

What's in a Name

Claiming your identity



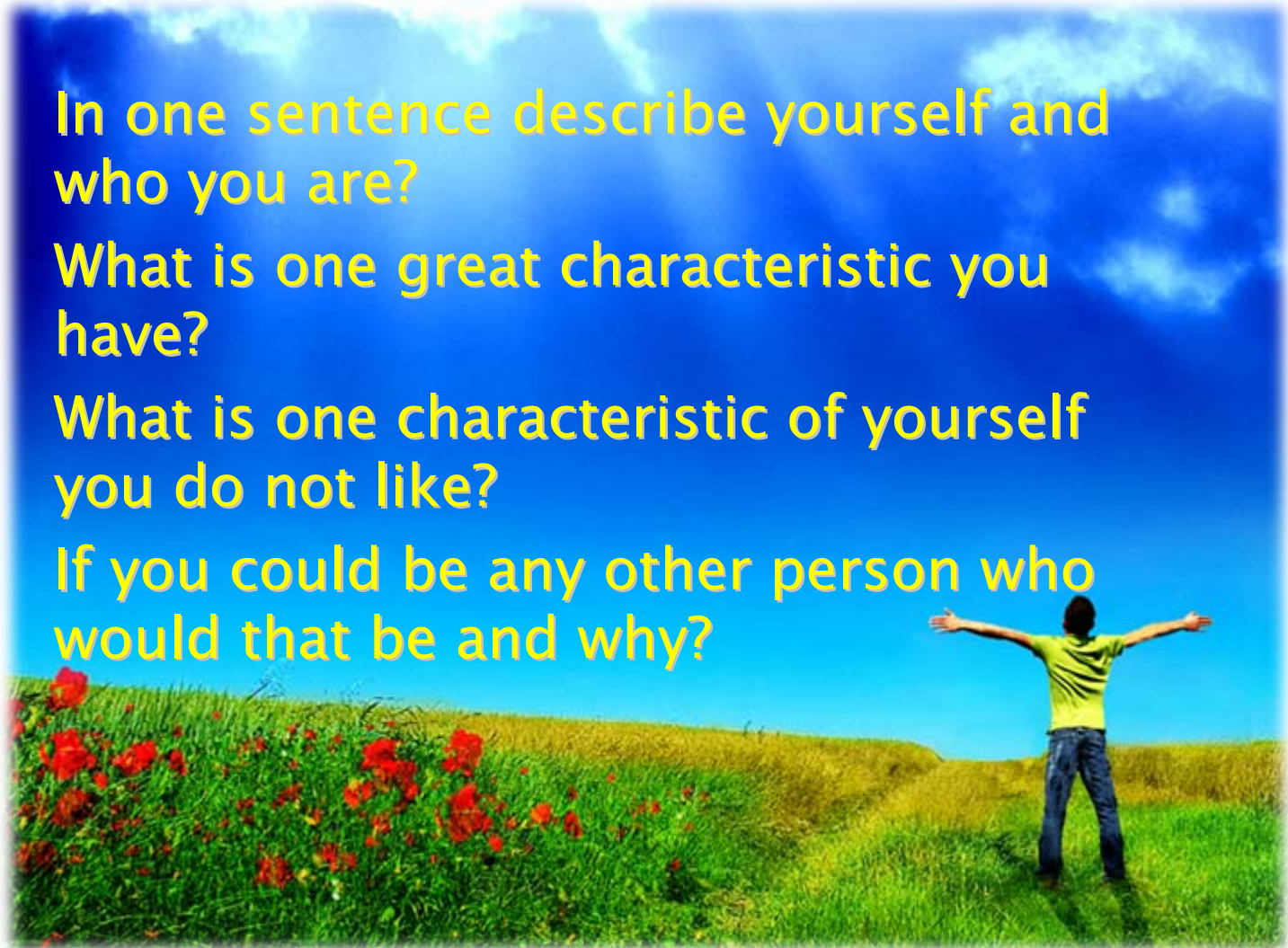
What's in a Name

In one sentence describe yourself and who you are?

