I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

Elder James Lee

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Introduction

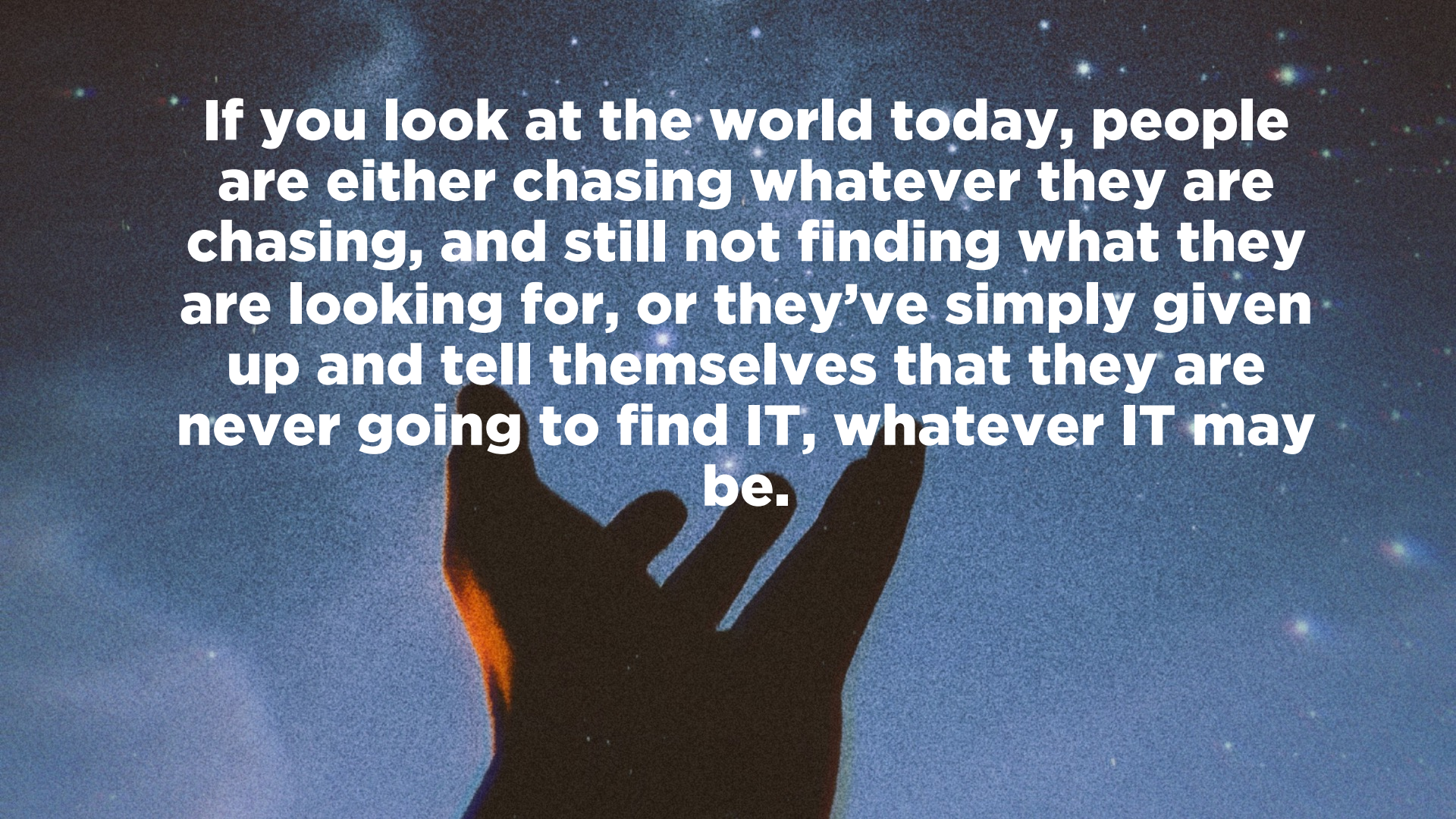
The search for happiness, fulfillment and meaning in life

