

BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

# DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class

sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15

middle school yth room • calvary chapel lynchburg





# Conversations That Matter: Recapturing Our Culture for Christ

**Dr. David Geisler**





**NEW  
PARADIGM  
AHEAD**

**Effective witnessing today begins  
with changing our paradigms!**



## EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- **will compel us to build spiritual bridges...to your unbelieving friends from the standpoint of their interest, not your own!**



## **EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY**

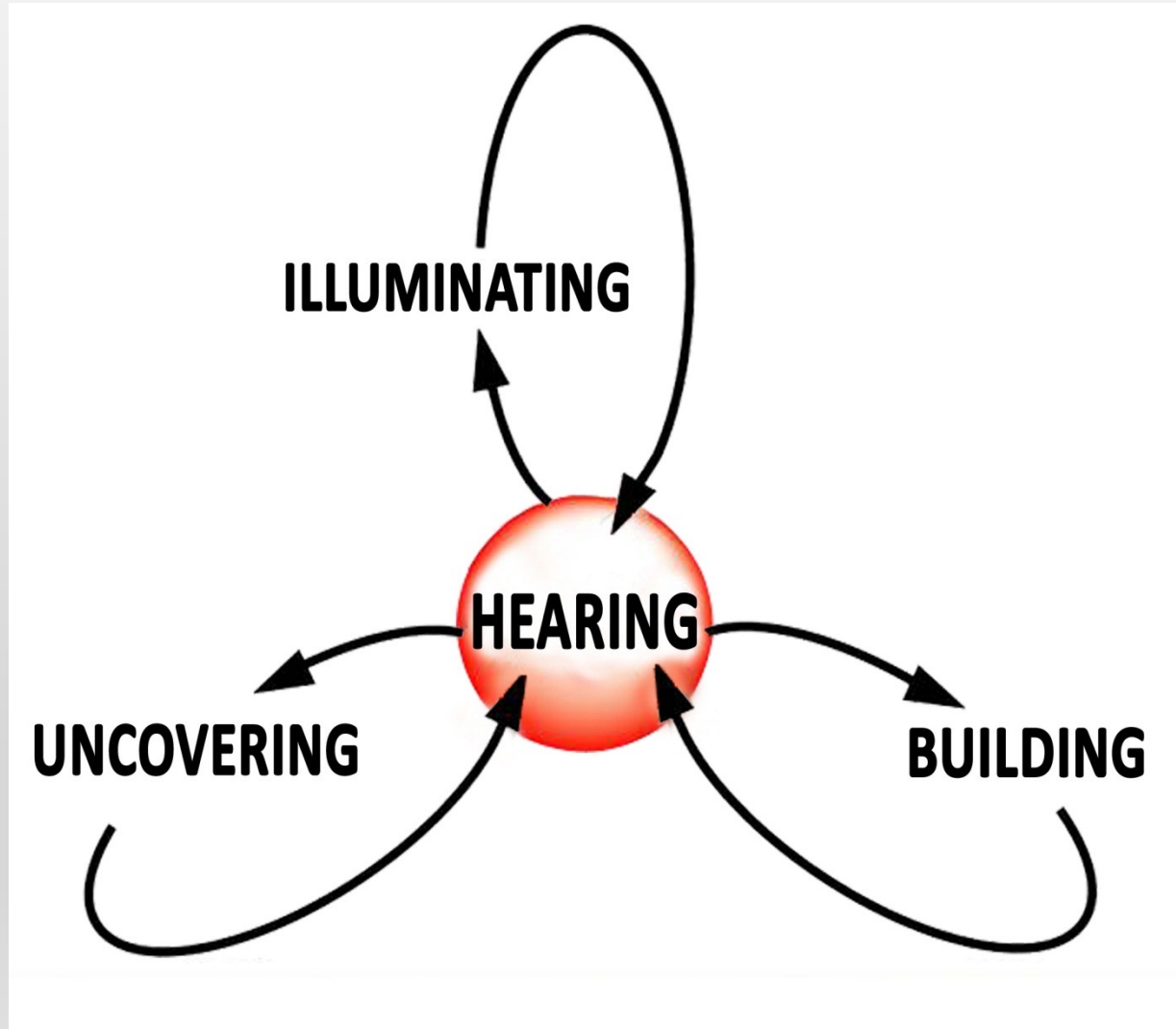
- **will compel us to use an approach that is conversational!**



## EFFECTIVE WITNESING TODAY...

- will compel us to use an apologetic model that uses “lite” apologetics!

