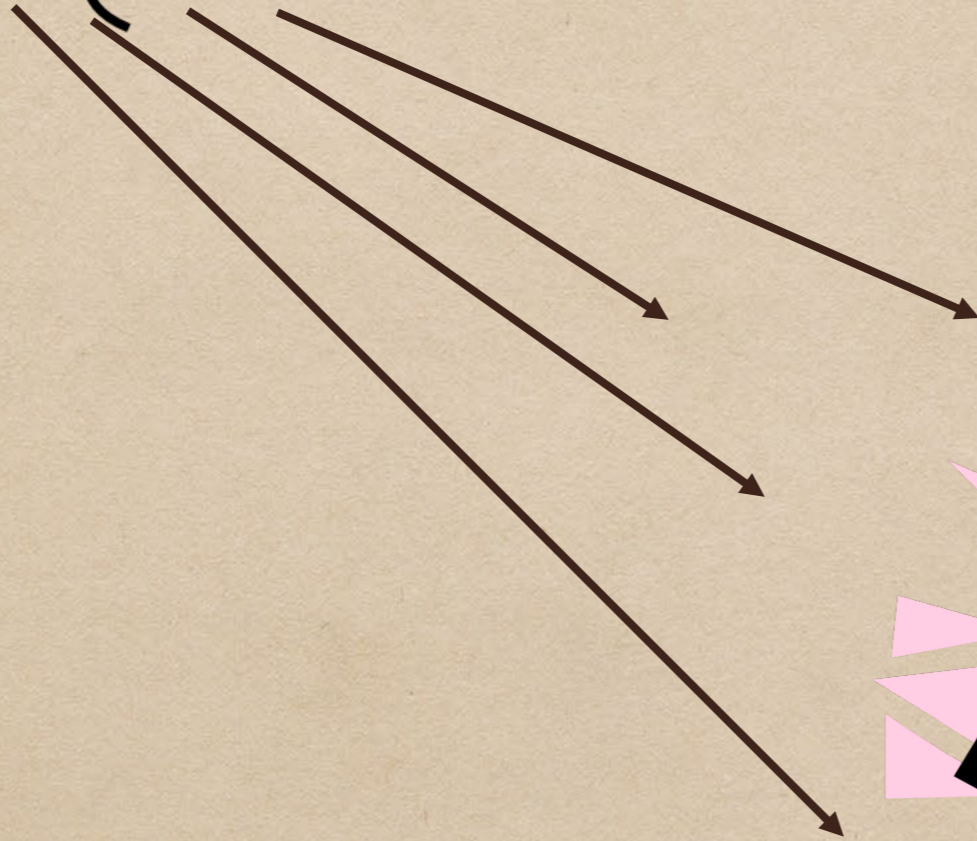
Mission Field



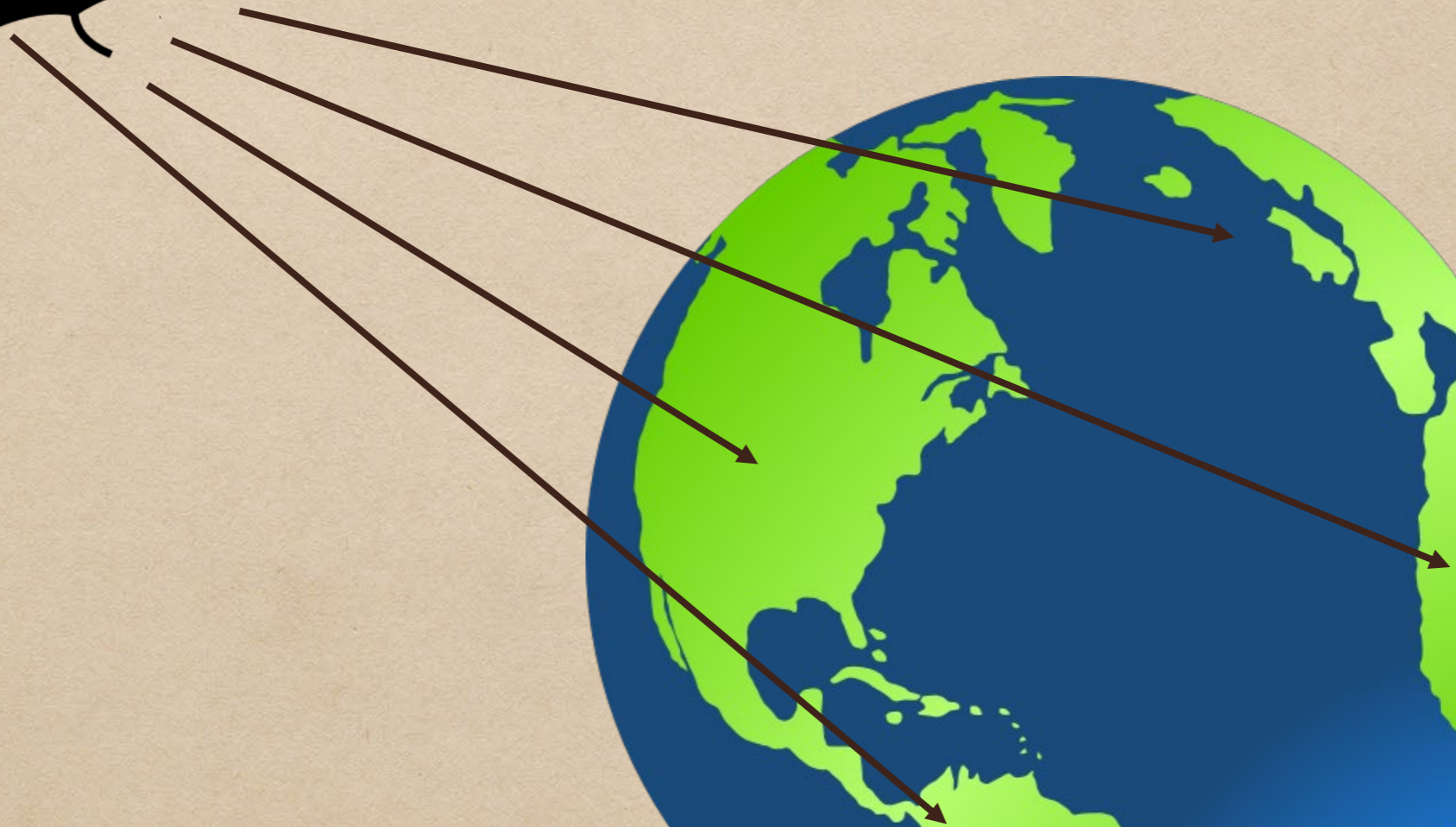
Post-Christendom Observations

While our ministry contexts have radically shifted toward a missionary (pre-churched) reality our methods of proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Sacrament have remained thoroughly entrenched in the reality of Christendom.

