

# Elephants, Ostriches & Cows, Oh My



Thom Cunningham

1/26/2024







—

**Worry often gives a  
small thing a big  
shadow.**

**– Swedish Proverb**

Thinking of your congregation: What are they most anxious about? Try two-word phrases.

61 responses



# Breakout questions

1

Choose one thing that has you most anxious/concerned about today's church.

2

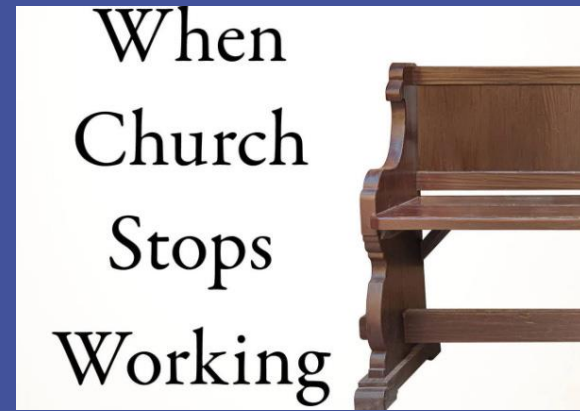
Why does it concern you so much?

3

Take three minutes each to share your concerns with your partner.



## Andrew Root



“Let’s start with the bad news, your church is sick. But, that isn’t the worst part of it. We believe that someone has misdiagnosed it. The treatment plan commonly prescribed — effective innovation — will only cause your church to remain sick. . . The problem is not decline. The problem is that the secular age has infected it.”







# Modernity as Acceleration

Hartmut Rosa

## Social Acceleration

- Technological (Decay Rate)
- Social Change (Moral Codes),
- Pace of Life

# Scarcity Vs. Abundance Mindset




Zeitkrankheit - Time Sickness



How has the church  
bought into the secular  
acceleration values?



**Let's pause and take a breath**

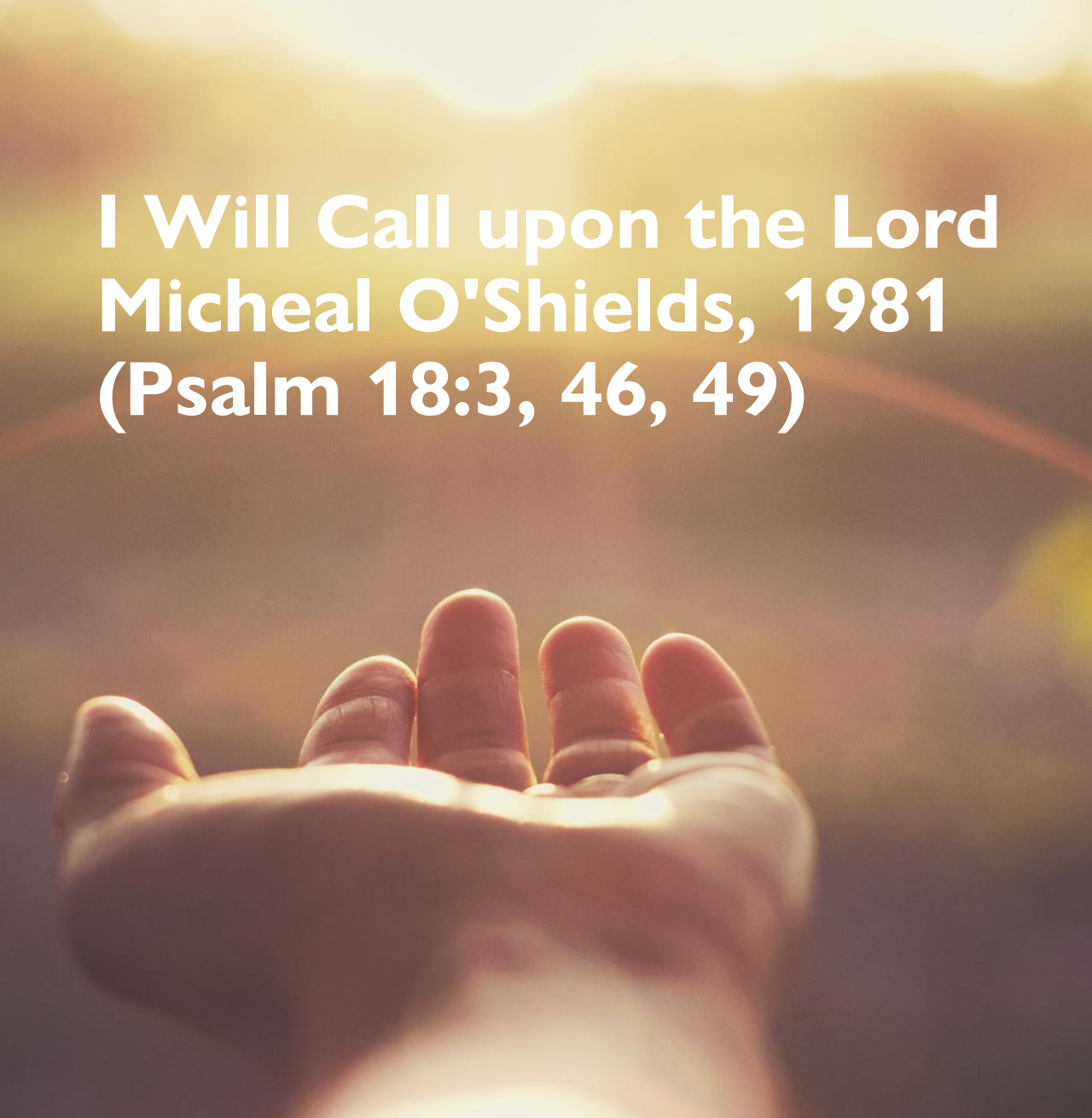


We will wait upon the Lord,  
who is worthy to be praised.  
So, shall we be saved from our anxiety.

