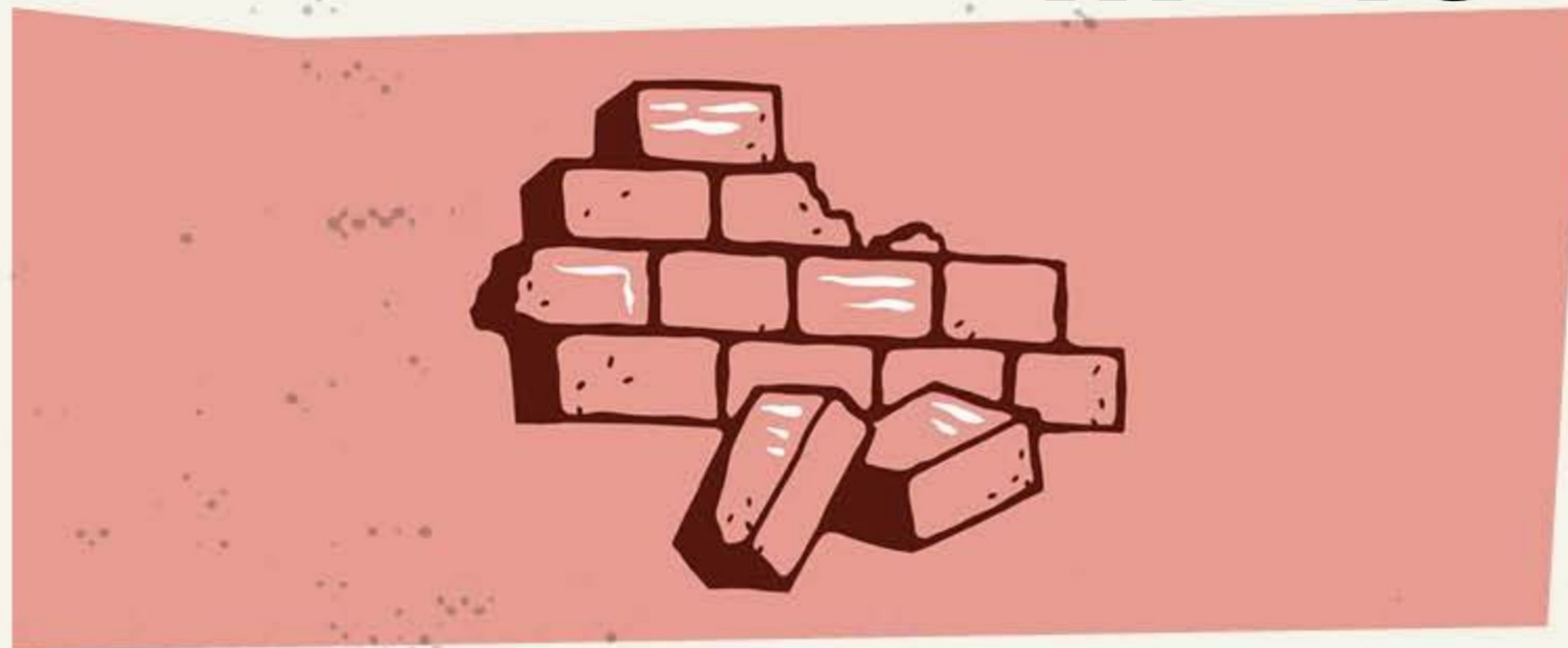
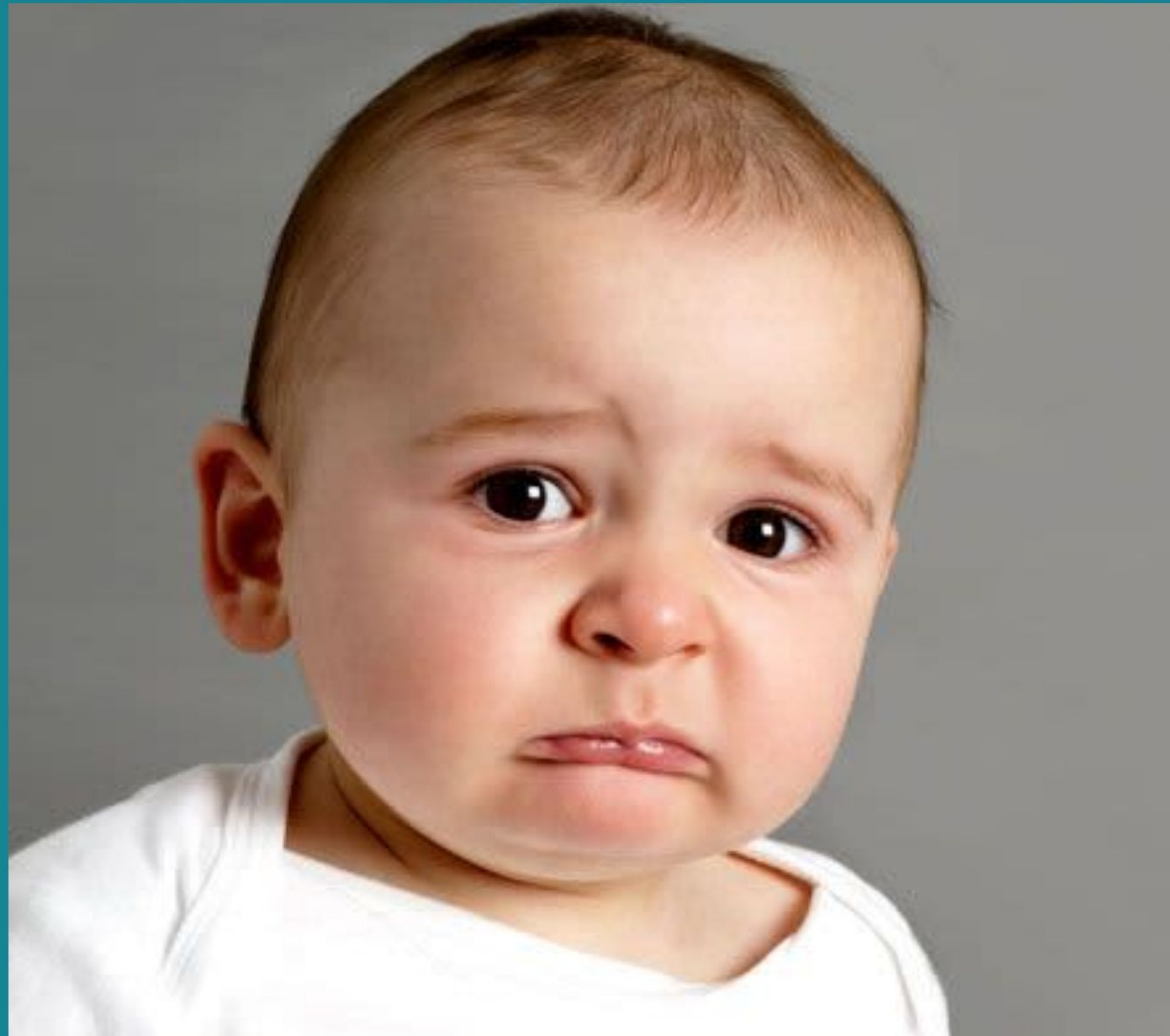


