

We Got Next

Preparing the Next Generation to Take the Lead

...

Dr. Phil Huebner - WLHS Campus Pastor

WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership

January 20, 2025



Which One Are You?













Youth & Teen Problems Today

- Totally overwhelmed
- Breakdown of the family
- Pressure
- Social media comparisons and temptations
- Anxiety, sadness, depression
- Decline in Christianity
- “Expressive Individualism” ...
“Self-identity”

Losing Our Youth

- Only 36-45% of Gen Z teens are Christians
- Around 50% of Gen Z believes in life after death.
- Over 25% don't believe in God
- WELS is down 34%-50%+ in various groupings of our youth
- 88% of our own youth express critical doubts about faith before going off to college.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN SYNOD

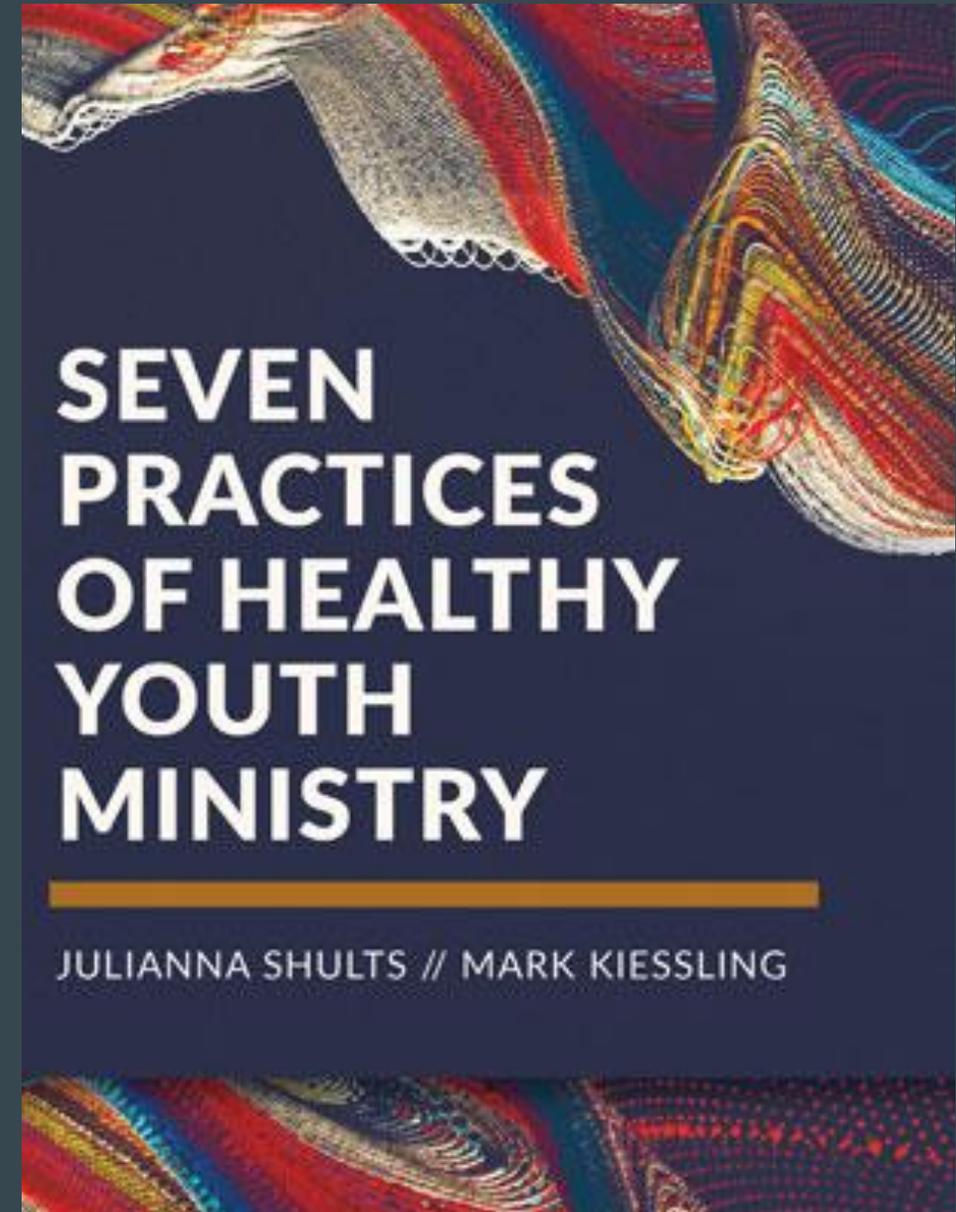
Jonathan R. Hein

Losing Our Youth - A Specific Example

- 33% of WLHS students do not have two parents at home
- 31.6% of WLHS students never read the Bible
- 35% of WLHS students spend 20-30+ hours looking at a screen.
- 62.2% read the Bible 0-15 mins per week
- 19.8% of our WELS students never go to church
- 10.9% once/month and 14% twice/month

LCMS Reports

- 60-70% make it from baptism to confirmation
- 33% make it from confirmation to adulthood
- 20% make it from baptism to adulthood
- 21% of churches have almost no budget for youth ministry
- 1 in 7 are unsure of their view on LGBTQ issues







Question: Can you think of examples of young people in the Bible who did big things?

