

STUDY GUIDE

Randy
BORDERS

Stories FROM
SERVANT LEADERS

THE LESSONS, THE LOSSES, AND THE PART LEFT OUT



ODELL DICKERSON



ROBERT MAXWELL



DERRICK NOBLE



SHAWN MASON



MITCHEL BLUE



DENNIS HEBERT



SALYNN K. EVANS



JOSH CHILDERS



MICHELLE HOPPER



NATE JEFFERSON



MYRON JONES



JUSTIN MARSHALL



ALAN WALKER



LISA CHILDERS



ROGER HUTTON



ISHMAEL WILSON



RA'SHAN WILSON



NICKOLUS SOUTH

FOREWORD BY: TIMOTHY CLARKE

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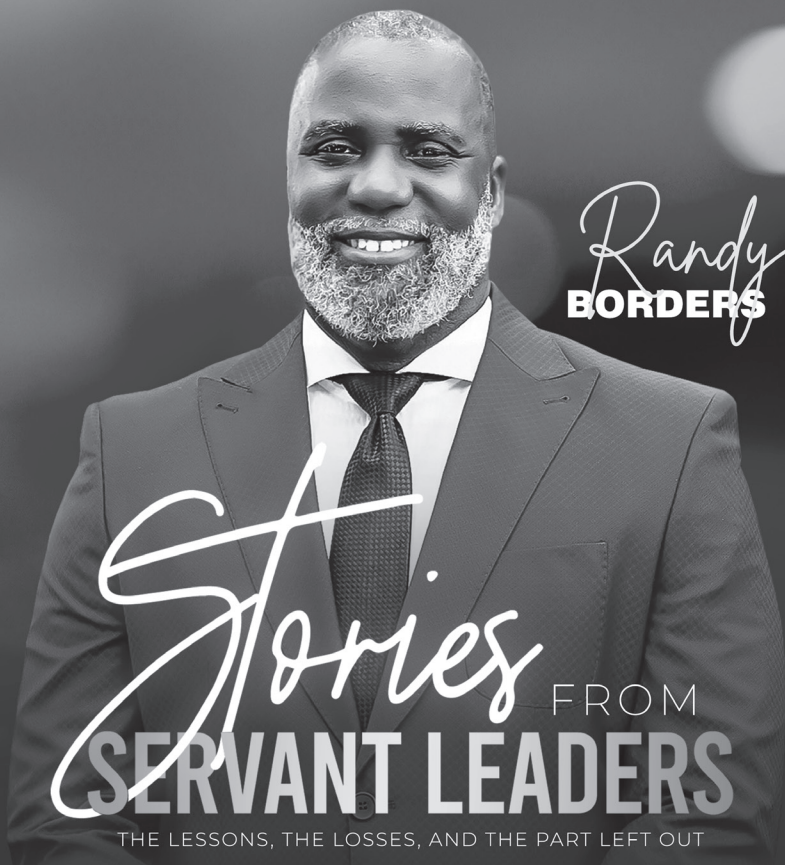
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CONTENTS

Chapter 1. The Power of Focus: Robert Maxwell	6
Chapter 2. Serving as a Son: Shawn Mason	12
Chapter 3. Resisting Familiarity: Derrick Noble.....	18
Chapter 4. The Principle of Honor: Dennis Hebert.....	24
Chapter 5. Do It Different: Josh Chiles.....	30
Chapter 6. Rearranging The Stage Before The Curtain Goes Up: Lisa Childers	36
Chapter 7. When Life Happens: Michelle Hopper	42
Chapter 8. I Had to Pray Through It: Nate Jefferson	48
Chapter 9. Submitting My Skill To God’s Will: Mitchel Blue	54
Chapter 10. Pursuing My Assignment and My Sanity: SaLynn K. Evans	60
Chapter 11. The Table of Restoration: Ra’Shan Wilson.....	66
Chapter 12. Serving Through the Death of My Pastor: Roger Hutton	72
Chapter 13. The Reason I Did Not Quit: Odell Dickerson.....	78
Chapter 14. Adjusting to My Leader’s ‘No’: Alan Walker	84
Chapter 15. Ardor Never Trumps Order: Ishmael Wilson.....	90
Chapter 16. I Did Not Sign Up For This: Nickolous South	96
Chapter 17. Young But Not Dumb: Justin Marshall	102
Chapter 18. Serving Made Easy: Myron Jones.....	108





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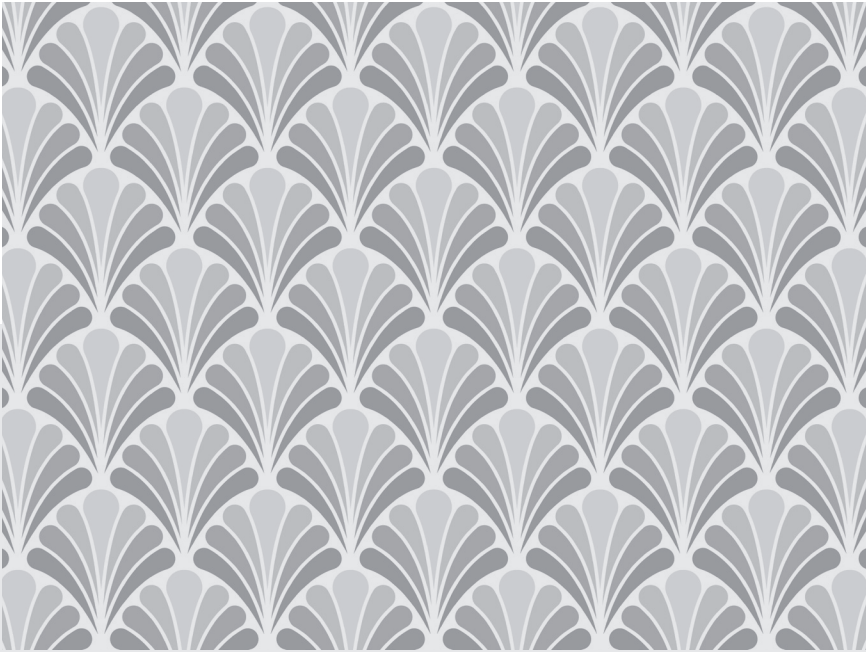
RA'SHAN WILSON

NICKOLUS SOUTH

FOREWORD BY: TIMOTHY CLARKE

CHAPTER 1

THE POWER OF FOCUS: ROBERT MAXWELL



“Focusing on the Word of God and His voice will ensure you walk out God’s intent for your life. That in and of itself is the power of focus.”—Robert Maxwell



READING TIME

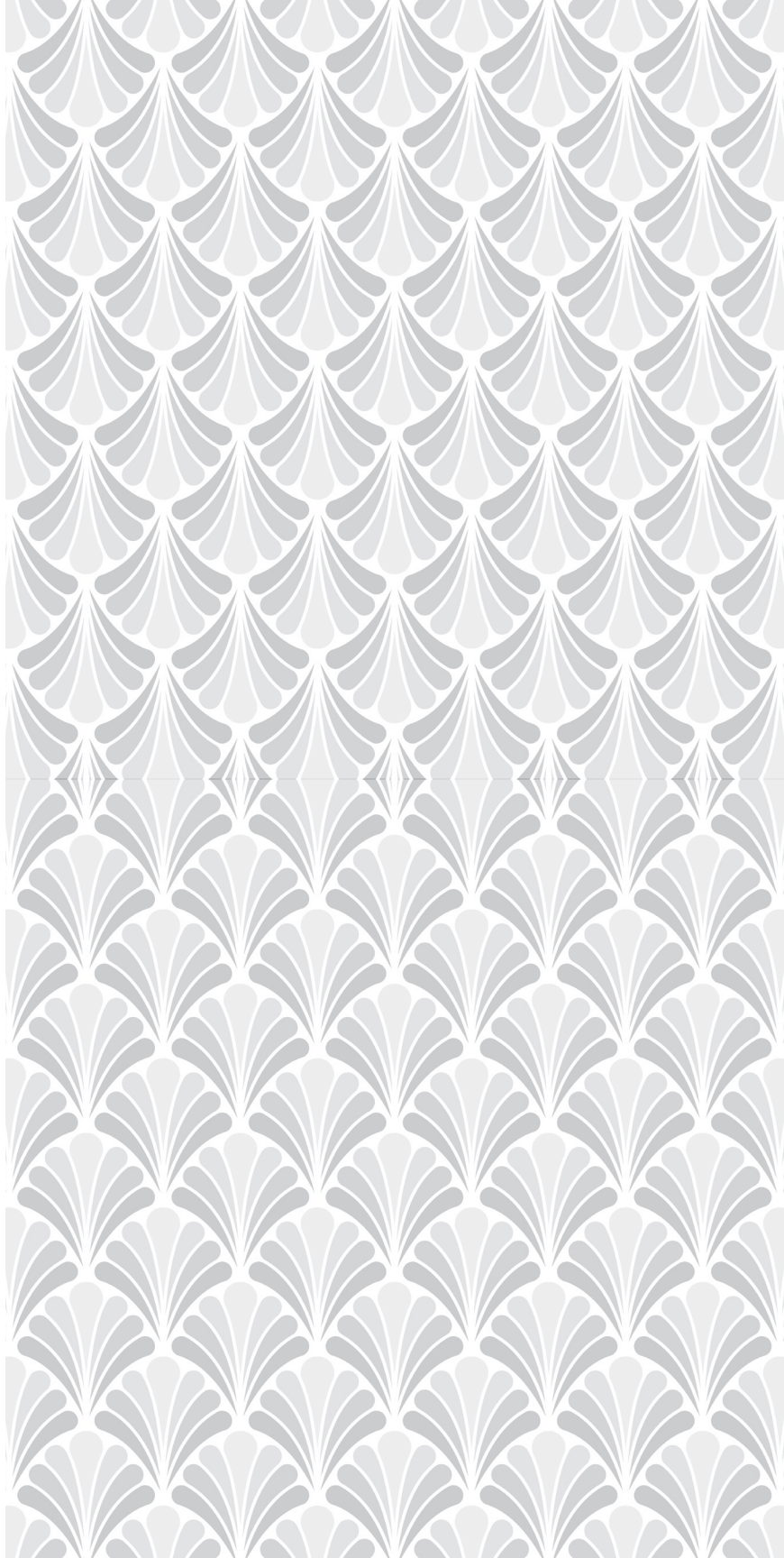
As you read Chapter 1: “The Power of Focus” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

How difficult or easy is it for you to focus on the task(s) at hand?

