

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION

GENESIS

SUMMER OF LEARNING



UNFOLDING HIS STORY

The main story that God is telling in the Bible is his Redemptive History.

THE BIG PICTURE

GENESIS 1-11

God and the Whole World

- 1-2: God makes a good world for humanity
- 3-11: human sin and the ruin of God's world

GENESIS 12-50

God and Abraham's Family

- 12-25 *Abraham*
- 26-27 *Isaac*
- 28-36 *Jacob*
- 37-50 *Joseph*

KEY THEMES: GENESIS 1-11



God and the Whole World

1-2: God makes a good world for humanity

3-11: human sin and the ruin of God's world



Creation

Yahweh creates by bringing order and beauty out of chaos and darkness.



Man and Woman

Humans are the divine image bearers.



The Consequence of Sin

Human selfishness and sin lead to the fracturing of the divine-human relationship and the ruin of human relationships on all levels.



Justice and Grace

Yahweh responds to human sin in two ways: He brings justice on rebellion and offers grace



Abraham

Yahweh initiates his plan to rescue humanity through his covenant with the family of Abram



KEY THEME # 1

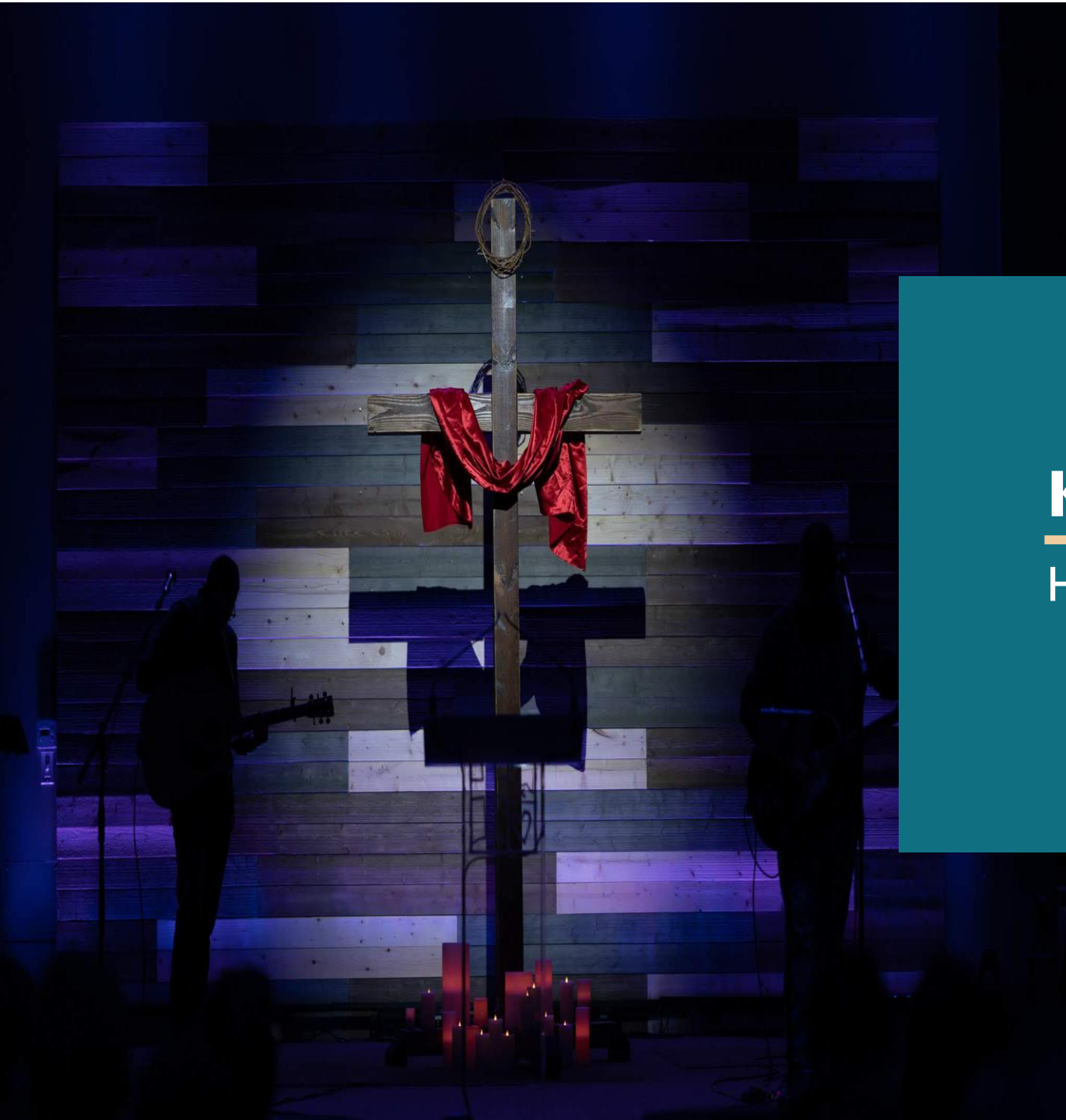
Yahweh creates by bringing order and beauty out of chaos and darkness.

PARALLEL LITERARY STRUCTURES IN GENESIS I

The literary ordering of Genesis I depicts God as creating ordered environments (Days 1-3) and then filling those with corresponding inhabitants (Days 4-6) and then taking up control of the world in his rest (Day 7)

ENVIRONMENTS	INHABITANTS
1. LIGHT (= DAY) vv. 3-5	4. LIGHTS vv. 14-19
2. DOME CEILING vv. 6-8 SKY vv. 6-7A SEAS v. 7B	5. INHABITANTS vv. 20-23 BIRDS IN THE SKY FISH IN THE SEAS
3. DRY LAND vv. 9-10 VEGETATION vv. 11-12	6. LAND ANIMALS vv. 24-25 HUMANS vv. 26-31
7. GOD'S REST	





KEY THEME # 2

Humans are the divine image bearers.

GENESIS 1:26-30, 2:15

The literary ordering of Genesis 1 depicts God as creating ordered environments (Days 1-3) and then filling those with corresponding inhabitants (Days 4-6) and then taking up control of the world in his rest (Day 7)

ENVIRONMENTS	INHABITANTS
1. LIGHT (= DAY) vv. 3-5	4. LIGHTS vv. 14-19
2. DOME CEILING vv. 6-8 SKY vv. 6-7A SEAS v. 7B	5. INHABITANTS vv. 20-23 BIRDS IN THE SKY FISH IN THE SEAS
3. DRY LAND vv. 9-10 VEGETATION vv. 11-12	6. LAND ANIMALS vv. 24-25 HUMANS vv. 26-31
7. GOD'S REST	



Genesis 1:3-12

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



Genesis 1:14-31

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons,^[a] and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds^[b] fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.



