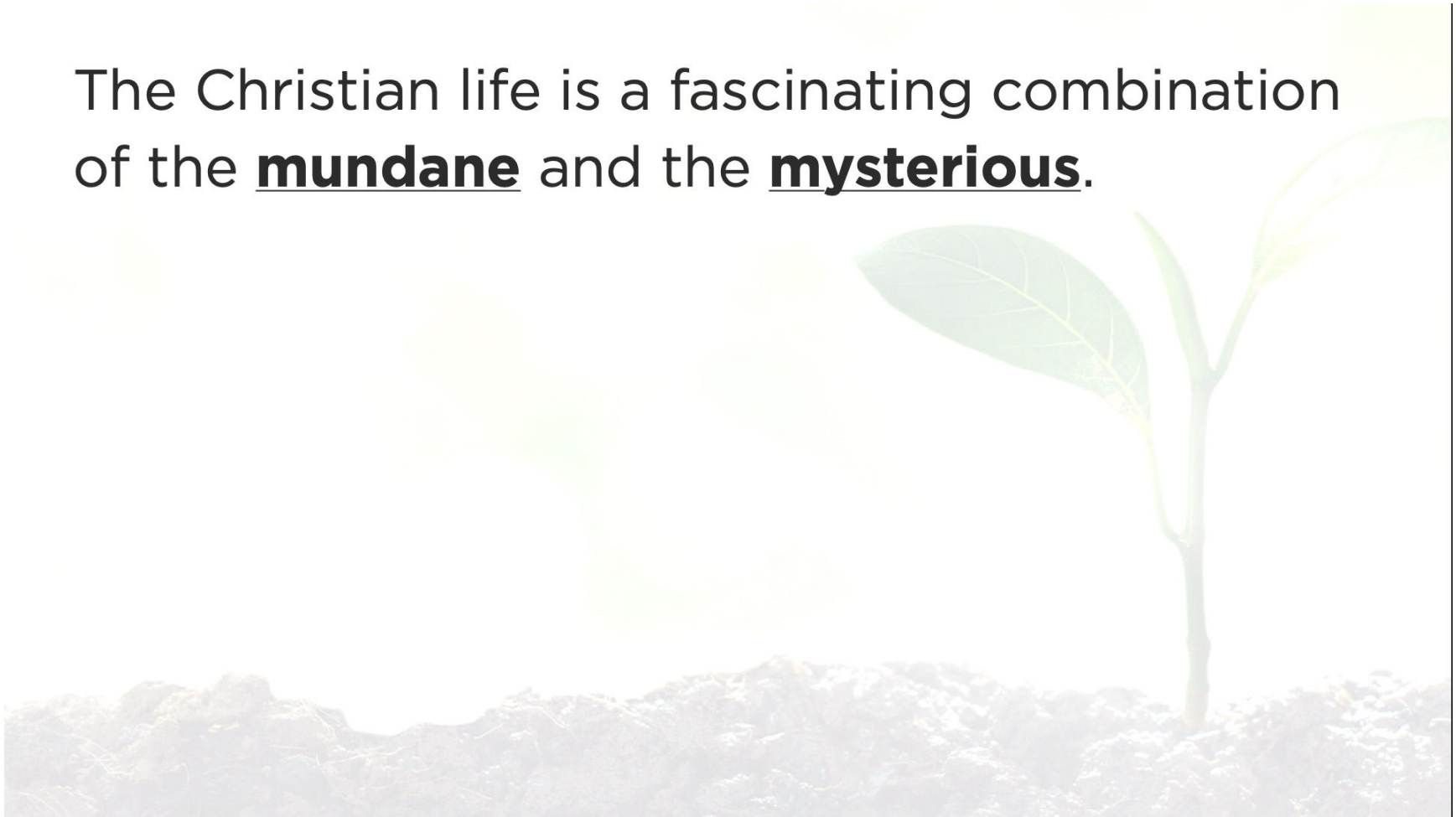


The Christian life is a fascinating combination of the **mundane** and the **mysterious**.



“And he said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.’”

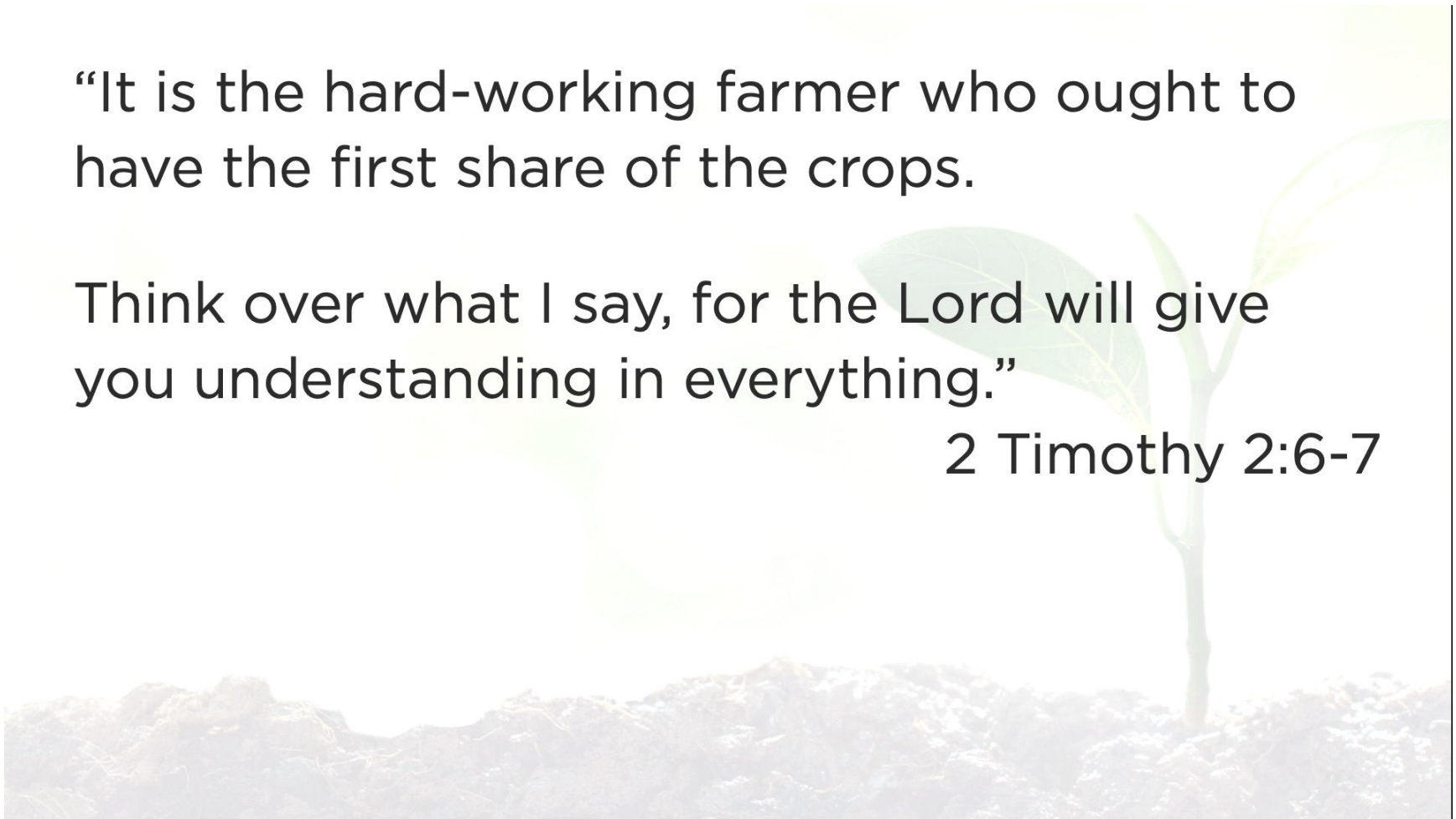
Mark 4:26-27



“It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

2 Timothy 2:6-7

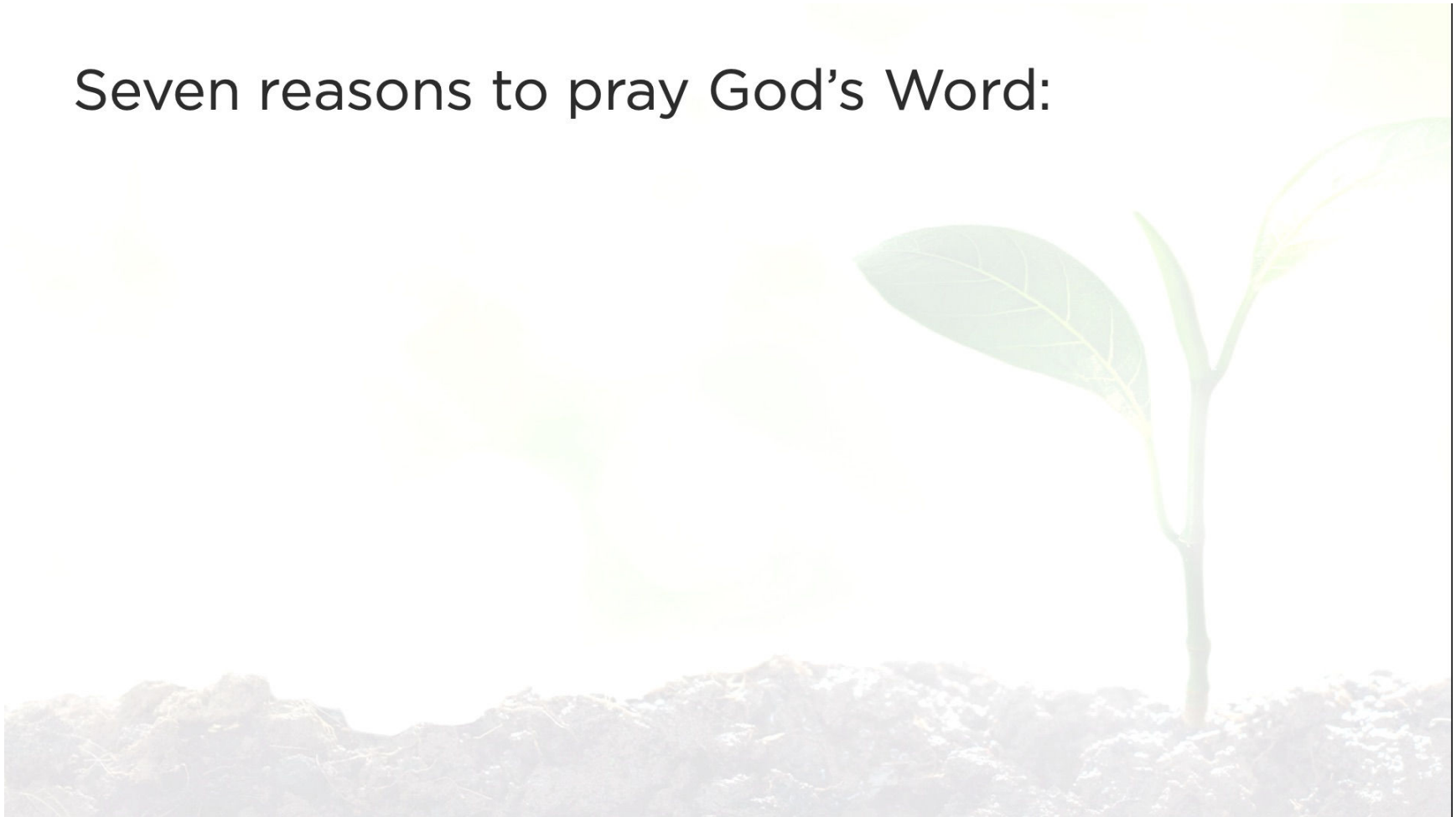


FORMATIONS

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

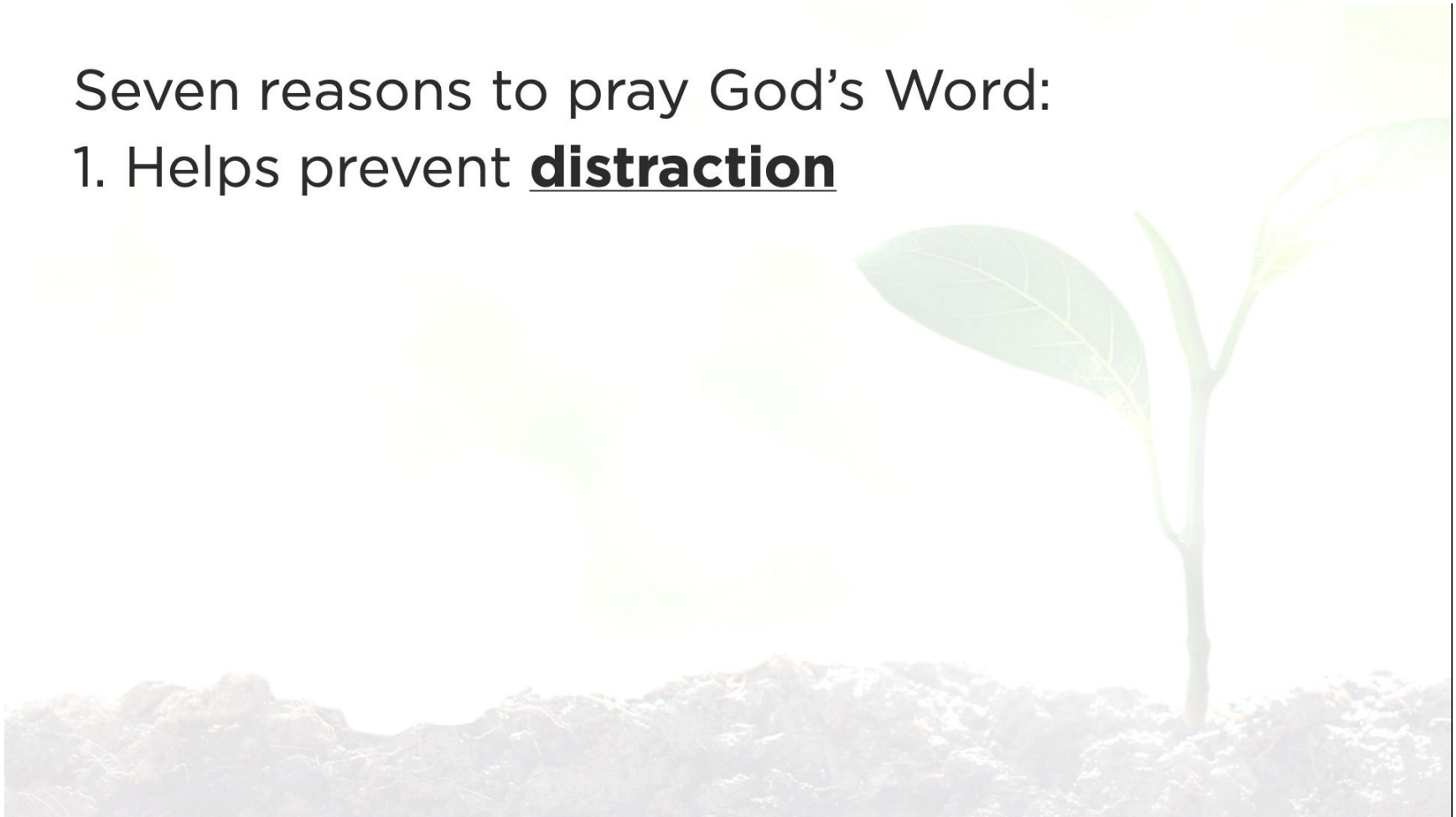


Seven reasons to pray God's Word:



Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

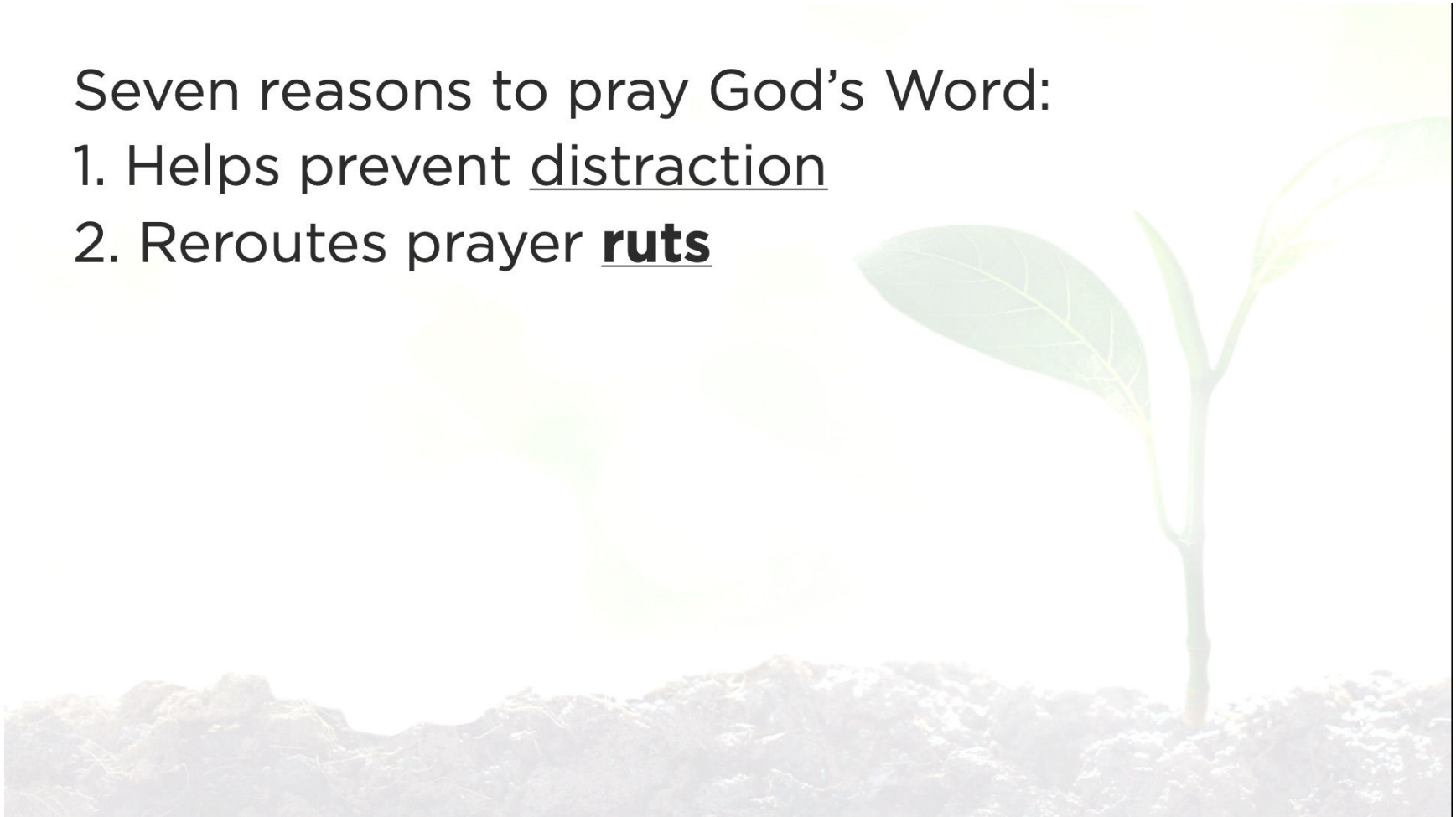
1. Helps prevent **distraction**



Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

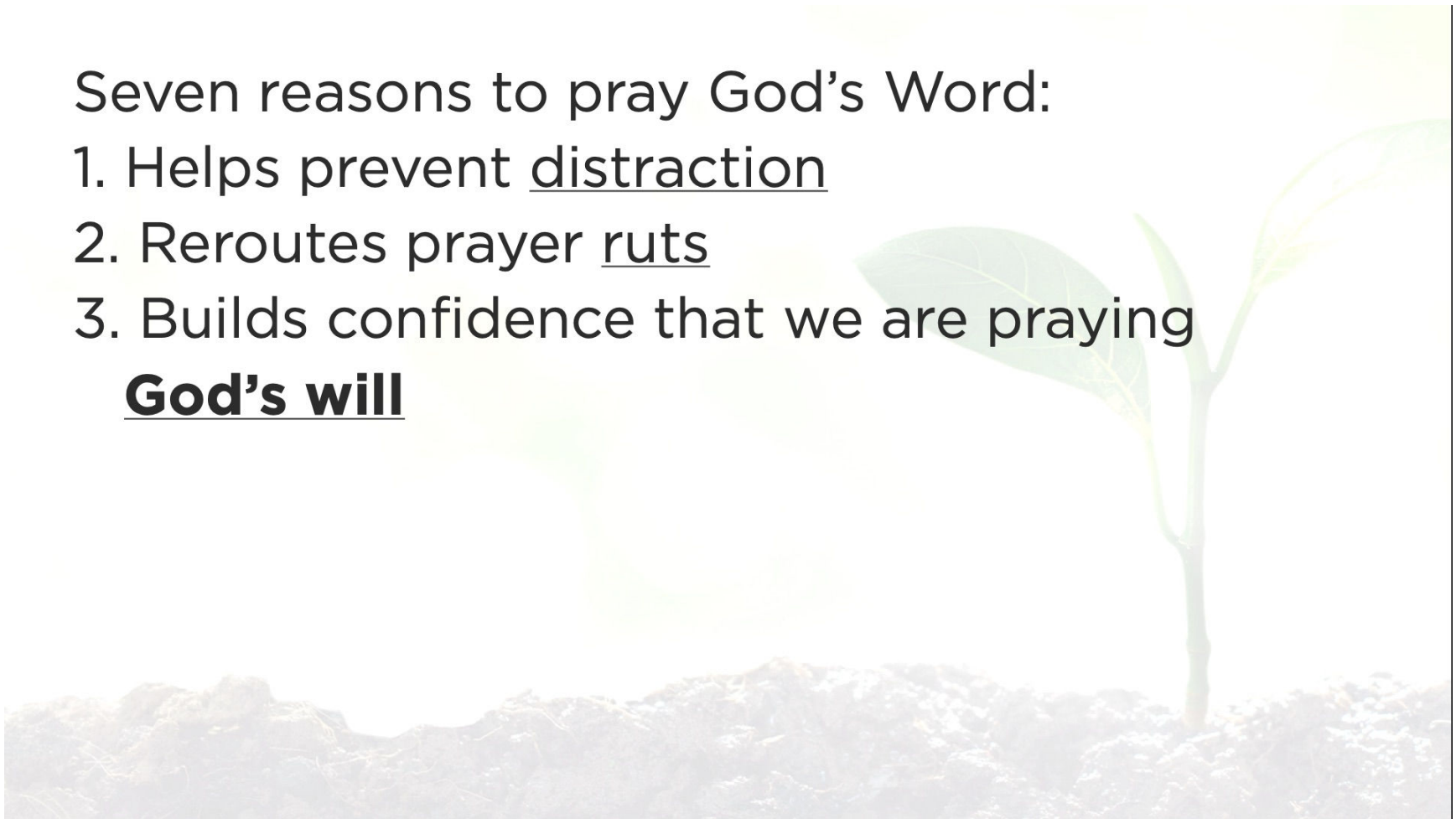
1. Helps prevent distraction

2. Reroutes prayer **ruts**



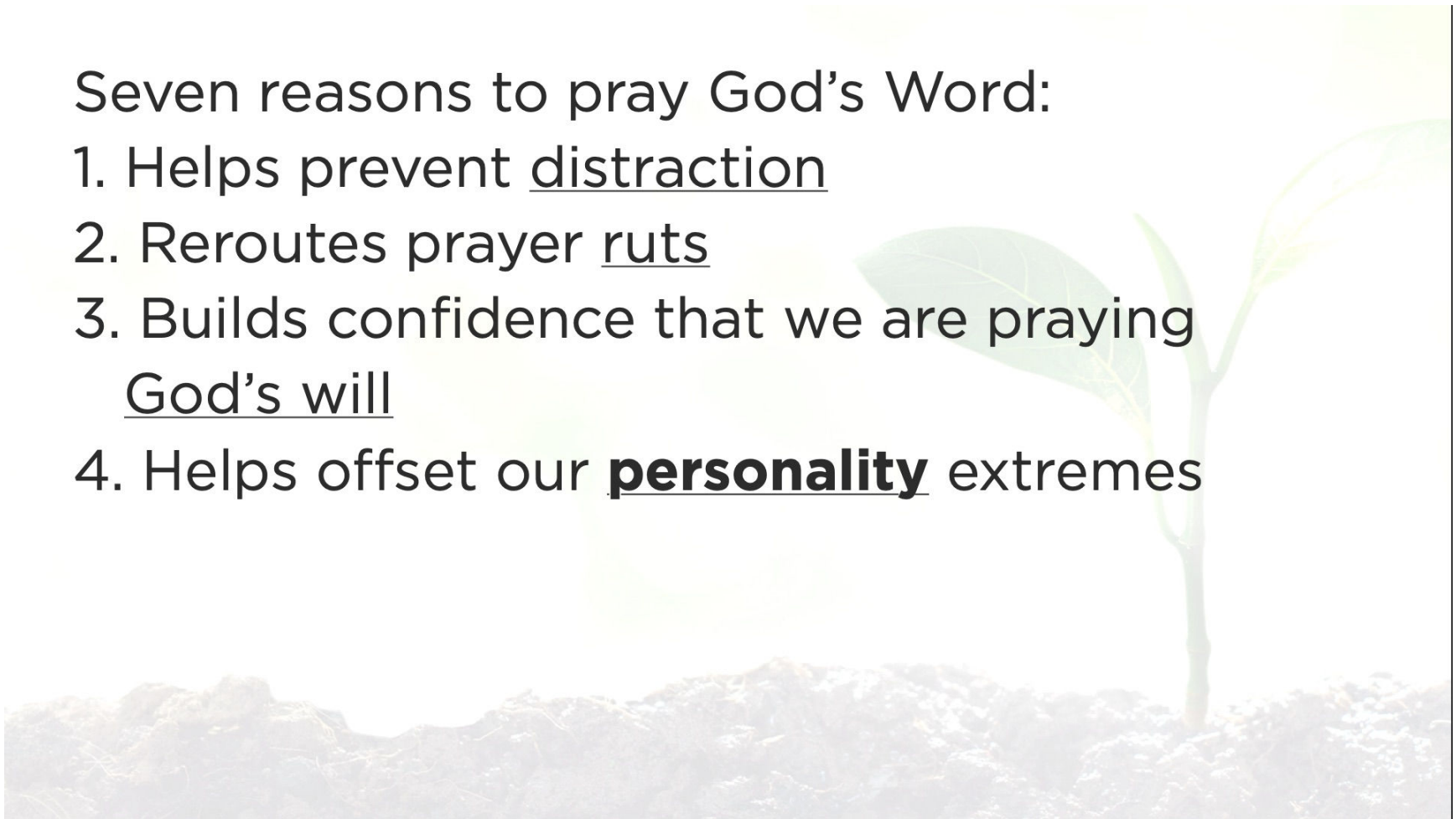
Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

1. Helps prevent distraction
2. Reroutes prayer ruts
3. Builds confidence that we are praying
God's will



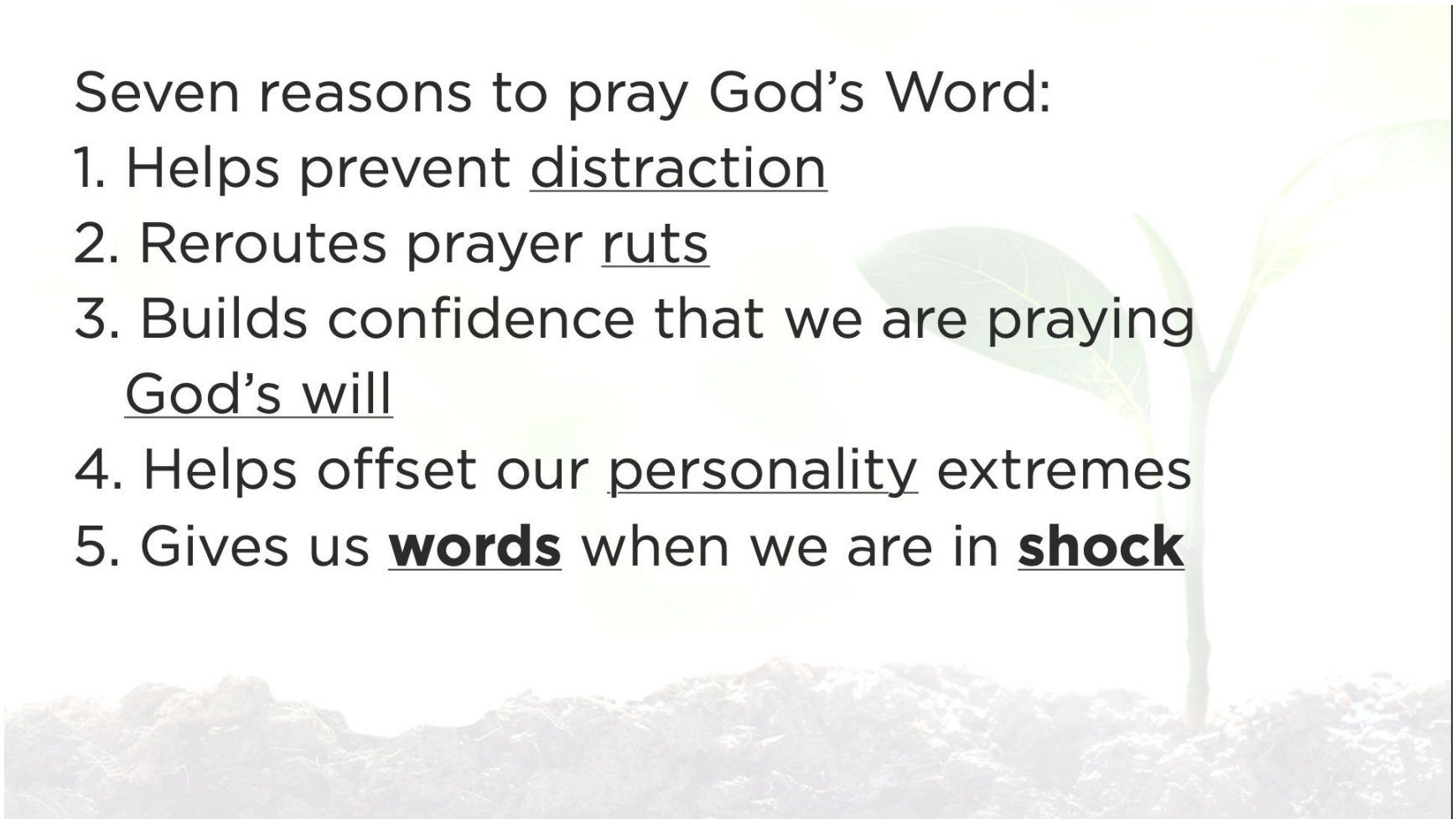
Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

1. Helps prevent distraction
2. Reroutes prayer cuts
3. Builds confidence that we are praying God's will
4. Helps offset our **personality** extremes



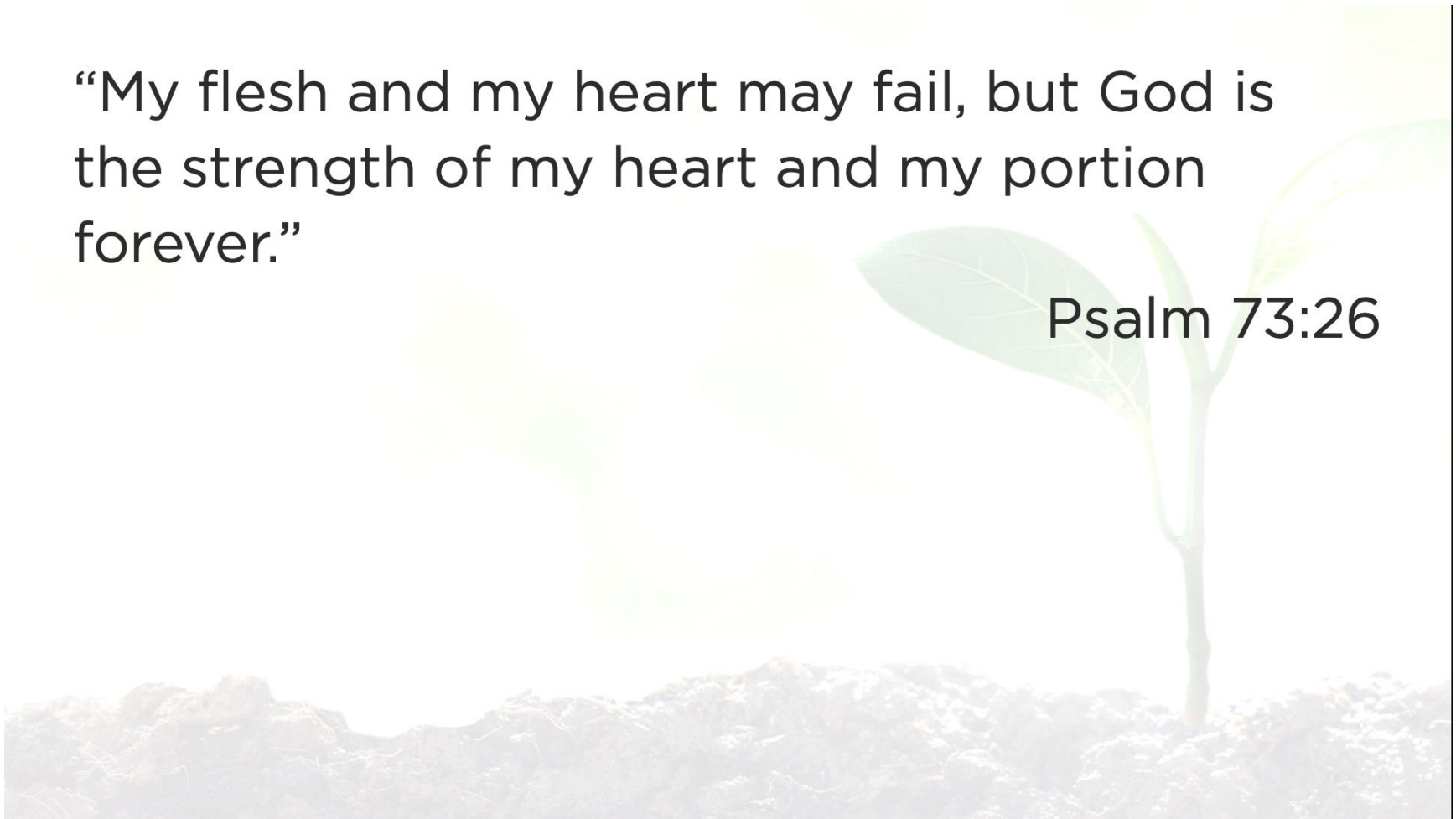
Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

1. Helps prevent distraction
2. Reroutes prayer cuts
3. Builds confidence that we are praying God's will
4. Helps offset our personality extremes
5. Gives us **words** when we are in **shock**