What helps you focus when you need to get things done?

What does focus mean to you? Why do you think it’s important?



What stands out to you in this Psalm 1 excerpt about focus and its origin?

What is “Focused Alignment” and why is it so important?

What do you think is the most important thing to focus on in order to fulfill God’s will for your life? Explain.

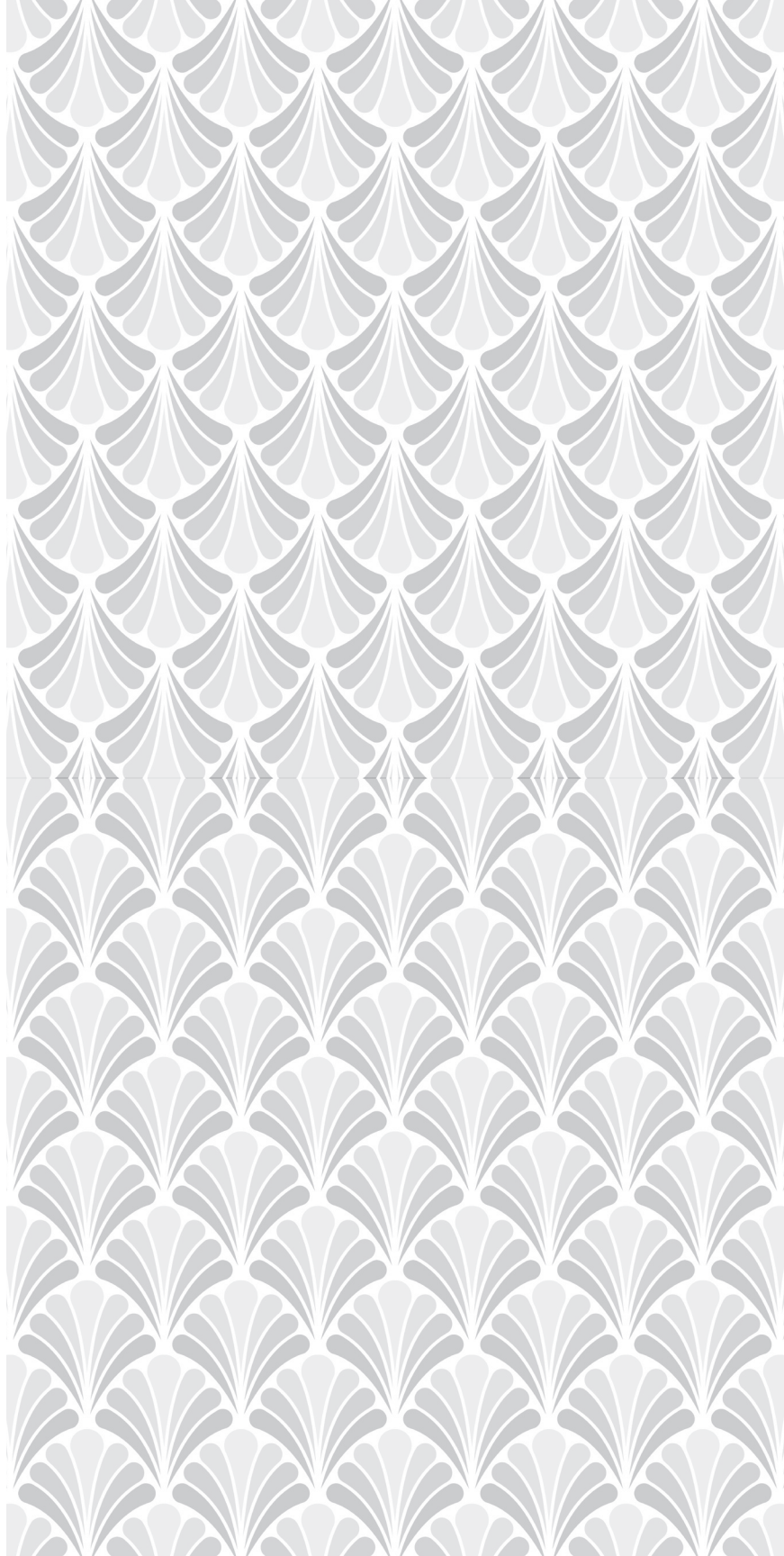
What happens when we are focused in our confession of God’s Word? Are there any advantages? What are they?

Why is it important to be selective in choosing whom you allow access to your life?

REFLECT ON

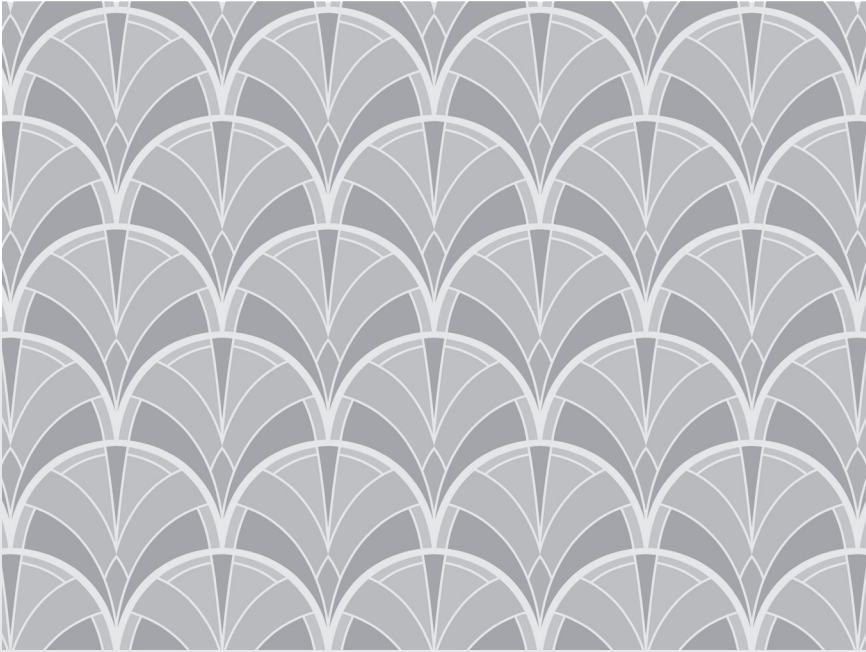
Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. —Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)



CHAPTER 2

SERVING AS A SON: SHAWN MASON



“Serving as a Son’ took on an entirely new light for me as I really began to put some things into perspective. I began to make the stark contrast between natural paternity and spiritual paternity.”—Shawn Mason

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 2: “Serving as a Son” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Sons might outgrow their father’s public achievements, but never their private counsel.”—Randy Borders

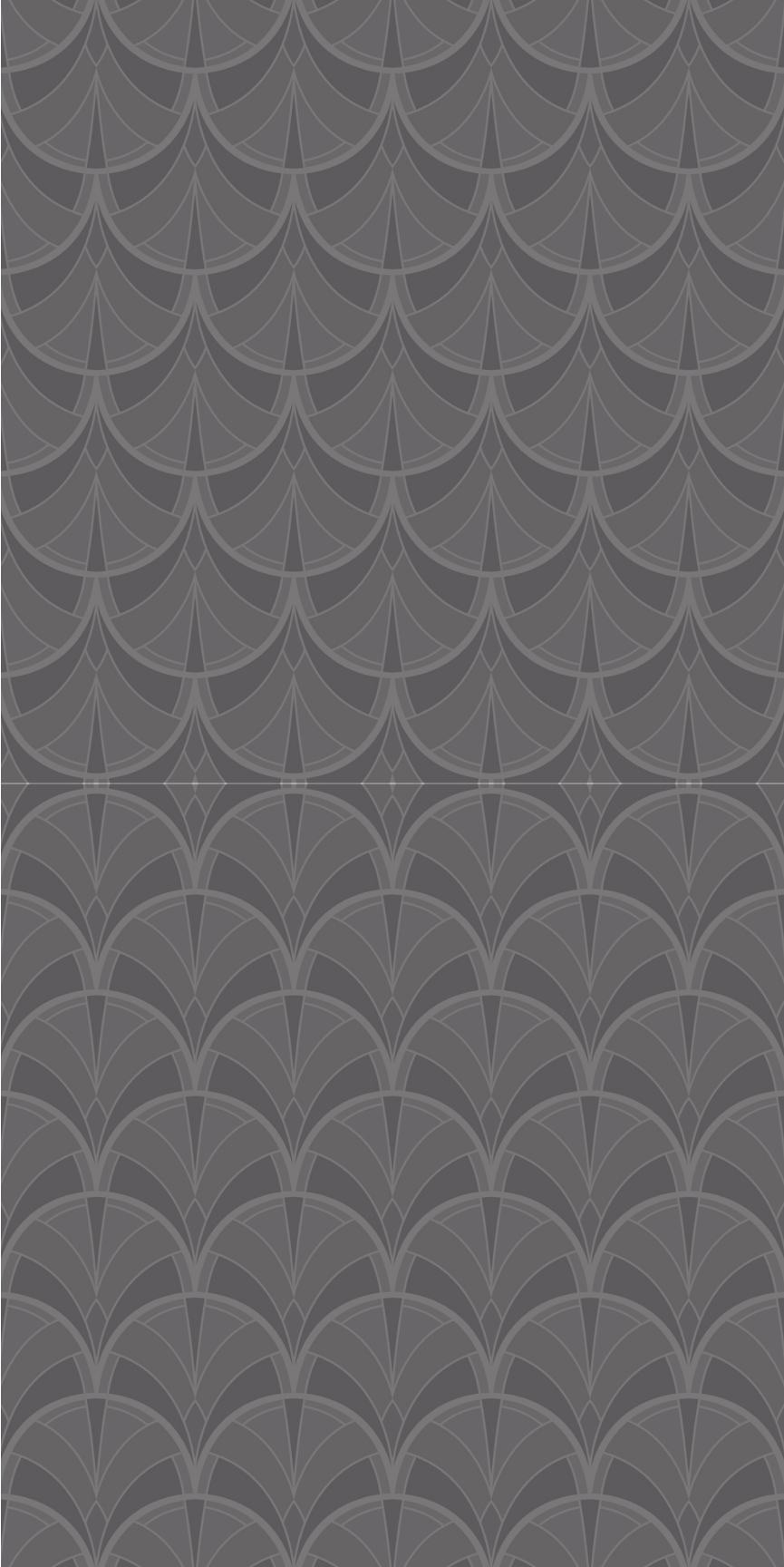
Who do you know who has mentored his or her son or daughter? What were the results? Do you think it was effective?

