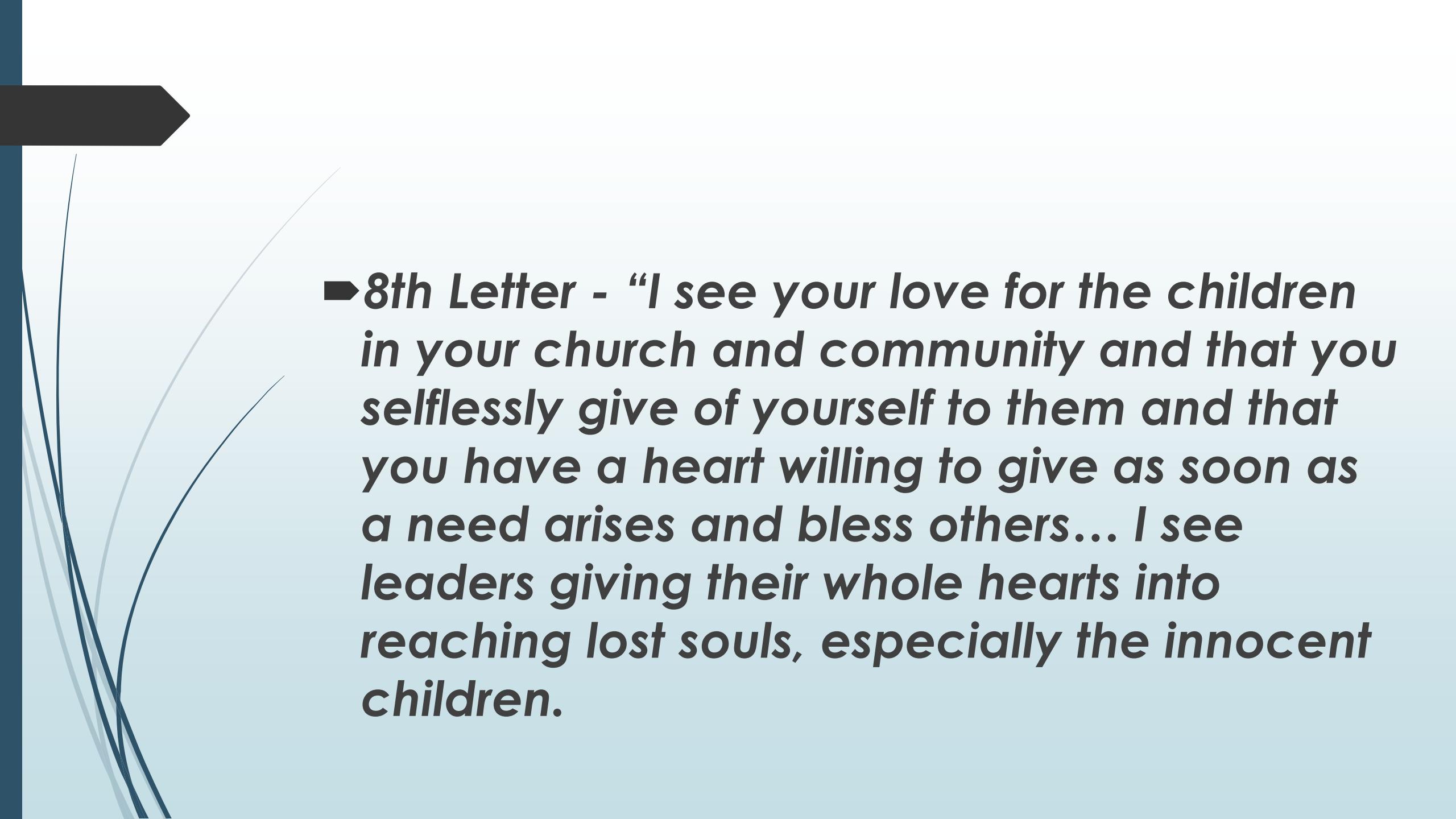
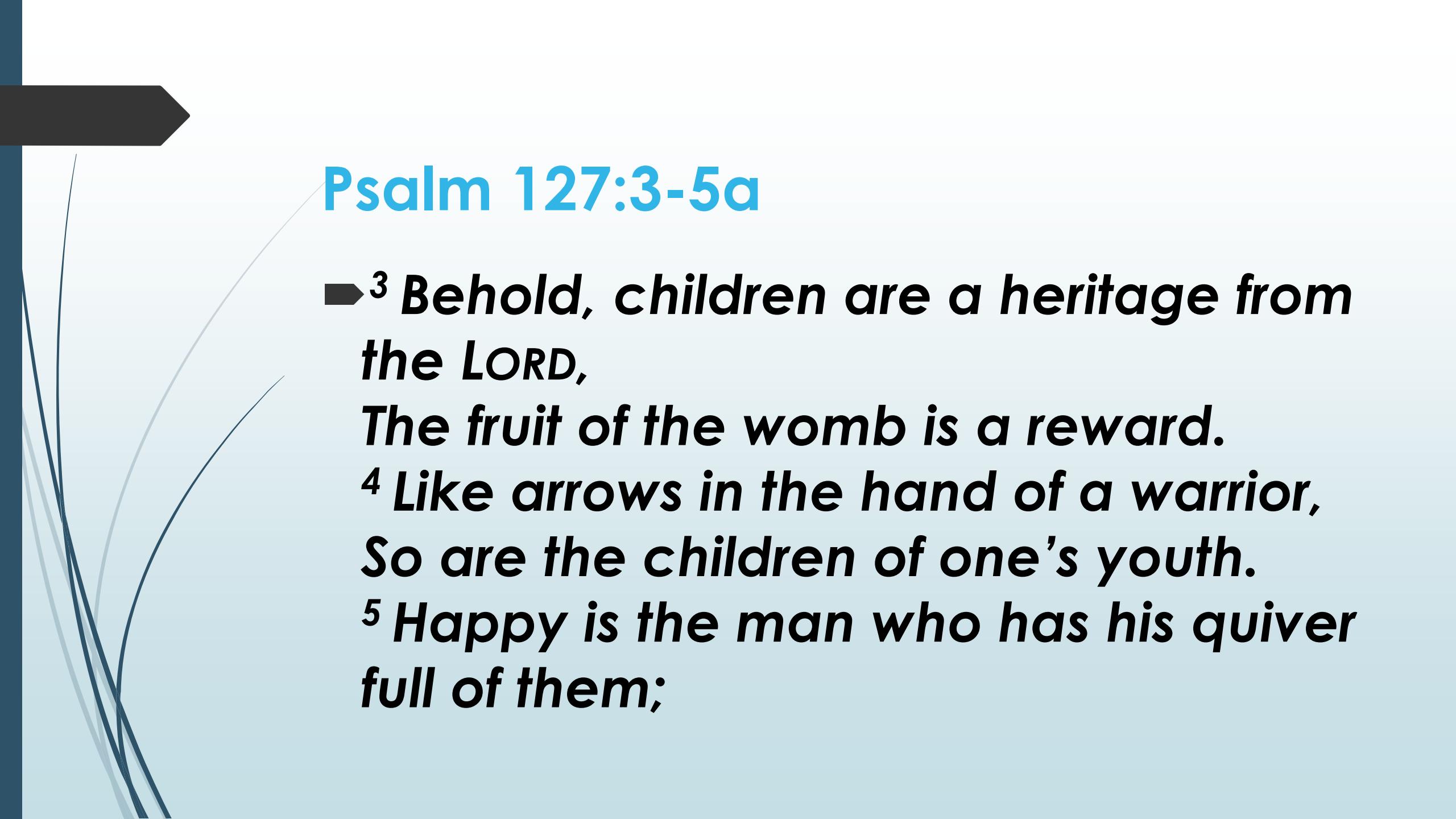