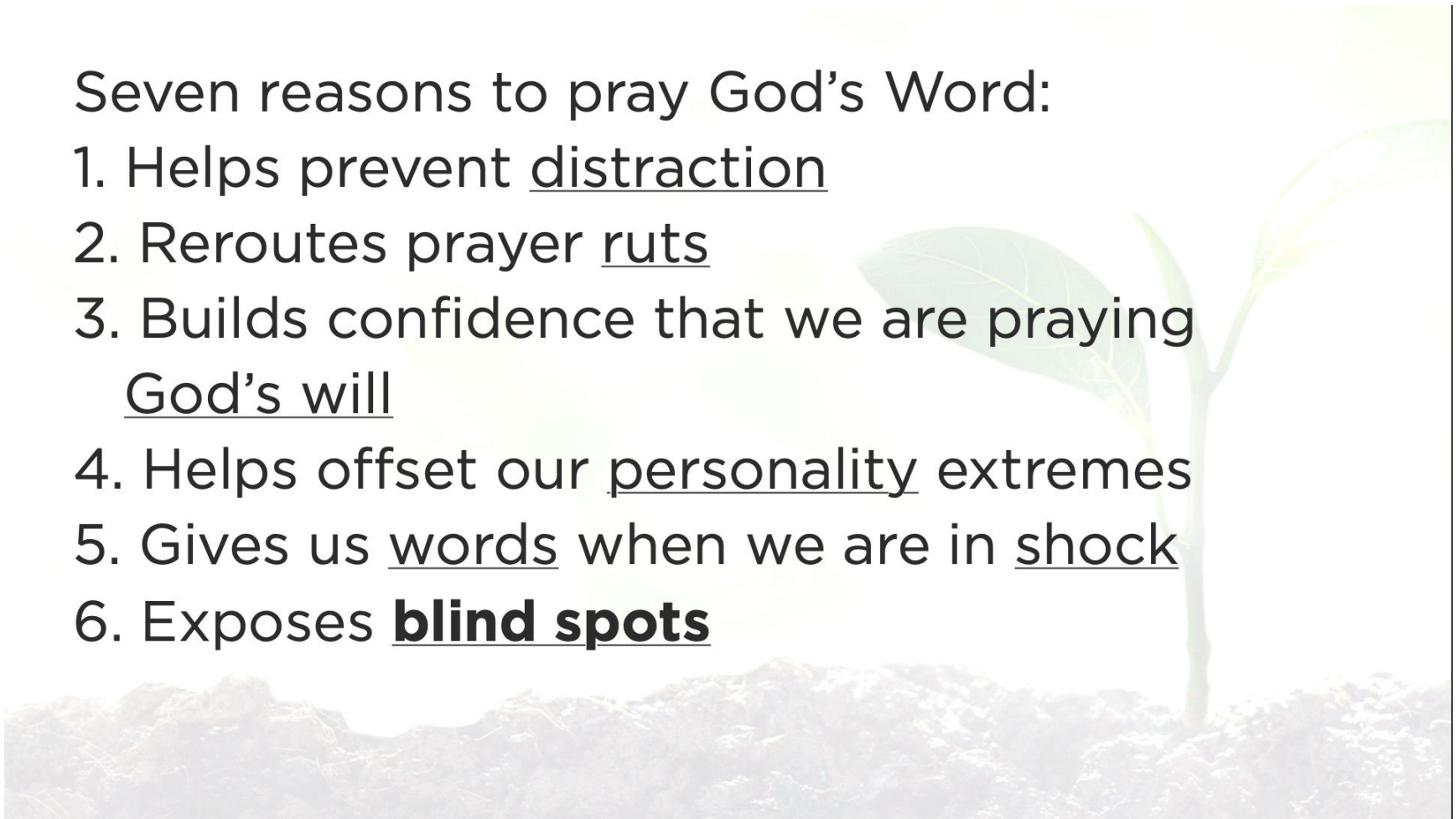
“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is
the strength of my heart and my portion
forever.”

Psalm 73:26



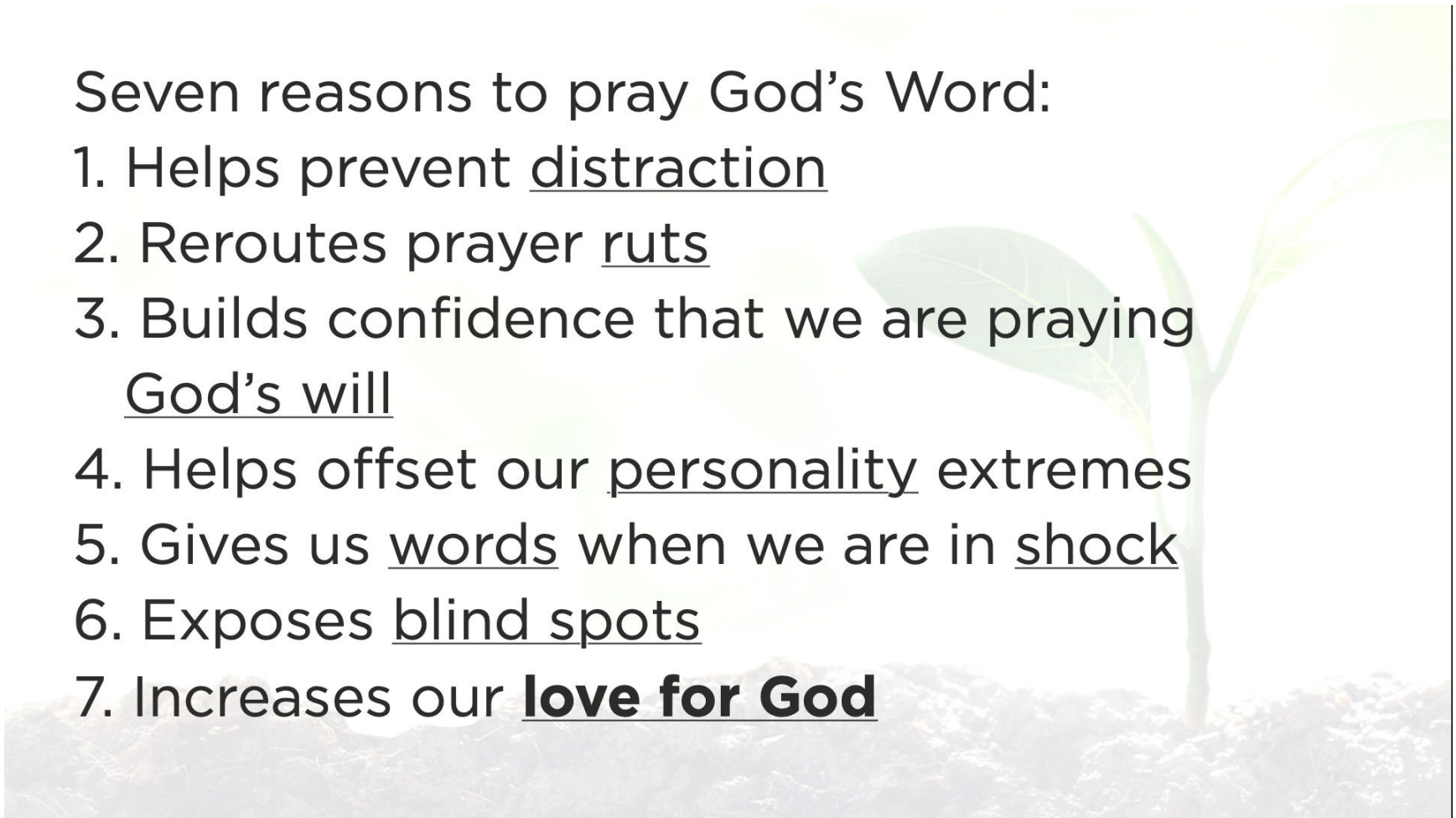
Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

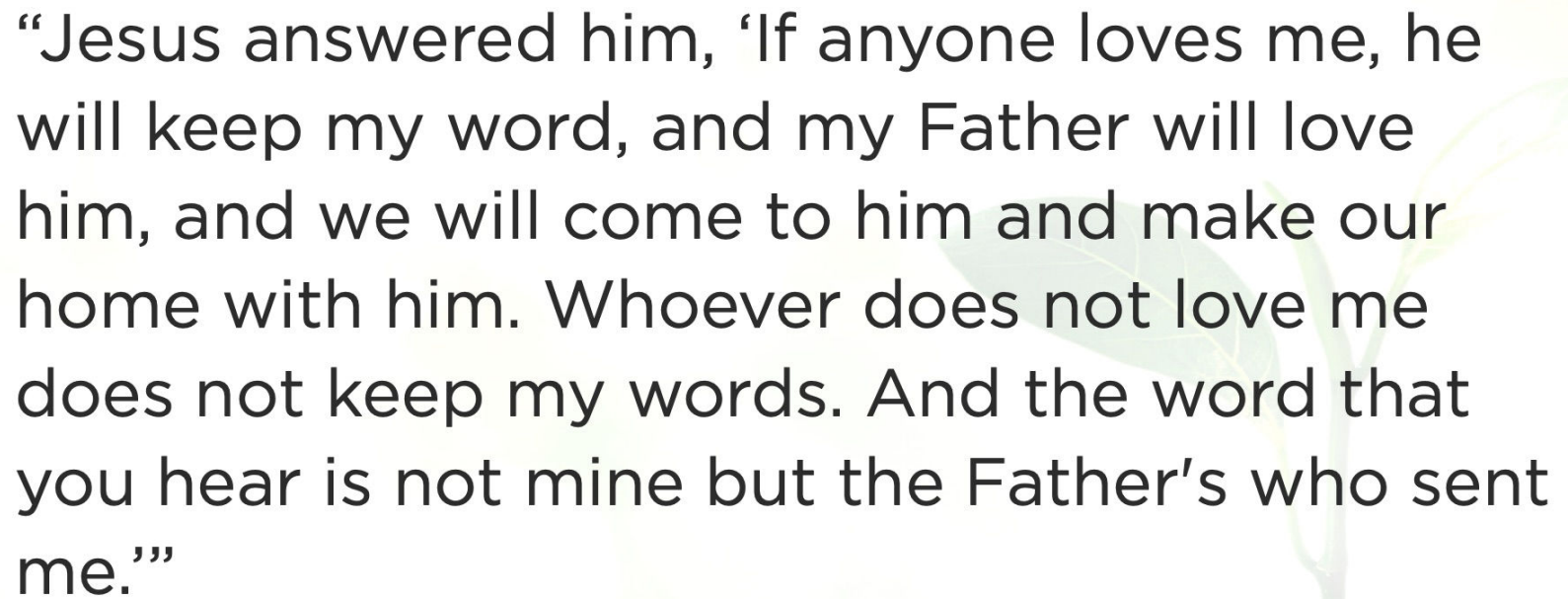
1. Helps prevent distraction
2. Reroutes prayer ruts
3. Builds confidence that we are praying God's will
4. Helps offset our personality extremes
5. Gives us words when we are in shock
6. Exposes **blind spots**



Seven reasons to pray God's Word:

1. Helps prevent distraction
2. Reroutes prayer ruts
3. Builds confidence that we are praying God's will
4. Helps offset our personality extremes
5. Gives us words when we are in shock
6. Exposes blind spots
7. Increases our **love for God**

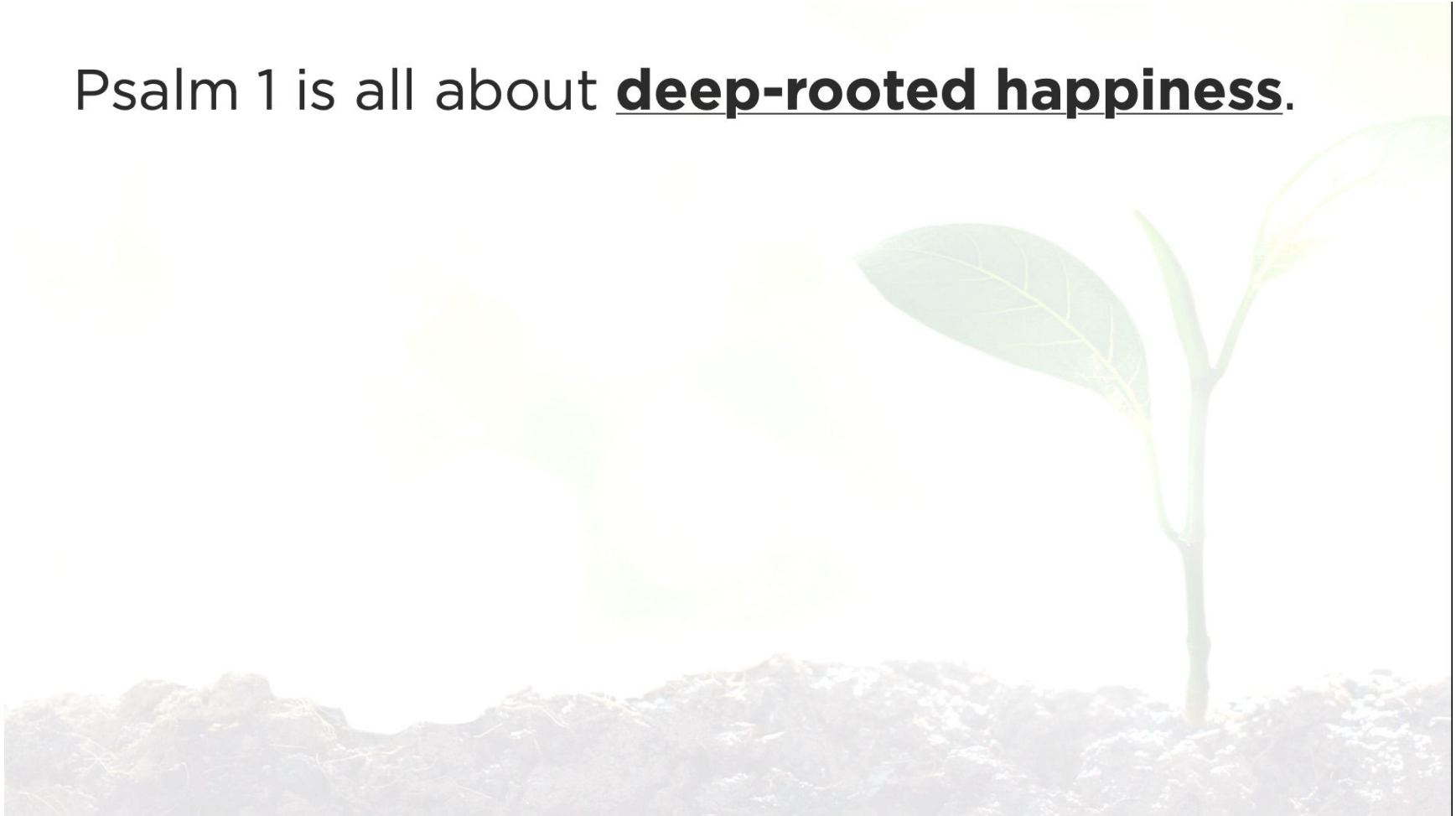




“Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.’”