How do you explain the difference between a biological father and son and a spiritual father and son?

How much of your ideas and perspectives have to do with your personal upbringing? Do you think this is advantageous?

Why do you think this was Elisha's final request from Elijah?

What are the pressures associated with sonship and fatherhood? Explain your answer.



What is the responsibility of fathers? And of sons?

How effective is teaching and learning if both parties are not intentional in the process? Explain your answer.

Why are spiritual mentorships so crucial? Explain.

REFLECT ON

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

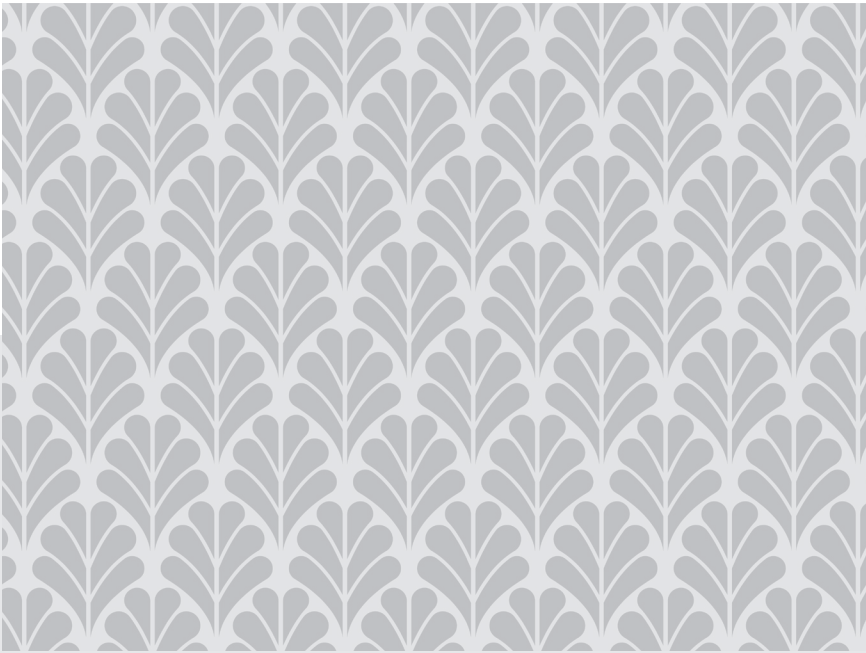
“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

—2 Kings 2:9-11 (NIV)

CHAPTER 3

RESISTING FAMILIARITY: DERRICK NOBLE



“It takes work and effort not to become too familiar and to disrespect the one God has assigned you to serve.”—Derrick Noble

READING TIME

As you read Chapter #: “Resisting Familiarity” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Your vision is too important to keep subjecting it to the sabotage of fake friends.”—Randy Borders

Why do you think it’s important to not get too familiar with coworkers or leaders?

What are the dangers of familiarity in the workplace?



When have you seen it being unwise to be friends with those who lead you? Explain your experience.

Why do you think what Miriam and Aaron said got the Lord's attention?

What's your mindset when it comes to getting too close with coworkers or leaders? Explain.

Have you ever found yourself doubting your leader's decisions? Did this ever turn into disrespect? Explain.

What are some boundaries or protocols you can follow to make sure you're not becoming too familiar with them?

What is the tie between the familiarity of an organization to its leader and its effectiveness?

REFLECT ON

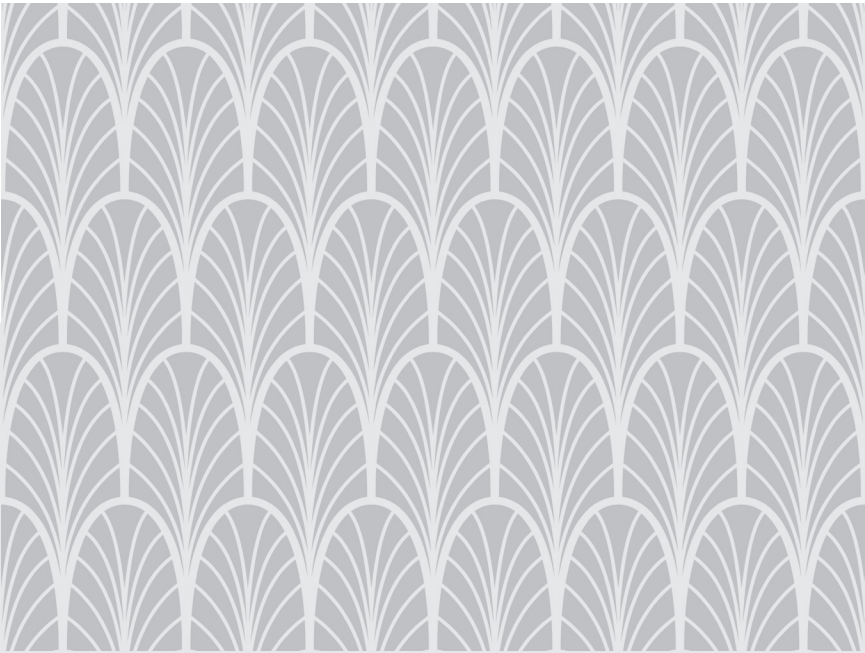
At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, he said, “Listen to my words:

*“When there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.
But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.
With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the LORD.
Why then were you not afraid
to speak against my servant Moses?”*

—Numbers 12:4-8 (NIV)

CHAPTER 4

THE PRINCIPLE OF HONOR: DENNIS HEBERT



“The burden and pressure of the assignment is to be shared by sons and daughters who honorably and faithfully serve their leader.”—Dennis Hebert



READING TIME

As you read Chapter 4: “The Principle of Honor” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“If they do not honor you, a healthy relationship cannot exist. Adjust your expectations. It will save you a lot of pain.”—Randy Borders

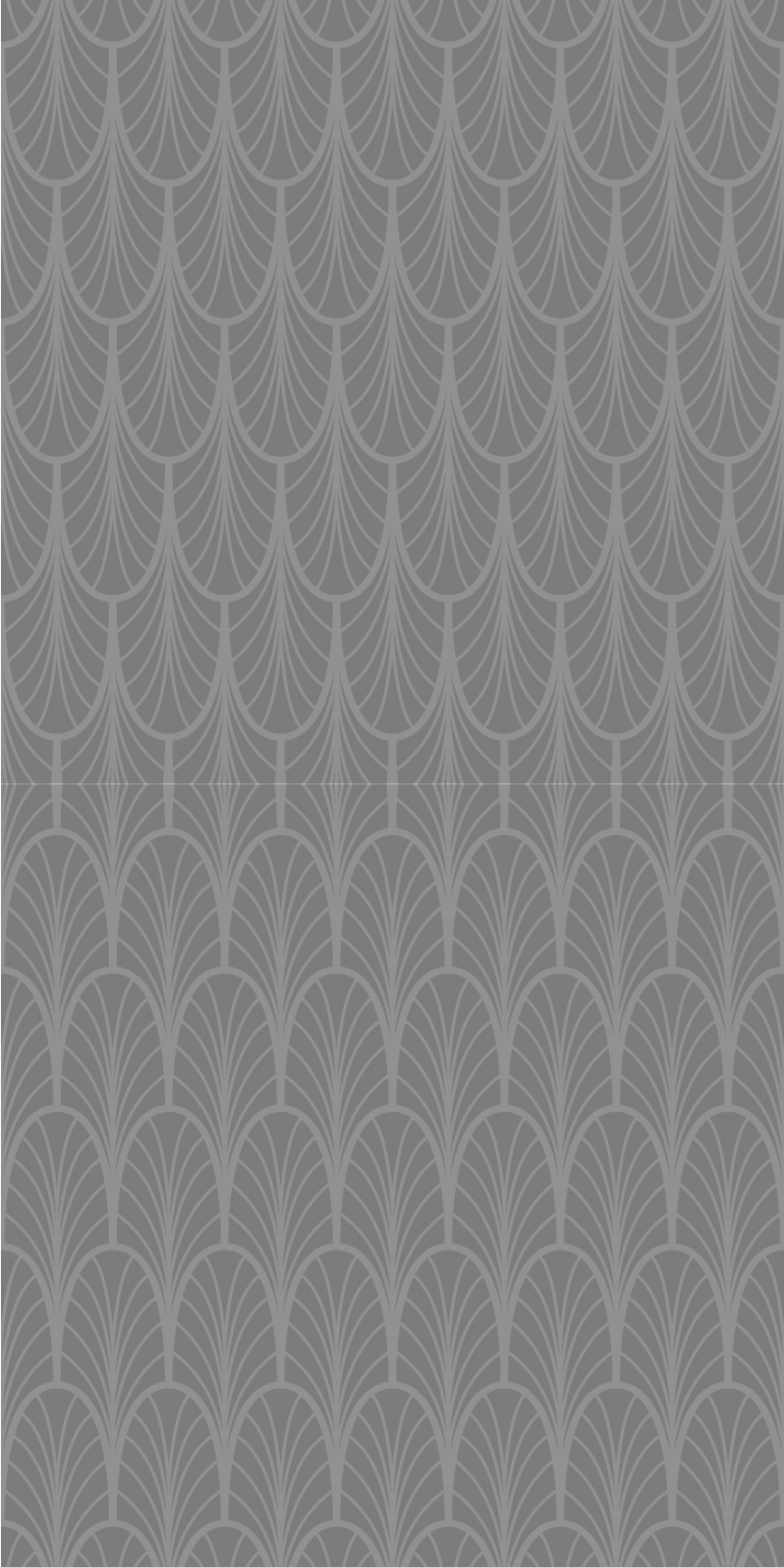
What does honor mean to you? Are you intentional about honoring others in your life?