# The Greatest Blessing

Psalm 127:3-4 & 1 Corinthians 11:1

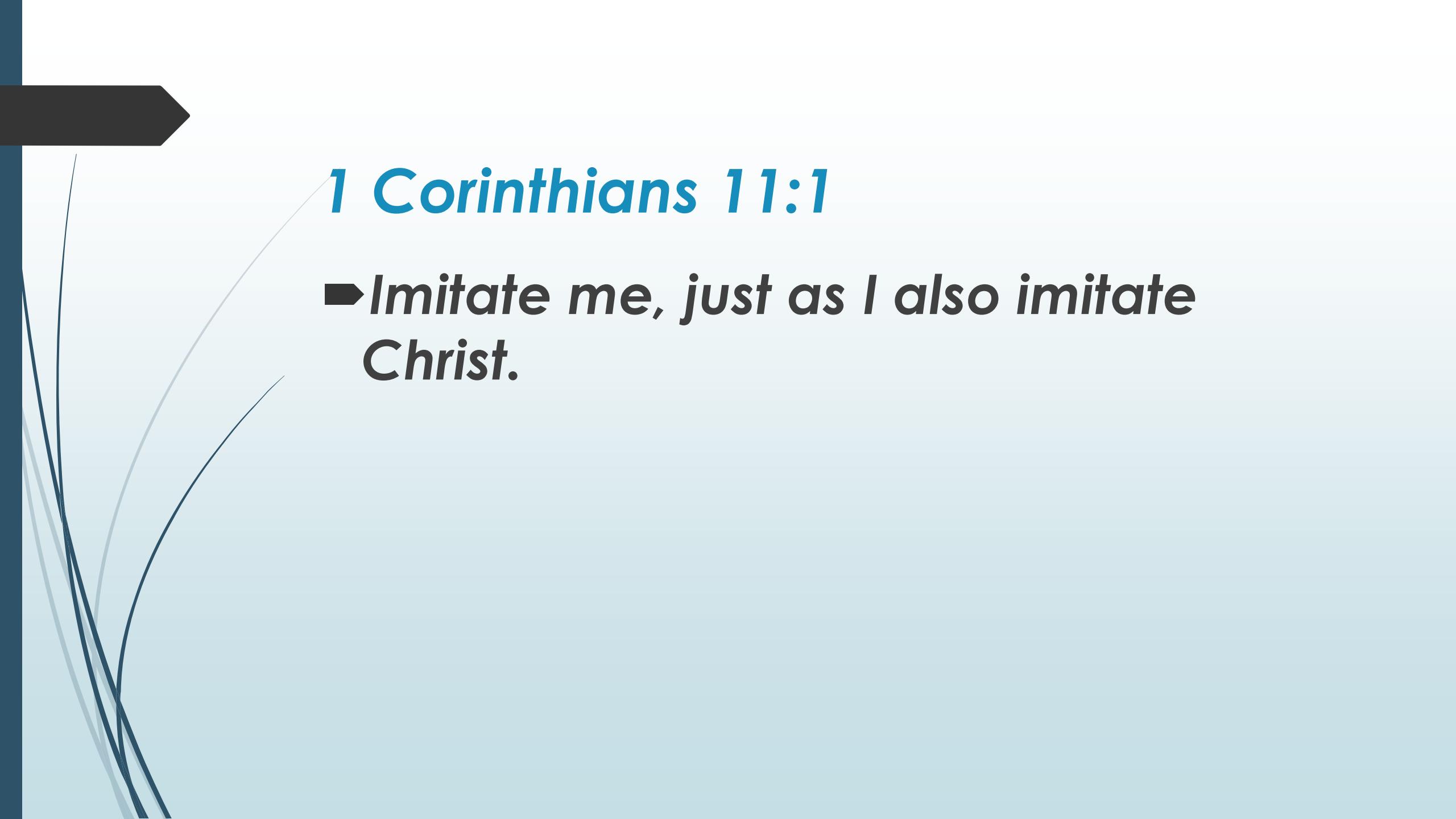


►8th Letter - “I see your love for the children in your church and community and that you selflessly give of yourself to them and that you have a heart willing to give as soon as a need arises and bless others... I see leaders giving their whole hearts into reaching lost souls, especially the innocent children.



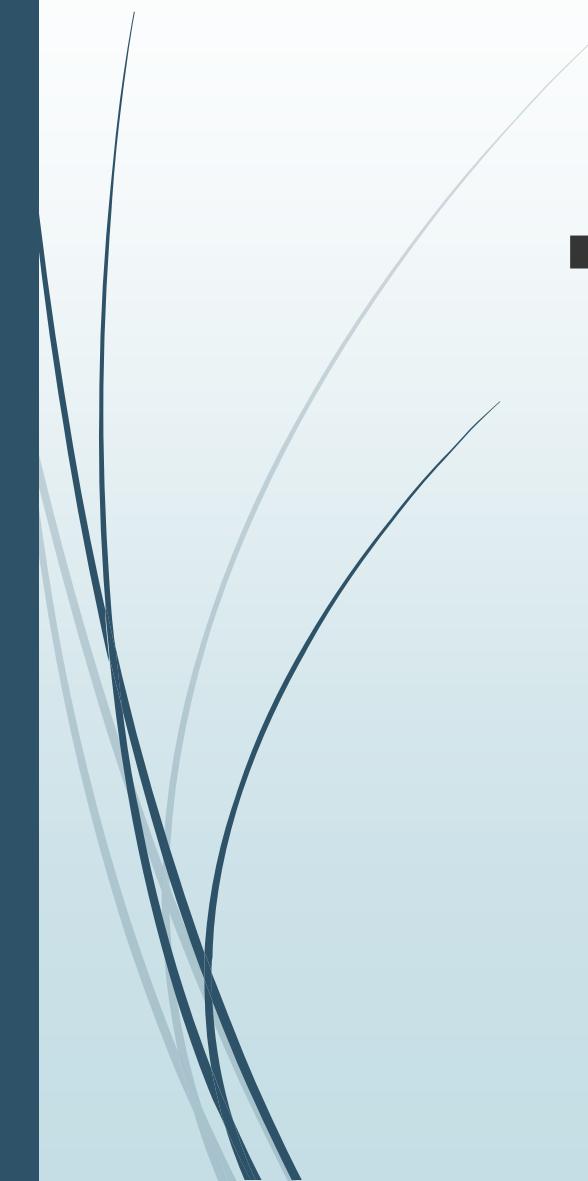
## Psalm 127:3-5a

- <sup>3</sup> **Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.**
- 4 **Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one's youth.**
- 5 **Happy is the man who has his quiver  
full of them;**