# 4 TYPES OF CONVERSATIONS WE WANT TO HAVE WITH NON-BELIEVERS



# 4 TYPES OF ROLES YOU NEED TO PLAY IN YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE



**Musician**

**Artist**

**Archeologist**

**Builder**



# CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM



**L**earn Their Story

**I**nvest Time

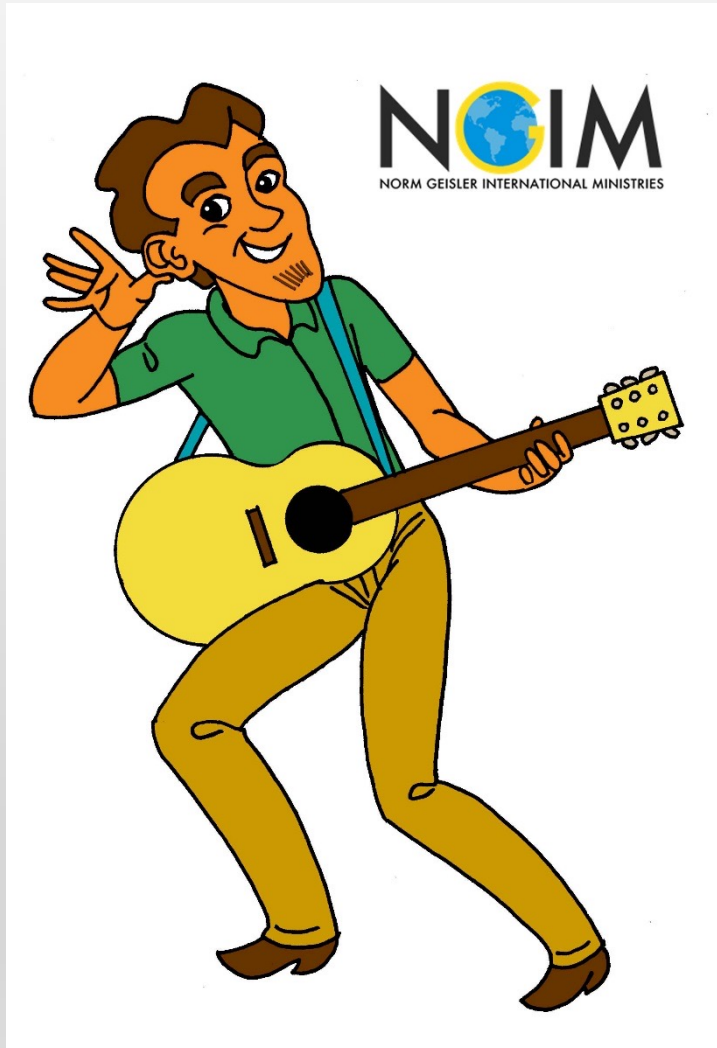
**S**earch for Gaps in Their Beliefs

**T**hrow Light by Clarifying Their Beliefs

**E**xpose the Gaps by Surfacing Uncertainty

**N**avigate by Using The Three D's

# HEARING CONVERSATIONS



**Learn their Story**

**Invest time in them**

**Search for gaps**

# ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS



**Throw light**

**Expose gaps**

**Navigate by  
using the 3 Ds**

# 4 TYPES OF ROLES YOU NEED TO PLAY IN YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE



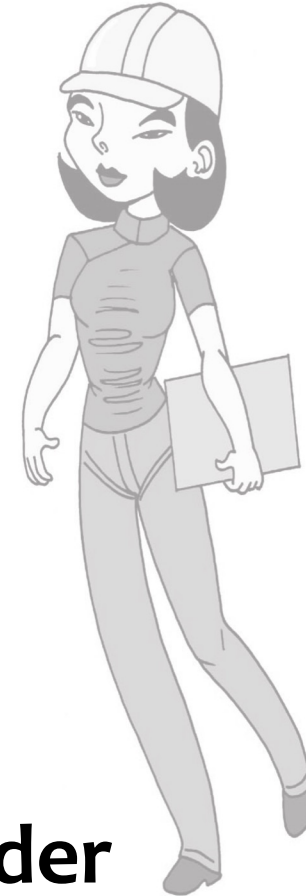
**Musician**



**Artist**



**Archeologist**



**Builder**

# UNCOVERING REAL BARRIERS

Hear

Illuminate

**Uncover**

Build



# UNCOVERING REAL BARRIERS

**NOGIM**  
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



Conversational **EVANGELISM**

# UNCOVERING REAL BARRIERS



## **THE GOAL:**

Explore what's getting in the way of taking steps to the Cross.

## **HOW:**

Keep seven steps in mind!