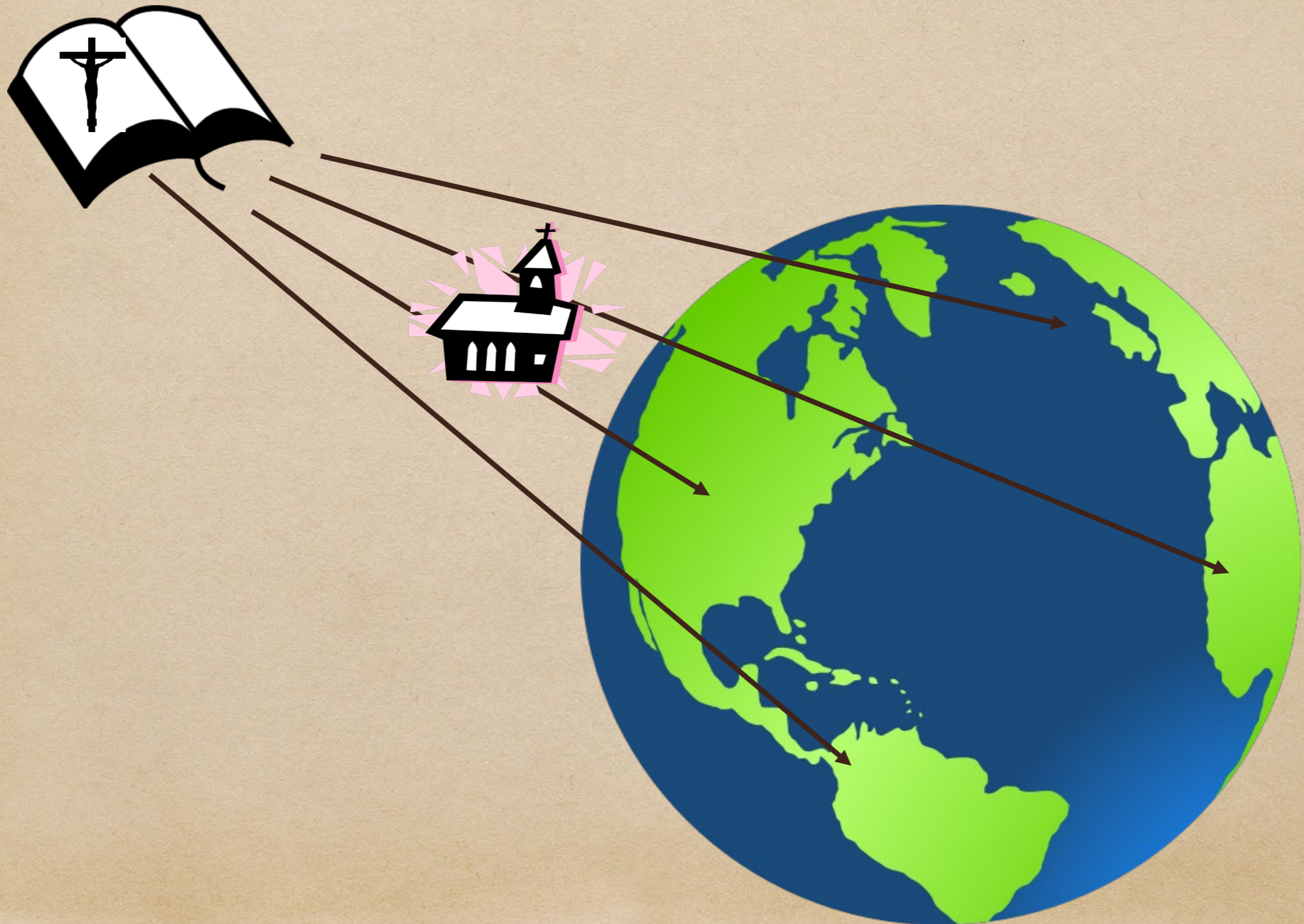
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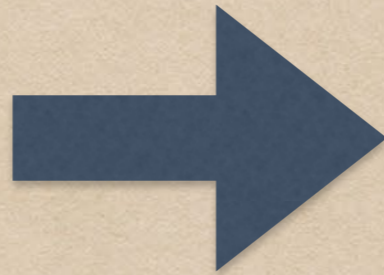
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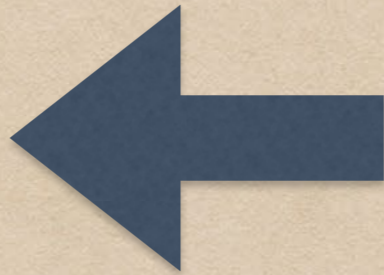