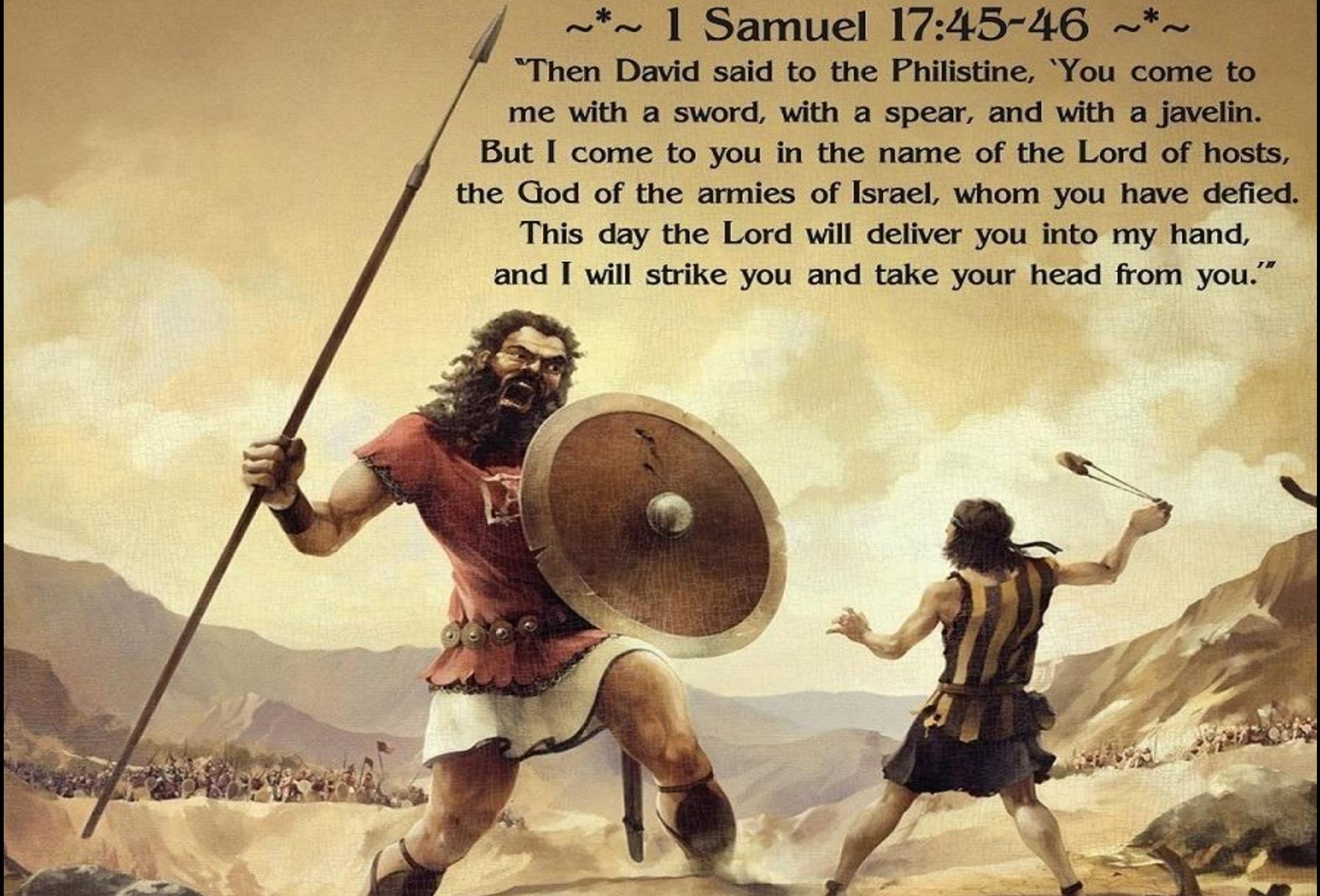


