

TELLING *THE STORY*

[OR]

WHAT IN THE WORLD
IS GOD DOING?

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Story telling in general
 - *of Jesus*
 - *of the whole Bible*
- Q & A



INTROS

- Christopher Haun
- Trish
- Four Teenagers!



Job



Hobbies



The
HARVEST
HANDBOOK™
OF
APOLOGETICS

JOSEPH M. HOLDEN
GENERAL EDITOR

Foreword by RAVI ZACHARIAS



APOLOGETICS?

“... but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a **defense** [*apologia*] to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

1 Peter 3:15

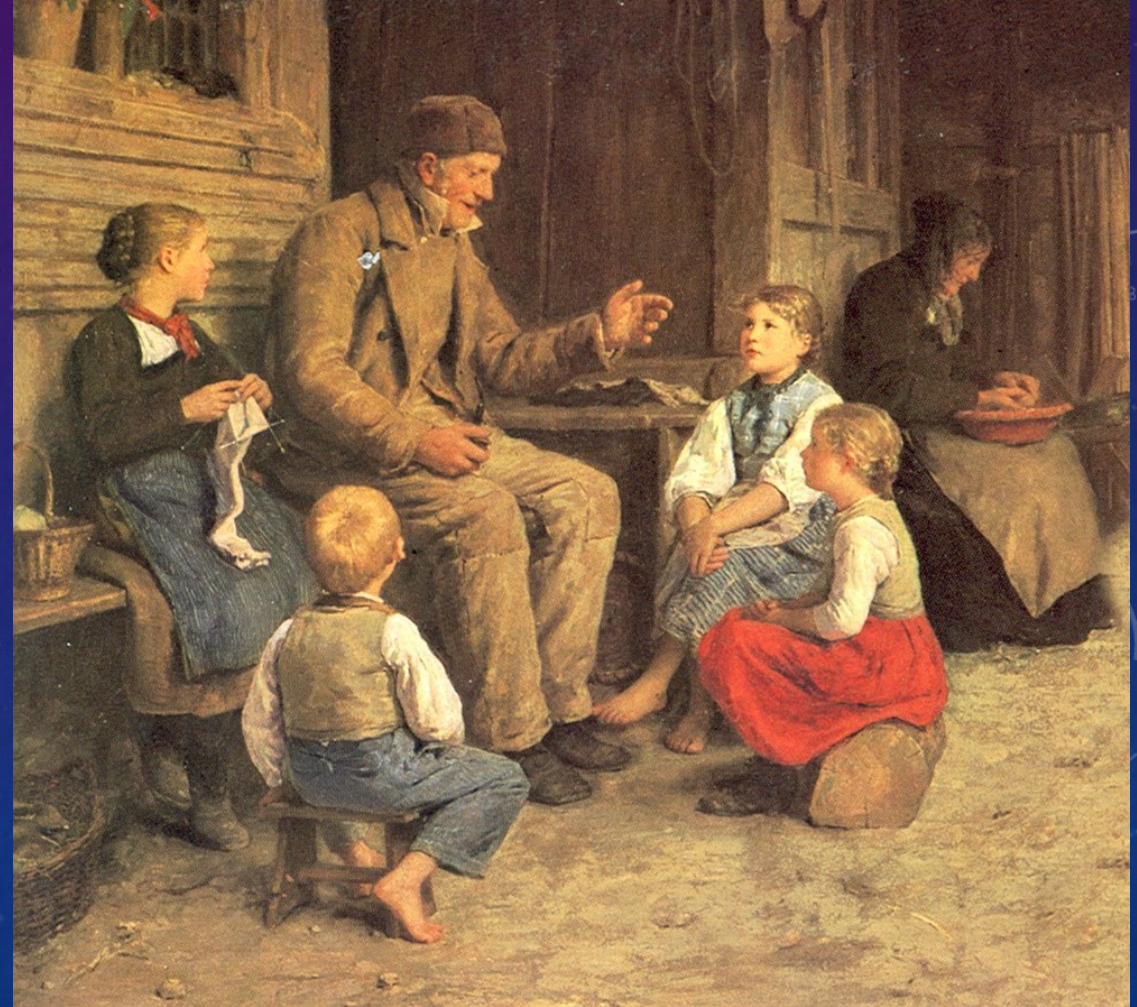


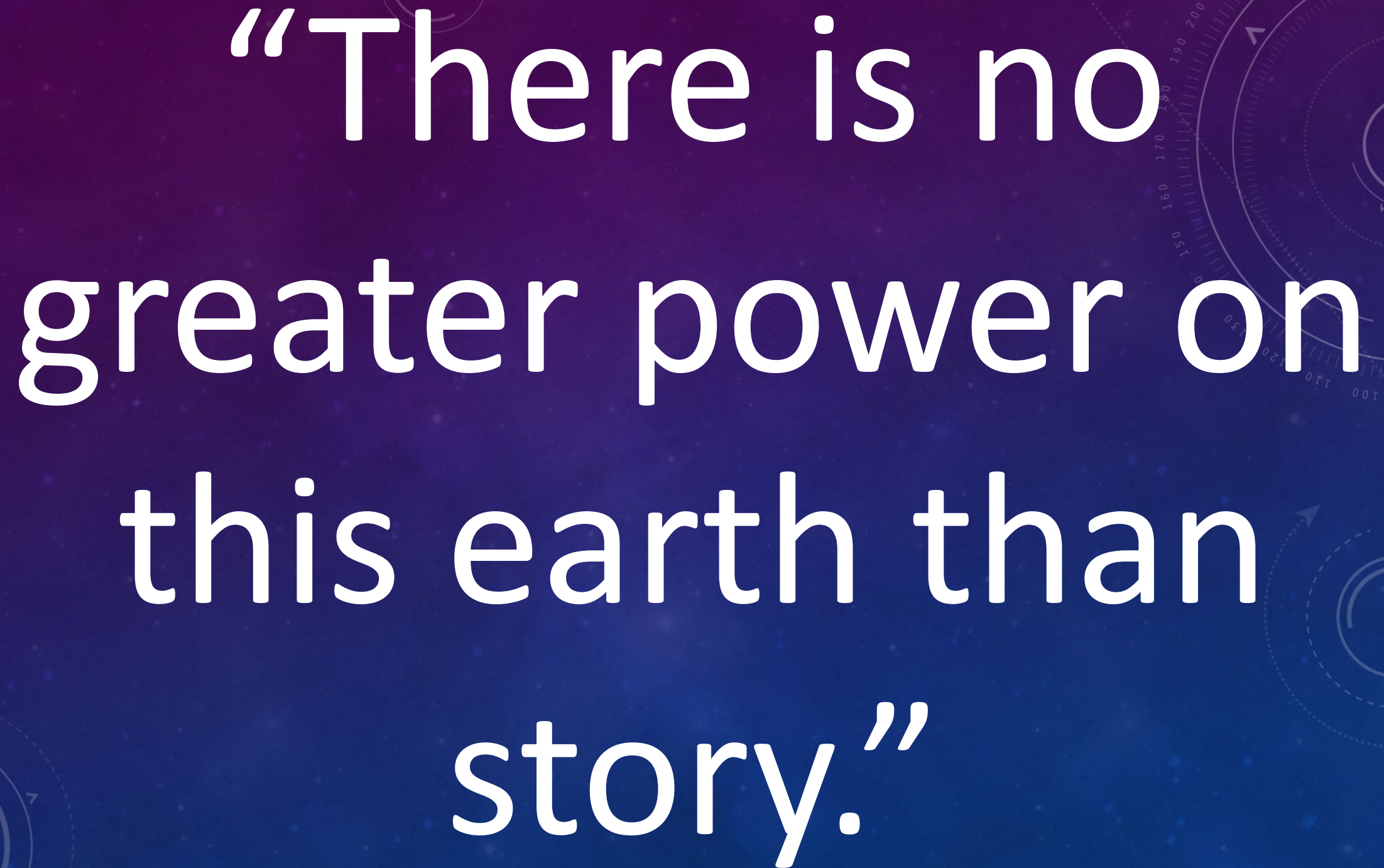


ONCE UPON A TIME...