Who in your life should you or do you show honor to?

Do you think the Lord wishes for us to honor our leaders—those He has placed over us?

How did the people in this excerpt let familiarity get in the way of their faith?

Why is honor such an important principle? Explain your answer.



Do you think that to get honor, you should give honor? Why or why not?

REFLECT ON

“Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

—Mark 6:3-6 (NIV)

Is honor only what we say, or is it also what we do? Explain.

Who can you show honor to in your organization? What about someone in your community?

CHAPTER 5

DO IT DIFFERENT: JOSH CHILES



“The God who created your leader created you. The same way He spoke to them, He will speak to you. The same way He led them; He will lead you. It just might look different!”—Josh Chiles

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 5: “Do It Different” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“You cannot build your son’s future on your father’s paradigm. Be okay with evolving.”—Randy Borders

Do you think there are multiple effective methods of completing a task?

Do you have faith that believes even though God is leading you down a different path, He will get you to your destination all the same?



What does change mean to you? Does it scare you?

What stands out to you about the Lord's words to Joshua following the death of Moses?

Do you think there's value in delegating tasks? Why or why not?

How can fear of trying new things stop us from reaching our full potential?

Is change bad or good? Do you think even if changes can hurt, it is sometimes necessary to reach the destination God intended for us? Explain.

How do you know it's time to change something?

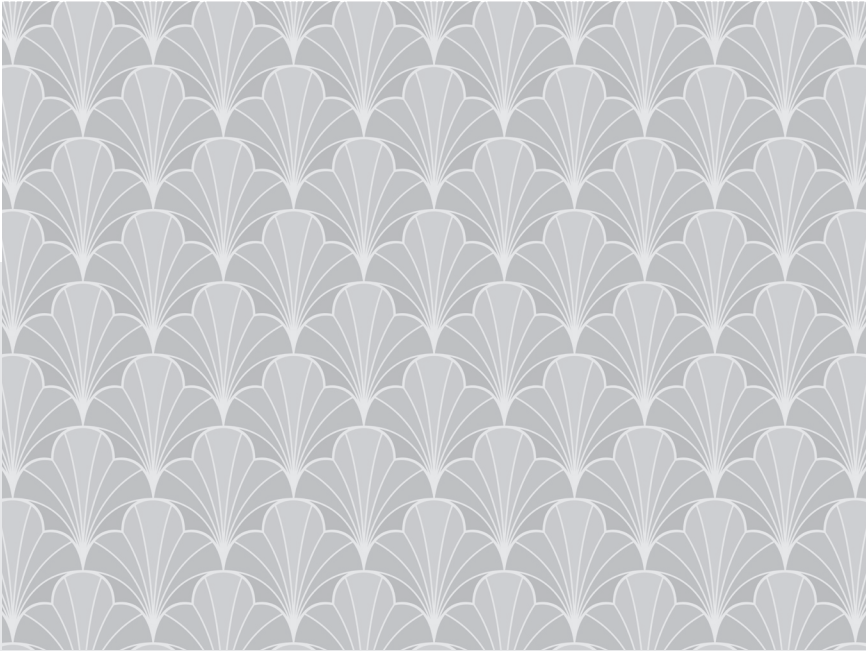
REFLECT ON

“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

—Joshua 1:2-5 (NIV)

CHAPTER 6

REARRANGING THE STAGE BEFORE THE CURTAIN GOES UP: LISA CHILDERS



“The constant is trusting God and knowing what we do, we do for Him. We can trust the outcome is in His hands.”—Lisa Childers

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 6: “Rearranging The Stage Before The Curtain Goes Up” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

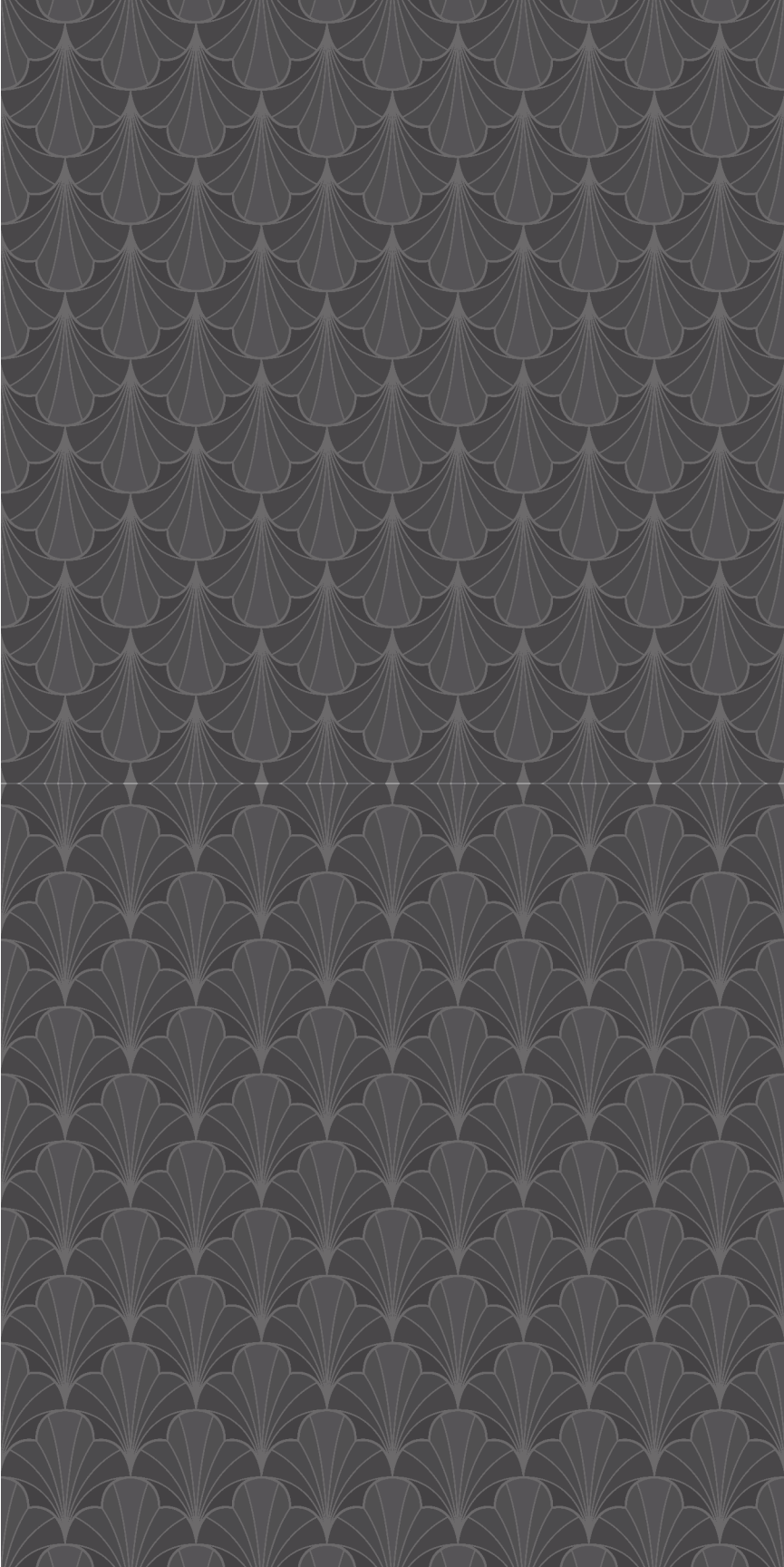
“There is nothing wrong with being wrong, but there is something extremely wrong with not taking the necessary steps to make it right.”—Randy Borders

Do you think it’s viable to plan for every possible scenario and outcome?

Do you trust more in your plan or God’s plan for your life?

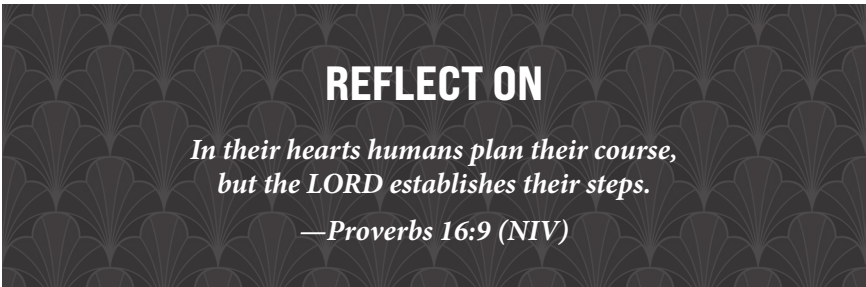
How can you give a situation over to the Lord? Explain.

What does this scripture mean when it says, "... but the Lord establishes their steps"?



What are the dangers of listening to the guidance of our emotions?

Do you think it's more effective for your operation to shift blame or take responsibility? Why?



Is it better to expect that things will go wrong, or have faith that everything will go perfect? Should you plan in time for mistakes?

Are last-minute changes indicative of an event's failure? Why is this mindset dangerous?

CHAPTER 7

WHEN LIFE HAPPENS: MICHELLE HOPPER



“Life will happen, but we must remember it was never designed to destroy us. We have to grab hold to every lesson, every loss, every win, every failure, every victory, and every disappointment, letting them all work for the glory of God.”—Michelle Hopper



READING TIME

As you read Chapter 7: “When Life Happens” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Trusting God is easy when you have some idea of what He’s doing. Life hits different when He’s silent and you’re clueless.”—Randy Borders

Do you turn to God or away from Him when life brings difficult situations?

Who do you think has greater faith: those who endure much or those who endure little?



Do you find it difficult to keep a positive mindset when things go wrong in life? Explain why or why not.

Why did Jesus make a point of telling Simon to strengthen his brothers? What does this mean?