What is one great characteristic you have?

What is one characteristic of yourself you do not like?

If you could be any other person who would that be and why?



What's in a Name

In Biblical times peoples names were chosen to represent who they were,; their character, their physical attributes, or their personality.

BLESSED

be your

Name

*If God were to give you a
new name what would it be?*



What does your name mean?

Jon – God is gracious

Raymond – Wise protector

Paul – Small

Sue – Lily

Jennifer – White wave

Leesa – Consecrated to

God

Charlene – Charles;

Manly

Nancy – Gracious

Frank – Free

Joyce – Merry

Walt – Army General

Tom – A Twin

Gloria – Glory

James – Supplanter

George – Farmer

Shirley – Bright meadow



Exodus 32:22-32

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

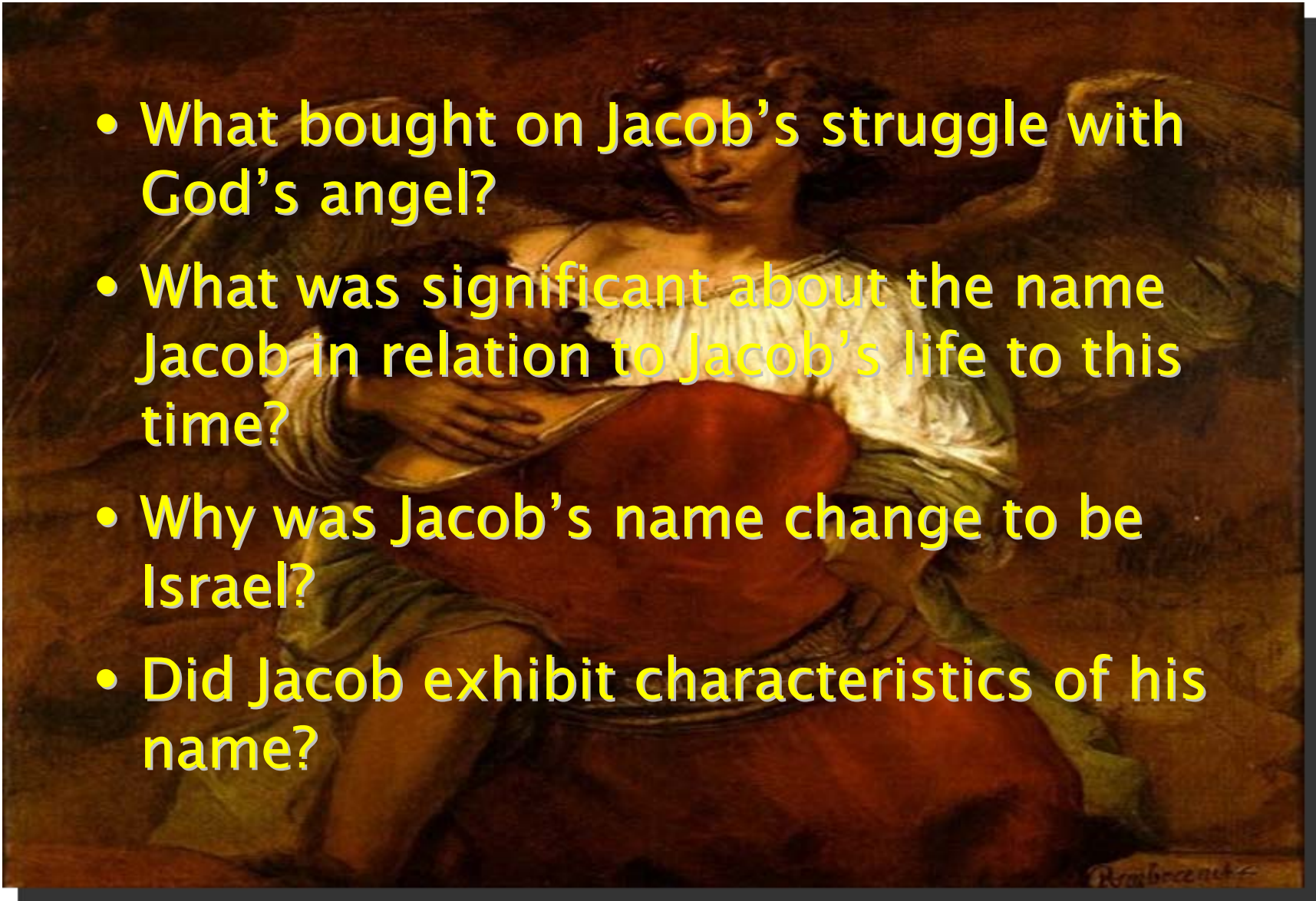
But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon.

