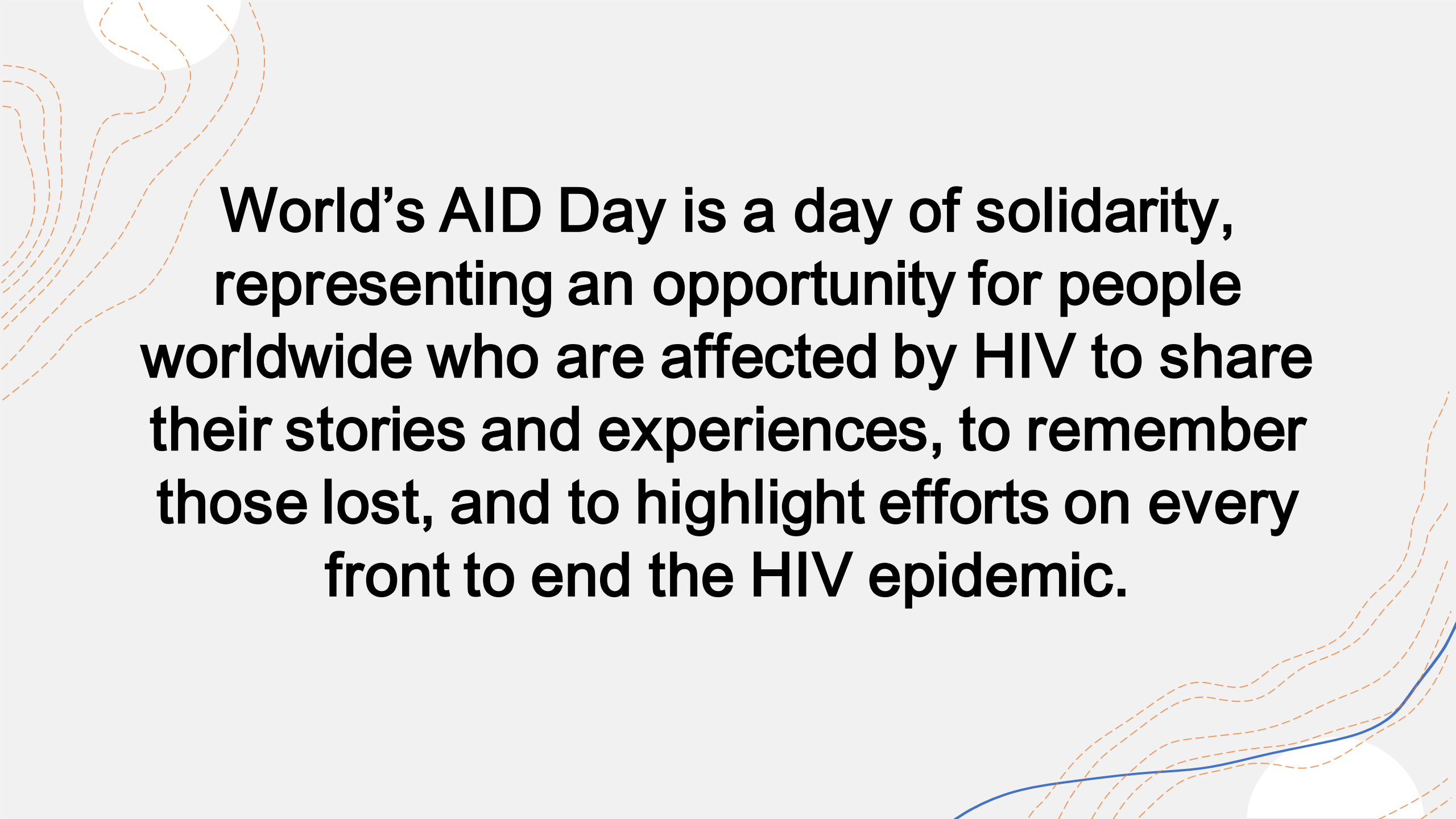




December 1, 2021, is World's AID Day.

Theme:

**“ Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access,
Everyone's Voice ”**



World's AID Day is a day of solidarity, representing an opportunity for people worldwide who are affected by HIV to share their stories and experiences, to remember those lost, and to highlight efforts on every front to end the HIV epidemic.



Prayer Requests:

Pray for greater awareness of HIV and AIDS, for greater dignity and rights of people living with the virus. For increased access to treatments and care. For support for those left behind to grieve the loss of their loved ones.



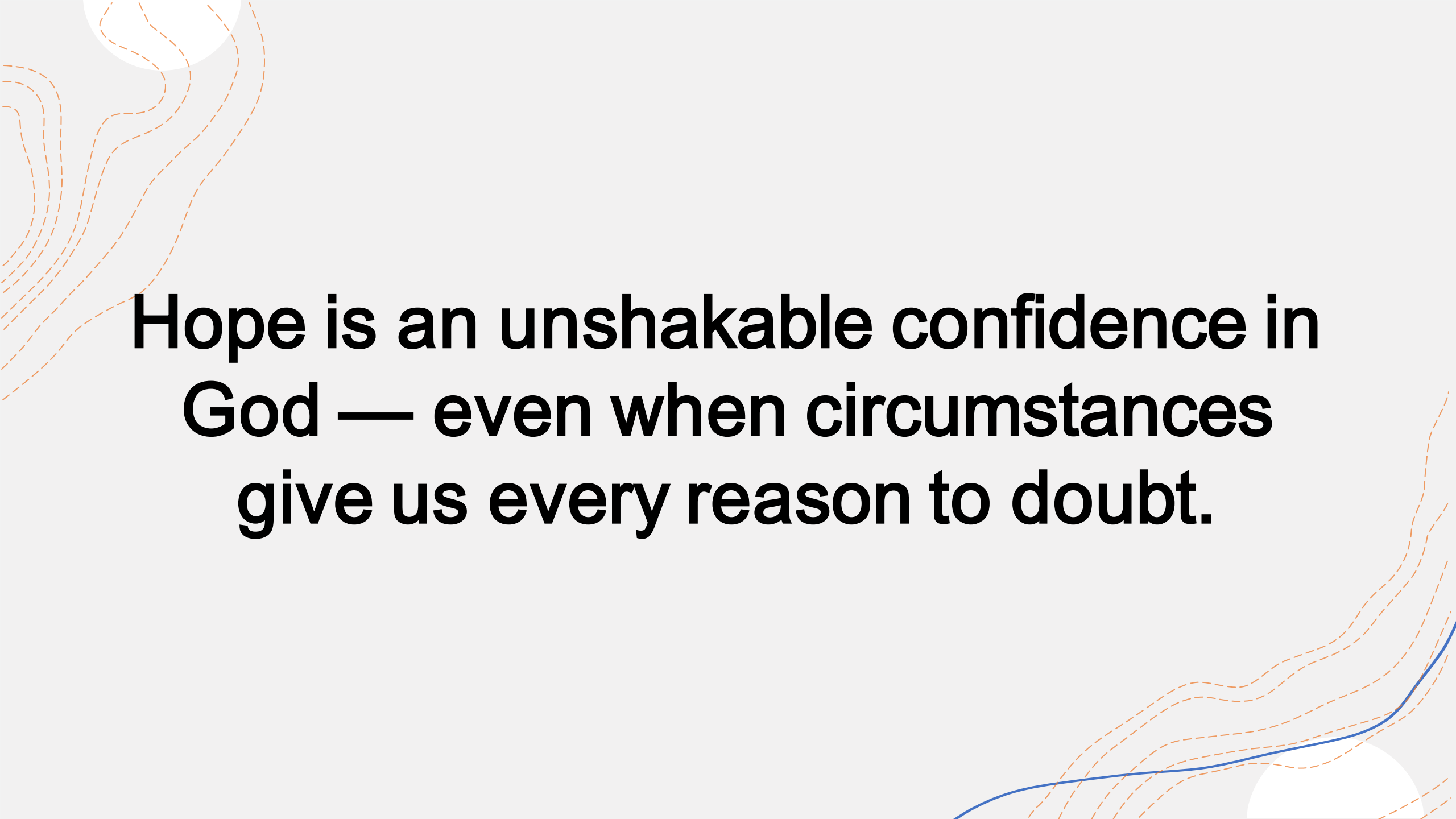
Overflowing with Hope

December Bible Study Series



Biblical Definition

“Hope is an expectation with certainty that God will do what He has said.”