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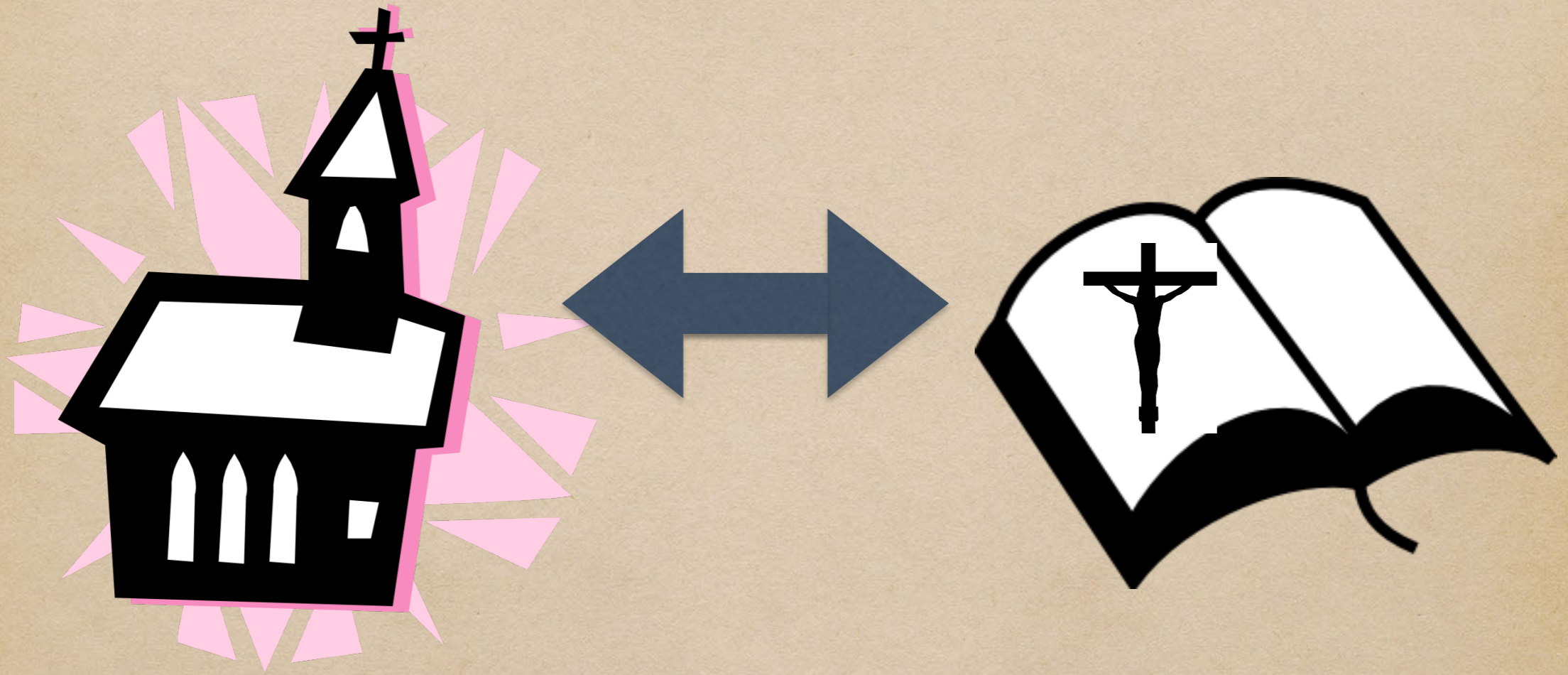
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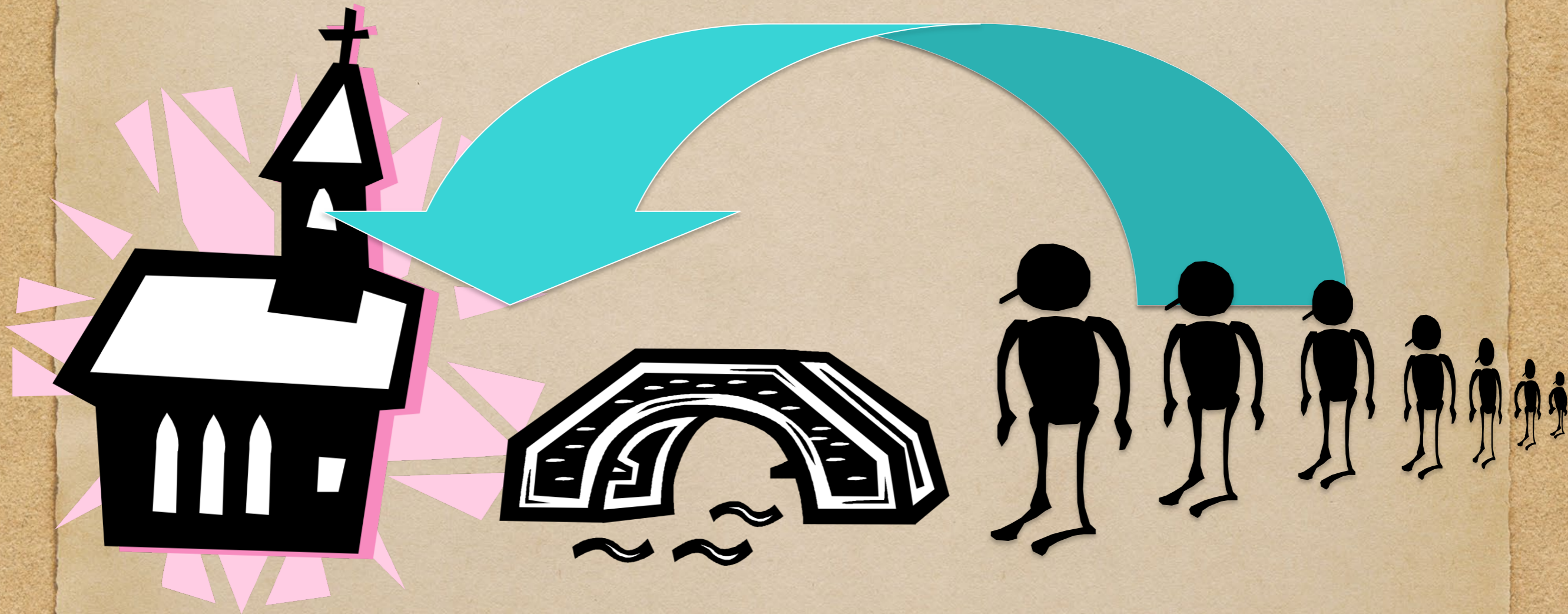
Mission Field