Why is it so important to seek counsel amidst the personal setbacks life brings?

Do you think your mental health is worth spending time and effort on? Why?

How can pride be dangerous amidst the pitfalls of life?

Think of a difficult time in your life. How did you grow from this time? What did you learn?

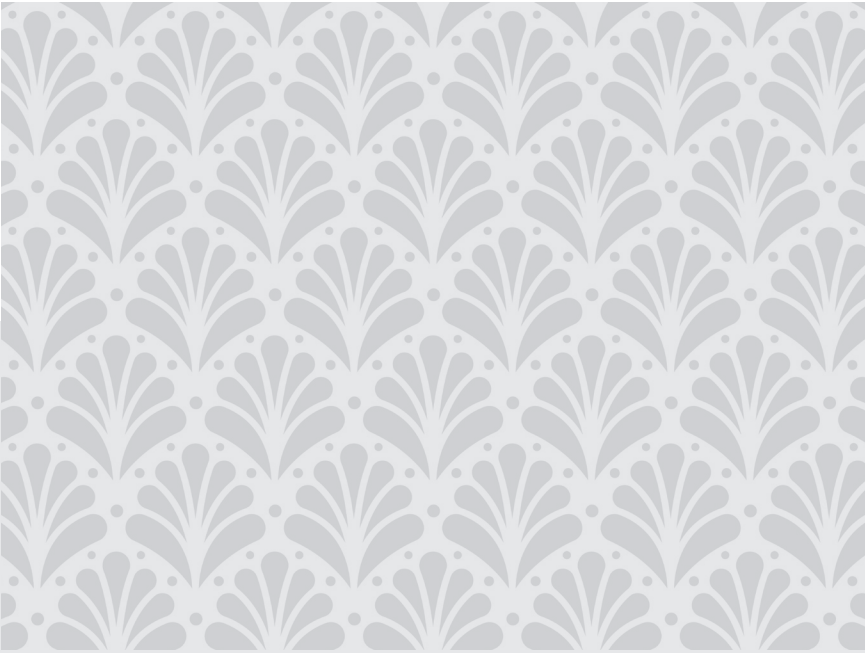
REFLECT ON

*“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.
But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.
And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

—Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

CHAPTER 8

I HAD TO PRAY THROUGH IT: NATE JEFFERSON



“Use prayer to strengthen every area of your life. By praying your way through it, you will see the rewards manifest because of your due diligence in seeking God.”—Nate Jefferson

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 8: “I Had to Pray Through It” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“When we are out front, our warfare increases. The delayed promotion was God protecting our immaturity.”—Randy Borders

Do you utilize prayer when you’re in tough, difficult situations?

What does prayer mean to you? How often do you go to God in prayer?

Do you think prayer has the power to transform your mindset, situation, and life?

What does this verse mean when it states, "... value others above yourselves"?

Why is it so important to go to God in prayer amidst our uncertainties, difficulties, and desires?



Do you think there's any correlation between God-given opportunities and prayer? Explain.

REFLECT ON

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking for your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something
to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

—Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV)

How does prayer play into our personal development?

Can you pray enough or too much? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 9

SUBMITTING MY SKILL TO GOD'S WILL: MITCHEL BLUE



“God’s plans are always so much bigger than ours. His dreams for us are always much greater than we can imagine.”—Mitchel Blue

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 9: “Submitting My Skill To God’s Will” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Life is more about your process than about your performance.”—Randy Borders

Are you quick to follow the guidance of God’s will in your life? What’s stopping you from following it fully?

Do you think God can use all your skills to benefit His Kingdom? What skills is He already using in your life?

Are you putting God's plans for your life first, or are you putting your own will above His?

How can you proceed to live out this verse? What are some key ingredients?

How can the perspective of seeing the submission of your skills to God as weakness hold you back from your true potential in Him? Explain.

Can God use all of our abilities, talents, and skills for His plan? Explain.

Think and write about a time where God used a situation in your life to develop you for the next stage of your journey. What happened?

What happens if you choose not to submit your skills to God?

REFLECT ON

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

—Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

PURSUING MY ASSIGNMENT AND MY SANITY: SALYNN K. EVANS



“My prayer is both the leader and the servant find their safe space of trusted advisors to decompress and release the weight of ministry.”—SaLynn K. Evans

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 10: “Pursuing My Assignment and My Sanity” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Don’t be so thirsty for opportunity that you drink from every cup handed to you. That’s how you get poisoned.”—Randy Borders

Why is it important to know your assignment and focus on what you were called to do?

Do you think by attempting to do too many things well, you sacrifice effectiveness in all of them?

What do you feel your God-given assignment is, and how can you fulfill it?

What's your interpretation of this scripture on vision? What does this mean for your vision?



Do you think recognizing that your assignment may be frustrating at times could be advantageous? Why or why not?

Why is focusing on your individual assignment important to your sanity?

REFLECT ON

*For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll.
And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say,
“Read this, please,” they will answer, “I can’t; it is sealed.”*

—Isaiah 29:11 (NIV)

Do you know your God-given assignment? What is it?

Have you ever lost focus of your assignment? Did it hurt your effectiveness?

THE TABLE OF RESTORATION: RA'SHAN WILSON



“When God restores you, He does not put you back where you were. He puts you where you would have been had you never been knocked off kilt.”—Ra’Shan Wilson

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 11: “The Table of Restoration” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“If it feels like midnight, remember that midnight is the first hour of a new day.”—Randy Borders

How does God restore and renew us?

Define restoration in your own words. How does this show God’s amazing grace?

To be restored, do you think you must first be afflicted? Why or why not?

What does this scripture reveal about God's restorative power?

How has God used circumstances in your life to prepare you for your next move?

Have you experienced the restoring power and nature of God in your own life? If so, explain how.

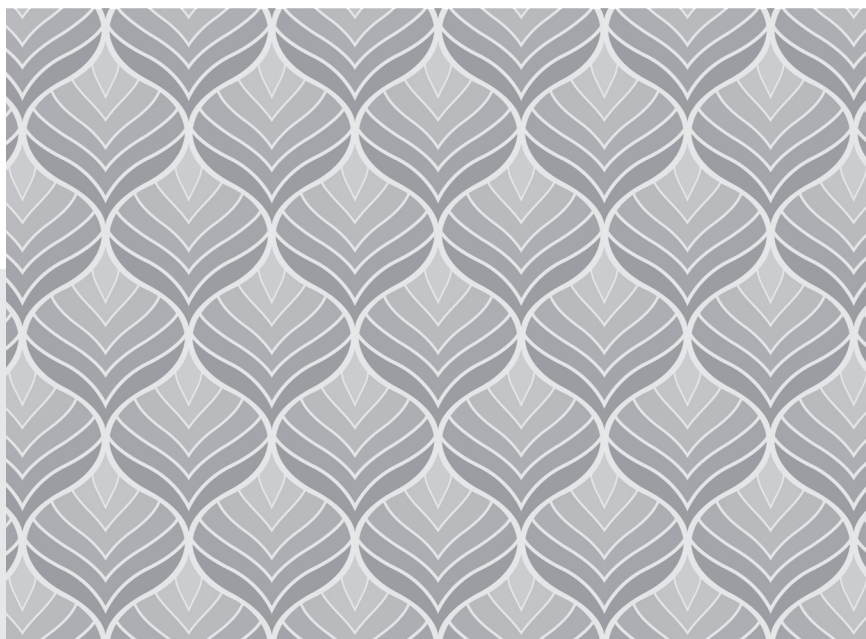
Why is trusting in God's will and His restoration often tied to one another?

Do you think God has a plan for His children after their restoration? Explain.

REFLECT ON

*The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.
—Psalm 23 (NIV)*

SERVING THROUGH THE DEATH OF MY PASTOR: ROGER HUTTON



“I may miss him, but I do not miss his God because I have come to know God for myself.”—Roger Hutton

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 12: “Serving Through the Death of My Pastor” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“This trial might not make sense, but it will make faith.”—Randy Borders

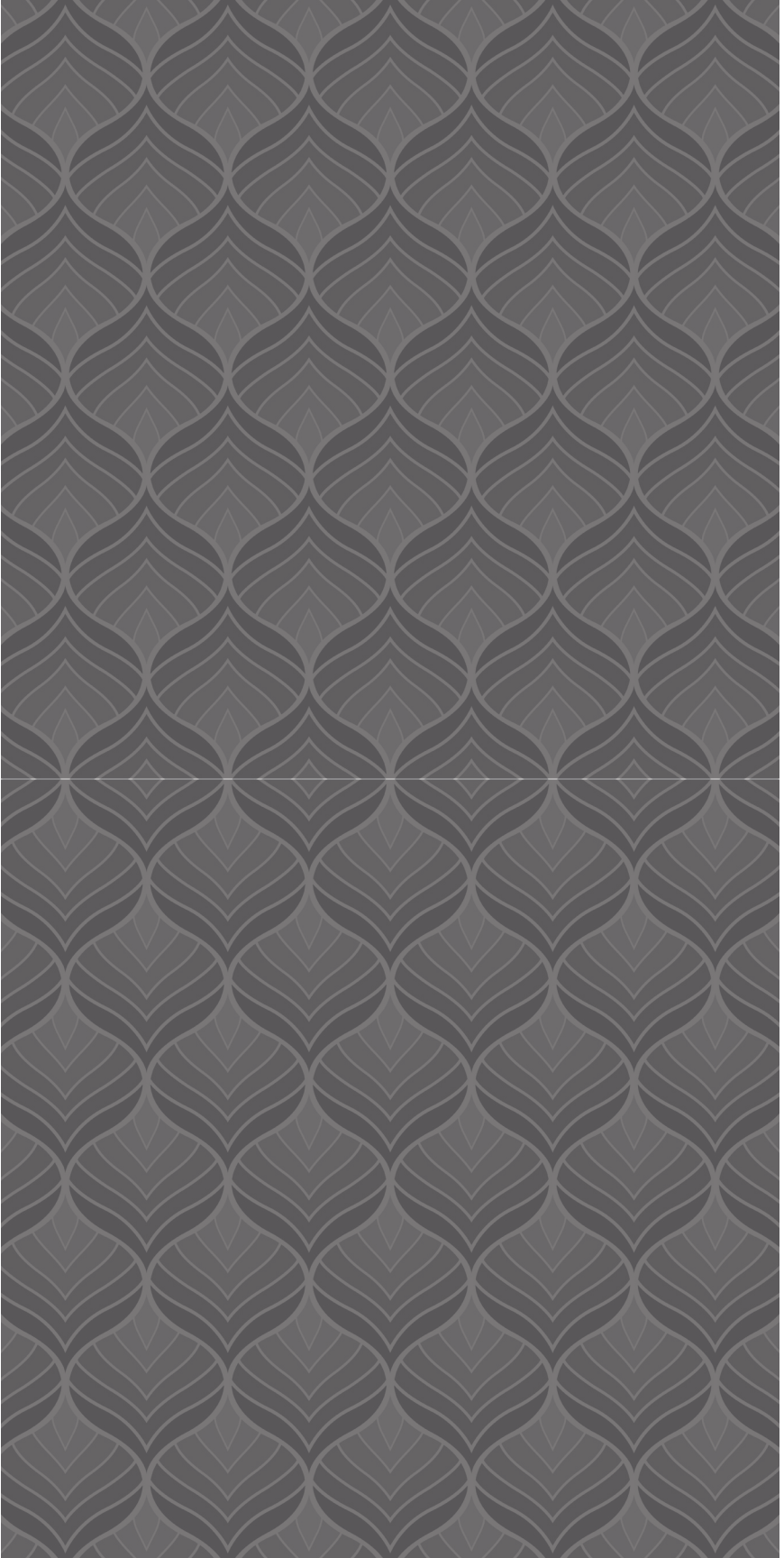
Has an event ever made you question God’s timing, decisions, or plan for your life? Explain.