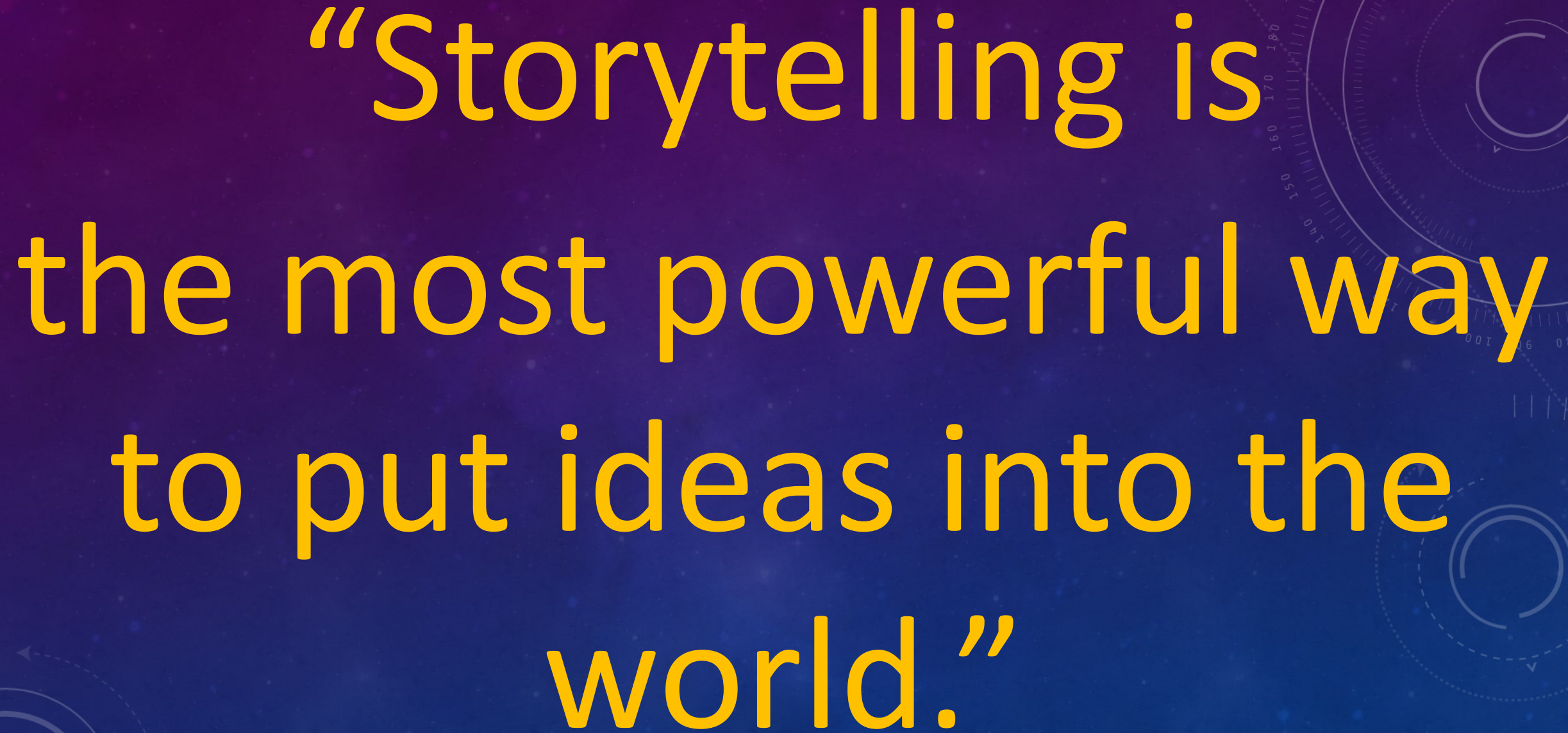




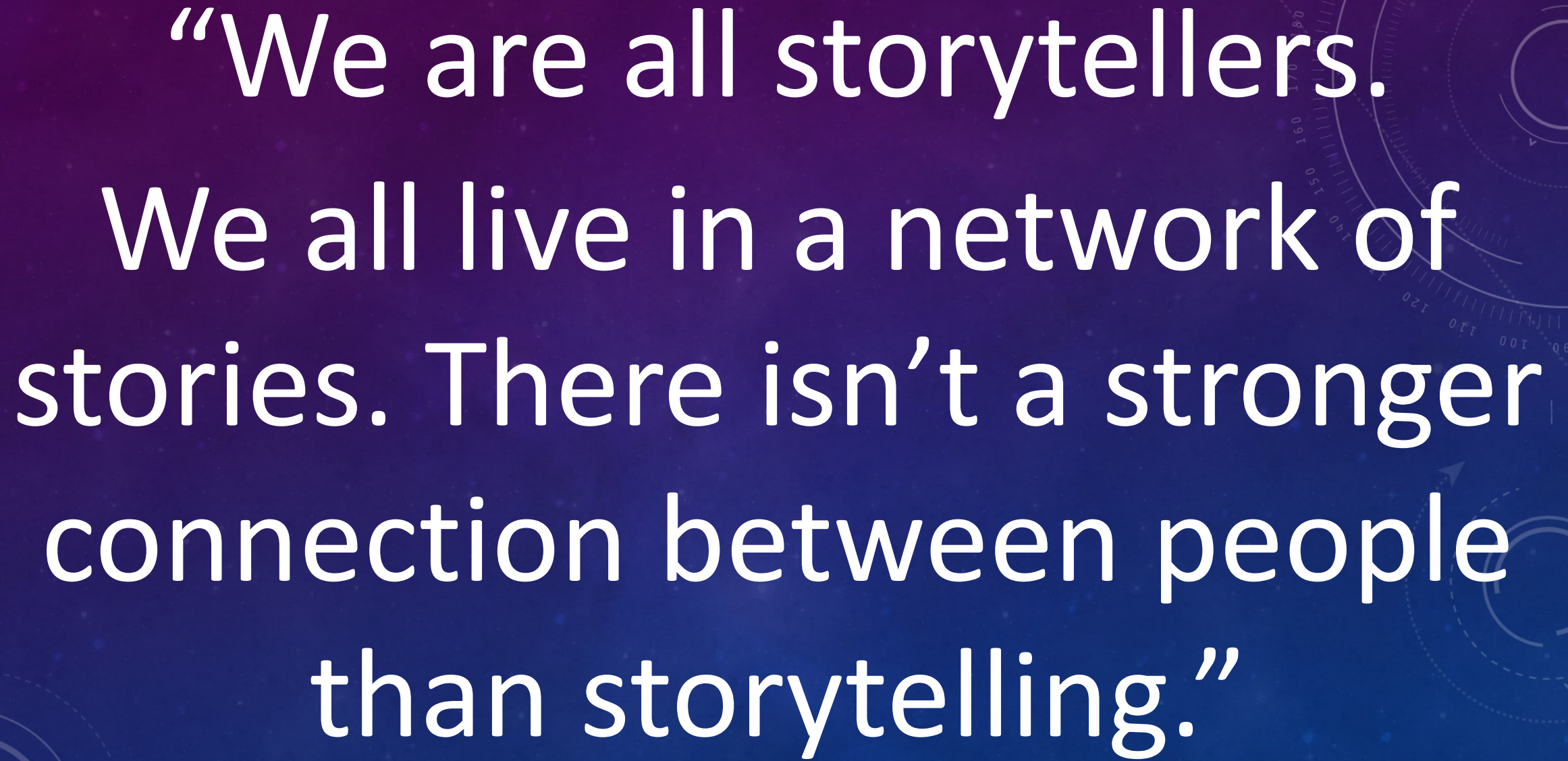


The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue technical diagrams. These include circular gauges with numerical scales (e.g., 0, 80, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) and various circular paths, some solid and some dashed, with arrows indicating direction. The text is centered and reads:

