



THE
JOY
OF
CHRISTMAS STORIES

DR. BRIAN BENNETT, LEAD PASTOR



SERMON NOTES
PATHWAYVB.COM/FYI




“14 ‘YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY SET ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN. 15 NOR DO PEOPLE LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BASKET, BUT ON A STAND, AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO ALL IN THE HOUSE. 16 IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”

[MATTHEW 5:14-16 ESV]



the
ELF on the
SHELF

 **DASHER
DONUTS**

 DONUTS



SANTA MAIL
NORTH POLE EXPRESS DELIVERY
SANTA'S WORKSHOP

RECIPIENT: Kevin McCallister
ADDRESS: 671 Lincoln St Chicago, IL 60611

FOR OFFICIAL ELF USE ONLY
DELIVERY DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2023

DELIVERY METHOD:
 FRAGILE
 DELICATE
 BREAKABLE
 LIGHT
 HEAVY
 OVERSIZED

NO. _____ NOTIFY OVERNIGHT

APPROVED

Santa's Workshop
SANTA'S WORKSHOP
THE REINDEER



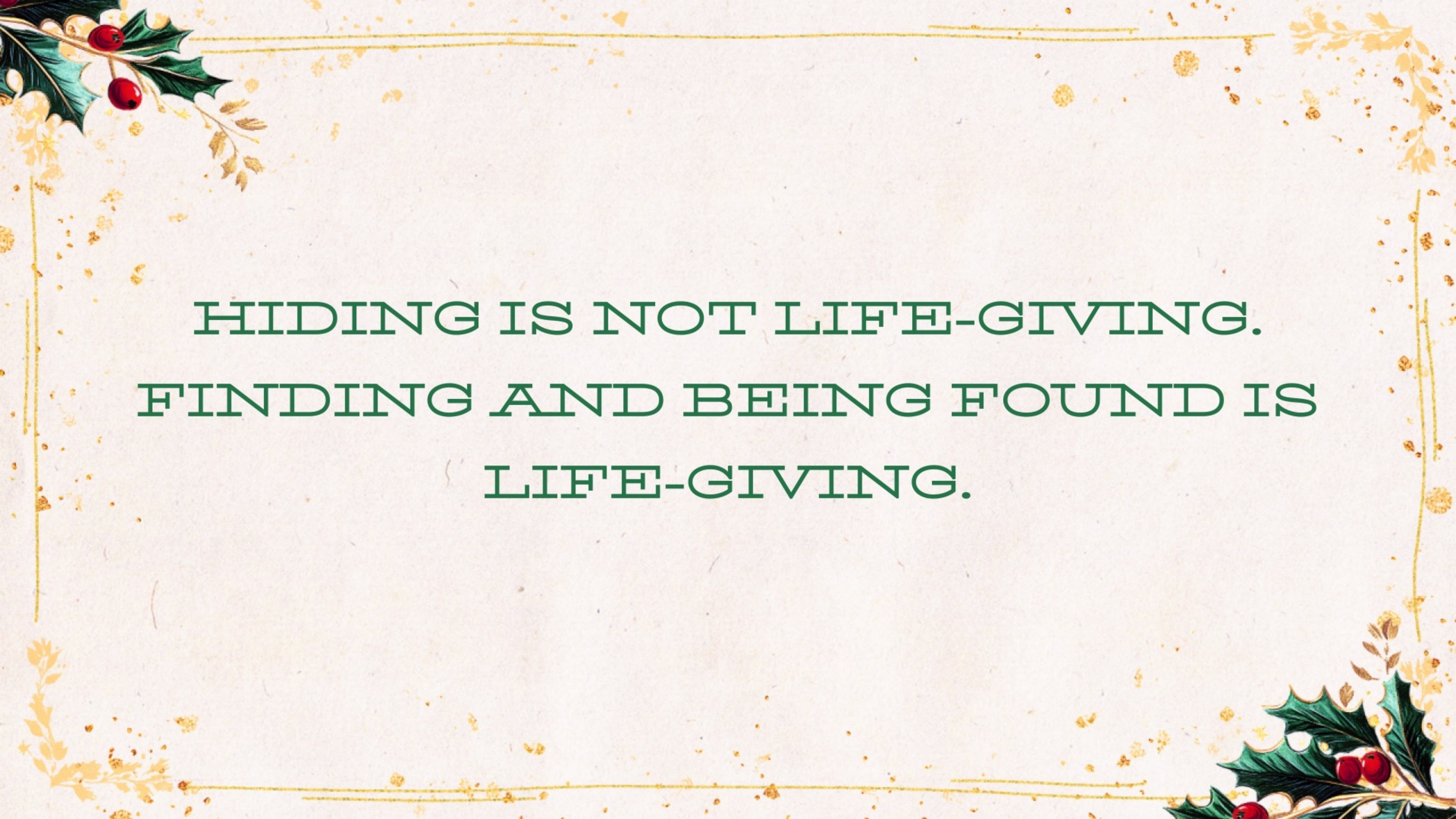


WWW.FINDINGMYSELFYOUNG.COM





**CAN YOU FIND
ALL 12 CANDY CANES?**

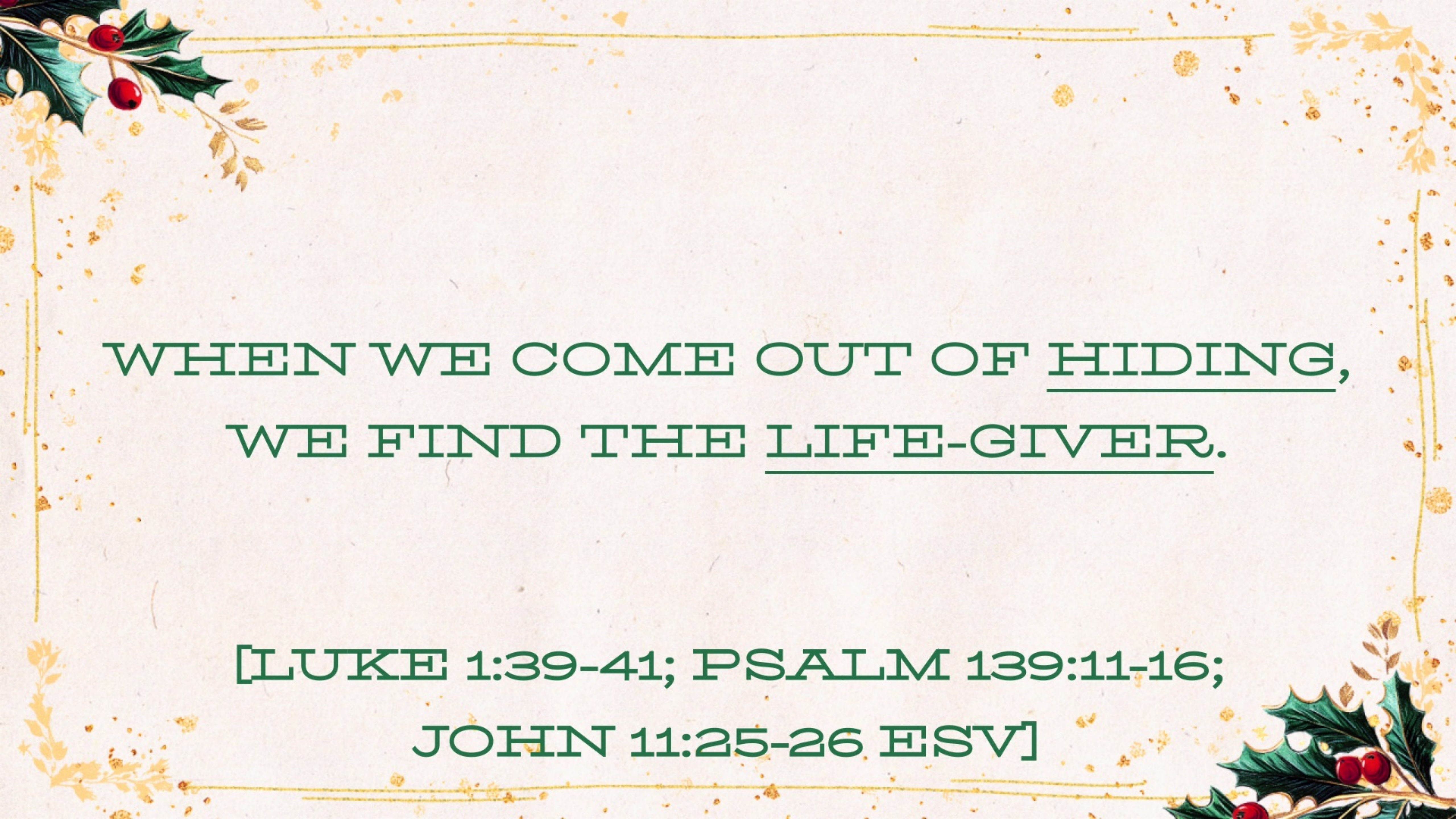


HIDING IS NOT LIFE-GIVING.
FINDING AND BEING FOUND IS
LIFE-GIVING.



“39 IN THOSE DAYS MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH
HASTE INTO THE HILL COUNTRY, TO A TOWN IN
JUDAH, 40 AND SHE ENTERED THE HOUSE OF
ZECHARIAH AND GREETED ELIZABETH“

[LUKE 1:39-40 ESV]

