



Say YES to
JESUS

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



ESSENTIALS - MODULE 1



"The decision to follow Jesus requires understanding who God is. Here at PORTICO, we call that decision "I said yes!"

The decision to say YES to Jesus means making Him in charge of your life. It means believing Jesus is God. It means trusting the Bible. And it requires a commitment to get to know God better.

I pray that this course will help you make that life-changing decision!"

Rick Carroll

Key Takeaways



01

GOD WANTS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO US



02

GOD WANTS TO RESCUE US



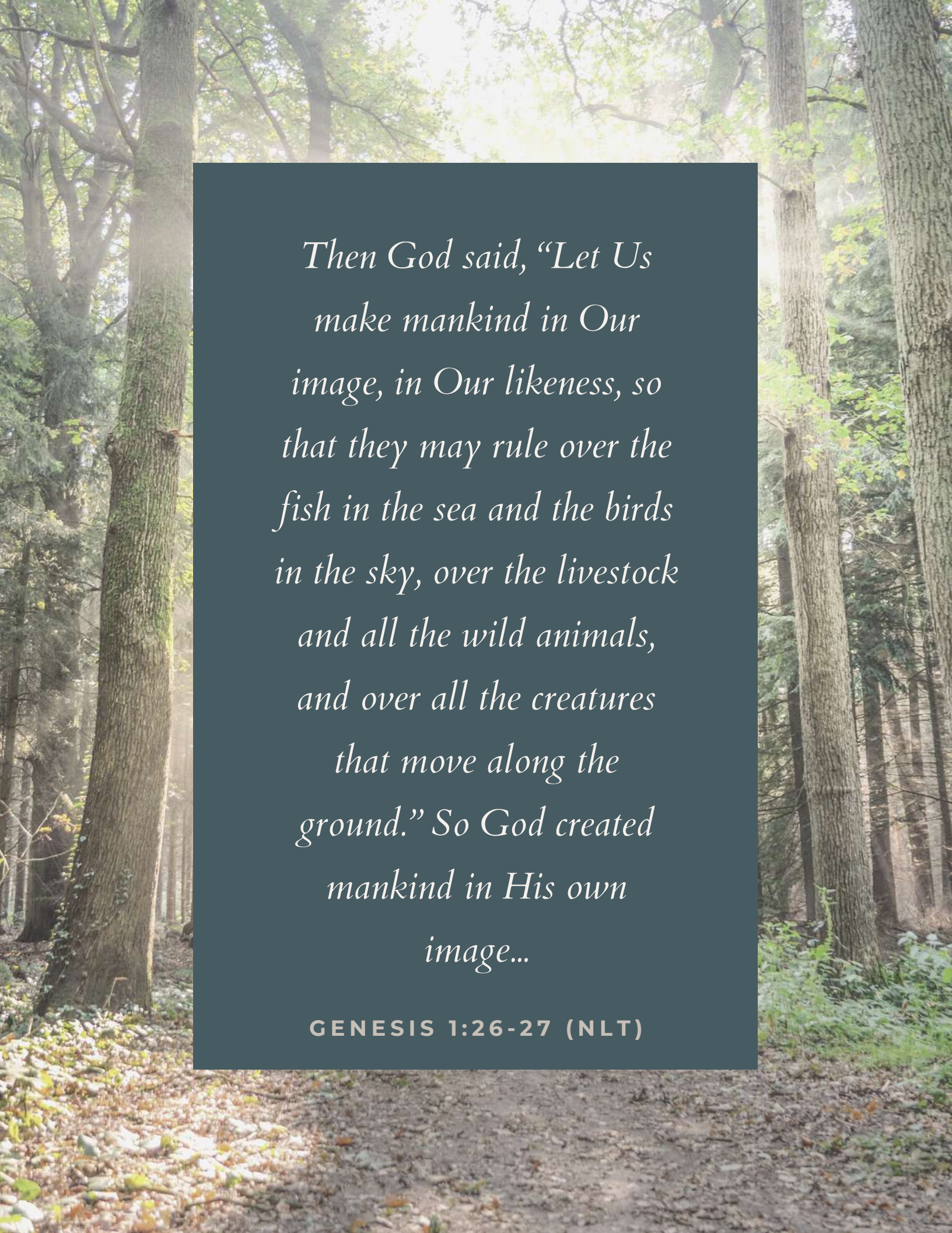
03

GOD WANTS TO RECONCILE WITH US



04

GOD WANTS TO RESTORE HIS PLAN FOR US



*Then God said, “Let Us
make mankind in Our
image, in Our likeness, so
that they may rule over the
fish in the sea and the birds
in the sky, over the livestock
and all the wild animals,
and over all the creatures
that move along the
ground.” So God created
mankind in His own
image...*

GENESIS 1:26-27 (NLT)

01

God wants to reveal Himself to us

The big story in the Bible is about how God made us, loves us, and wants to connect with us. The Bible is not a rule book, or a self-help book.