Genesis 1:14-31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man^[c] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



HUMANS ARE THE DIVINE IMAGE BEARERS

DIVINE IMAGE

The Hebrew word for “image” (tselem) literally means “statue” and usually refers to idols. You see the same word in Amos 5:26; Ezekiel 7:20; Numbers 33:52; 1 Samuel 6:5. An “image” is a physical representation that points to some other person or deity.

REPRESENTATIVE

In Genesis this means that humans are commissioned as actual representatives of God’s rule over the creation (Gen 1:26-30) and to steward and guard God’s good world on his behalf (Gen 2:15).

Amos 5:26; Ezekiel 7:20; Numbers 33:52; I Samuel 6:5

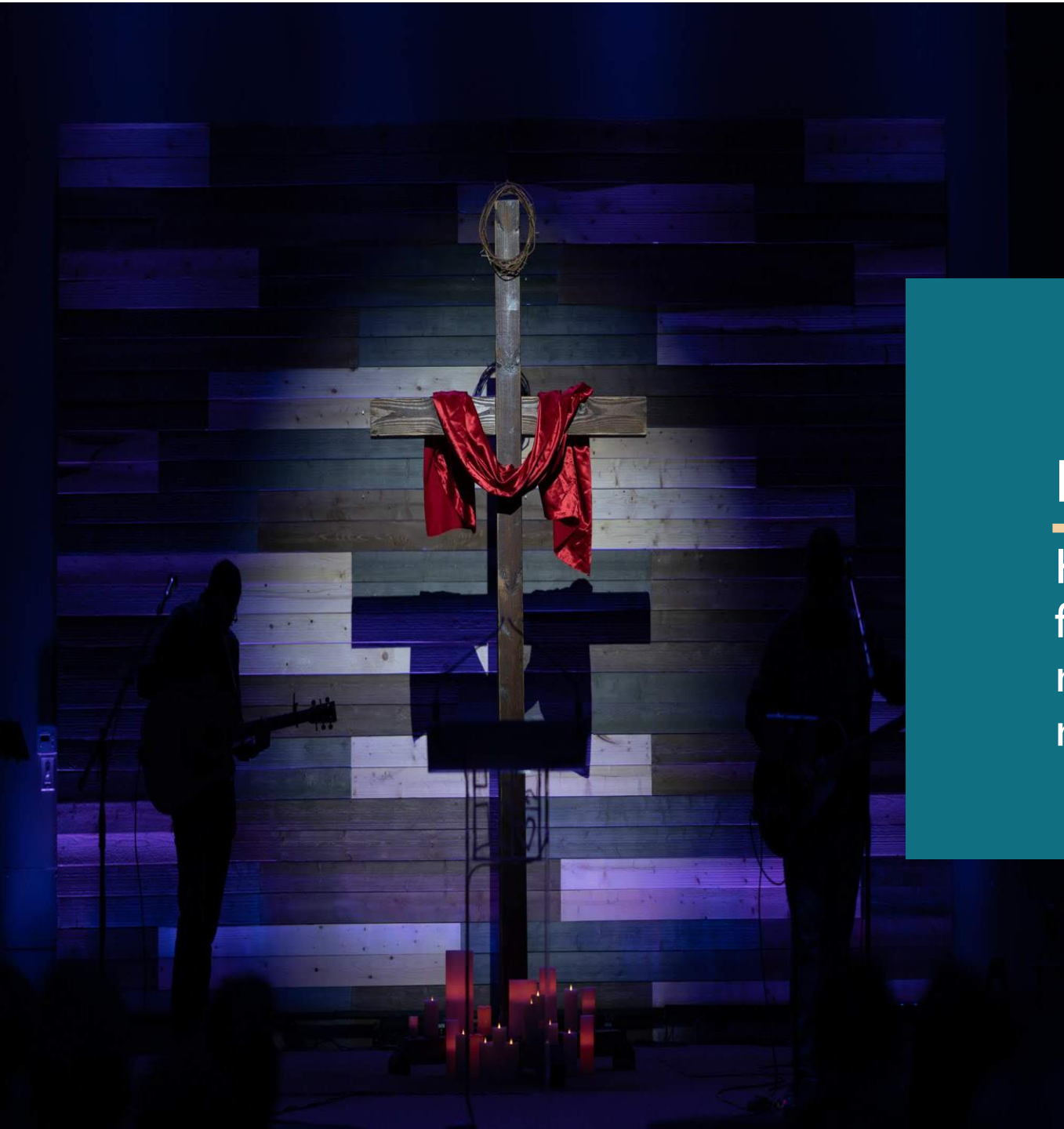
²⁶ You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your images that you made for yourselves,

²⁰ His beautiful ornament they used for pride, and they made their abominable images and their detestable things of it. Therefore I make it an unclean thing to them.

⁵² then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places.

⁵ So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land.





KEY THEME # 3

Human selfishness and sin lead to the fracturing of the divine-human relationship and the ruin of human relationships on all levels.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN: GENESIS 3-11

All of the stories in Genesis 3-11 offer different examples that explore the various facets of human sin and its results