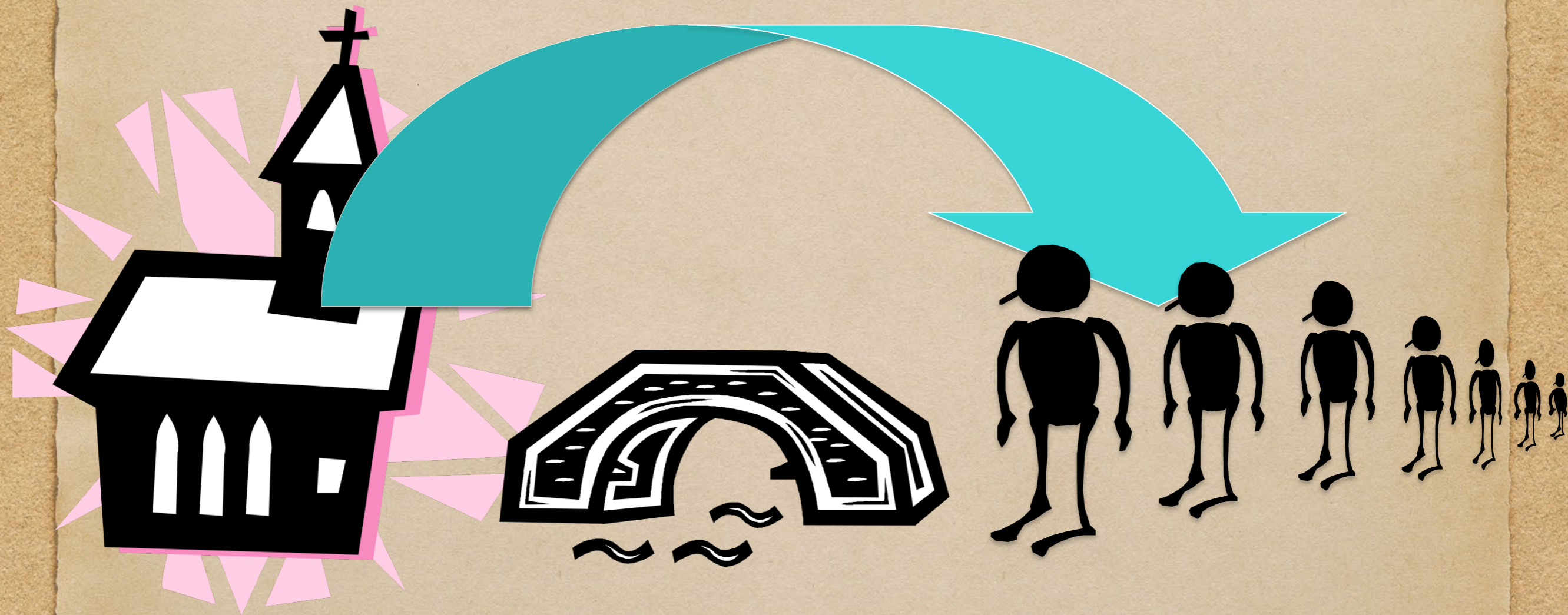
Mission Field



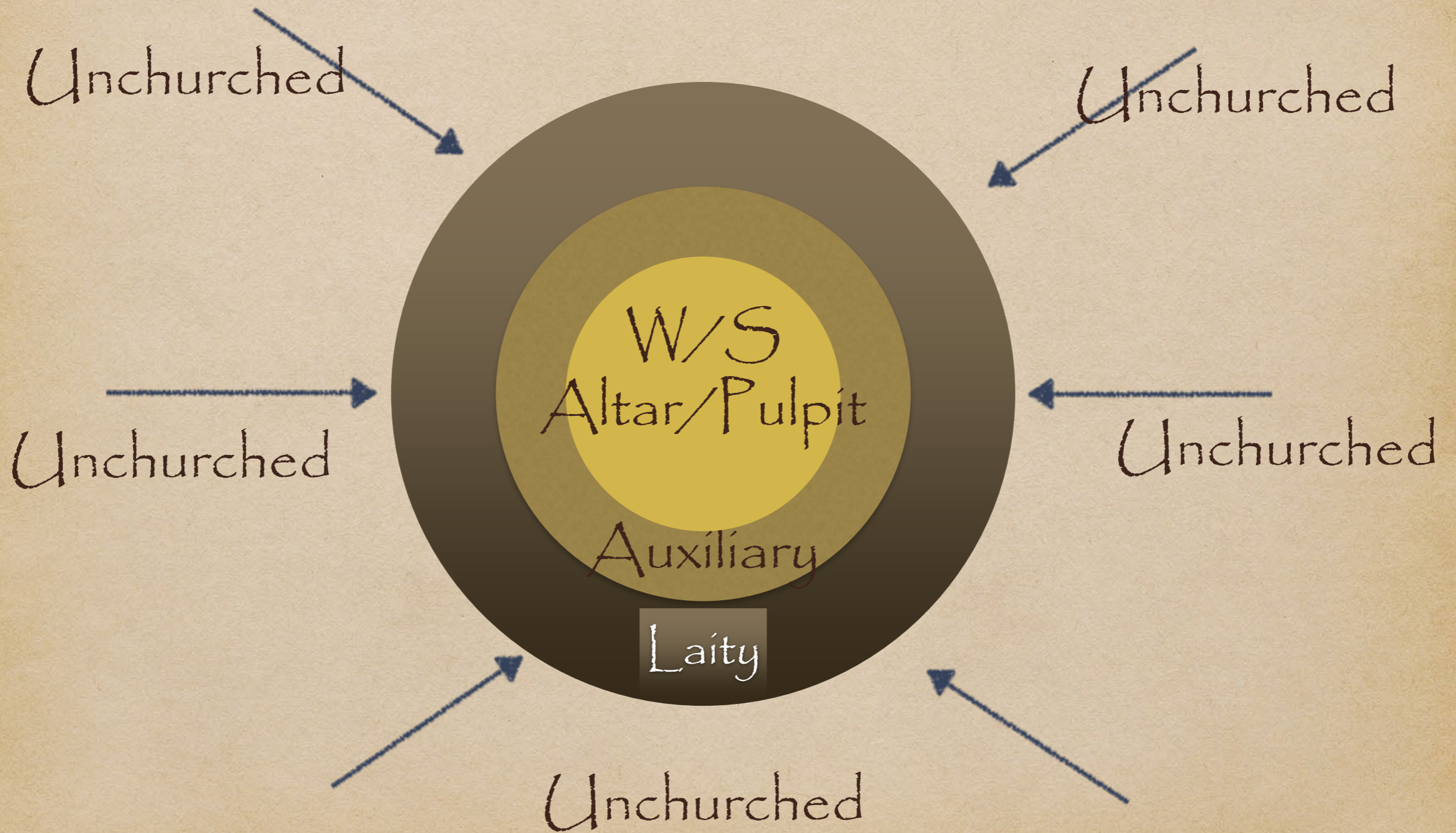
Christendom



Mission Field