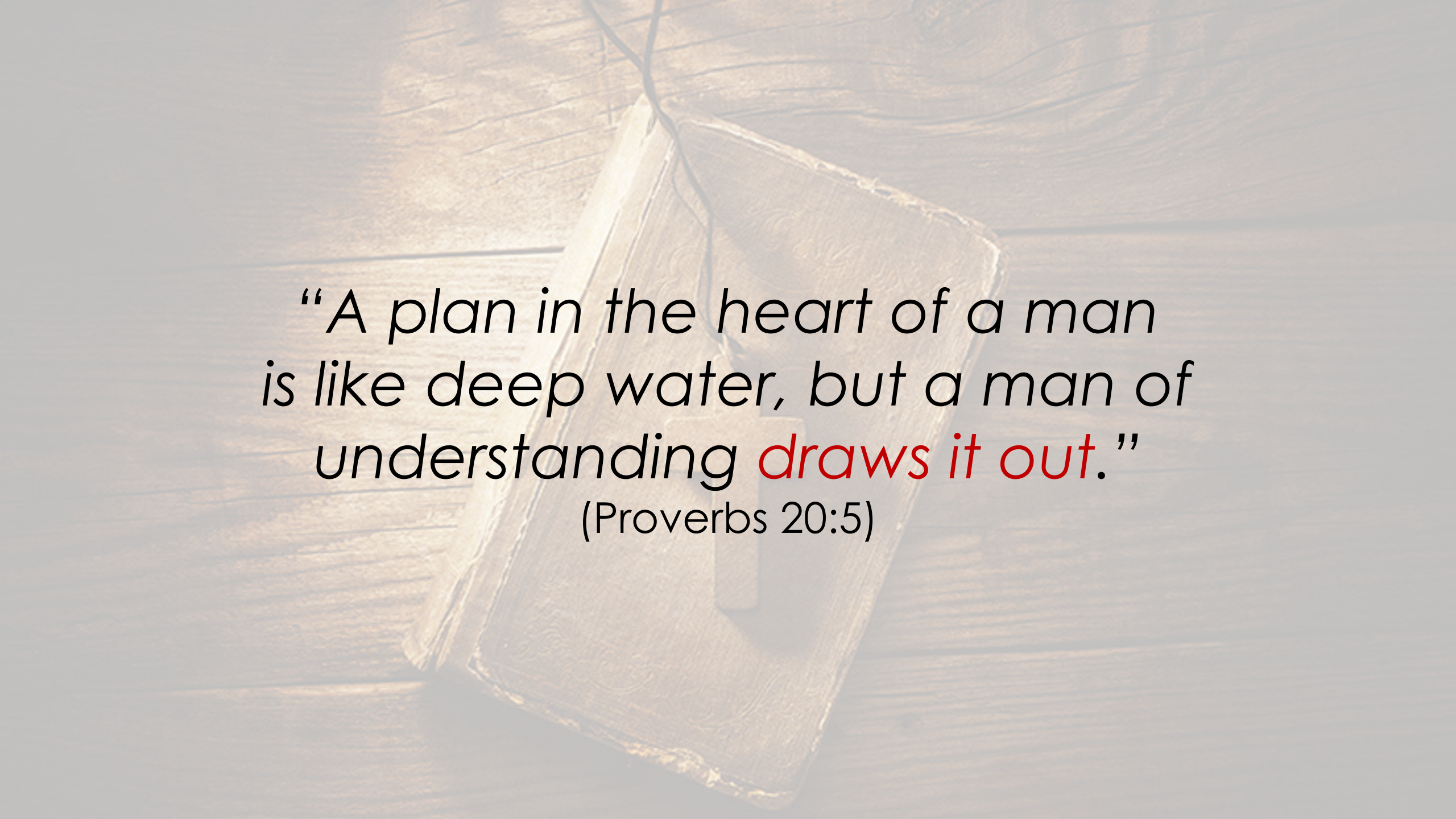


# UNCOVERING BARRIERS BETWEEN THEM AND GOD

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a real concern or a smoke screen.
2. Determine the nature of their perceived barrier.
3. Uncover the specific emotional baggage that they are carrying.
4. Determine whether there is a question or concern behind the question or issue raised.
5. Find out what is their biggest perceived barrier to Christianity.
6. Find out what would motivate them to get answers in these areas.
7. Uncover the volitional factors.







*“A plan in the heart of a man  
is like deep water, but a man of  
understanding **draws it out.**”*  
(Proverbs 20:5)

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

“Good apologetics requires people of *understanding* who have the *patience* and *insight* to not only deal with people’s stated questions but to *go below the surface* and speak to *their true objections. . .*”

Rev. Dave Montoya, “Dealing With Both Minds and Hearts:  
Answering the Questions Behind the Questions,”

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a **real concern** or a **smoke screen**.

# HOW TO CLEAR SMOKE SCREENS

*ASK: “If I could answer your questions in a way that would make sense to you, would that help you to more seriously consider a belief in God and Christianity?”*

# HOW TO CLEAR SMOKE SCREENS

## A Question for Skeptics

*“If you could know the truth,  
would you **want** to know it?”*

# HOW TO CLEAR SMOKE SCREENS

*“I tried presenting him with some evidence to show him that the Bible is a reliable historical account. But finally, after about an hour of us talking and sharing views, he said: ‘Even if you put all the evidence right in front of me, I still won’t believe. I don’t want to believe.’ I did not know what else to say after that. . .”*

# HOW TO CLEAR SMOKESCREENS

*“In retrospect, I realize this student had been throwing up a **smokescreen**, and early in the conversation I should have tried uncovering the **real barriers** by asking him something like, ‘**If I could answer your questions. . .**’”*

*(Former student from the East Asia School of Theology)*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a **real concern** or a **smoke screen**.

\* Why do I say we must determine their perceived issues or barriers?



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a real concern or a smoke screen.

The Bible teaches that a non-Christian's **primary barrier** to embracing Christ is not intellectual nor emotional.

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

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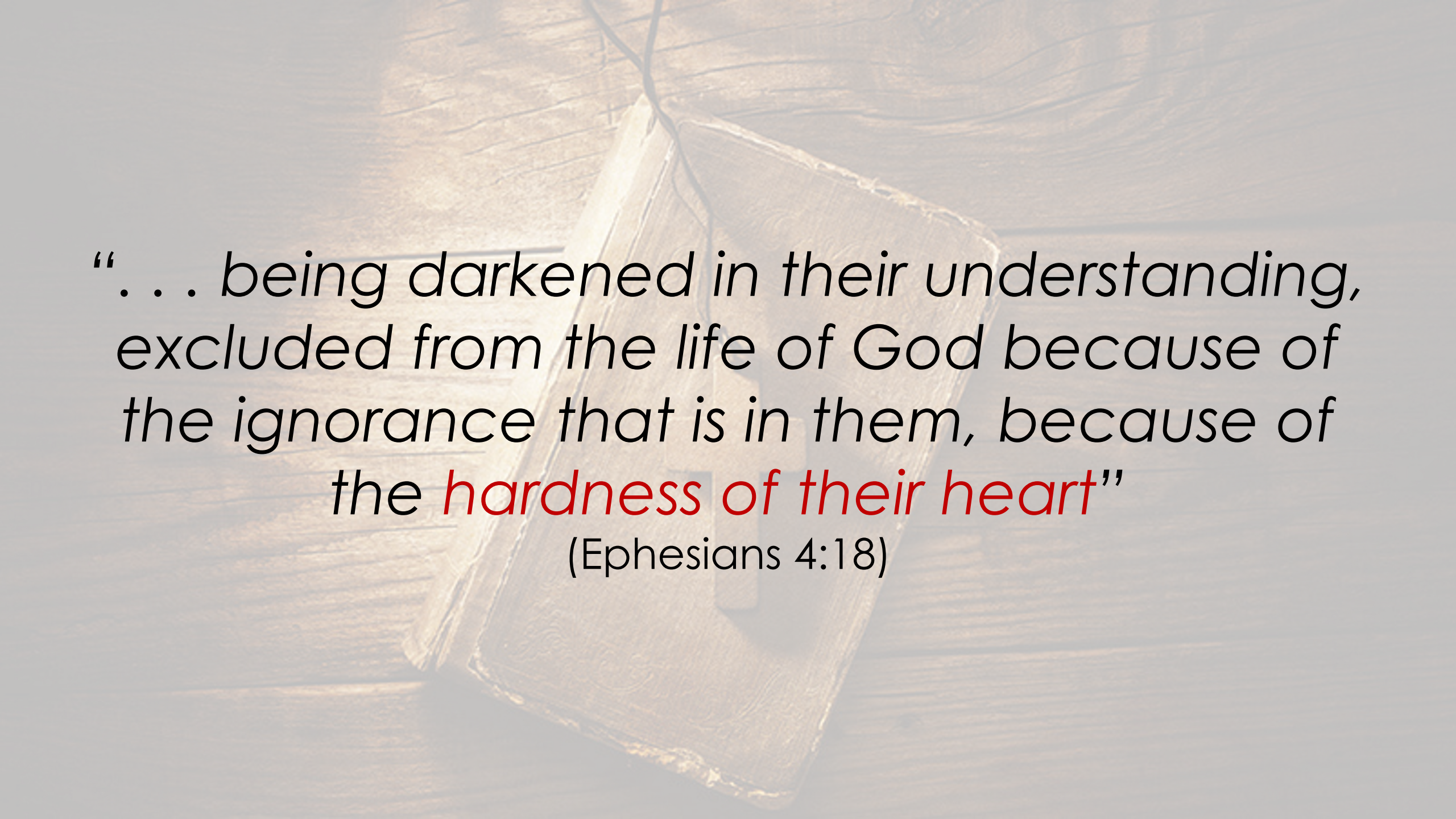
The primary barrier is  
**Spiritual** and **Volitional**.