Do you think the difficult trials in our life produce more faith than times of happiness and contentment?

Do you think God can use even the worst situations for His Kingdom's good and advancement?

What does this verse reveal about the nature of Christ, the Son of Man?

Write about a time God used a difficult situation in your life for your growth and development. Did you see this growth at the time?



How can you honor the life of your leader in the event of his or her passing?

How can you stay committed to the vision your leader left behind?

THE REASON I DID NOT QUIT: ODELL DICKERSON



“Being rooted in my perspective gave me the foundation I needed to remain planted in purpose while adjusting to the seasons.”—Odell Dickerson



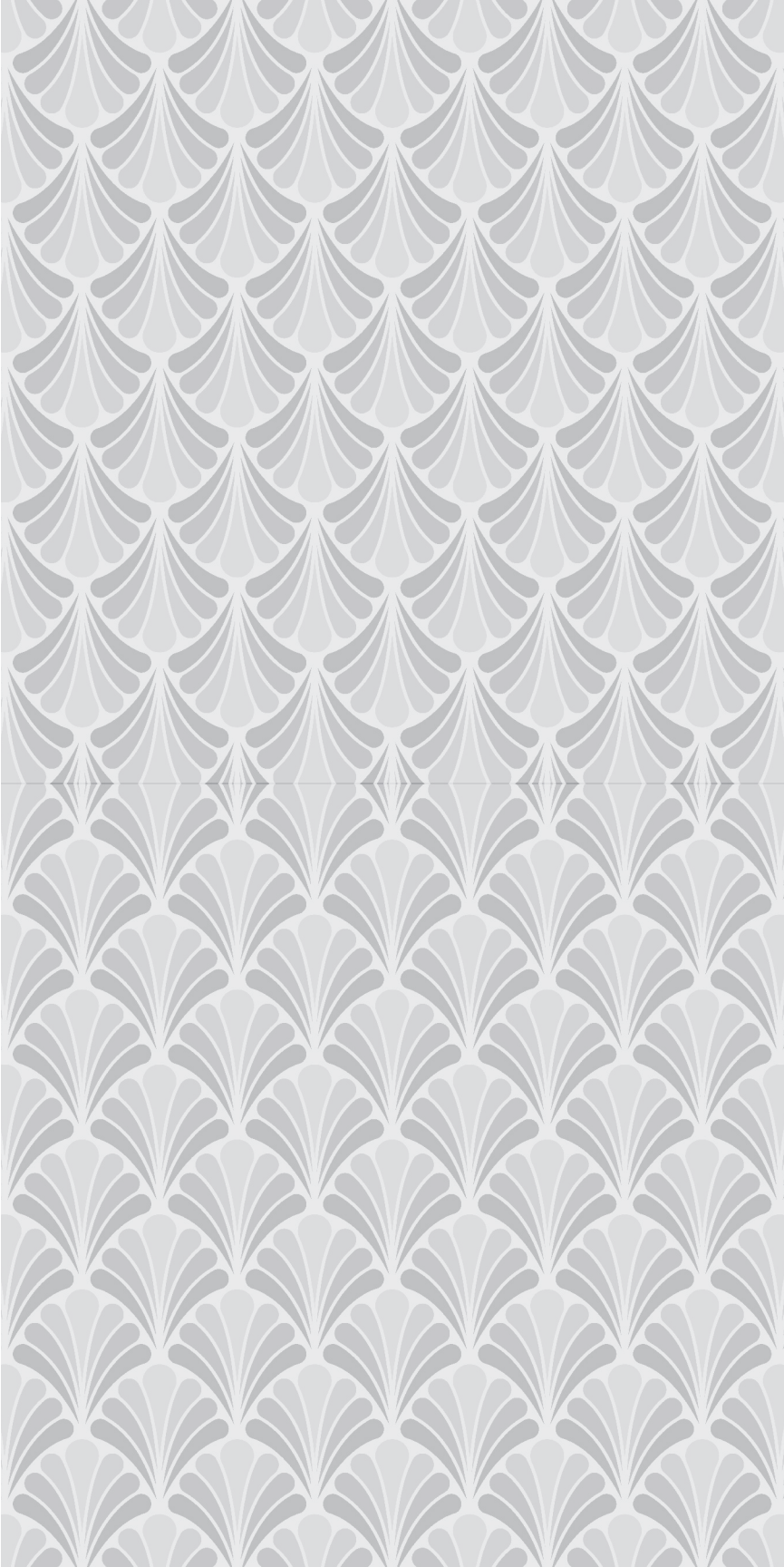
READING TIME

As you read Chapter 13: “The Reason I Did Not Quit” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“One of the greatest motivations in ministry is your family, your faith, your name, and your example.”—Randy Borders

Do you have a strong enough commitment to your purpose to push past obstacles? Why or why not?



How do you tackle the obstacles that come your way? Do you run at them with God's help or run in the opposite direction?

In your own words, define what it means to not give up. Is this what you strive for in your pursuit of God's plan for your life?

Explain how this verse gives you a new light into your work for God's Kingdom.

Why is faith so integral to our perseverance?

What do you believe your current God-given purpose is in life? Are you prepared to encounter and overcome obstacles?

Where does your motivation to perform come from?

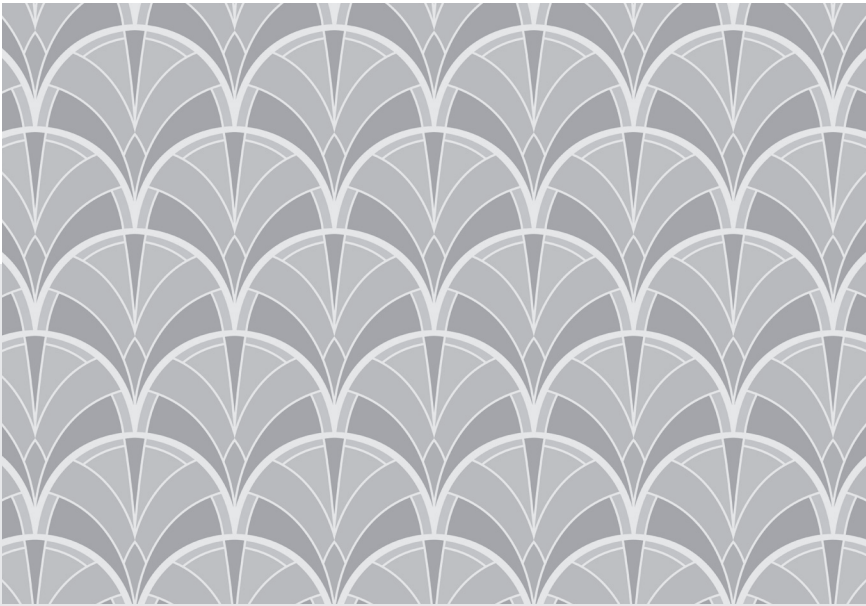
What motivates you to not give up? Why not just throw in the towel?

REFLECT ON

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

—*Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)*

ADJUSTING TO MY LEADER'S 'NO': ALAN WALKER



“No’ from the mouth of a leader is not a death sentence. It is only a temporary delay on the train tracks of your life.”—Alan Walker

READING TIME

As you read
Chapter 14:
“Adjusting to
My Leader’s
‘No’” in *Stories
from Servant
Leaders*, reflect
on the questions
and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

*“You will not be successful if you
will not take correction from
a mentor that is bold enough
to give it.”—Randy Borders*

When you hear a ‘no,’ do you give up, or
does it motivate you?

Describe a time where a leader told you ‘no,’
and you felt limited, rejected, and not good
enough.

Describe a time where a good opportunity and situation arose out of being told 'no.'

What does this scripture reveal about our submission to authority? Explain.

Why is it so important to be teachable? Are you teachable, or do you already know it all?

Do you think there are spiritual mentors God sends into our lives? Who in your life is a spiritual mentor?