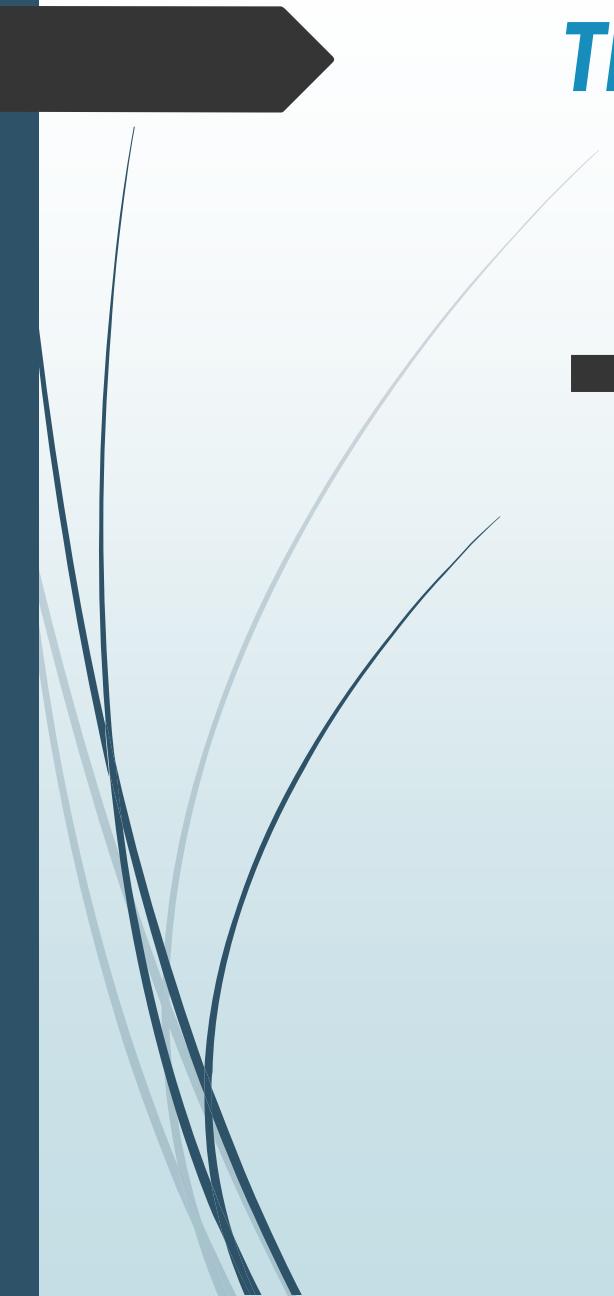


## 1 Corinthians 11:1

► ***Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.***

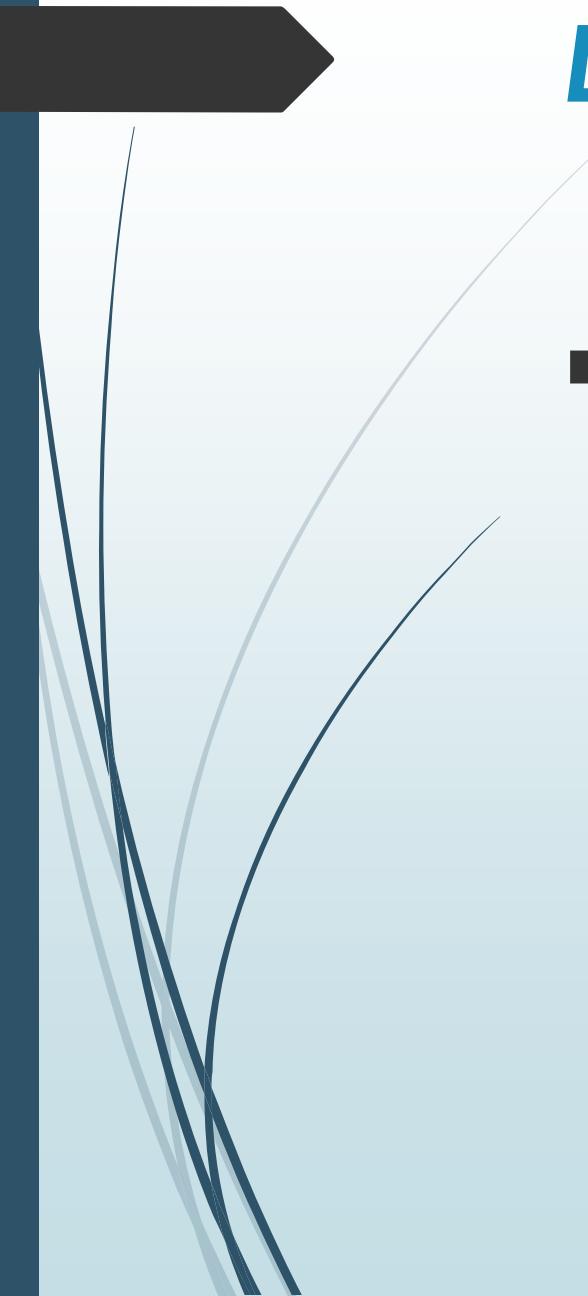


► ***A few years ago, Barna put out an article which stated that 75% of the youth in American churches will leave the church upon graduating high school.***



## ***Their Parent Taught Them the Gospel***

► ***One of the things that was common was that their parents were indeed still married. This is not an absolute, but a godly, healthy marriage goes a long way in reinforcing the truths of the Bible.***



## *Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

►6 *And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.*



## Ezekiel 44:15-16

► 15 “However, the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok continued to minister faithfully in the Temple when Israel abandoned me for idols. These men will serve as my ministers. They will stand in my presence and offer the fat and blood of the sacrifices, says the Sovereign Lord. 16 They alone will enter my sanctuary and approach my table to serve me. They will fulfill all my requirements. (NLT)