**Hope is an unshakable confidence in
God — even when circumstances
give us every reason to doubt.**

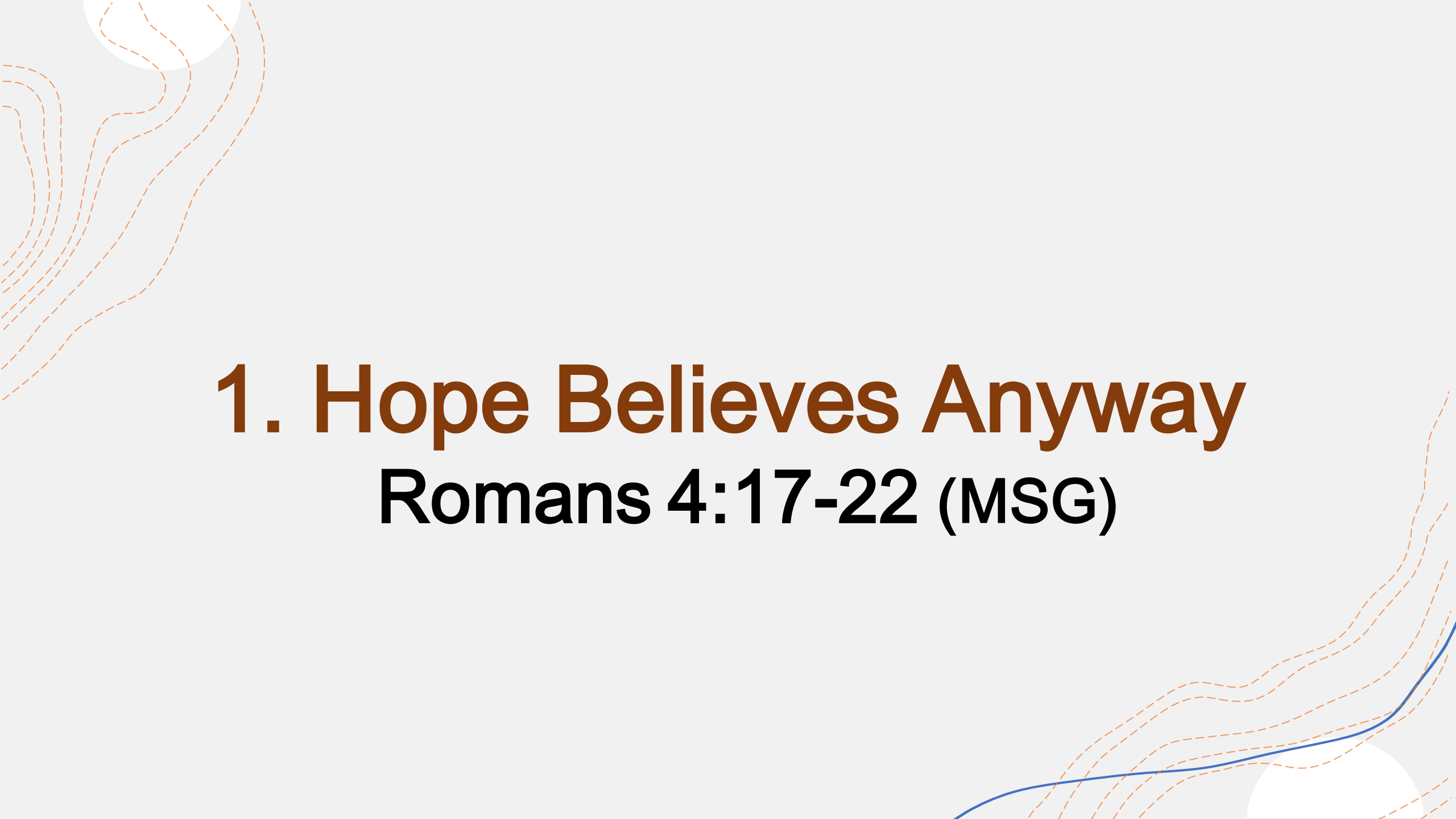


**“When the world says give
up, hopes whispers, try it
one more time.”**



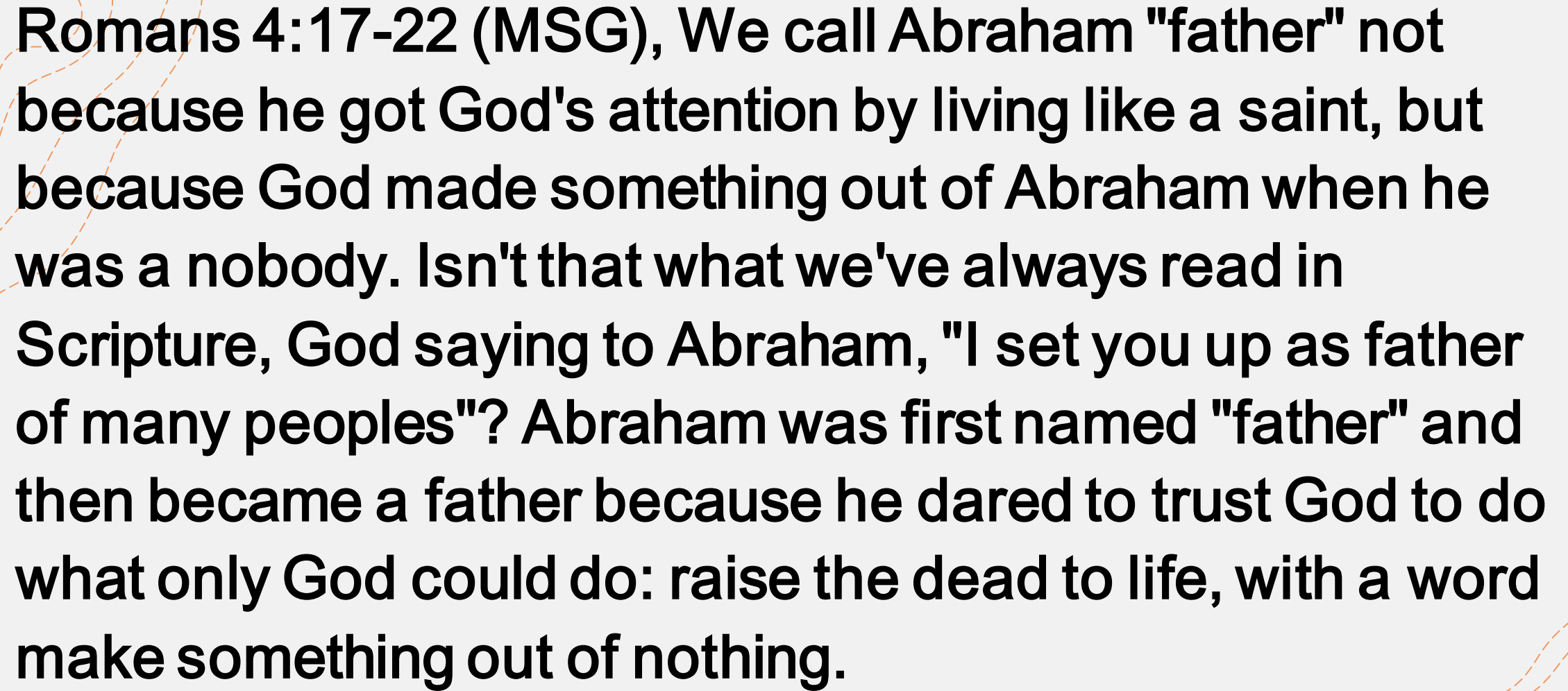
How to Hope in Hard Times

Lesson Four

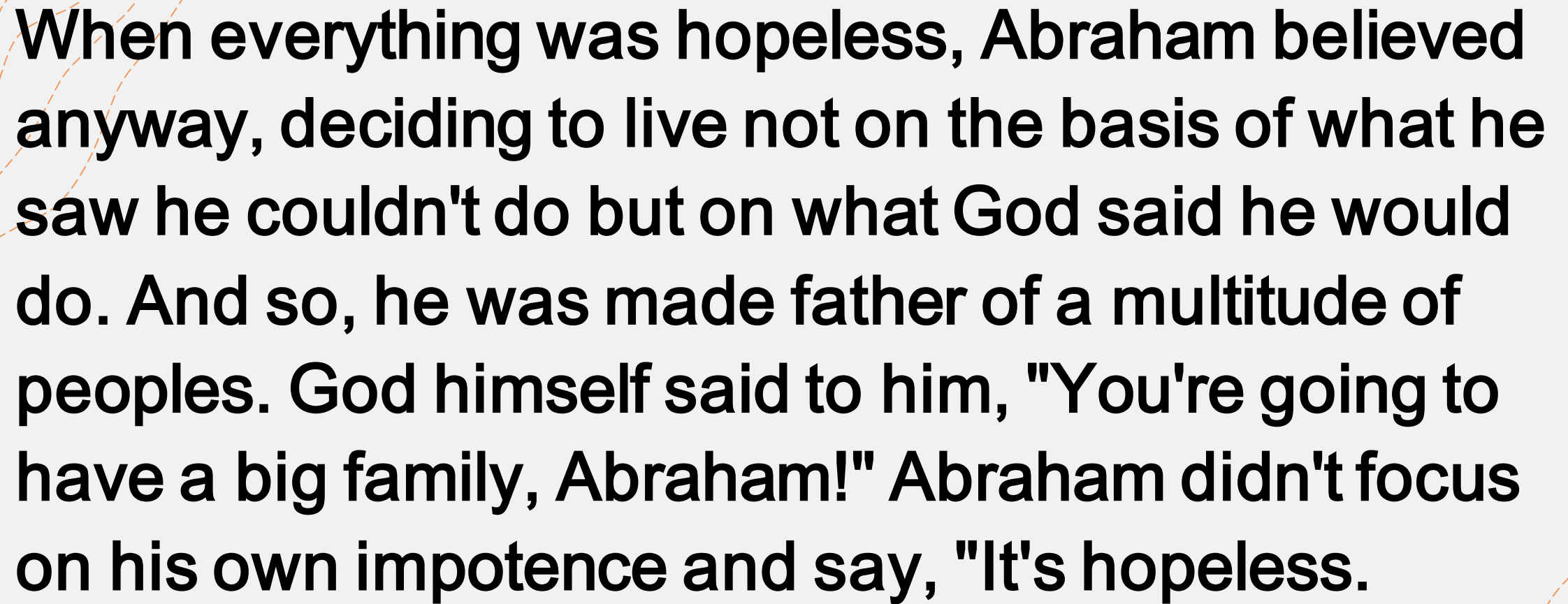


1. Hope Believes Anyway

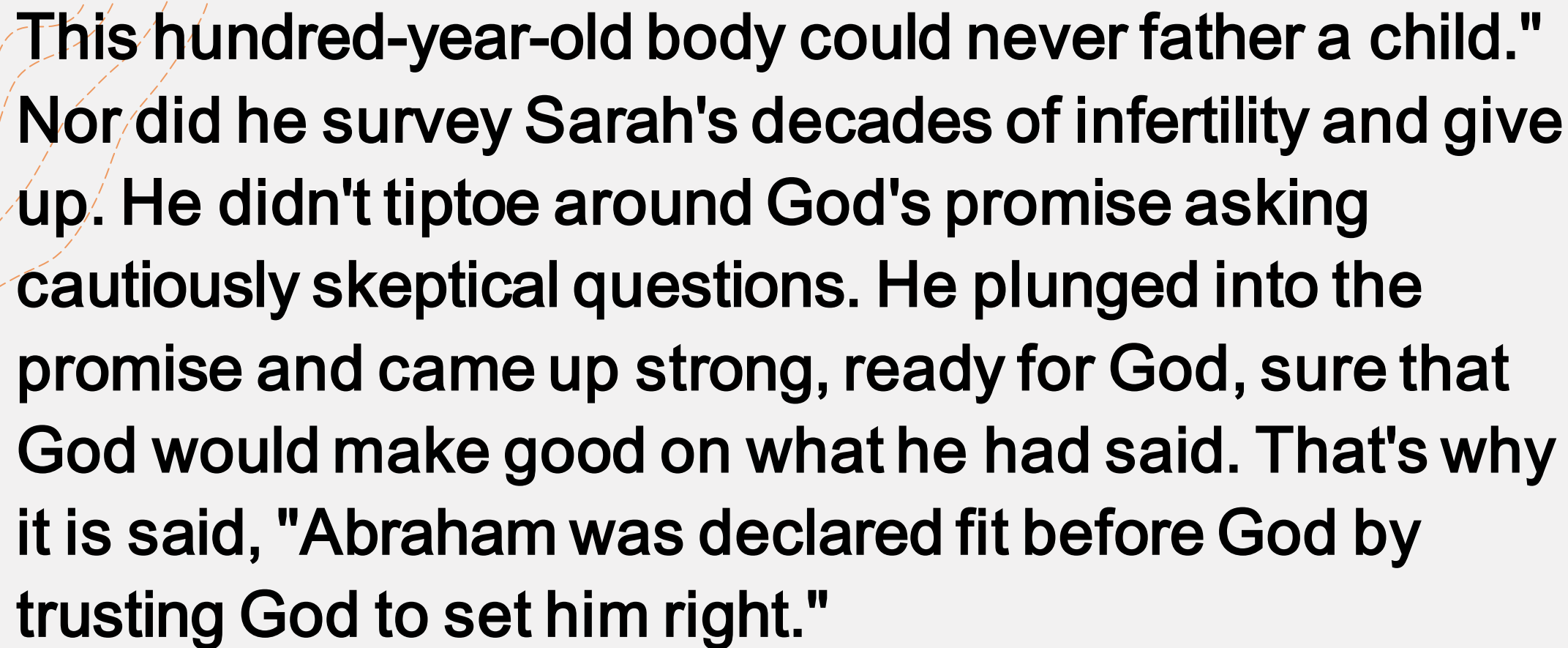
Romans 4:17-22 (MSG)



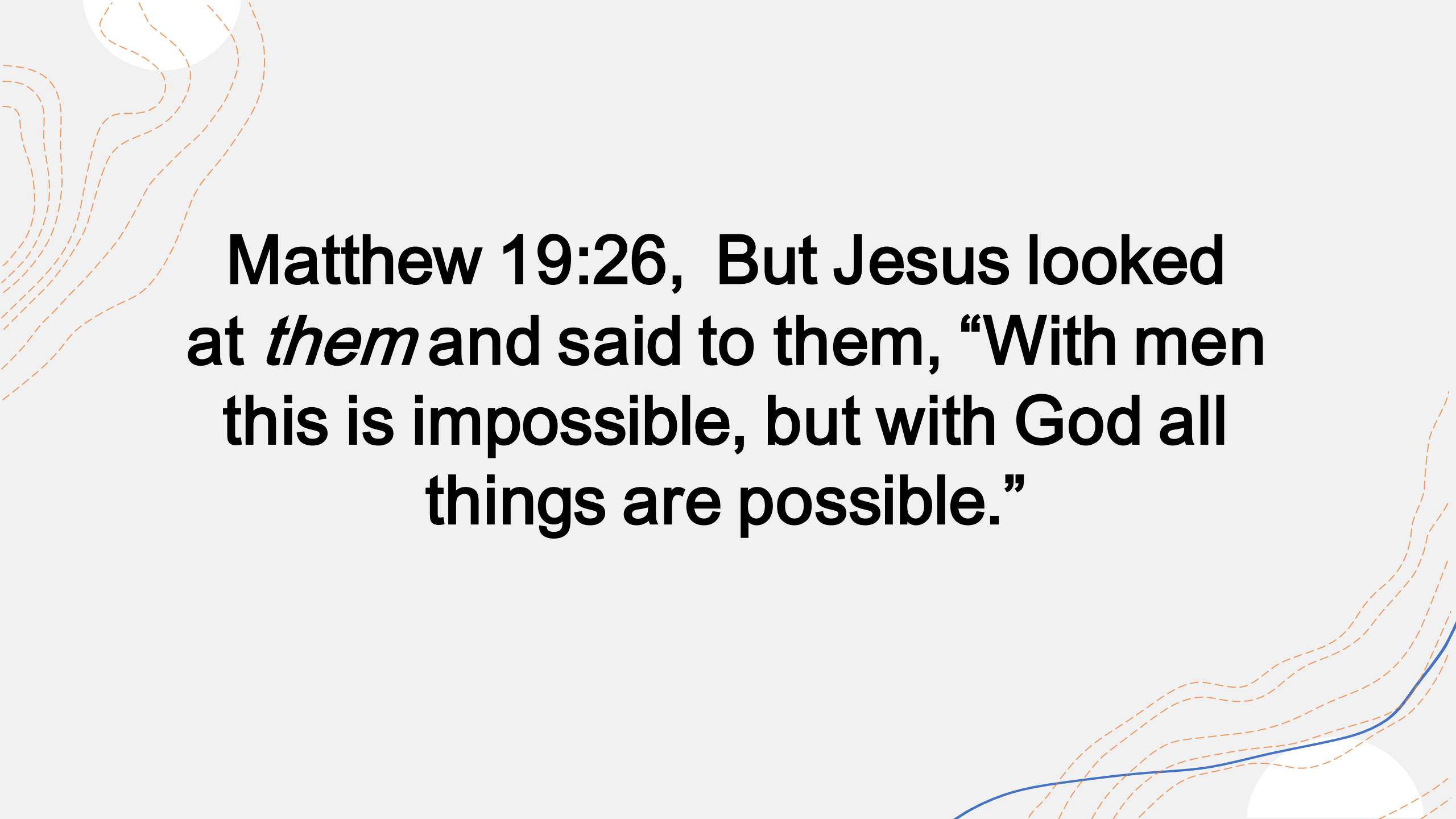
Romans 4:17-22 (MSG), We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing.