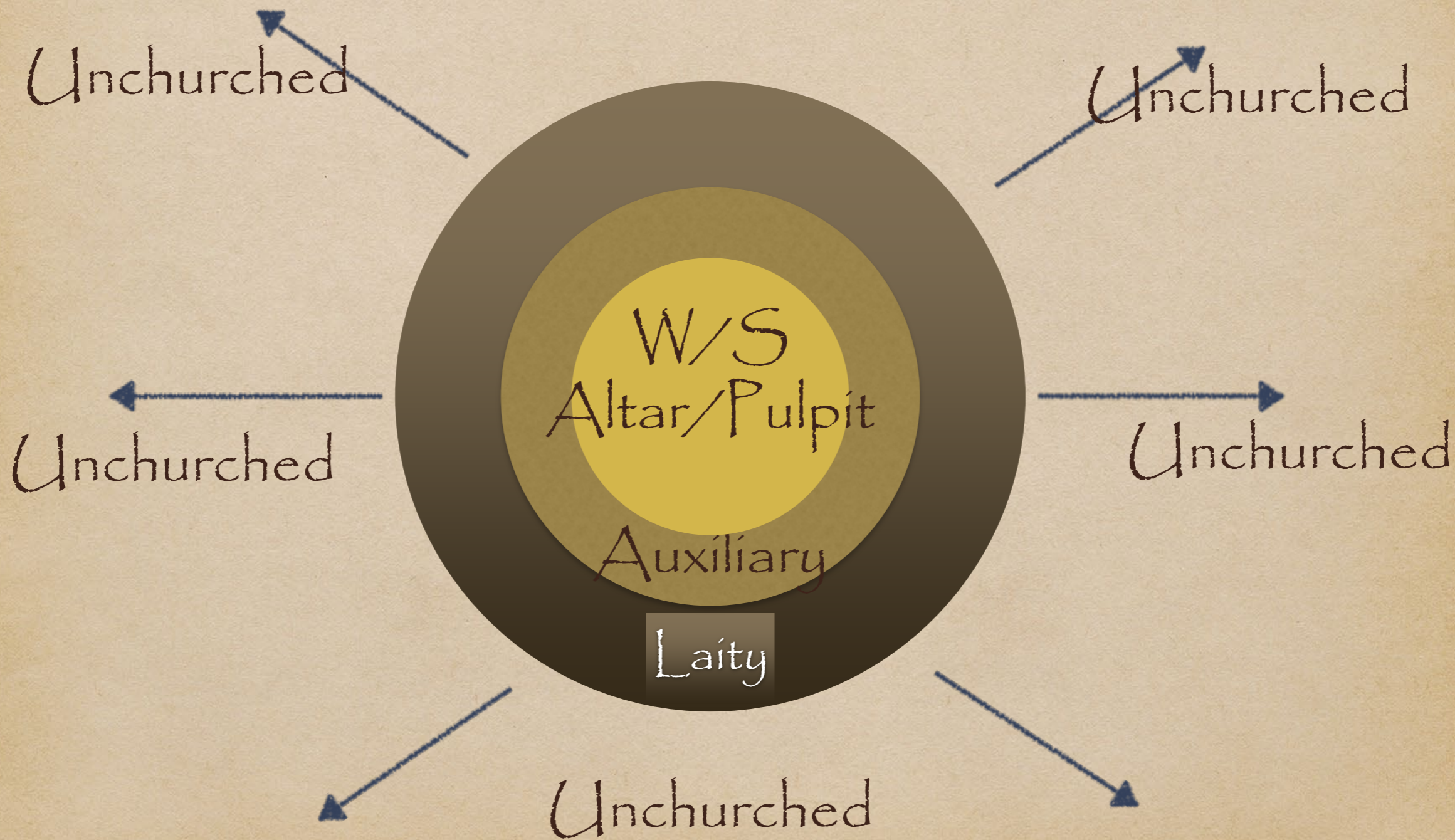
Christendom



Christendom

- Proclaiming the Gospel where the church is in charge
 - Divine Service
 - Pastor Centered