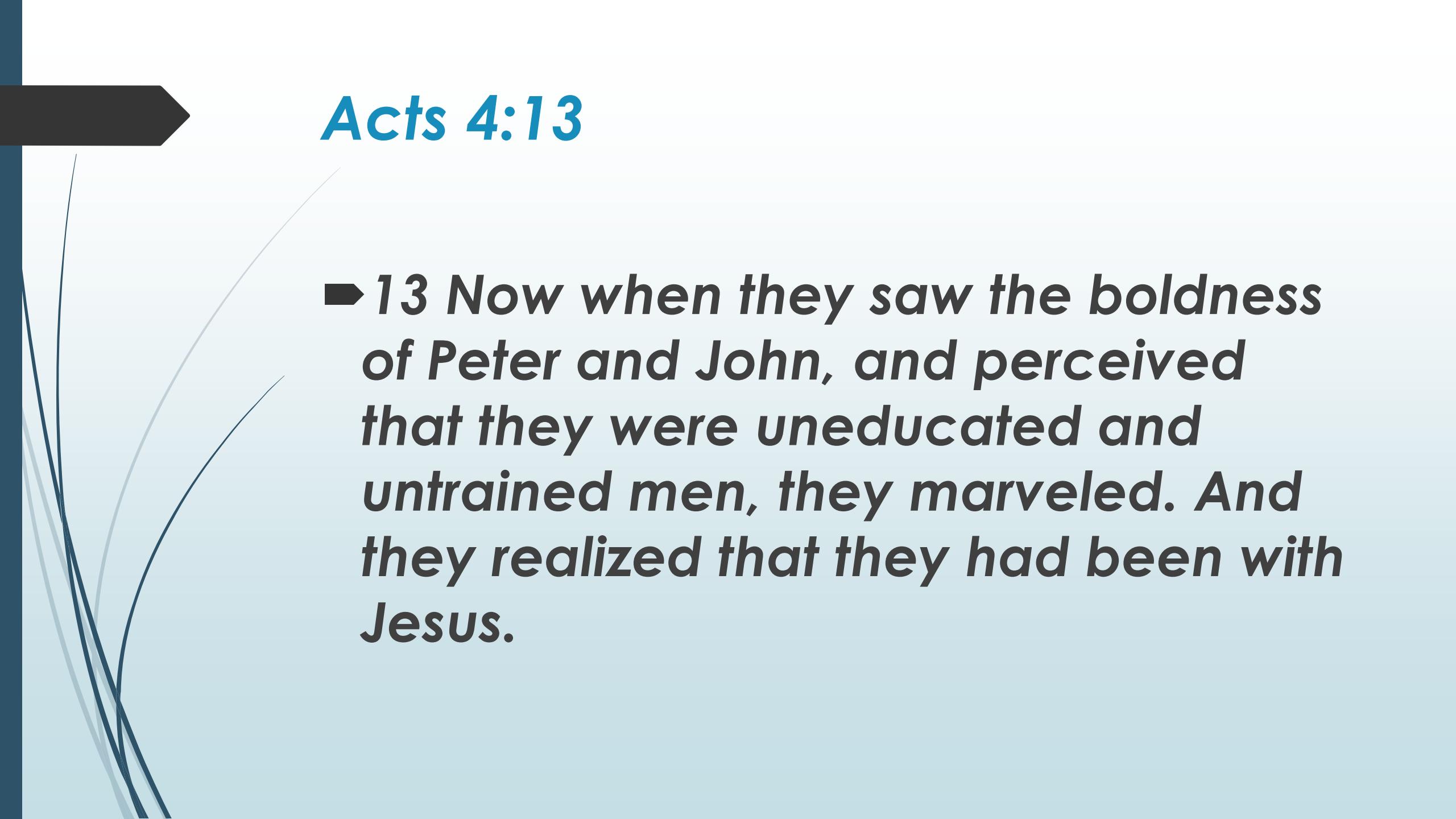
## ***Their Parent Taught Them the Gospel***

- ***If we are not faithful to Christ, how will we be faithful to our spouse & children?***
- ***Children are taught more by example than with words***