When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so, he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!" Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless."



This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That's why it is said, "Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right."

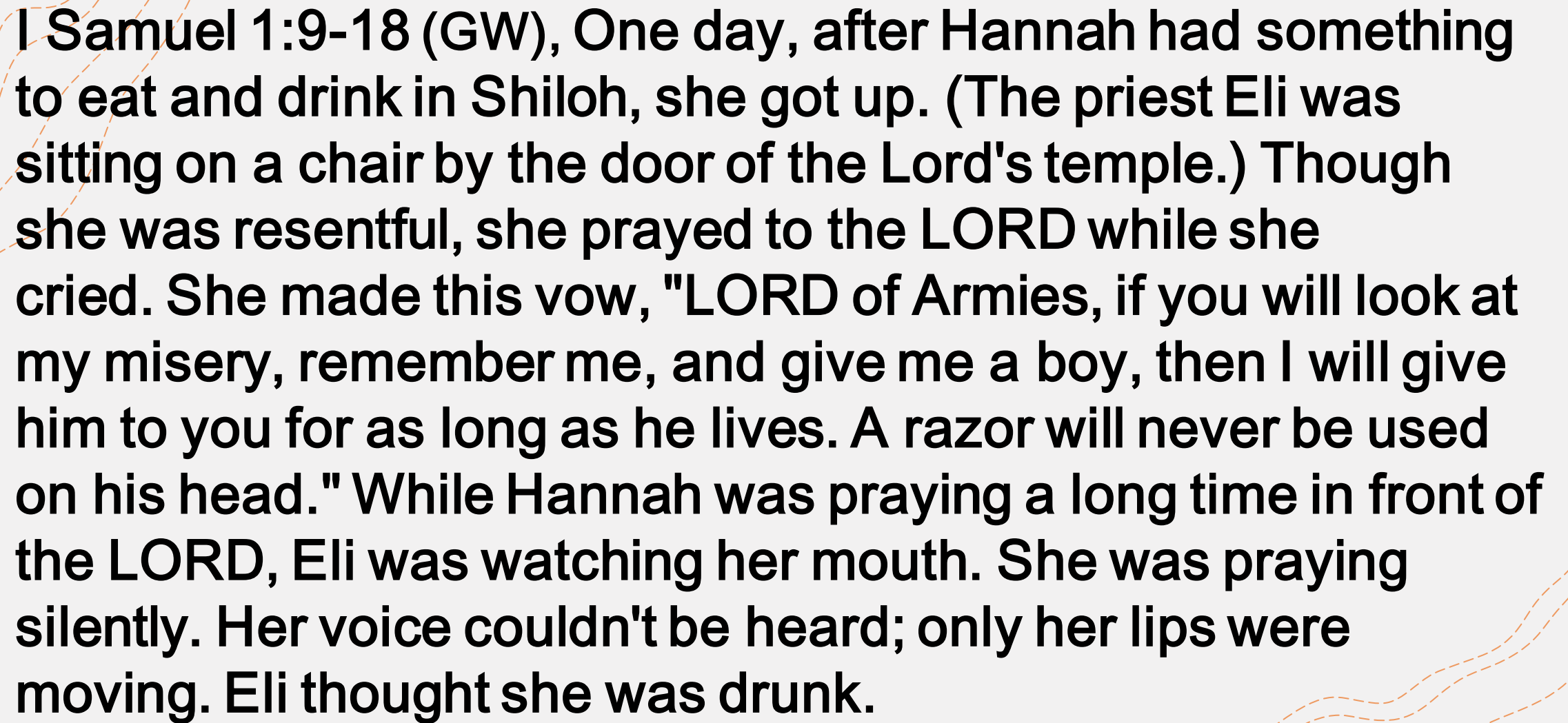


**Matthew 19:26, But Jesus looked
at *them* and said to them, “With men
this is impossible, but with God all
things are possible.”**

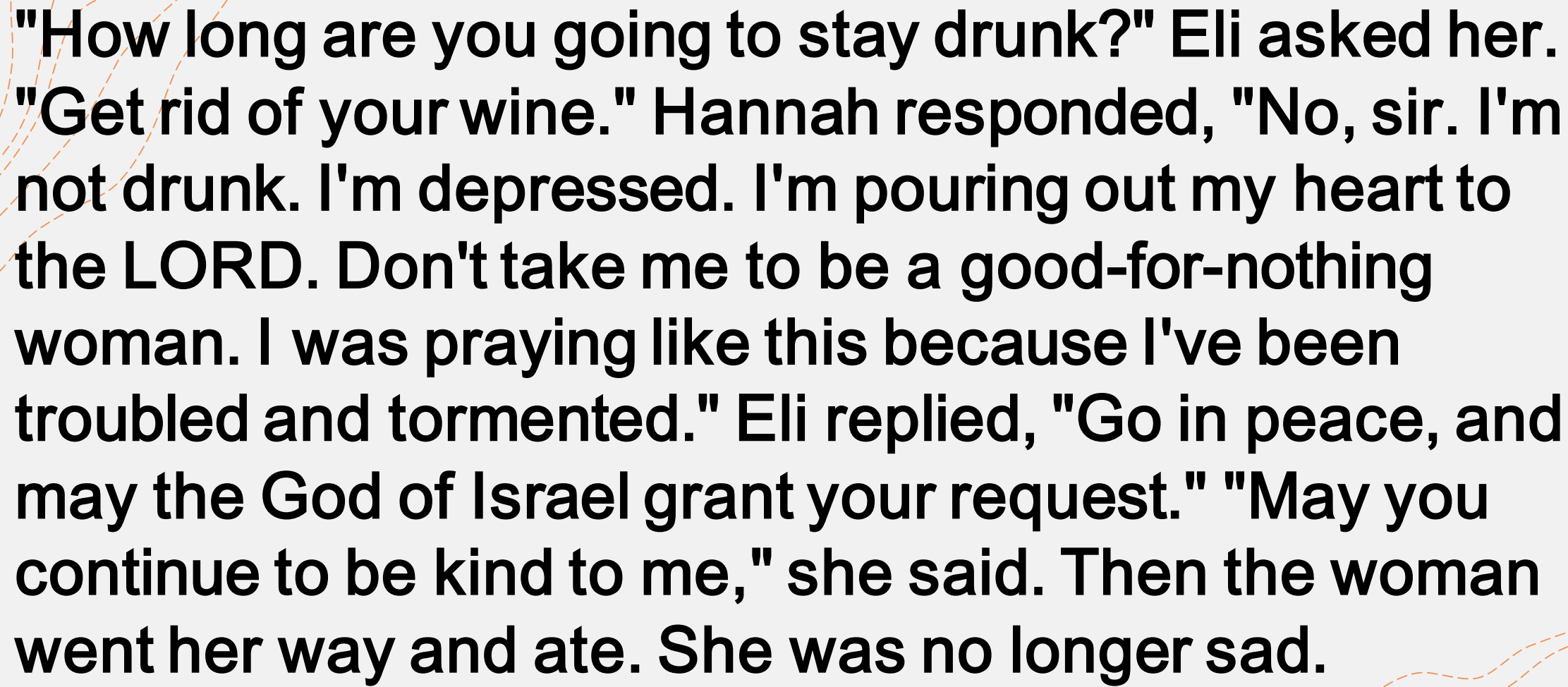


2. Hope Resists Resentment | Samuel

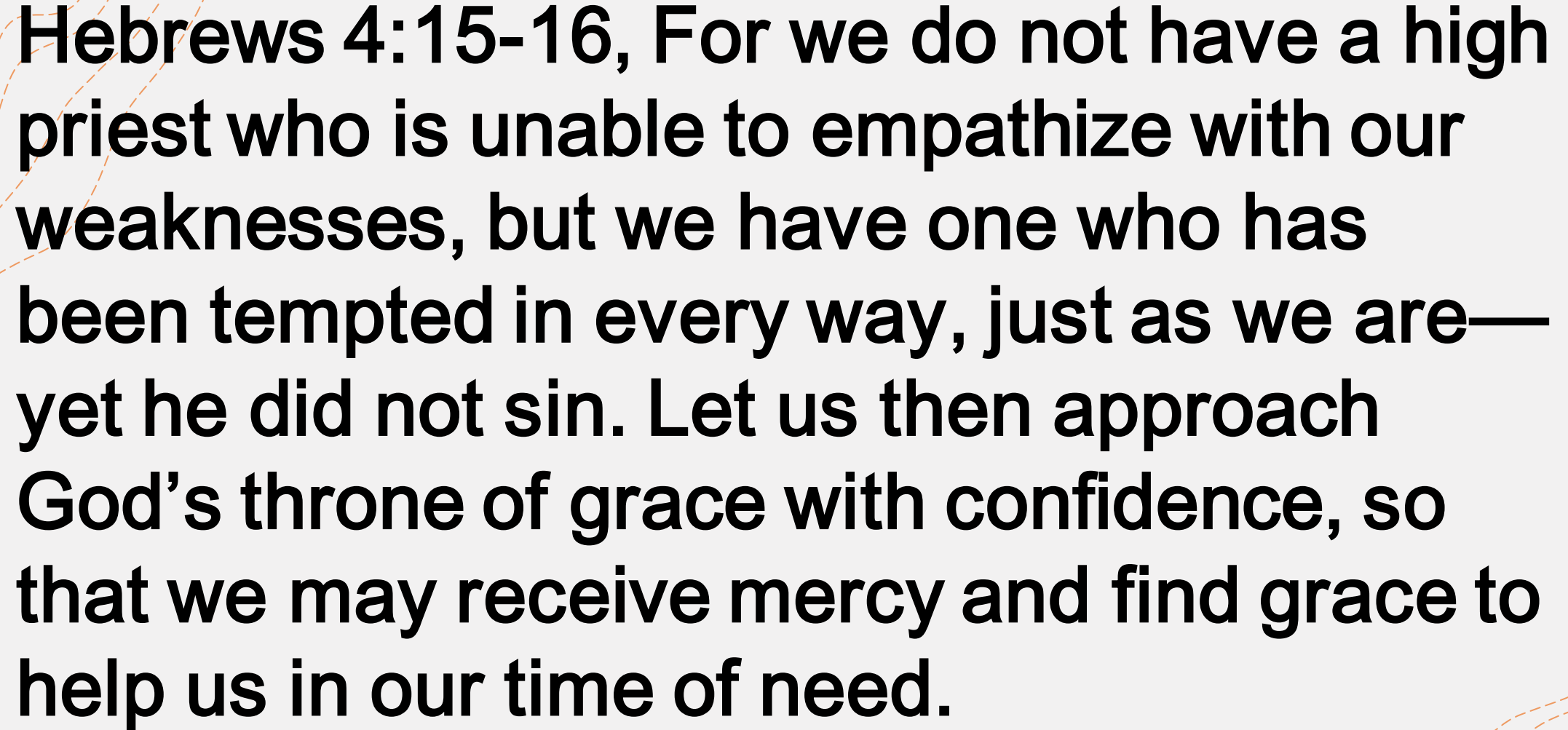
1:9-18 (GW)




1 Samuel 1:9-18 (GW), One day, after Hannah had something to eat and drink in Shiloh, she got up. (The priest Eli was sitting on a chair by the door of the Lord's temple.) Though she was resentful, she prayed to the LORD while she cried. She made this vow, "LORD of Armies, if you will look at my misery, remember me, and give me a boy, then I will give him to you for as long as he lives. A razor will never be used on his head." While Hannah was praying a long time in front of the LORD, Eli was watching her mouth. She was praying silently. Her voice couldn't be heard; only her lips were moving. Eli thought she was drunk.