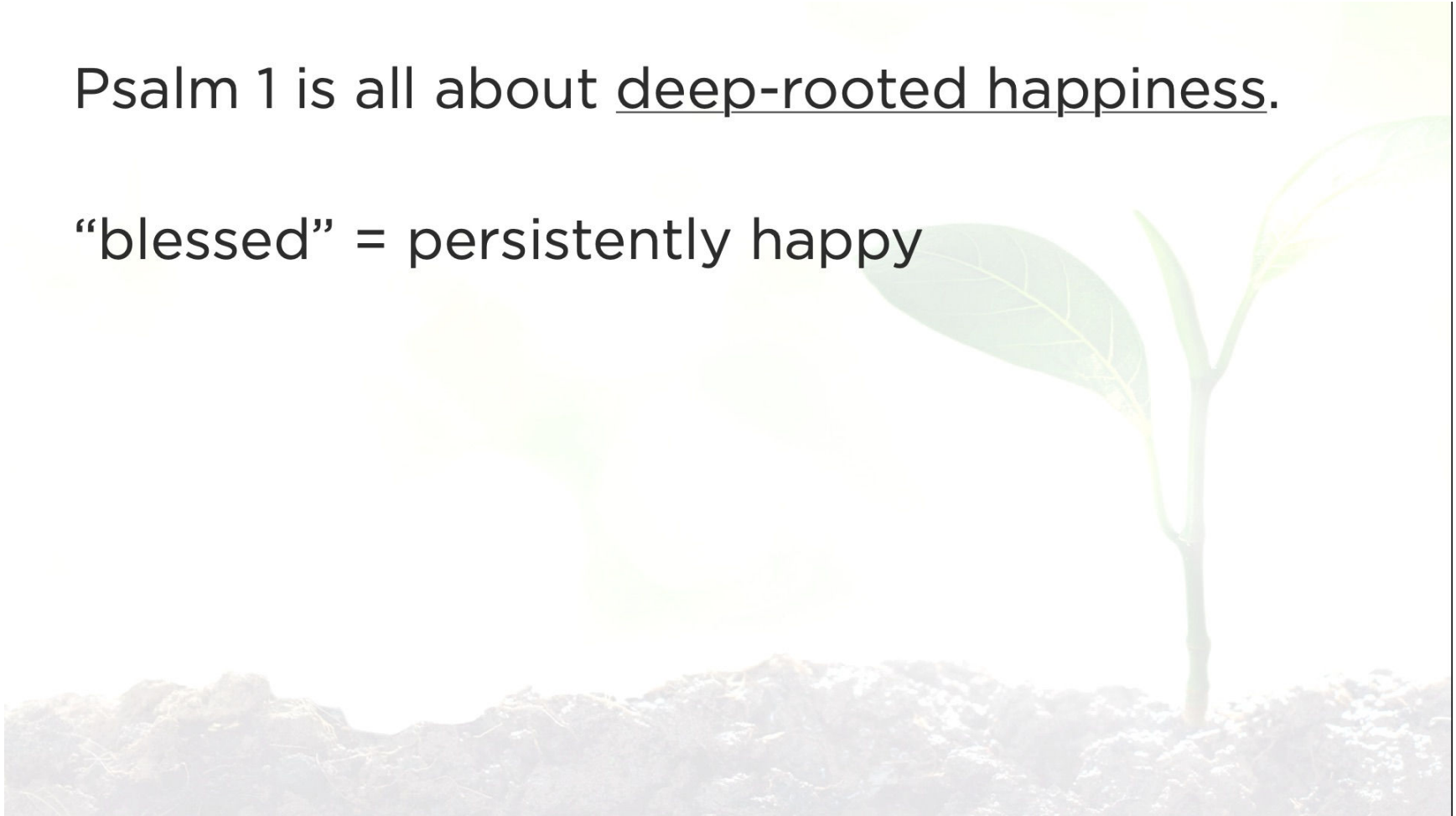
John 14:23-24

Psalm 1 is all about **deep-rooted happiness.**

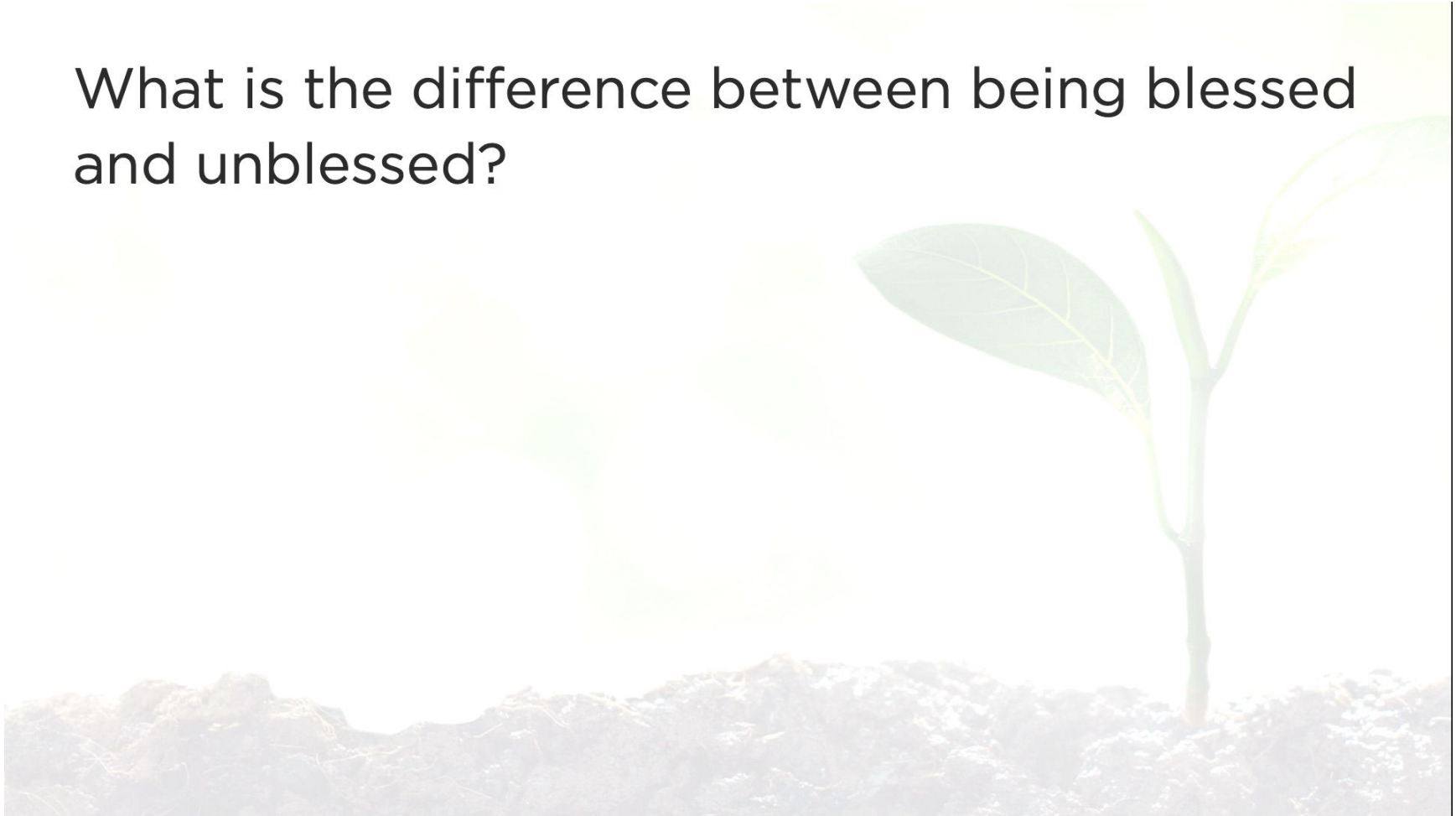


Psalm 1 is all about deep-rooted happiness.

“blessed” = persistently happy

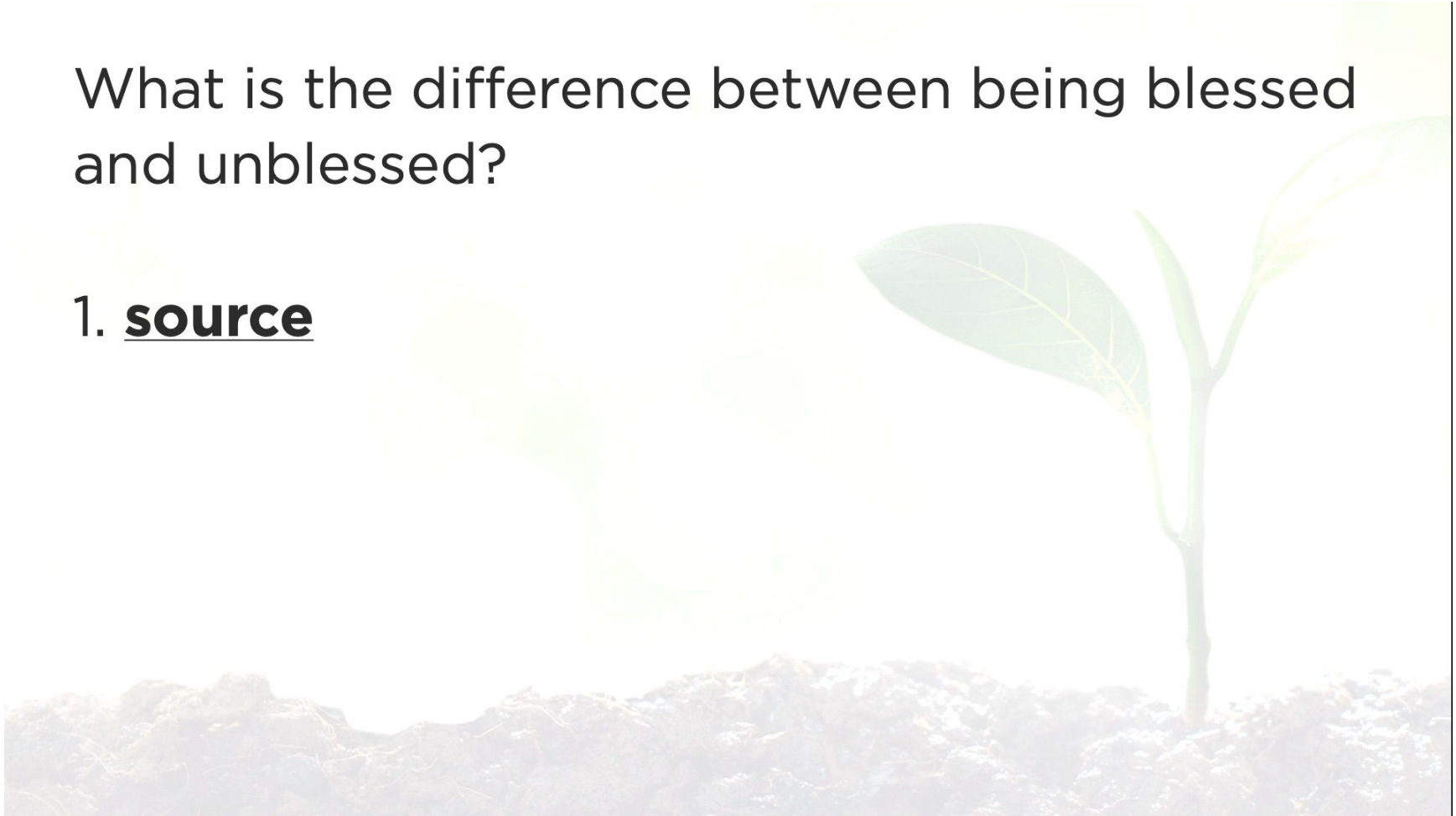


What is the difference between being blessed
and unblessed?