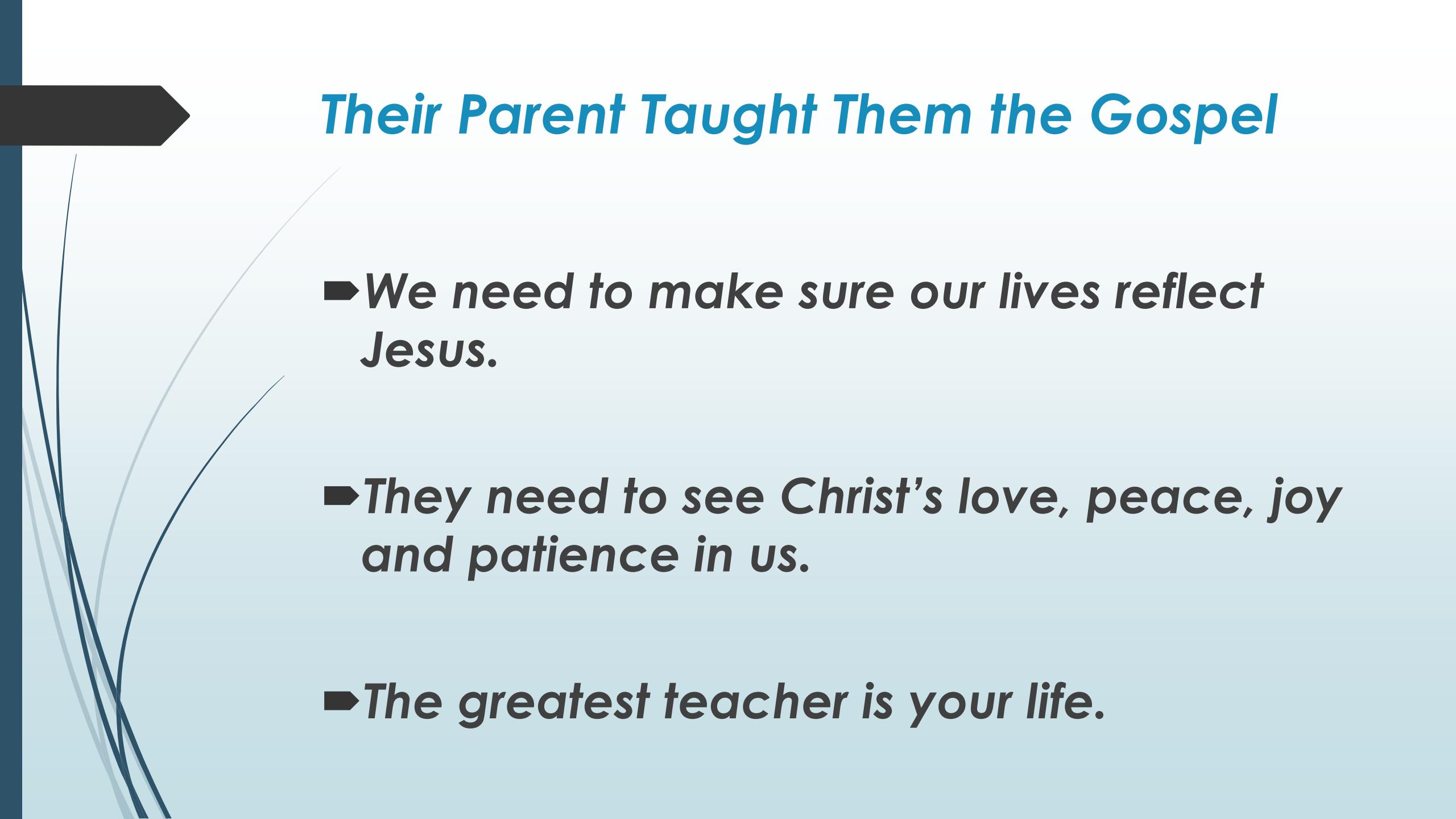
## 2 Timothy 1:5

► ***5 I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.***



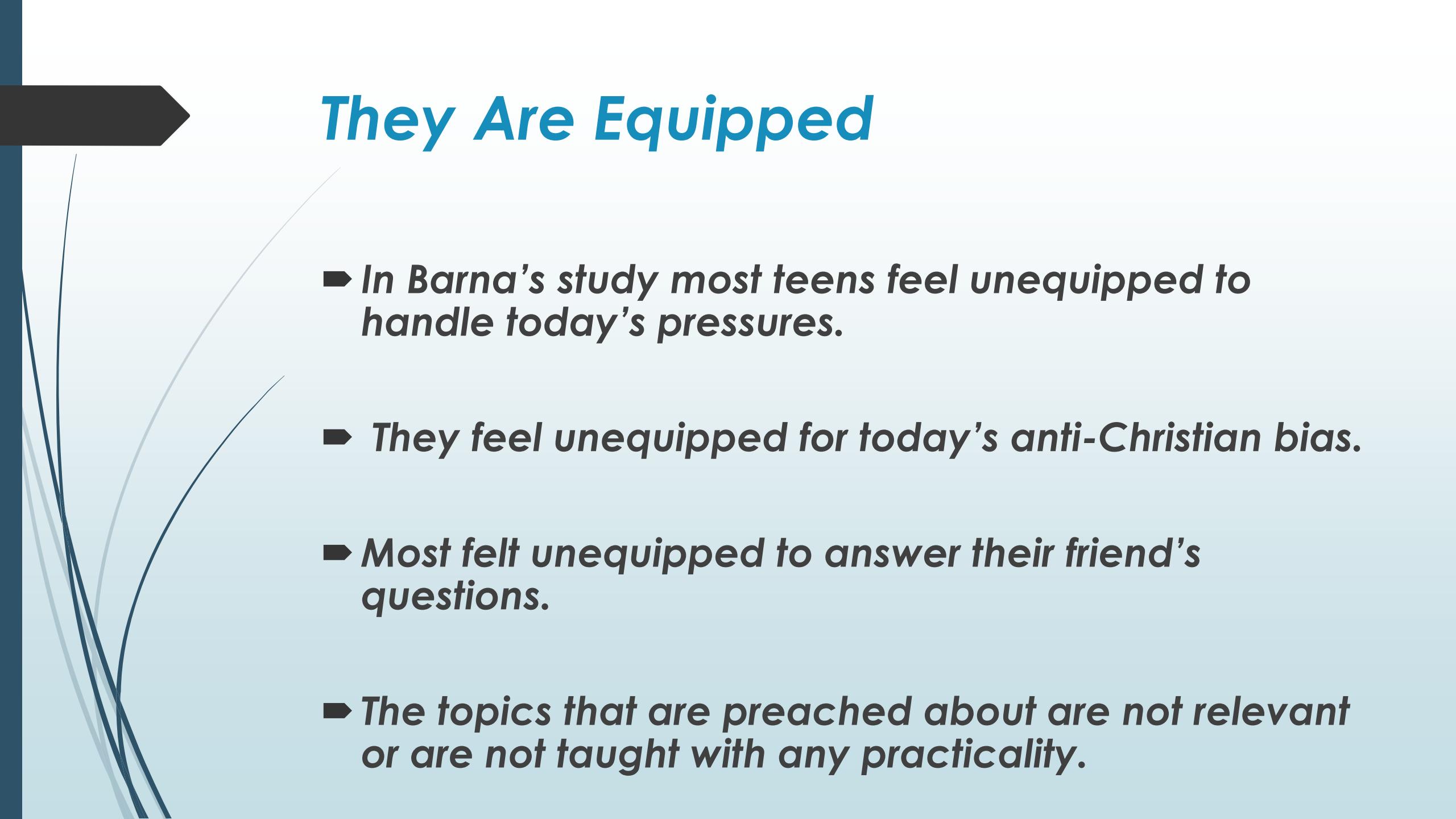
## Acts 4:13

► **13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**



## ***Their Parent Taught Them the Gospel***

- ***We need to make sure our lives reflect Jesus.***
- ***They need to see Christ's love, peace, joy and patience in us.***
- ***The greatest teacher is your life.***