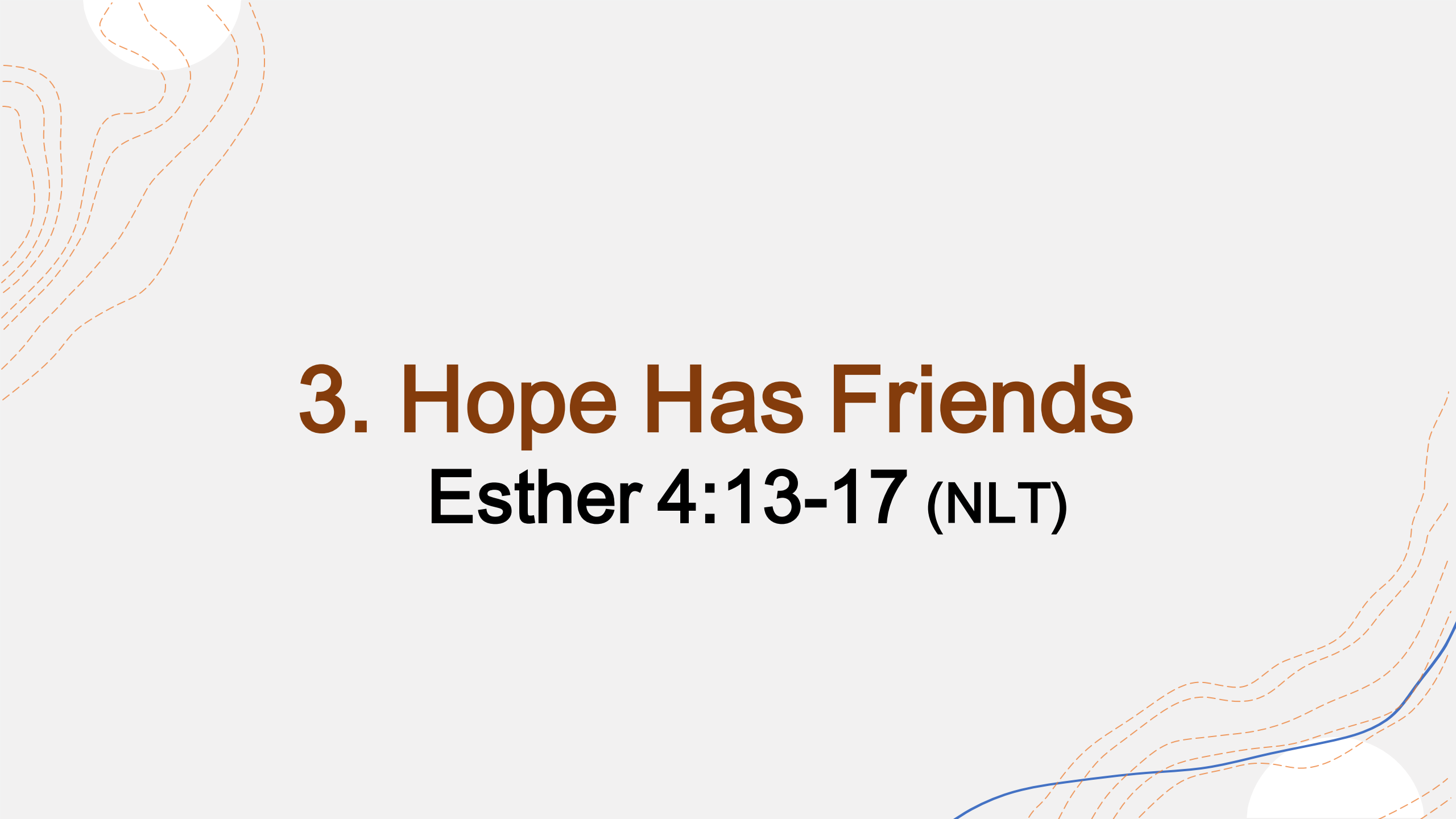
"How long are you going to stay drunk?" Eli asked her. "Get rid of your wine." Hannah responded, "No, sir. I'm not drunk. I'm depressed. I'm pouring out my heart to the LORD. Don't take me to be a good-for-nothing woman. I was praying like this because I've been troubled and tormented." Eli replied, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your request." "May you continue to be kind to me," she said. Then the woman went her way and ate. She was no longer sad.