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a real concern or a smoke screen.

*“People **believe** what they want to **believe** so that they can **do** what they want to **do**.”*

(Dr. David Geisler)



*“ . . . being darkened in their understanding,  
excluded from the life of God because of  
the ignorance that is in them, because of  
the **hardness of their heart**”*

(Ephesians 4:18)

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

A background image showing a shovel digging into a mound of soil. The shovel is positioned diagonally, with its handle pointing towards the top right and its blade buried in the earth. The soil is a light brown color and appears to be in a trench or a hole. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a soft, yellowish glow.

2. Determine the **nature** of the **perceived barrier**.

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

2. Determine the nature of the perceived barrier.

## *“Problem of Evil” Response*

*ASK: “Are you asking this question because there is someone you know or love who has been through some personal trial or tragedy?”*

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# QUESTIONS THAT MAY REVEAL EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

1. How could a good God allow so much suffering and evil in the world?
2. If God is there, then why doesn't He answer my prayers?
3. If God is **real**, then how come there are so many **hypocrites** in the church?

# STATEMENTS THAT MAY REVEAL INTELLECTUAL BAGGAGE



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1. It **doesn't matter** what you believe as long as it makes you a better person.

# STATEMENTS THAT MAY REVEAL INTELLECTUAL BAGGAGE

1. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as it makes you a better person.
2. Since so many people disagree on so many things, there **cannot be one right answer.**

# STATEMENTS THAT MAY REVEAL INTELLECTUAL BAGGAGE

3. Since the Bible has been **mistranslated** so many times, we can't be sure what it originally said.

# STATEMENTS THAT MAY REVEAL INTELLECTUAL BAGGAGE

3. Since the Bible has been mistranslated so many times, we can't be sure what it originally said.
4. It's been too long since Christ lived, so we **can't really know** what He said or did.



# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

*Remember, when someone throws a question at you, like a **boomerang**, let it come back around to them first.*

# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

QUESTION: *“Isn’t Christianity a crutch?”*

# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

QUESTION: *“Isn’t Christianity a crutch?”*

ANSWER: *“What do you mean by crutch?”*

# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

STATEMENT: *“I don’t believe the Bible is reliable.”*

# HANDLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

*Reverse*

*The Burden of Proof*

STATEMENT: *“I don’t believe the Bible is reliable.”*

ANSWER: *“Why is it that you don’t think the Bible is as reliable as other books of antiquity written around the same time period?”*

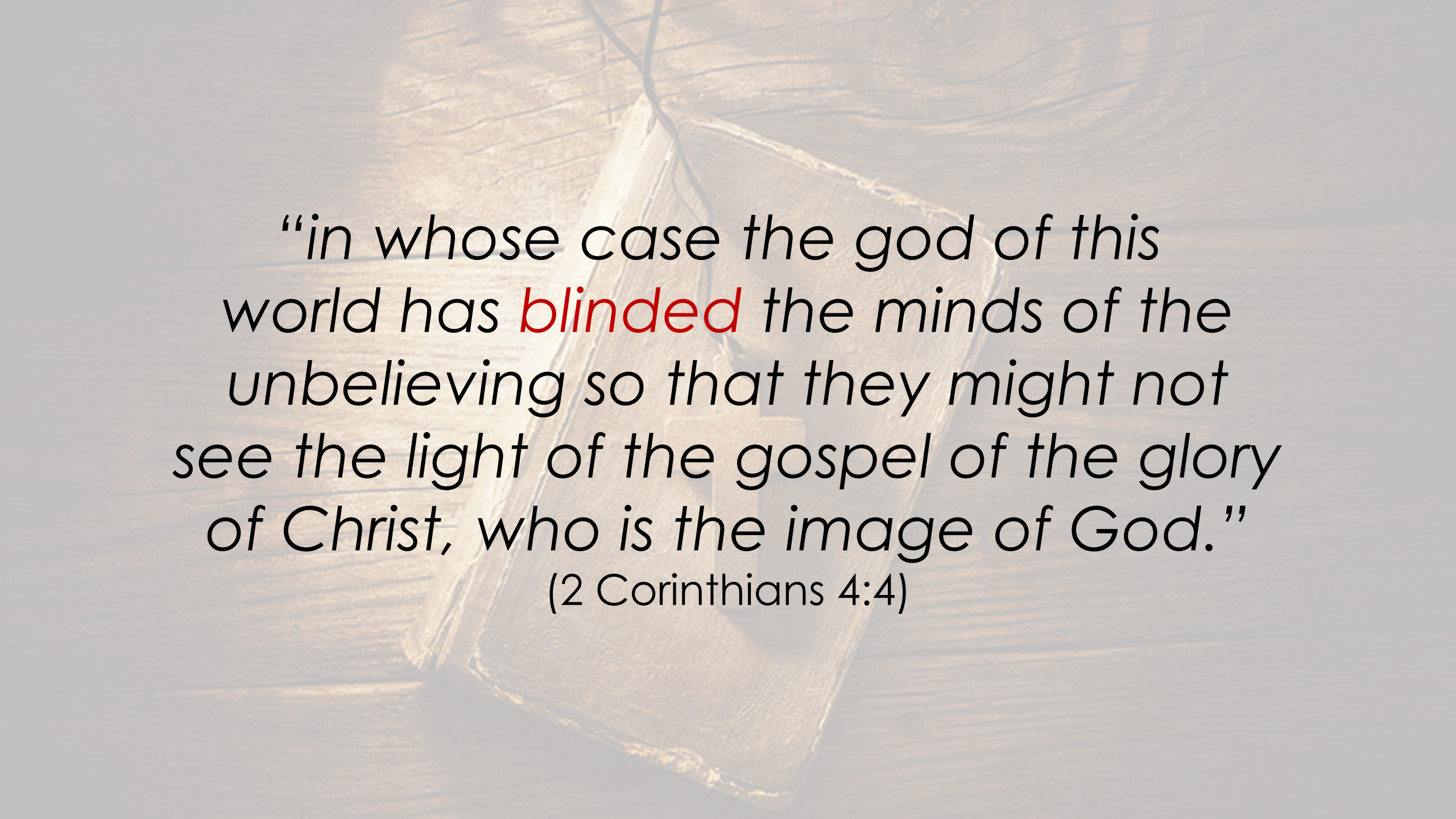
*“And they spoke, saying to Him, ‘Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me: Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?’”*

*(Luke 20:2-4)*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

3. Uncover the **specific emotional baggage** that they are carrying.





*“in whose case the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

*(2 Corinthians 4:4)*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

3. Uncover the specific emotional baggage that they are carrying.

Ask God for wisdom to discern the “real issues” that you must address with your pre-believing friends.