You and I are actually God's focus. We get His attention, and He goes to great lengths to help us understand who He is.

God desires to have a relationship with us.

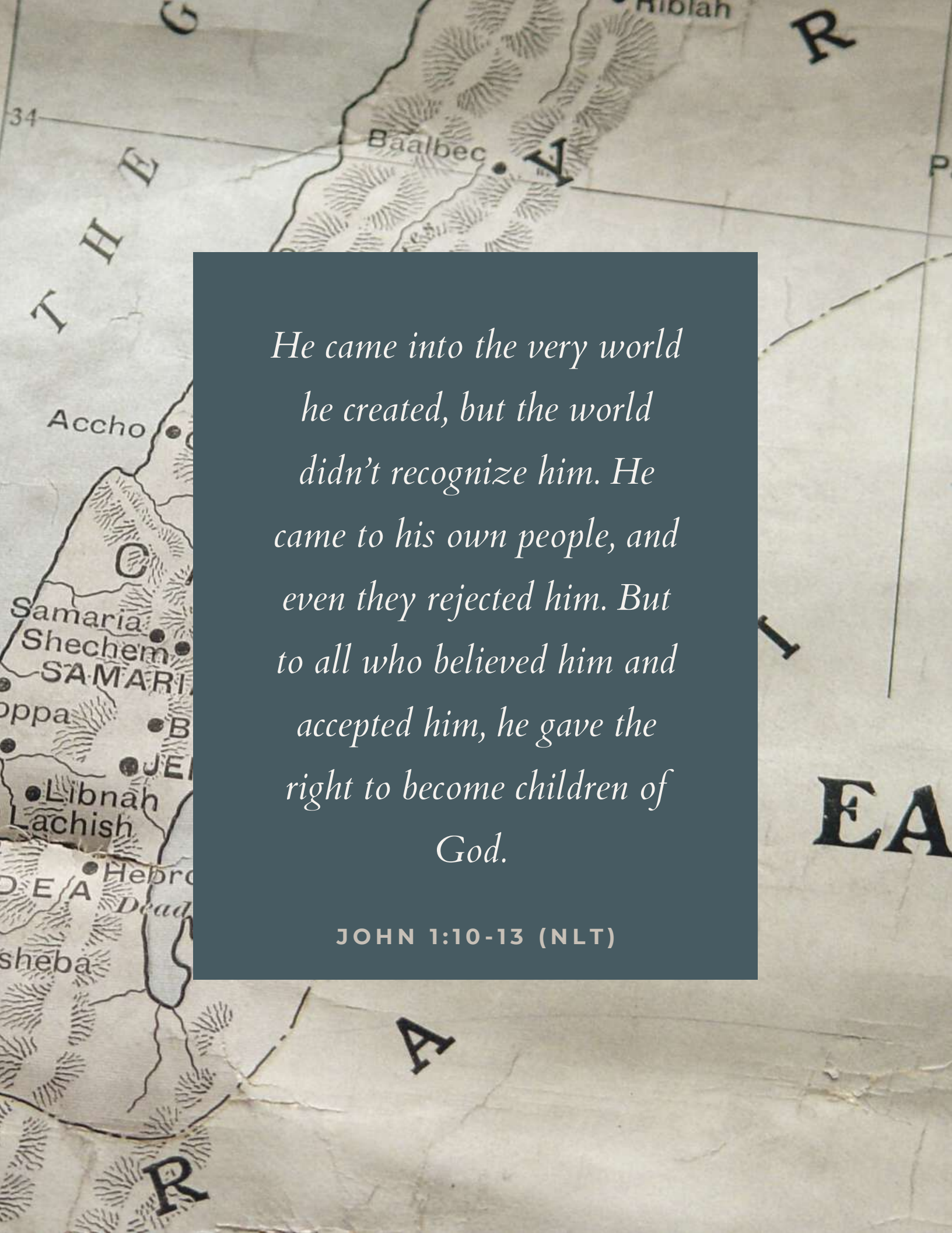
He created the 4 seasons to teach us about Himself (growth, life, and the preparation of death).