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

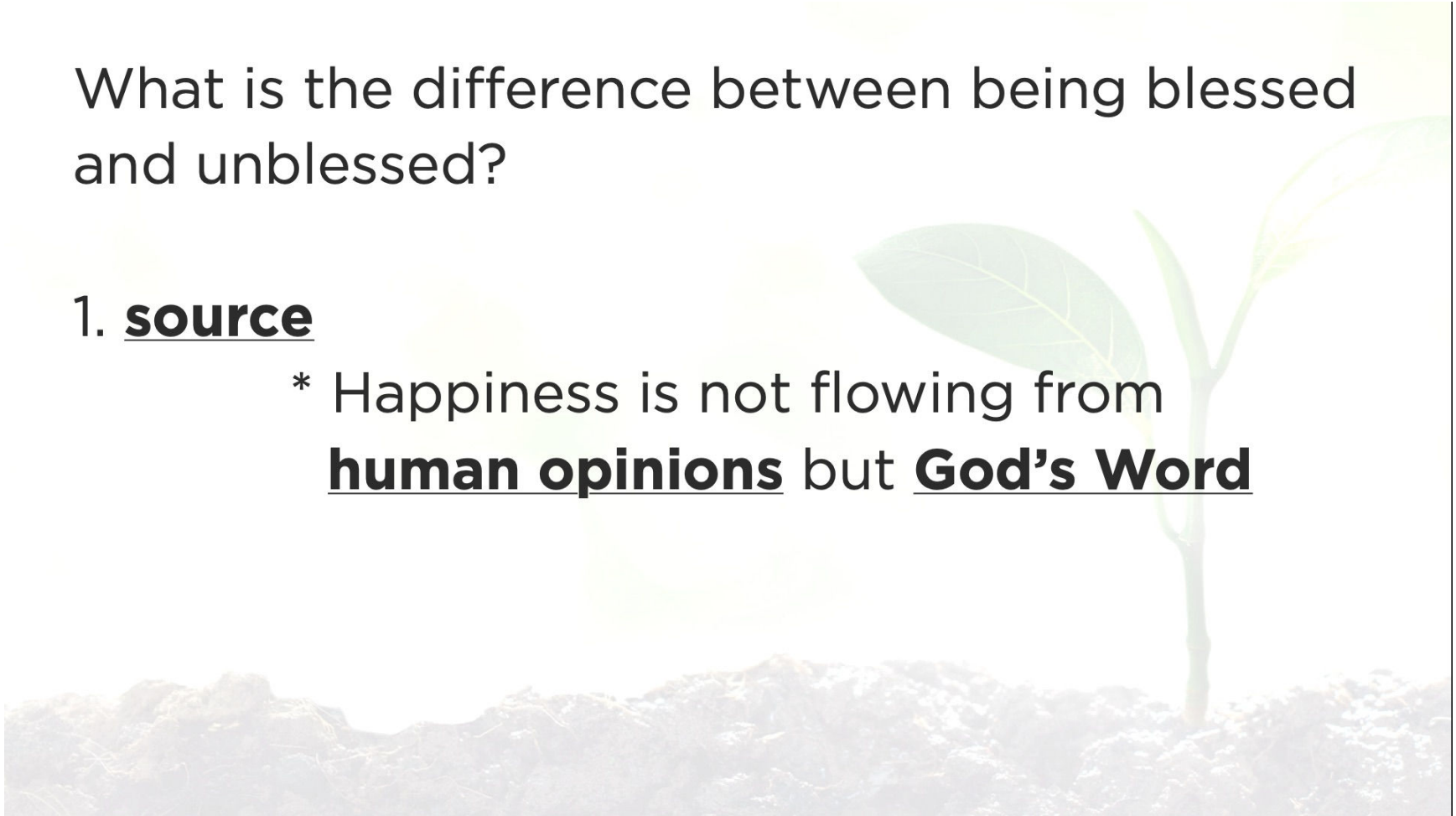
1. **source**



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

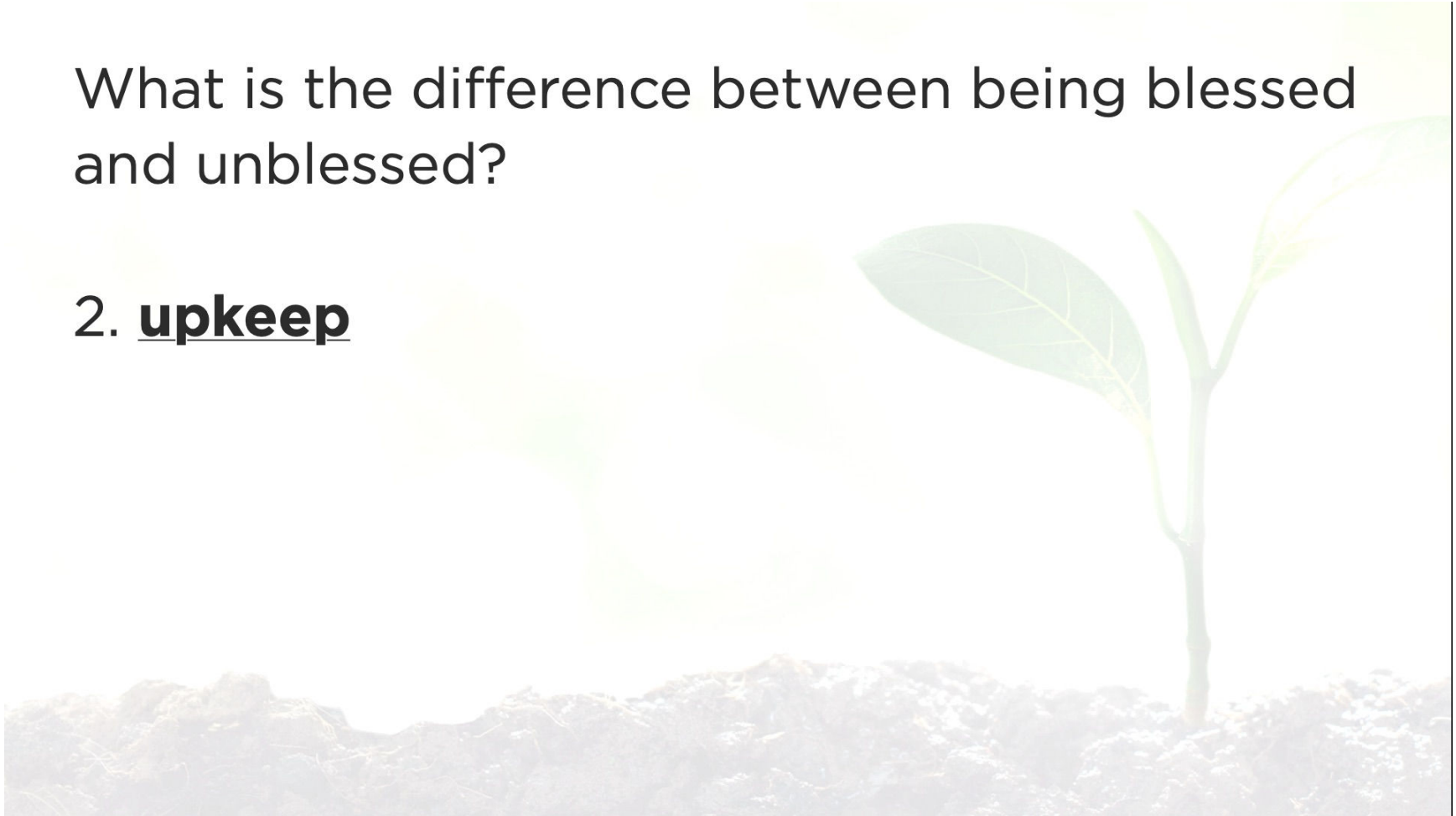
1. **source**

- * Happiness is not flowing from **human opinions** but **God's Word**



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

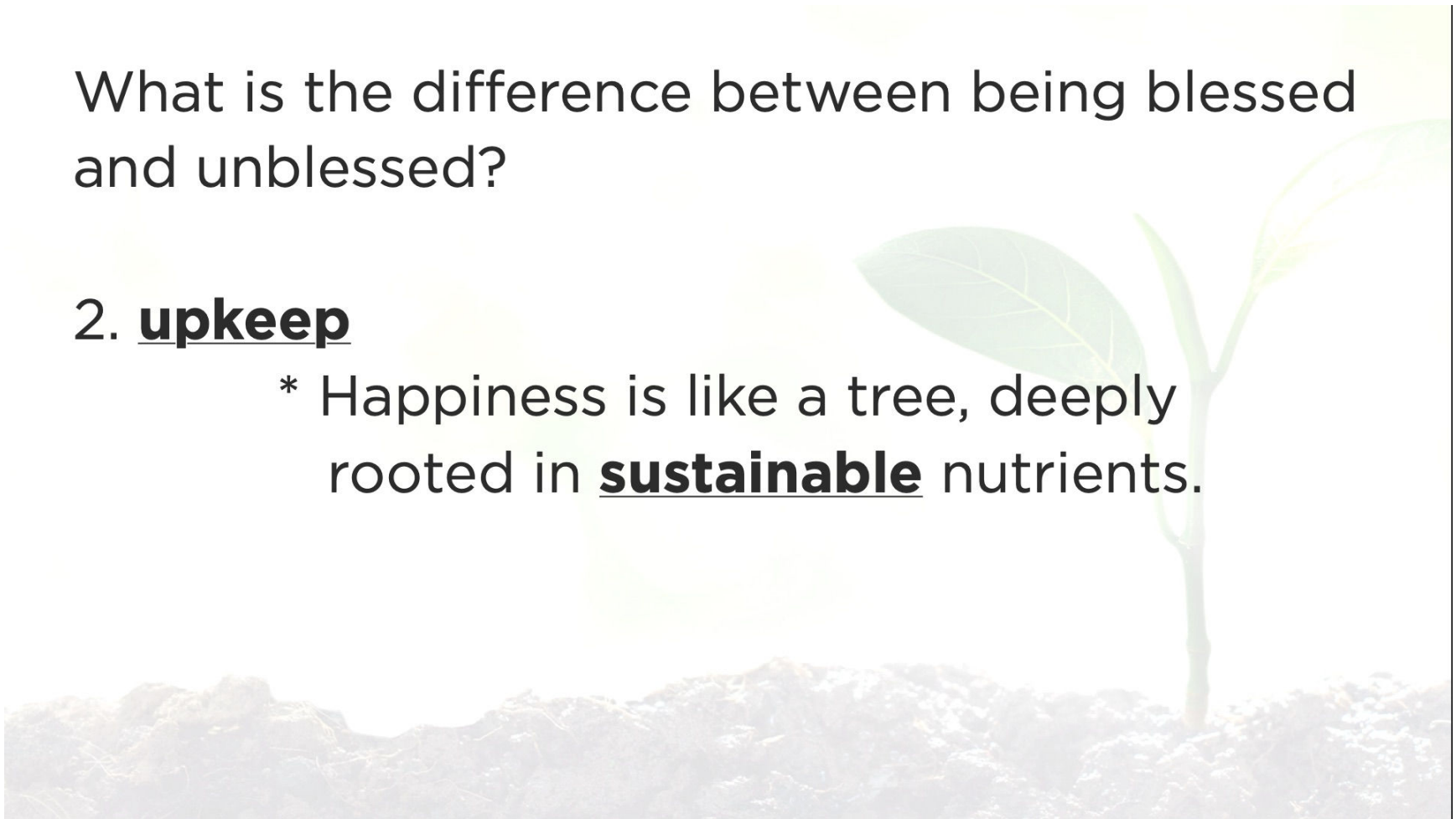
2. **upkeep**



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

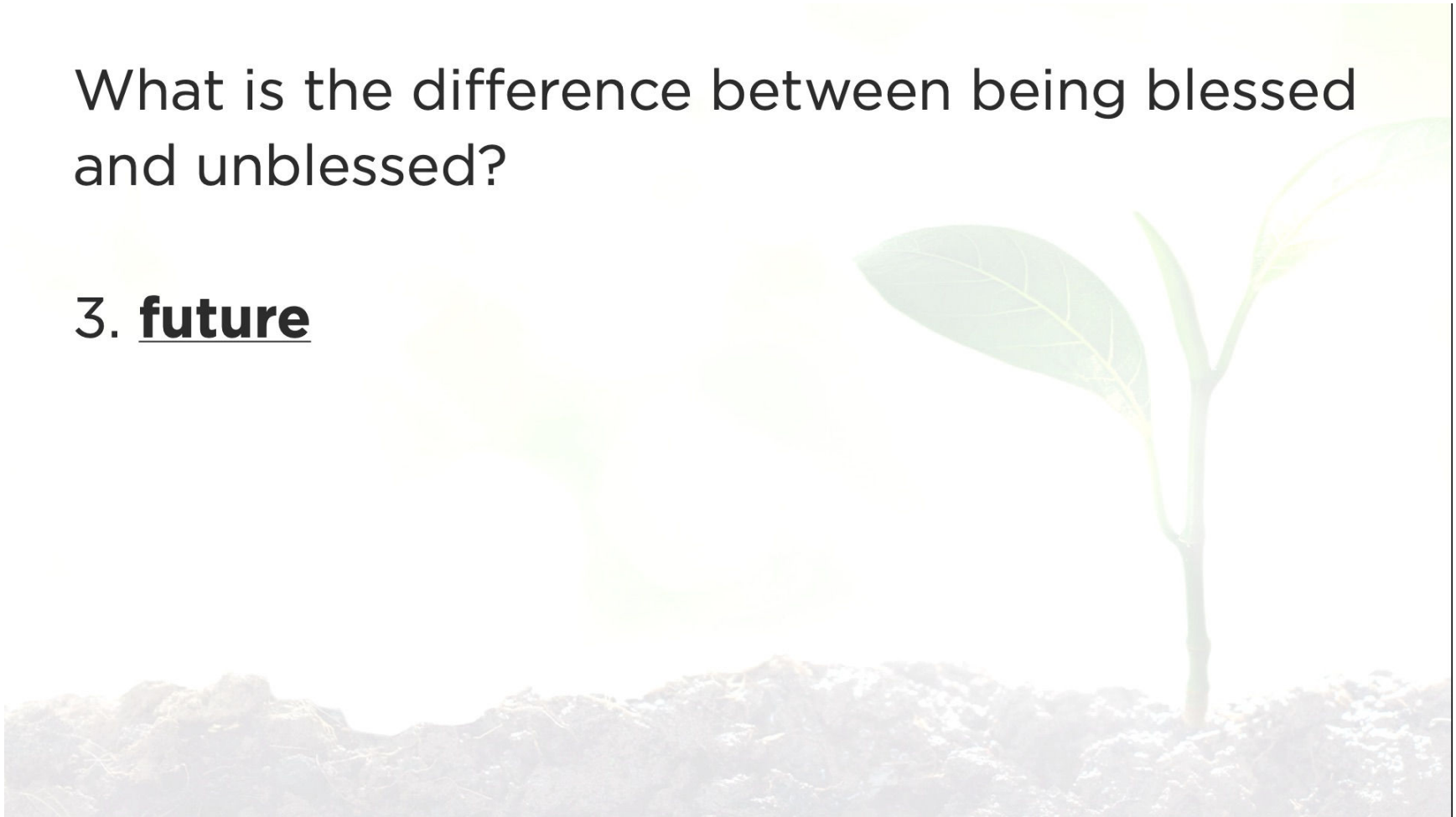
2. upkeep

- * Happiness is like a tree, deeply rooted in **sustainable** nutrients.



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

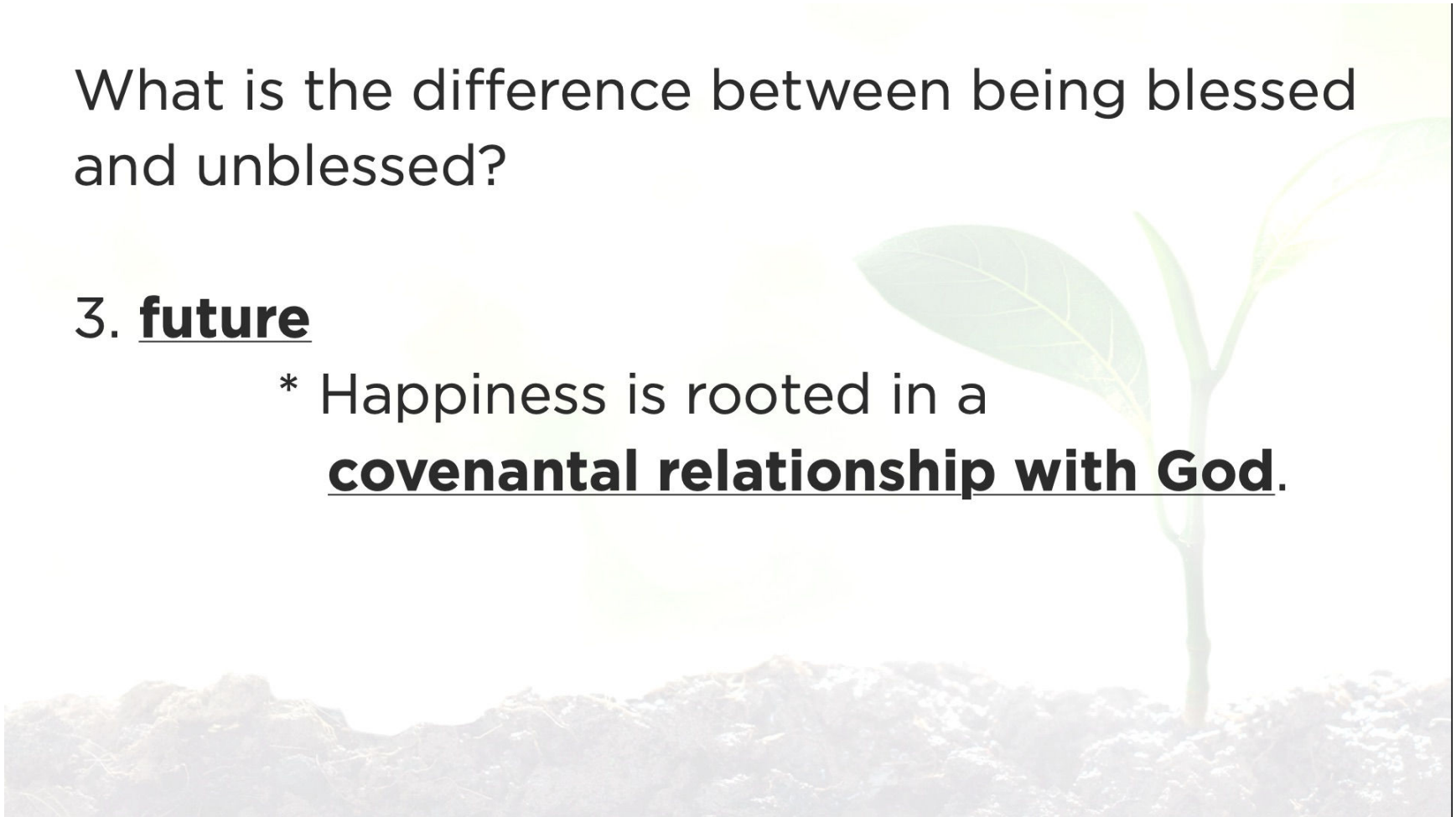
3. future



What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

3. future

- * Happiness is rooted in a **covenantal relationship with God.**



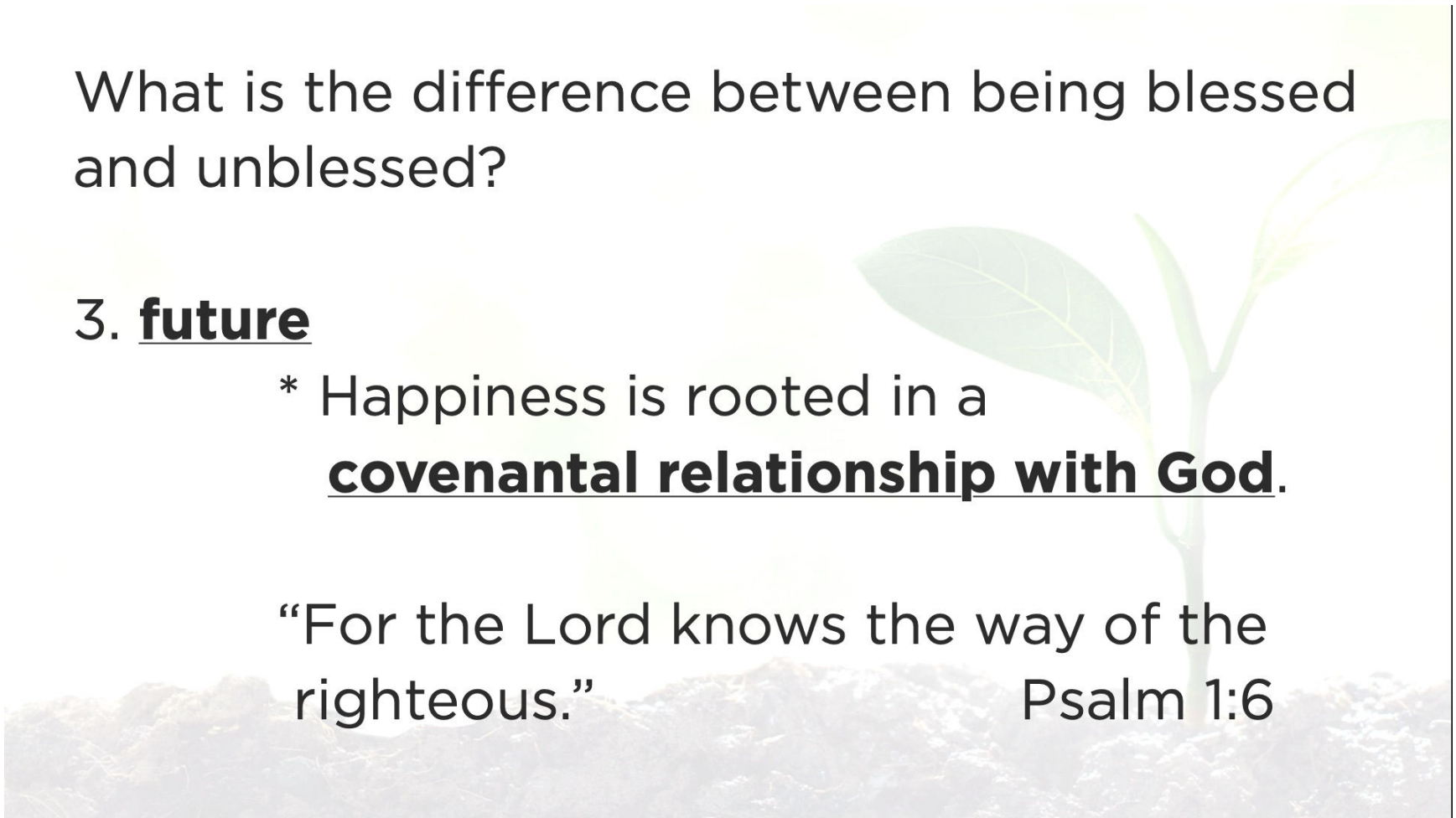
What is the difference between being blessed and unblessed?

3. future

* Happiness is rooted in a
covenantal relationship with God.

“For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous.”

Psalm 1:6



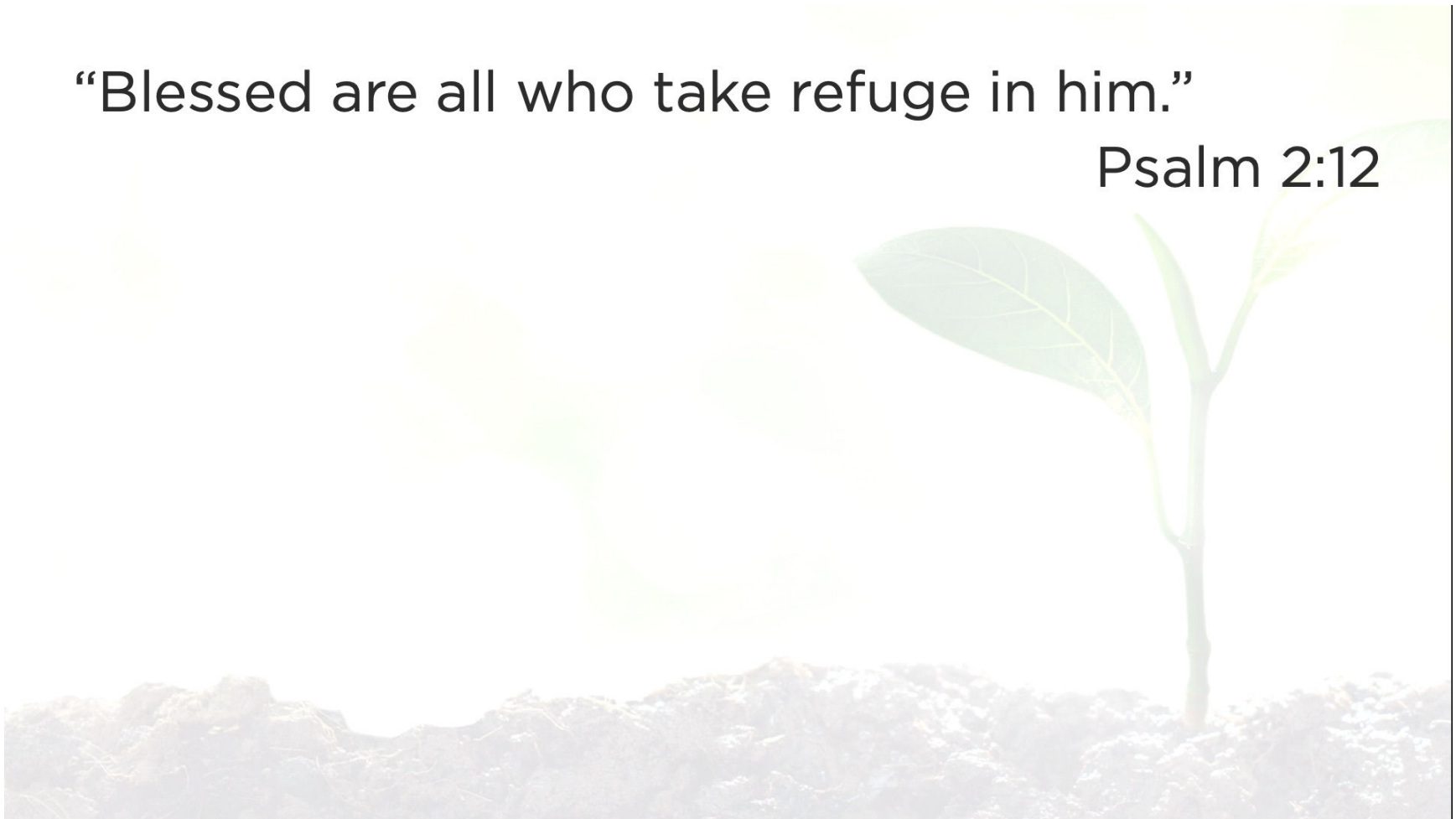
“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