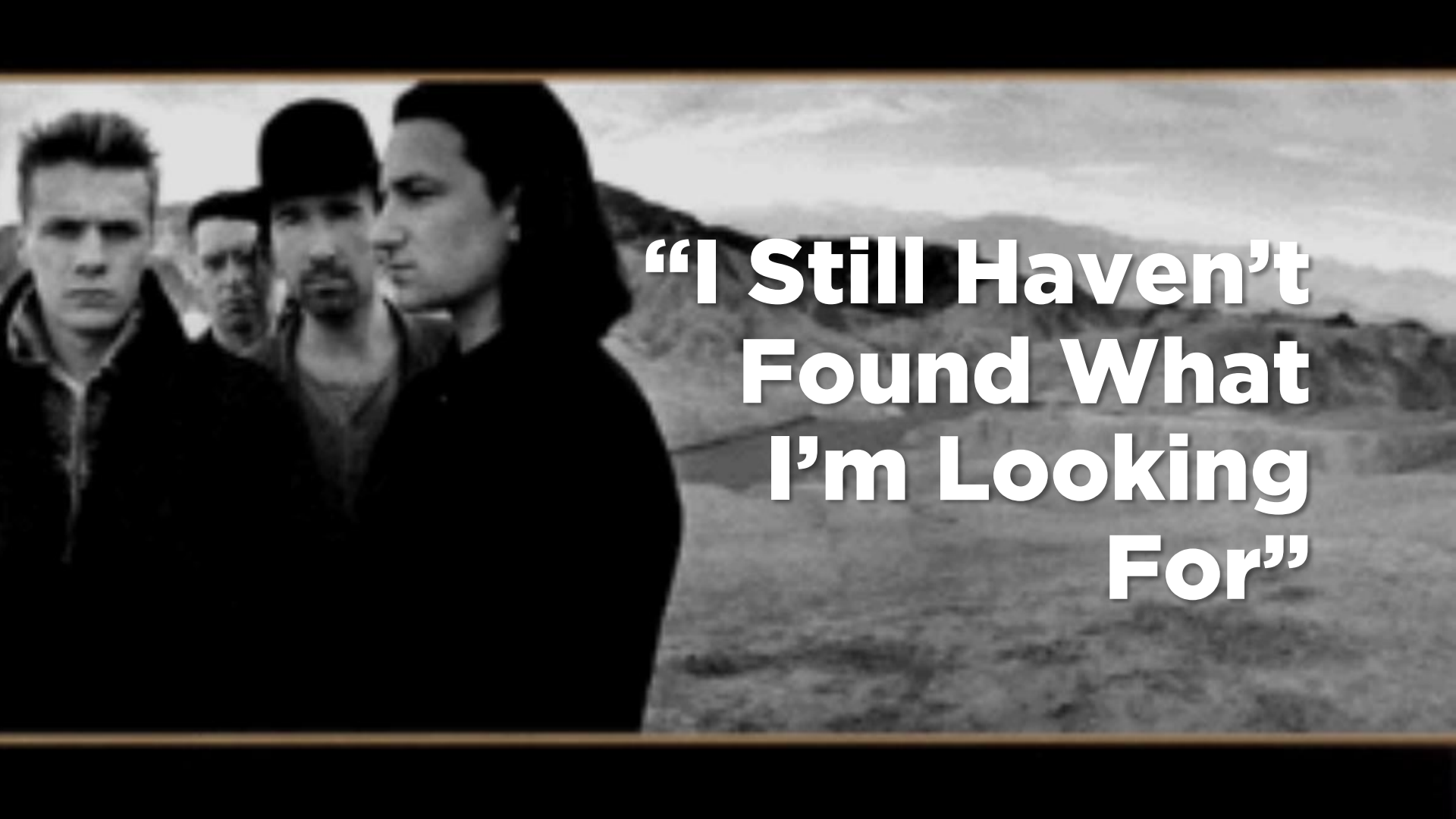
Introduction