He divided the days of the week into times of work and rest, for our own benefit.

Even the family structure of care and discipline were all instituted by God to teach us how to live in community.



Who we are and how we look as humans is a reflection of God.



*He came into the very world
he created, but the world
didn't recognize him. He
came to his own people, and
even they rejected him. But
to all who believed him and
accepted him, he gave the
right to become children of
God.*

JOHN 1:10-13 (NLT)

Most of all, God sent Jesus to earth. By doing so, He showed us how He speaks, acts, cares, and teaches.

The big concept called the TRINITY means that God is just ONE God, but THREE distinct persons, but we experience Him differently.

God the Father



Jesus the Son

The Holy Spirit

When God the Father was just in heaven, we weren't fully aware of His character. So God came to earth as Jesus, to show humanity what He is like. And we can experience Him now as Spirit.

We have a better understanding of what God is like because we see Him as Lord in heaven, Son on earth, but experienced as Spirit.

We were created with purpose.




Reflection #1

How have you tried to discover God in the past?

Why do you think it was it successful or not?

Notes



*For everyone has sinned; we
all fall short of God's
glorious standard.*

JOHN 3:23 (NLT)

*As the Scriptures say, "No
one is righteous—not even
one."*

JOHN 1:10-13 (NLT)

02

God wants to rescue us from our brokenness

God is perfect. Not perfect like the smart kid in your school growing up, or the protégé at work who everyone seems to think is perfect.

Most of us think, "I'm basically a good person. I make a few mistakes. But God likes me as I am."

When it comes to God, if you are not perfect, you are actually not able to be in His presence.

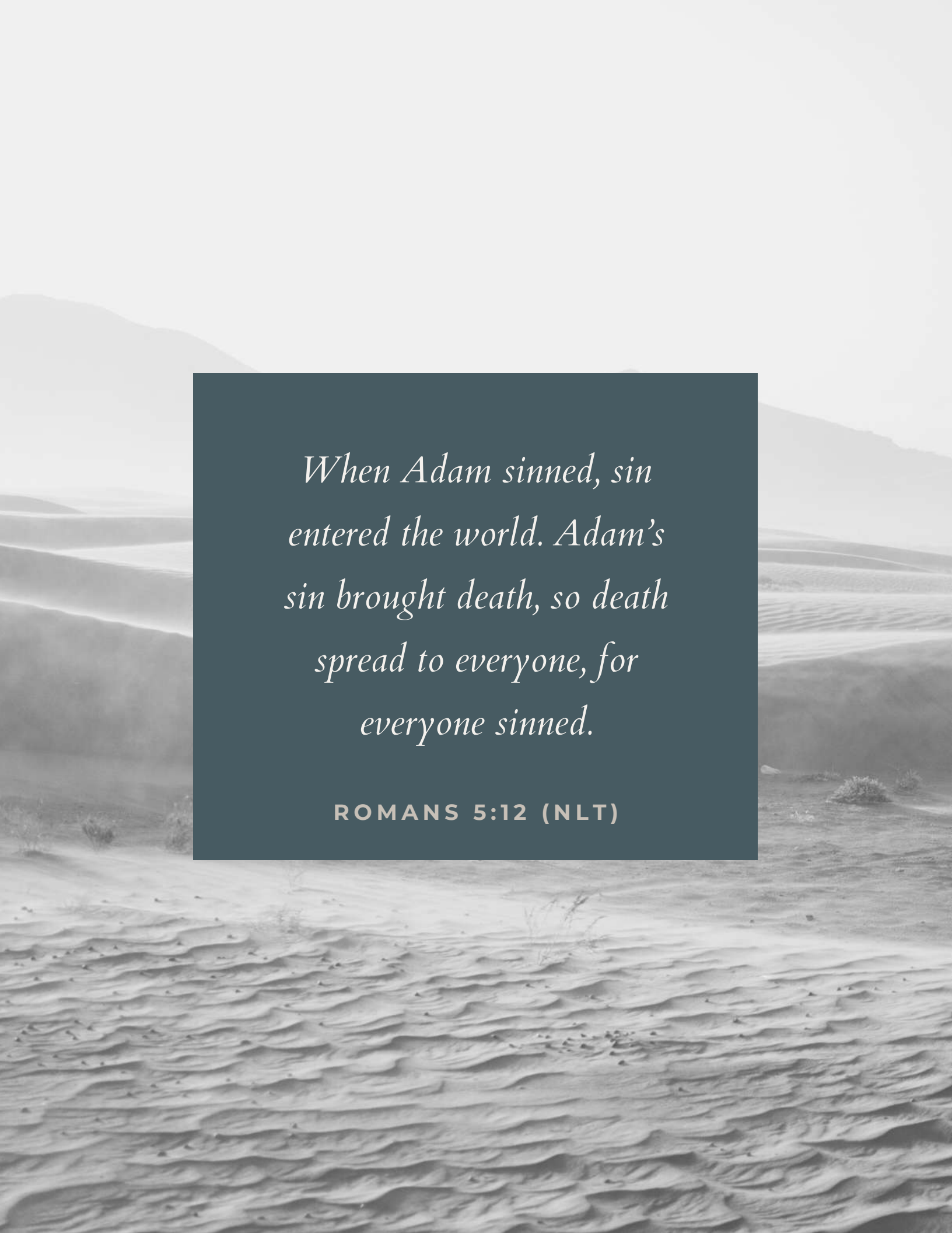
Anything that is not perfect is called sin.