Mission Field



Great Sending Defined

- Proclaiming the Gospel where the C
- Our everyday world
- Primarily a Lay movement

Recovering the Missionary Priesthood

But you are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, a people
for his own possession, **that you may
proclaim** the excellencies of him who
called you out of darkness into his
marvelous light.

Reading your Place in God's world
through His Missionary Eyes

Baptized into Jesus



Baptized into His
Mission



Two Fish Stories



Luke 5 (The Beginning)



John 21 (The End)



The Great Sending

Centers in knowing our Father's heart
and embracing it as our own.

Knowing the heart of God

The sound of His footsteps
on the garden path

What makes God laugh?



Lost Lamb



Lost Coin



Lost Son



What makes God weep?



The son who didn't leave



The Heart of God



Jesus' Missionary Plan

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Going therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

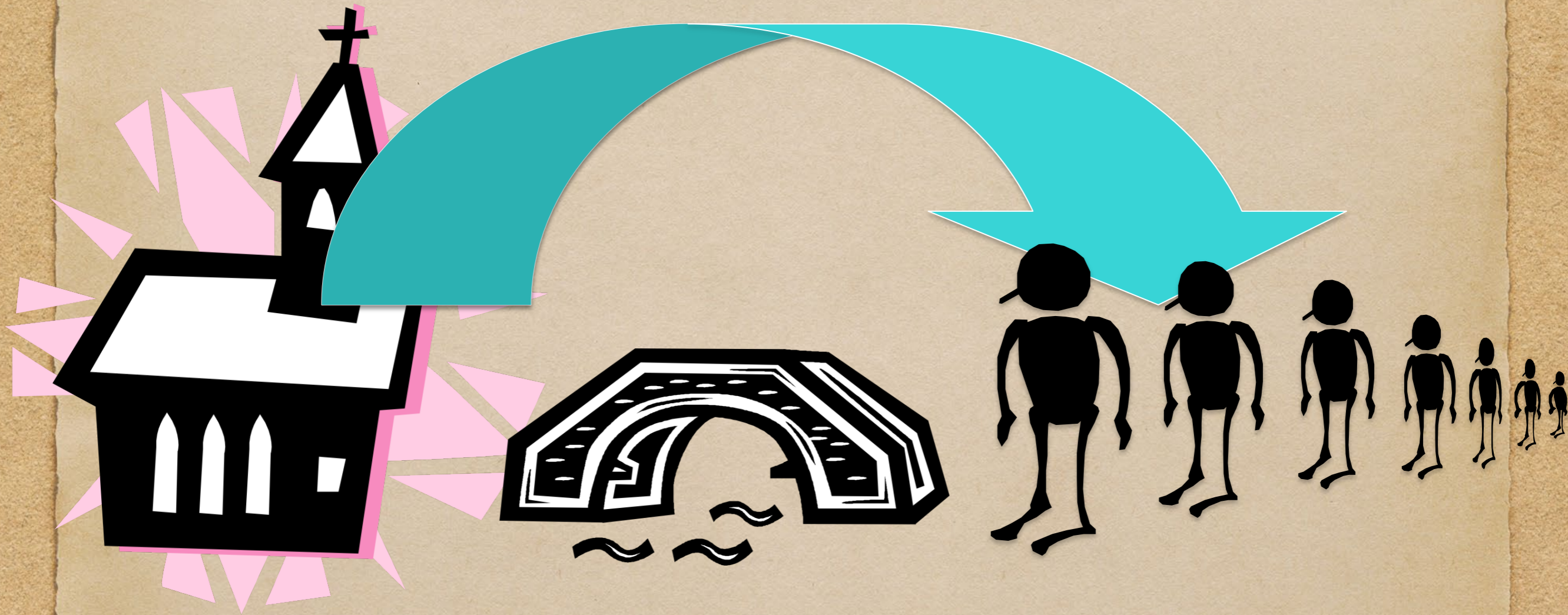
(Matthew 28)

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(Matthew 28)

As you GO into your
Everyday World



Church's Missionary Plan

Lord will you at this time restore the Kingdom
to Israel?

Jesus' Missionary Plan

- Lord will you at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?
- You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth.
- She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings . . .

Jesus' Missionary Plan
Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To
those who are elect exiles of the
dispersion . . . according to the
foreknowledge of God the Father, in
the sanctification of the Spirit, for
obedience to Jesus Christ and for
sprinkling with blood. (1 Peter 1)

Problem or Plan

- Problem: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's *elect, strangers* in this world, scattered throughout... (NIV)
- Plan: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are *elect exiles* of the dispersion... (ESV)

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- Note the "comma"

As you Go

Going (following Jesus) will inevitably take us beyond (outside) our religious comfort zones.