Exodus 32:22-32

- What bought on Jacob's struggle with God's angel?
- What was significant about the name Jacob in relation to Jacob's life to this time?
- Why was Jacob's name change to be Israel?
- Did Jacob exhibit characteristics of his name?



Name with Rob Bell



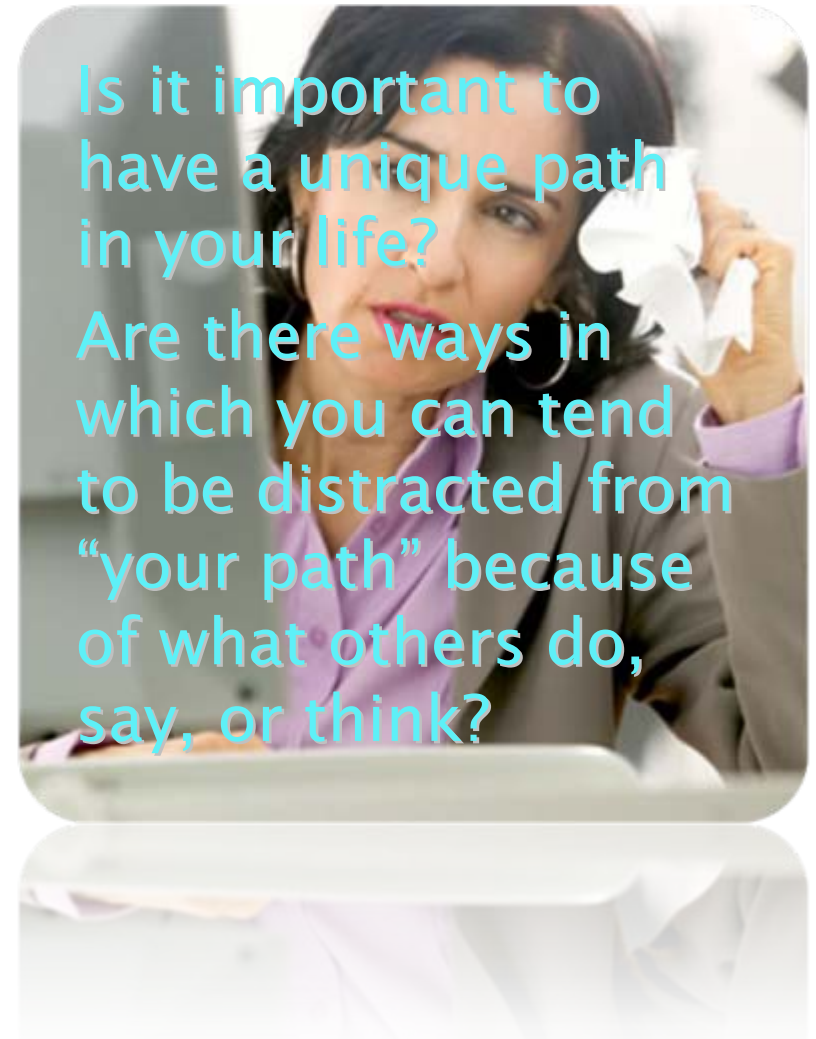
What's in a Name

- Why do you think we so often worry about what everyone else is doing, saying, or thinking?
- What would you say is normal for us?
- Is the normal for the secular world the same as normal for our Christian world?