GEN 3, 4

SUSPICION OF
GOD'S GOODNESS,
SELF-DECEPTION

QUEST FOR WISDOM
AND GOODNESS
APART FROM THE
CREATOR

JEALOUSY, MURDER

HUMANS ESTABLISH
CITIES WHICH ARE
CORRUPTED BY
SIN AND VIOLENCE

GEN 6

SPIRITUAL BEINGS,
"THE SONS OF GOD"
DEFY GOD'S GOOD
ORDER

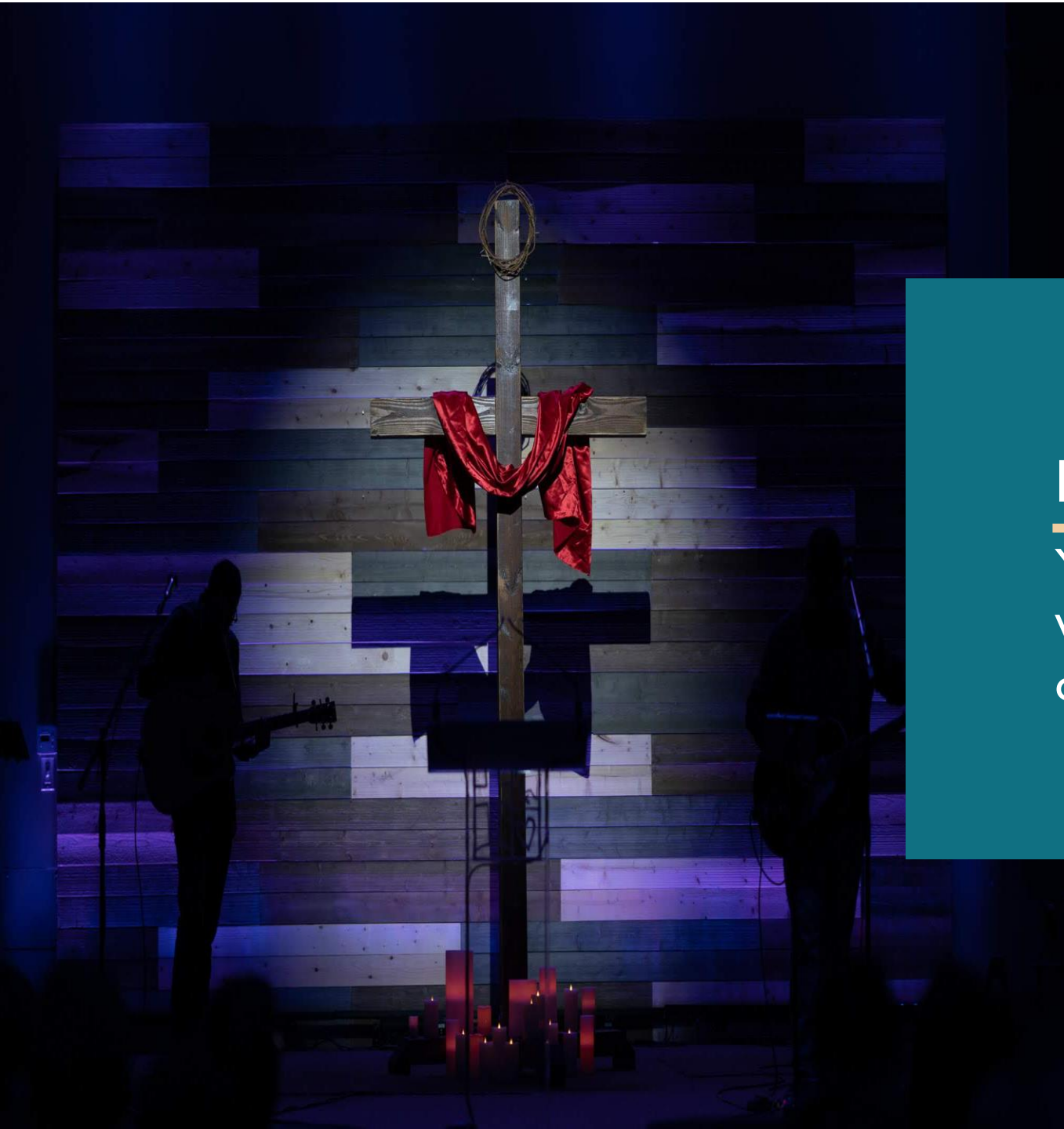
HUMANS BECOME
MORALLY CORRUPT
AND RUIN GOD'S
WORLD AND EACH
OTHER

GEN 11

HUMAN ARROGANCE
AND DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE
FROM GOD

NAÏVE TRUST IN
TECHNOLOGICAL
PROGRESS

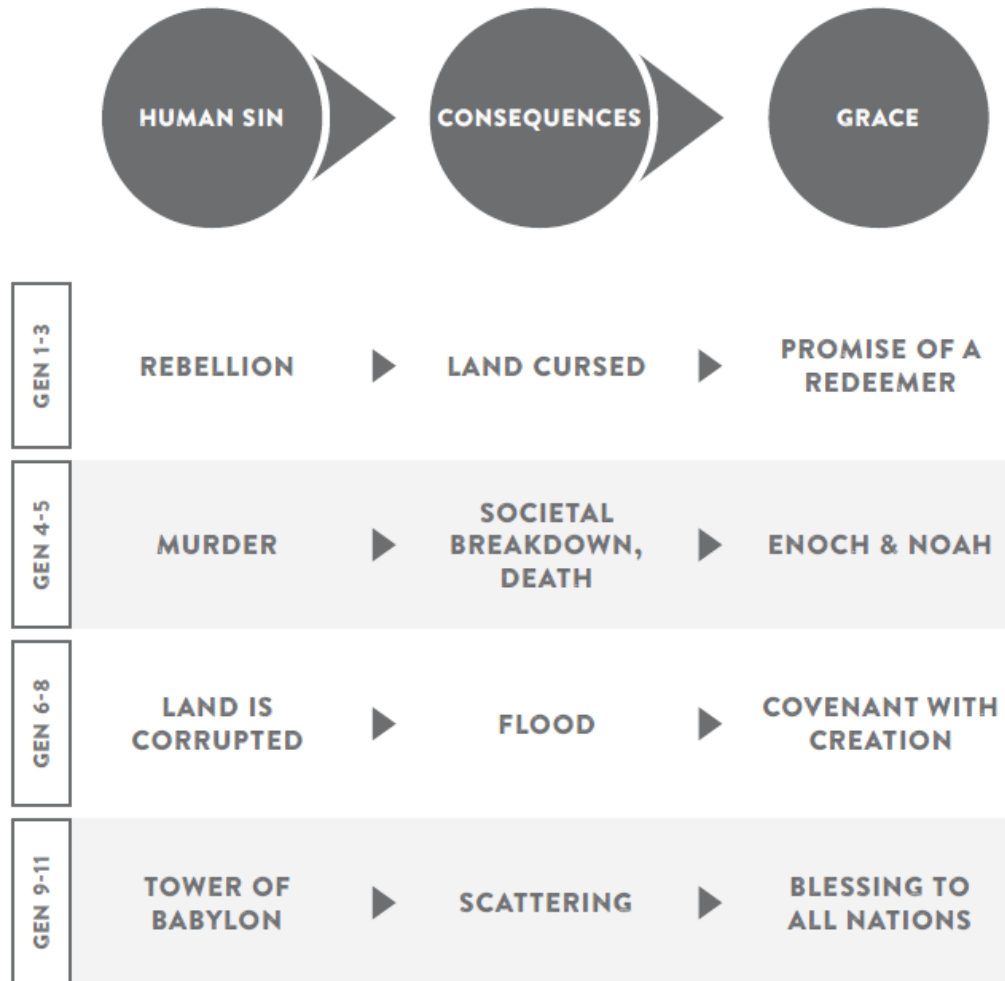




KEY THEME # 4

Yahweh responds to human sin in two ways: He brings justice on rebellion and offers grace

JUDGMENT AND GRACE: GENESIS 3-11



Notice the narrative pattern at work in these chapters. Every story of human sin is met with immediate consequences along with a response of divine grace.