Every bad thought, angry response, or lie is a sin.

Every sinful action actually puts us on the same level as thieves and murderers because that's how sin works. It's ALL sin.



There's no such thing as a white lie. It's still a sin!



When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

ROMANS 5:12 (NLT)

The Bible says that it's not actually all your fault. Sin is not just about the bad choices we make. As a result of the actions of Adam and Eve, it's now part of who we are as the human race.

We didn't start out this way.

The very first humans God created allowed sin to enter the world.

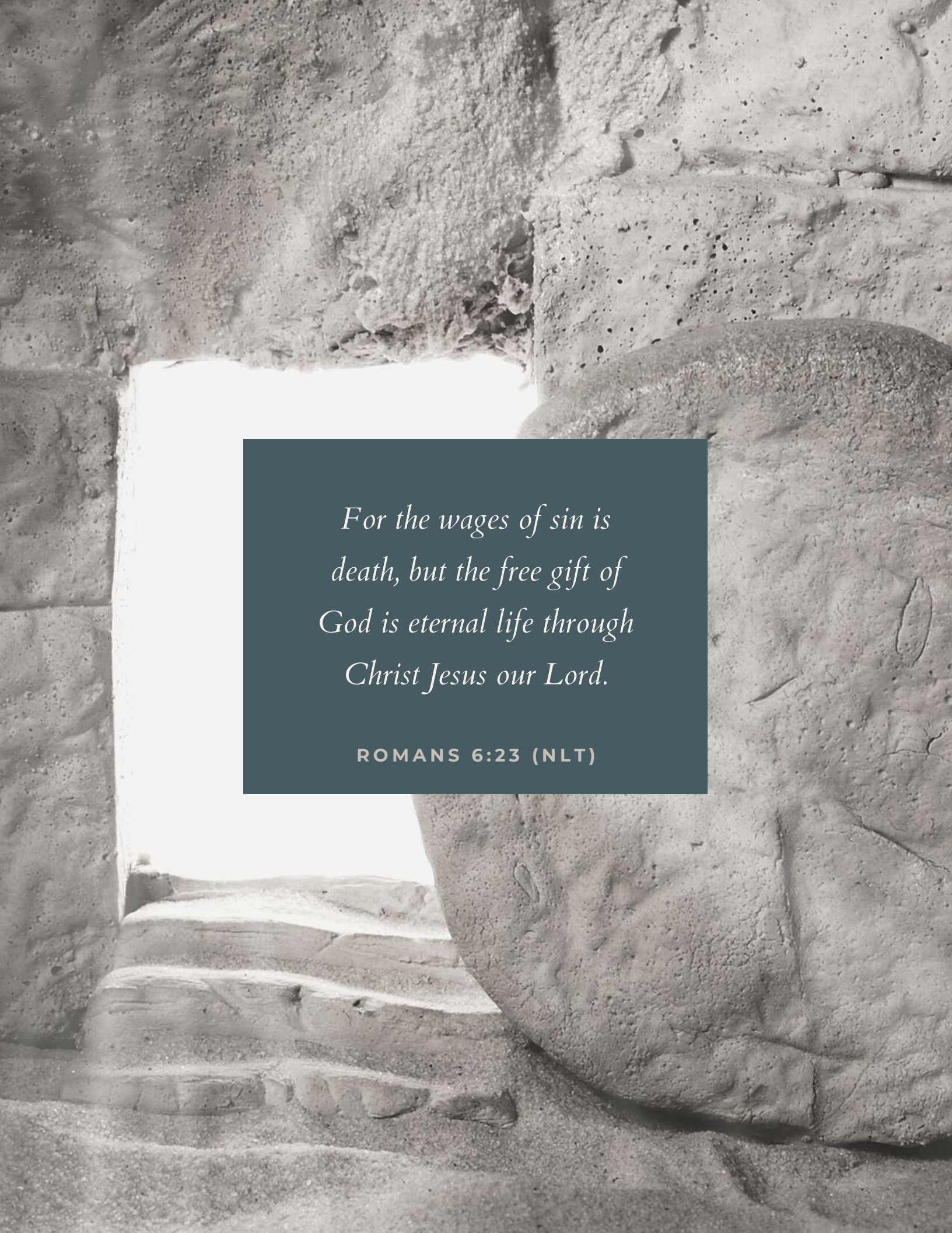
Since we trace our lineage back to Adam and Eve, our lineage is sinful. So if we want to get into a right relationship with God, there is a cost.