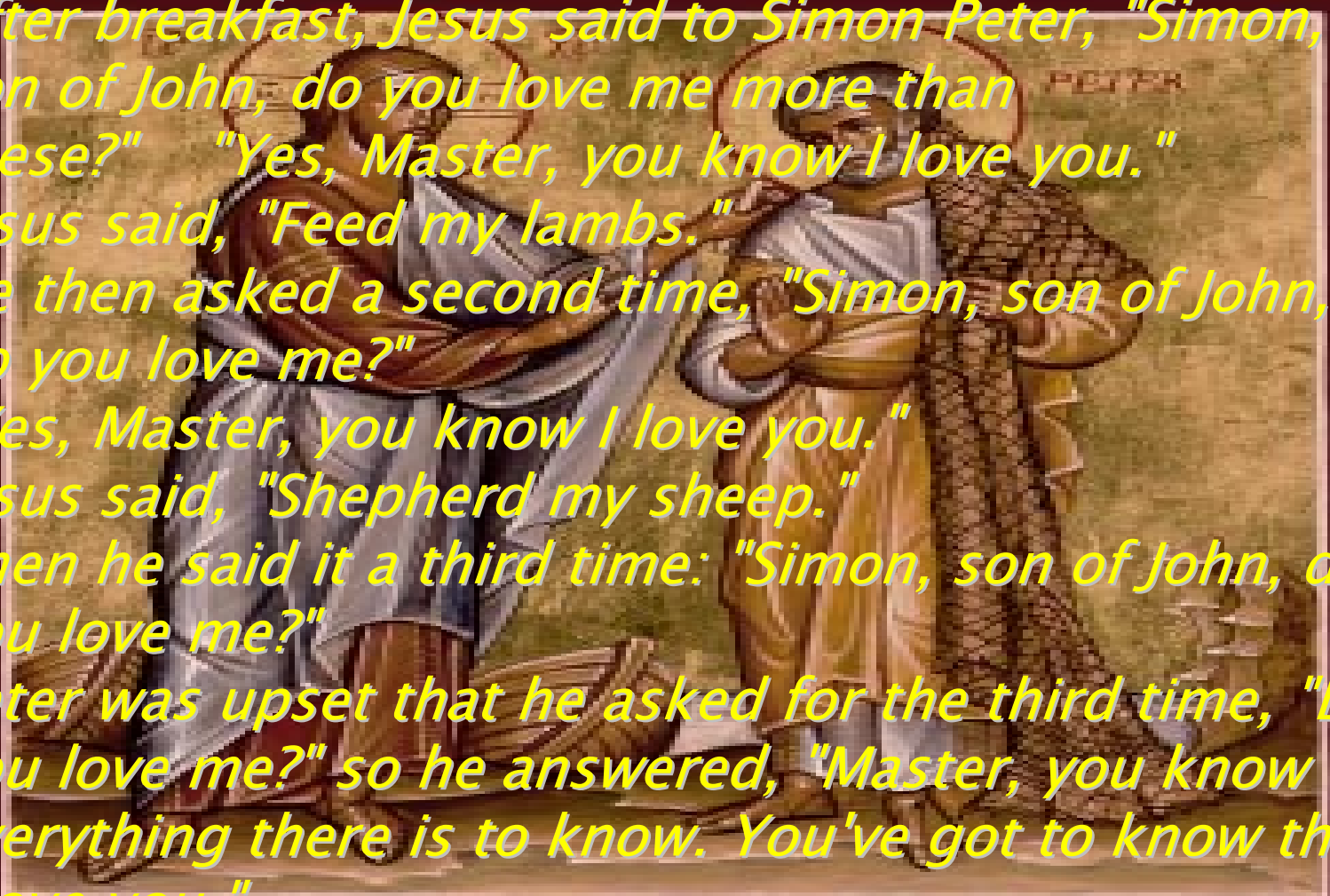
What's in a Name

“We each have this unique path, a calling, a life that God has given us; and Jesus invites us to be our true selves and yet we get sidetracked, we get distracted, we get hung up on how we're different from others and we end up asking the wrong questions.”



