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A New Series – Jan. 11-Mar. 1, 2015

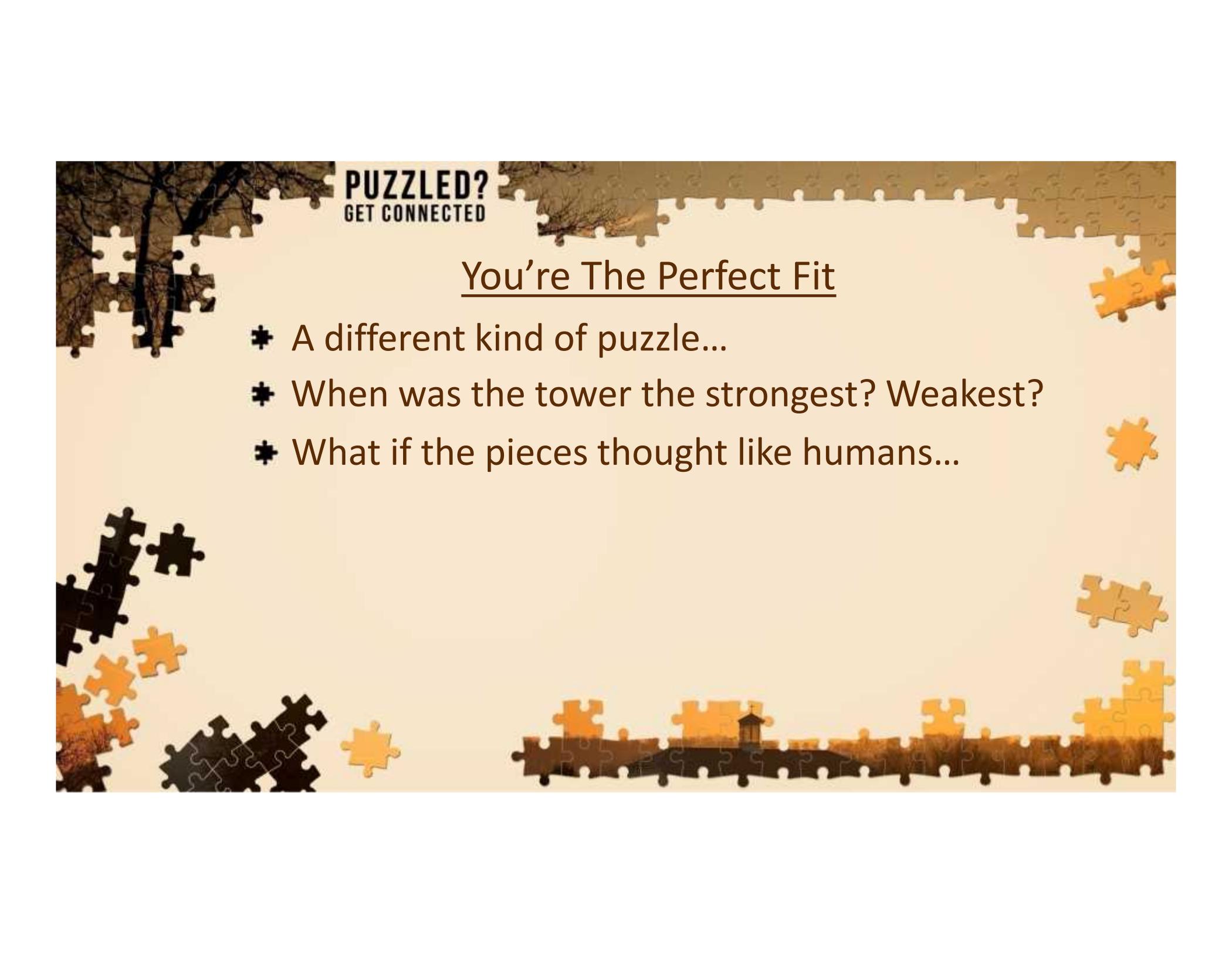
PUZZLED?
GET CONNECTED



PUZZLED?
GET CONNECTED

Puzzled? Get Connected: Jan. 11-Mar. 1, 2015

- ✦ Connect through Different Motivations ... Jan. 11
- ✦ Connect through Different Manifestations ... Jan. 25
- ✦ Connect through Different Ministries ... Feb. 1
- ✦ You're Piece Is Unique ... Feb. 8 (Kendall)
- ✦ **You're The Perfect Fit ... Feb. 15 (Josh)**
- ✦ You've Been Chosen ... Feb. 22
- ✦ Connected for a Purpose ... Mar. 1



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You're The Perfect Fit

- ✦ A different kind of puzzle...
- ✦ When was the tower the strongest? Weakest?
- ✦ What if the pieces thought like humans...



Followed other
piece to top



Was not content on bottom



Felt insignificant...
only one piece!