Shockingly, in God's economy, the only payment for sin is death. Saying sorry was not enough. That's why the Bible is full of stories about animal sacrifices. It was all an effort to get right with God.

God is not like us. Since God is perfect, He can not be around anything or anyone that isn't just like Him.



Our sinful nature separates us from God.

A photograph of an ancient stone doorway, possibly made of mud-brick or weathered stone. The doorway is slightly ajar, revealing a bright white light from the other side. The stone is heavily textured with pitting and erosion. A dark teal rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

*For the wages of sin is
death, but the free gift of
God is eternal life through
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ROMANS 6:23 (NLT)

But there had to be a better way than killing animals. Why should animals pay the price for my atonement?

So God came up with a plan, the perfect sacrifice for the perfect problem.

He would pay our price and experience death on our behalf. If we accept His gift to us, saying sorry would be enough.



Jesus paid for our sins.



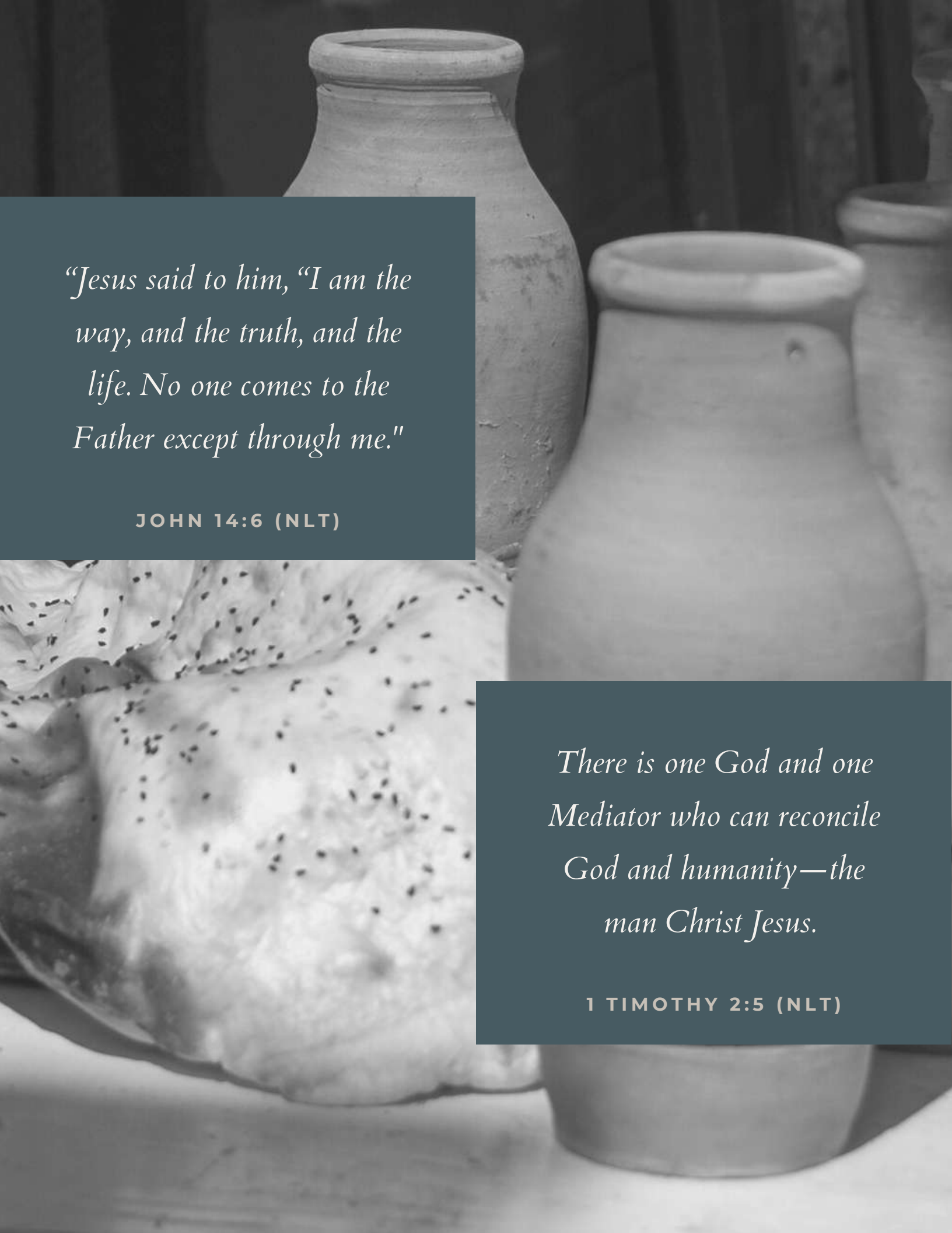
Reflection #2

On a scale of 1-10, how much have you underestimated how big of a deal "sin" is to God?




Why do you think sin is underestimated?

Notes



“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14:6 (NLT)



There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (NLT)

03

God wants to reconcile our relationship with Him through Jesus

God went way out of His way to fix the brokenness of our relationship with Him. It's because He loves us that much.

Being a Christian is actually pretty easy for you and I. For God, it cost everything.

There is no other way to get right with God.

All other religions, might teach wonderful things about how to live, but that's not the big issue God has with us.



Jesus is the only way to God.

*If you confess with
your mouth that
Jesus is Lord and
believe in your heart
that God raised him
from the dead, you
will be saved. For it
is by believing in
your heart that you
are made right with
God, and it is by
confessing with
your mouth that
you are saved.*

ROMANS 10:9-10 (NLT)



You can not earn your way into heaven, or create your own pathway into heaven.

It's by salvation through faith in Jesus that we are able to join Him in heaven.