1:00

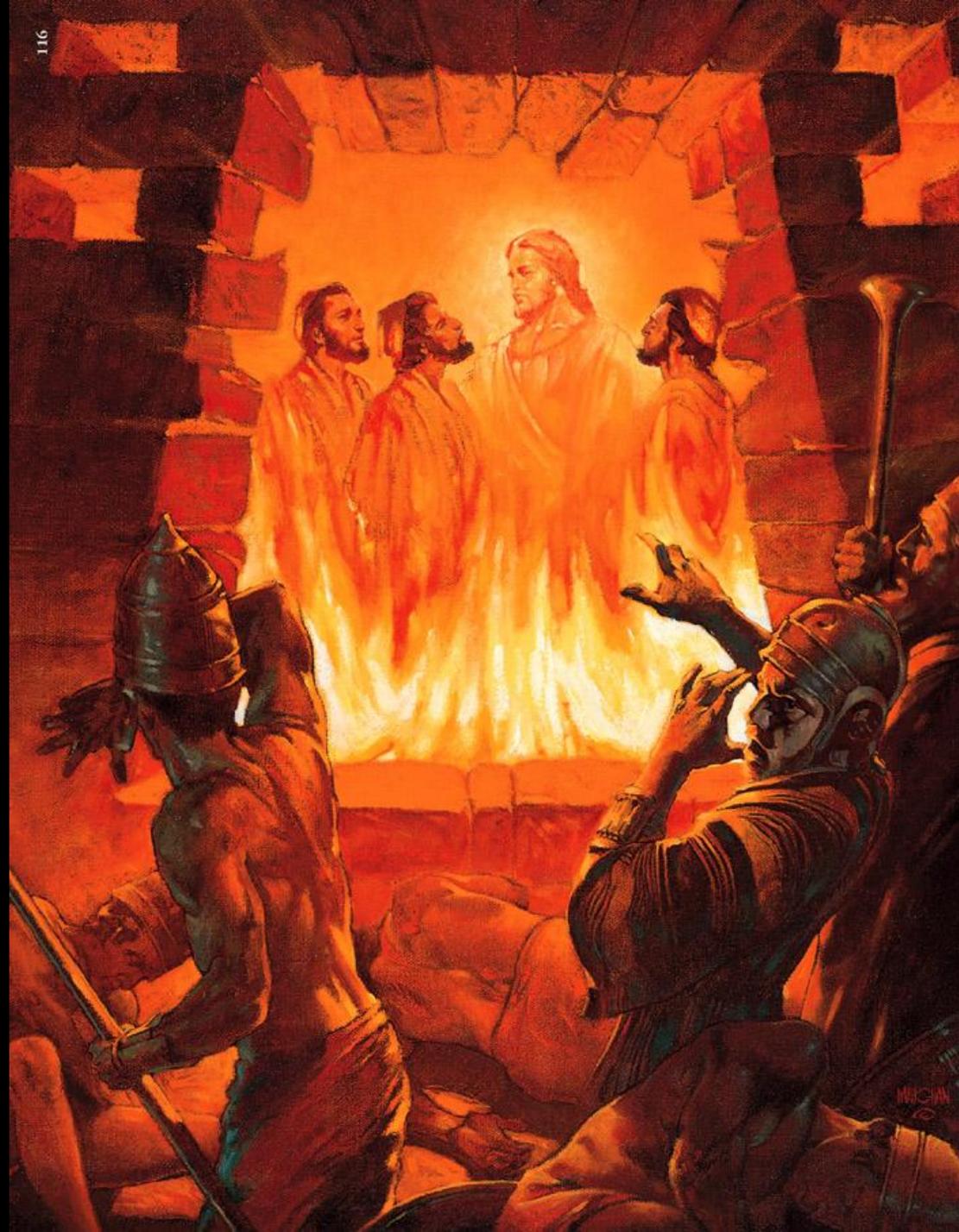