KEY THEME # 5

Yahweh initiates his plan to rescue humanity through his covenant with the family of Abram

ABRAHAM: GENESIS 12:1-3

Genesis 12:1-3 is a key moment in the unfolding of the biblical story: God responds to humanity's corruption by choosing Abraham's family as the means of restoring divine blessing to all nations

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



THE BIG PICTURE

GENESIS 1-11

God and the Whole World

- 1-2: God makes a good world for humanity
- 3-11: human sin and the ruin of God's world

GENESIS 12-50

God and Abraham's Family

- 12-25 *Abraham*
- 26-27 *Isaac*
- 28-36 *Jacob*
- 37-50 *Joseph*

KEY THEMES: GENESIS 12-50



God and Abraham's family

12-25 Abraham

26-27 Isaac

28-36 Jacob

37-50 Joseph



Abraham

*Yahweh initiates His plan to rescue humanity through His covenant with the family of Abram**



Abraham's Blessing

God's blessing to the nations through Abraham provides the foundational storyline for the rest of the Bible.



Sin

The drama of Genesis 12-50 consists of the sin and folly of the family of Abraham and how they constantly put God's promises into jeopardy



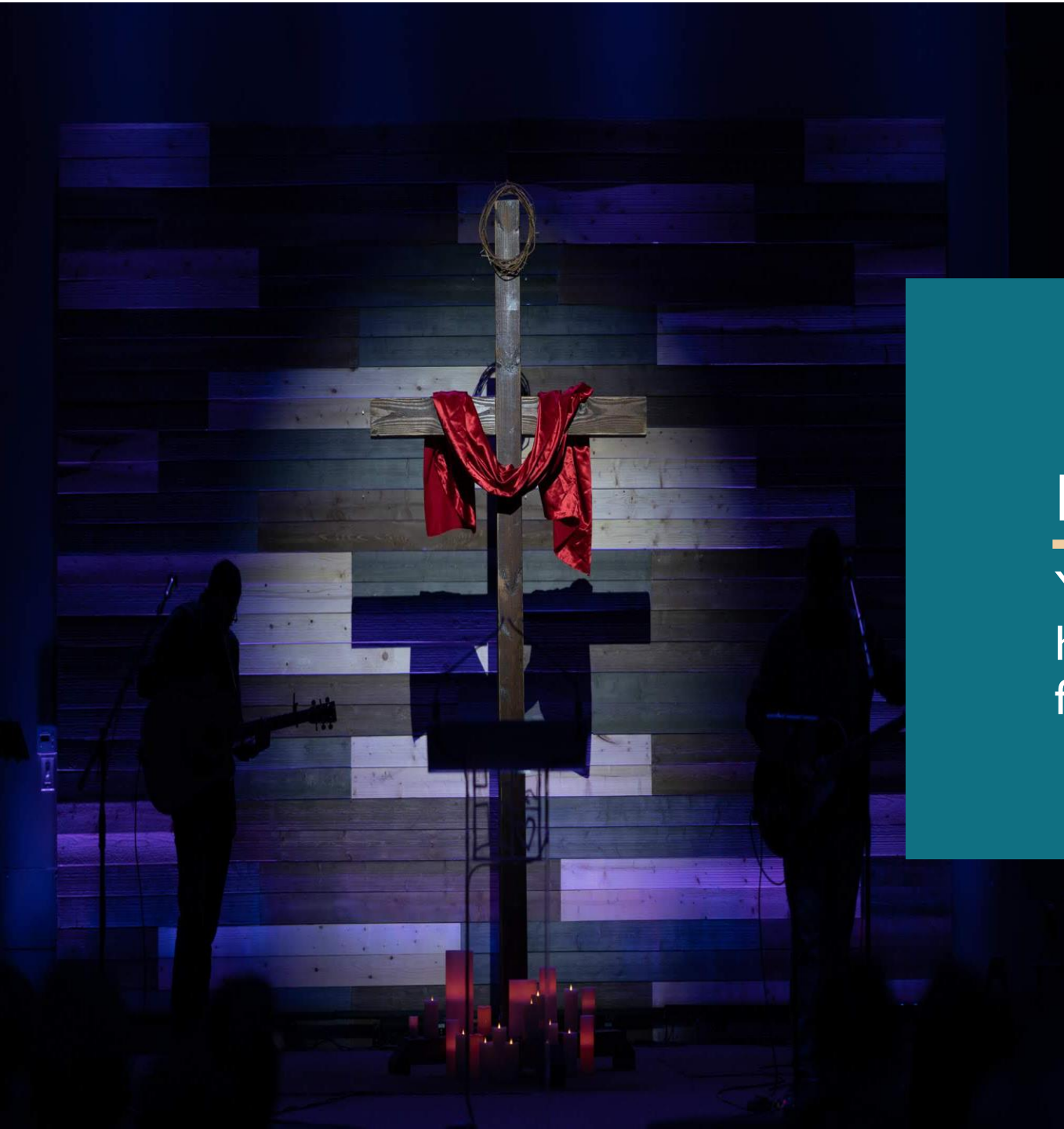
God's Commitment

God remains committed to this family and His promises, and constantly intervenes to rescue them.



Chosen by God

The pattern of how God works in the world begins in Genesis and continues through the Bible: He works through people of low status who are weak or marginalized.