Hebrews 4:15-16, For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

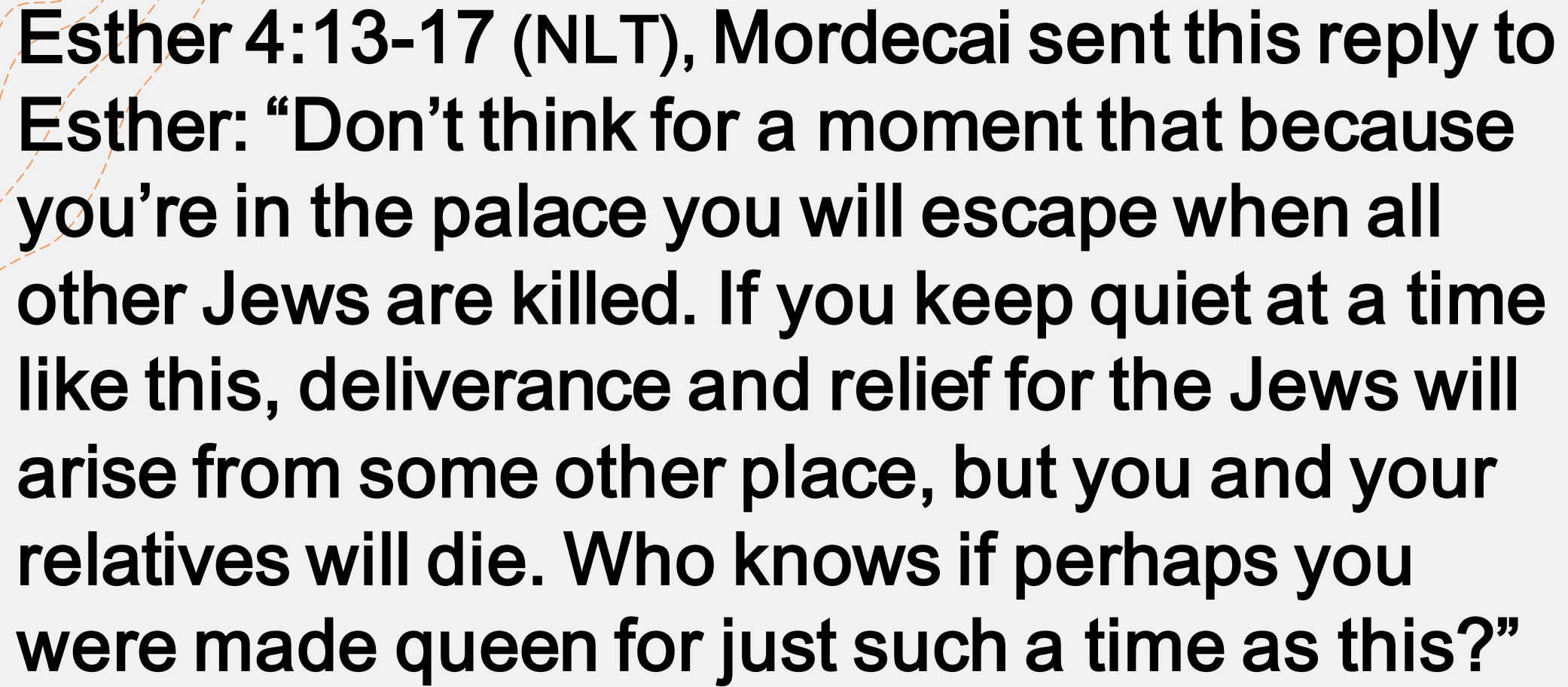


**“If you change the way you
look at things, the things you
look at change.”**

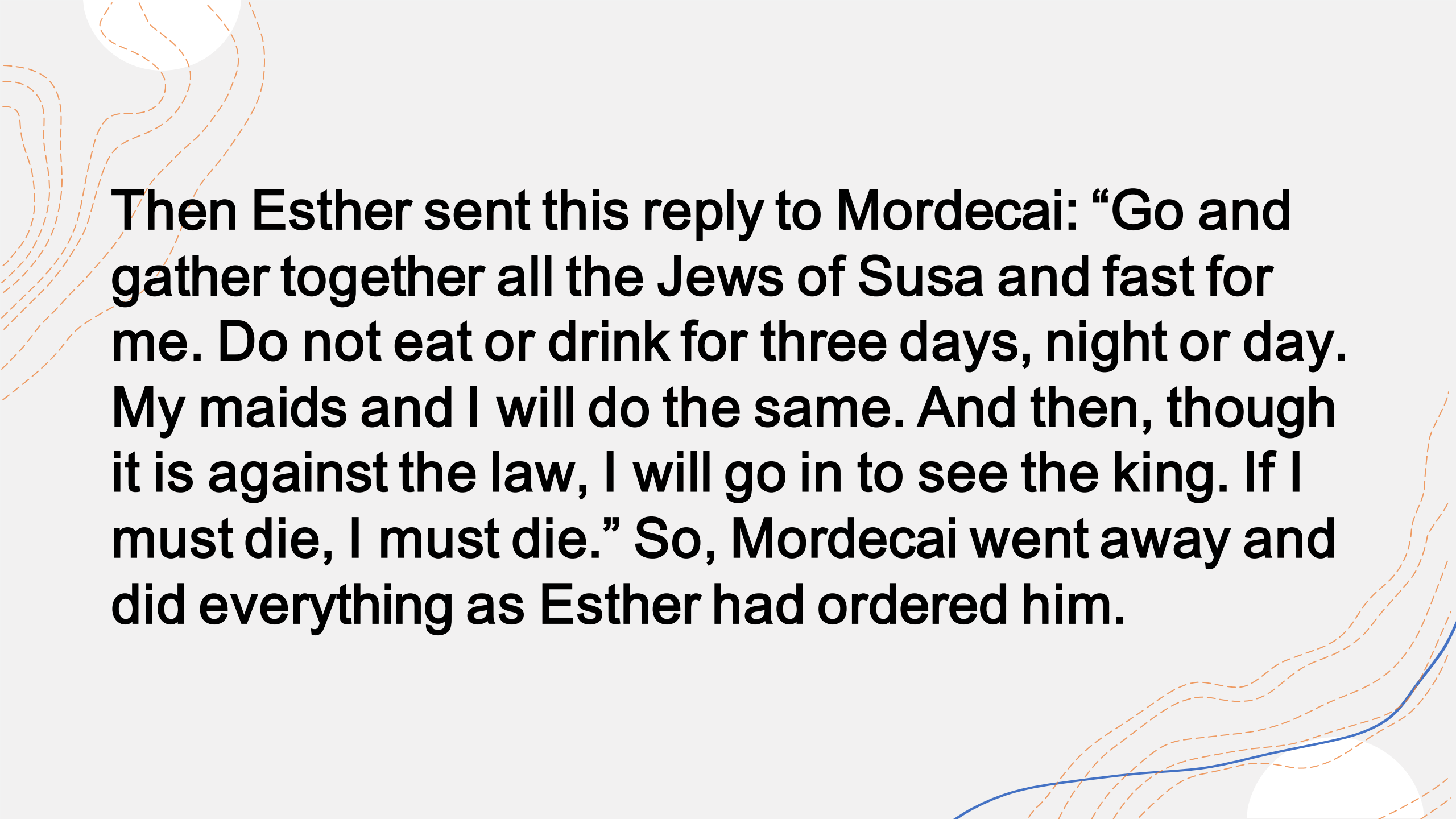


3. Hope Has Friends

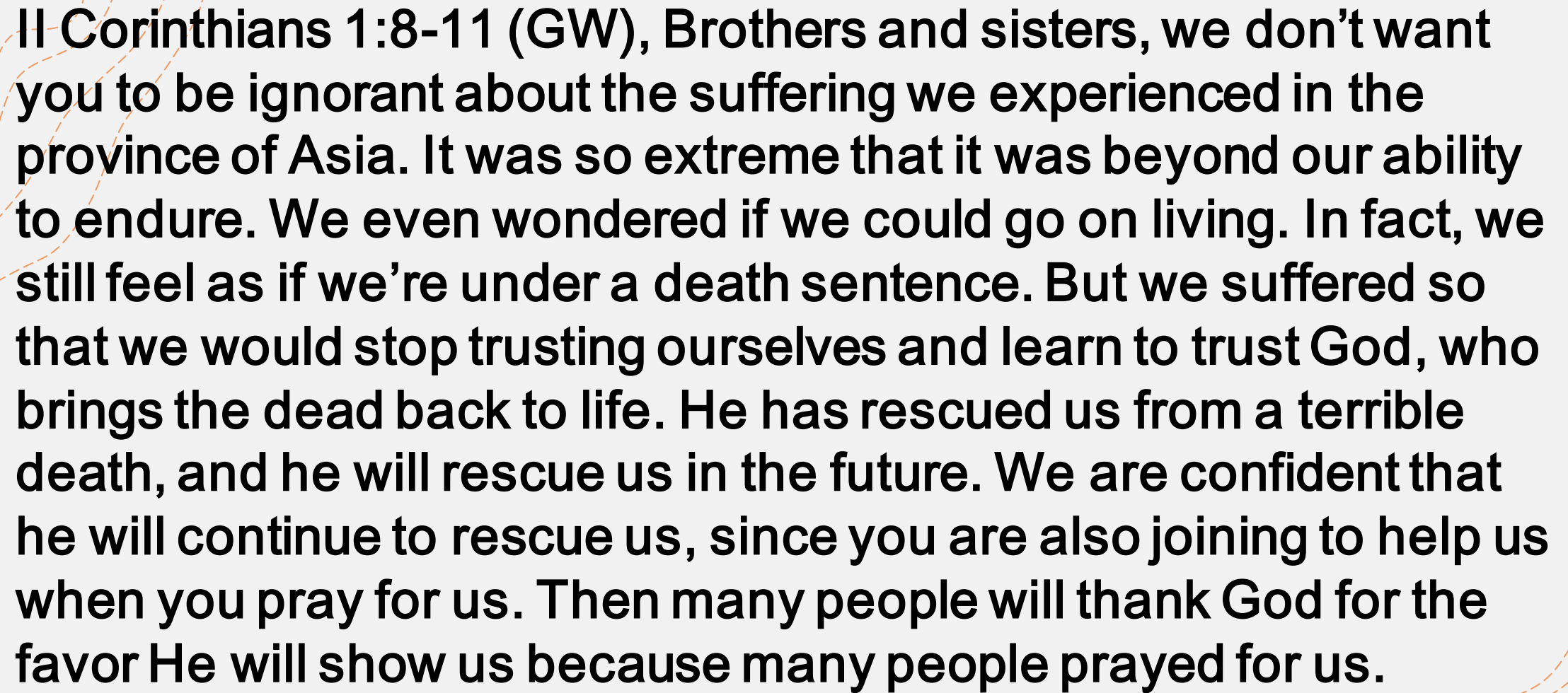
Esther 4:13-17 (NLT)



Esther 4:13-17 (NLT), Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”



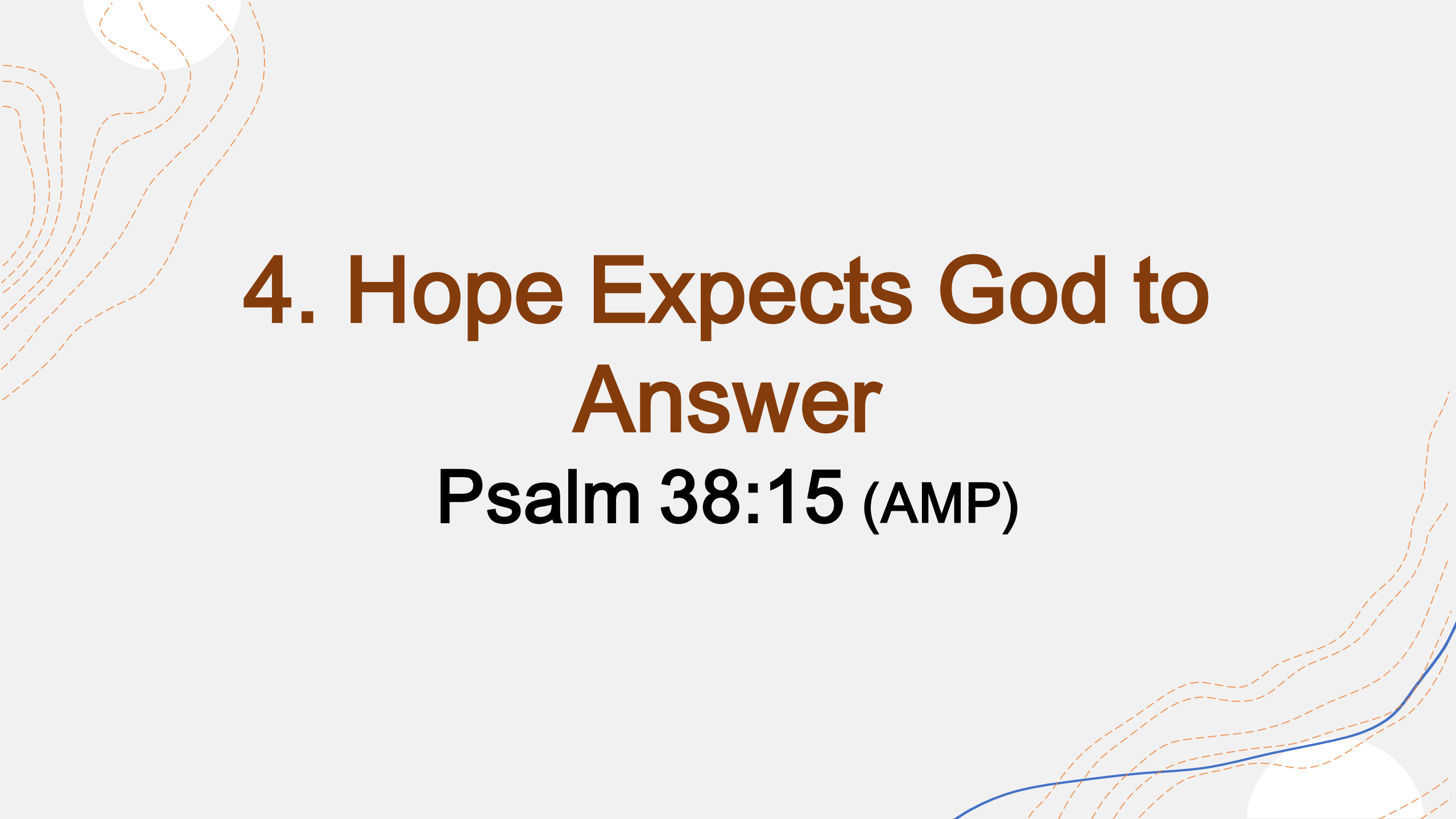
Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.” So, Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.



II Corinthians 1:8-11 (GW), Brothers and sisters, we don't want you to be ignorant about the suffering we experienced in the province of Asia. It was so extreme that it was beyond our ability to endure. We even wondered if we could go on living. In fact, we still feel as if we're under a death sentence. But we suffered so that we would stop trusting ourselves and learn to trust God, who brings the dead back to life. He has rescued us from a terrible death, and he will rescue us in the future. We are confident that he will continue to rescue us, since you are also joining to help us when you pray for us. Then many people will thank God for the favor He will show us because many people prayed for us.

