

NUMBERS



Living by Faith, Not by Sight

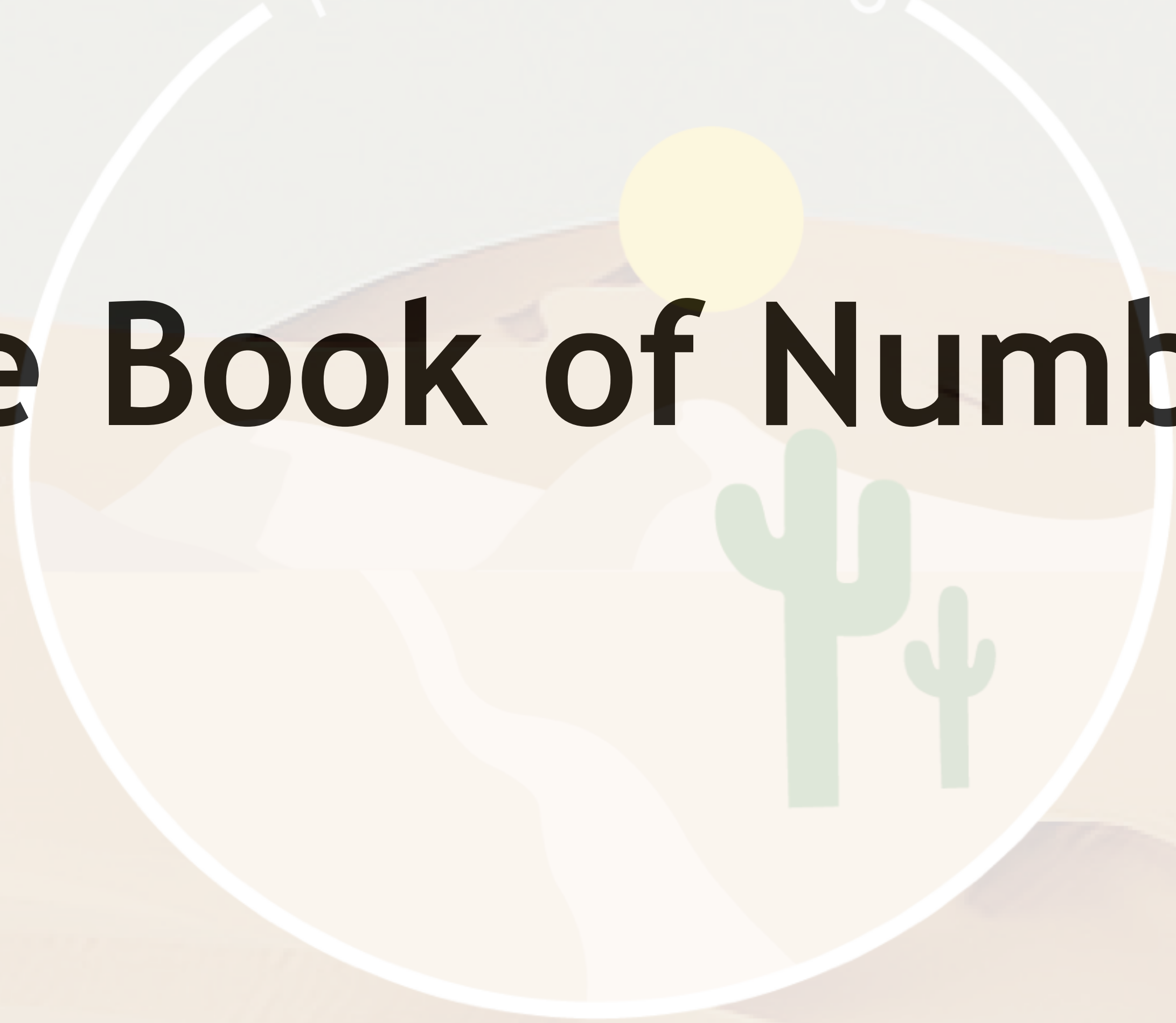
Numbers 14:26 - 38

Pentecost Methodist Church

10 June 2018

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The Book of Numbers





OT Narratives are “purposeful stories re-telling the historical events of the past that are intended to give meaning and direction for a given people in the present.”

Gordon Fee



Living Out God's Word
in the Real World

Numbers 14:33 (ESV)

And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.



Numbers 14:35 (ESV)

I, the LORD, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die.