EPHESIANS

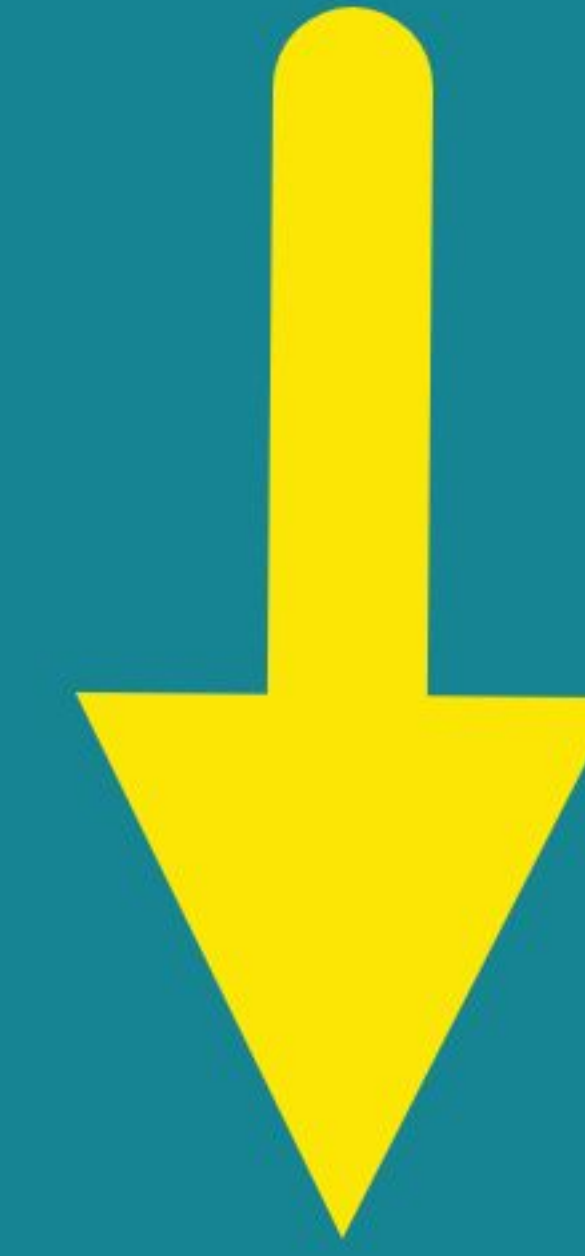
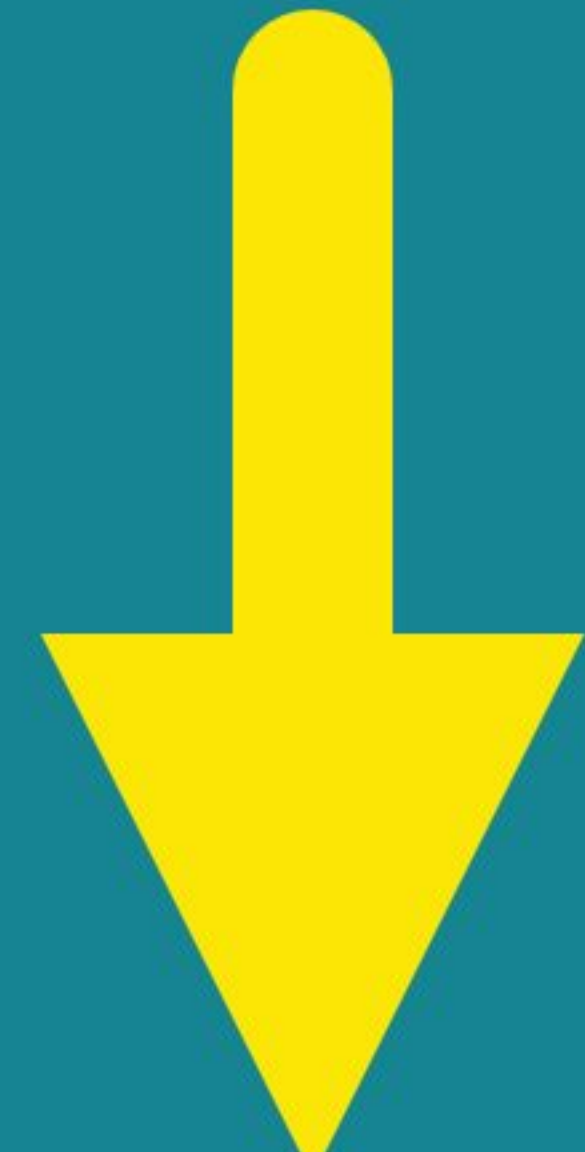
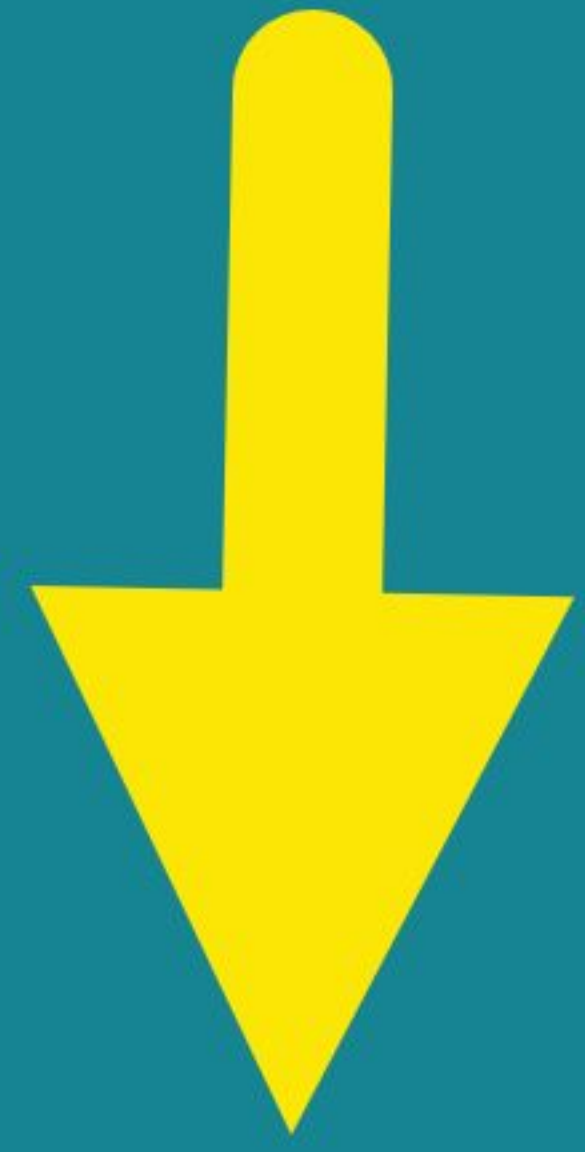
4:1 – 16