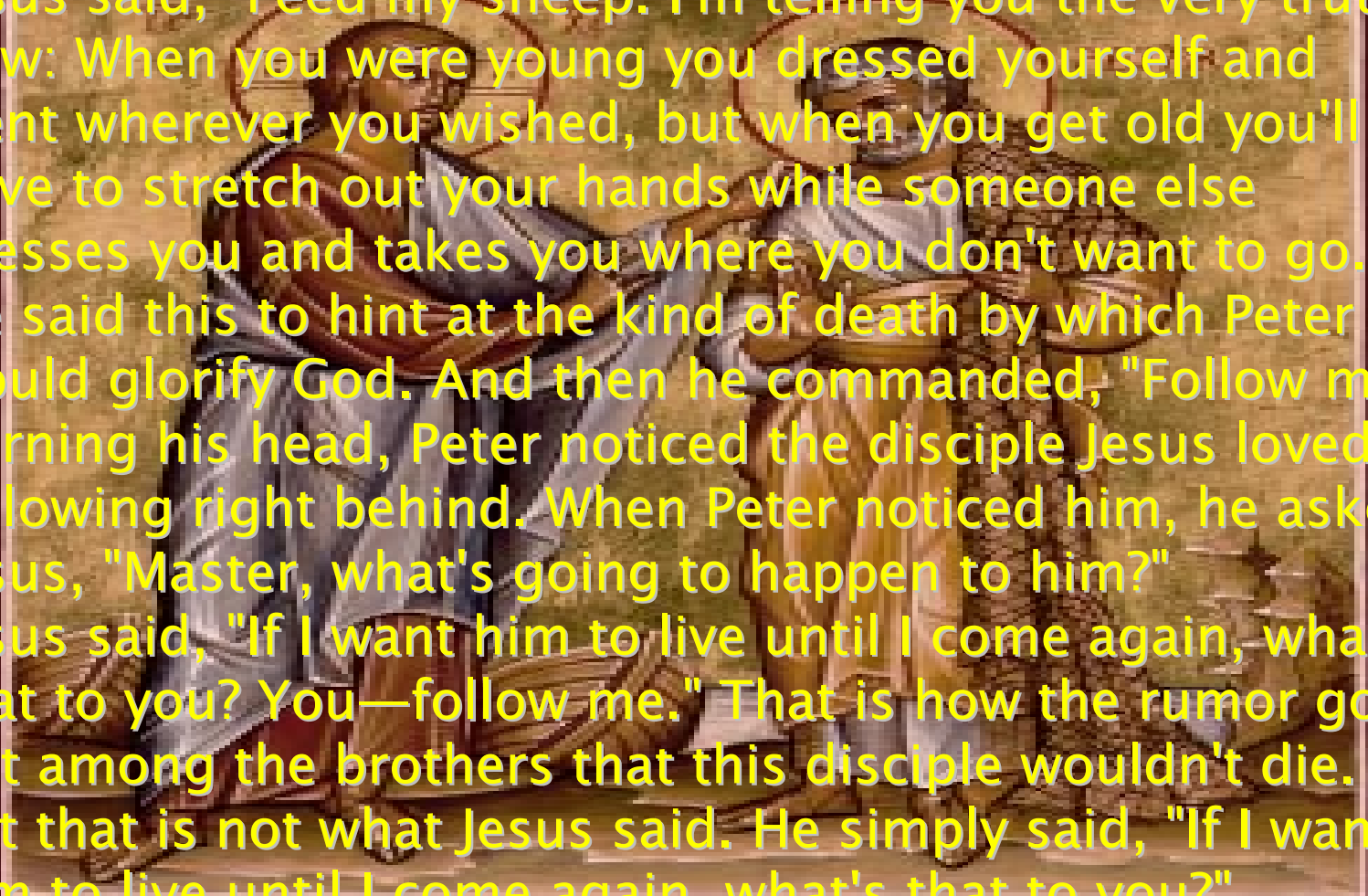
Is it important to have a unique path in your life?
Are there ways in which you can tend to be distracted from “your path” because of what others do, say, or think?