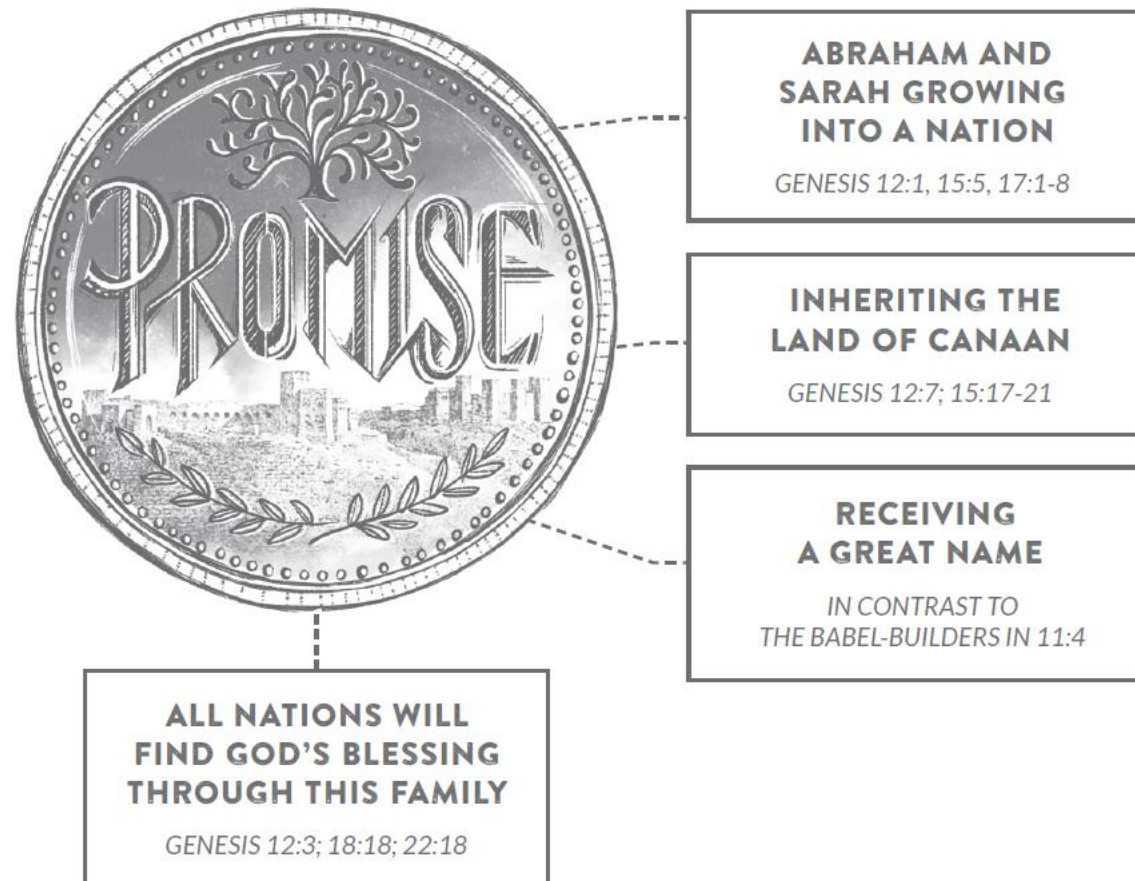


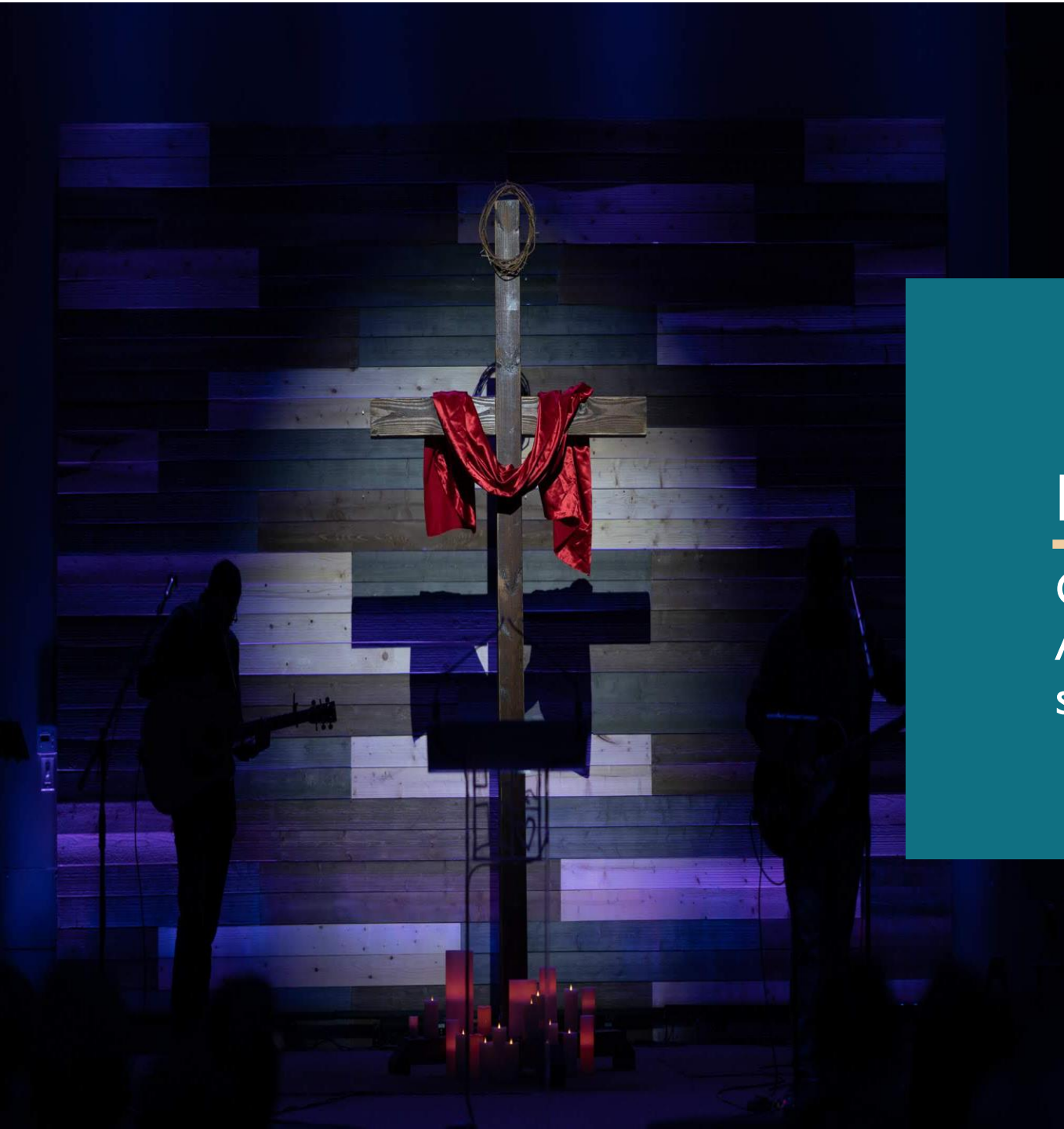
KEY THEME # 1

Yahweh initiates His plan to rescue humanity through His covenant with the family of Abram

COVENANT WITH THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM: GENESIS 12,15,17

The promise to Abraham consists of a number of key elements that are developed in 12-22