Faithlessness

(Spirit)

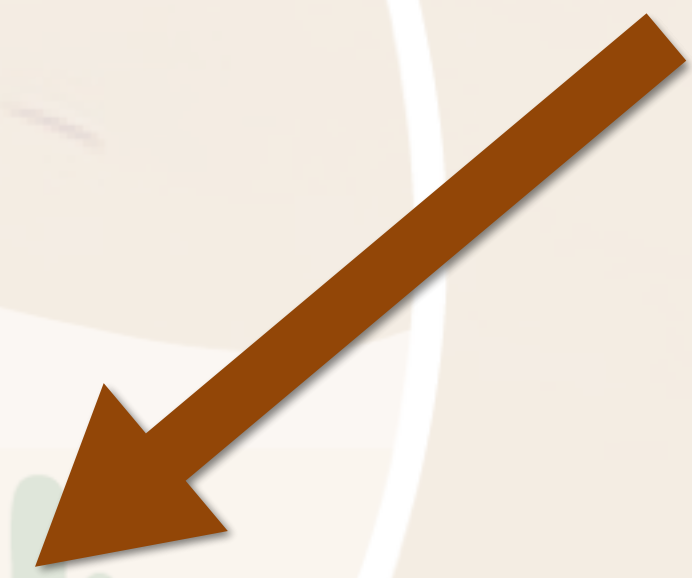


Wickedness

(Behaviour)

Death / Destruction

(Consequence)



Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.



Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.



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**What does living by faith look like?
(i.e. not faithlessness)**



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#1. Living by faith requires us to know who is the One who promised



He Who Promised

1. Creator of the universe (Heb 11)
2. Saved mankind through Noah (Heb 11)
3. Blessed Abraham with a son in his old age (Heb 11)
4. Preserved Israel in Egypt through Joseph (Heb 11)
5. Delivered the Israelites out of Egypt (Heb 11)
6. Stood before Israelites as pillar of cloud by day & pillar of fire by night (Num 14)
7. Provided manna for food (Ex 19)







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#2. Living by faith requires us to know what has been promised by Him