# HANDLING EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- Invite them to share *their story*.



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- Listen and discern the **most obvious barriers** to the Gospel as you **empathize** with them.

# HANDLING EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- Invite them to share their story.
- Listen and discern the most obvious barriers to the Gospel as you empathize with them.
- If appropriate, **affirm God's love** and **hope** for them.

# HANDLING EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- If appropriate, **apologize** for how another brother or sister in Christ treated them.

# HANDLING EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- If appropriate, apologize for how another brother or sister in Christ treated them.
- Encourage them to not allow any **negative religious experiences** to get in the way of them finding that “**right**” relationship with their Creator.

# HANDLING EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- If appropriate, tell them you will be **praying** for God to do something **supernatural** in their life to **prove** He is real and that you will keep them in your prayers.



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

## REVIEW

First, “Determine whether their issue is a real concern or a smoke screen.”

Second, “Determine the nature of the barrier.”

Third, “Uncover the specific emotional baggage that they are carrying.”

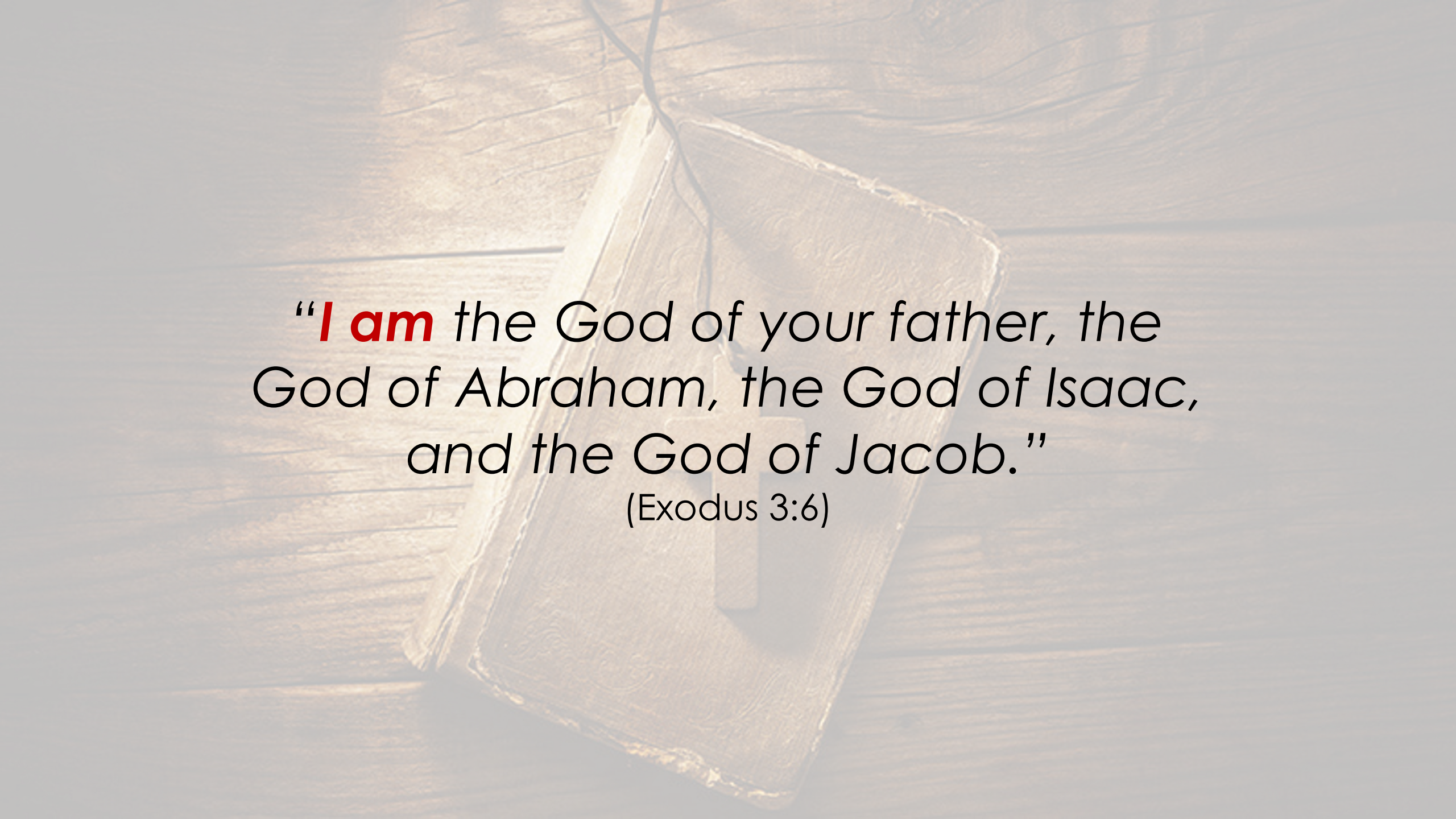
# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

4. Determine whether there is a **question or concern behind** the question or issue raised.







An open book with a wooden cover and a wooden bookmark, resting on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the book.

***“I am*** the God of your father, the  
God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,  
and the God of Jacob.”

(Exodus 3:6)

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

4. Determine whether there is a question or concern behind the question or issue raised.

QUESTION: *“How can you claim that there is **only one way** to God?”*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

4. Determine whether there is a question or concern behind the question or issue raised.

ANSWER: They may believe that Christians are **arrogant** to think that they have the truth and are therefore, better than others.