"I don't do for kids what they can do for themselves."



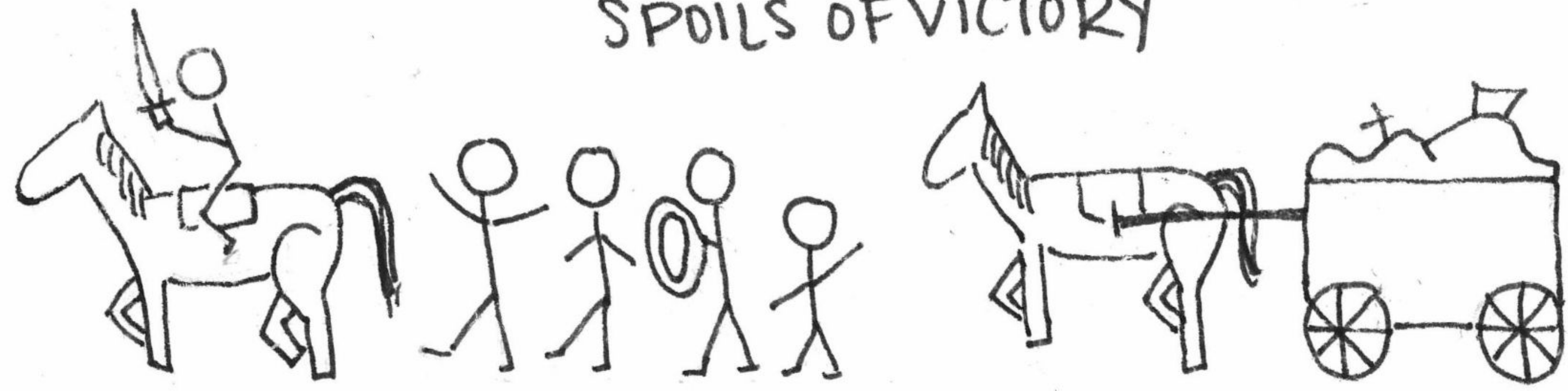
**(As nicely as possible,
but as firmly as necessary)**