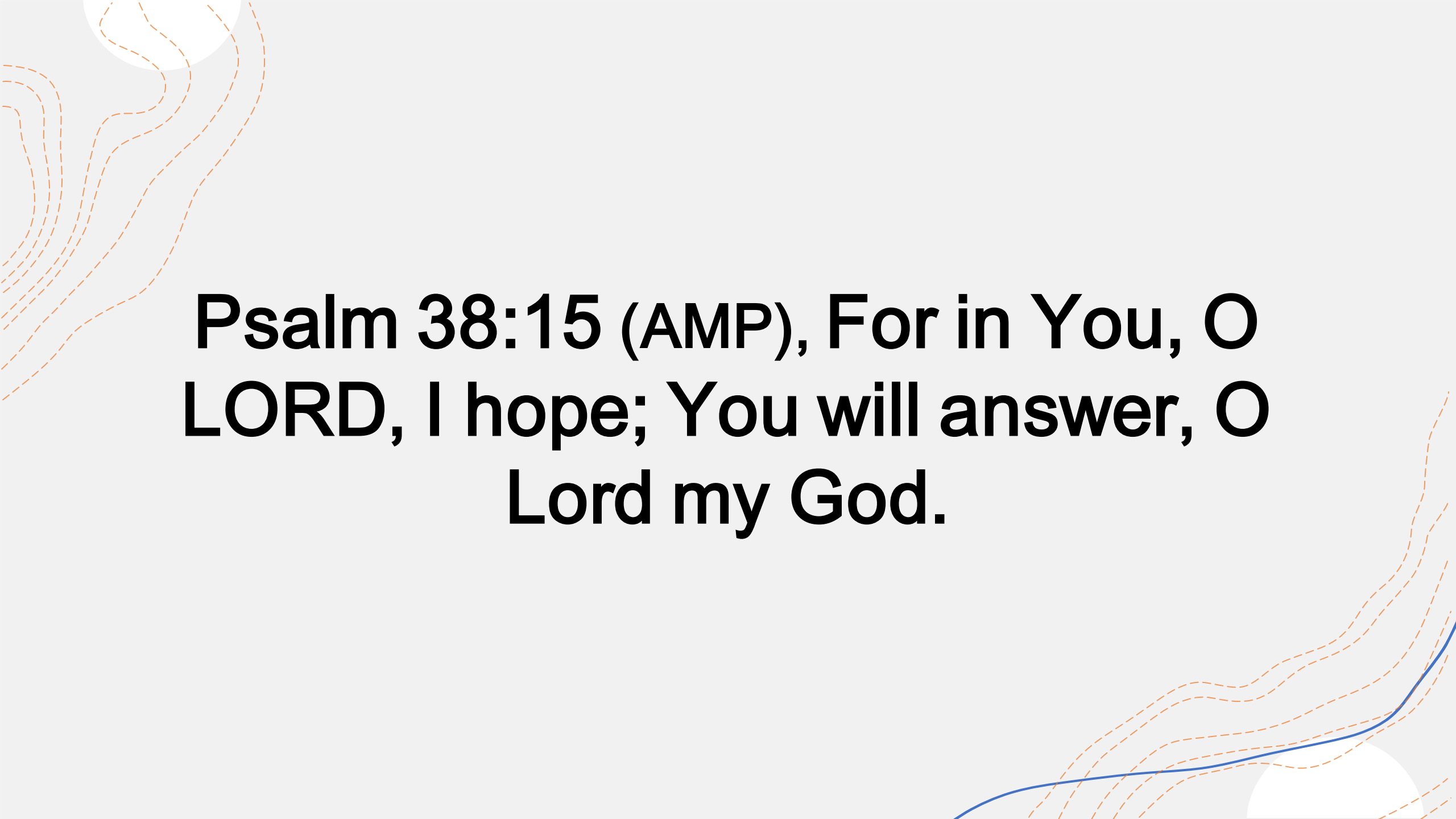


**Psalms 34:17, The righteous cry out,
and the LORD hears, and delivers
them out of all their troubles.**

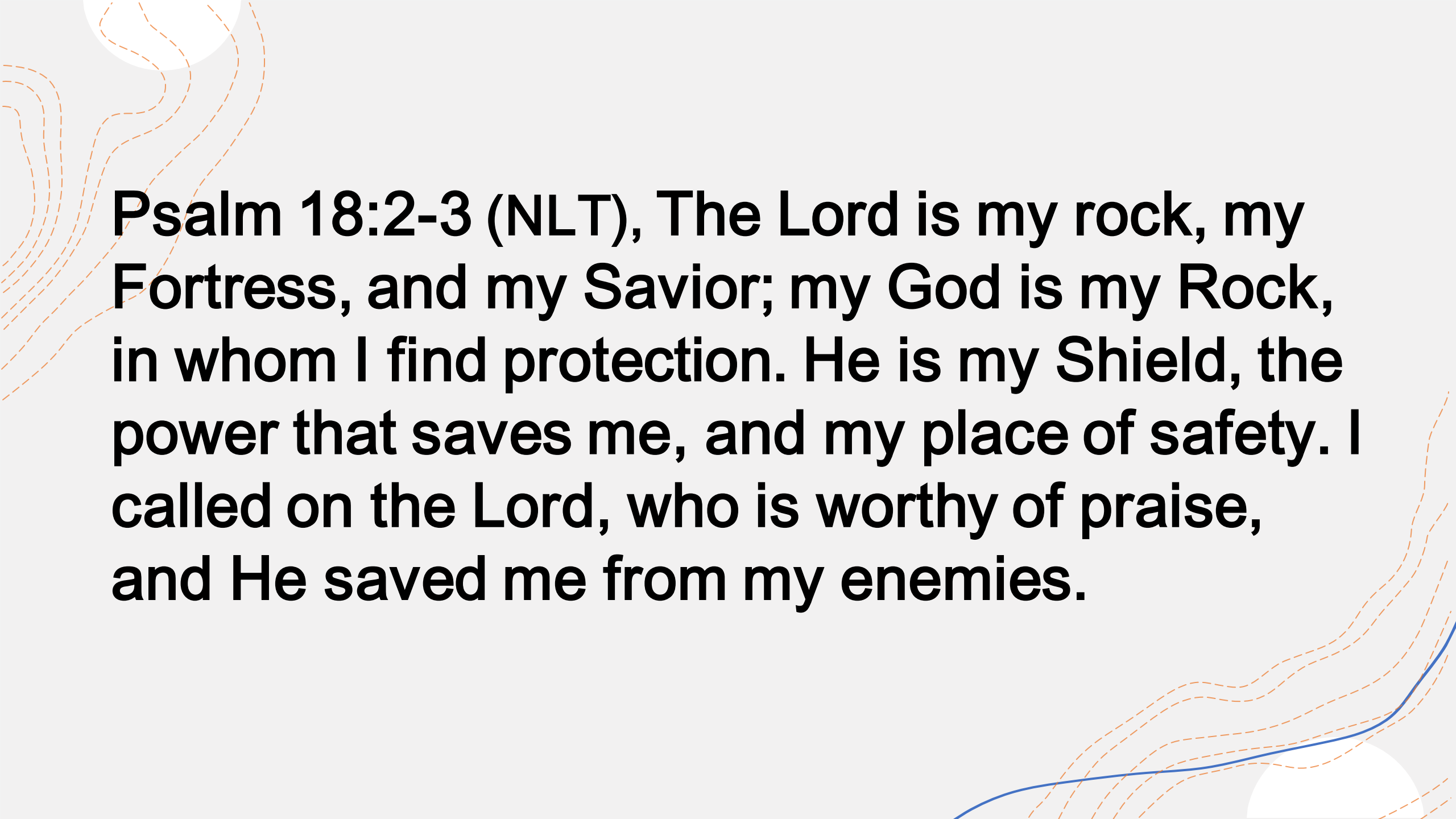


4. Hope Expects God to Answer

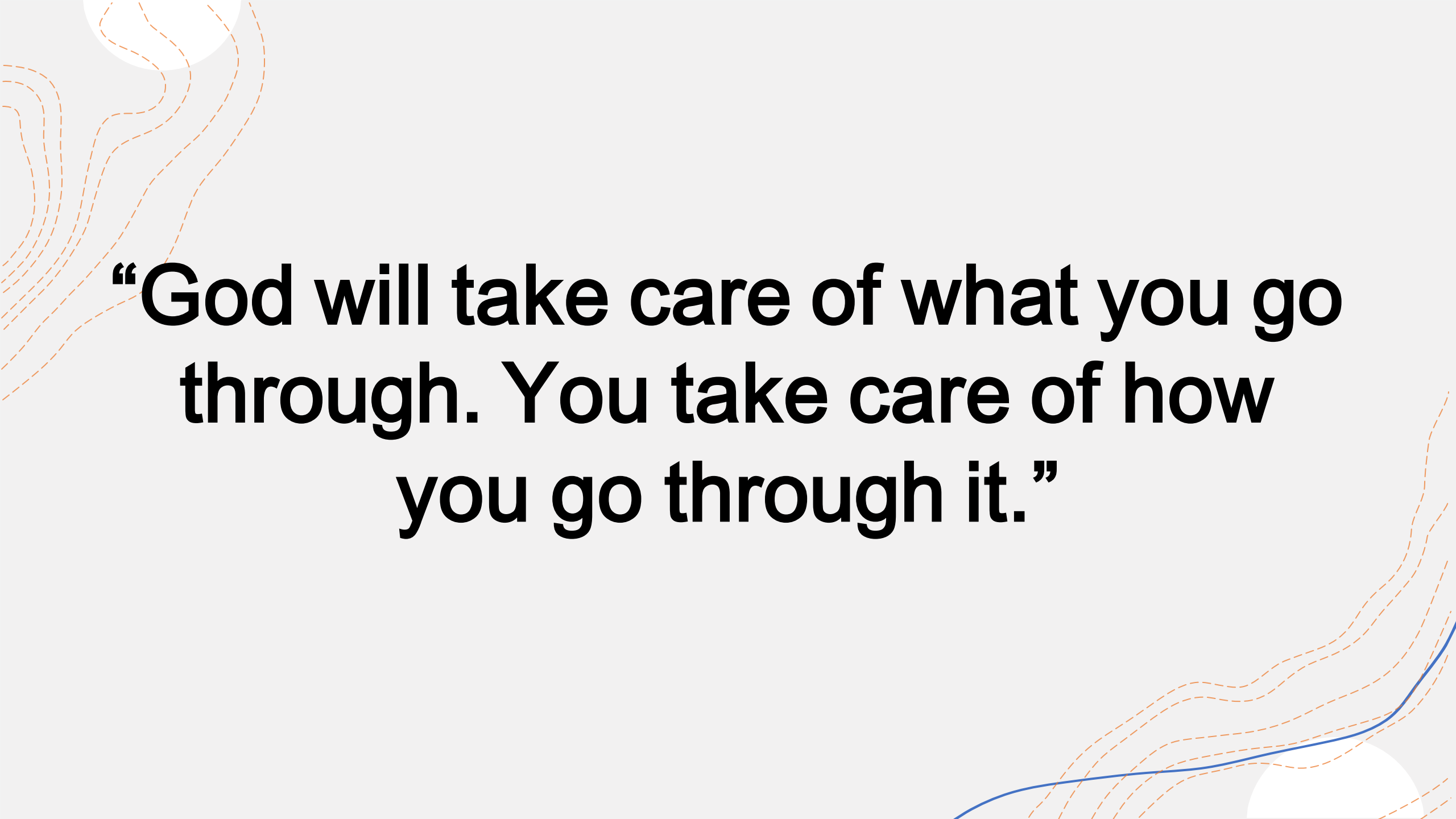
Psalm 38:15 (AMP)



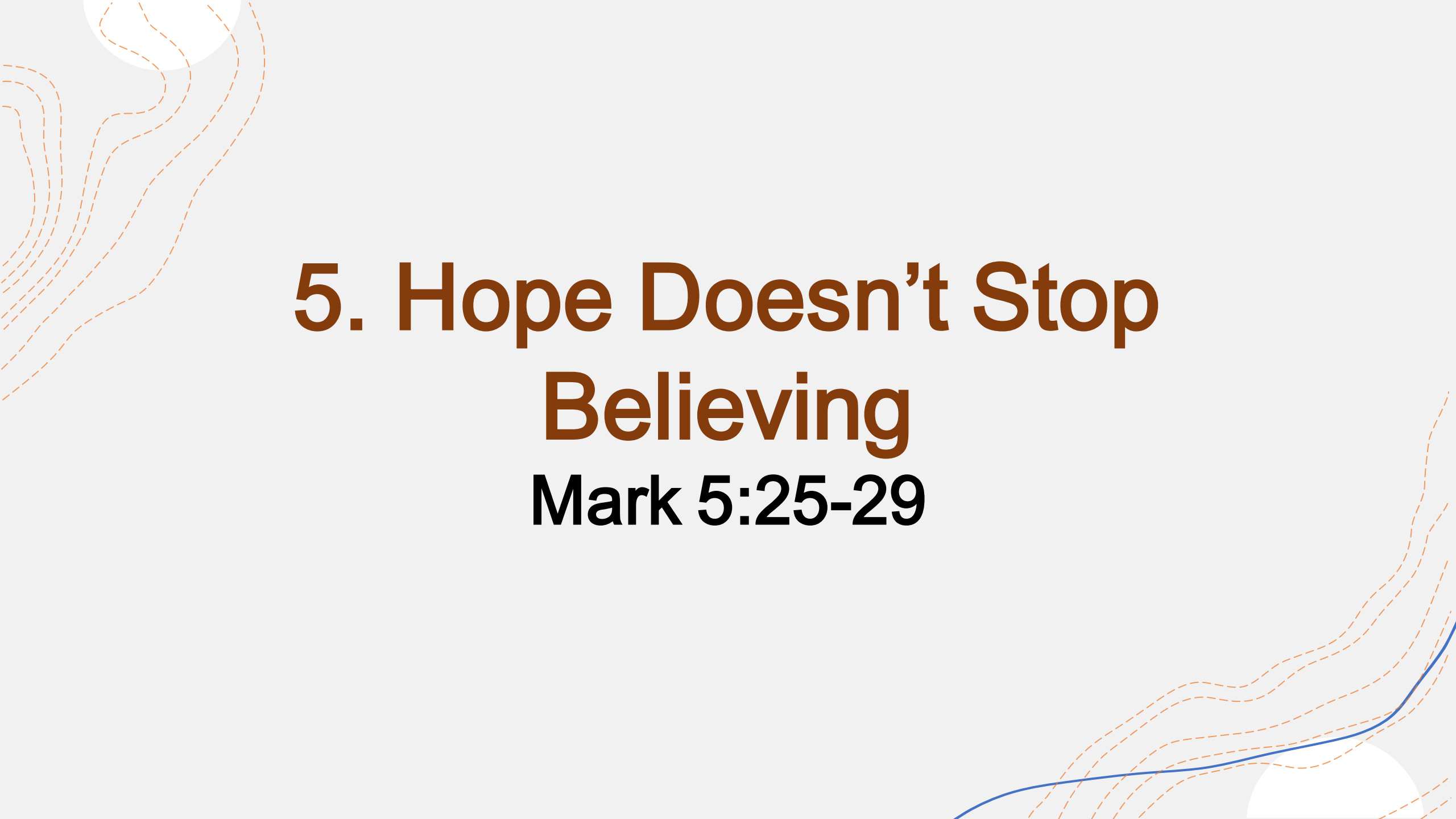
**Psalm 38:15 (AMP), For in You, O
LORD, I hope; You will answer, O
Lord my God.**



Psalm 18:2-3 (NLT), The Lord is my rock, my Fortress, and my Savior; my God is my Rock, in whom I find protection. He is my Shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and He saved me from my enemies.