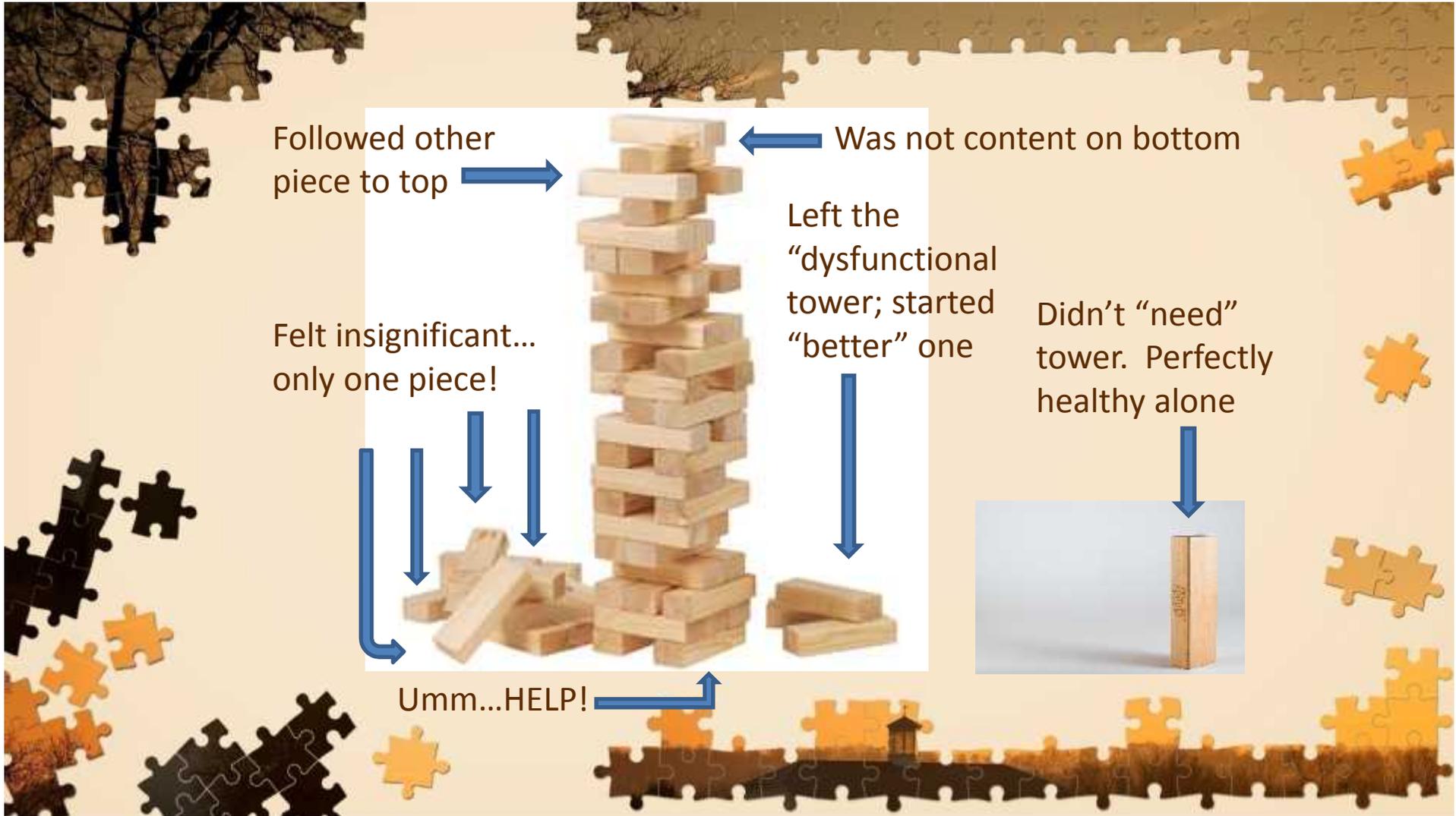
Left the
"dysfunctional
tower; started
"better" one



Didn't "need"
tower. Perfectly
healthy alone



Umm...HELP!



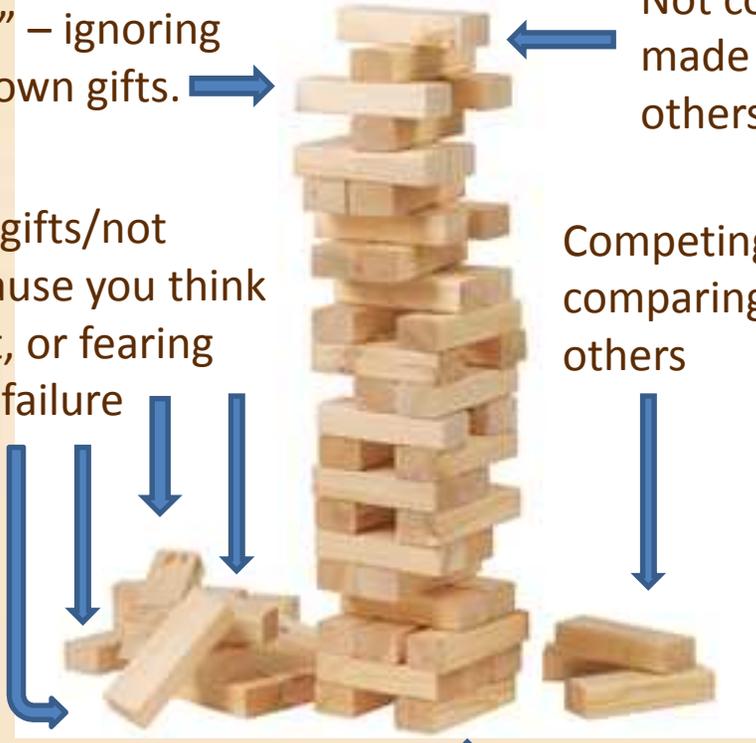
Just following the "best" – ignoring your own gifts. →