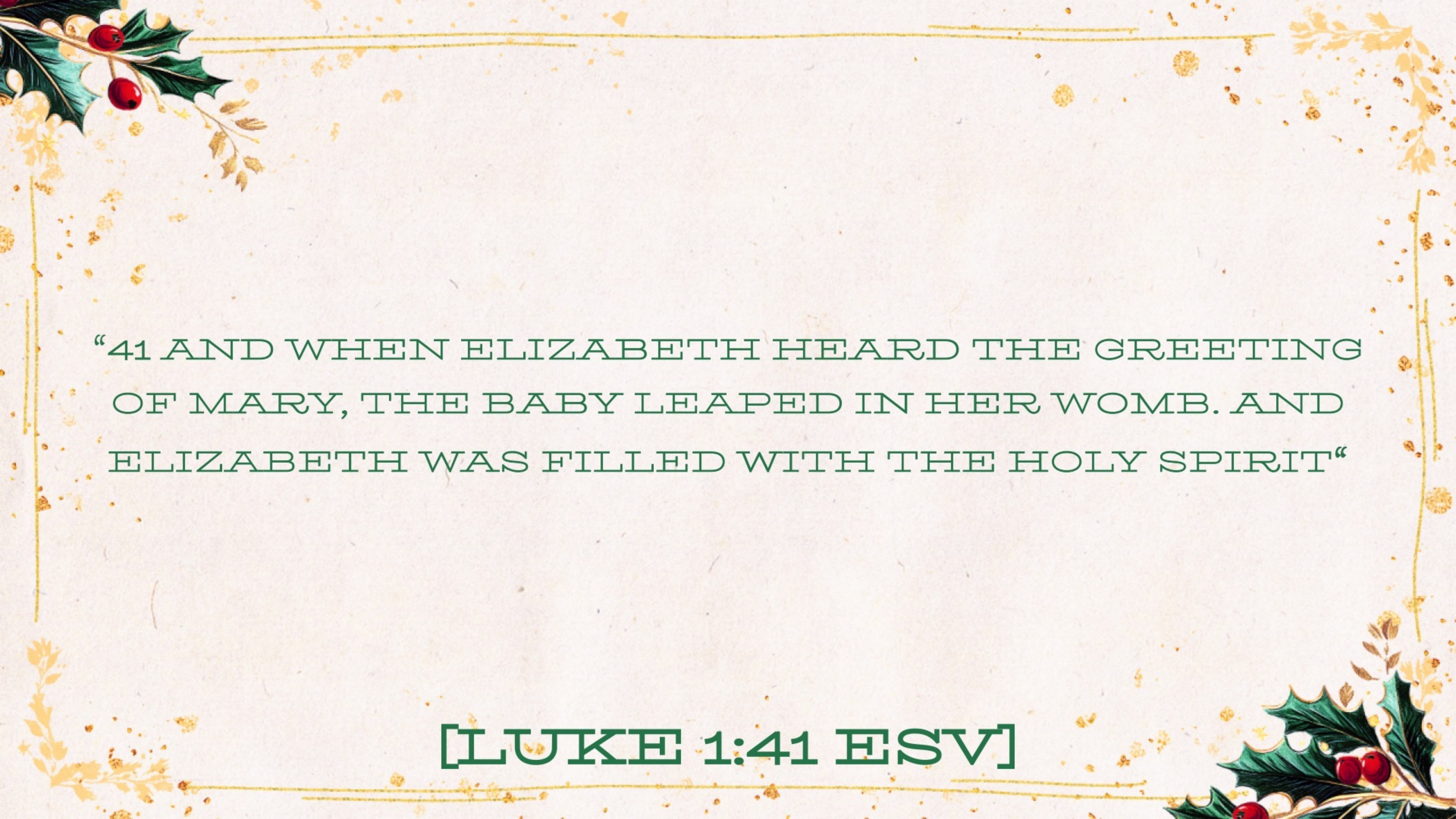


WHEN WE COME OUT OF HIDING,
WE FIND THE LIFE-GIVER.

[LUKE 1:39-41; PSALM 139:11-16;
JOHN 11:25-26 ESV]

