





# He Knows Not How

26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

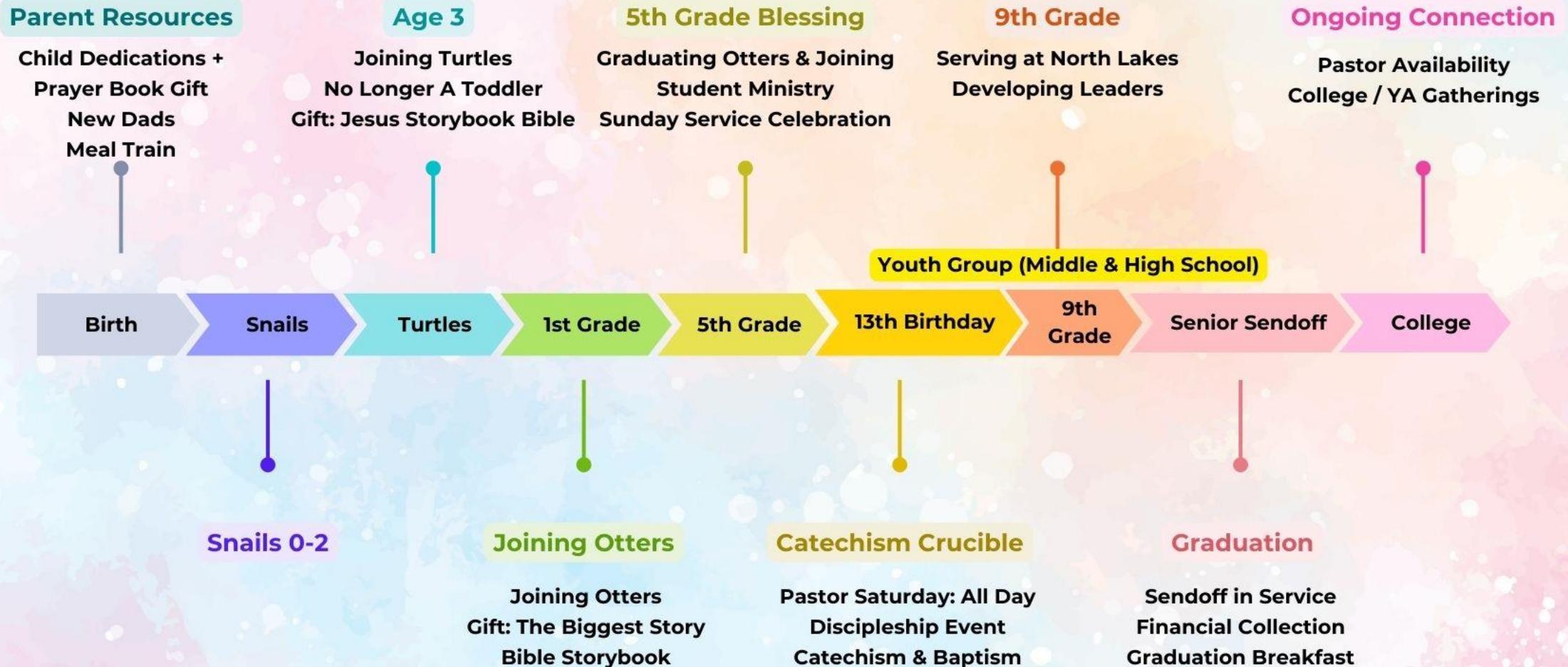
GG The manner of the growth of God's kingdom and the coming of final redemption are beyond human control. This does not mean that Jesus' followers are inactive: Jesus has called the Twelve to be trained by him so that they can fulfil the task of fishing for people after he sends them out to extend his own ministry (1:17; 3:14–15). The disciples' responsibility is to preach and teach the good news of the kingdom of God, to exorcize demons and to heal. The germination and growth of the seed, which is the word of God, is God's responsibility and God's promise.