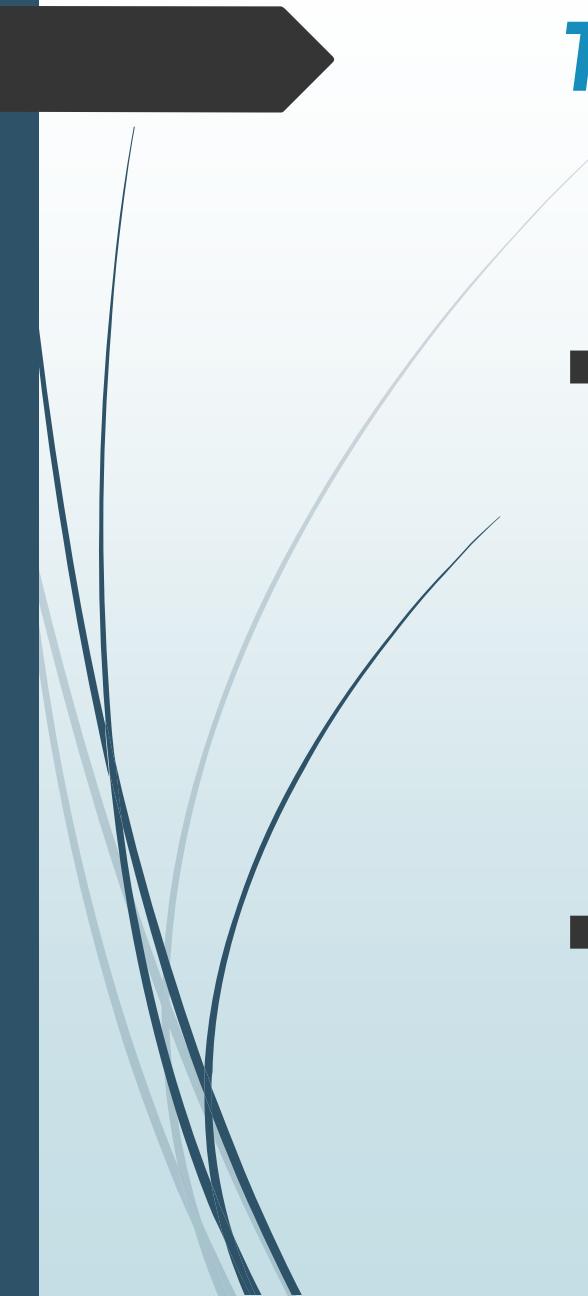
# They Are Equipped

- ▶ *In Barna's study most teens feel unequipped to handle today's pressures.*
- ▶ *They feel unequipped for today's anti-Christian bias.*
- ▶ *Most felt unequipped to answer their friend's questions.*
- ▶ *The topics that are preached about are not relevant or are not taught with any practicality.*



## *They Are Equipped*

► “*Don’t tell me not to worry, I know that. I know the Bible tells me that. Don’t give me five or ten verses telling me not to worry, give me one verse and begin to show and teach me how to actually do it.*”