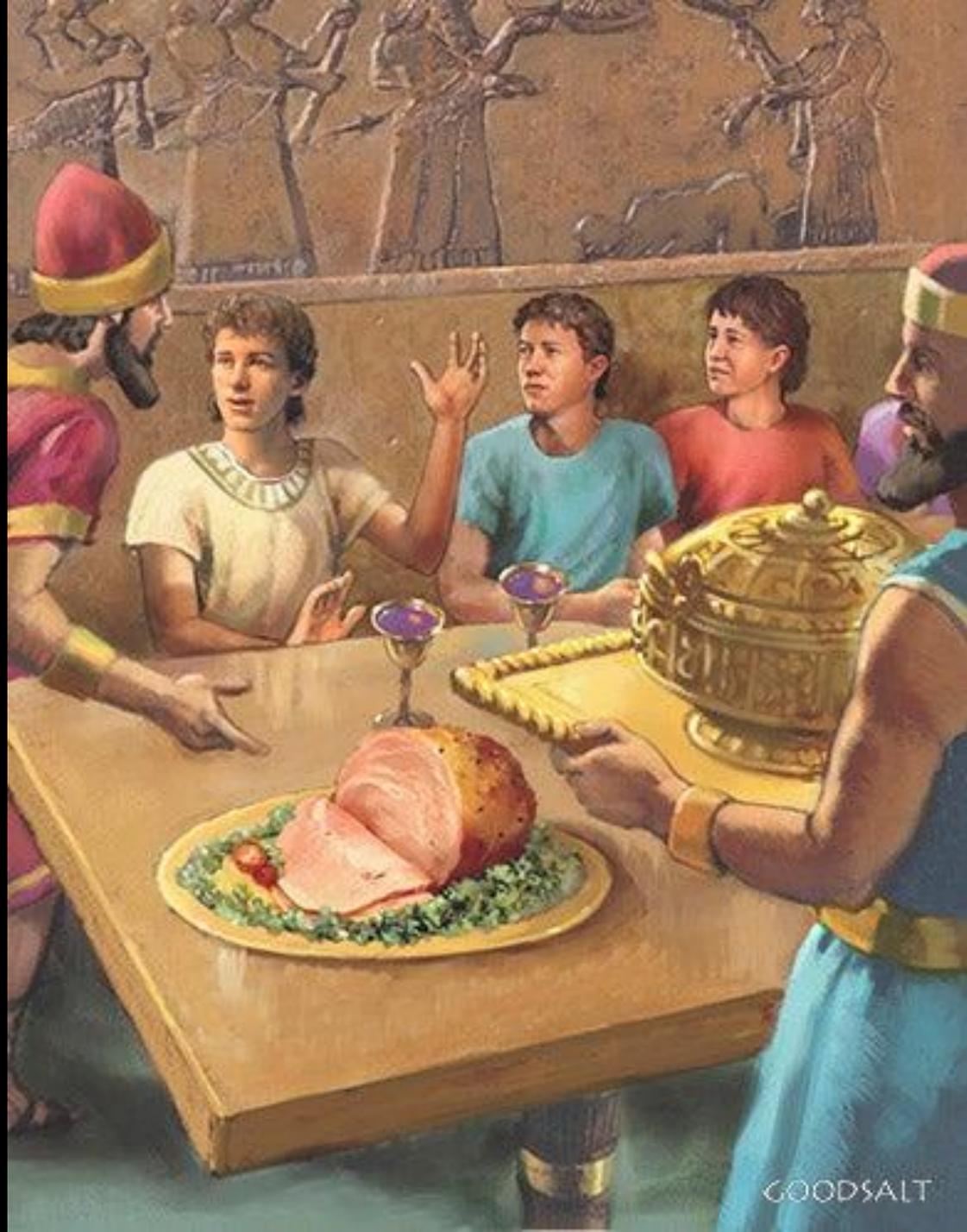