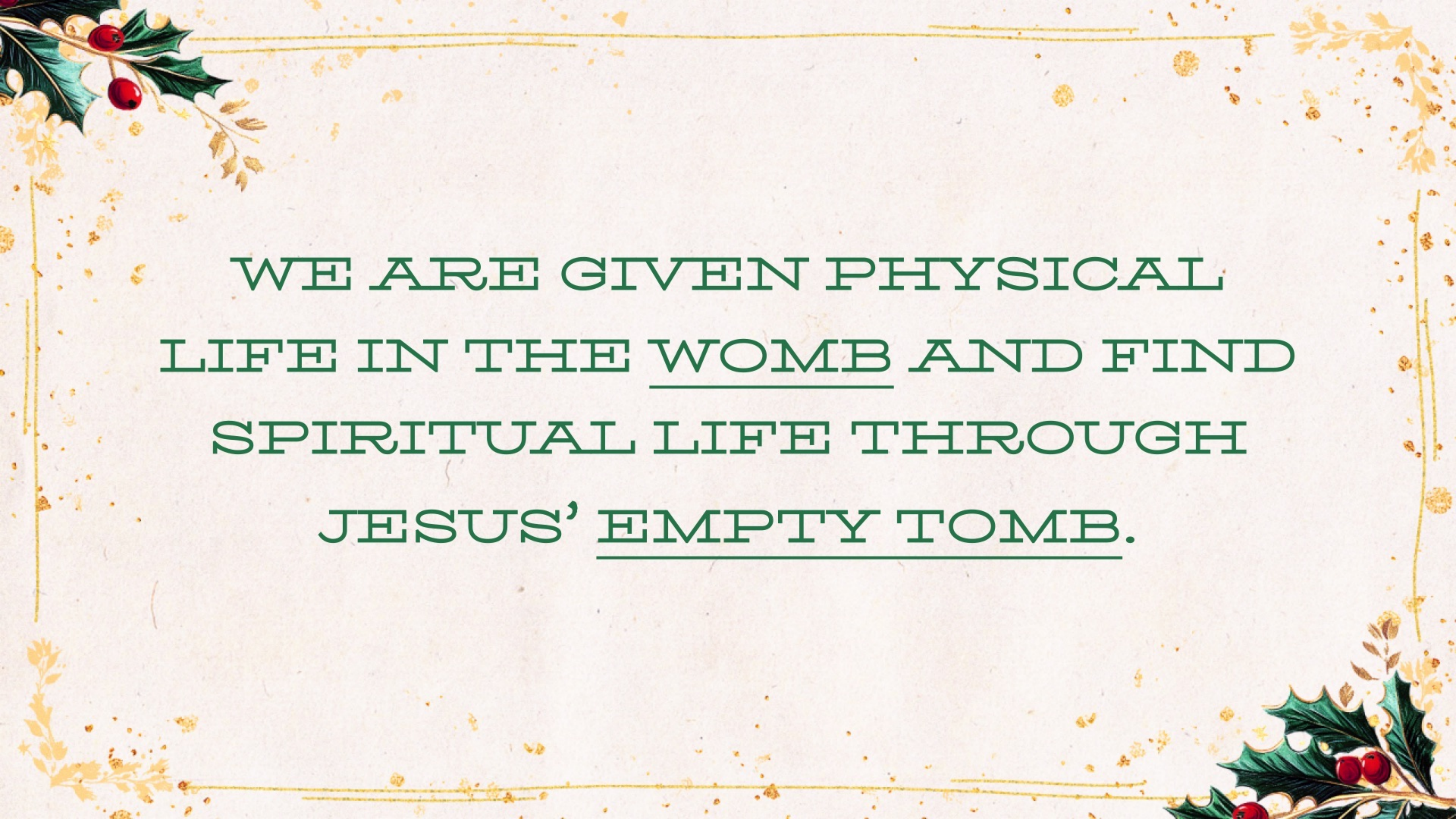


WE ARE CREATED TO BE IN A
LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITY.





“41 AND WHEN ELIZABETH HEARD THE GREETING
OF MARY, THE BABY LEAPED IN HER WOMB. AND
ELIZABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

[LUKE 1:41 ESV]



WE ARE GIVEN PHYSICAL
LIFE IN THE WOMB AND FIND
SPIRITUAL LIFE THROUGH
JESUS' EMPTY TOMB.



“I PRAISE YOU, FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE. WONDERFUL ARE YOUR
WORKS; MY SOUL KNOWS IT VERY WELL. 15 MY
FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU, WHEN I WAS
BEING MADE IN SECRET, INTRICATELY WOVEN IN
THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH. 16 YOUR EYES SAW MY
UNFORMED SUBSTANCE; IN YOUR BOOK WERE
WRITTEN, EVERY ONE OF THEM, THE DAYS THAT
WERE FORMED FOR ME, WHEN AS YET THERE WAS
NONE OF THEM. “

[PSALM 139:14-16 ESV]



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“25 JESUS SAID TO HER, “I AM THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH
HE DIE, YET SHALL HE LIVE, 26 AND EVERYONE WHO
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. DO
YOU BELIEVE THIS?”

[JOHN 11:25-26 ESV]





“NUMBER ONE IN YOUR LIFE’S
BLUEPRINT SHOULD BE A
DEEP BELIEF IN YOUR OWN
DIGNITY, YOUR WORTH, AND
YOUR OWN “SOMEBODINESS”