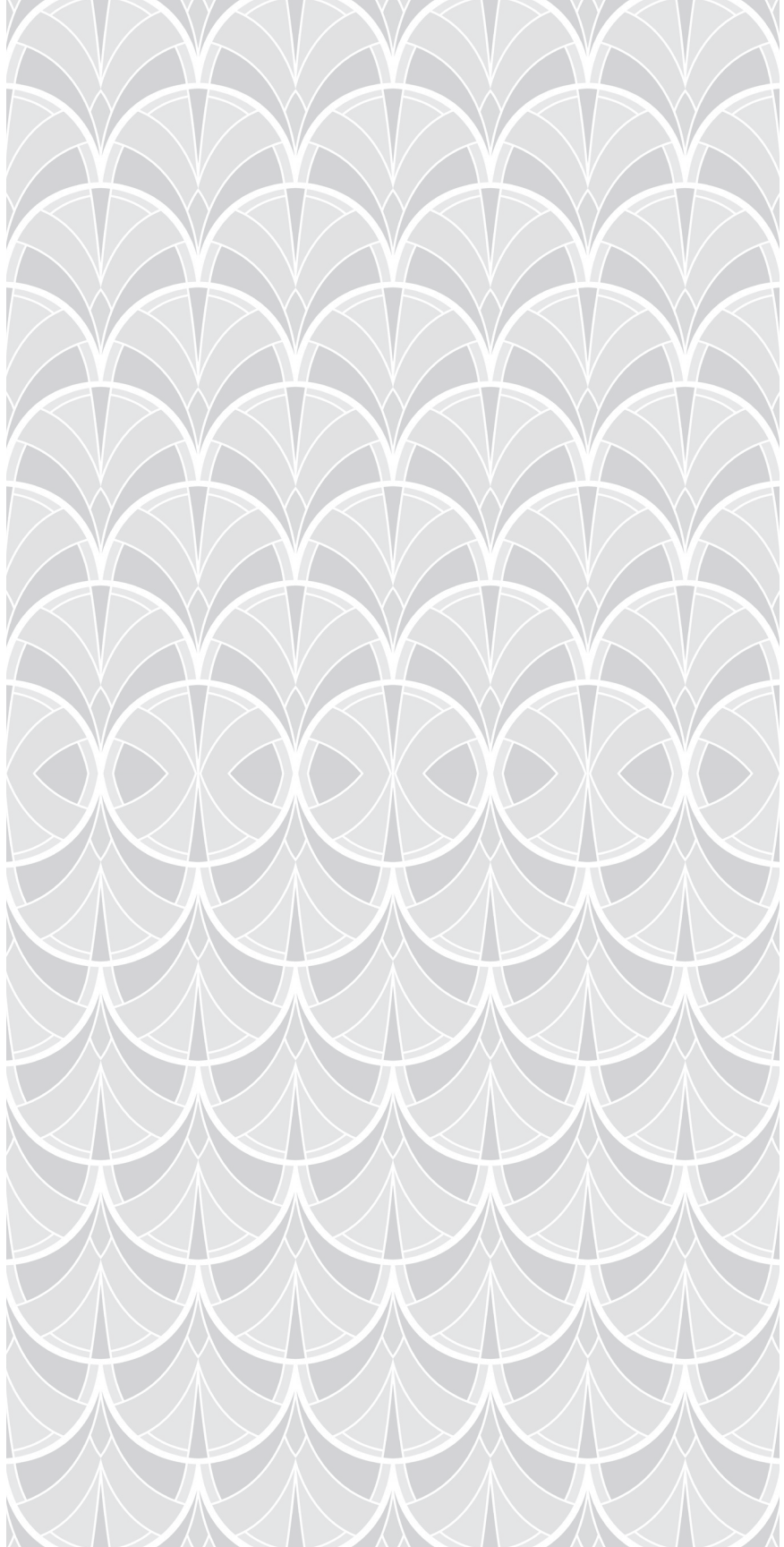
What's your perspective when you are told 'no'? Do you think this is a healthy perspective?

Think about a time you didn't handle correction well. What went wrong?

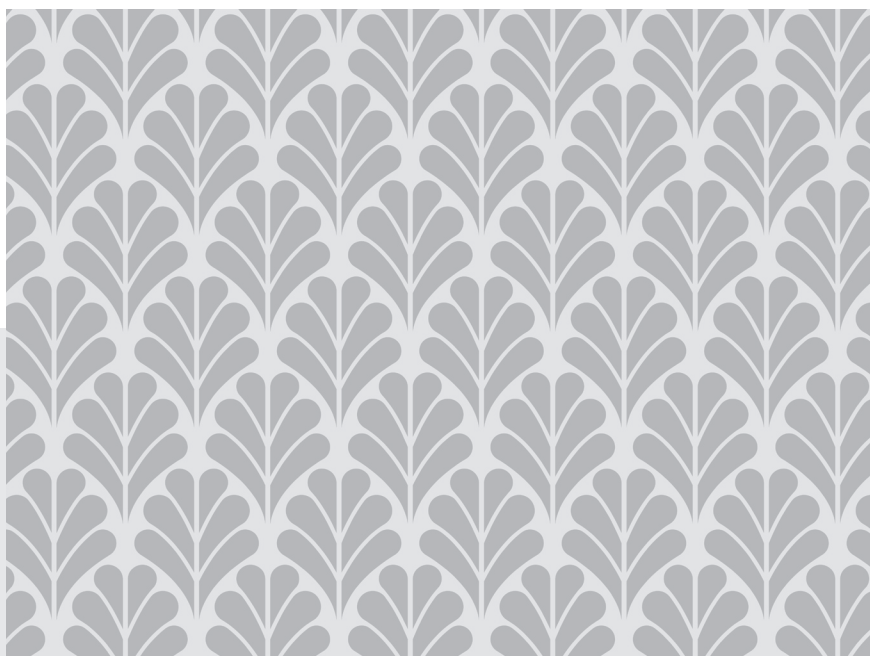
REFLECT ON

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

—Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)



ARDOR NEVER TRUMPS ORDER: ISHMAEL WILSON



“God has chosen a man or a woman to establish order in His house. It is our responsibility as servant leaders to submit to that order and become who God has called you to be for His glory.”—Ishmael Wilson



READING TIME

As you read Chapter 15: “Ardor Never Trumps Order” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

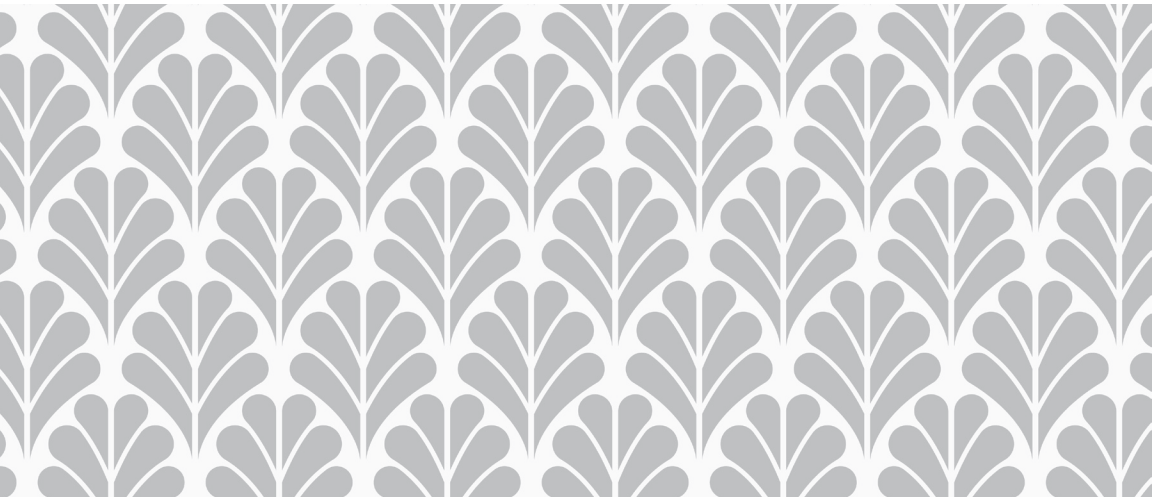
REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“Having the energy for a race and knowing the route are two totally different things.”—Randy Borders

Do you think zeal or effectiveness is a better trait? Which is better for your Kingdom work? Explain.

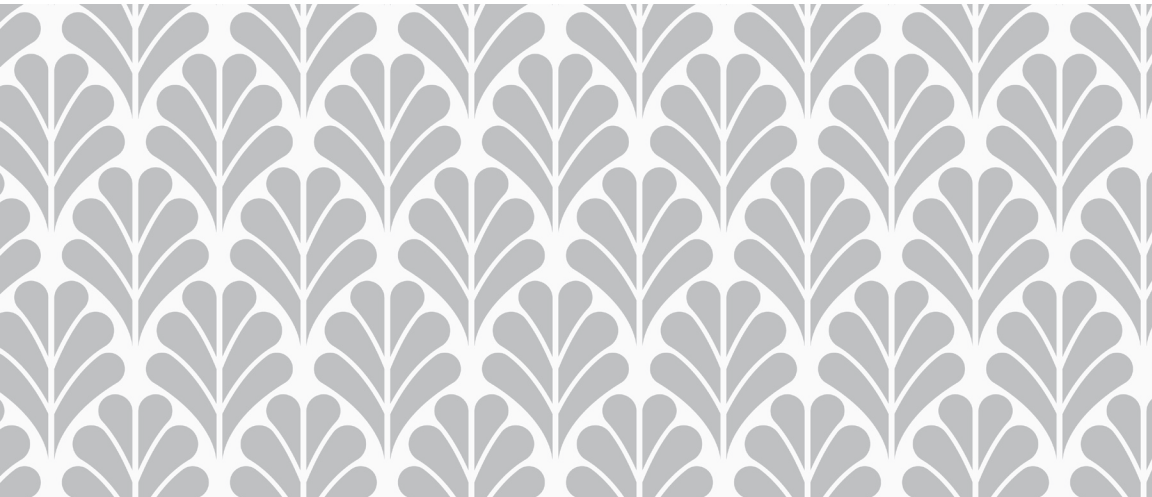
Do you trust in God to help you increase in your effectiveness in the pursuit of your calling?

In your own words, why is order more valuable than ardor?



Describe what this verse means to you. Why is it important that we humble ourselves in this process?