~*~ 1 Samuel 17:45-46 ~*~

“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.’”

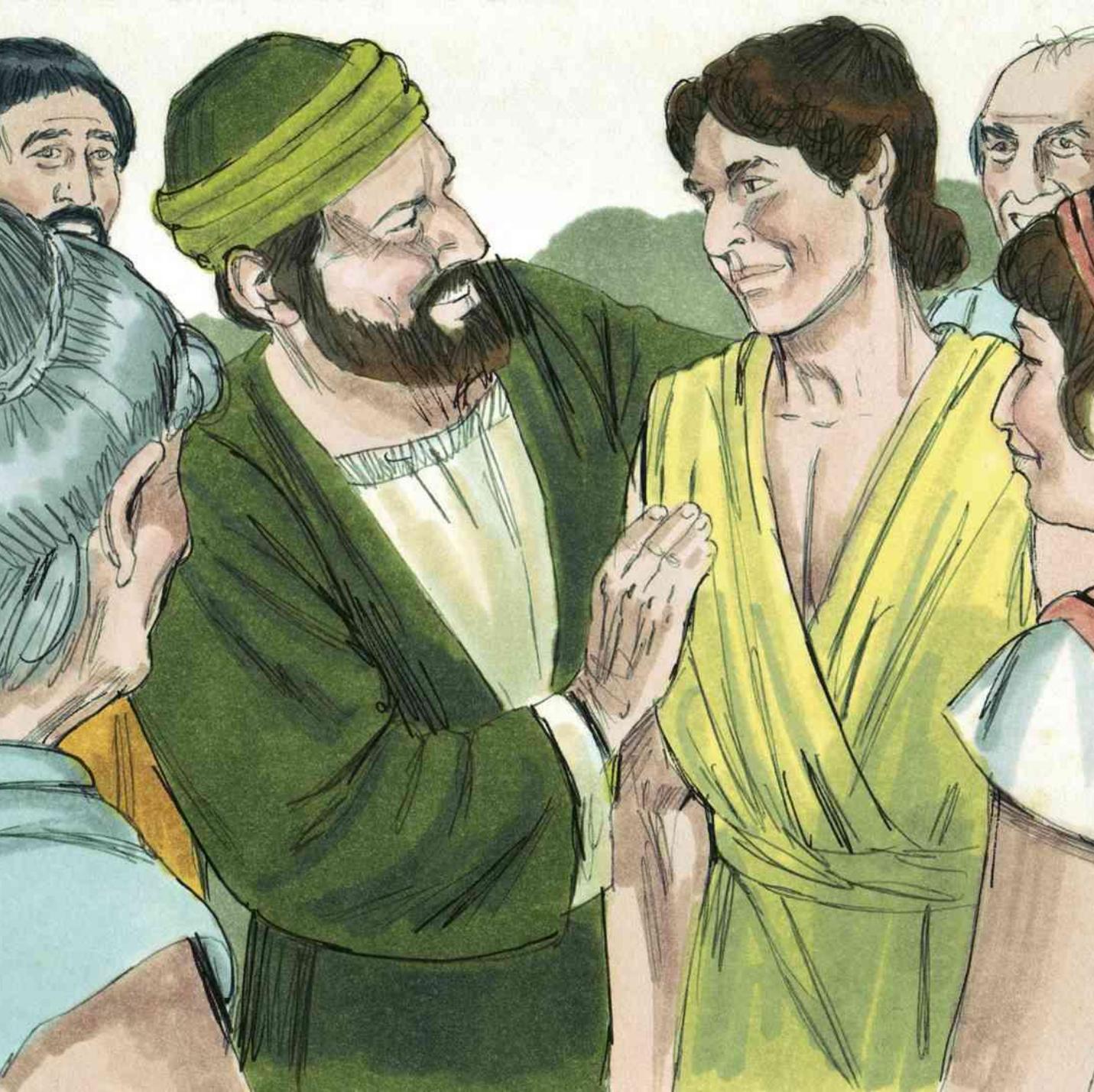






**“May your word to
me be fulfilled.”**

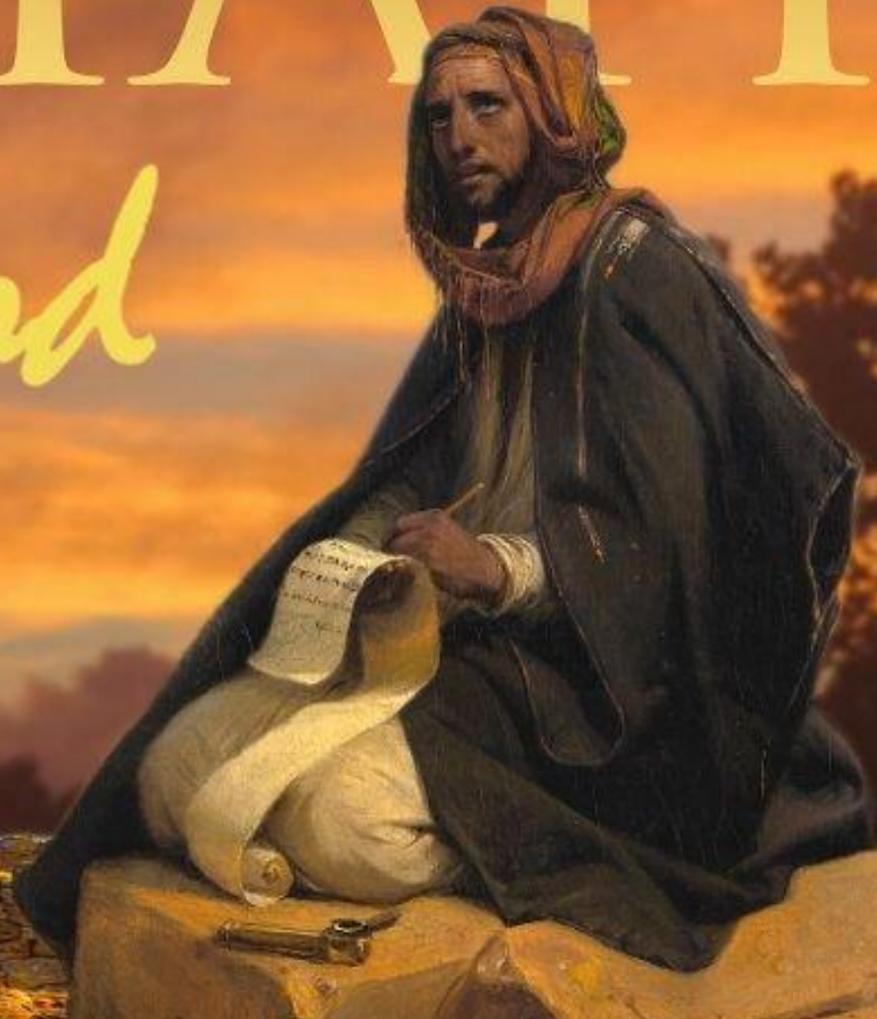




1 Timothy 4:12
Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

JEREMIAH

The Call of God



Jeremiah 1:4-19

4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

6 “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Jeremiah 1:17-19

17 “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

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COURAGE

Breakout Groups!