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



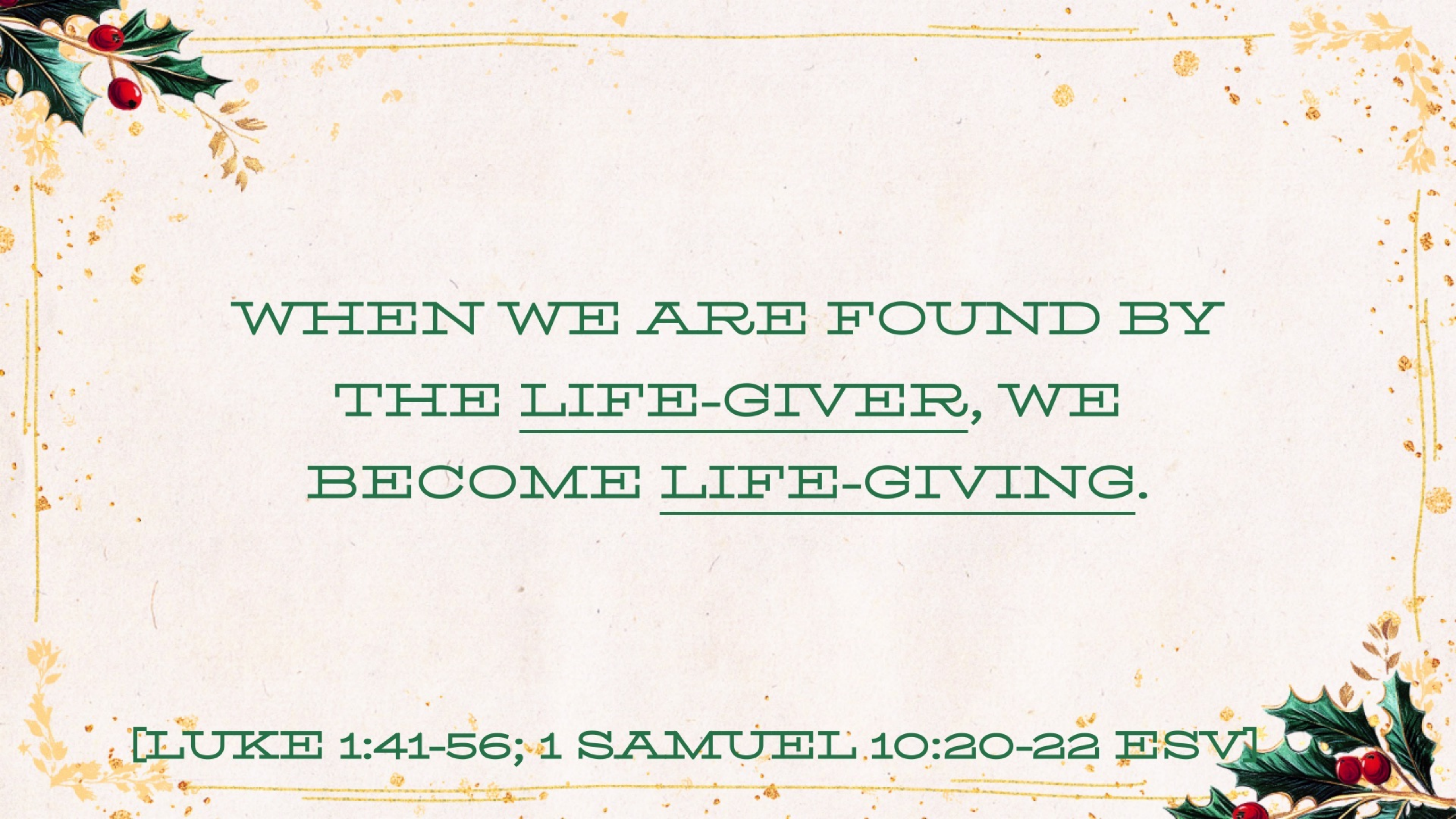
“20 THEN SAMUEL BROUGHT ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL NEAR, AND THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN WAS TAKEN BY LOT. 21 HE BROUGHT THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN NEAR BY ITS CLANS, AND THE CLAN OF THE MATRITES WAS TAKEN BY LOT; AND SAUL THE SON OF KISH WAS TAKEN BY LOT. BUT WHEN THEY SOUGHT HIM, HE COULD NOT BE FOUND. 22 SO THEY INQUIRED AGAIN OF THE LORD, “IS THERE A MAN STILL TO COME?” AND THE LORD SAID, “BEHOLD, HE HAS HIDDEN HIMSELF AMONG THE BAGGAGE.”

[1 SAMUEL 10:20-22 ESV]





“24 AFTER THESE DAYS HIS WIFE ELIZABETH
CONCEIVED, AND FOR FIVE MONTHS SHE KEPT
HERSELF HIDDEN, SAYING, 25 “THUS THE LORD HAS
DONE FOR ME IN THE DAYS WHEN HE LOOKED ON
ME, TO TAKE AWAY MY REPROACH AMONG PEOPLE.”

[LUKE 1:24-25 ESV]