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

4. Determine whether there is a question or concern behind the question or issue raised.

ANSWER: They may also believe that Christians are not very “open” to other faiths because they are so **exclusive**.

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

*Help Them Grasp The Principle*

*“How many ways does it take  
to restore a broken dating  
relationship for something  
we said or did?”*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

A background image showing a shovel digging into soil, symbolizing uncovering or discovery. The shovel is positioned vertically, with its head buried in the earth. The soil is light brown and appears to be in a trench or a hole. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a soft, yellowish glow.

5. Find out what their **biggest barrier** is to Christianity.

*ASK: “What’s keeping you, right now, from putting your faith in Jesus Christ?”*



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

5. Find out what their **biggest barrier** is to Christianity.

- Moral Lifestyle Choices

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- Moral Lifestyle Choices
- Family Obligations or Expectations

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

5. Find out what their **biggest barrier** is to Christianity.

*“One of my biggest barriers to belief in God or Christianity is that I am **not brave enough** to consider religious issues solely without considering the **consequences** of what other people think.”*

(International Student, U. T. Austin)

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

A background image showing a shovel digging into a mound of brown soil. The shovel is positioned vertically, with its head buried in the earth. The soil is textured and appears to be a mix of dirt and small rocks. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting.

6. Find out what would **motivate** them to get answers in these areas.



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

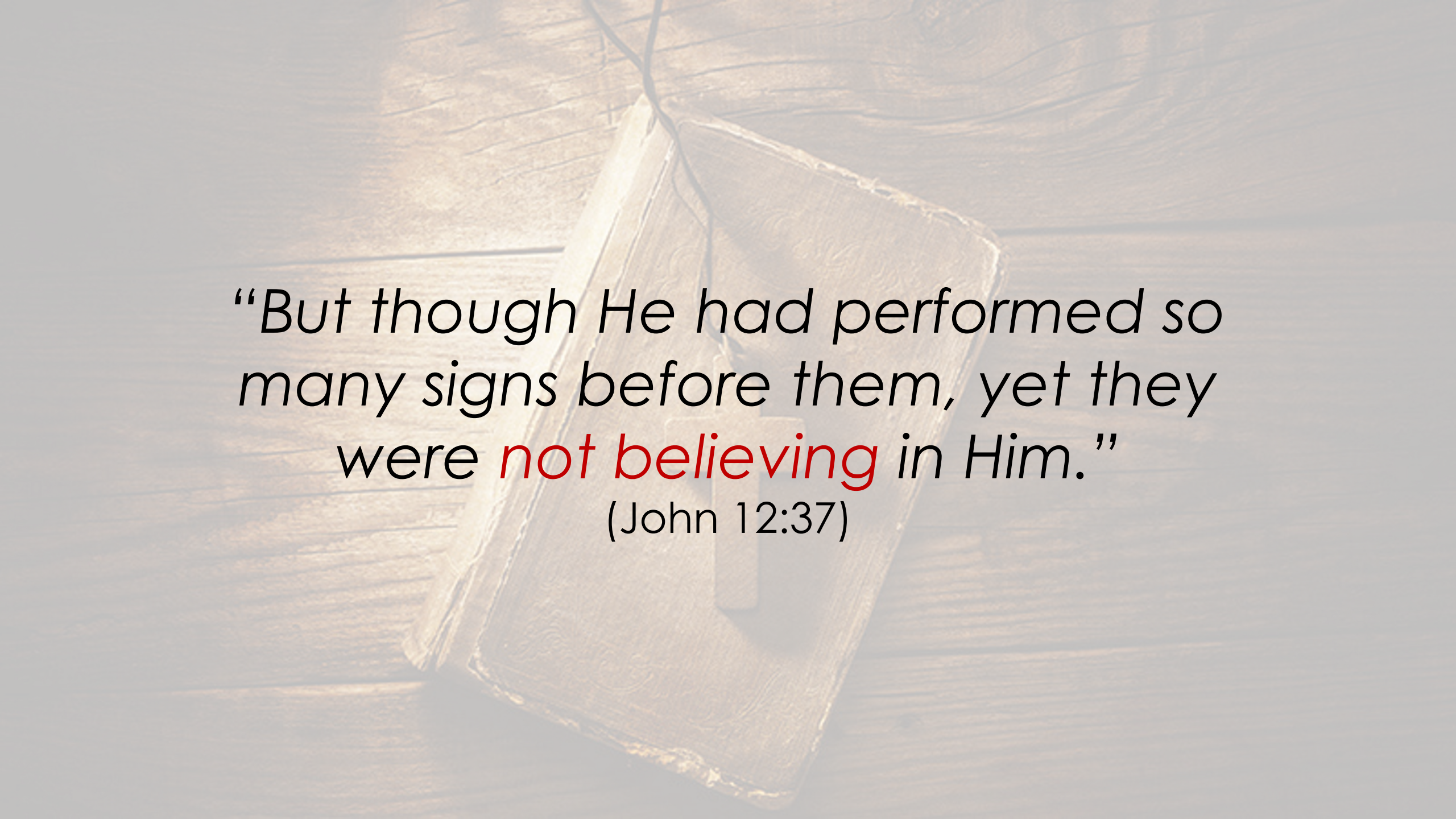
7. Uncover the **volitional factors**.



# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

## 7. Uncover the volitional factors.

In this step we are attempting to surface an **unwillingness** to believe that goes beyond just dealing with the intellectual and emotional barriers.