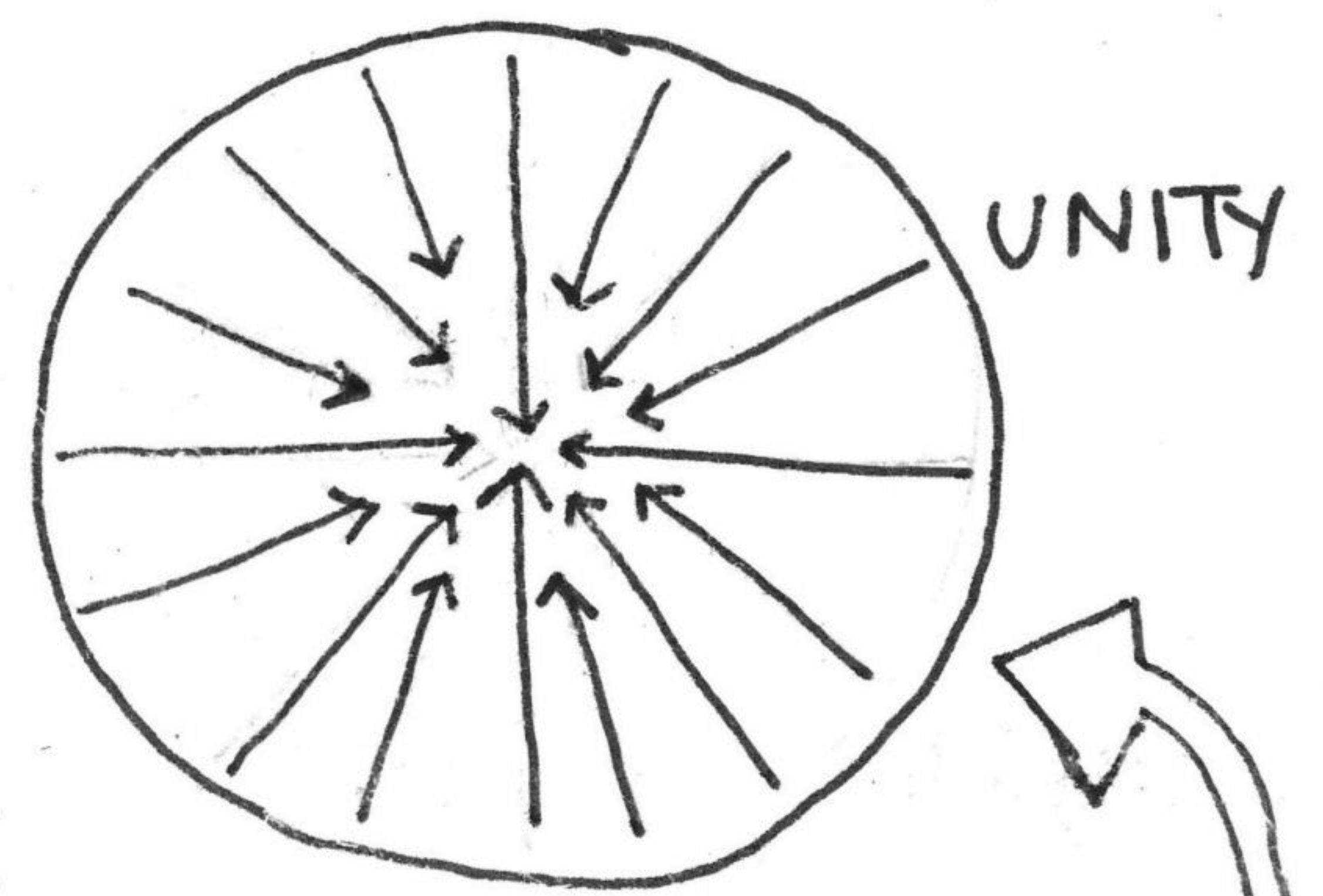
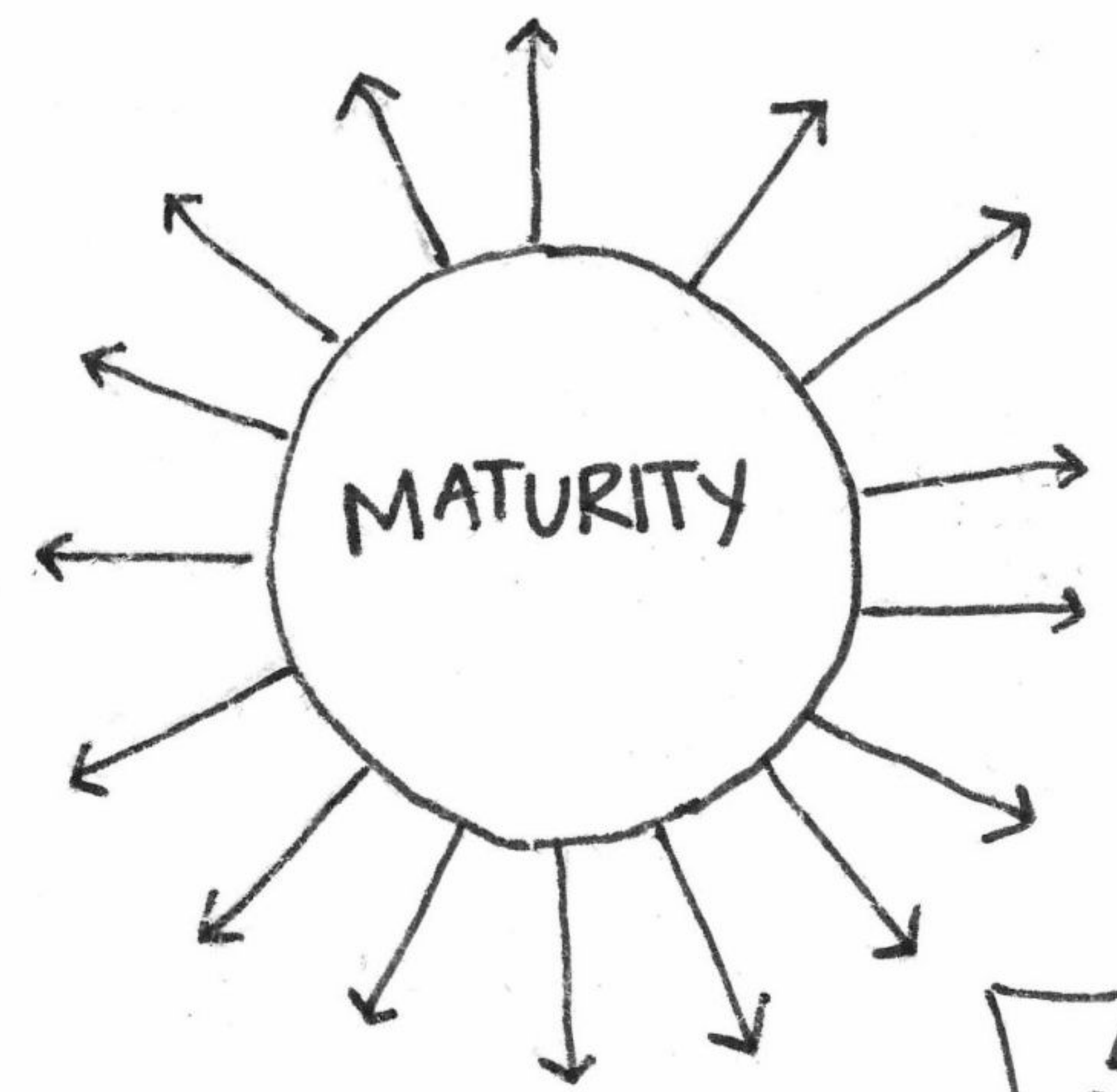