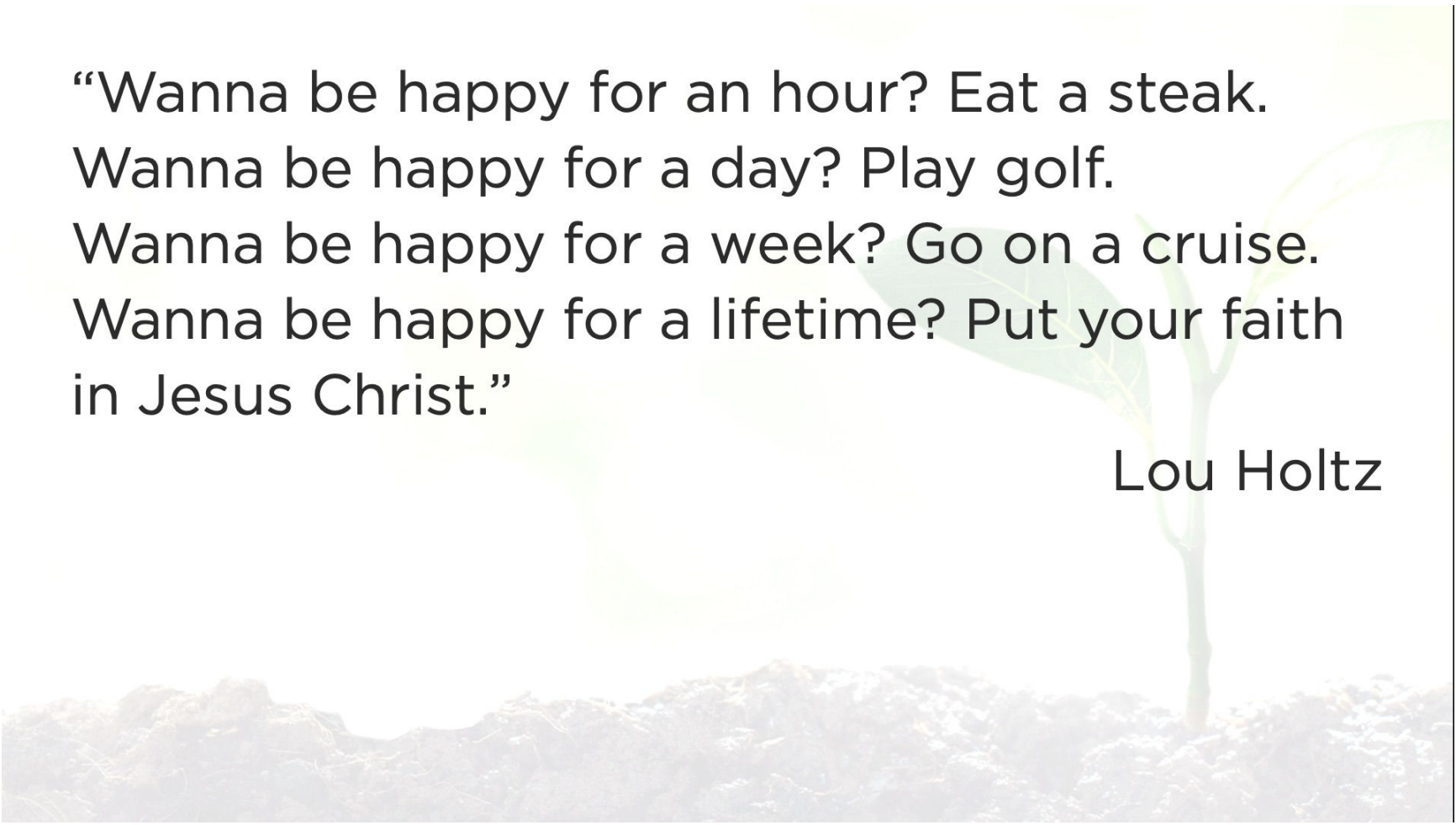
Psalms 1:5-6



“Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

Psalm 2:12



A small green seedling with two leaves growing out of a mound of dark soil. The background is a light, hazy green.

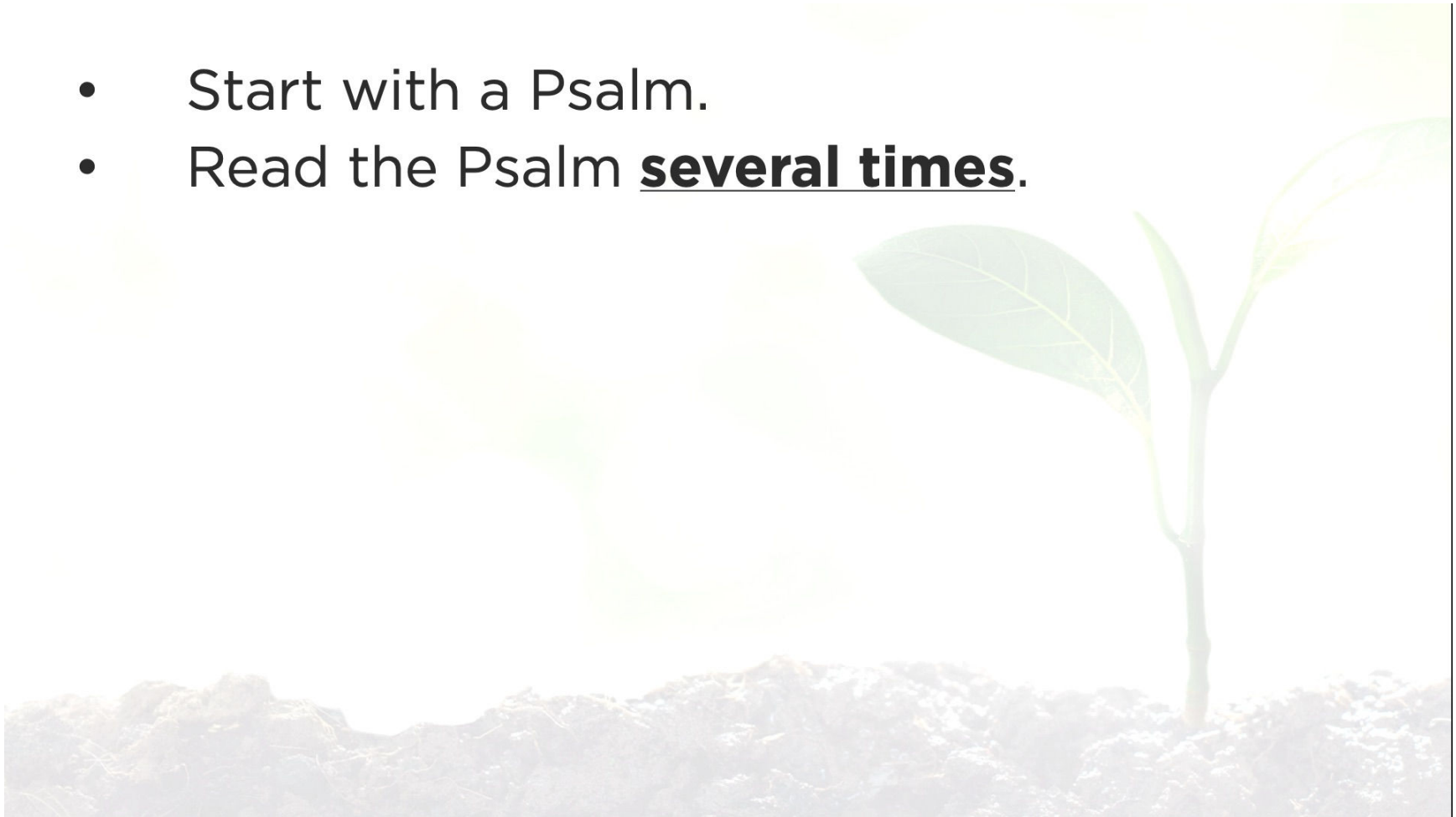
“Wanna be happy for an hour? Eat a steak.
Wanna be happy for a day? Play golf.
Wanna be happy for a week? Go on a cruise.
Wanna be happy for a lifetime? Put your faith
in Jesus Christ.”

Lou Holtz

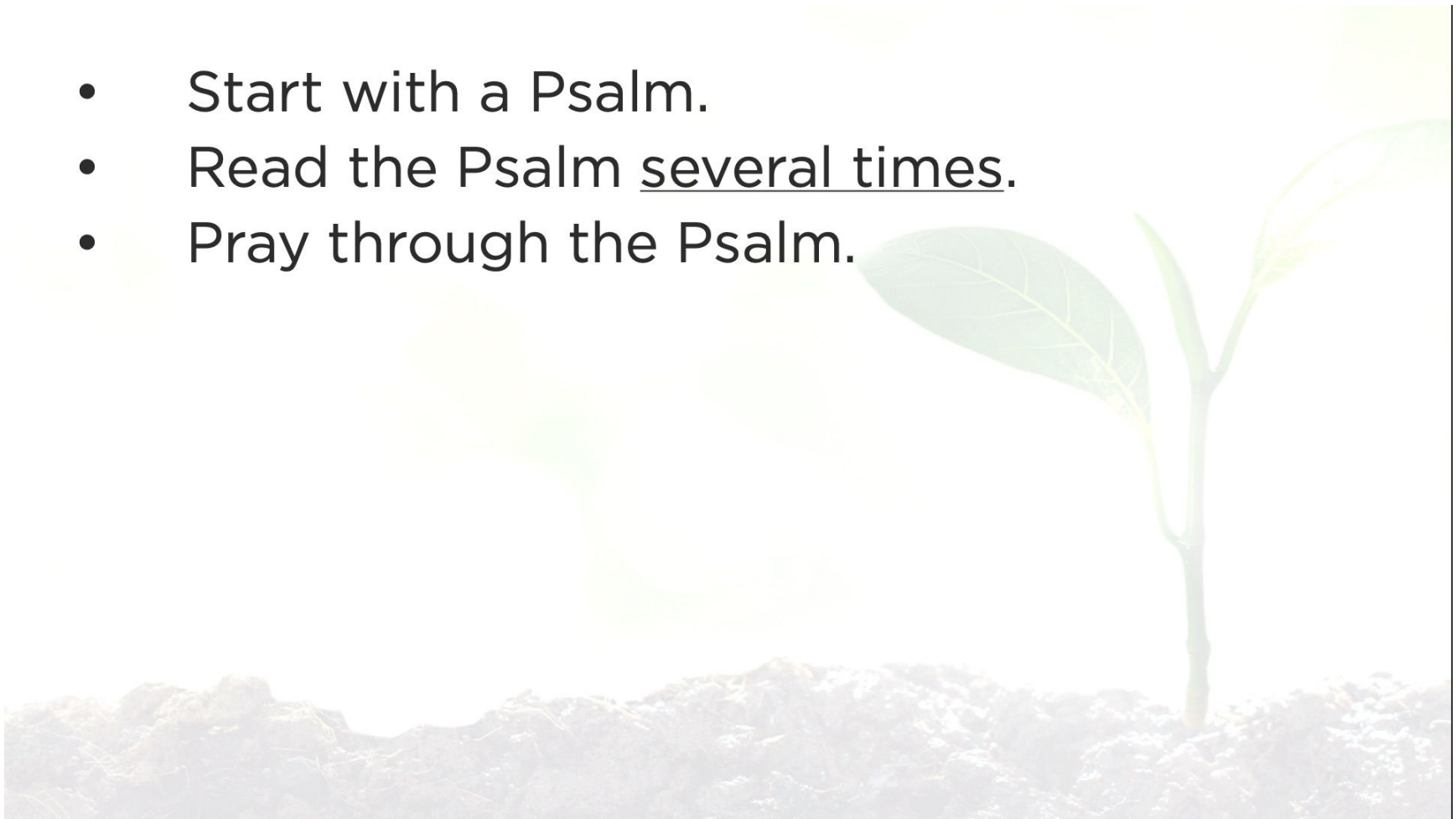
- Start with a Psalm.



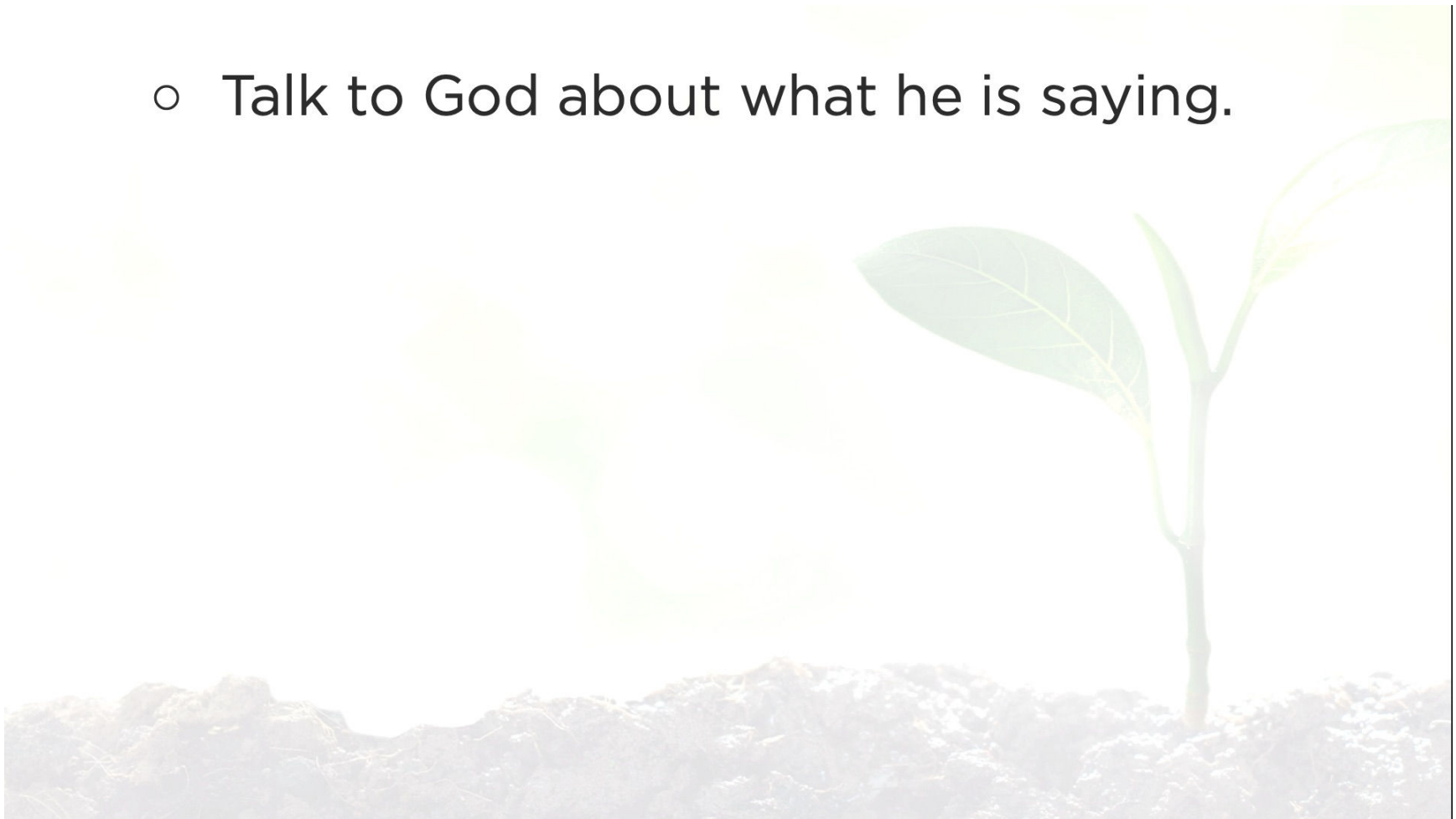
- Start with a Psalm.
- Read the Psalm **several times**.