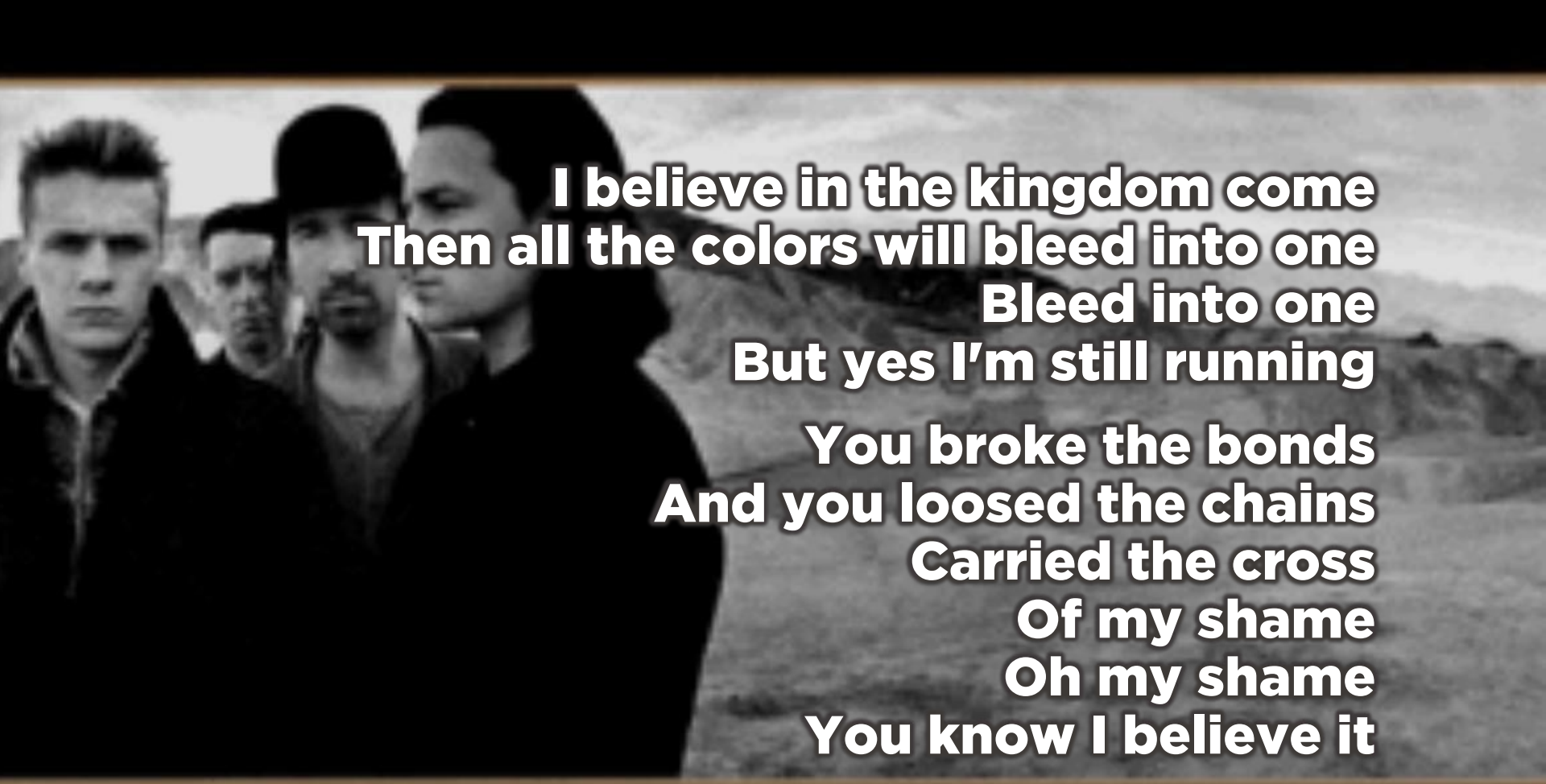
Important subject in our discipleship journey