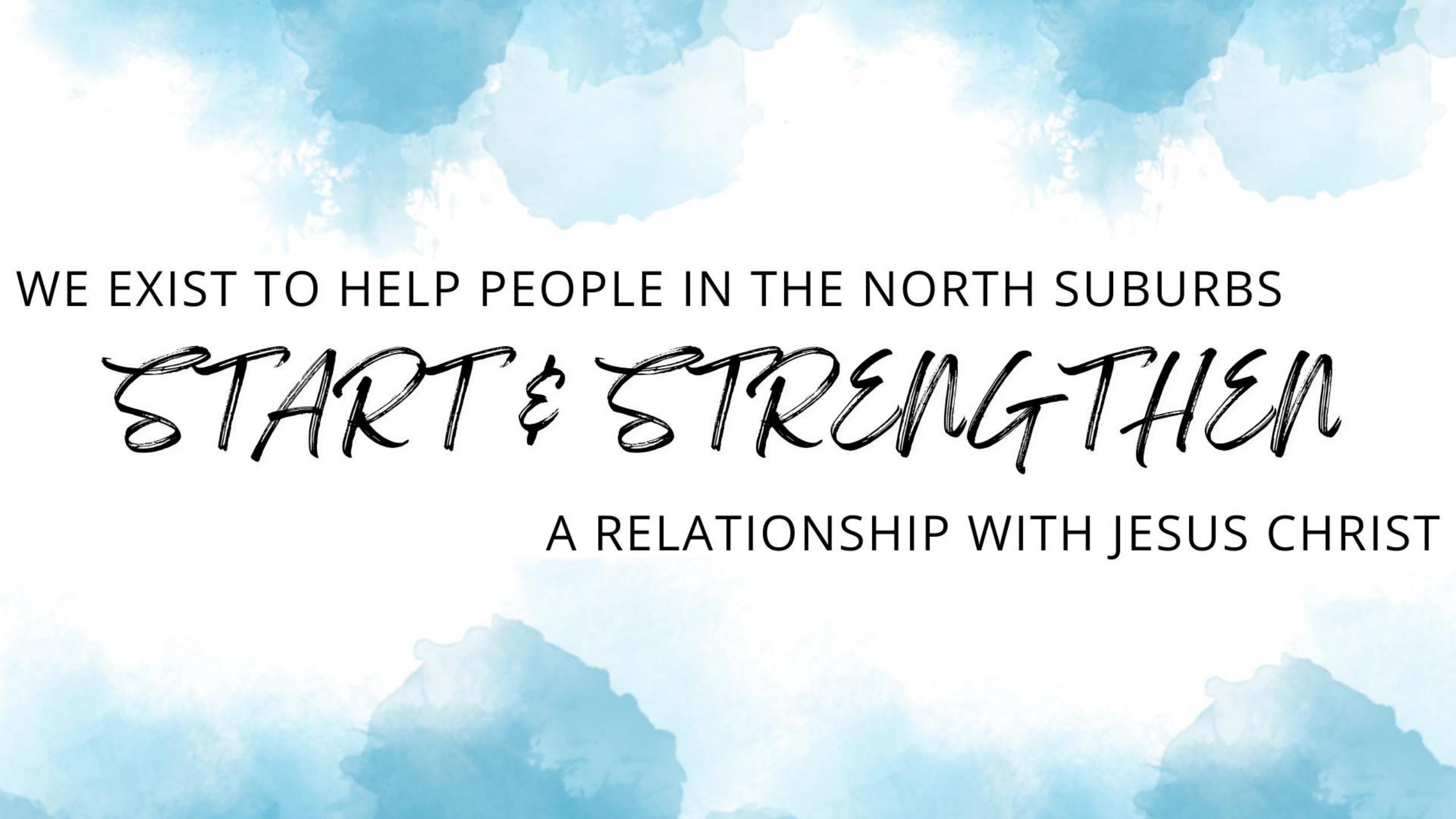
# The Growth Process

28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

66 The growth of the seed into a blade, a head, and then the full grain (4:28b) suggests an appointed order of development that may not be hurried or skipped over, nor can it be delayed. This sequence also assumes that whatever has transpired under the ground will become visible.