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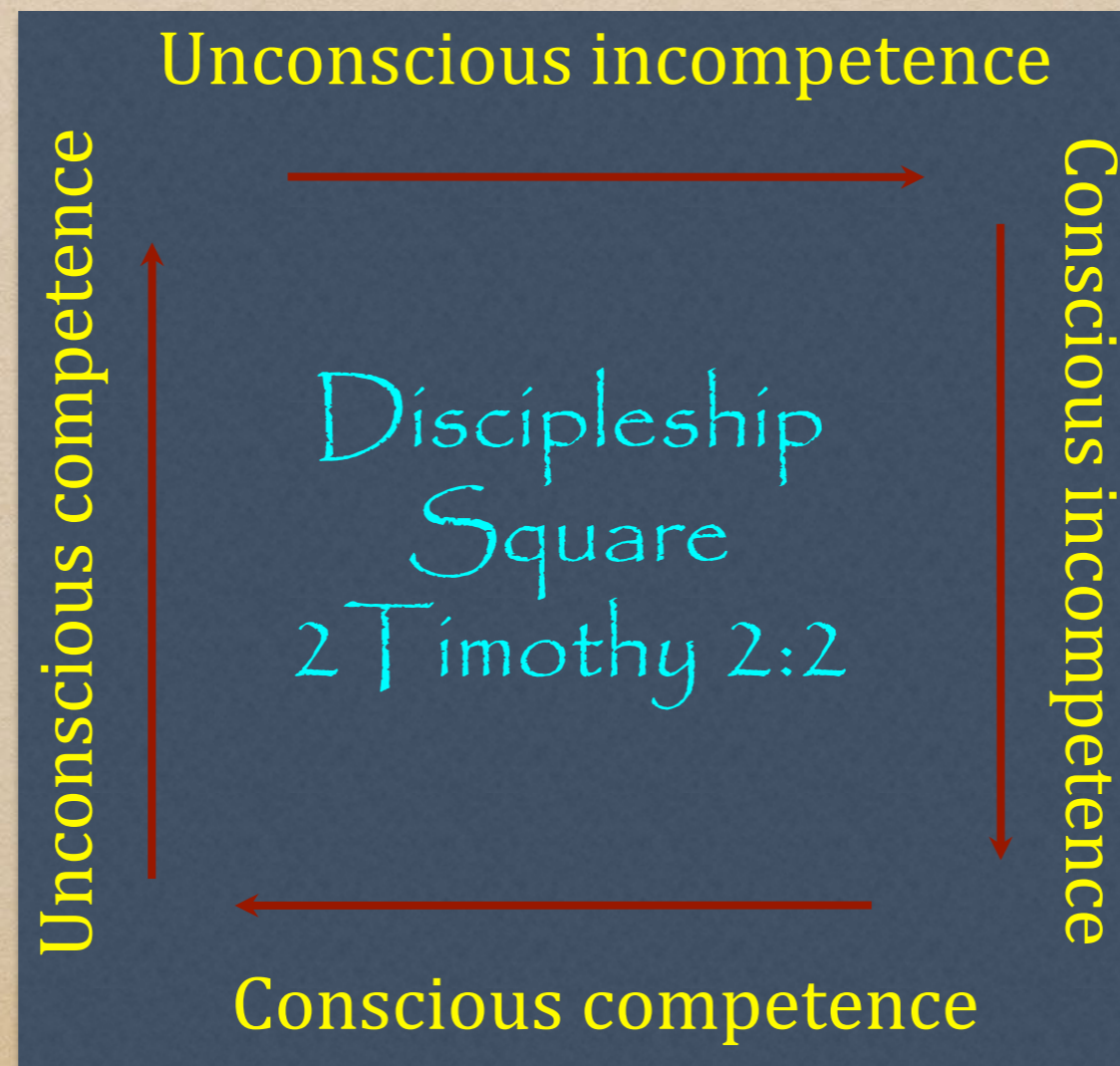
“I am with you always”

The Great Promise

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Jesus' Missionary Plan

Learning on the go



“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.”

- We proceed into the world as Royal Priests with the Authority of our Lord Jesus.
- Priests connect the Lord with people and people with the Lord.
 - Pray
 - Partner
 - Proclaim

Jesus' Missionary Plan

- Post-Churched Non-Christians (Nones) tend to gather around relationships more than shared beliefs.

Churched Order: Believe → Behave → Belong

“Nones” Order: Belong → Behave → Believe

Relationships Matter

- Relationships center in truly loving my neighbor
- Relationships require genuine commitment
- Relationships mean doing life together: Get to know and be known