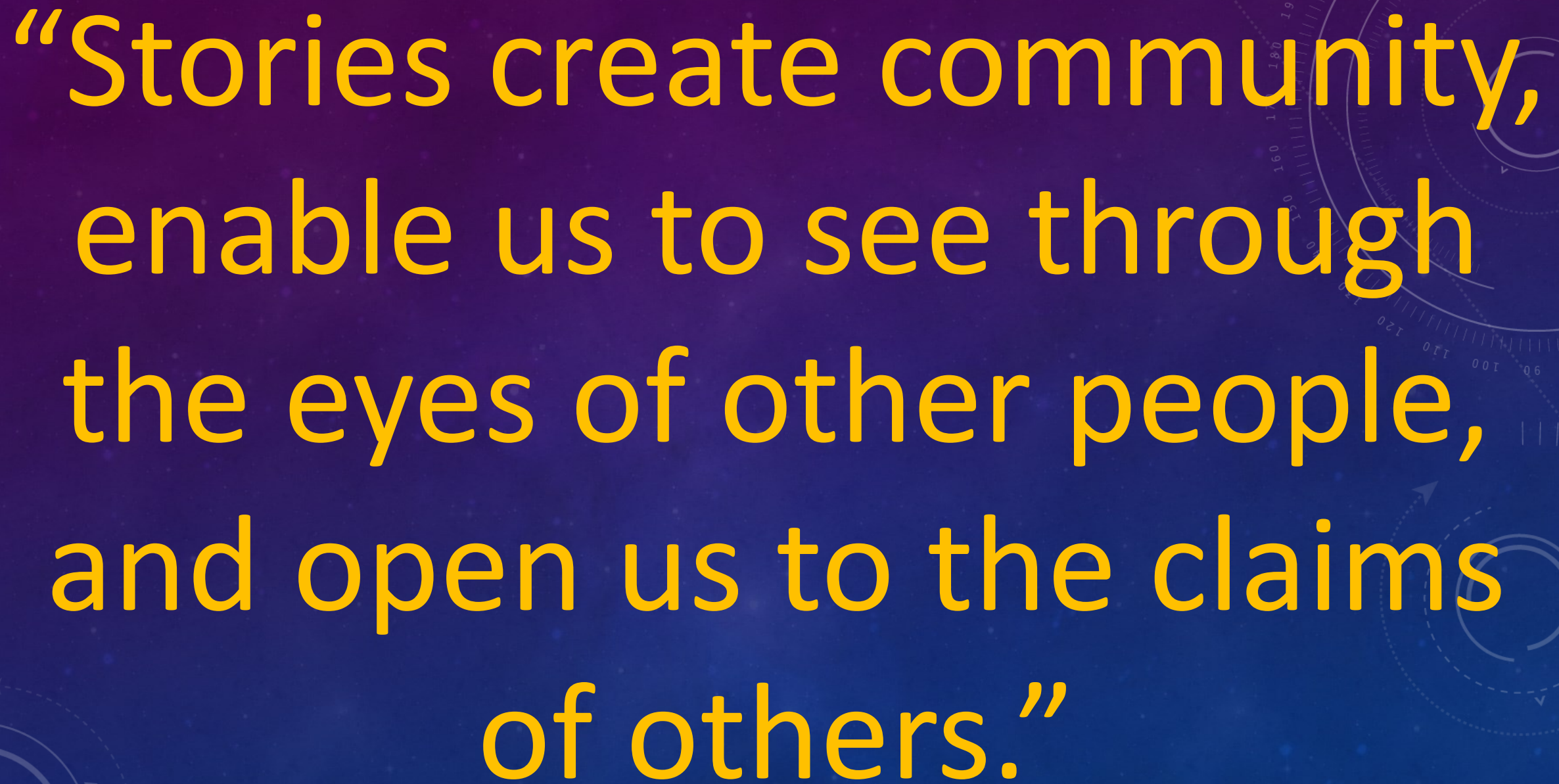
“There is no greater power on this earth than story.”



“Storytelling is
the most powerful way
to put ideas into the
world.”



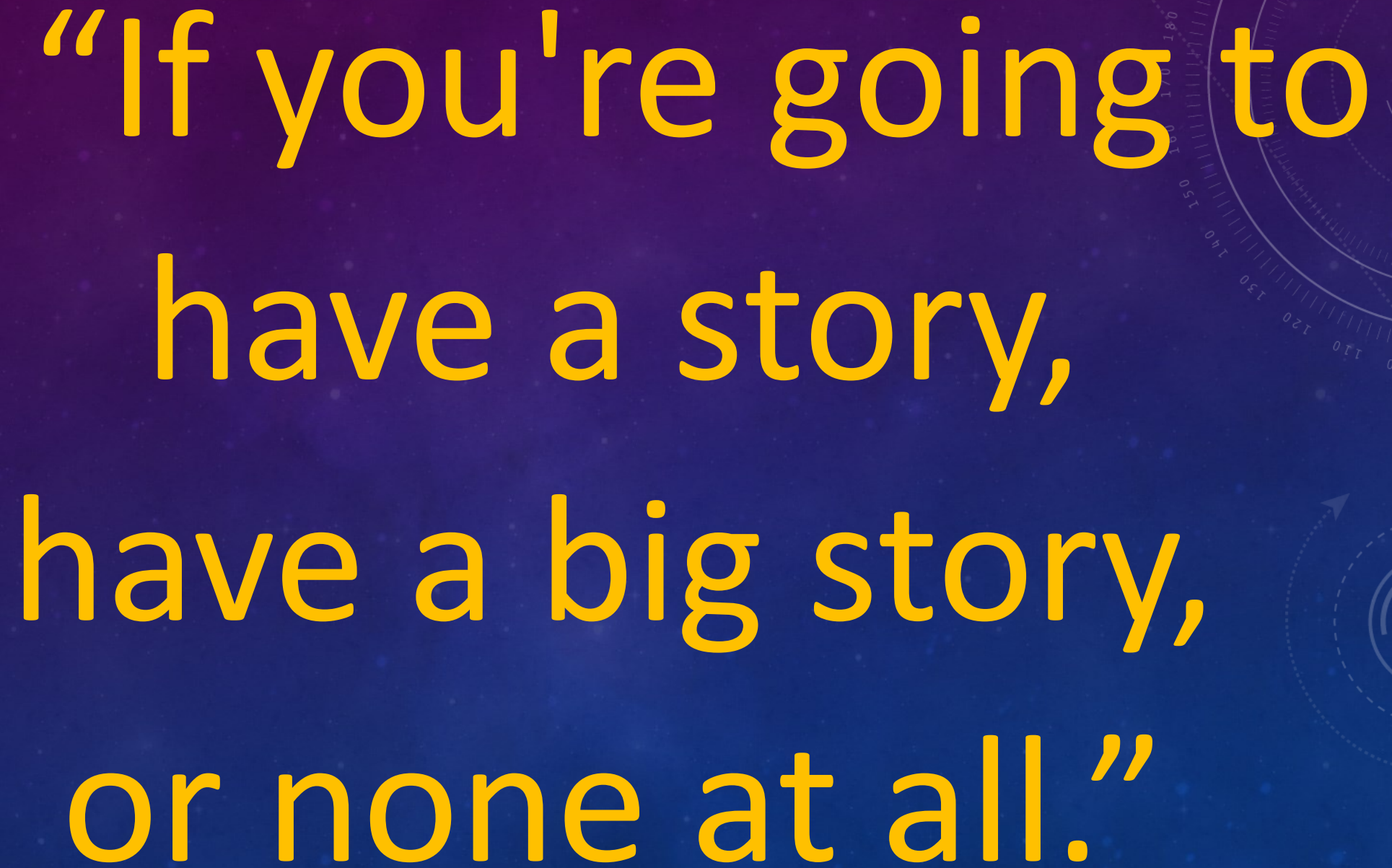
“We are all storytellers.
We all live in a network of
stories. There isn’t a stronger
connection between people
than storytelling.”