## Chorus

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock  
and let the God of my salvation be exalted!

{X2}



**I Will Call upon the Lord**  
**Micheal O'Shields, 1981**  
**(Psalm 18:3, 46, 49)**

# Stories from the Bible



“Surly the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not”

Genesis 28:16



“Then Abraham (and Sarah) waited patiently, and he received what God had promised”

Hebrews 6:15

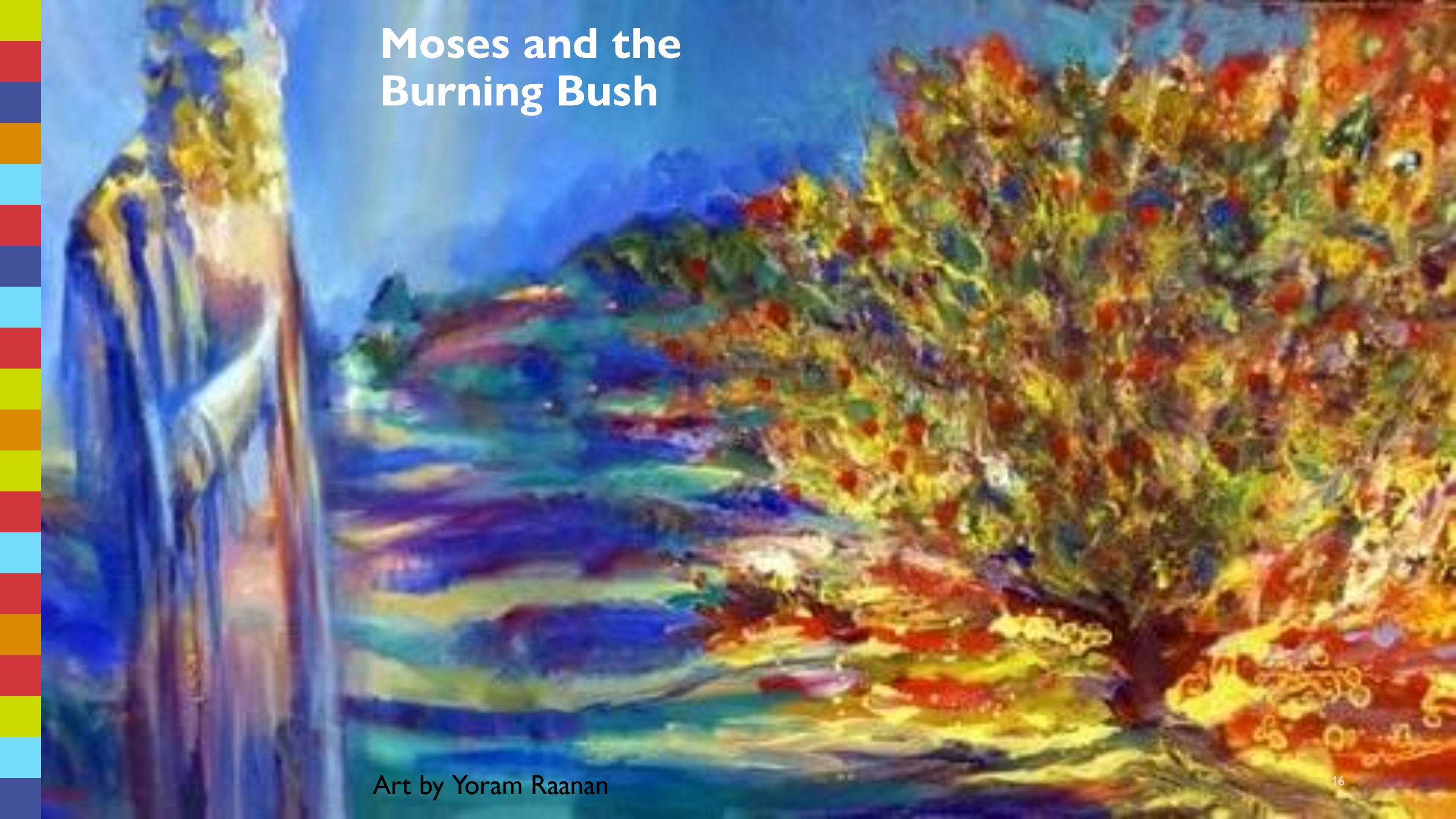


Disciple choose Matthias  
God Choose Saul

Acts 1:21–26

# Moses and the Burning Bush

Art by Yoram Raanan