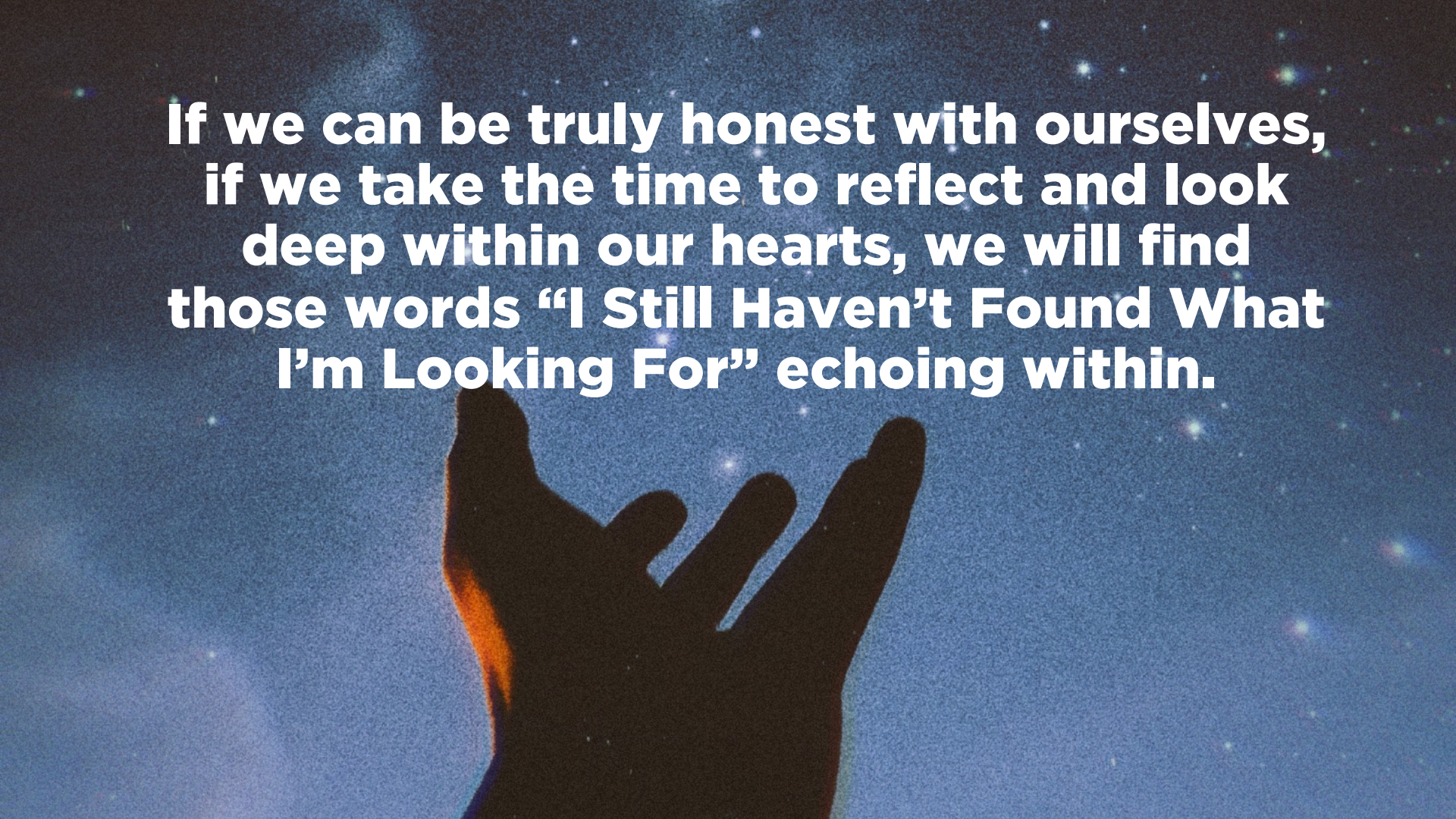
Introduction

A natural instinct in humans


If you look at the world today, people are either chasing whatever they are chasing, and still not finding what they are looking for, or they've simply given up and tell themselves that they are never going to find IT, whatever IT may be.