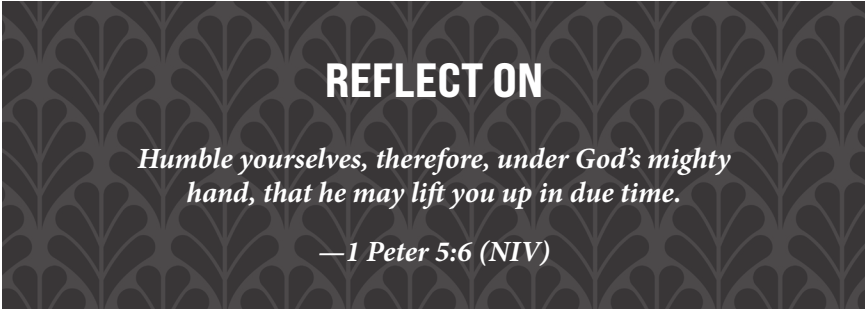
Why is it crucial to have both knowledge and wisdom? Explain.



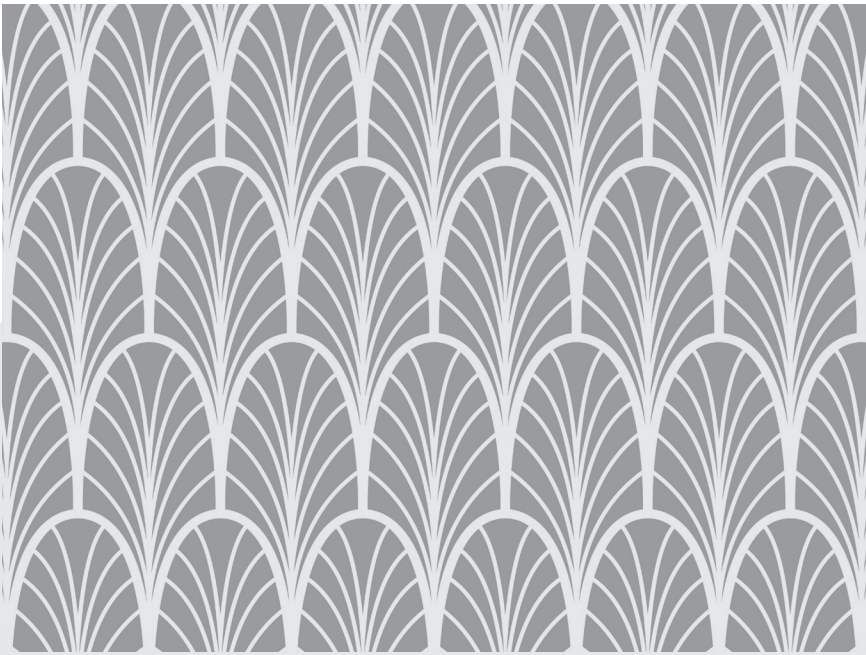
Do you think God’s plan is more effective than our own? Why or why not?

How can zeal and fervor actually be a detriment to our journey? Explain.

Think and write about a time your efforts turned up in vain because you should have waited for God to open a door. What did you learn?



I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS: NICKOLOUS SOUTH



“Desire is what we have requested from God, but destiny is what God is requiring from us. It is dangerous and potentially detrimental when what we want FROM God takes precedence over what God wants FOR us.”—Nickolous South



READING TIME

As you read Chapter 16: “I Did Not Sign Up For This” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“When God wants to use your gift, He gives you a stage. When He wants to use your life, He gives you a storm.”—Randy Borders

If God guides you into a new position and uncertain area, will you be faithful to follow?

Are you putting what God wants for you or what you want from God first?

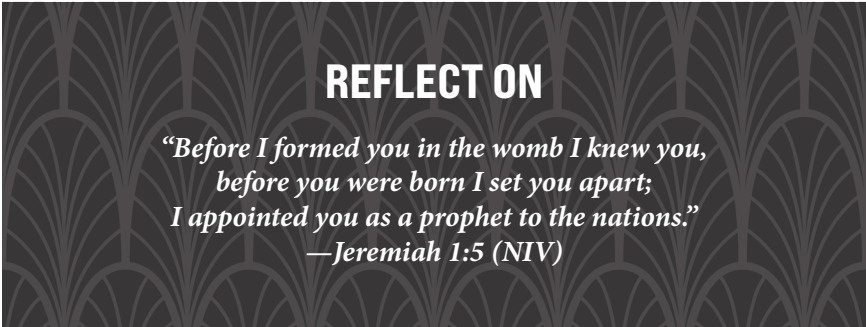
Do you think God can use all the events in your life—no matter how small—to work toward His master plan for you? Have you seen evidence of this?

What does this verse say about our destiny and God’s plans for each of us?



Why is it so important to be flexible in God's Kingdom?

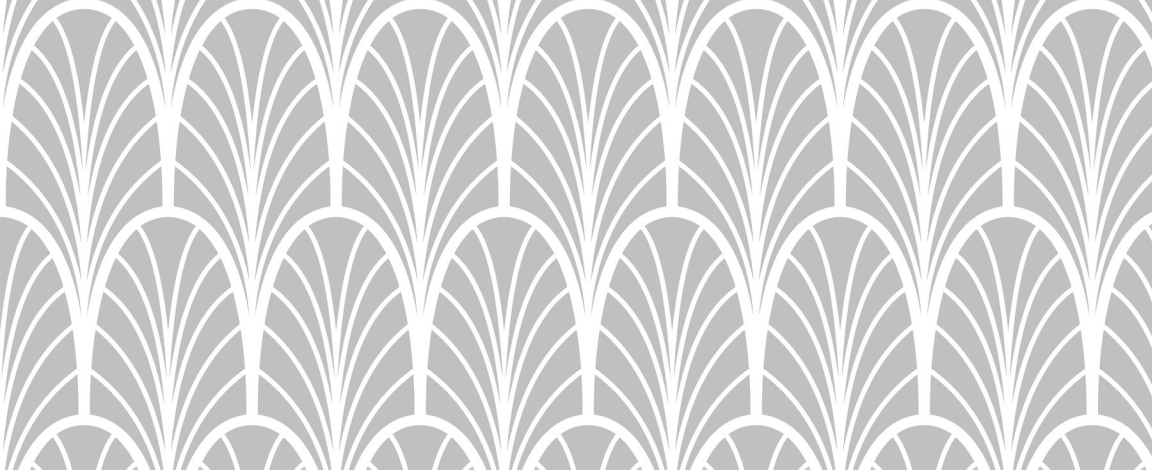
Has God ever asked you to do something unexpected? Were you afraid?



REFLECT ON

*“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.”*

—Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)



Do you think God teaches us things by bringing us through obstacles and distractions?

Are you equipped to handle the plans God has in store for you? Why or why not?

YOUNG BUT NOT DUMB: JUSTIN MARSHALL



“Do not allow comparison to weaken your commitment to your calling! You are enough. God has equipped you with everything you need to flow and produce quality fruit even at a young age.”—Justin Marshall

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 17: “Young But Not Dumb” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“You need friends that have grace for your growth.”—Randy Borders

Do you think age has anything to do with faith, Christ’s love, or effectiveness in your work for God’s Kingdom?

How can comparison be detrimental to leadership? Explain.



Do you think God discriminates when it comes to gender, age, race, personality, talent, or calling? Explain your answer.

How can you strive to apply this scripture's call to action in your daily life?



How can taking things personally exacerbate the situation? Explain.

What do you put your identity in? Why do you think this is effective?

Have you ever had to remove yourself from a relationship due to the negativity and judgment present? Did it help?

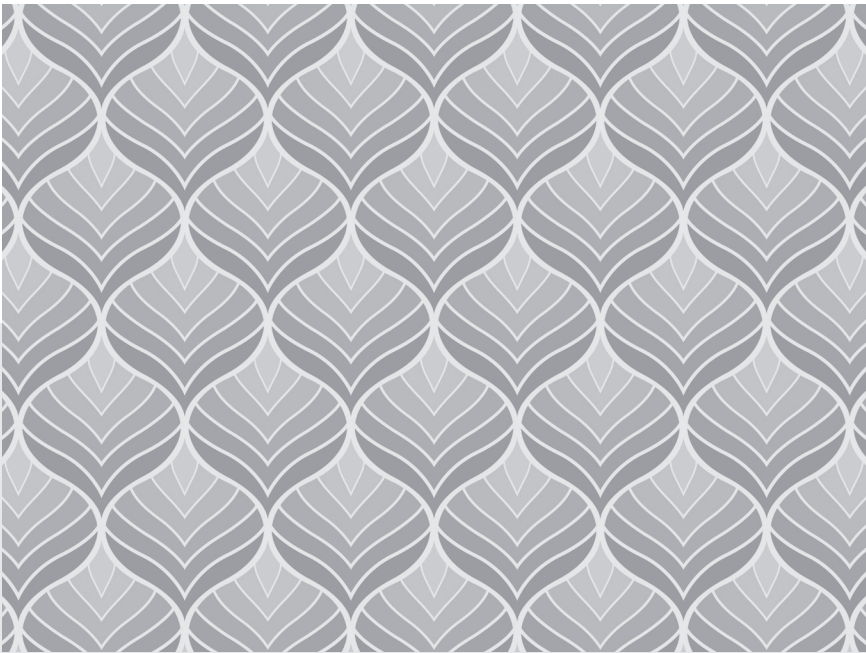
Why is it important to not judge others based on their appearance?

REFLECT ON

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

—Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

SERVING MADE EASY: MYRON JONES



“Serving made easy became a reality when I finally understood who I work for.”—Myron Jones

READING TIME

As you read Chapter 18: “Serving Made Easy” in *Stories from Servant Leaders*, reflect on the questions and scriptures.

REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION:

“I want to be around people who still think it is cool to help others grow.”—Randy Borders

Why is understanding who we work for a key ingredient in serving others?

What does having a “servant’s heart” mean to you? Explain.

How can you be intentional about playing a role in the growth of others?

What does this verse tell us about who we serve? What does it call for us to do?

How do you define a genuine relationship?

How can you pour into the lives of those around you? Explain.

REFLECT ON

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

—Mark 10:45 (NIV)

Why is the perspective behind your service important?

Think about a time someone served you. What did it make you feel? How can you intentionally serve others and evoke this feeling in them?