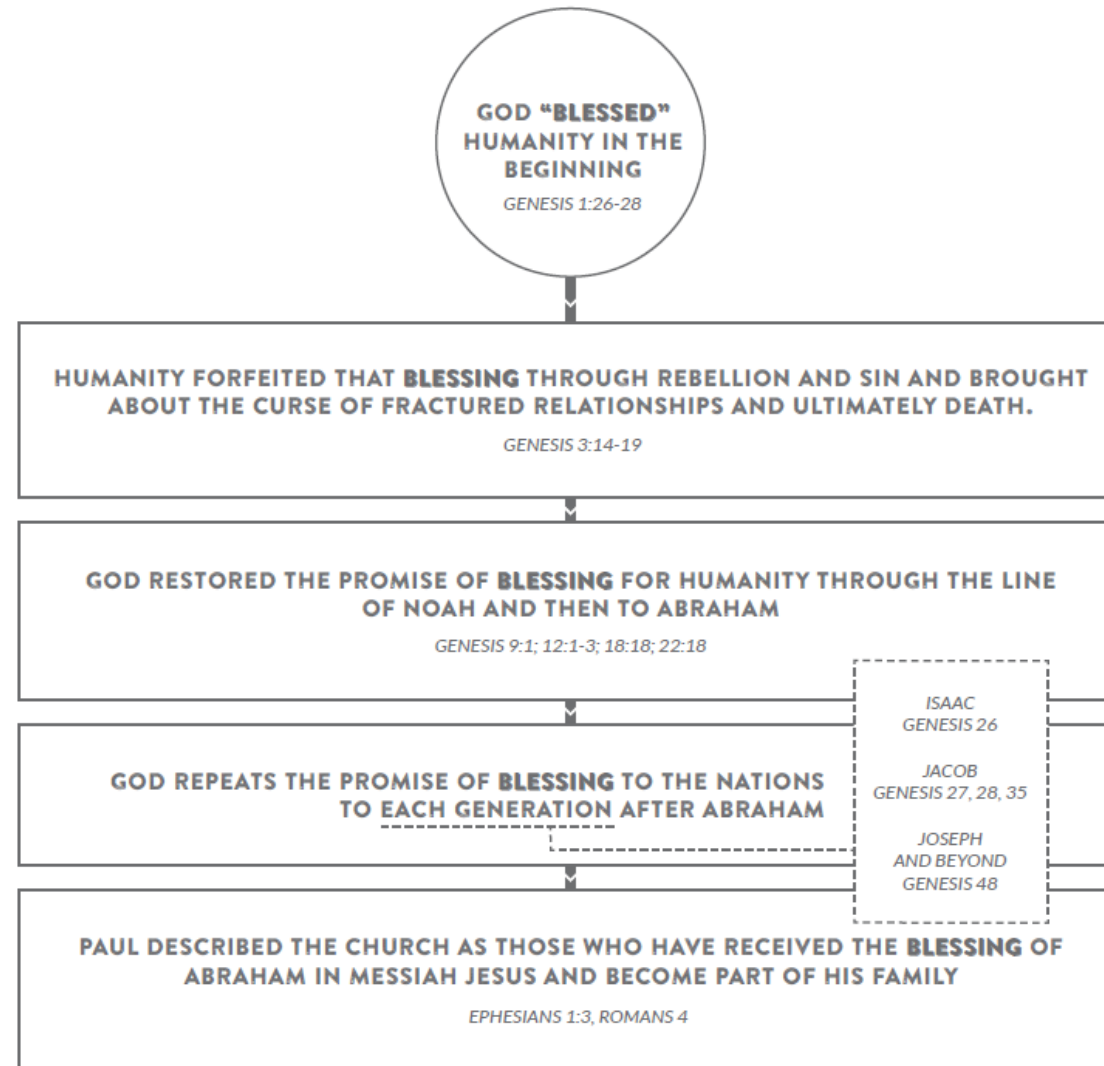


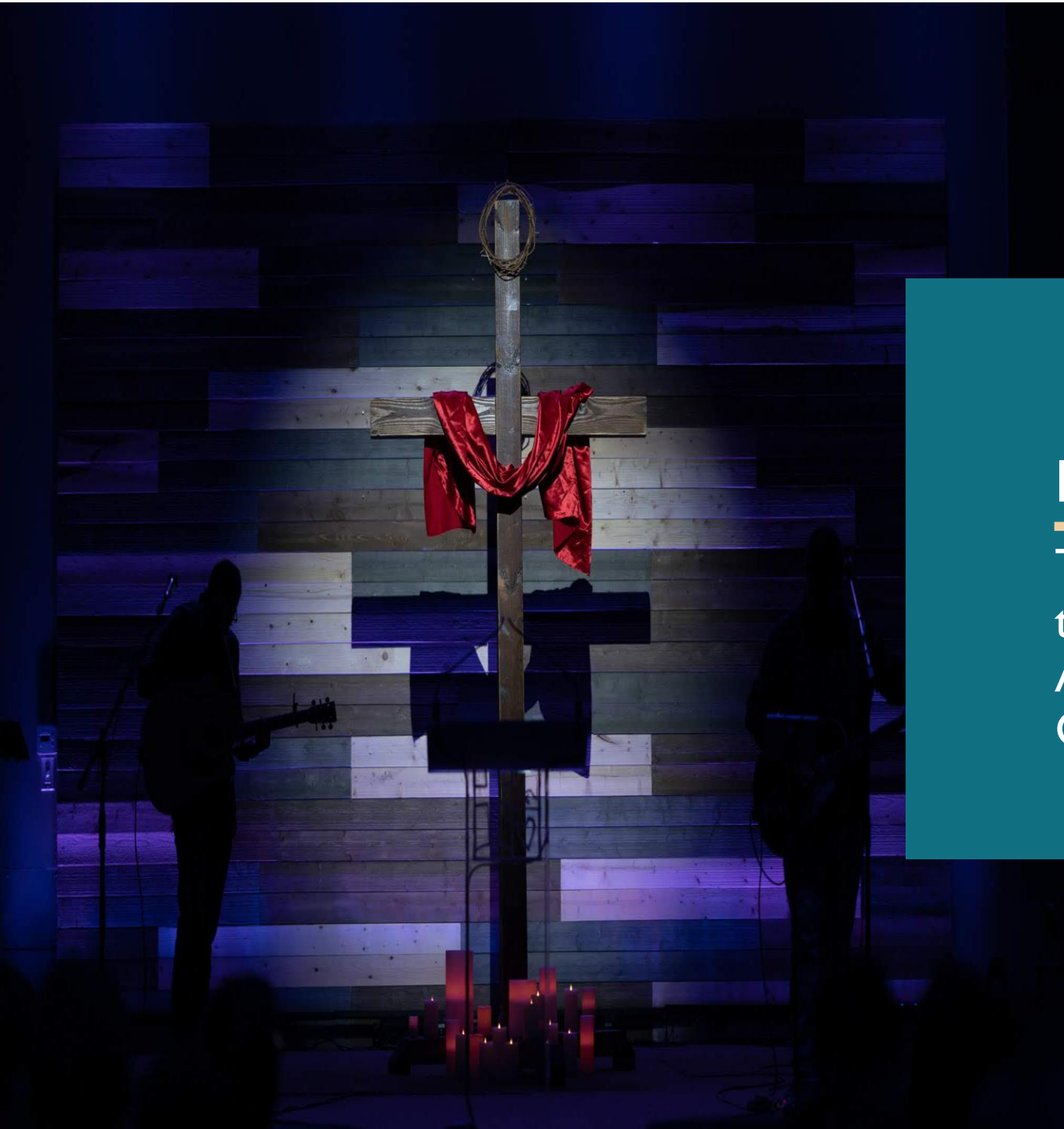


KEY THEME # 2

God's blessing to the nations through Abraham provides the foundational storyline for the rest of the Bible.

COVENANT WITH THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM: GENESIS 12,15,17





KEY THEME # 3

The drama of Genesis 12-50 consists of the sin and folly of the family of Abraham and how they constantly put God's promises into jeopardy.

SIN AND FOLLY OF THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM

**ENDANGERS THE PROMISE
OF A LARGE FAMILY BY
GIVING AWAY HIS WIFE,
TWICE!**

GENESIS 12, 20

SARAH

**TRIES TO FORCE GOD'S
HAND TO GIVE THEM