# What does it mean for us to wait upon the Lord?



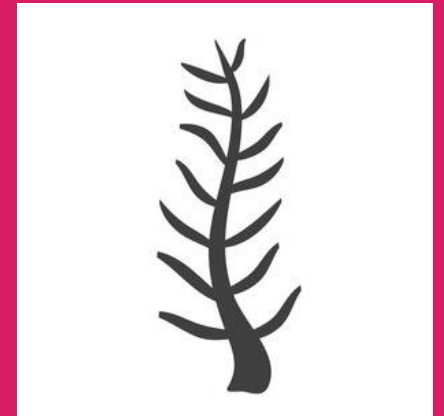
To Hope

7/13/20XX



To Anticipate

*Traditional Chinese Character*



To Trust

*Traditional Ghanaian Character*



✓  
Read!

WHY

HOW

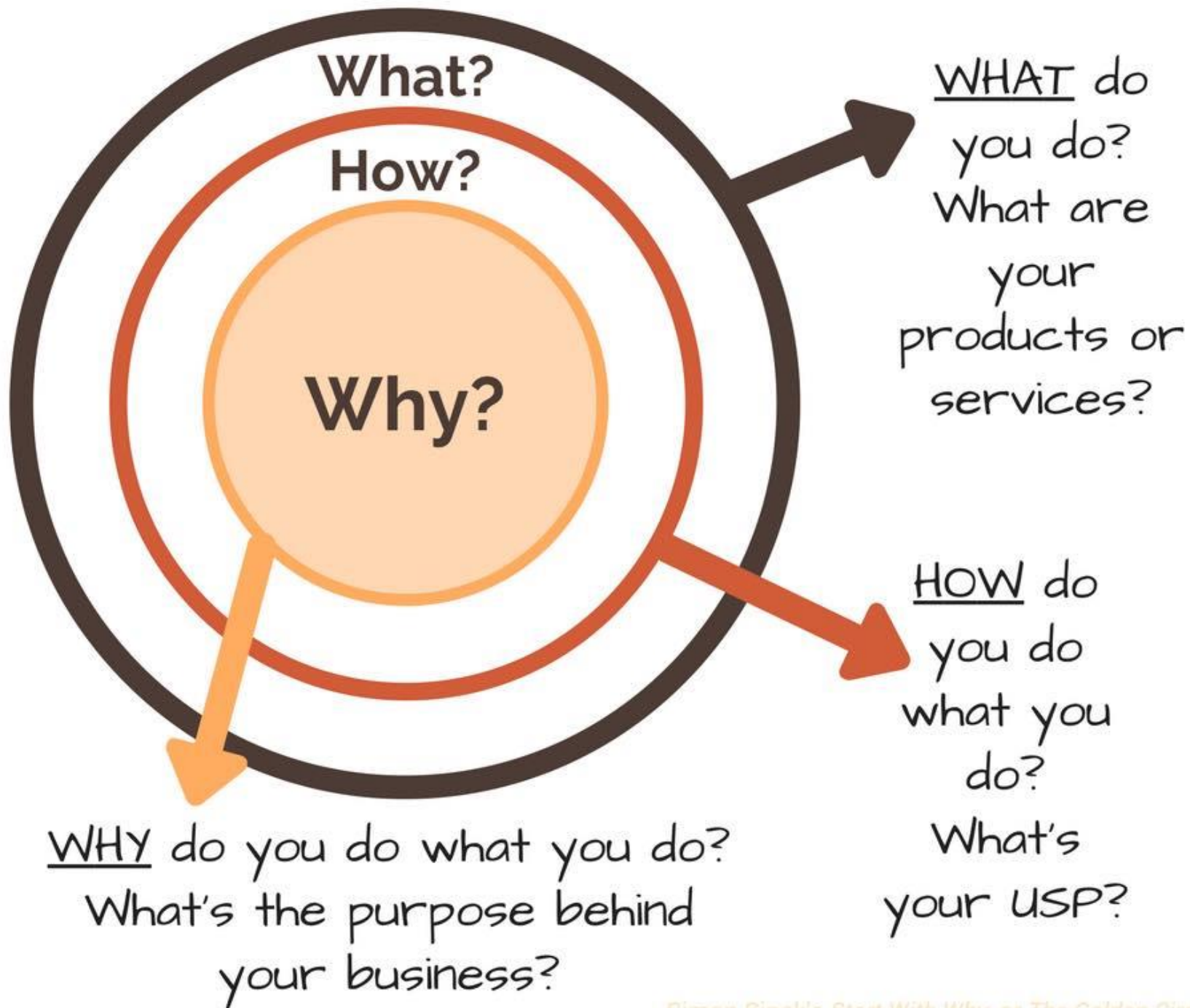
WHAT

CLASSIC

✗  
Read!

I hate  
reading

# Start with Why by Simon Sinek





■

## What is your “Why” for being a Church Educator?

*“But they who wait for the  
Lord shall renew their  
strength; they shall mount up  
with wings like eagles; they  
shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.”  
(ESV)*

**Isaiah 40:31**

**Thank you**