# Ministry to the Next Generation





WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE NORTH SUBURBS

*START & STRENGTHEN*

A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

# 1 Corinthians 3:7

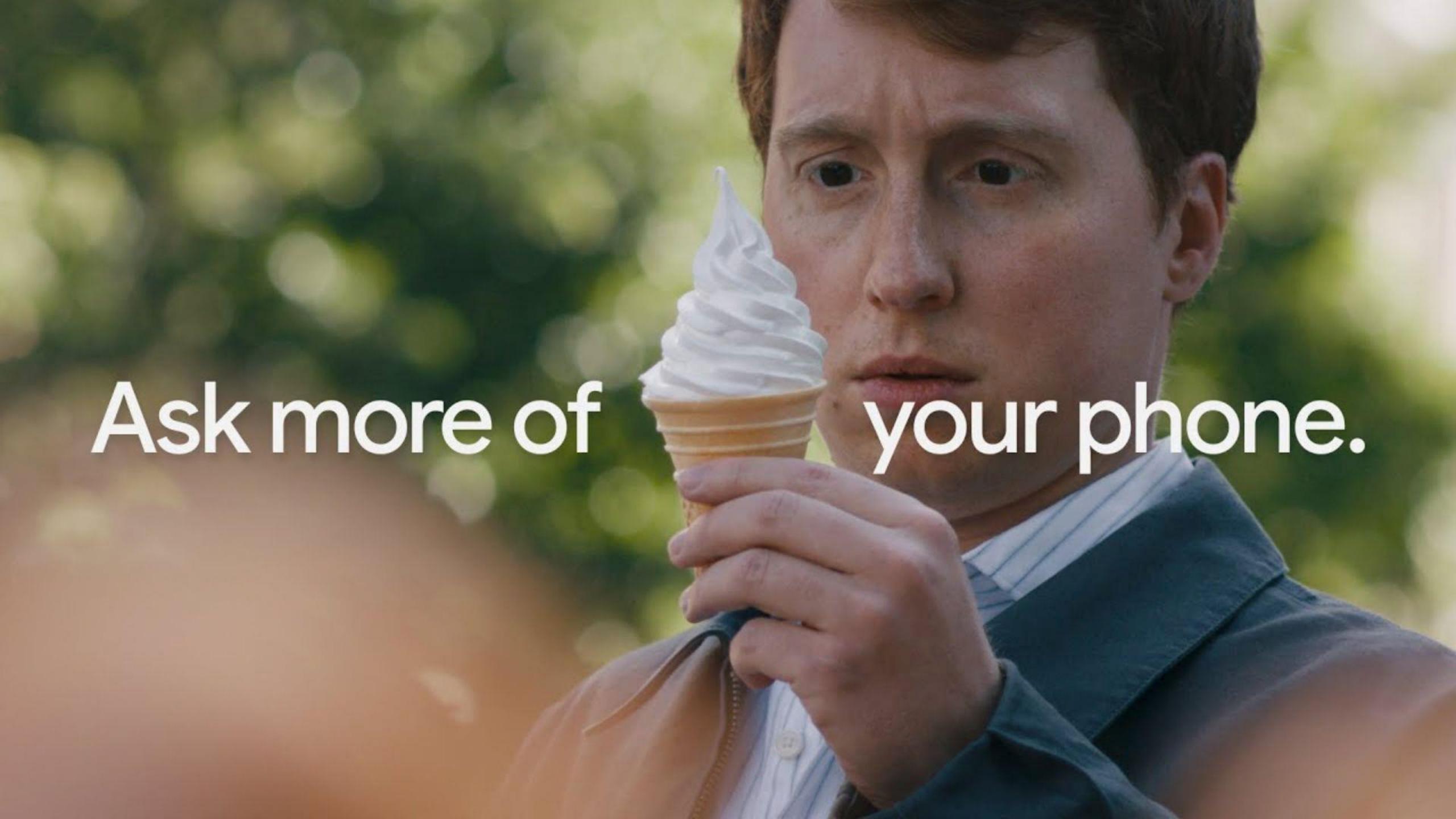
7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