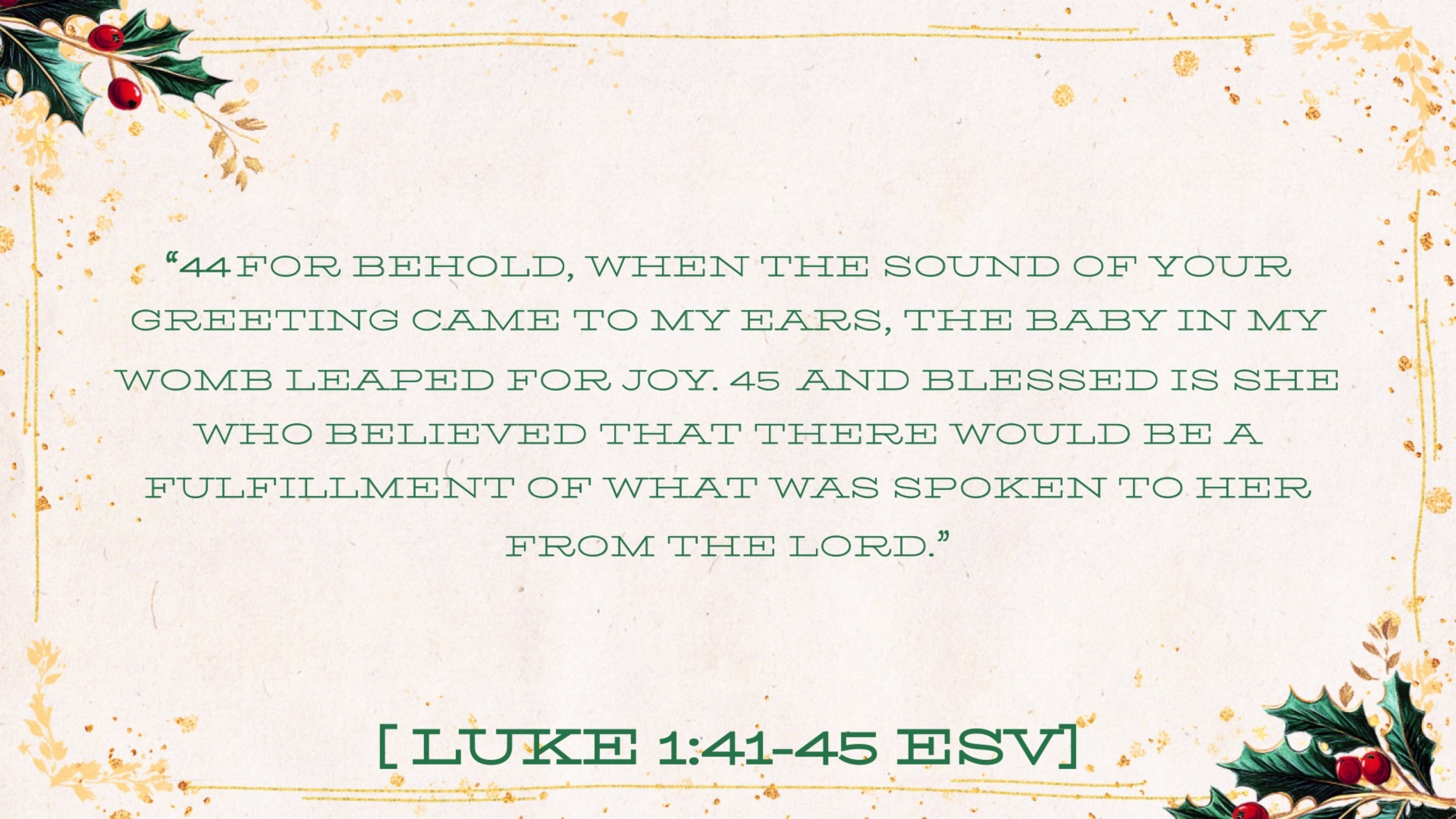
WHEN WE ARE FOUND BY
THE LIFE-GIVER, WE
BECOME LIFE-GIVING.

[LUKE 1:41-56; 1 SAMUEL 10:20-22 ESV]



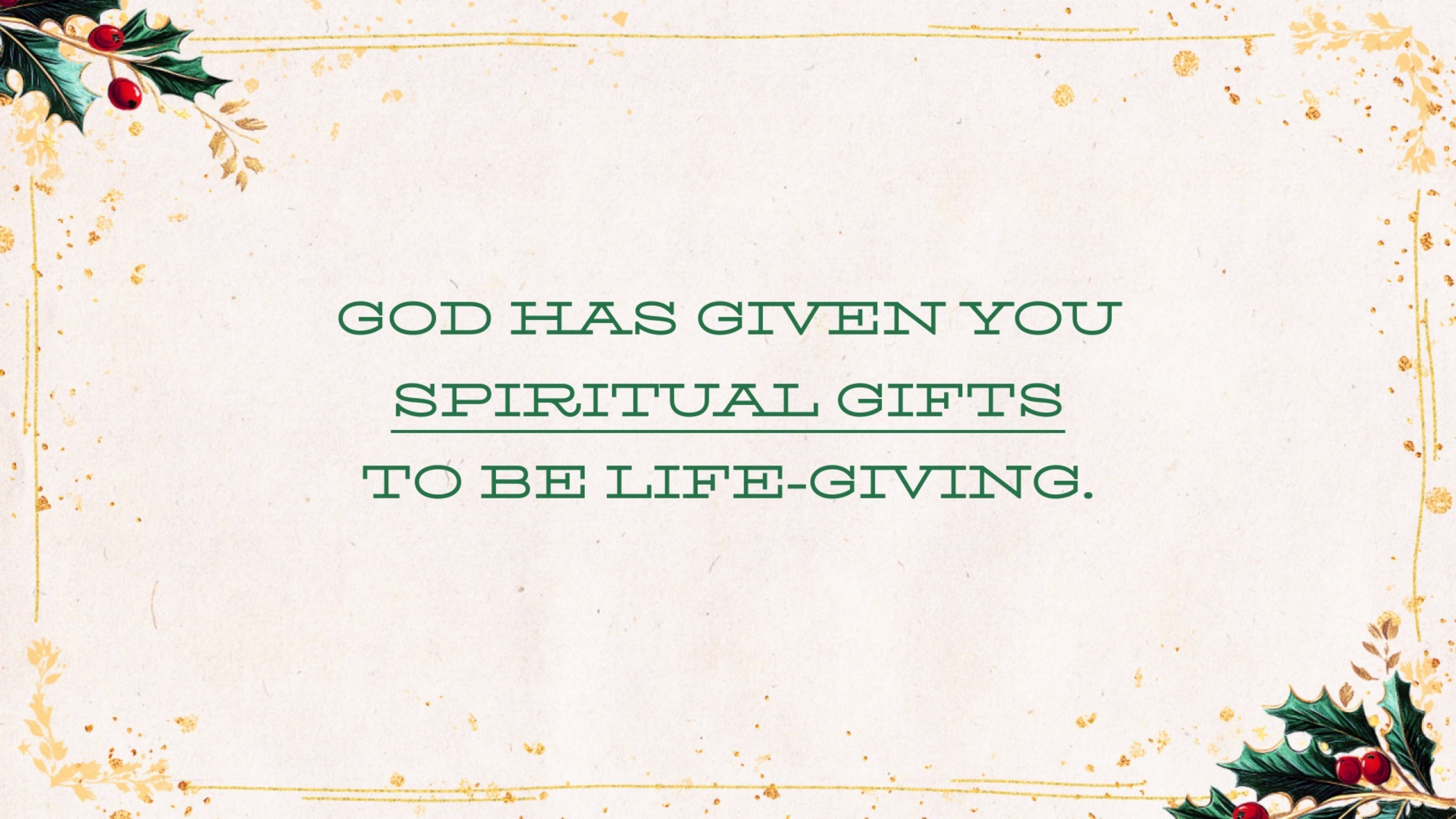
“41 AND WHEN ELIZABETH HEARD THE GREETING
OF MARY, THE BABY LEAPED IN HER WOMB. AND
ELIZABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY
SPIRIT, 42 AND SHE EXCLAIMED WITH A LOUD CRY,
“BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED
IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB! 43 AND WHY IS THIS
GRANTED TO ME THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD
SHOULD COME TO ME?”