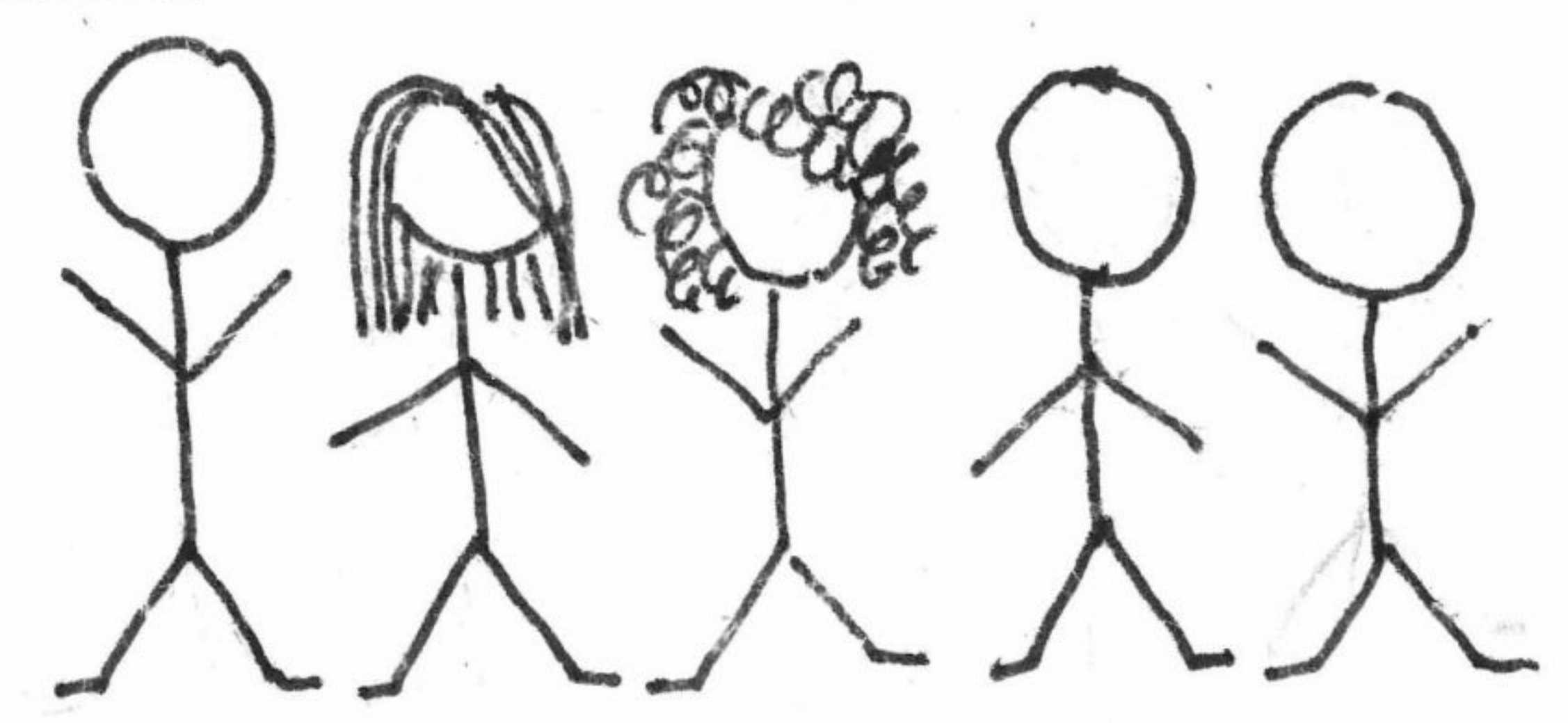
God wants us to build ourselves up.