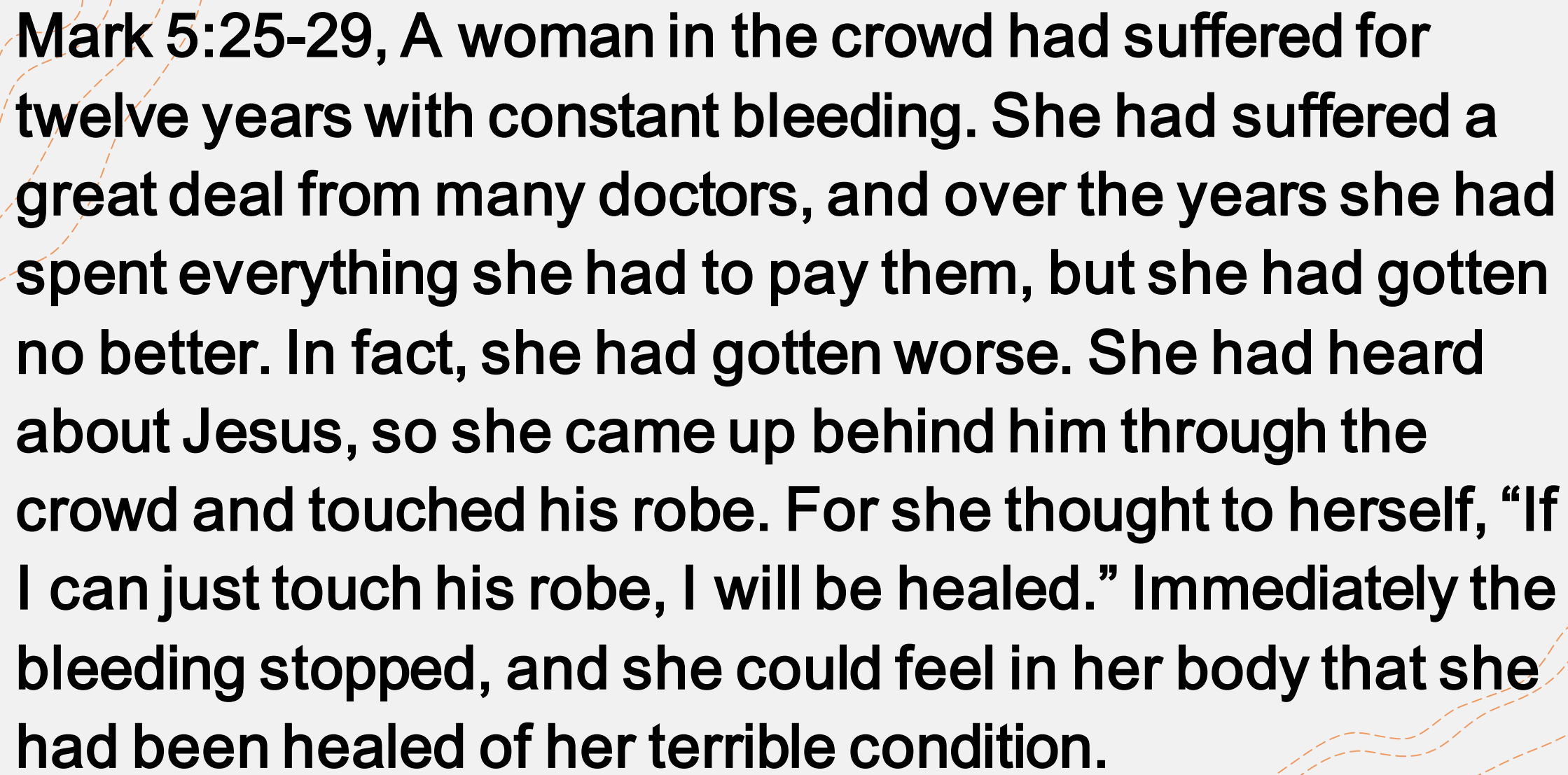


“God will take care of what you go through. You take care of how you go through it.”

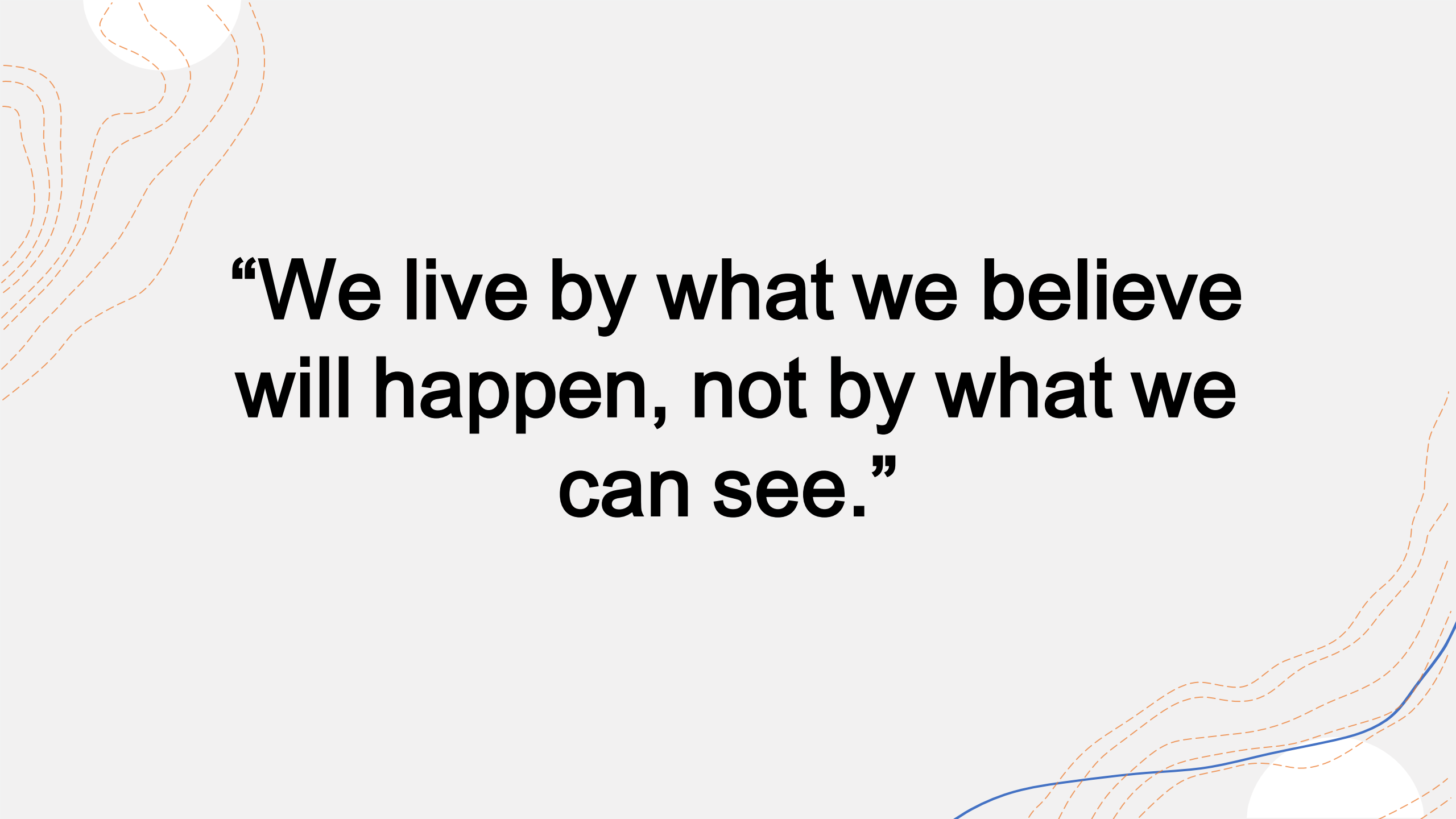


5. Hope Doesn't Stop Believing

Mark 5:25-29



Mark 5:25-29, A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

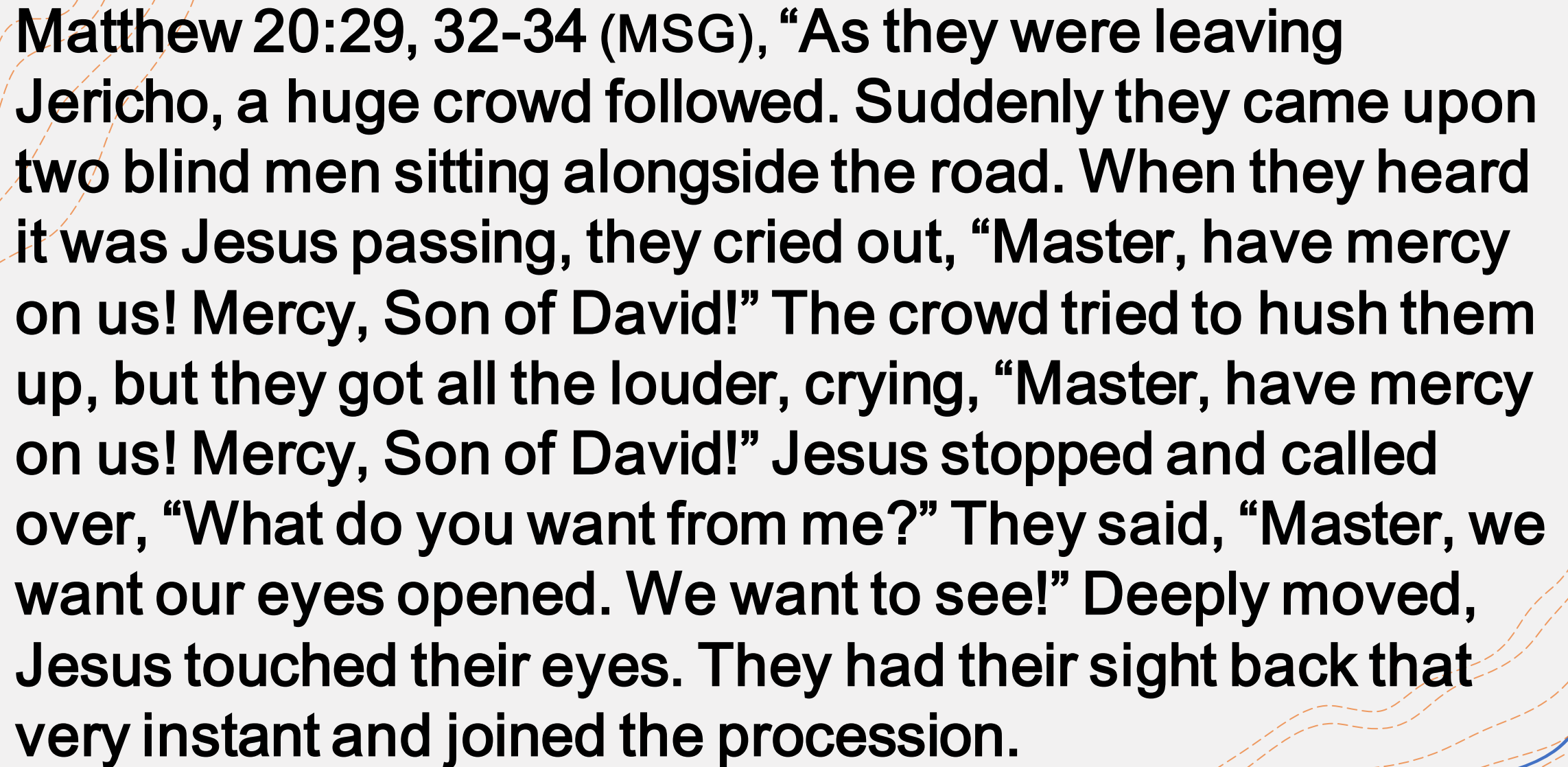


**“We live by what we believe
will happen, not by what we
can see.”**



6. Hope Is Louder Than the Crowd

Matthew 20:29, 32-34 (MSG)