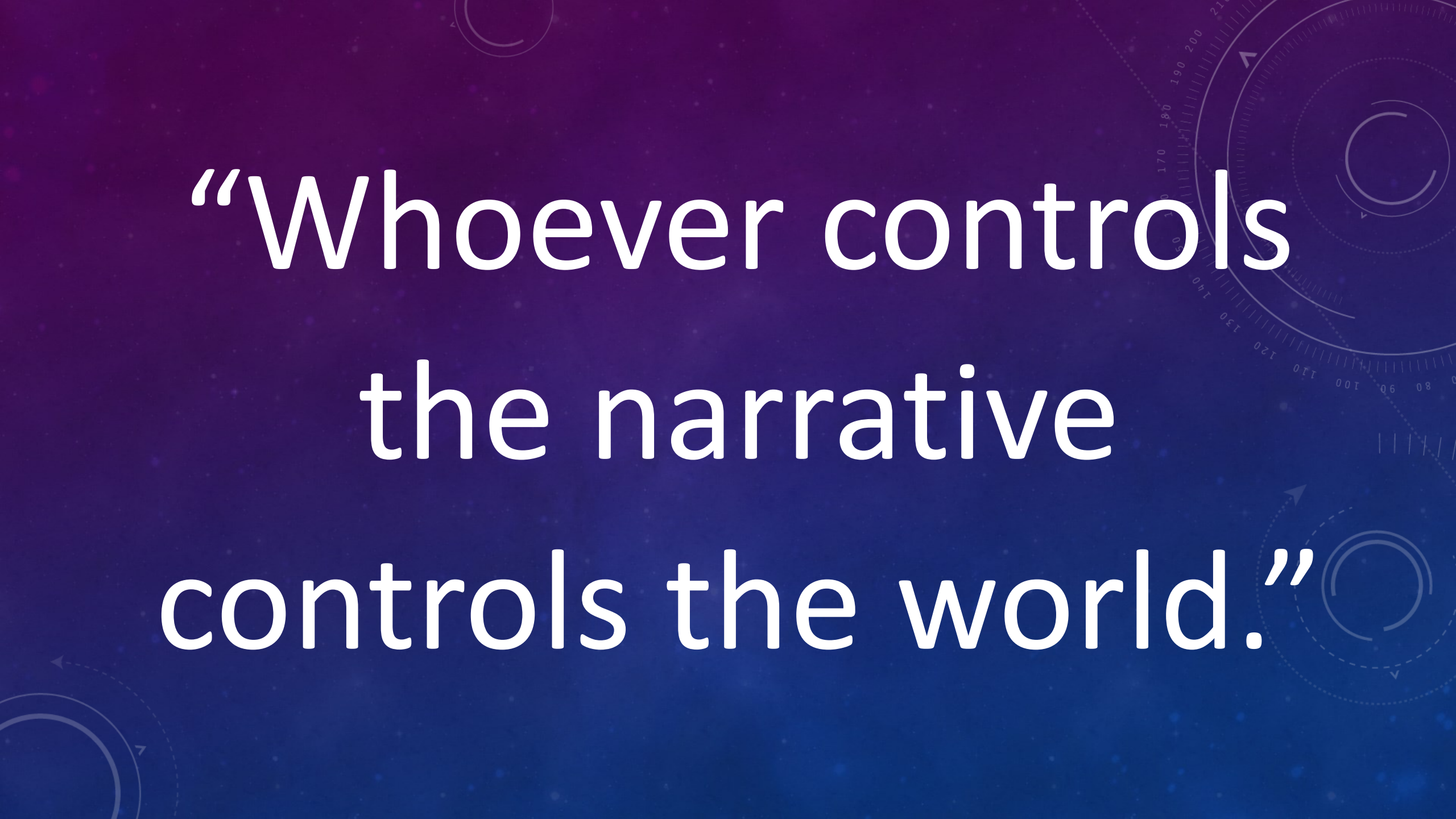
“Stories create community,
enable us to see through
the eyes of other people,
and open us to the claims
of others.”

“The stories we tell literally make the world. **If you want to change the world, you need to change your story.**

This truth applies both to individuals and institutions.”



“If you're going to
have a story,
have a big story,
or none at all.”



“Whoever controls
the narrative
controls the world.”

“We live in stories, not bullet points. . . we place our hope and belief in the story presented in the Bible; a story into which God invites us to live.”

“I am a filmmaker, so I think in terms of movies. We need more storytellers to tell vampire stories with a Christian worldview; more zombie stories with a Christian worldview; more demonic stories with Christian redemption...”

“...more post-apocalyptic thrillers that honor God; more subversion of adultery, fornication, unbelief, paganism, humanistic anti-supernaturalism...”

“It is no longer enough
to teach our children
Bible stories; they need
doctrine and
apologetics.”

William Lane Craig

“...instead of leading with logic and argument to prove Christianity true, we should lead with a story to make people wish it were true—a story that appeals not only to reason but the imagination. In the same vein, ... lead with the beautiful over the true and good. In either case, we have a story that is better than that of the other side, and we need to tell it in a way that is more compelling. . .

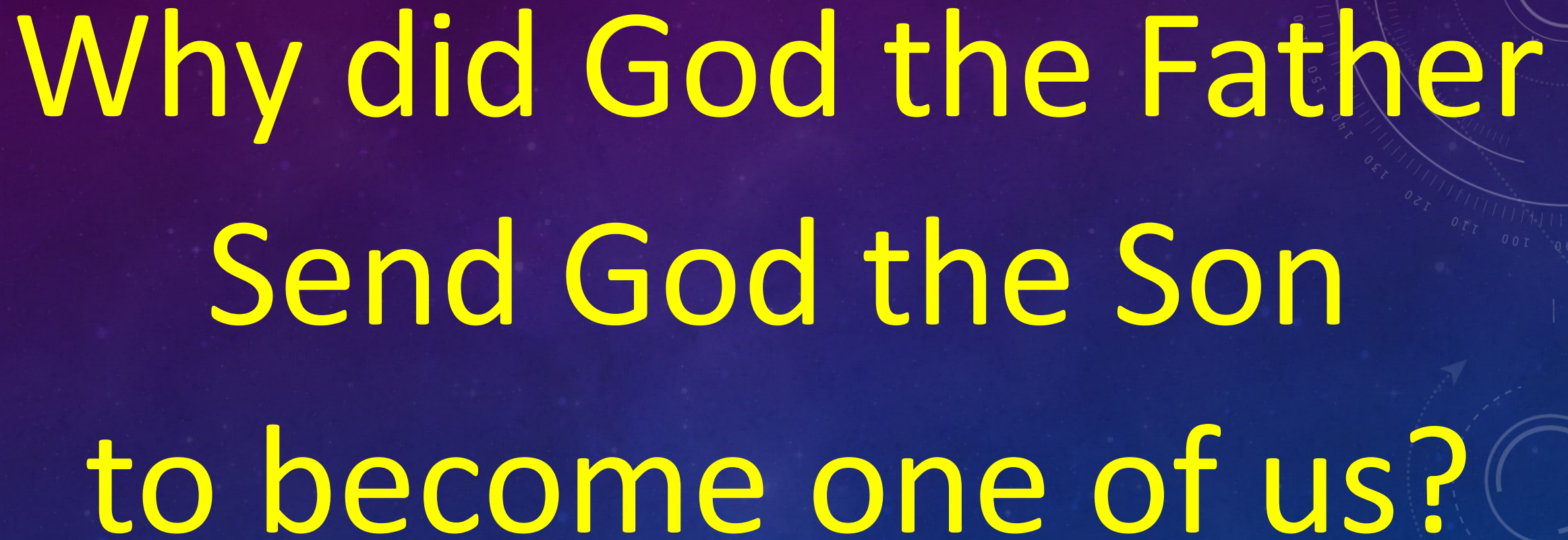
Regis Nicoll
We Have a Better Story
CrisisMagazine.com

“...I’m reminded what someone once said about evangelism: the job of the evangelist is not to give people a drink or even lead them to water; it’s to make them thirsty. Of course, that requires knowing people enough to know what will trigger that thirst.”