- Groups of 4-6, No more than 2 from your school!
- Intr



2:00

Question: What makes it so difficult to be a courageous teen Christian today?



2:00





JESUS CALMS THE STORM

JESUS

RAIN

PEACE

SLEEP

BOAT

TRUST



กลุ่มชื่อ

มือบแยกดินแดง







CONNECT

Breakout Groups!

- Groups of 4-6, No more than 2 from your school!
- Intr



2:00





Oliva Hermanson



Pastor Phil Huebner



WELS COMMUNICATION SERVICES



Mute ...

WELS COMMUNICATION SERVICES



Mute



Stop Video



Security



Participants 5



Chat



Share Screen



Start Summary



AI Companion



Record



Breakout Rooms



Raise Hand



Apps



Whiteboards



Notes



Leave

New International Version (NIV)



WELS COMMUNICATI...



2 participants raised hand





Question: How will you stay connected to God and other Christians now and in the future?



2:000

Question: What would you like to see / have from WELS?

Text: 386-237-4368



COMMIT

Breakout Groups!

- Groups of 4-6, No more than 2 from your school!
- Intr



2:00









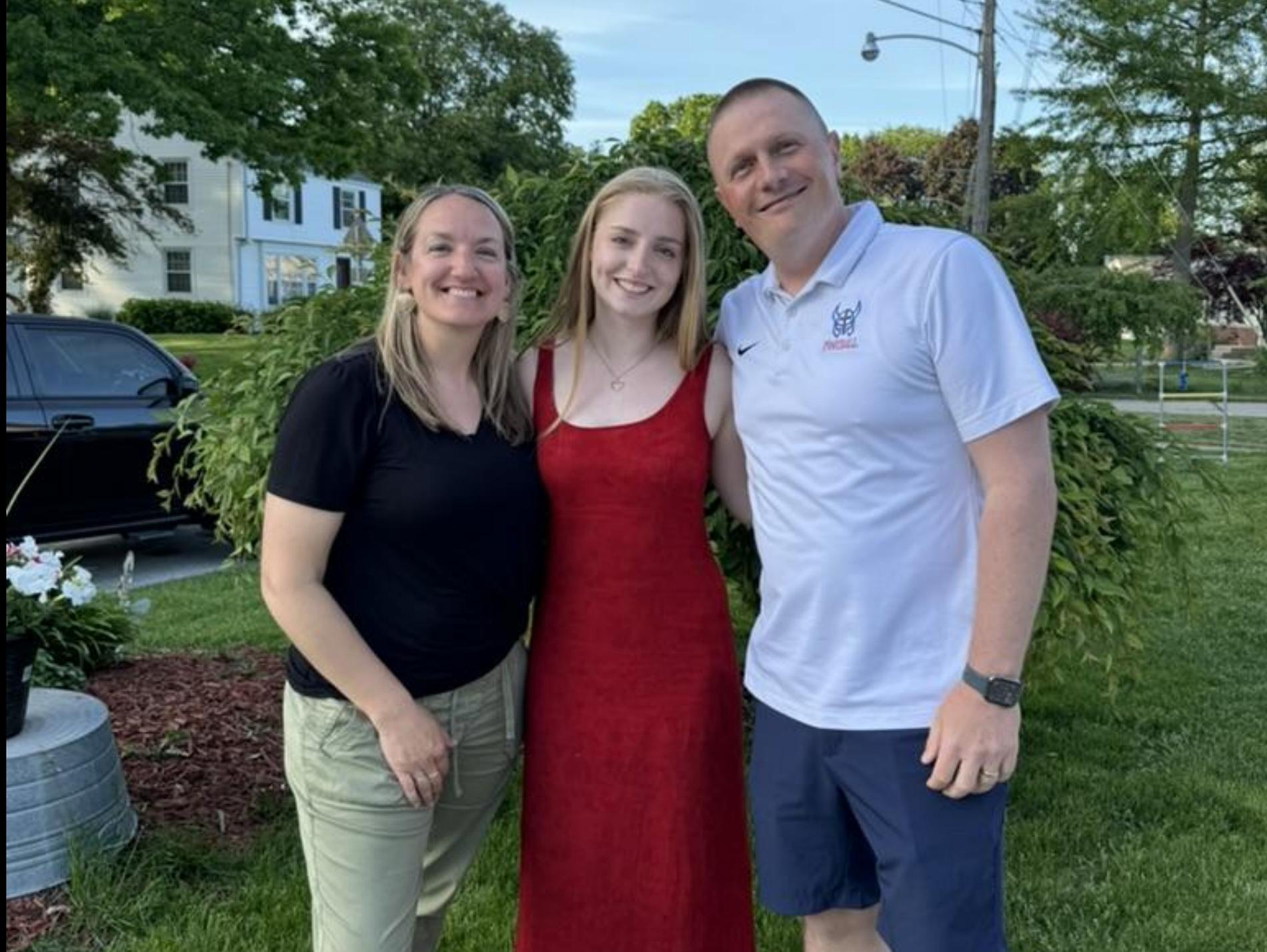


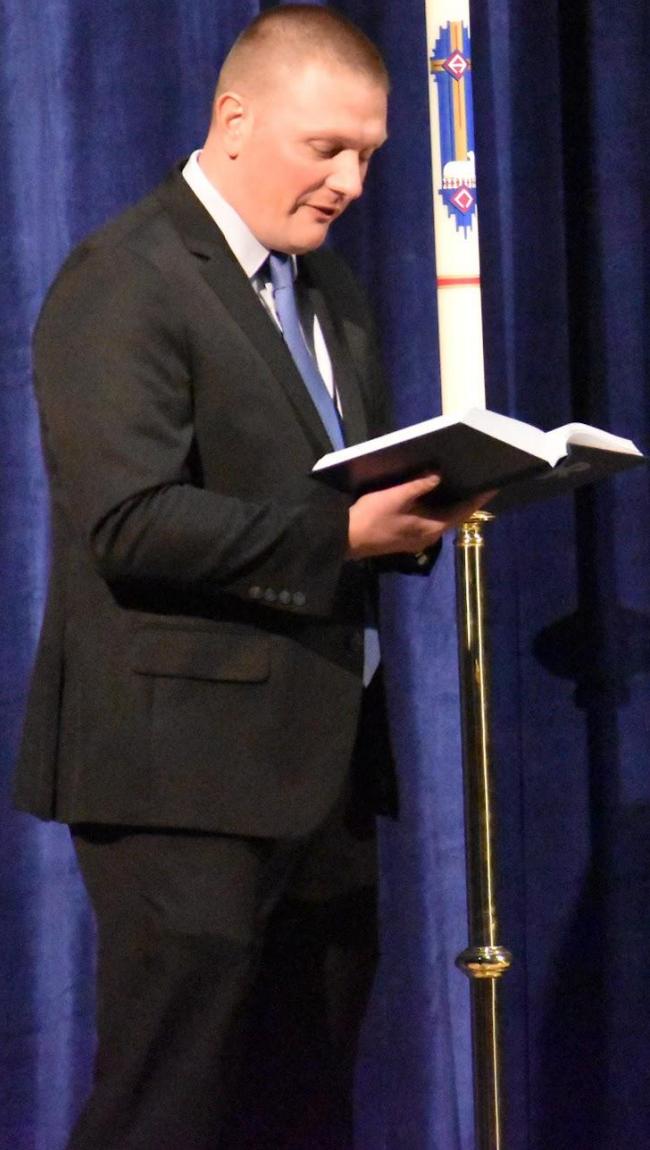


Question: What big Kingdom things would you like to do?

Text: 386-237-4368















Prayer

- Say one thing you would like a prayer for.
- Pray for the person on your left.

A digital timer displaying '2:00' in large, white, bold digits with a black outline. The timer is centered on a background of colorful, abstract geometric shapes in shades of green, yellow, orange, and blue.

2:00

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n -

ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

Discussion/Questions

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