**1. Jesus' victory has given us
what we need to build
ourselves up.**

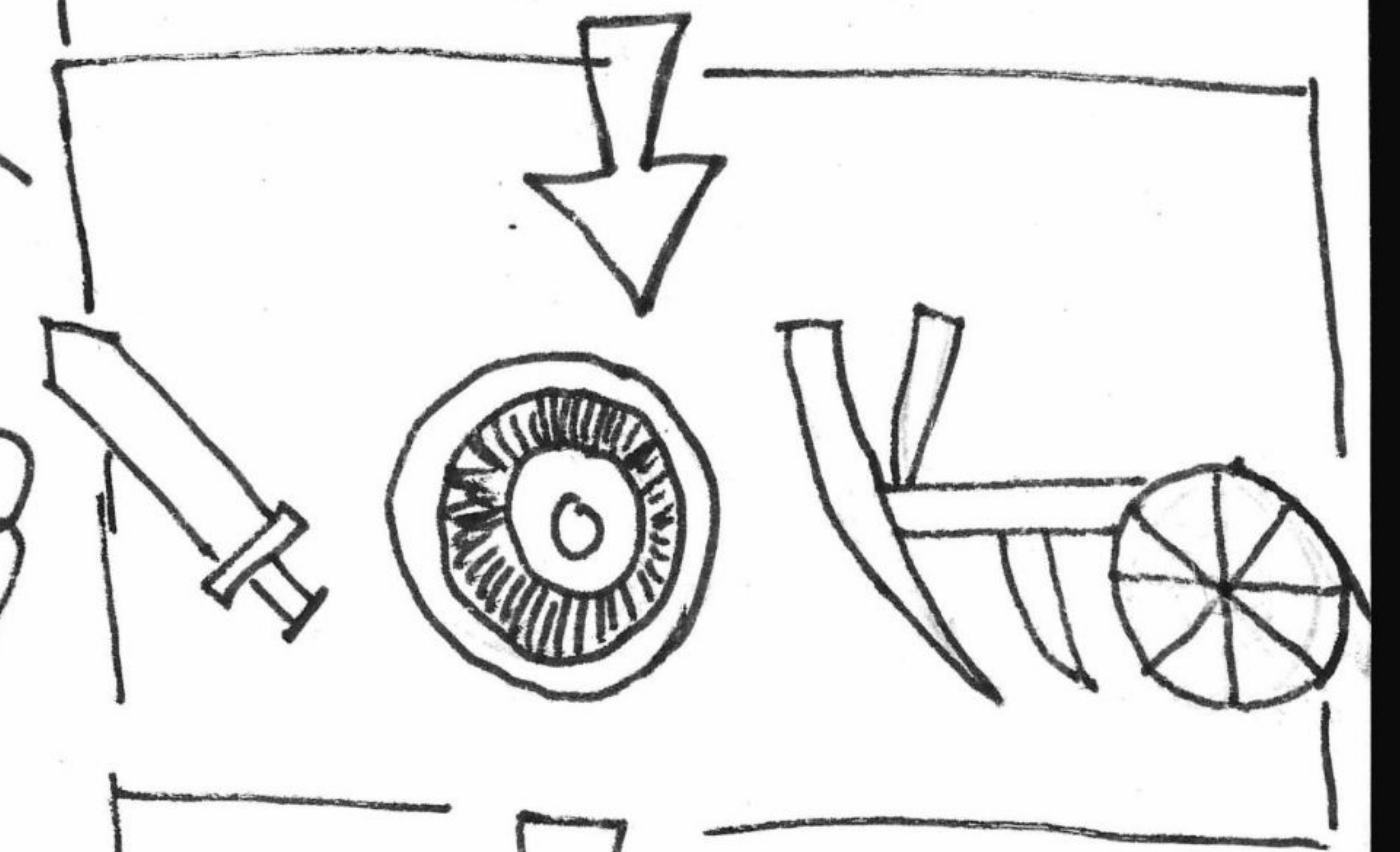
SPOILS OF VICTORY



5 GRACES



EQUIP THE SAINTS



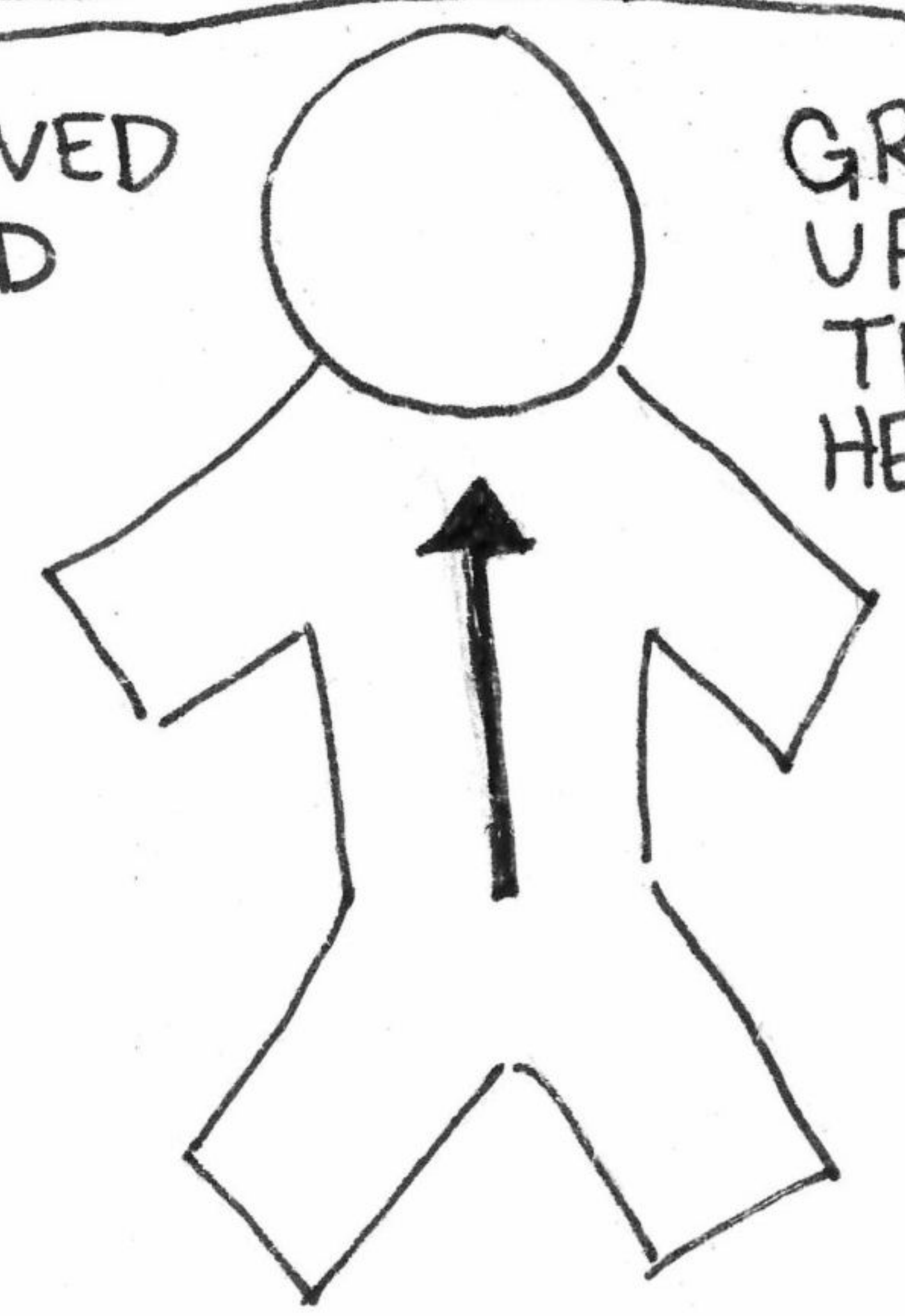
RESULTS

NOT DECEIVED + DIVIDED

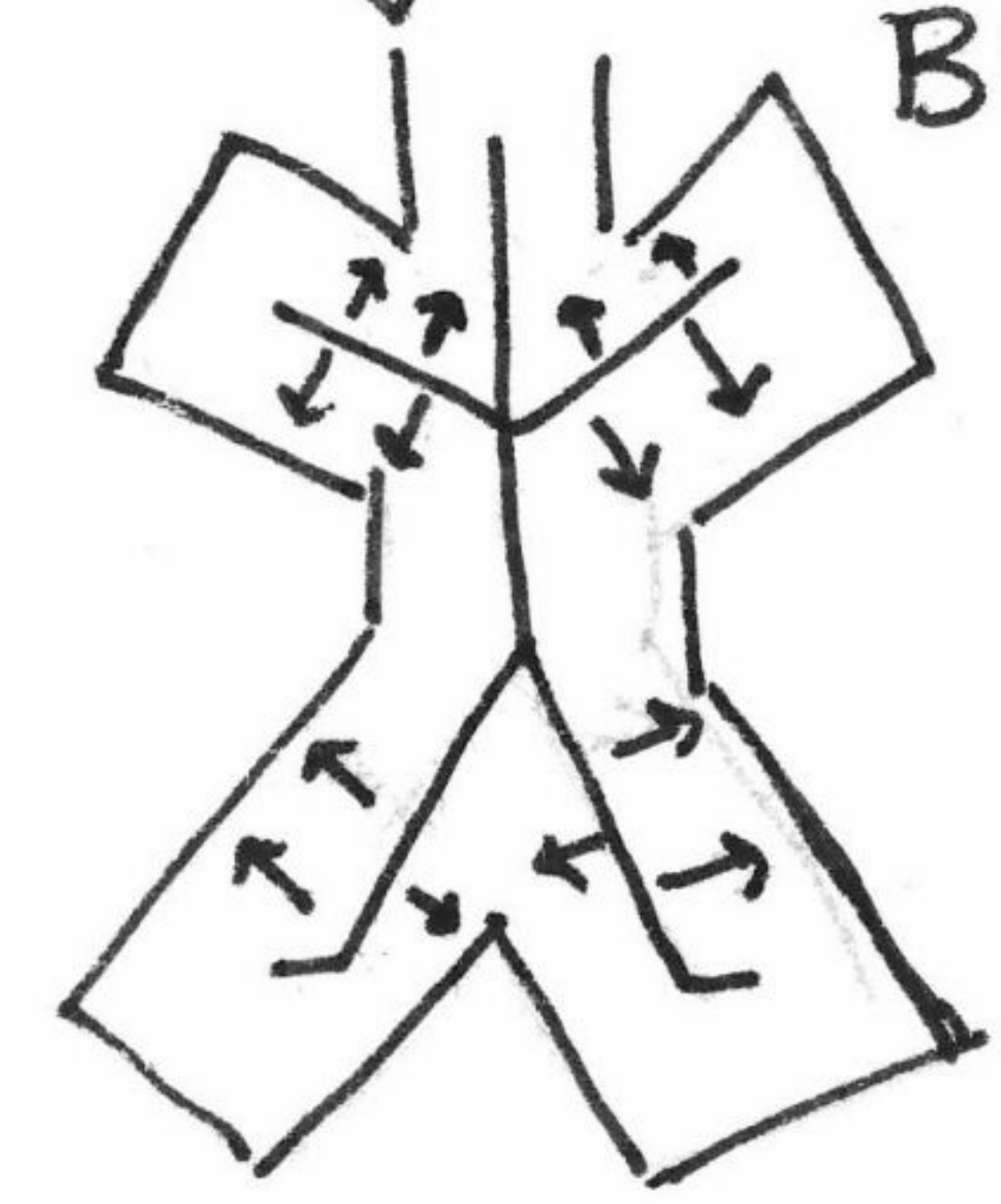
GROW UP IN THE HEAD



(wave)



BODY OF CHRIST BUILT UP



2. Jesus has given leaders to equip the saints

NIV Ephesians 4:11

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers...”

The Apostles...

An apostle is one who is sent to do a work or teach content, and is distinguished from a disciple, who is a learner. The NT has **THE Apostles**, and other references to 'apostles'.

Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are *outstanding among the apostles*, and they were in Christ before I was. (NIV82)

"The apostles..."

(NIV82) 1 Corinthians 9:2

"Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

(NIV82) 2 Corinthians 11:13 "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ."

The Prophets

"Speaking words that God leads (intuitively) into the immediate moment that can be distinguished from teaching, which is the stewardship and reapplication of previous knowledge (deliberation)."

(Scripture has a number of women as examples in the prophetic office—
ex. All 4 of Phillip's daughters. Acts 21:9)

Evangelists

Someone who is gifted and specialized in the clear description, bold proclamation, and wise defense of the Gospel.

Who Equips the saints

Remember, these are people who equip us.

Pastors and Teachers

Or: Pastor-teachers

'Pastor' is the old English for 'shepherd'

A teacher transmits and explains truths in the context of wisdom to promote wholistic understanding

Why These 5 ? The "5 Fold Ministry"?

Developing these ideas is worth doing.



Apostle	Prophet	Evangelist	Shepherd	Teacher
Extends churches into neglected regions and communities	Strengthens new believers in their faith and obedience	Expands churches in a region and community by winning others	Leads churches in developing their ministries and in training workers	Matures churches in their faith, hope, love, obedience and outreach.