← Not content with who God made you/jealous of others/wants recognition

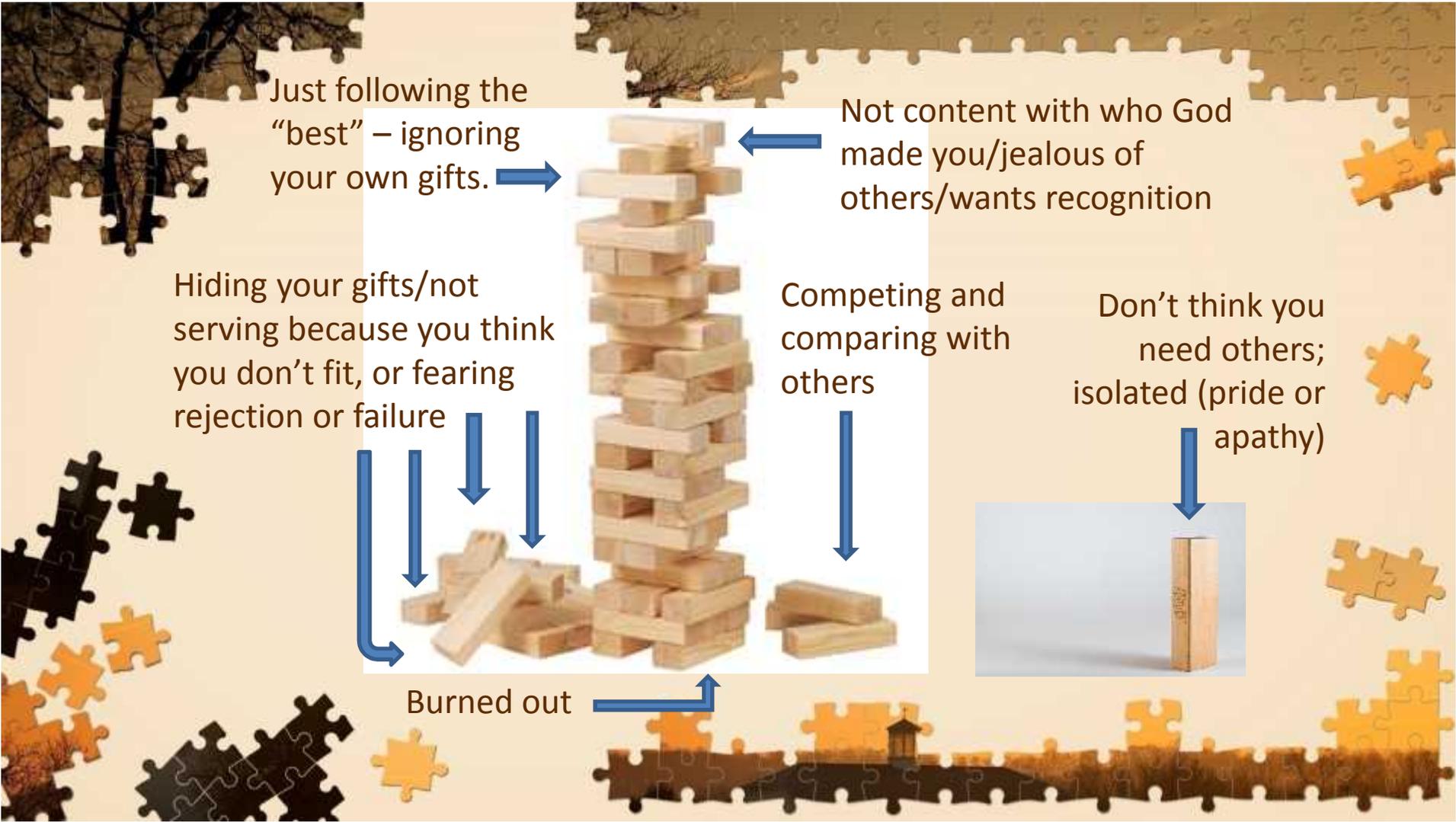
Hiding your gifts/not serving because you think you don't fit, or fearing rejection or failure