Regis Nicoll
We Have a Better Story
CrisisMagazine.com

“The world is a spiritual kindergarten in which millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell God with the wrong blocks.”





Why did God the Father
Send God the Son
to become one of us?

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL THE STORY



DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL THE STORY

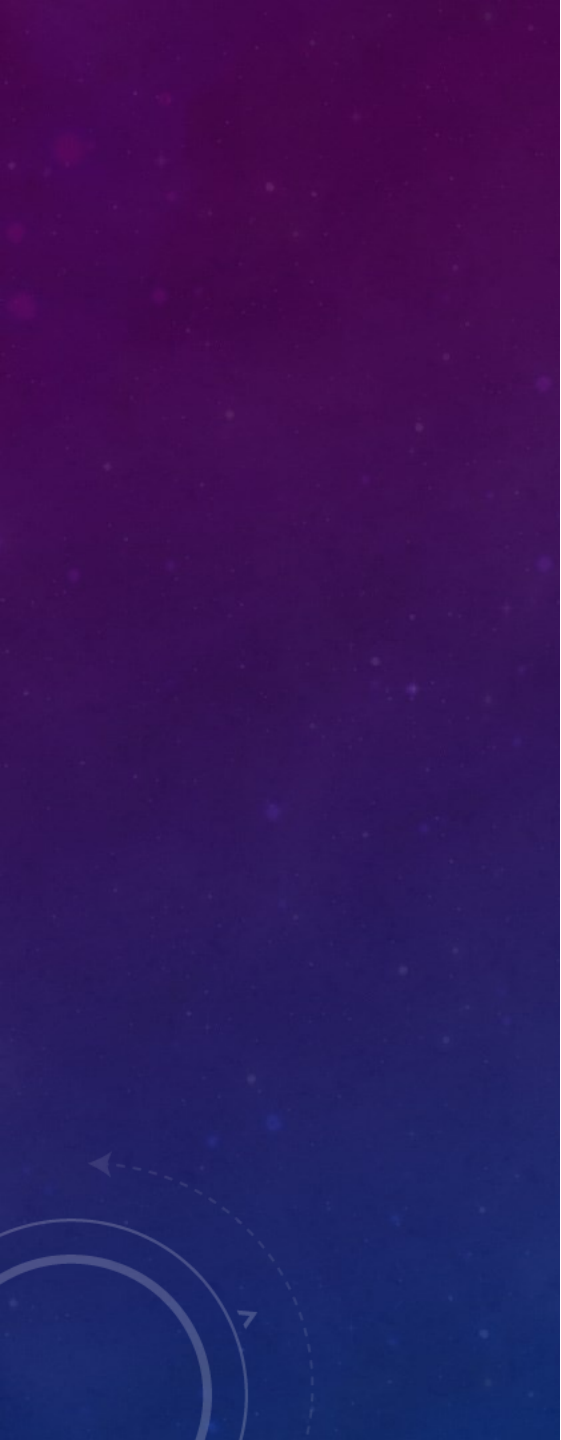


DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL THE STORY



Les Misérables

“Victor Hugo (1802-1885), the French poet and novelist. Possibly without even realizing it, in *‘Les Misérables’* Hugo has written **one of the strongest pro-Christian novels of the last two hundred years**”.





Cosmic Child Abuse?



“A God without wrath
brought man without sin
into a kingdom without judgment
through the ministrations
of a Christ without a cross.”

H. Richard Niebuhr
The Kingdom of God in America
1934

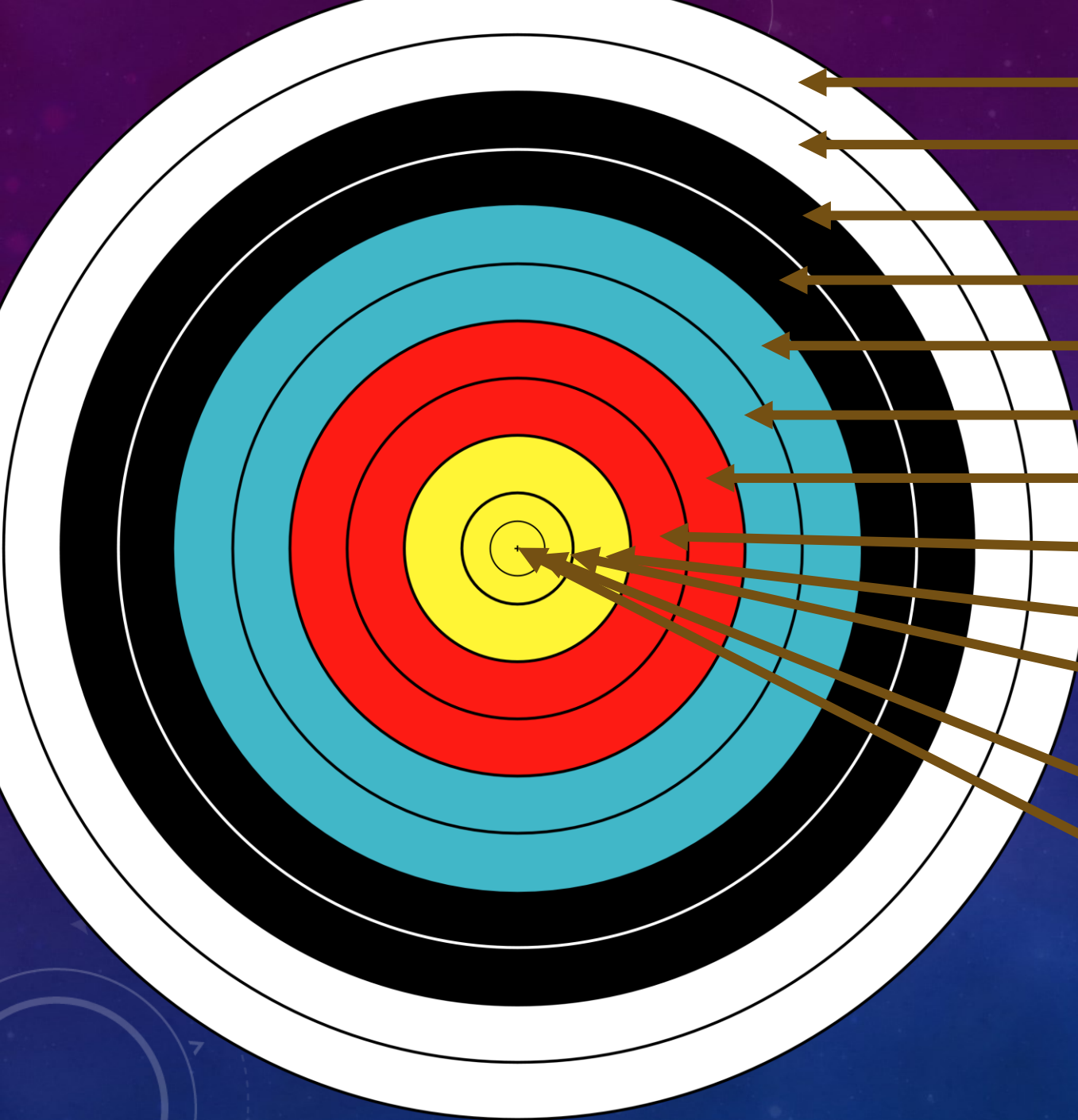


And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. . .