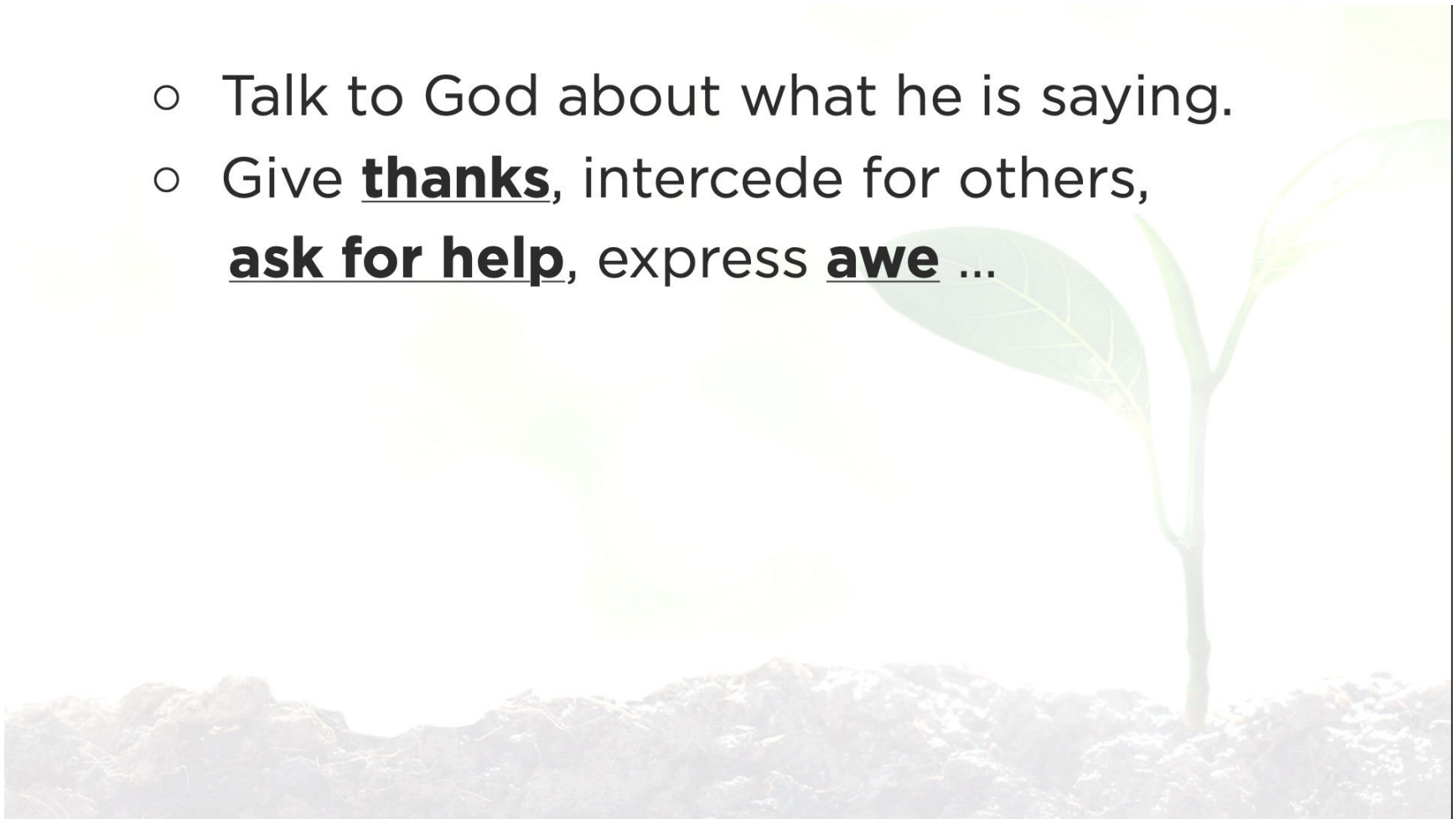
- Start with a Psalm.
- Read the Psalm several times.
- Pray through the Psalm.



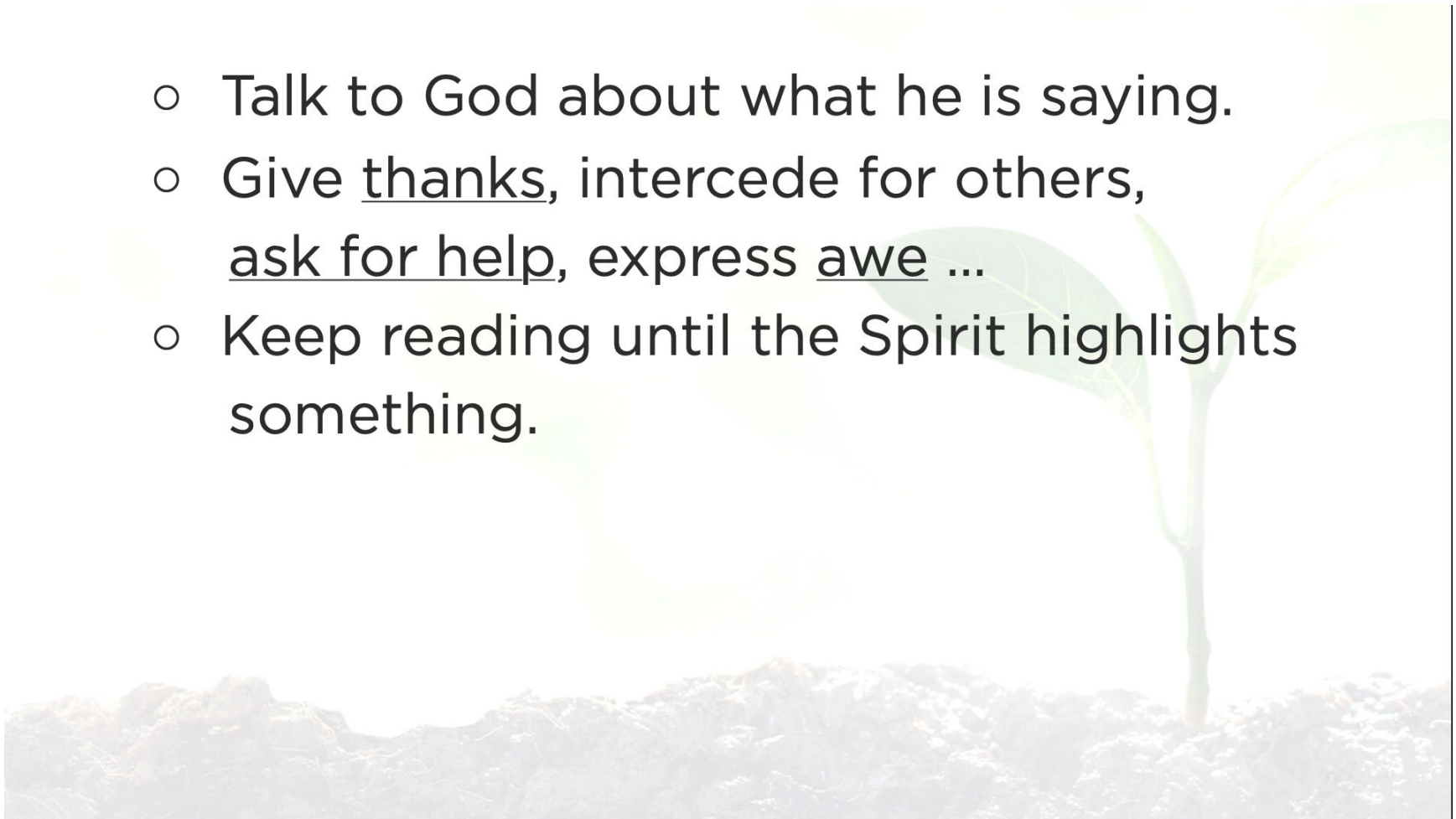
- Talk to God about what he is saying.



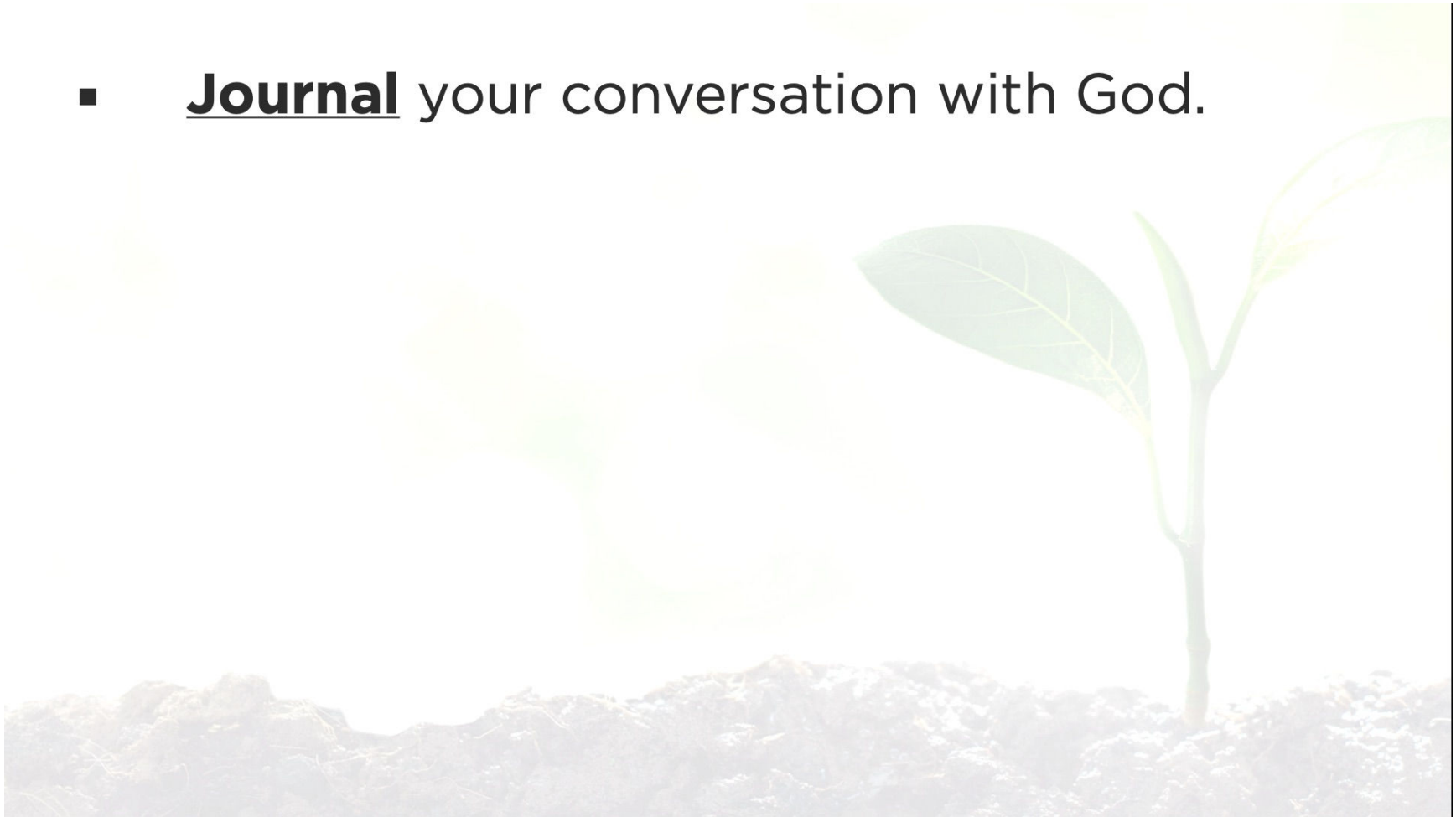
- Talk to God about what he is saying.
- Give **thanks**, intercede for others, **ask for help**, express **awe** ...



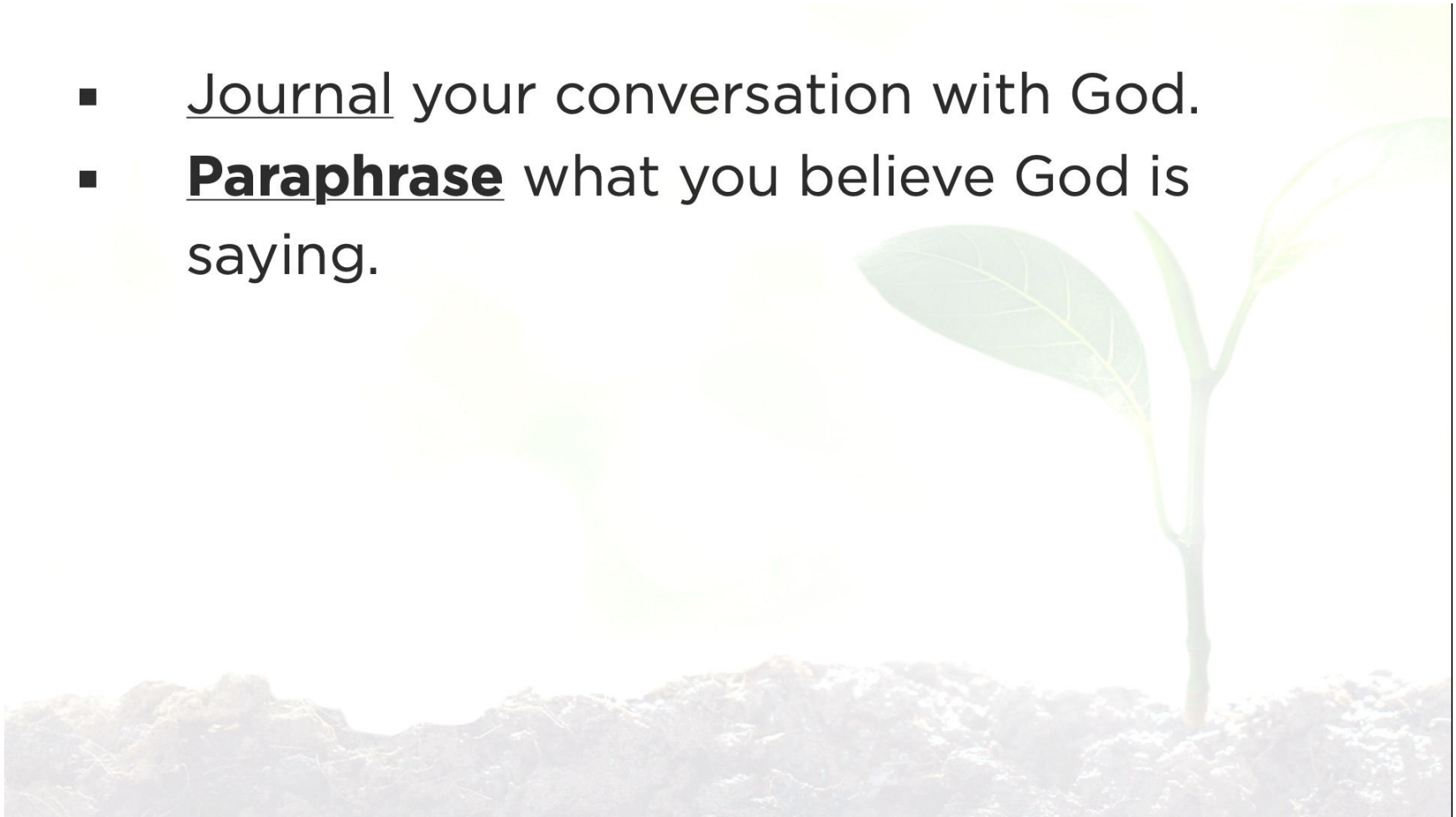
- Talk to God about what he is saying.
- Give thanks, intercede for others, ask for help, express awe ...
- Keep reading until the Spirit highlights something.



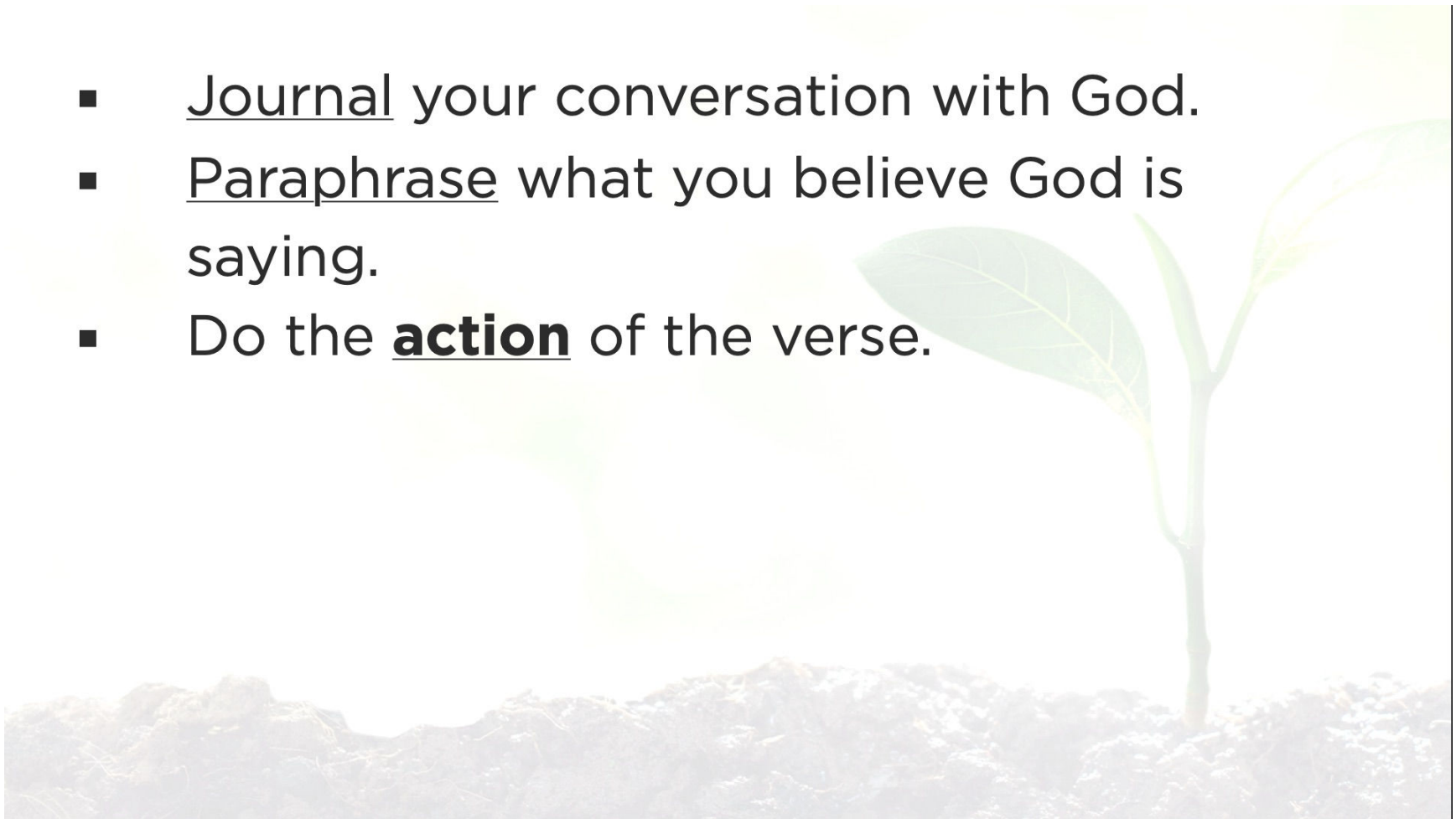
- **Journal** your conversation with God.