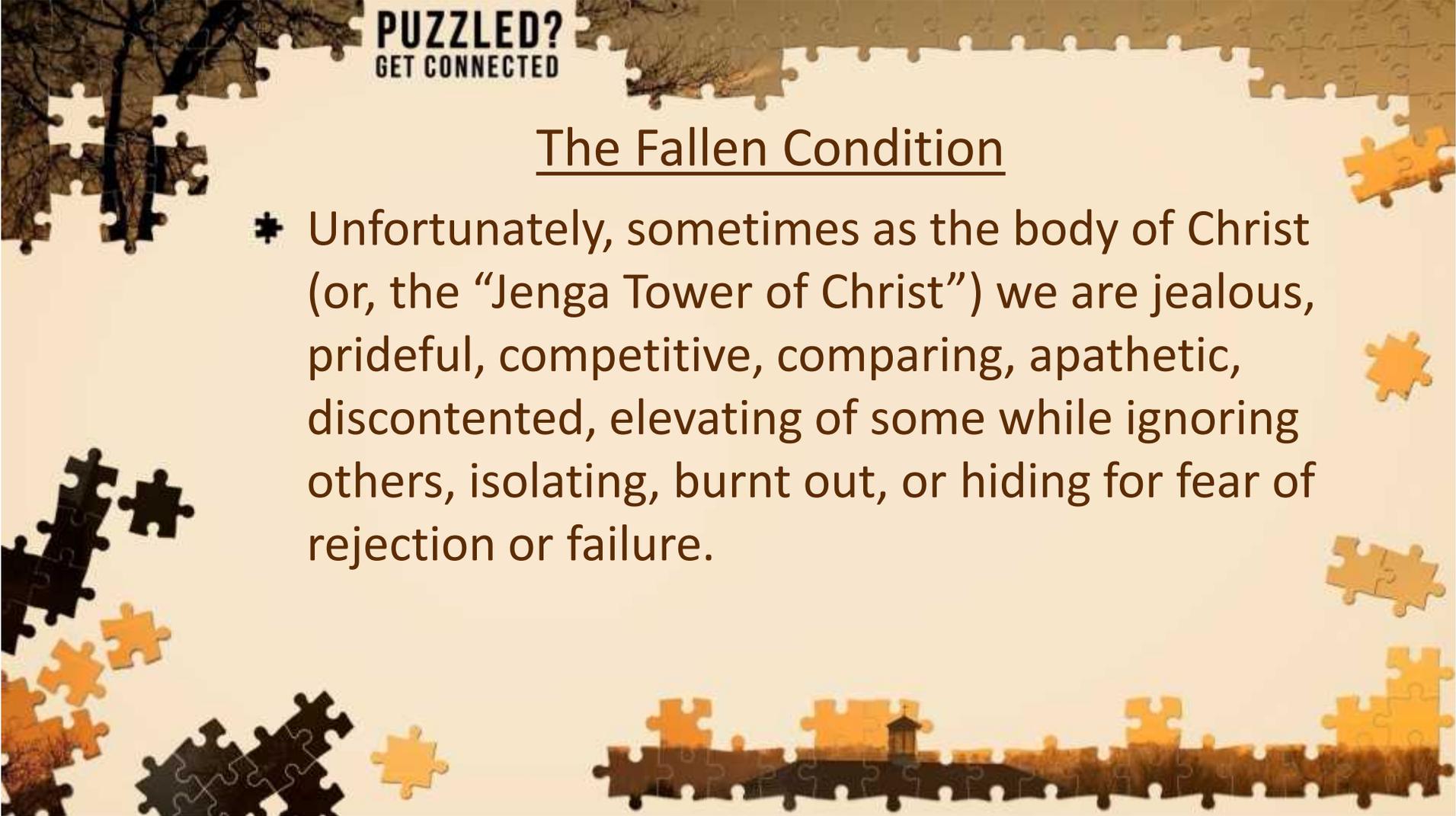
Competing and comparing with others

Don't think you need others; isolated (pride or apathy)