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

THE BULL'S-EYE

The background is a gradient from dark purple at the top to dark blue at the bottom, filled with a field of small white stars. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams in white. In the top right, there is a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing to approximately 190. Below it is a smaller circular diagram with concentric lines and arrows. In the bottom left, there is a partial circular diagram with a dashed arrow pointing left. In the bottom right, there is another circular diagram with concentric lines and arrows.



From Abraham's line (Gen. 22:18)

From tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10) (before 70 AD)

From David's line (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-2; Jer.23; 1 Ch17)

From Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Born of a virgin (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14)

Be preceded by a herald (Isa. 40:3-5)

Be "a prophet like Moses" (Deut. 18:15-19)

Both human and divine (Isa. 9:6-7; Ps.80:17)

Would be the King of Israel

Be presented to Israel 483 years after decree to rebuild Jerusalem (5 BC? 33 AD?!)(Dan. 9:26)

Enter as King into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9)

Would be rejected and executed (Isa. 49:1-13; Is. 50:4-9; Is. 53; Ps. 22; Dan 9:26) despite innocence

Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9)

Resurrected from the dead (Isa. 53:10-11; Ps. 16:10)

“The Great Swap”

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue technical diagrams. In the top right, there is a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing towards 180. Below it is another circular diagram with concentric circles and arrows. In the bottom left, there are more circular diagrams, including one with a dashed line and an arrow pointing left.

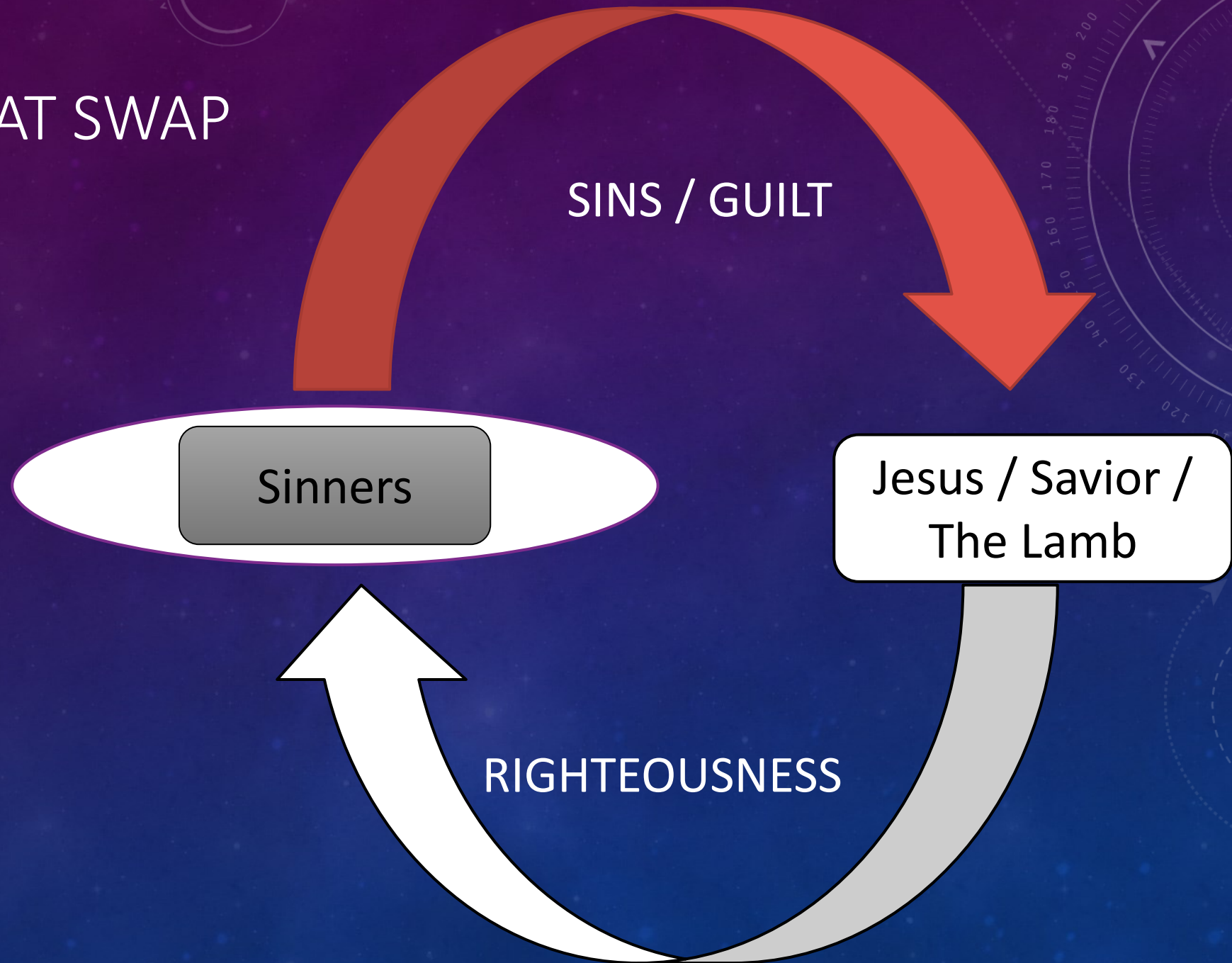
THE GREAT SWAP

JUSTIFIED =
JUST-as-IF-I'D...
never Sinned

THE GREAT SWAP



#1) THE GREAT SWAP



THE GREAT SWAP

“He [God] made him
who knew no sin [Jesus]
to become sin for us
that in him [Jesus]
we might become
the righteousness of God”

2 Cor. 5:21

THE GREAT SWAP



“Behold the lamb of God
who comes to take away
the sins of the world...”

John 1

THE GREAT SWAP



“... in Jesus Christ there is fulfilled all that is fore-shadowed in all the sacrifices... It is a most satisfying concept that Jesus did accomplish the perfect sacrifice which completely removed the sin of the world. He is the complete embodiment of all the truth to which the [OT] sacrificial system pointed.”

Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, p.143

THE GREAT SWAP



“That my own works, my own sufferings, my own righteousness, are so far from reconciling me to an offended God, so far from making any **atonement** for the least of those sins ... and having nothing in or of myself to plead, I have no hope, but that of being **justified** freely, “through the redemption that is in Jesus...”