Too many people in this world feel like they aren't good enough to deserve God's love. Fortunately, God loves us anyway.

Getting right with God is about what you believe, not what you do.

This is hard for us to comprehend, because we don't work that way. But we're not God.



God loves you so much, He made it easy to get close to Him.



Reflection #3

Are you able to accept that Jesus is the only way to a relationship with God?

What other questions would need to be answered for you in order to believe this?

Notes



*Therefore, since we have been made right
in God's sight by faith, we have peace
with God because of what Jesus Christ
our Lord has done for us.*

ROMANS 6:23 (NLT)

04

God wants to restore His original design for our lives

Remember where we started, God created this entire world, just because He loves you, and wants to have a relationship with you.

His original plan was for us to always be together.

Many times, after people make a decision to say "YES" to believing in Jesus, they start to have doubts that it could be so simple.

Can getting right with God actually be that easy?

"God, are you sure that you love a person like me with all the stuff I do, think, watch?"

God doesn't want to just leave us in this state of feeling like we don't measure up, so He encourages us to get involved with a church family.



Grow in your faith by getting involved with a church family.



Reflection #4

Are you involved at church? If not, how do you plan to get involved with a church family?

What are some obstacles in your life that are preventing you from getting involved at church?

Notes



Prayer

"God, thank you for creating me, loving me, and caring about my life. Although I have given my best to live a good life, I recognize that I have fallen short of your standards. Thank you for sending Jesus to earth to take my punishment and make a way for me to have a relationship with you. I believe that Jesus death and resurrection makes all of this possible for me. Help me every day to remember this truth and live a life that honours you. Amen."

[PORTICO.CC/YES](https://portico.cc/yes)



Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.

GALATIANS 2:16 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NLT)

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16 (NLT)

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39 (NLT)

For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

ROMANS 10:17 (NLT)