Burned out →

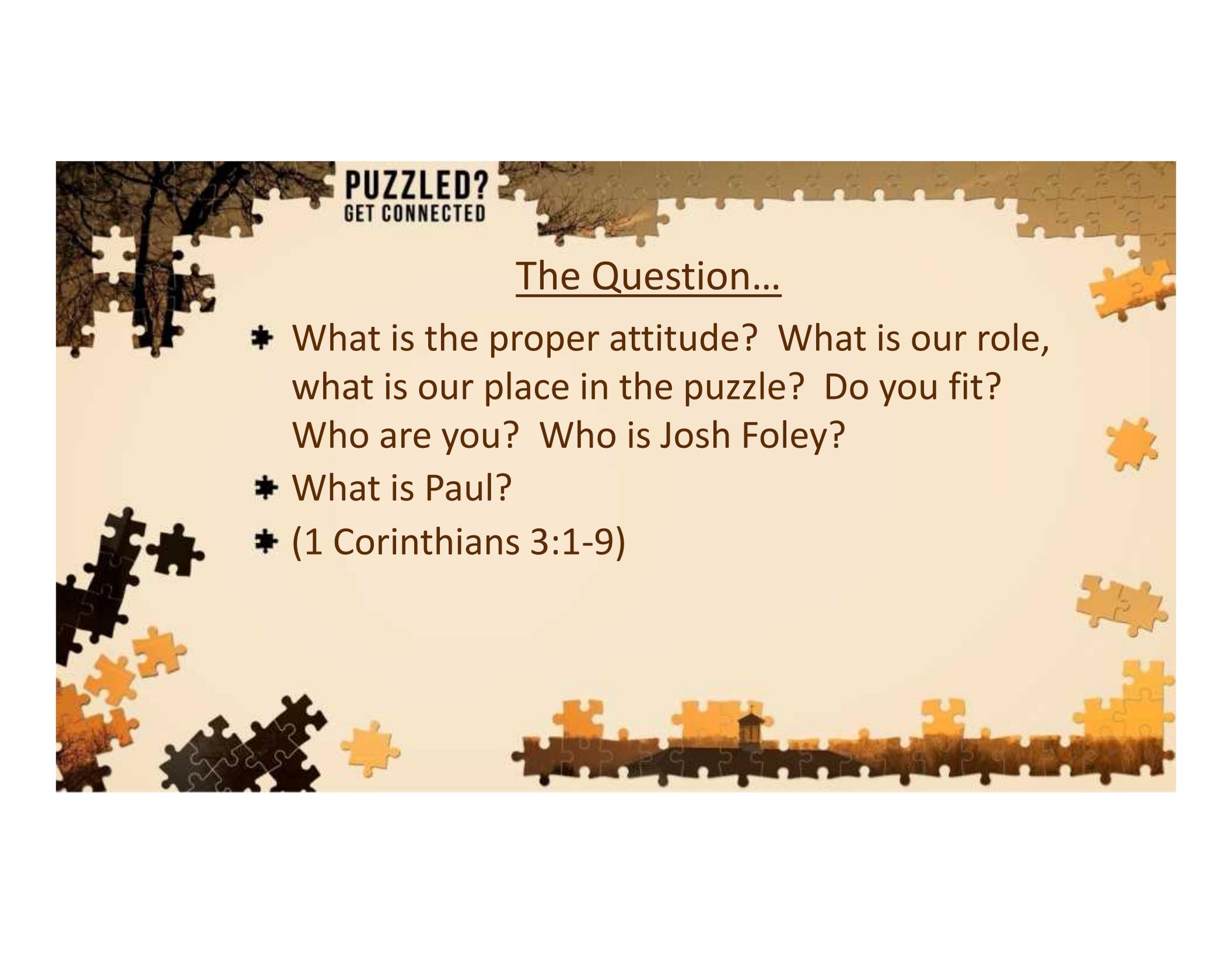




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The Fallen Condition

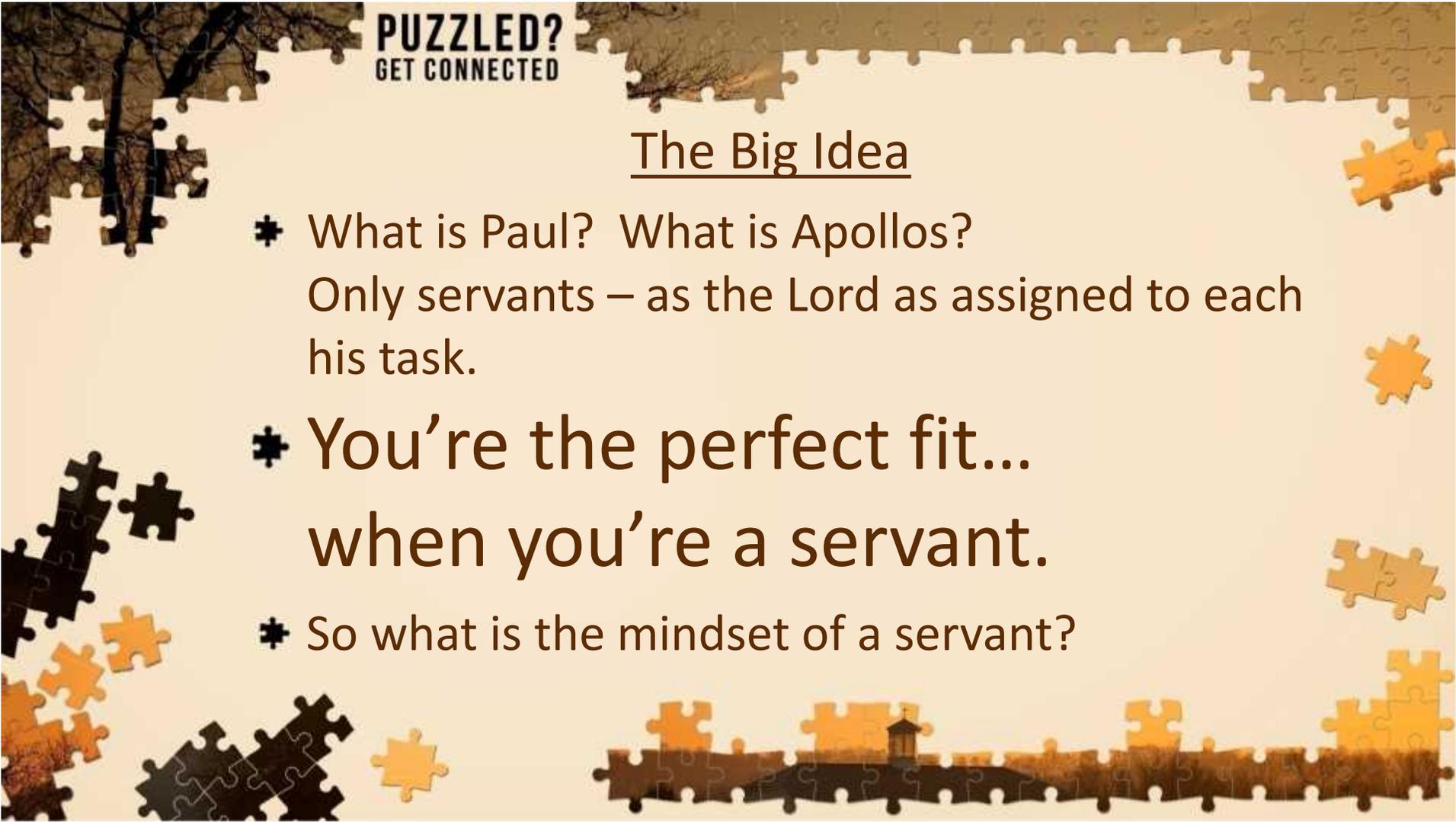
- ✦ Unfortunately, sometimes as the body of Christ (or, the “Jenga Tower of Christ”) we are jealous, prideful, competitive, comparing, apathetic, discontented, elevating of some while ignoring others, isolating, burnt out, or hiding for fear of rejection or failure.



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The Question...

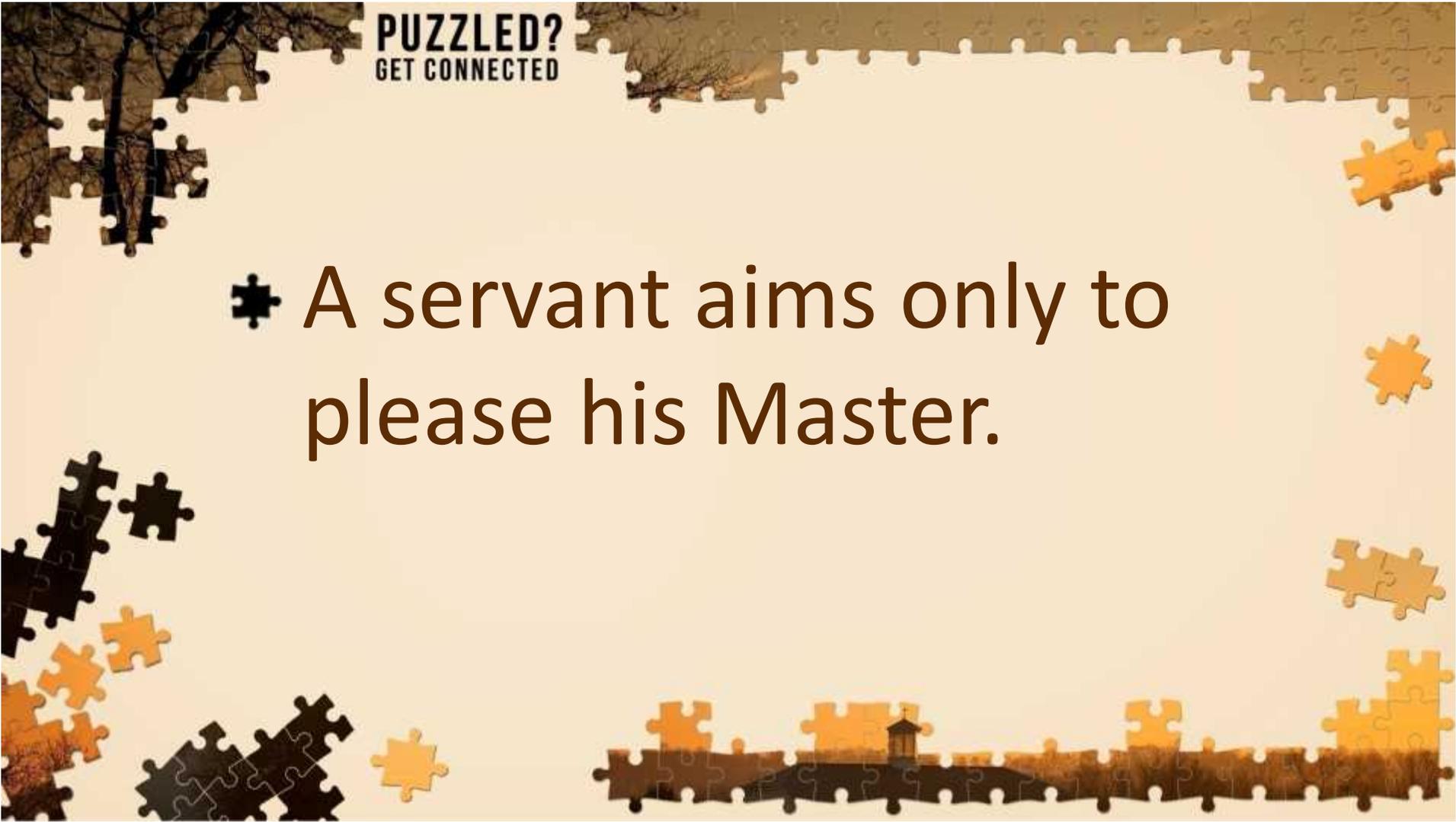
- ✦ What is the proper attitude? What is our role, what is our place in the puzzle? Do you fit? Who are you? Who is Josh Foley?
- ✦ What is Paul?
- ✦ (1 Corinthians 3:1-9)