John 21:15-22



After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep." Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you."

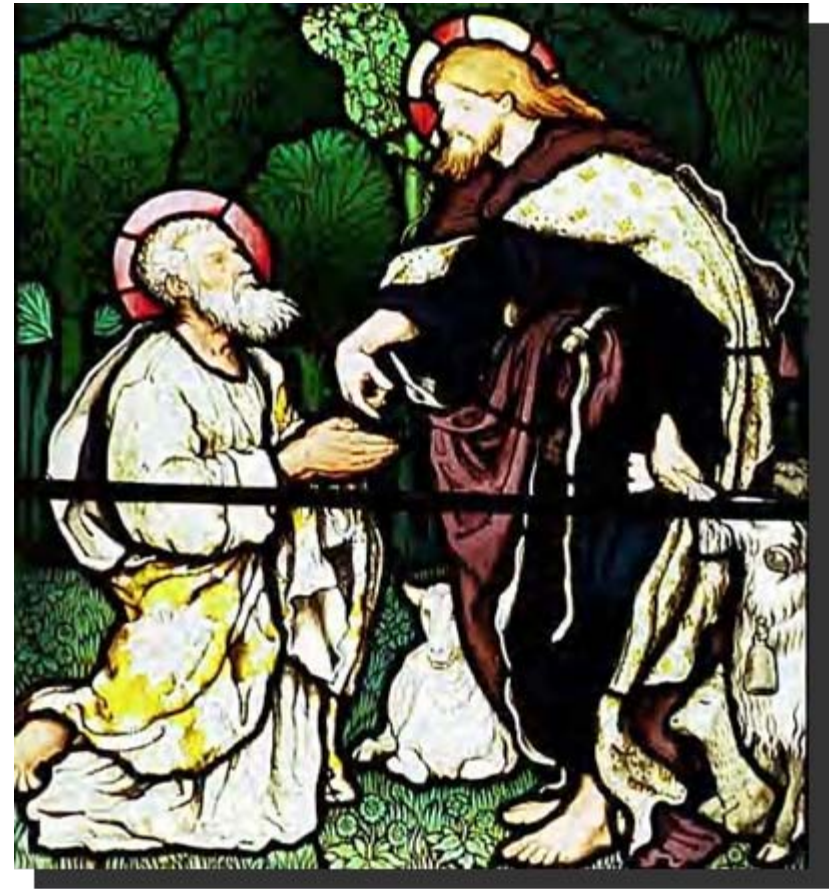
John 21:15-22



Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me." Turning his head, Peter noticed the disciple Jesus loved following right behind. When Peter noticed him, he asked Jesus, "Master, what's going to happen to him?" Jesus said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you? You—follow me." That is how the rumor got out among the brothers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that is not what Jesus said. He simply said, "If I want him to live until I come again, what's that to you?"