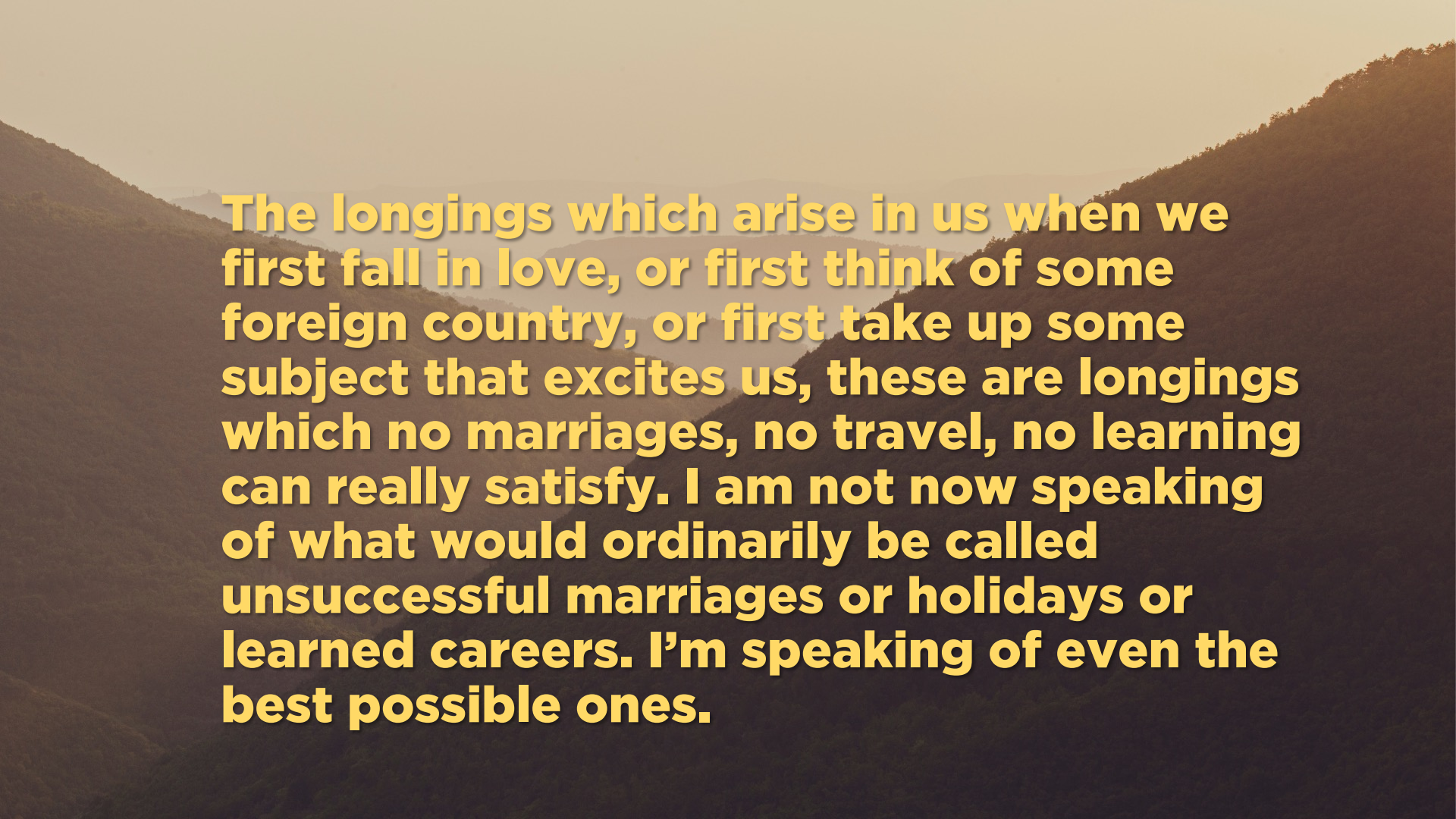

“I Still Haven’t
Found What
I’m Looking
For”