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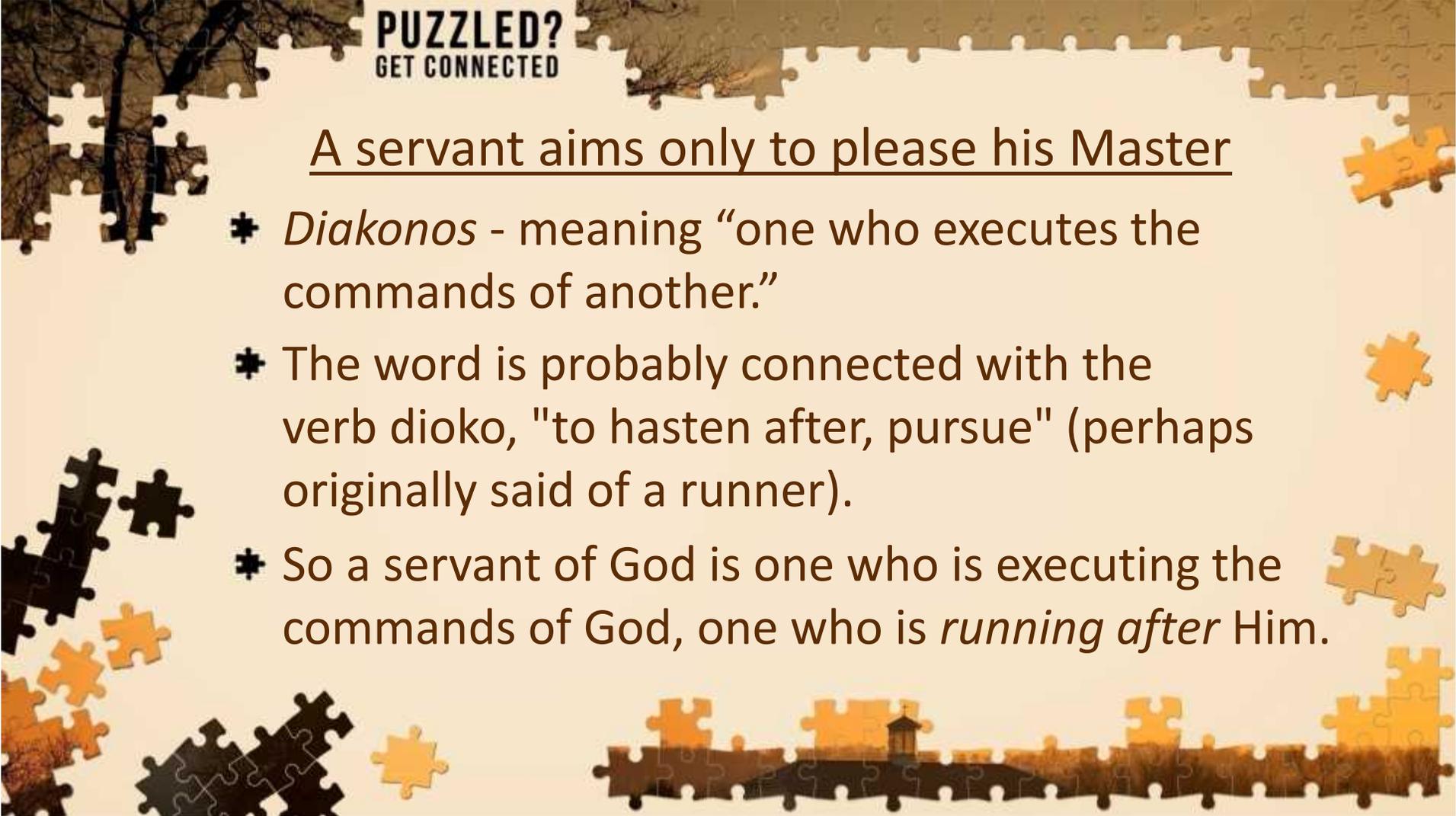
The Big Idea

- ✦ What is Paul? What is Apollos?
Only servants – as the Lord as assigned to each his task.
- ✦ You're the perfect fit...
when you're a servant.
- ✦ So what is the mindset of a servant?



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✦ A servant aims only to please his Master.



PUZZLED?
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A servant aims only to please his Master

- ✦ *Diakonos* - meaning "one who executes the commands of another."
- ✦ The word is probably connected with the verb *dioko*, "to hasten after, pursue" (perhaps originally said of a runner).
- ✦ So a servant of God is one who is executing the commands of God, one who is *running after* Him.

Just following the
"best" – ignoring
your own gifts.