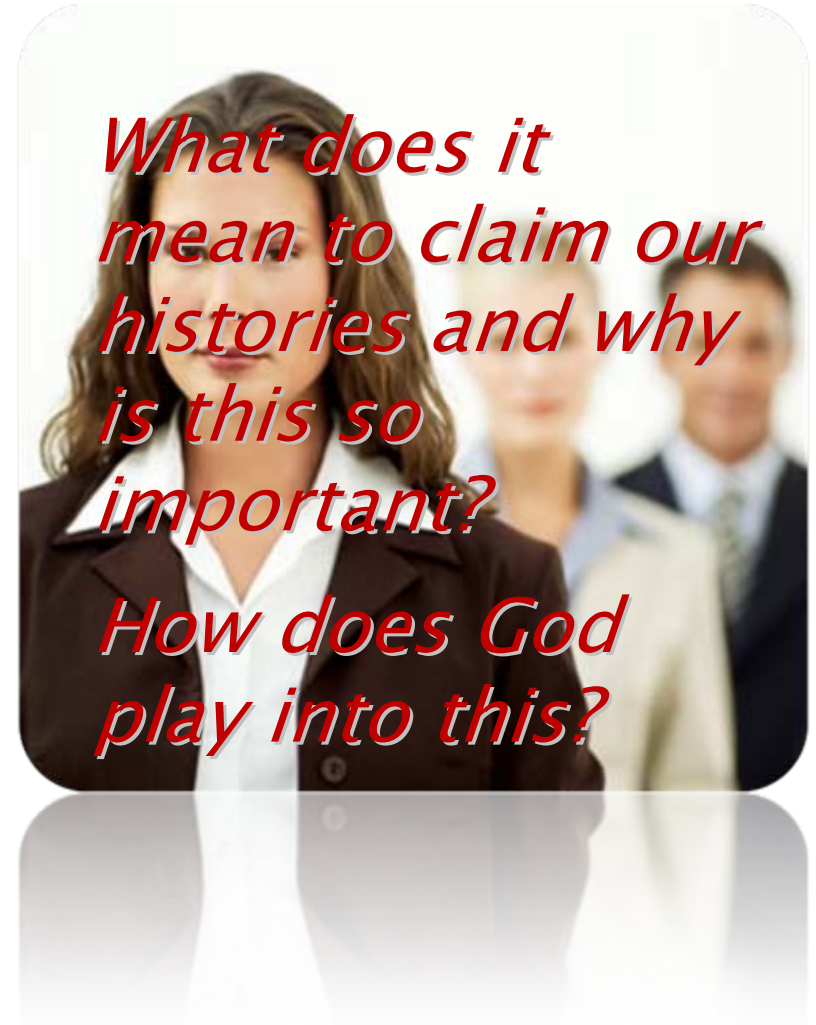
Peter's name

- *What do you see in Peter's response to Jesus?*
- *Jesus gave Peter his name, which means "rock." Do you see Peter living up to his name?*
- *How does Jesus' command to Peter relate to us?*



What's in a Name

We all have pasts, families we come from, things we've done, mistakes we've made, and where we've been and what we've done has shaped us into who we are today. So we have to embrace our story, our history. You don't have to be proud of it, but you must claim it because it's yours.

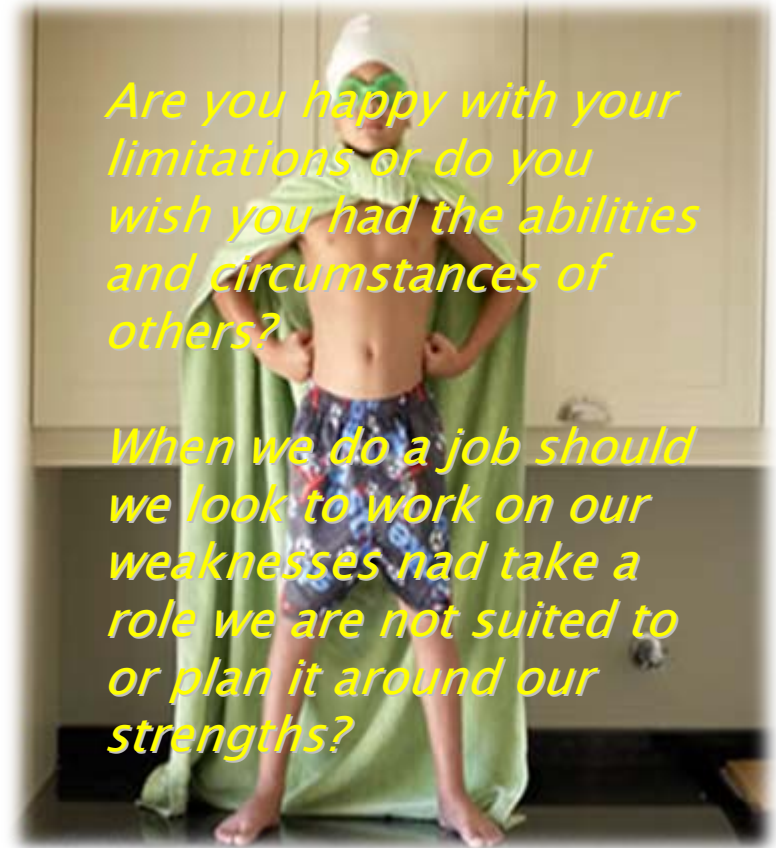


What does it mean to claim our histories and why is this so important?