# Mustard Seed

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

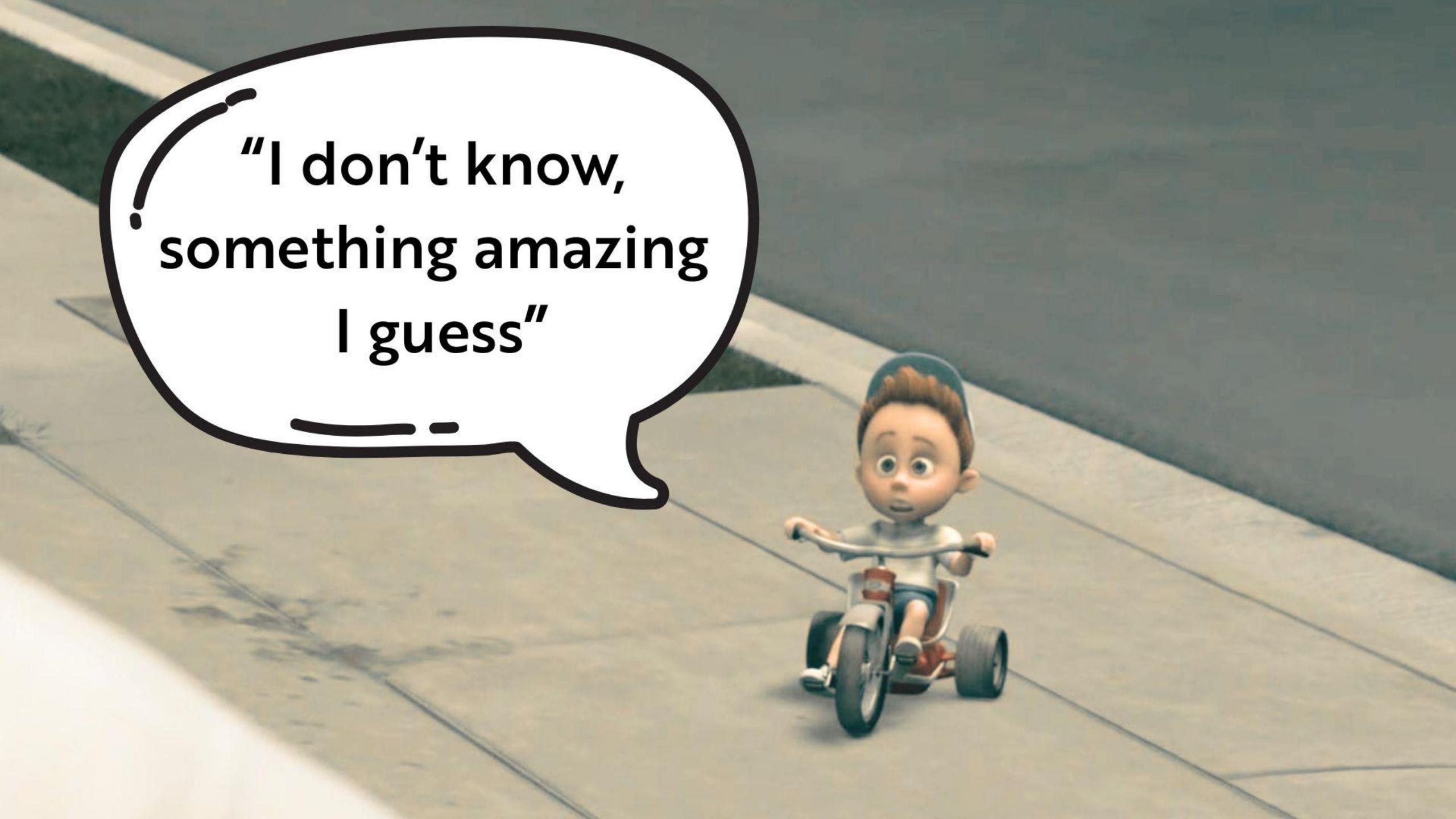
# He Explained Everything

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

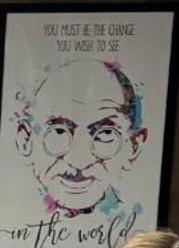
A close-up photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark green zip-up hoodie over a light blue and white striped shirt. He is holding a soft-serve vanilla ice cream cone in his right hand, which is resting against his chest. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunny outdoor setting.

Ask more of  
your phone.

GG Faith for Mark is more like an adventure whose terms unfold as we pursue it. It cannot be understood from a distance, and we are never in control of what happens. Our part is to listen and act, and then listen and act again and again. That alone is an unnerving thought for people living in a postmodern world. In our thoughts and dreams the self is invariably at the center of things, but in this adventure the self has been dislodged. There is something or someone else at the center of things whom we can neither define nor control. We are invited to follow along when we have only an inkling of where we are going.



“I don’t know,  
something amazing  
I guess”



Like the patient farmer, Jesus is supremely confident in the coming kingdom. Though beset by opposition from religious leaders and misunderstanding from followers, Jesus is not disheartened, distraught, or desperate. Nor should there be anxiety among his disciples. The faith that Jesus requires of disciples is to sleep and rise in humble confidence that God has invaded this troubled world not with a crusade but with a seed...

James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark*, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos, 2002), 144.



# The Hour Has Come

23 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.

(John 12:23, 12:27 ESV)

## Memory Verse - John 12:24

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

(John 12:24 NIV)



# Gospel Response

## ***Start:***

Say YES to God and his grace and watch that yes begin a lifelong transformation in you.

## ***Strengthen:***

Where do you need to say YES to God and trust in him to be at work in your life?