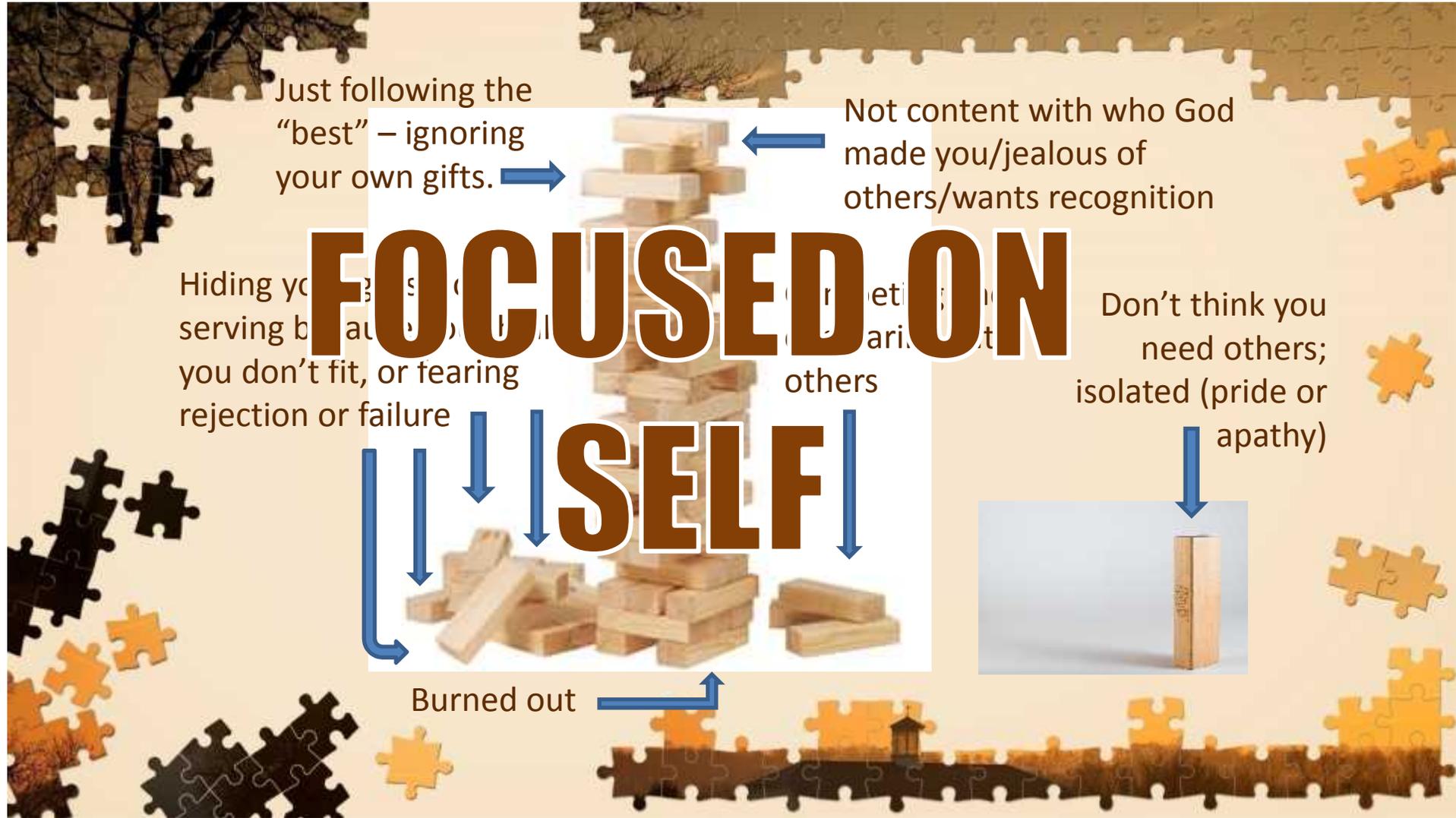
Not content with who God
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others/wants recognition

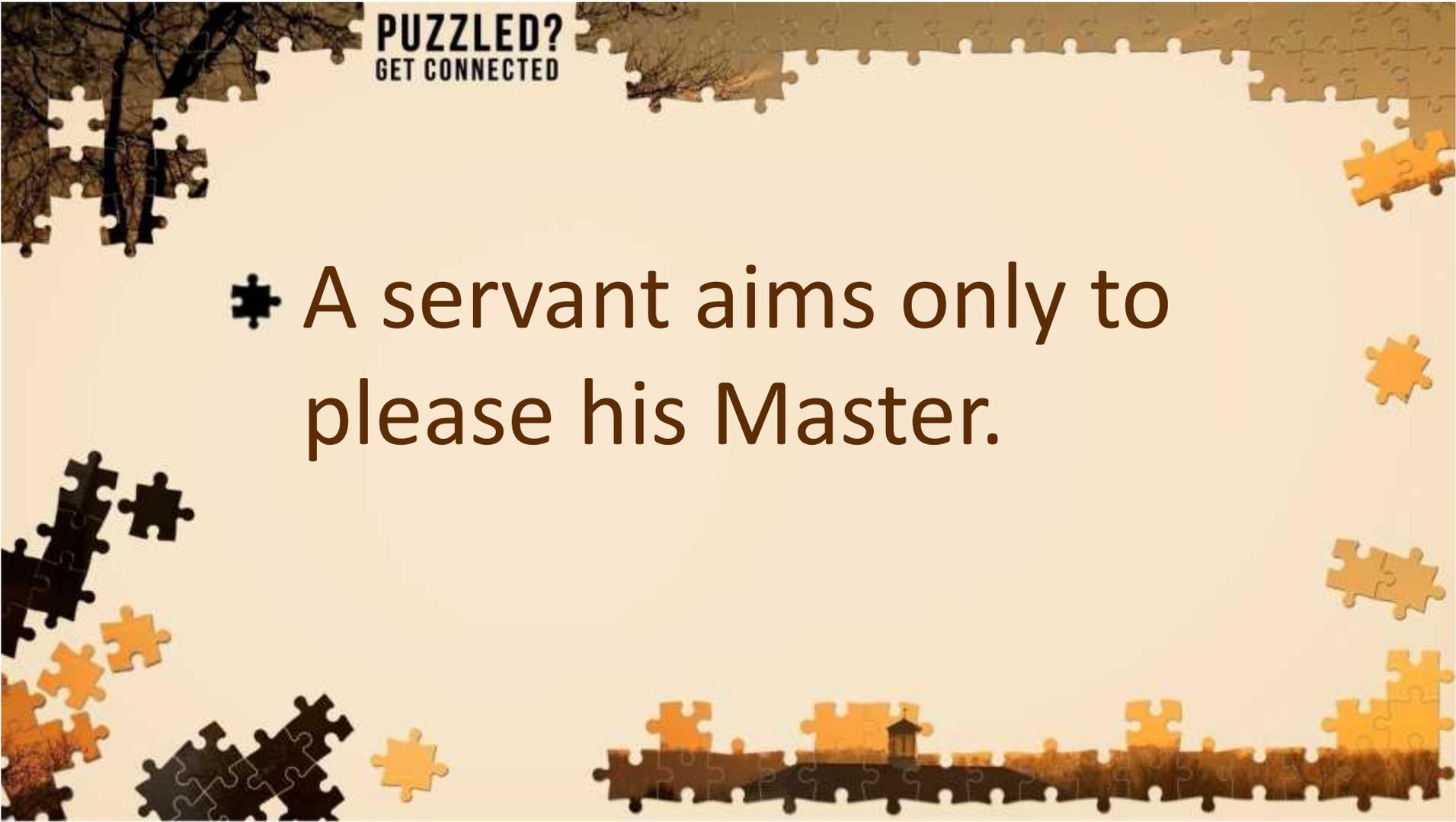
Hiding your gifts
serving because
you don't fit, or fearing
rejection or failure