A CHILD BY HAVING
ABRAHAM SLEEP
WITH HAGAR**

GENESIS 16, 21

ISAAC

**GIVES AWAY HIS WIFE
REBEKAH**

GENESIS 26

JACOB

**IS A THIEF AND A LIAR AND
GAINS THE BLESSING BY
STEALING**

GENESIS 25, 27

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS

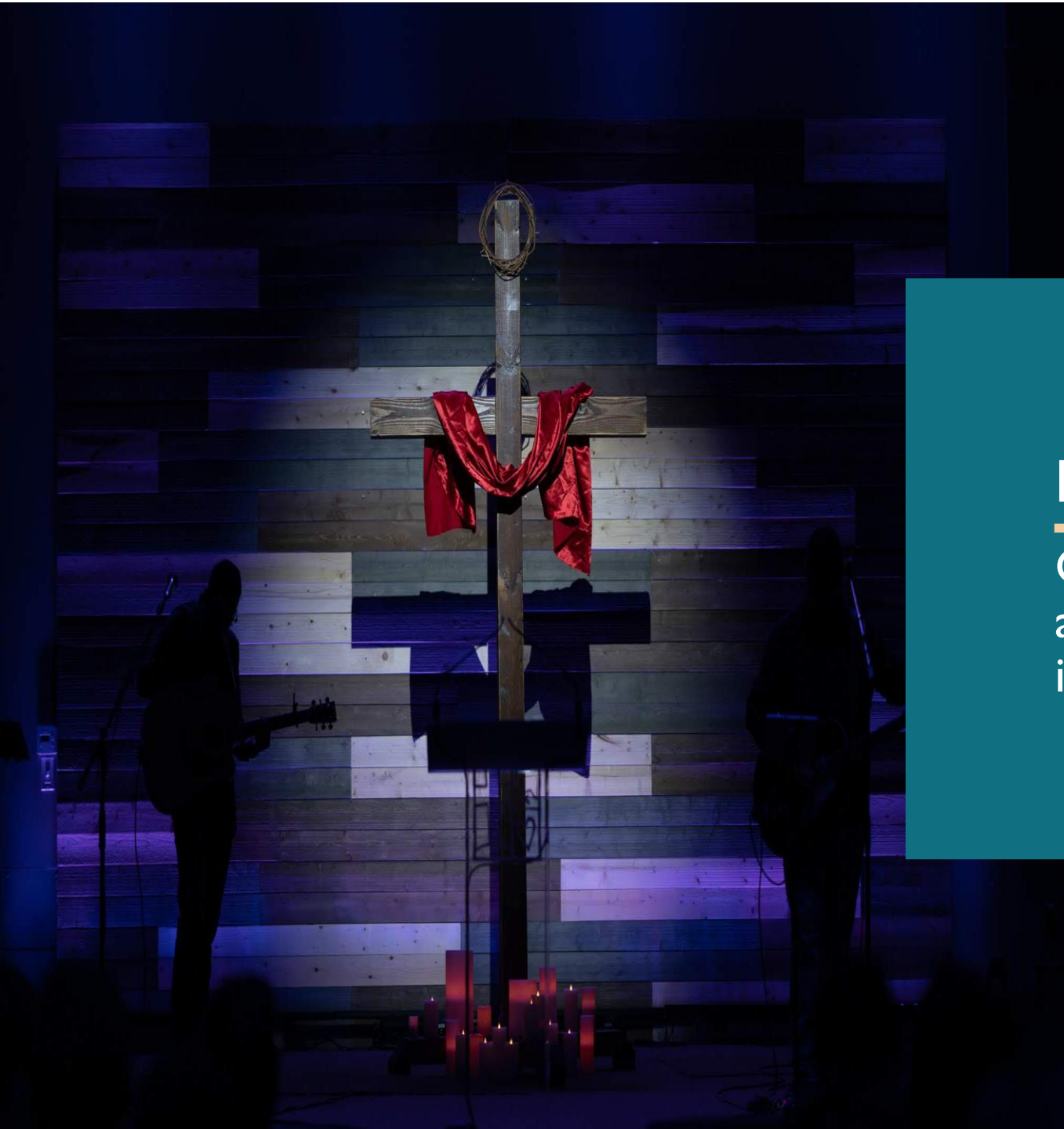
TRY TO KILL HIM

GENESIS 37

THE POINT

Abraham's family is
so dysfunctional that
divine promises will
only be fulfilled through
God's faithfulness, not
theirs.





KEY THEME # 4

God remains committed to this family and His promises, and constantly intervenes to rescue them.

GOD'S COMMITMENT

A

GOD RESCUES SARAH (TWICE) AND REBECCA FROM THE FOLLY OF THEIR HUSBANDS.