Requires vision, mission, courage and endurance	Requires insight, revelation and compassion	Requires passion, power and confidence	Requires purpose, goals, skills and knowledge	Requires clarity, knowledge, and conviction
Skills include team formation, evangelism, church planting and leader formation	Skills include prayer, hearing from God, Bible knowledge and persuasion	Skills include tactics, miracles, story-telling, persuasion and baptism	Skills include group dynamics, organization, exhortation and counselling	Skills include analysis, teaching, problem solving, and biblical application
Initiates outreach, spiritual warfare, mobilizes and empowers workers, plans all phases	Speaks to strength, comfort and edify new believers to remain faithful to Christ and one to another	Initiates continual effort to penetrate homes, baptize the repentant and launch new churches	Identifies members' gifts and plans ministry around them, in generational chains	Steps in wherever invited to discern needs, propose solutions, teach doctrine and defend the faith
Goal = new disciples, churches, leaders and apostles	Goal = hear from God, make faithful disciples, warn of coming dangers	Goal = believers continually making new believers and disciples	Goal = raising up new leaders for new ministries and new churches	Goal = sound faith, consistent obedience to Christ
Sins by showing favouritism, exploiting for gain, disallowing new workers	Sins by condemning the immature or by repeating old ideas	Sins by reporting false gains, fake miracles, or seeking financial advantage	Sins by stealing sheep, disallowing new leaders or seeking undue authority	Sins by pedantry, neglect of Scripture, or criticizing the other four gifts

GIFT	DIRECTION	BURDEN	TEMPTATION	PARTNER
Apostle	Forward	Ministry Expansion	Empire building	Prophet
Prophet	Up	God himself	Spiritual detachment	Shepherd
Evangelist	Out	Lost People	Incomplete discipleship	Teacher
Shepherd	In	Community of faith	Holy huddle	Evangelist
Teacher	Down	Depth of understanding	Learning without action	Apostle

But why these 5 gifts?