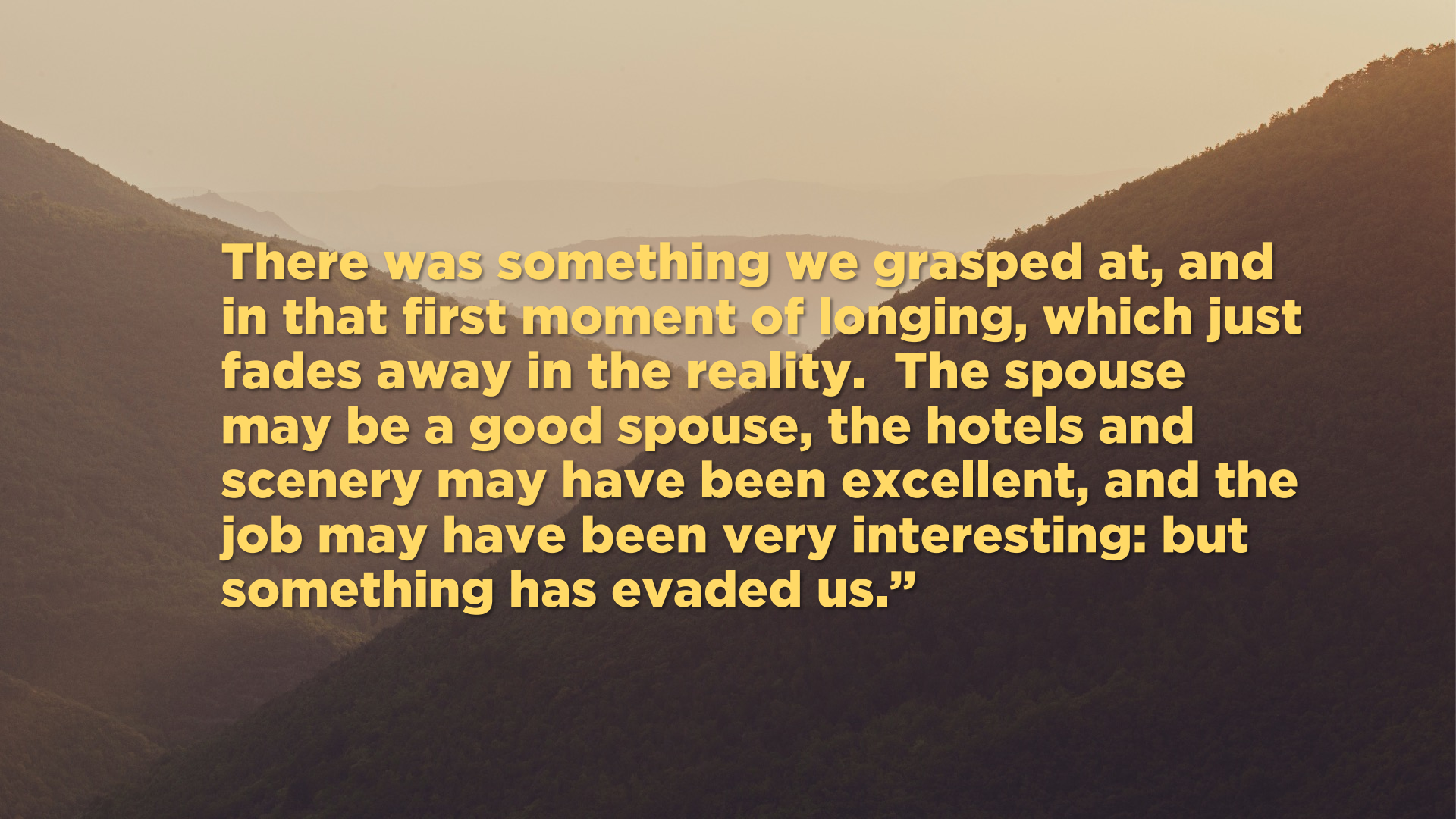

I believe in the kingdom come
Then all the colors will bleed into one
Bleed into one
But yes I'm still running
You broke the bonds
And you loosed the chains
Carried the cross
Of my shame
Oh my shame
You know I believe it