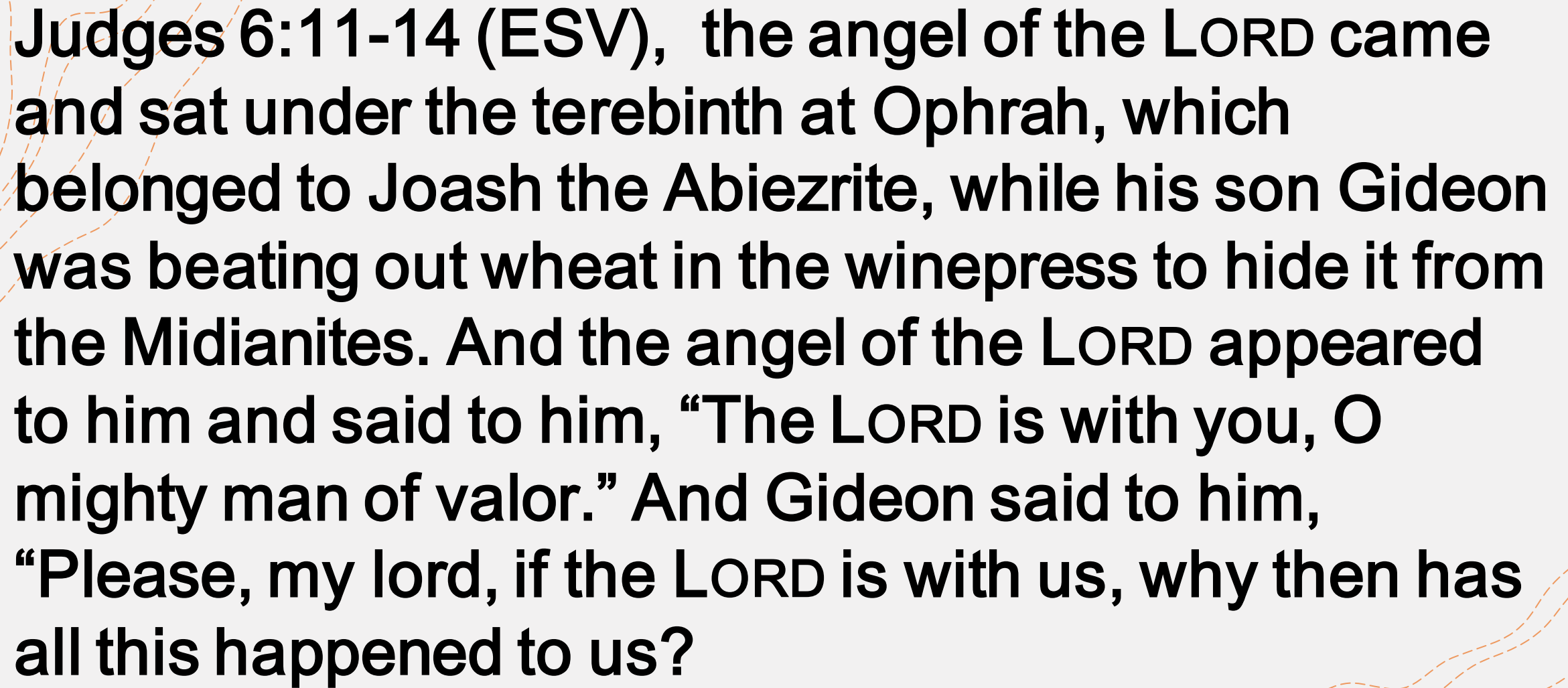


Matthew 20:29, 32-34 (MSG), “As they were leaving Jericho, a huge crowd followed. Suddenly they came upon two blind men sitting alongside the road. When they heard it was Jesus passing, they cried out, “Master, have mercy on us! Mercy, Son of David!” The crowd tried to hush them up, but they got all the louder, crying, “Master, have mercy on us! Mercy, Son of David!” Jesus stopped and called over, “What do you want from me?” They said, “Master, we want our eyes opened. We want to see!” Deeply moved, Jesus touched their eyes. They had their sight back that very instant and joined the procession.

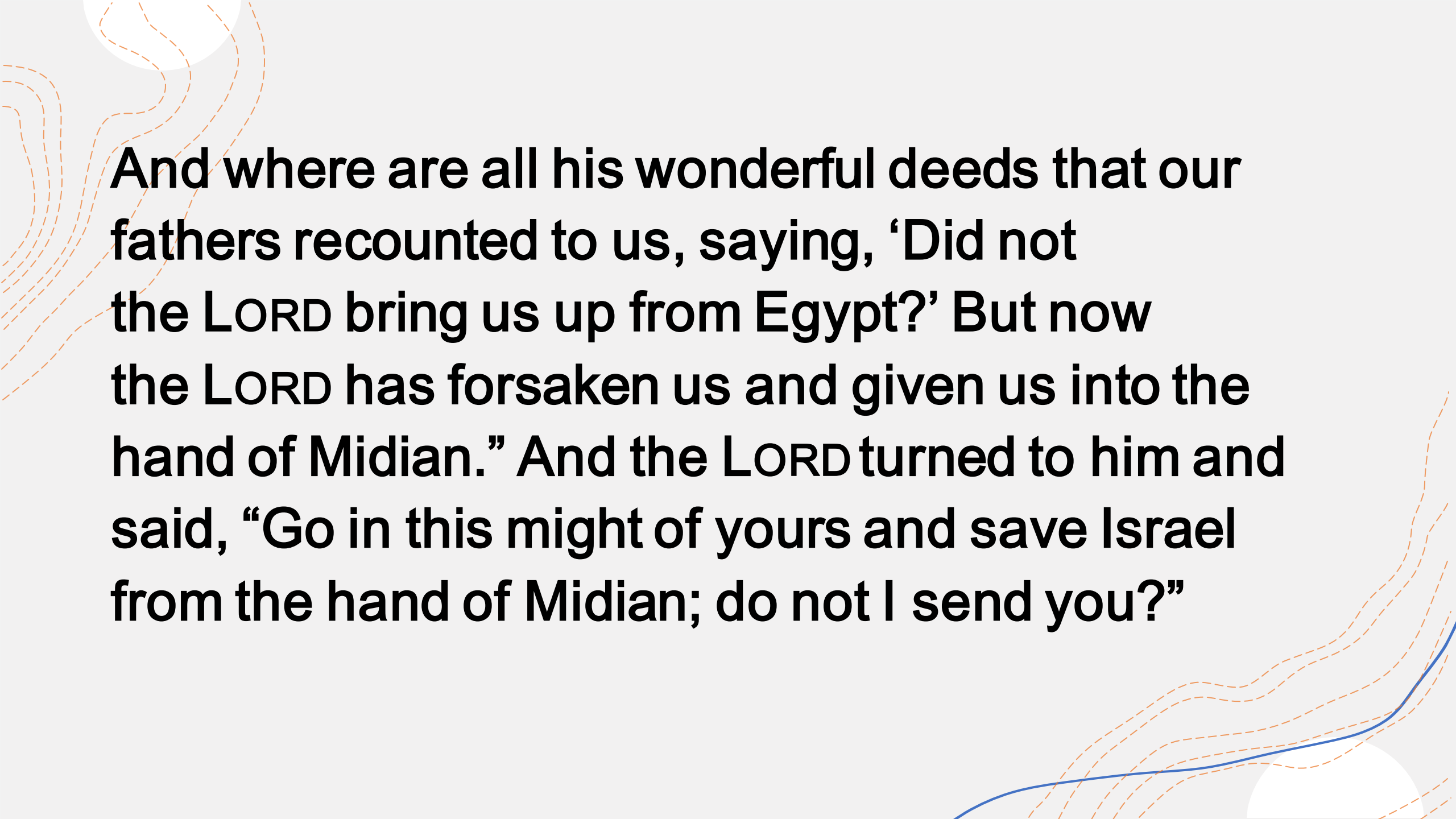


Hope Hears God

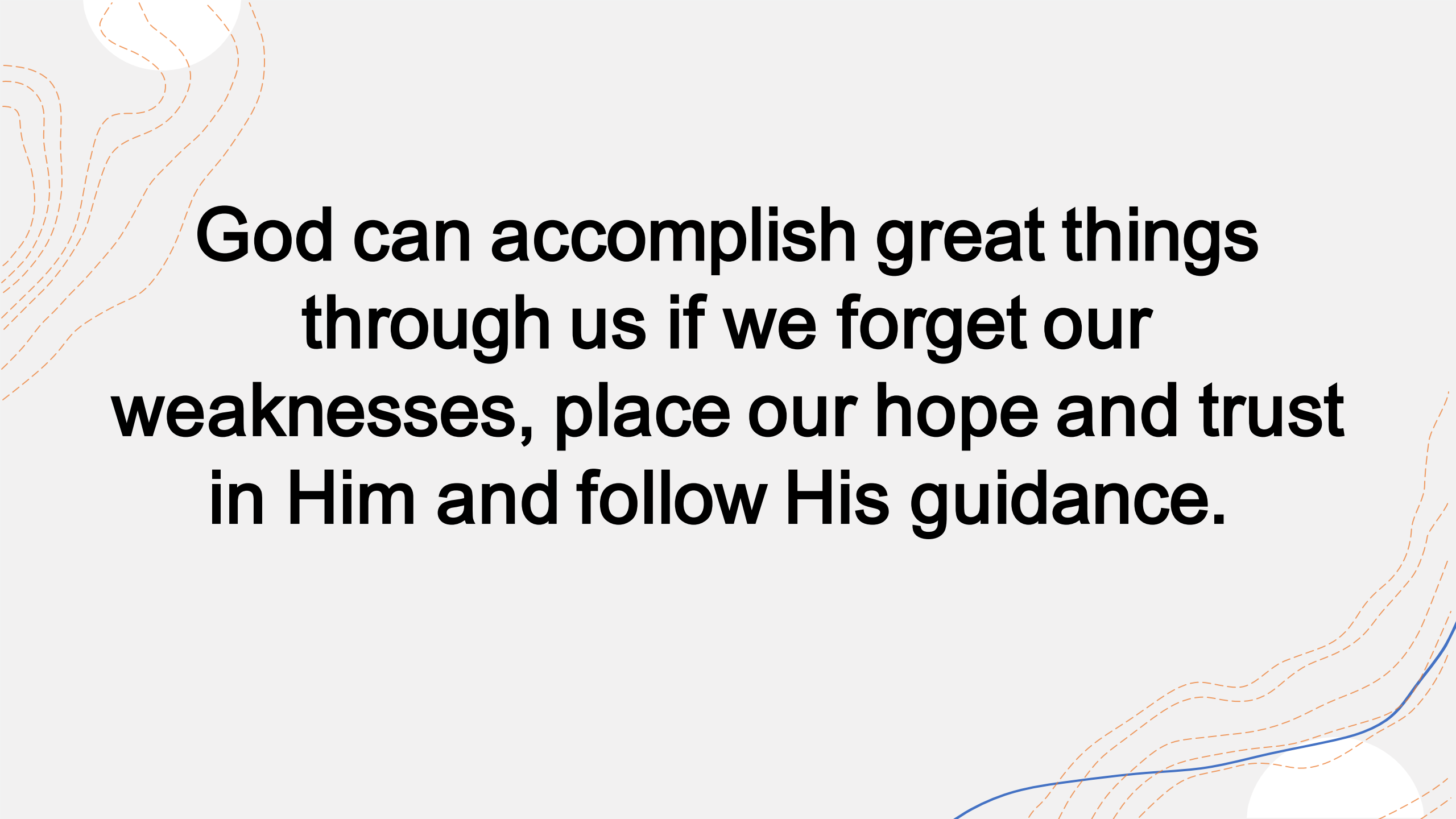
Judges 6:11-14 (ESV)



Judges 6:11-14 (ESV), the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?



And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?”



**God can accomplish great things
through us if we forget our
weaknesses, place our hope and trust
in Him and follow His guidance.**



**“Don’t focus on what you can’t do,
focus on what God can do.”**



Bible Study Follow Up Questions:

- 1. What is one takeaway from tonight's lesson?**
- 2. What keeps you going in hard times?**
- 3. How do you develop the hope that expects God to answer?**
- 4. Have you ever been in what appeared to be a "hopeless situation?" How did you respond?**
- 5. Do you believe that God is bigger than your circumstances and your own solutions? In what way is God bigger?**
- 6. Has God ever brought you through a hard time?**