[LUKE 1:41-45 ESV]

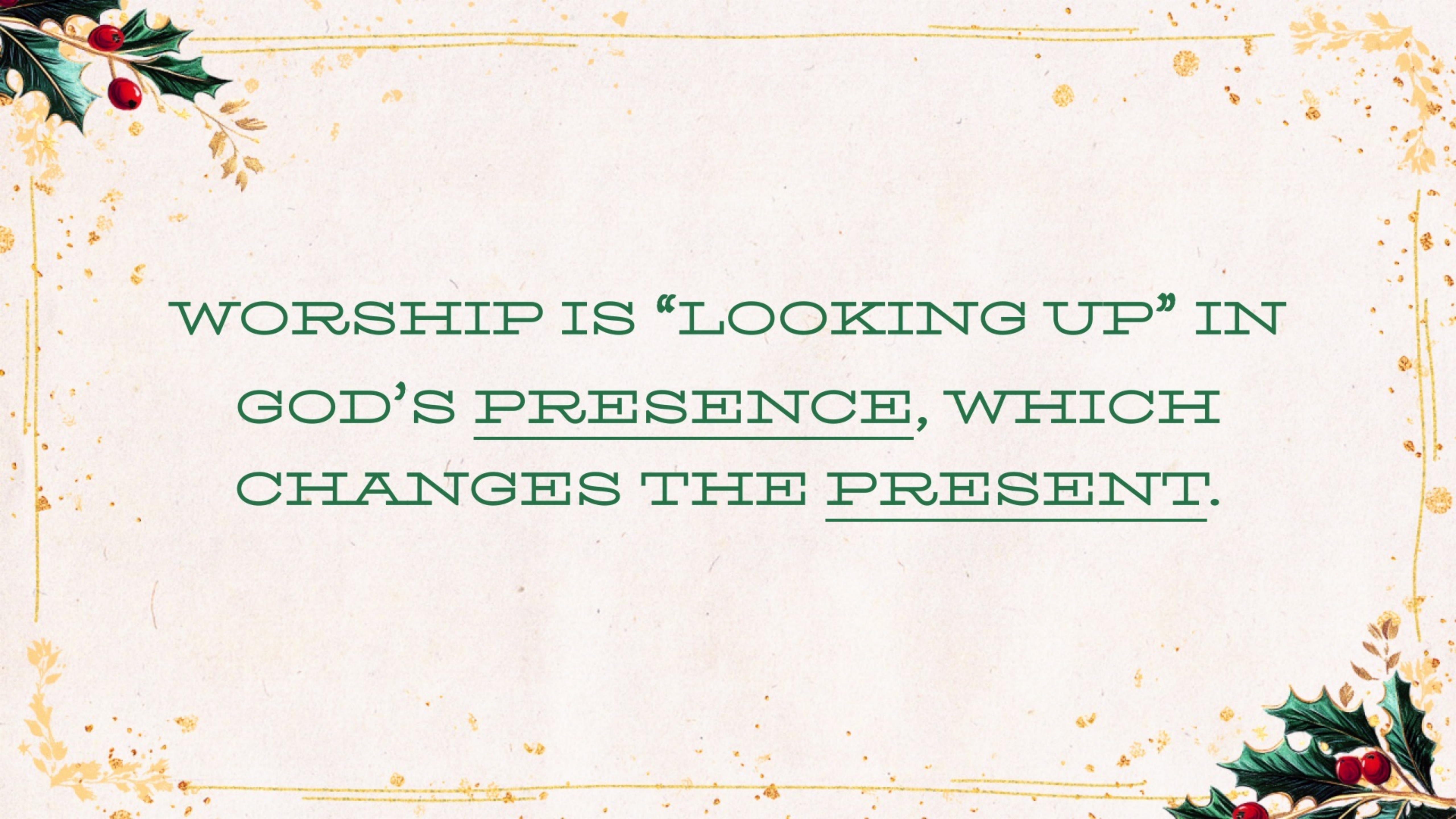


“44 FOR BEHOLD, WHEN THE SOUND OF YOUR
GREETING CAME TO MY EARS, THE BABY IN MY
WOMB LEAPED FOR JOY. 45 AND BLESSED IS SHE
WHO BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE A
FULFILLMENT OF WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO HER
FROM THE LORD.”

[LUKE 1:41-45 ESV]





GOD HAS GIVEN YOU
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
TO BE LIFE-GIVING.



WORSHIP IS “LOOKING UP” IN
GOD’S PRESENCE, WHICH
CHANGES THE PRESENT.











“YOU KNOW MY GREATEST CONCERN ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA IS THAT THEY STAND IN AWE OF NOTHING. MY CONCERN IS THAT AWE IS NECESSARY FOR HEALTHY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT...AWE IS PERCEIVED VASTNESS THAT REQUIRES ACCOMMODATION”

- JONATHAN HAIDT



“46 AND MARY SAID, “MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE
LORD, 47 AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY
SAVIOR, 48 FOR HE HAS LOOKED ON THE HUMBLE
ESTATE OF HIS SERVANT. FOR BEHOLD, FROM NOW
ON ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED;
49 FOR HE WHO IS MIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT
THINGS FOR ME, AND HOLY IS HIS NAME. 50 AND HIS
MERCY IS FOR THOSE WHO FEAR HIM FROM
GENERATION TO GENERATION. 51 HE HAS SHOWN
STRENGTH WITH HIS ARM; HE HAS SCATTERED
THE PROUD IN THE THOUGHTS OF THEIR HEARTS;

[LUKE 1:46-56 ESV]



“52 HE HAS BROUGHT DOWN THE MIGHTY FROM