If we can be truly honest with ourselves, if we take the time to reflect and look deep within our hearts, we will find those words “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” echoing within.

C S Lewis, Mere Christianity, chapter 10:

"Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never keep their promise.


The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, these are longings which no marriages, no travel, no learning can really satisfy. I am not now speaking of what would ordinarily be called unsuccessful marriages or holidays or learned careers. I'm speaking of even the best possible ones.


There was something we grasped at, and in that first moment of longing, which just fades away in the reality. The spouse may be a good spouse, the hotels and scenery may have been excellent, and the job may have been very interesting: but something has evaded us.”

Road Map

A. What Are We Looking For?

B. Can IT ever be found in this life?

C. What does Jesus and the bible say?

A. What Are We Looking For?

2022 Quality of Life Survey conducted by the NUS Business School

A. What Are We Looking For?

- 2 major findings:

➢ “Singaporeans have become less happy over the past decade, but those who embrace family and traditions, care about society and the environment, and have some money and social status were generally more satisfied with life”.

A. What Are We Looking For?

- 2 major findings:

➢ **Those who "prioritise material possessions and the finer things in life were the most unhappy, despite being better off financially."**

A. What Are We Looking For?

- **The pursuit of economic and material wealth was a priority to many Singaporeans during a not-too-distant time ago.**

A. What Are We Looking For?

- **The 5Cs:**
  Cash, Condominium, Car, Credit card and Country club

A. What Are We Looking For?

- The 5 Cs represented wealth, status and a promise of happiness and life satisfaction.
- Yet those who had chased the 5Cs ended up being less happy than those who did not.

A. What Are We Looking For?

- Reality for all of us is that life is not free from trouble.
- What does the pursuit of happiness, fulfillment and meaning in life mean in the midst of all these chaos and trouble?

A. What Are We Looking For?

- What we are really looking for is the deep satisfaction that abides in us through life's ups and downs.
- Can it be found?

B. Can IT be found?

- **The pursuit of happiness and the quest for fulfillment and meaning in life has been the central pursuit of human beings throughout history.**

B. Can IT be found?

United States Declaration of Independence, 1776

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness…”

B. Can IT be found?

- **The pursuit of happiness is a documented national aspiration for the people of the United States of America.**

B. Can IT be found?

- Ancient Western (i.e. Greek and Roman) philosophies attempting to rationalize our innate desire to seek happiness and fulfillment and the very real troubles we face.

B. Can IT be found?

- **Stoicism - an ancient Greek philosophy dating back to 300 BC. The Stoics believe that we should learn to accept that there are things in life we can't control and focus on the things we can control.**

B. Can IT be found?

Buddhism - teaches firstly that the root cause of suffering is human desire and that in order to escape suffering, we must dis-entangle ourselves from our desires

B. Can IT be found?

- **Epicureanism:**
  - eat, drink, be merry and die
  - seeking maximum pleasure in life
  - there is no God, so let us just live life to the fullest and indulge in whatever we want to indulge in because there is really no other meaning in life.

B. Can IT be found?

- **Our modern culture:**
  - **happiness is entirely up to us**
  - **we have the power within us to go and achieve the happiness and fulfillment we want**
    - **If you are not happy, it's your own fault!**

Conclusion for Part 1, Sneak preview for Part 2 :

THE LIFE GOAL OF EVERY CHRISTIAN IS TO FIND GOD'S REST AND LIVE A LIFE OF RESTEDNESS IN GOD

HOMEWORK

LET'S PRAY