John Wesley

THE GREAT SWAP



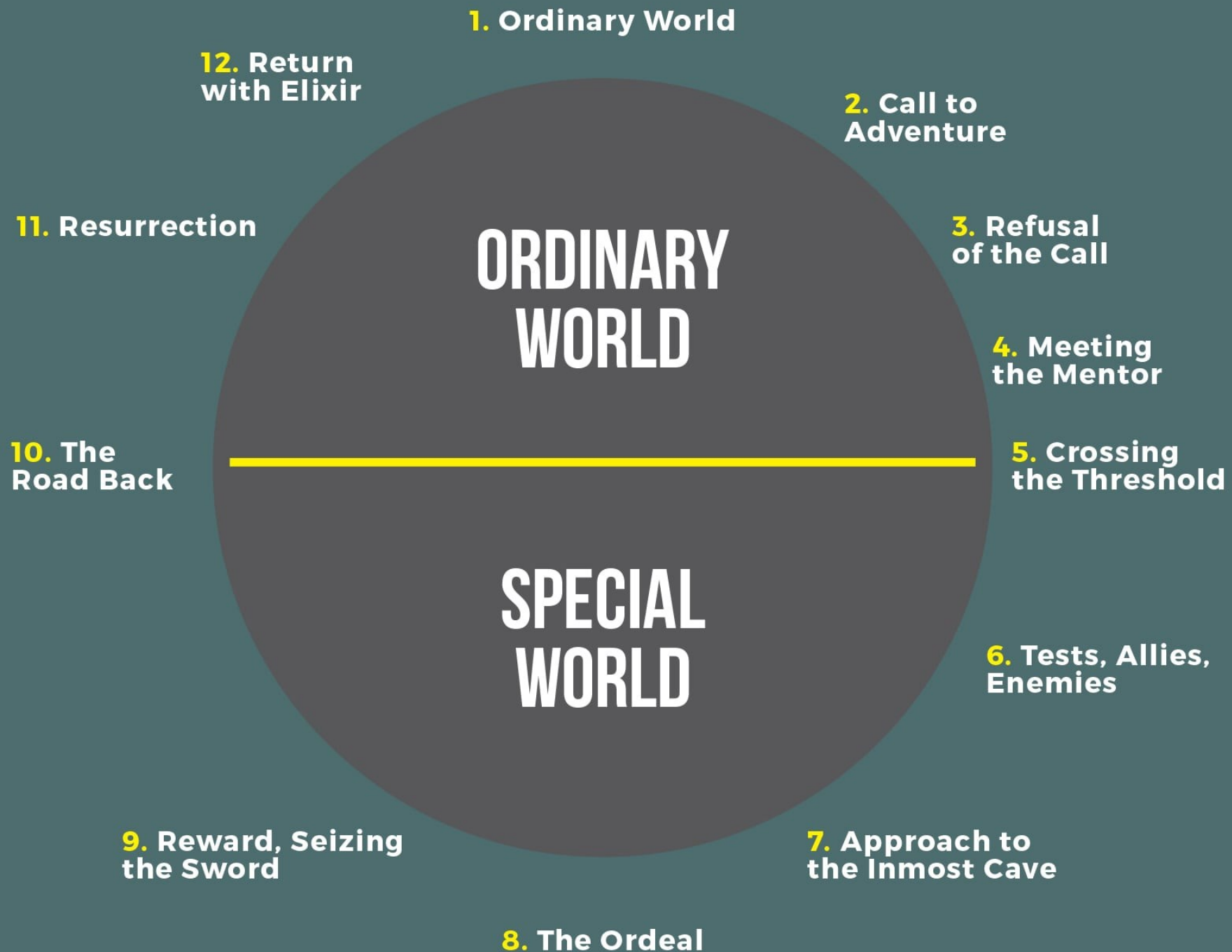
“... I have no hope, but that if I seek I shall find Christ, and “be found in him not having my own righteousness, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

John Wesley

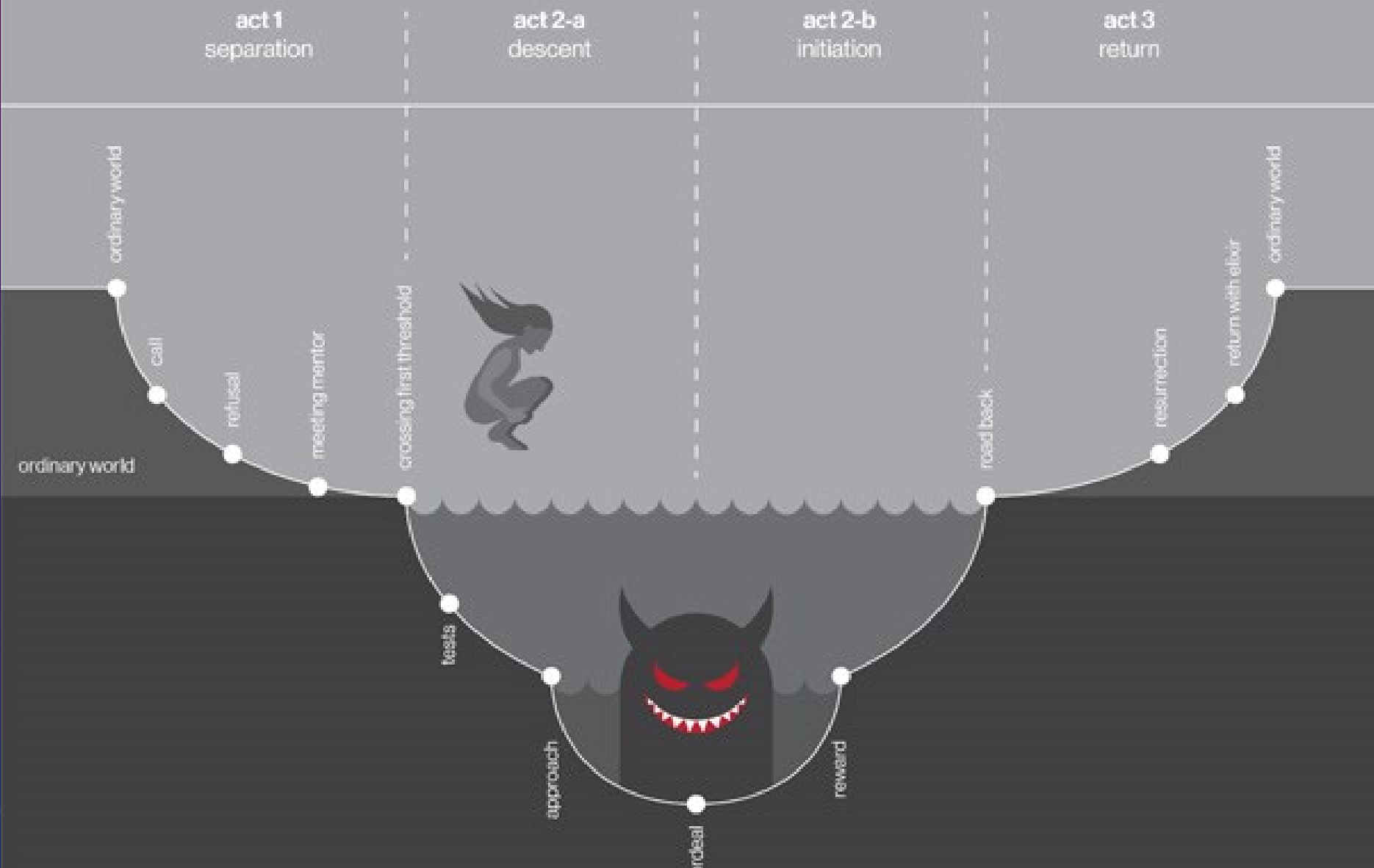
HOW TO TELL AN EXCITING STORY?