*“But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were **not believing** in Him.”*  
(John 12:37)

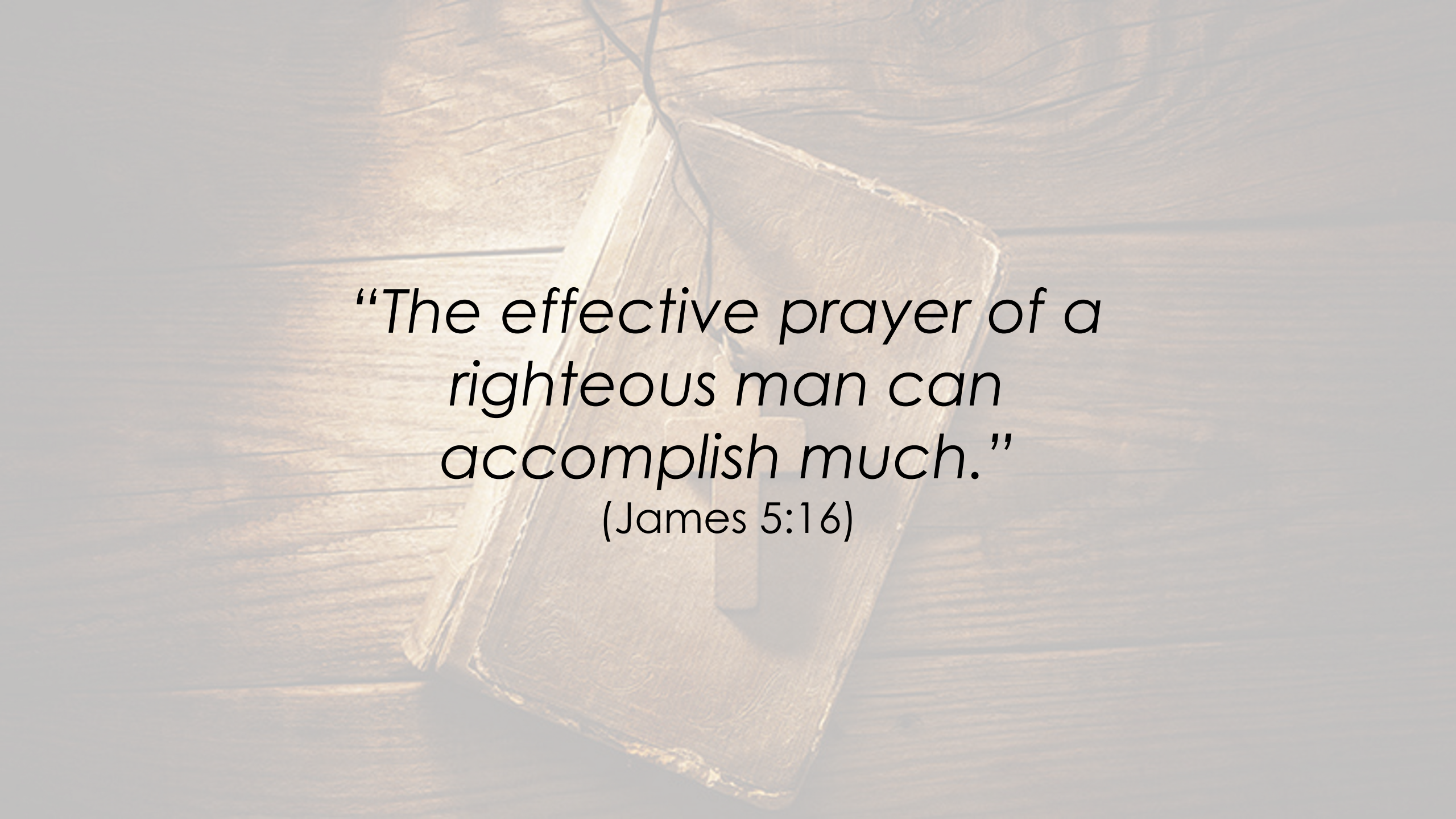


# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

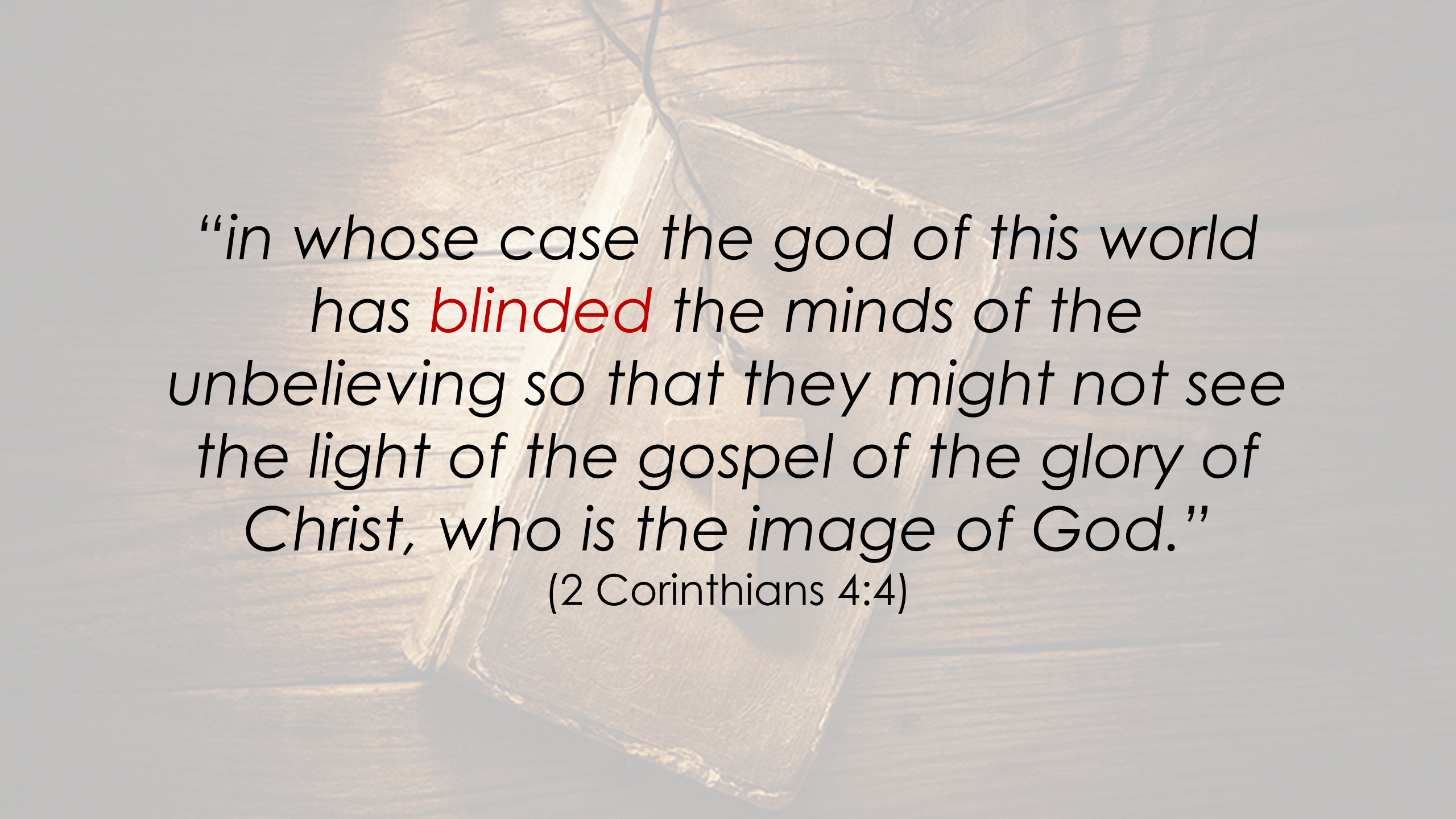
A background image showing a shovel digging into soil, symbolizing uncovering or discovery. The shovel is positioned vertically, with its head buried in the earth. The soil is a mix of brown and tan colors, with some roots visible. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting.