GENESIS 12:17-20; 20:6-10; 26:8-10

B

GOD PROVIDES AN HEIR FOR ABRAHAM AND SARAH.

GENESIS 18, 21

C

GOD PROTECTS JACOB DESPITE HIS SELFISHNESS AND DECEPTION.

GENESIS 27-35

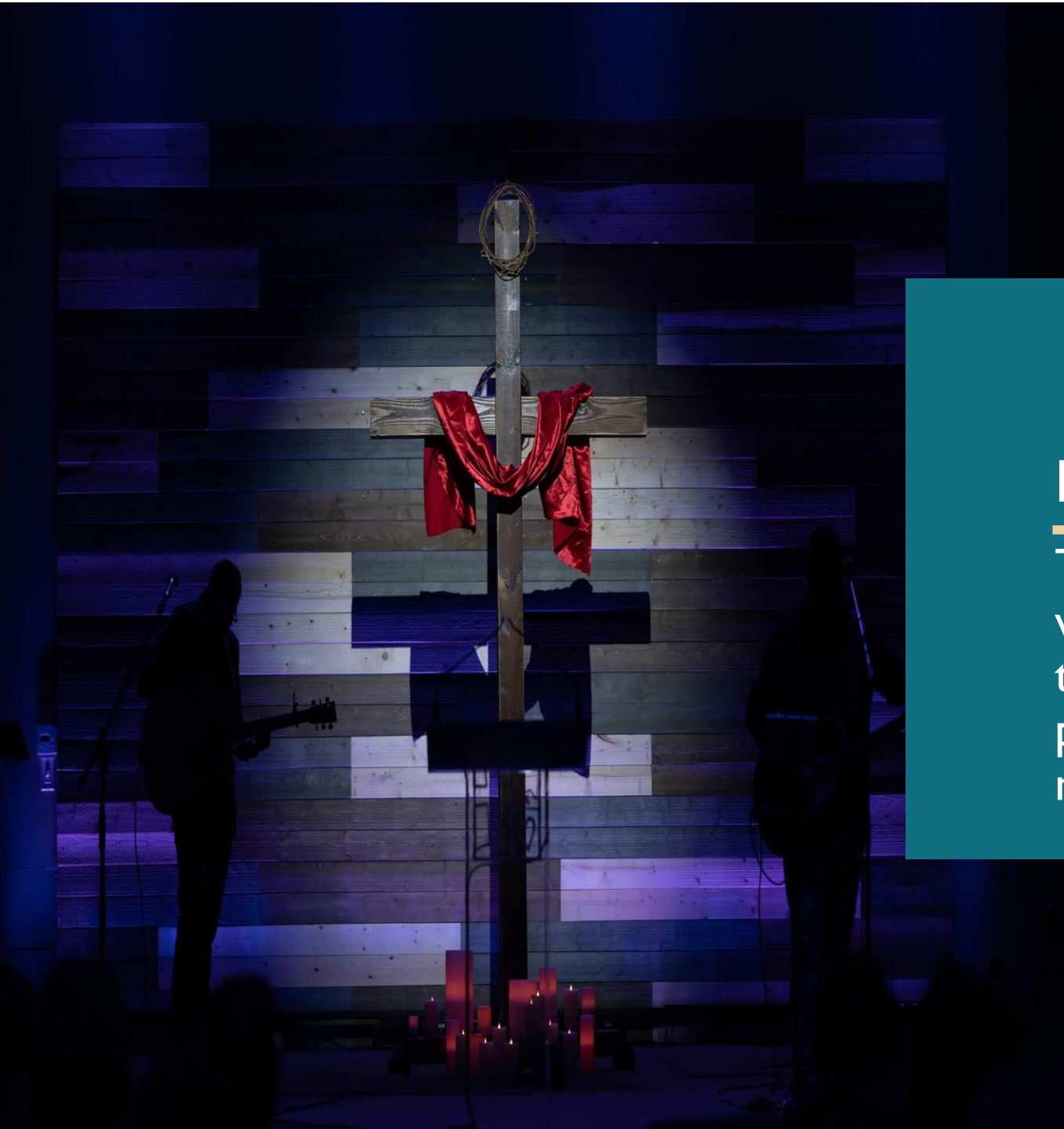
D

GOD TRANSFORMS THE EVIL OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS INTO SOMETHING THAT SAVES OF THE LIVES OF PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS.

GENESIS 50:20

THIS IS THE THEME VERSE OF
THE ENTIRE BOOK.





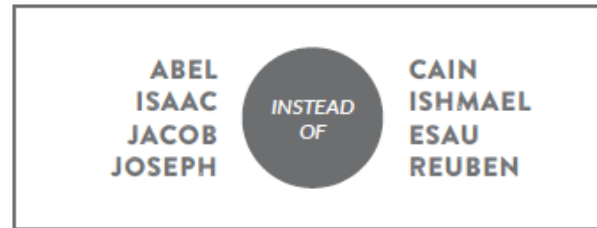
KEY THEME # 5

The pattern of how God works in the world begins in Genesis and continues through the Bible: He works through people of low status who are weak or marginalized.

HE WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE OF LOW STATUS WHO ARE WEAK OR MARGINALIZED.

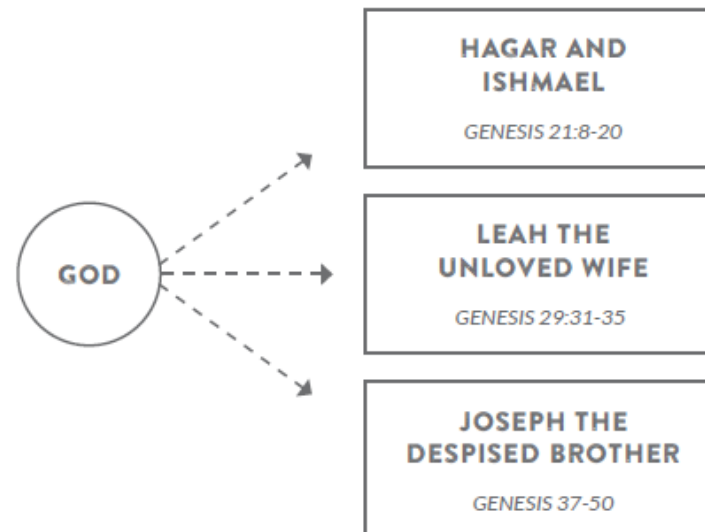
A

God does not make the firstborn sons the vehicles of His promise, but rather the unexpected children.



B

God moves towards those who are rejected.



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?