How does God play into this?

What's in a Name

We have limits. There are all sorts of things we aren't. There are all kinds of people that we aren't. Maybe this is why Jesus says to love your neighbor as yourself. How could we ever love and embrace someone else when we've never come to terms with who we are and who we are not



Are you happy with your limitations or do you wish you had the abilities and circumstances of others?

When we do a job should we look to work on our weaknesses and take a role we are not suited to or plan it around our strengths?

Confronting Scripture

*A heart of peace gives
life to the body, but
envy rots the bones.*

Proverbs 14:30

**What does this verse
mean for us today?**

*Resentment kills a fool,
and envy slays the
simple.*

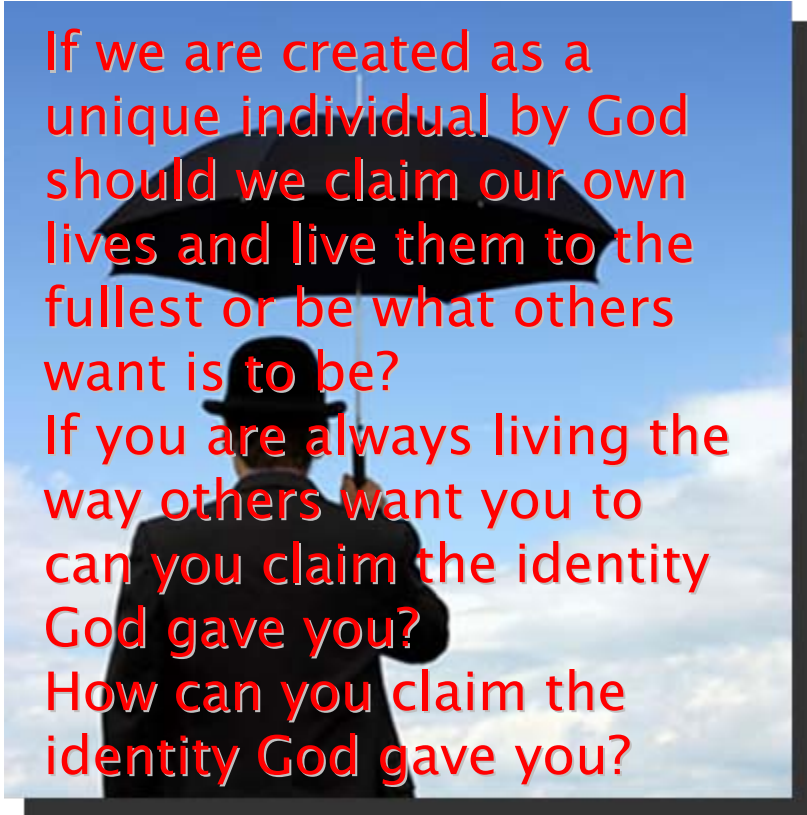
Job 5:2

**Why are envy and
resentment bad?**



Claiming Your Identity

Some people live their lives according to the expectation of others. Whether it's authority figures or family members, it's as if there's this script that has already been written by someone else and all they're essentially doing is acting it out.



If we are created as a unique individual by God should we claim our own lives and live them to the fullest or be what others want is to be?

If you are always living the way others want you to can you claim the identity God gave you?

How can you claim the identity God gave you?

Claiming Your Identity

identity

We need to be saved from all the times we haven't been our true selves. All the times we've tried to be someone else. All of the lies we've believed about who God made when God us. All the times we've asked the wrong questions: "What about him?" "What about her?" "What about them?" and we've missed the voice of Jesus saying, "You, follow me."

If we are to truly claim our own identity what does it take?

Prayer for Finding Our “Name”

Lord give us the strength to do the hard work of the soul to discover our true selves.

May we find our unique path, the one God has for us.

And in the process, may we find ourselves comfortable in our own skin.