(Since they are NOT the NT's form of governance.)

My View:

Itinerancy—Works that are not rooted long term in one place, but move from place to place supporting different locations.

3. Jesus has given his saints the ability to build up The Body.

Ephesians 4:16

"...from **whom** (Christ) the whole body, being fitted and held together, through every **ligament of provision**, according to the working power, in the measure of **each individual part**, makes the body grow, building up of **itself** in love." (NIC literal translation)

So what do I do with this?

(Some ideas...but you can think for yourself and in spiritual conversation with others and come up with something approximating a million possible applications if you choose to open your heart to the Spirit and the wisdom of the scriptures and really seek to exhort faith in obedience.)

1. This all assumes **you are imbedded** in the local church.

2. You have to believe in **multi-causation.**

Thinking only: "Did God do that?"
or praying only, "God do this." isn't a very Biblical way of thinking about how God works.



Who caused this tree to fall?

3. **Spiritual Leadership** is **critically important**

(The church tends to do about as well as it is led.)

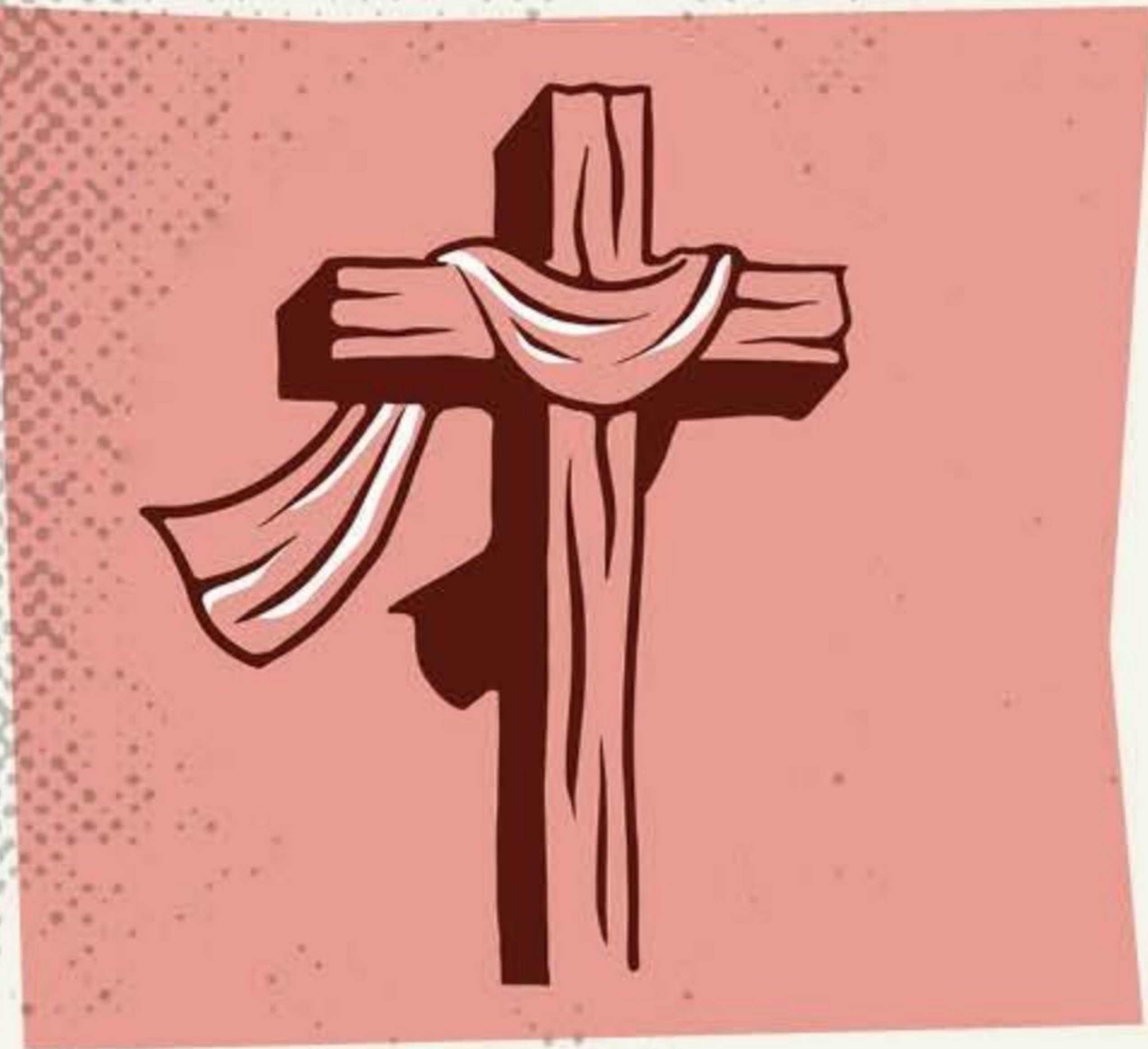
- Love and support your spiritual leaders
- Honor their sacrifices
- Take selection and training seriously
- Encourage the desire to do the work

4. You have the ability to build yourselves up in unity and maturity.

(Experts are a better seasoning than meal in any community. Don't let any community revolve around them. You are qualified to serve others.)

5. You have to obey God's methods to get his transforming results.

God's multi-causes are interdependent. It is an unhackable code. Try to hack it and you'll corrupt it.



EPHESIANS

4:1 – 16