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars and faint technical diagrams. On the right side, there are several circular diagrams resembling gauges or dials with numerical scales (e.g., 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) and arrows. There are also some dashed lines and other circular elements scattered across the background.





the hero's journey





#EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

THE HERO'S JOURNEY

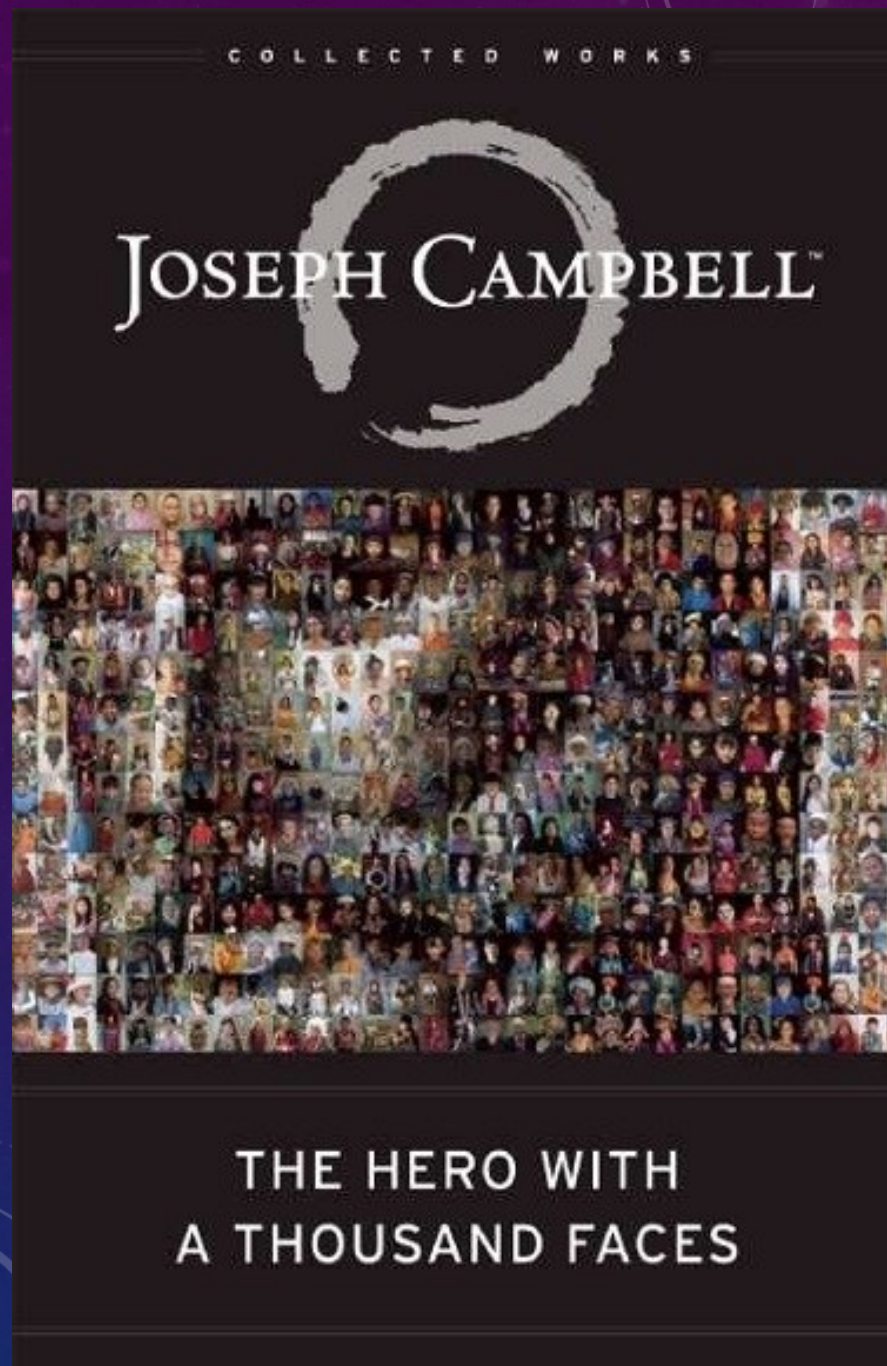
- Star Wars – A New Hope (1977)
- **The Matrix (1999)**
- The Lion King (1994, 2019)
- **Lord of the Rings (2001)**
- Aladdin (1992, 2019)
- **Harry Potter (2001)**
- O Brother, Where Art Thou (2000)
- The Hobbit
- The Wizard of Oz
- Avatar
- Finding Nemo
- Tale of Despereaux
- The Hunger Games
- Indiana Jones
- Shrek
- Dune
- Men in Black
- Avengers
- Etc...

COLLECTED WORKS

JOSEPH CAMPBELL™



THE HERO WITH
A THOUSAND FACES



“The Quadlemma”

Who was Jesus of Nazareth?

A Lunatic

A Liar

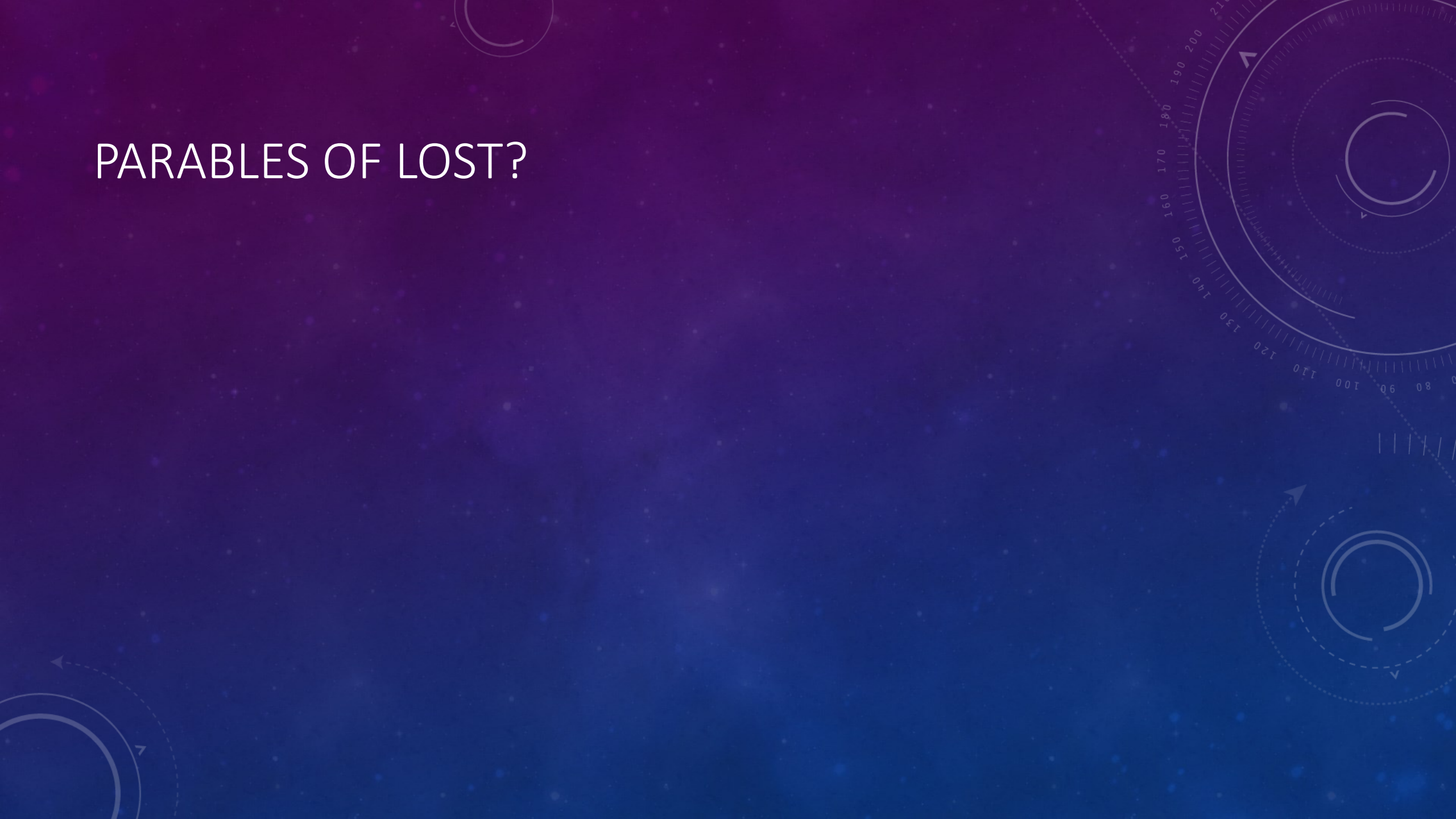
A Legend

The Lord

ORALITY?



PARABLES OF LOST?



HOMWORK