What He Has Promised

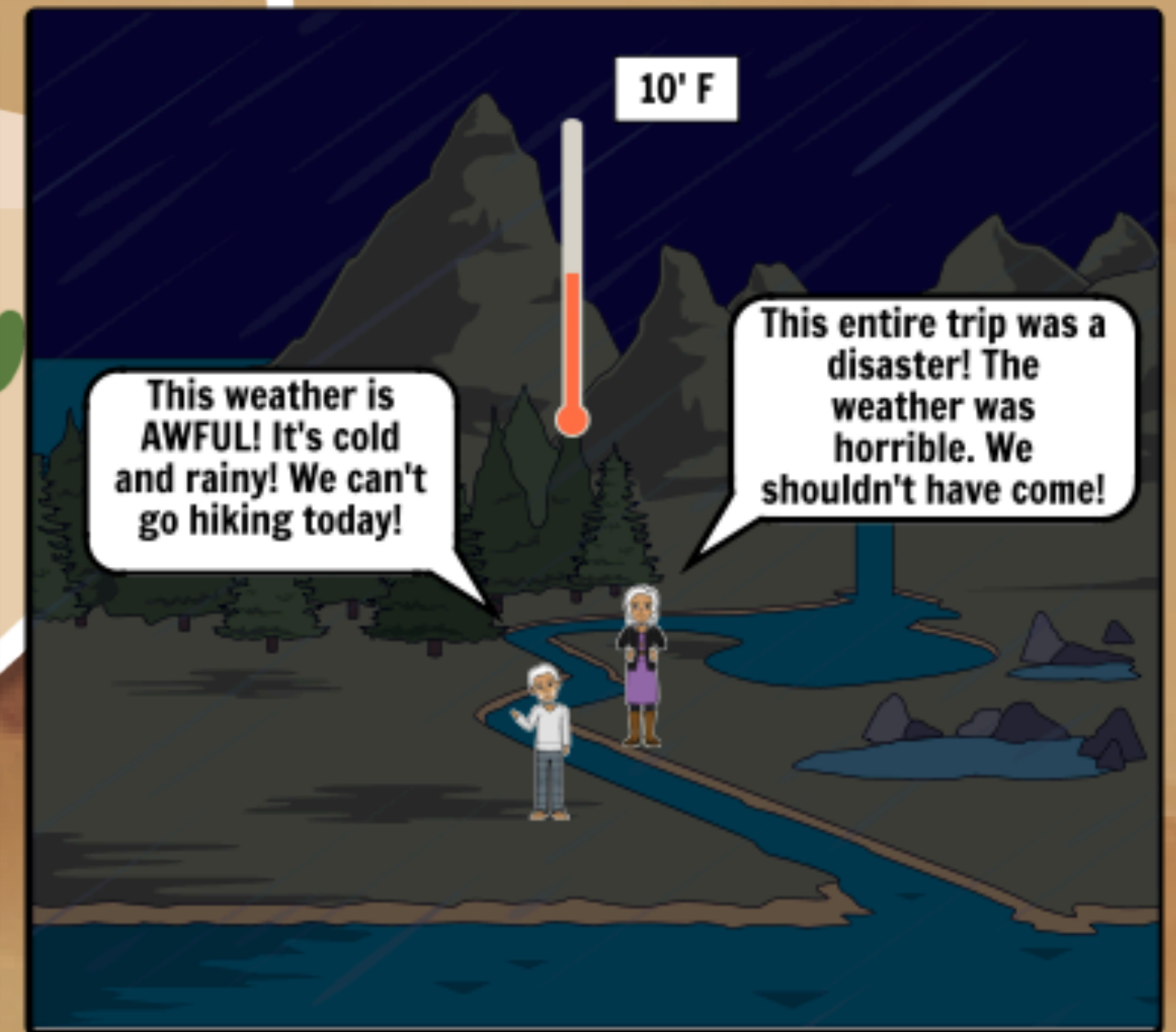
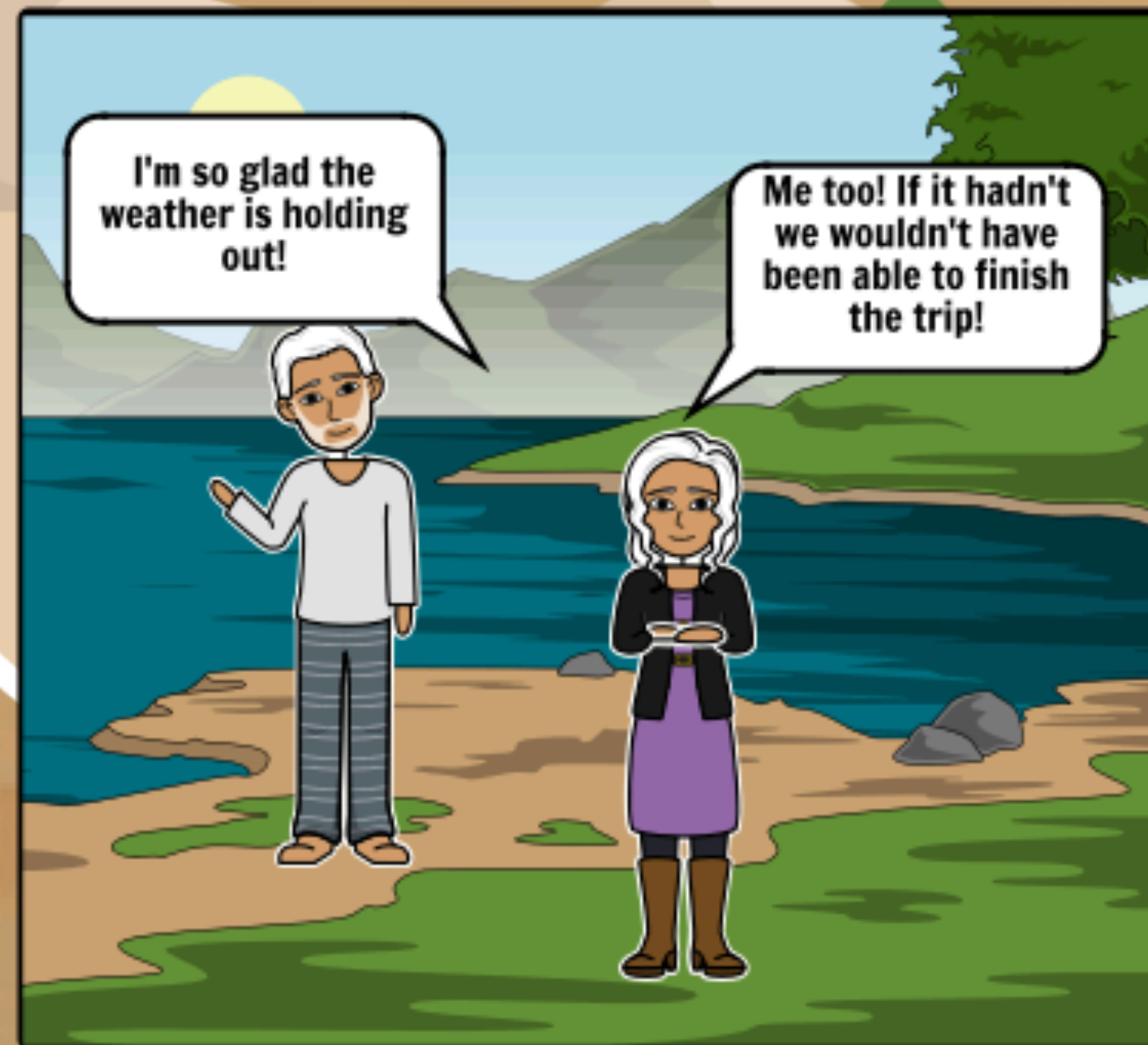
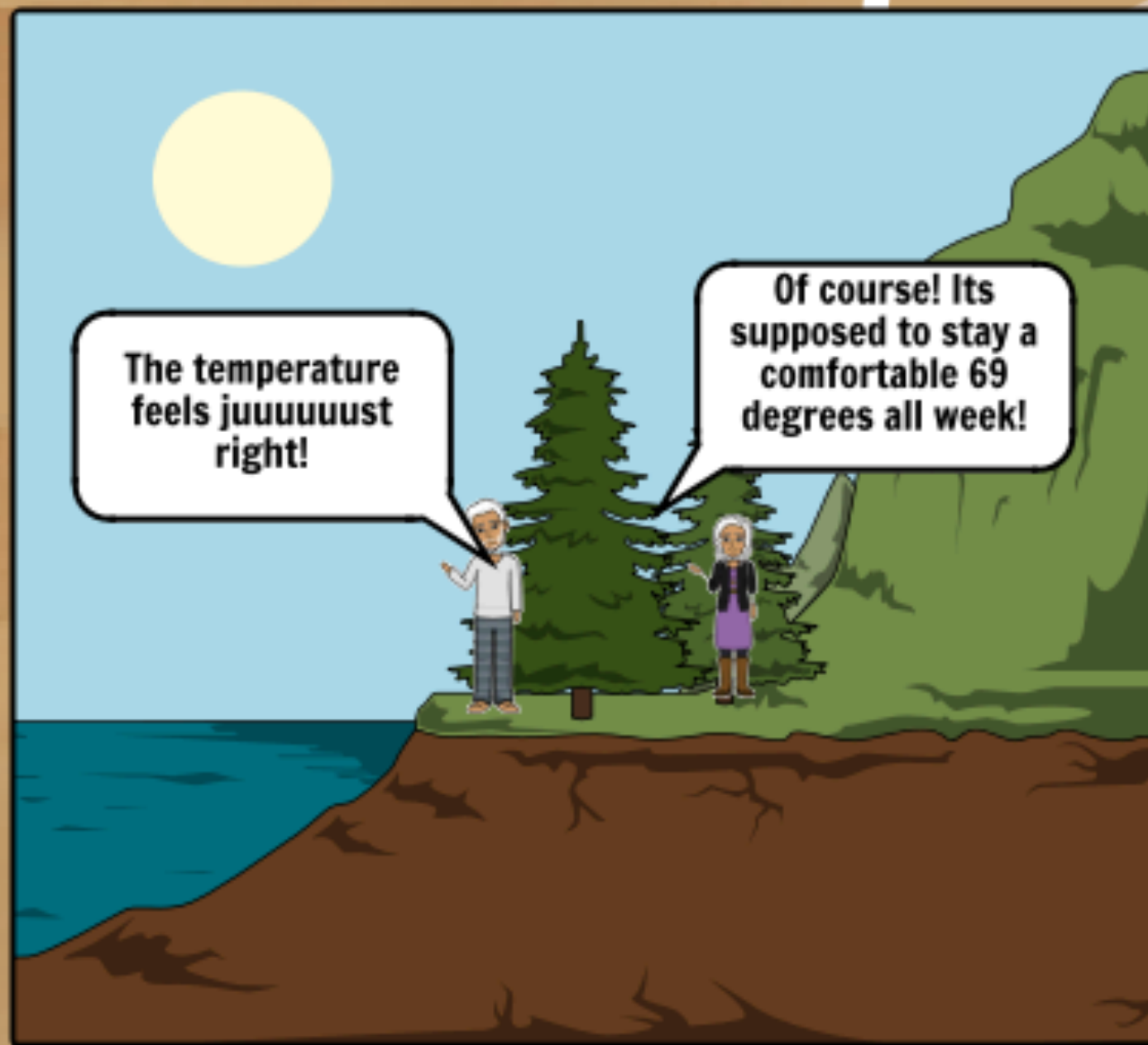
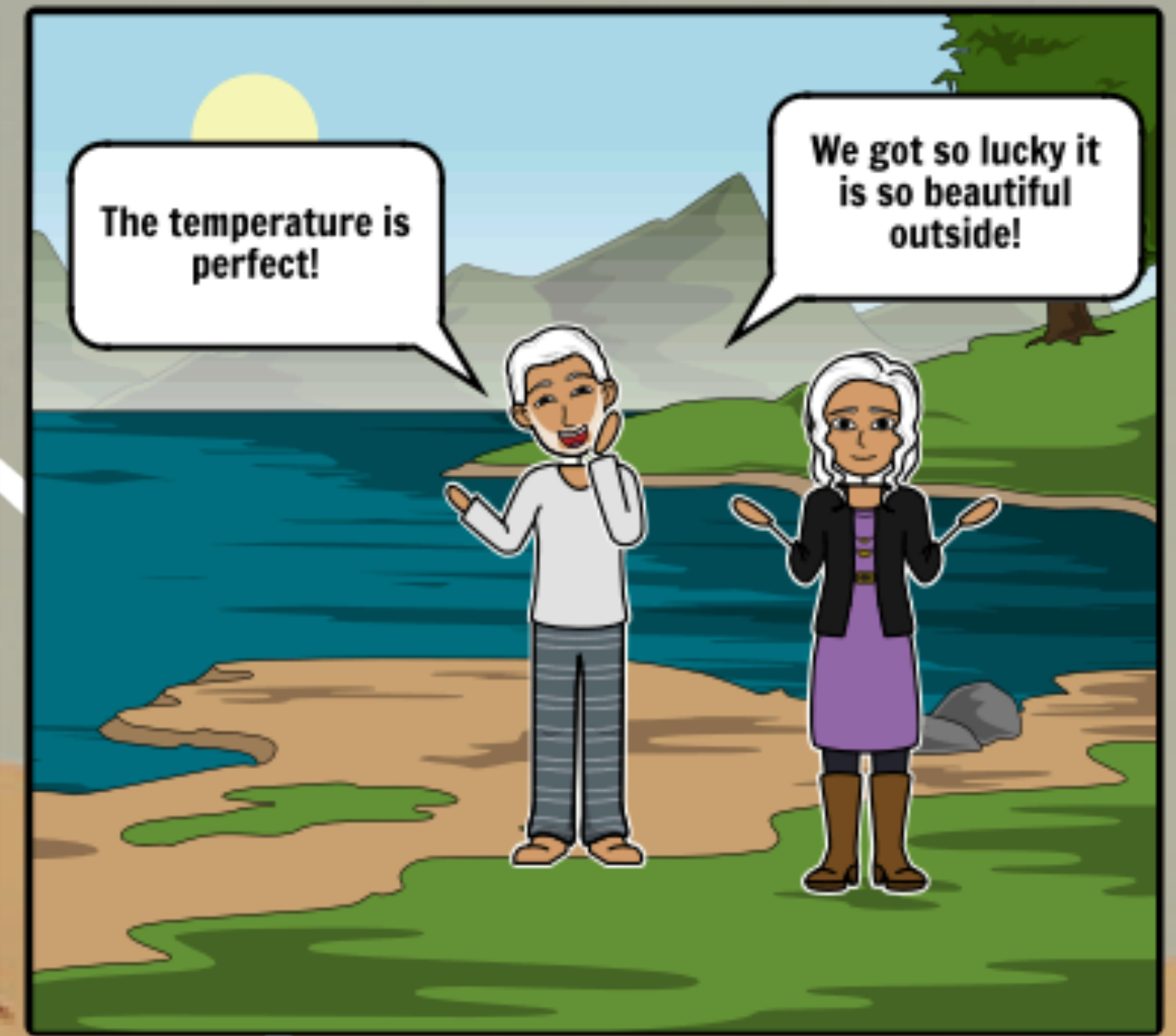
1. Land to Abraham's offspring (Gen 15:18-21)
2. Uncountable offspring for Abraham, through which all nations would be blessed (Gen 28:14)
3. God's treasured possession (Ex 19:5)
4. A kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex 19:6)
5. Give inhabitants of promised land into hands of Israelites (Ex 23:13)
6. Land of Canaan (Num 13:1)