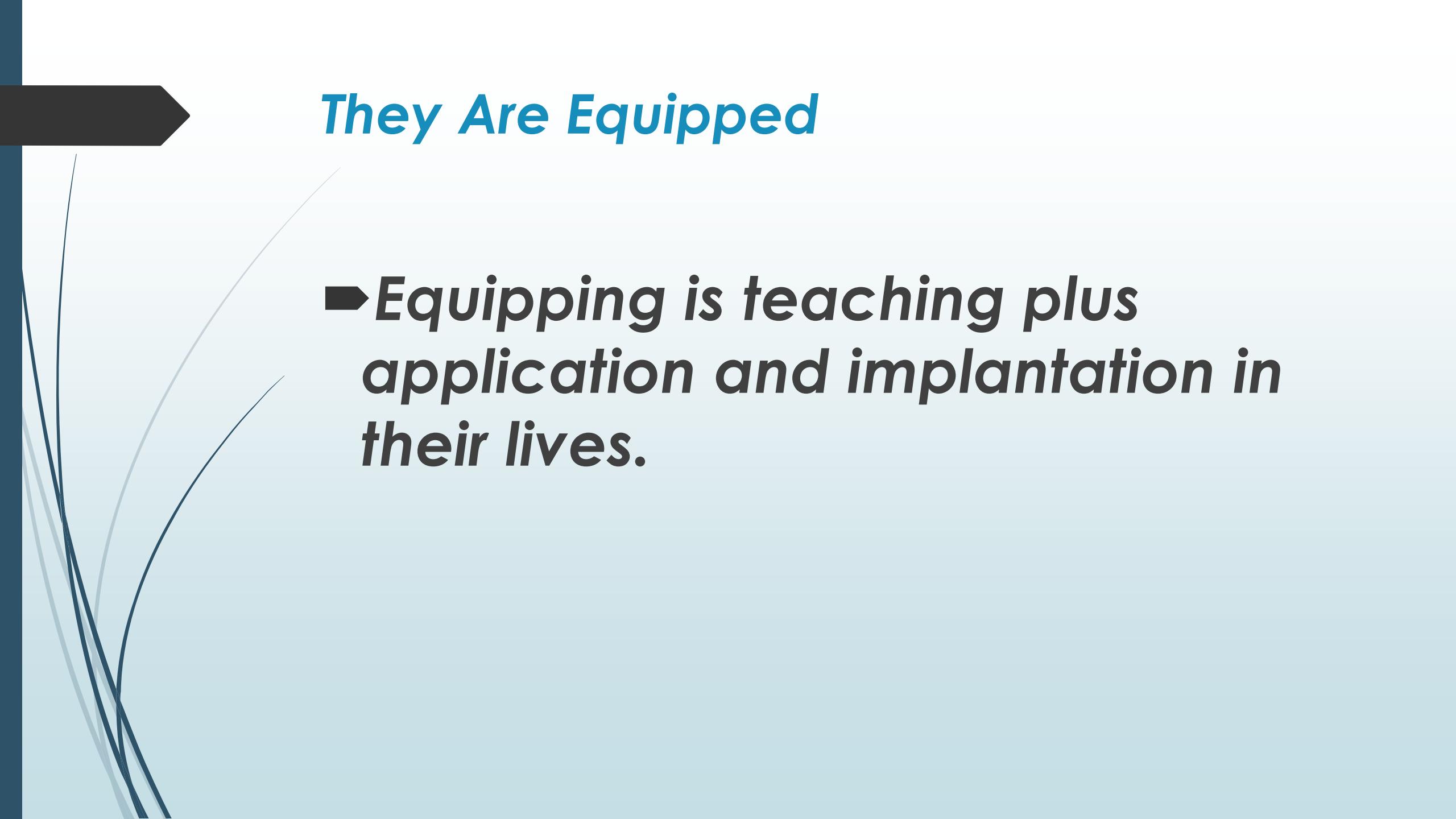
## *They Are Equipped*

- *Equipping is not just memorizing Scripture, to equip someone is to train them. Jesus equipped, that is taught and trained His disciples.*
- *Equipping is a very practical step for our children's future. Equipping them spiritually requires time, love and patience.*



## *They Are Equipped*

- *Will we teach and equip them with compassion and love, will we leave judgement behind and walk those roads with them versus giving a verse or two and a set of rules?*
- *1 Corinthians 8:1 – “...But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.”*



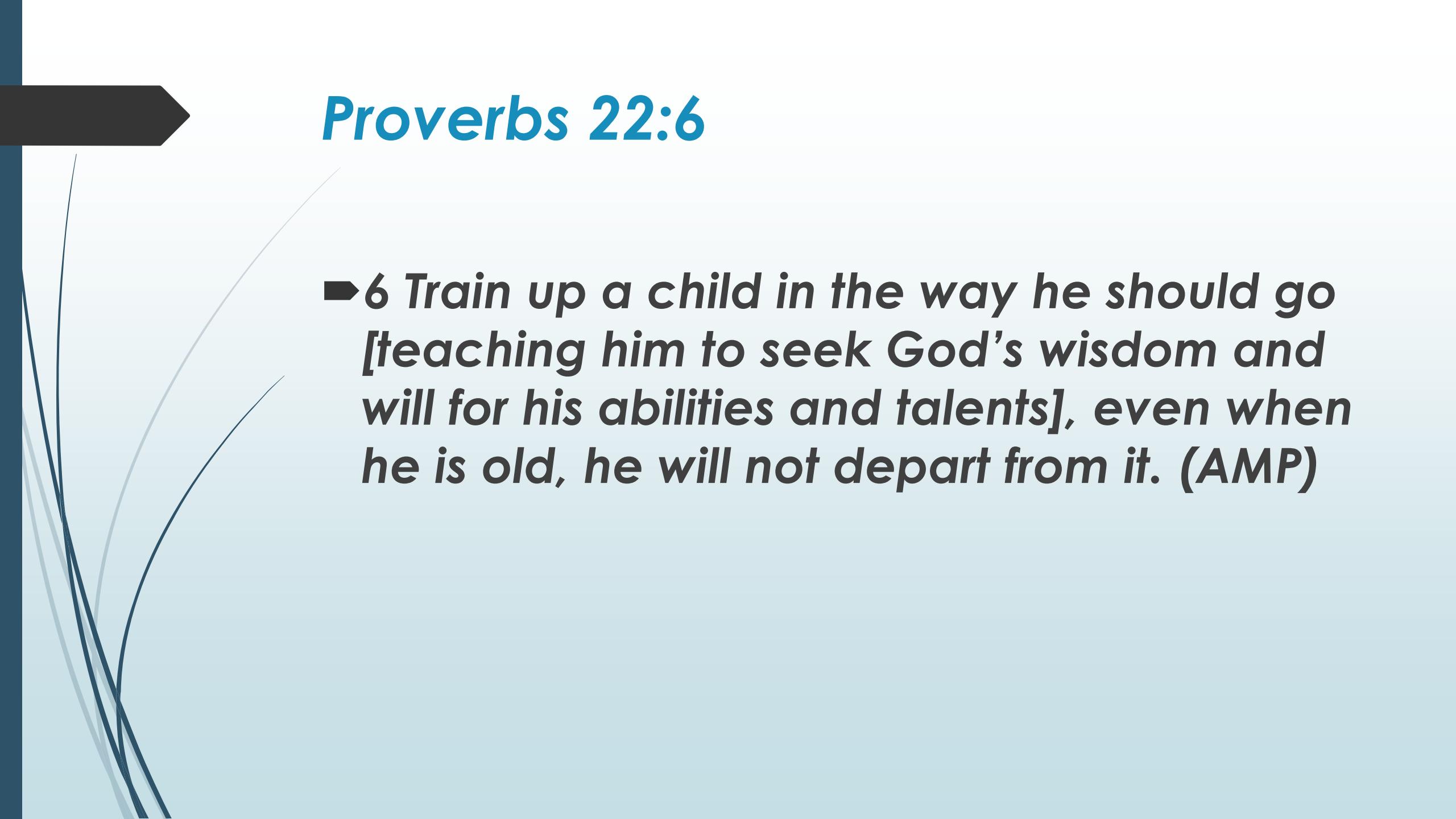
## *They Are Equipped*

► *Equipping is teaching plus application and implantation in their lives.*



## **Ephesians 6:4**

► **4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favoritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (AMP)**



## Proverbs 22:6

► ***6 Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], even when he is old, he will not depart from it. (AMP)***



## ***One Adult Made an Investment in Me***

- ***The last trait of those who remained in church was that someone besides their parents made a significant investment in their lives.***
- ***This is where none of us get to escape from this sermon, we all have a responsibility to invest in the lives of others.***