THEIR THRONES AND EXALTED THOSE OF HUMBLE
ESTATE; 53 HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH
GOOD THINGS, AND THE RICH HE HAS SENT AWAY
EMPTY. 54 HE HAS HELPED HIS SERVANT ISRAEL,
IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MERCY, 55 AS HE SPOKE
TO OUR FATHERS, TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS
OFFSPRING FOREVER.” 56 AND MARY REMAINED
WITH HER ABOUT THREE MONTHS AND RETURNED
TO HER HOME.”

[LUKE 1:46-56 ESV]

Top Songs

10 attributes of God

1



GOD IS LORD

5,979 minutes

2



GOD IS MY SAVIOR

3,671 minutes

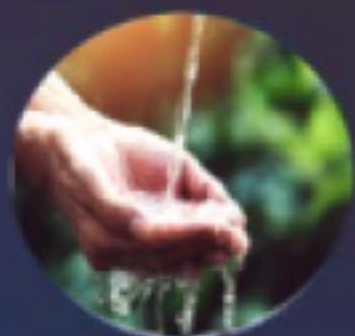
3



GOD SEES ME

2,958 minutes

4



GOD REDEEMS ME

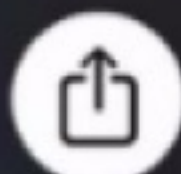
2,922 minutes

5



GOD IS MIGHTY
AND HOLY

2,303 minutes



Top Songs

10 attributes of God

6



GOD IS MERCIFUL TO
THOSE WHO FEAR HIM

5,979 minutes

7



GOD IS POWERFUL
AND JUST

3,671 minutes

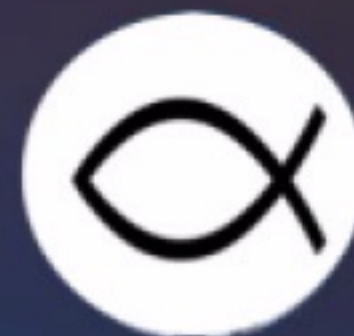
8



GOD IS GENEROUS

2,958 minutes

9



GOD IS A HELPER

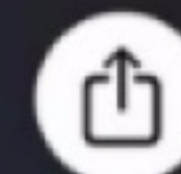
2,922 minutes

10



GOD IS HISTORICALLY
FAITHFUL

2,303 minutes



MARY'S PLAYLIST





NEXT STEP
QUESTIONS:

DO YOU KNOW THE LIFE-GIVER AND
ARE YOU LIFE-GIVING?





NEXT STEP
QUESTIONS:

ARE YOU HIDING FROM COMMUNITY,
FROM GOD, OR FROM USING YOUR
SPIRITUAL GIFTS?





NEXT STEP
QUESTIONS:

WILL YOU CHOOSE TO WORRY LESS
AND WORSHIP MORE, LIKE MARY?



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