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My recent journey into a heartland





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**How does living by faith
influence our behaviour?
(i.e. not wickedness)**



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**#3. Living by faith requires us to be put
our words into actions (obedience)**



Exodus 19:5-6 (ESV)

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.



Numbers 14:24 (ESV)

But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.



**Faith
(Spirit)**

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**Obedience
(Behaviour)**

**Fulfilment of God's Promise
(Consequence)**



Joshua 22:5 (ESV)

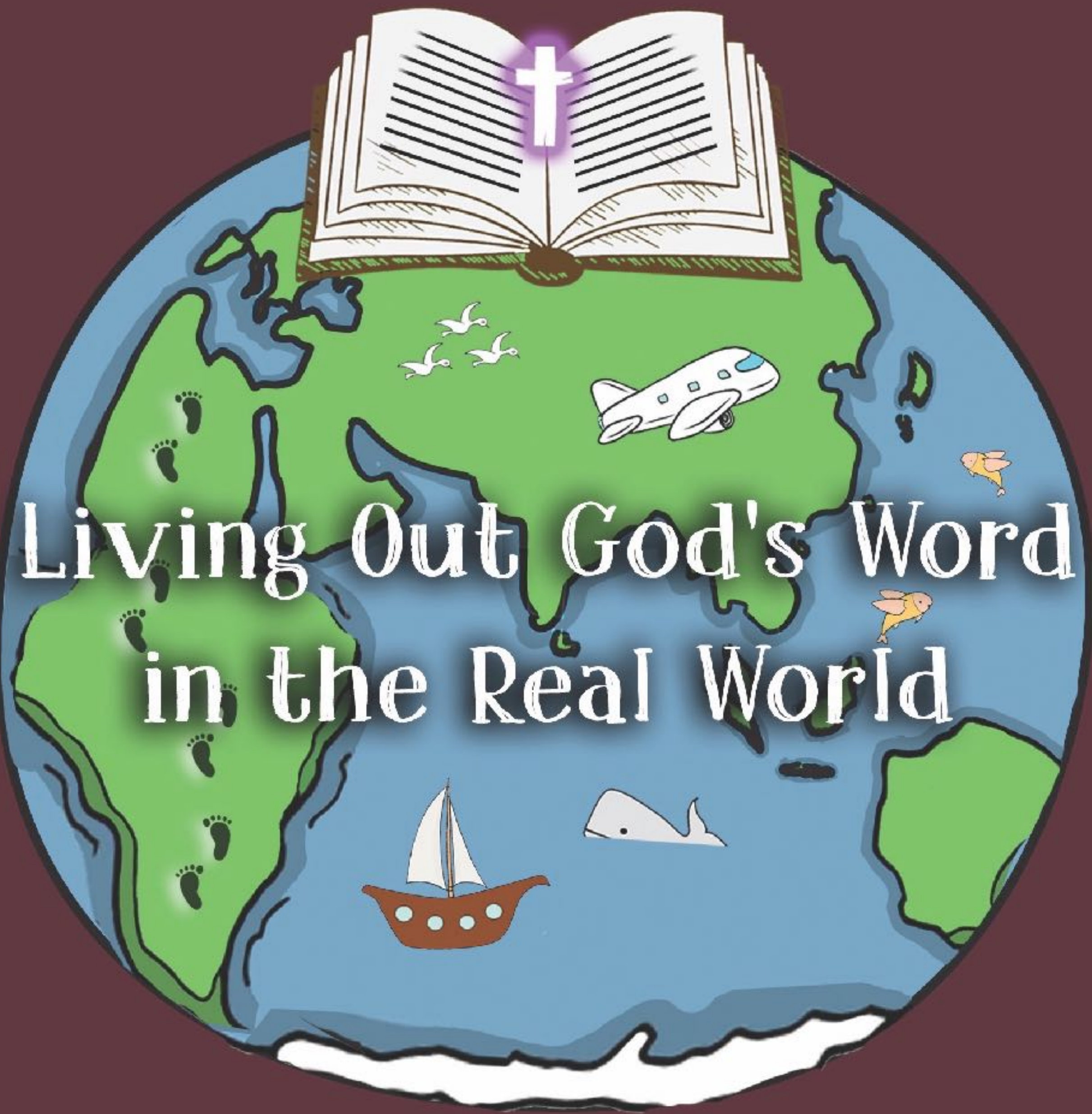
Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.



Obedience to God is not some optional extra
we can ignore if it suits our fancy.

Joshua S. Hill





Living Out God's Word
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John 14:15 (ESV)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