RELATIONSHIPS in

When and Where

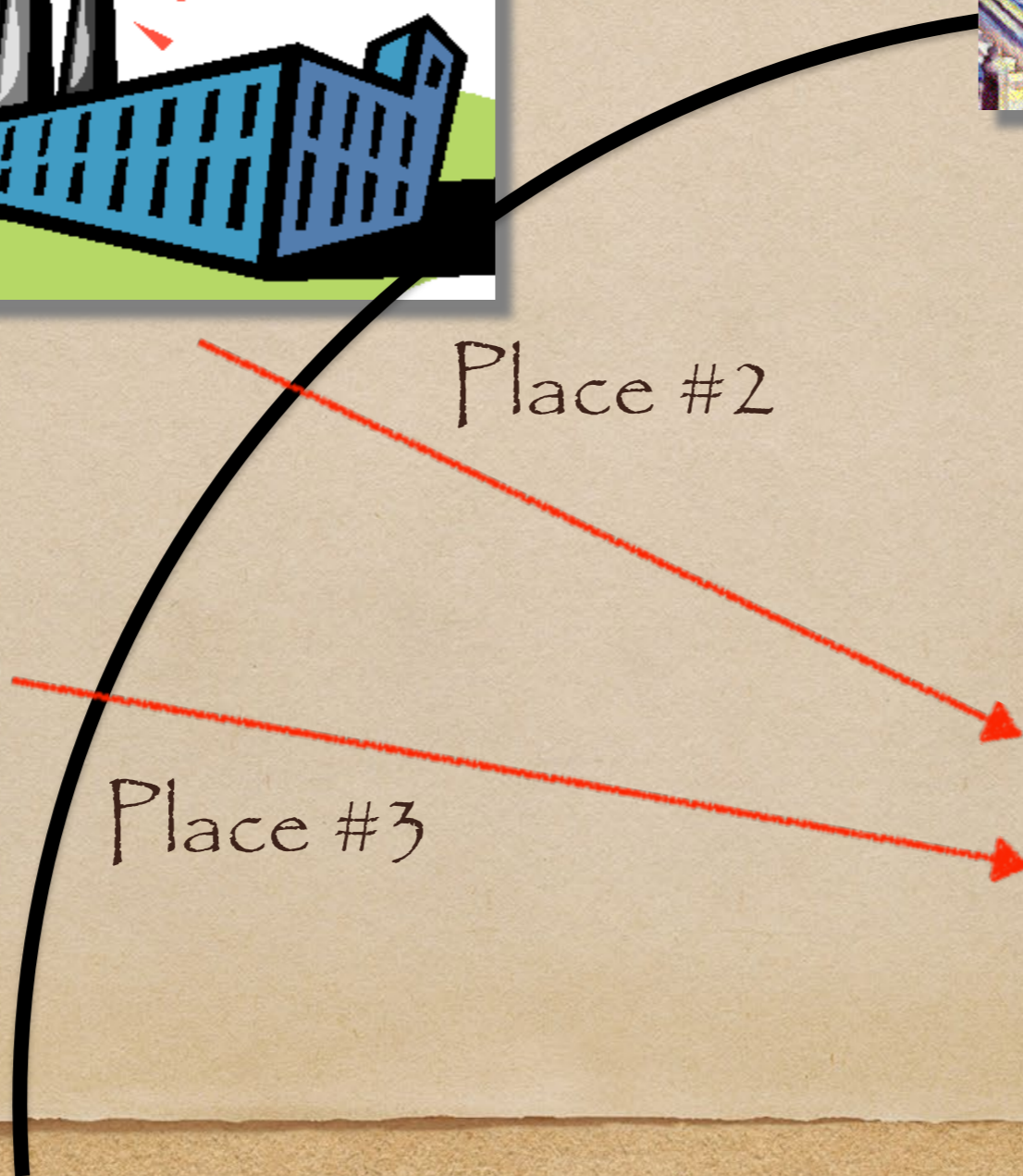


Place #1

Place #2



Place #3



When and Where

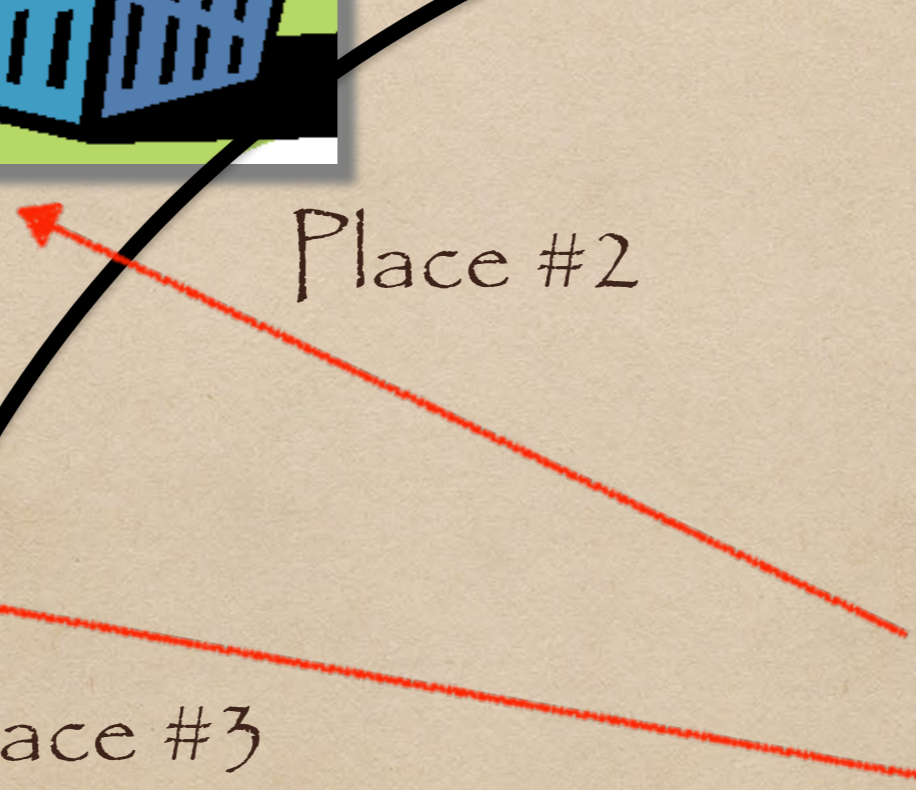


Place #1

Place #2



Place #3



Sending Questions

Who?

Where?

When?

What's the
starting place?

Jesus' Missionary Plan

- To Whom are you a Who among the "Nones"?
- Where and when do you connect?
- What's the starting place for conversation?

Answered by the "NONE S" in your life

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Our Missionary God

The sound of His footsteps
on the garden path

Recovering the Missionary Priesthood

- Anticipate the Lord raising His Royal Priests up—men and women—once again for this very time and place.
- Anticipate the Lord raising up missionaries indigenous to Post-Christendom contexts for this time and place: Young people.
- How does this anticipation impact ministries in your congregation?