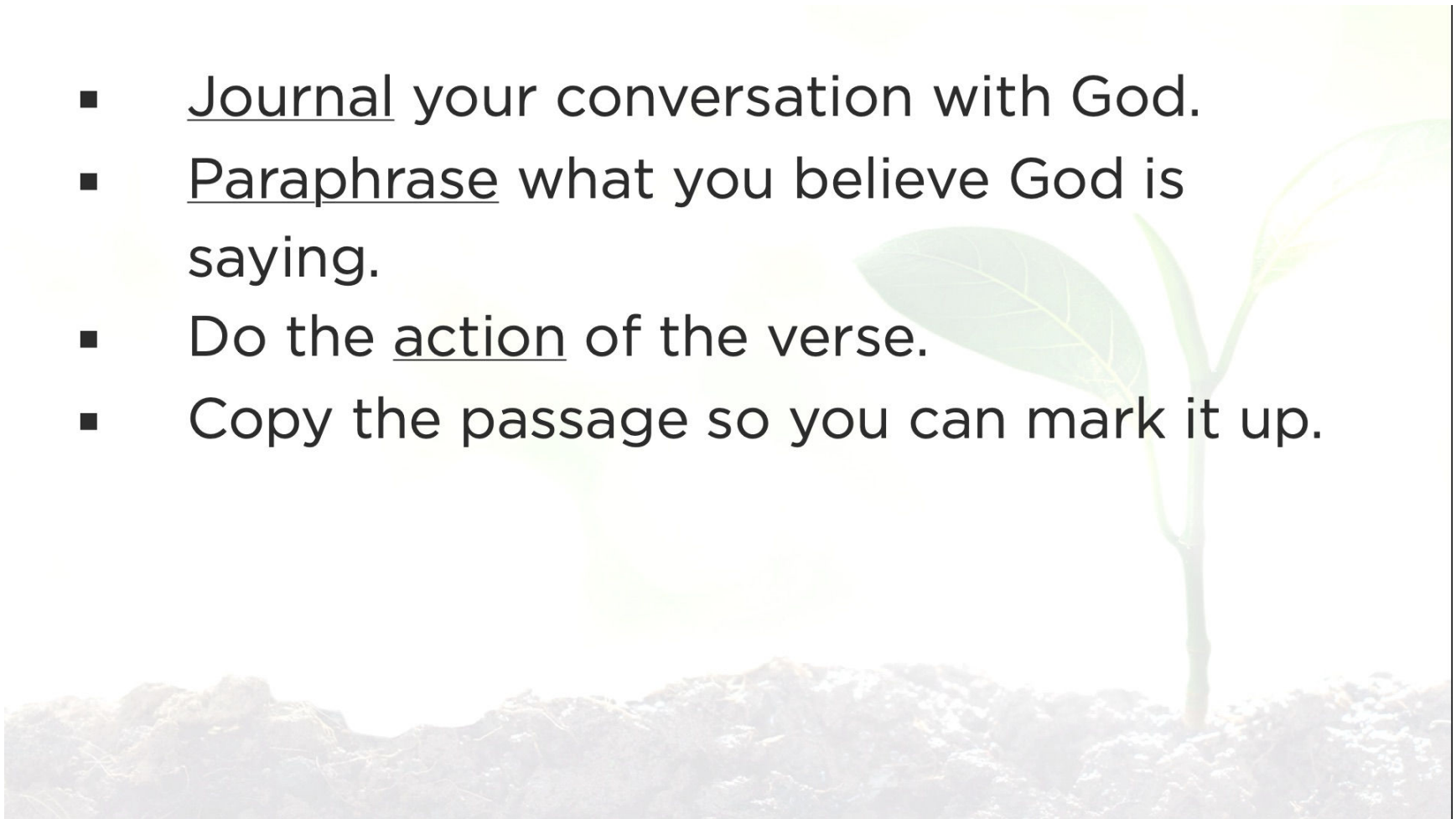
- Journal your conversation with God.
- **Paraphrase** what you believe God is saying.

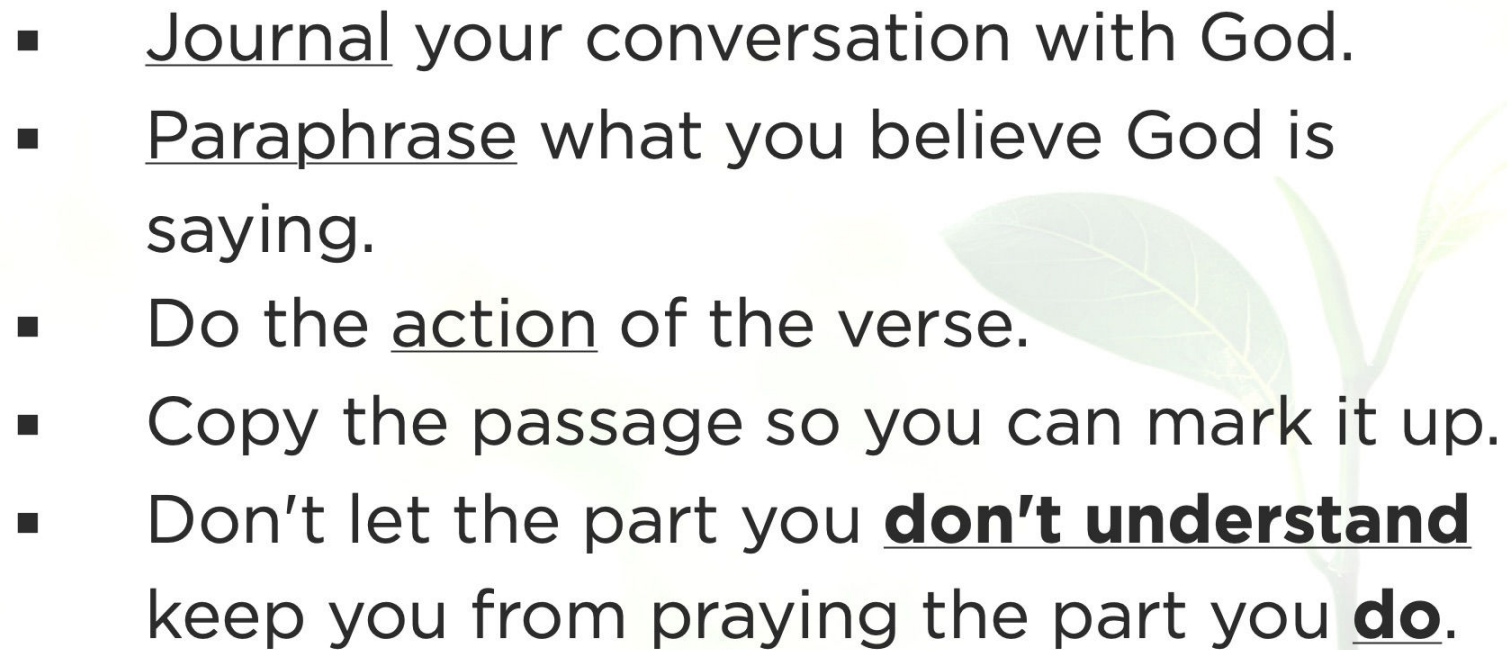


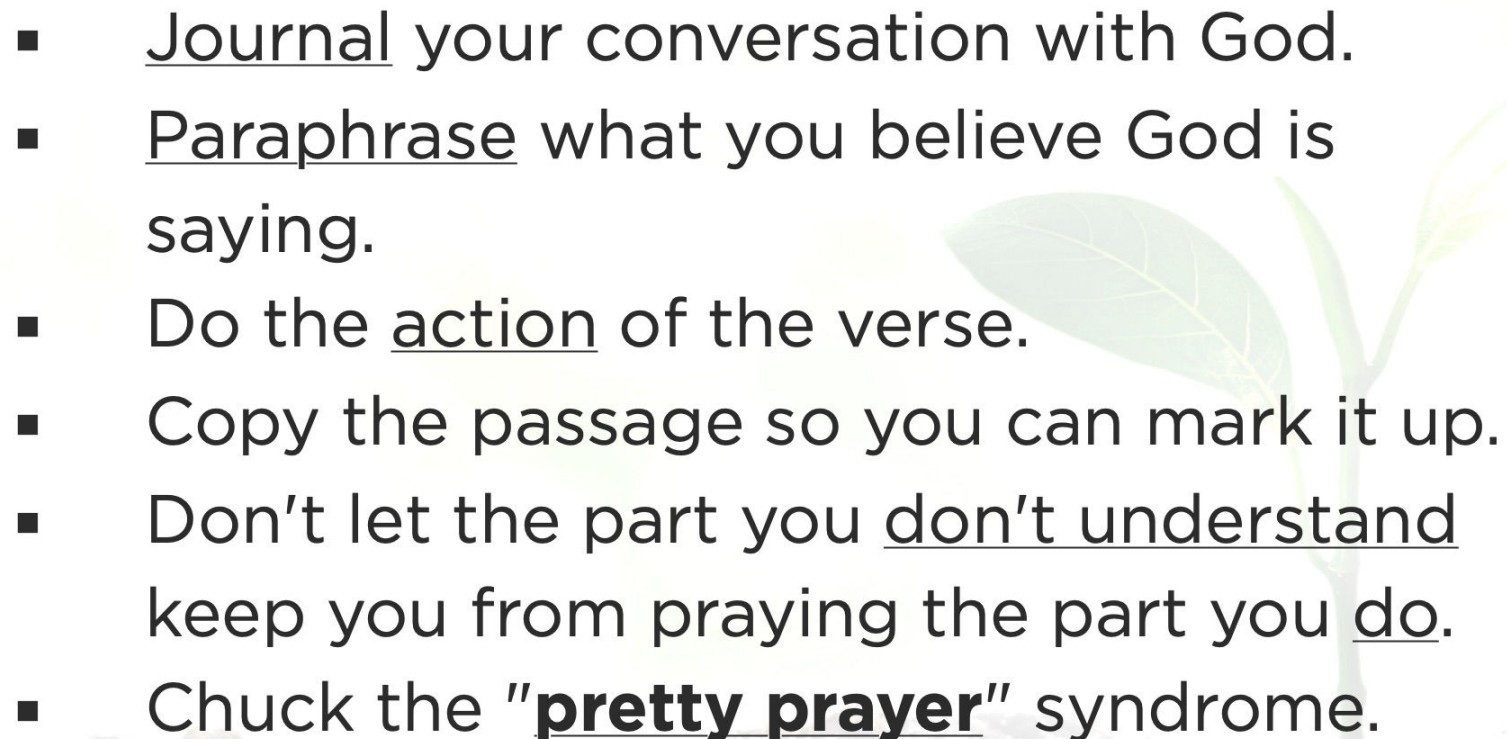
- Journal your conversation with God.
- Paraphrase what you believe God is saying.
- Do the **action** of the verse.



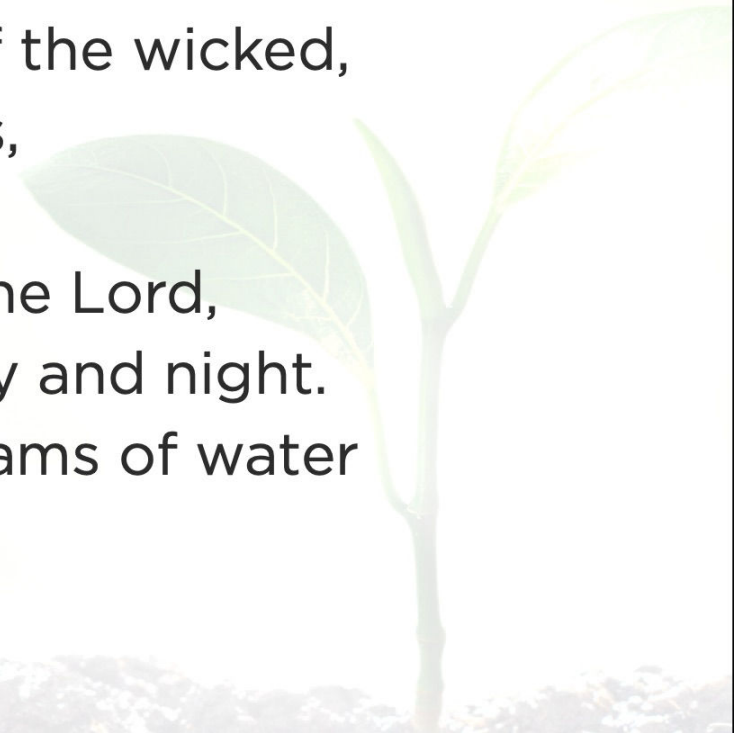
- Journal your conversation with God.
- Paraphrase what you believe God is saying.
- Do the action of the verse.
- Copy the passage so you can mark it up.

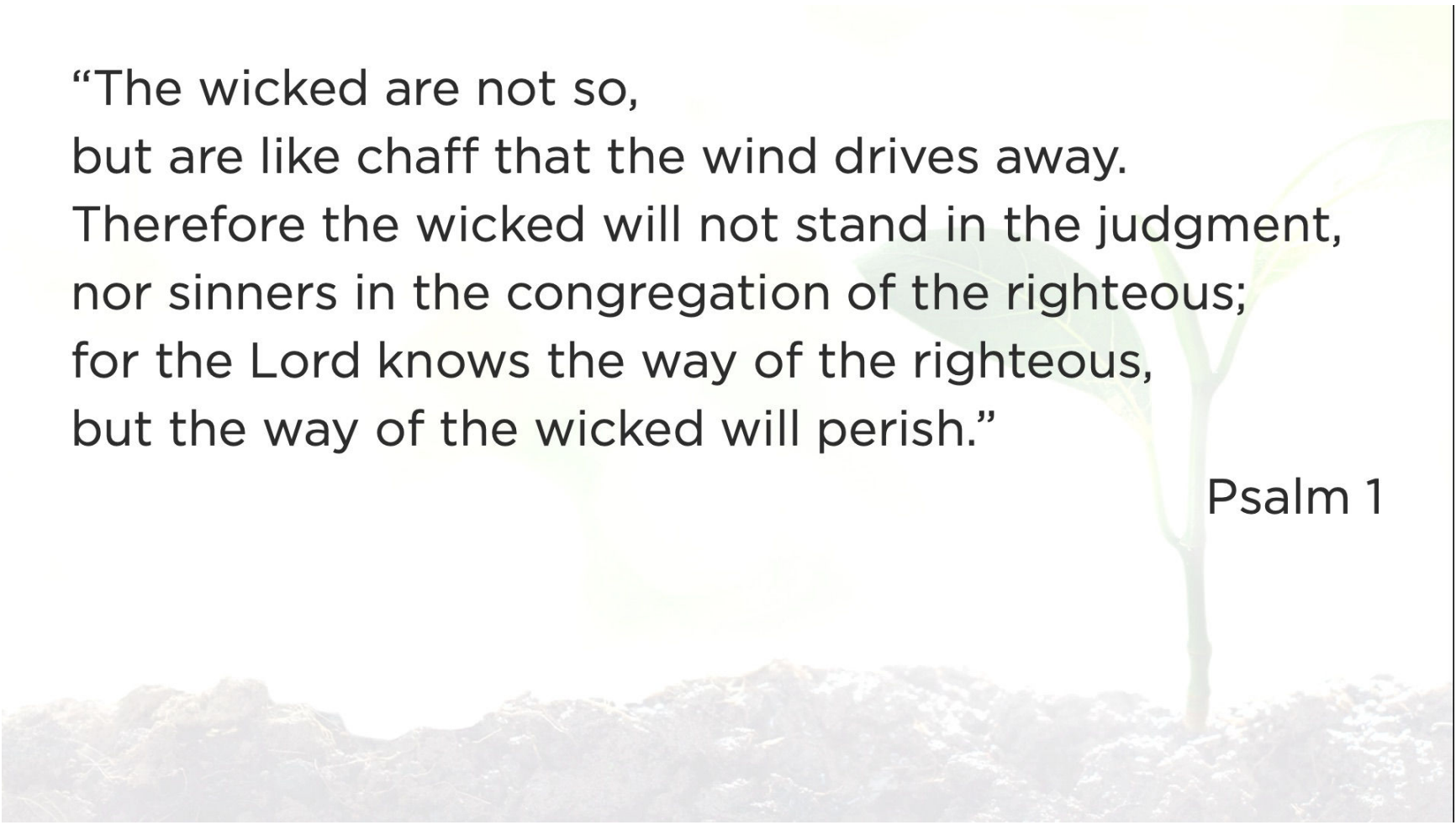


- 
- Journal your conversation with God.
 - Paraphrase what you believe God is saying.
 - Do the action of the verse.
 - Copy the passage so you can mark it up.
 - Don't let the part you **don't understand** keep you from praying the part you **do**.

- 
- Journal your conversation with God.
 - Paraphrase what you believe God is saying.
 - Do the action of the verse.
 - Copy the passage so you can mark it up.
 - Don't let the part you don't understand keep you from praying the part you do.
 - Chuck the "**pretty prayer**" syndrome.

“Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.



A young green seedling with two leaves growing out of a mound of dark soil. The seedling is positioned on the right side of the image, with its stem and leaves extending upwards. The soil is dark and textured, forming a small hill. The background is a light, hazy green, suggesting a soft-focus natural setting.

“The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.”

Psalm 1