7. Uncover the volitional factors.

- Pray for **Spiritual Enlightenment**.

An open book with a wooden cover and a wooden bookmark, resting on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the book.

*“The effective prayer of a  
righteous man can  
accomplish much.”*  
(James 5:16)



*“in whose case the god of this world  
has **blinded** the minds of the  
unbelieving so that they might not see  
the light of the gospel of the glory of  
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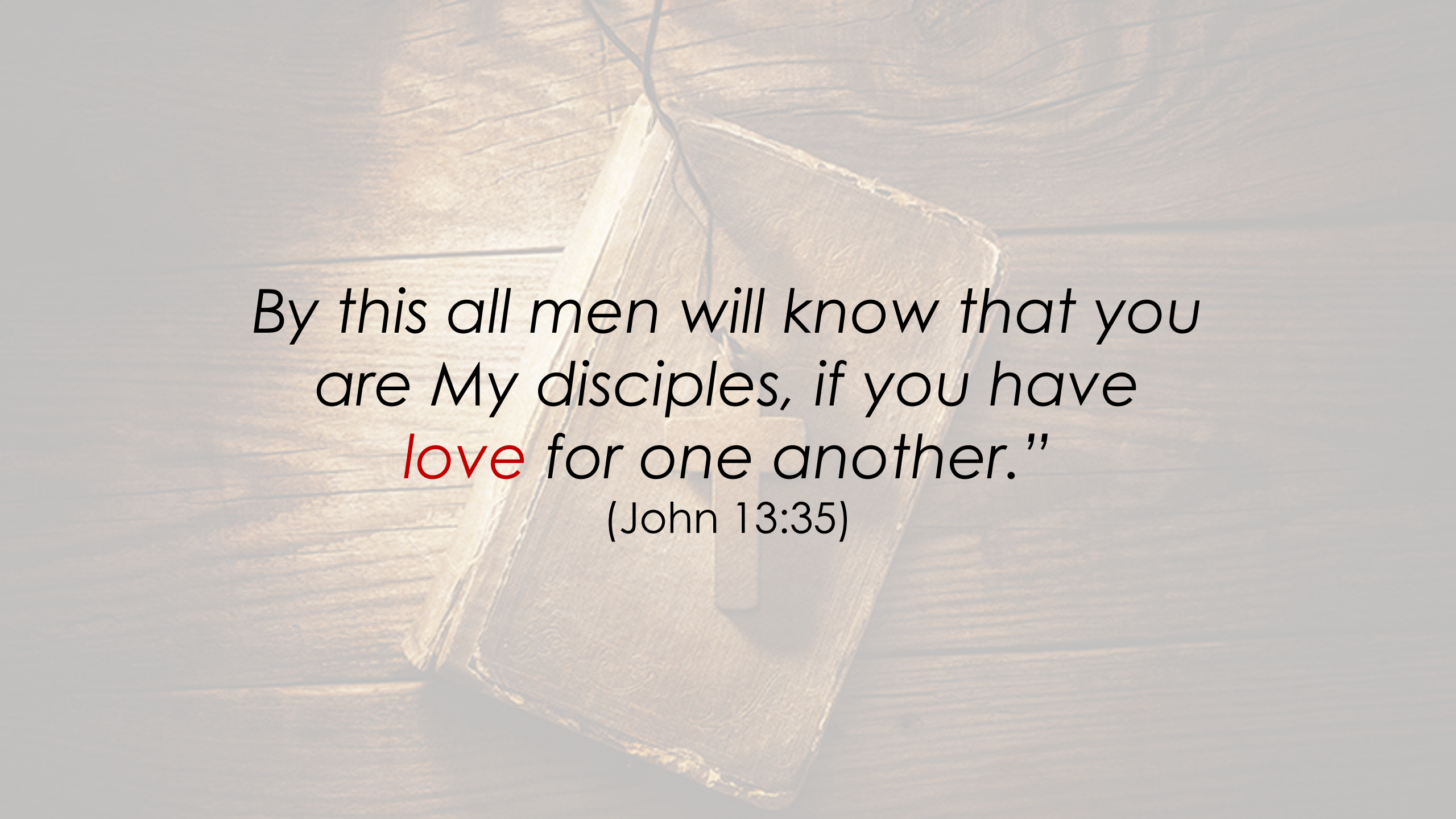
*(2 Corinthians 4:4)*

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

## 7. Uncover the volitional factors.

- Pray for Spiritual Enlightenment.
- Demonstrate **Christ's love** to them.





*By this all men will know that you  
are My disciples, if you have  
**love** for one another.”*  
(John 13:35)

# UNCOVERING CONVERSATIONS

7. Uncover the volitional factors.

- Pray for Spiritual Enlightenment.
- Demonstrate Christ's love to them.

# SEVEN STEPS TO UNCOVERING BARRIERS

1. Determine whether their perceived issue is a real concern or a **smokescreen**.
2. Determine the **nature** of their perceived barrier.
3. Uncover the **specific** emotional baggage they are carrying.
4. Determine whether there is a question or concern **behind** the question or issue raised.
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