Don't think you
need others;
isolated (pride or
apathy)

FOCUSED ON YOURSELF

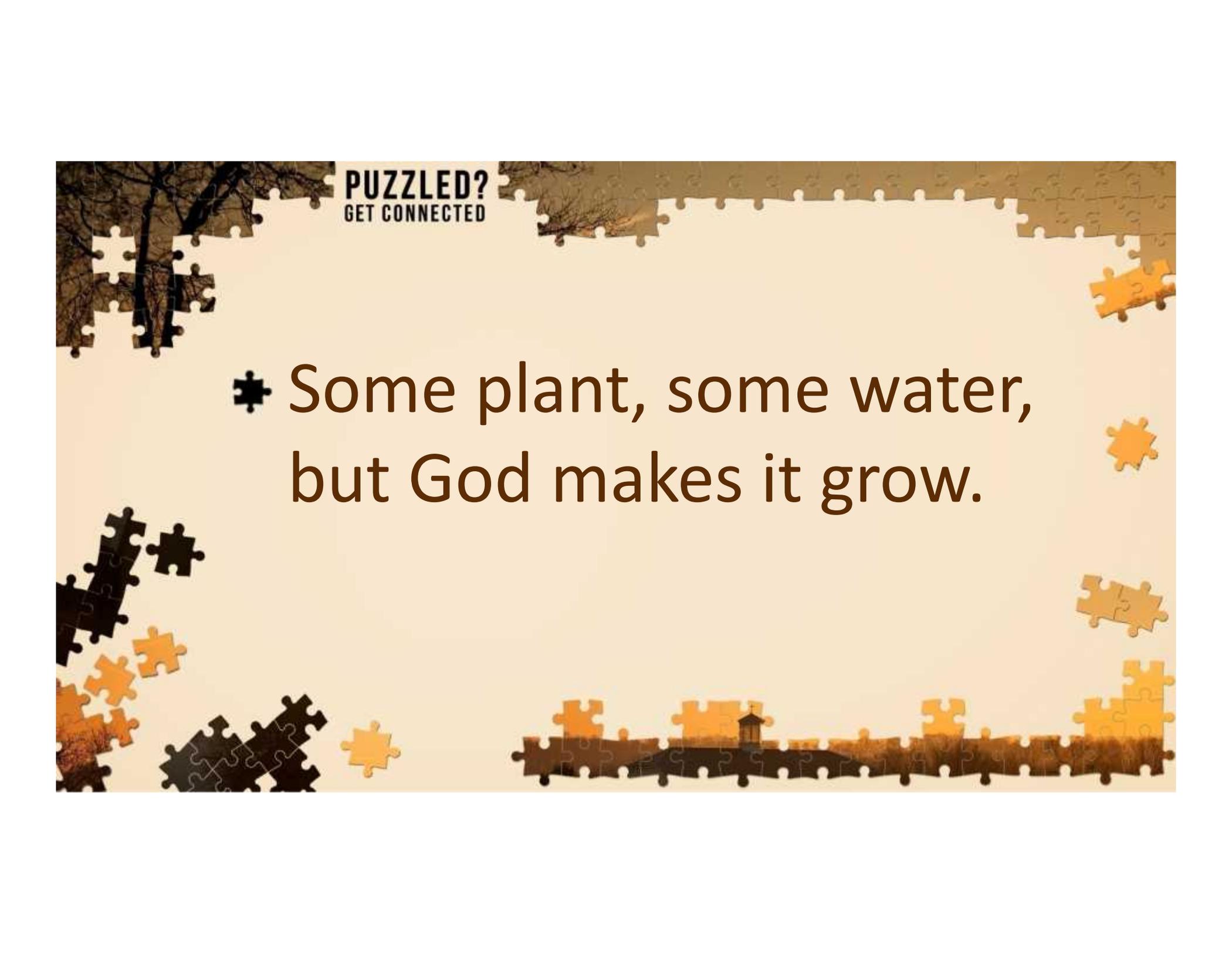
Burned out





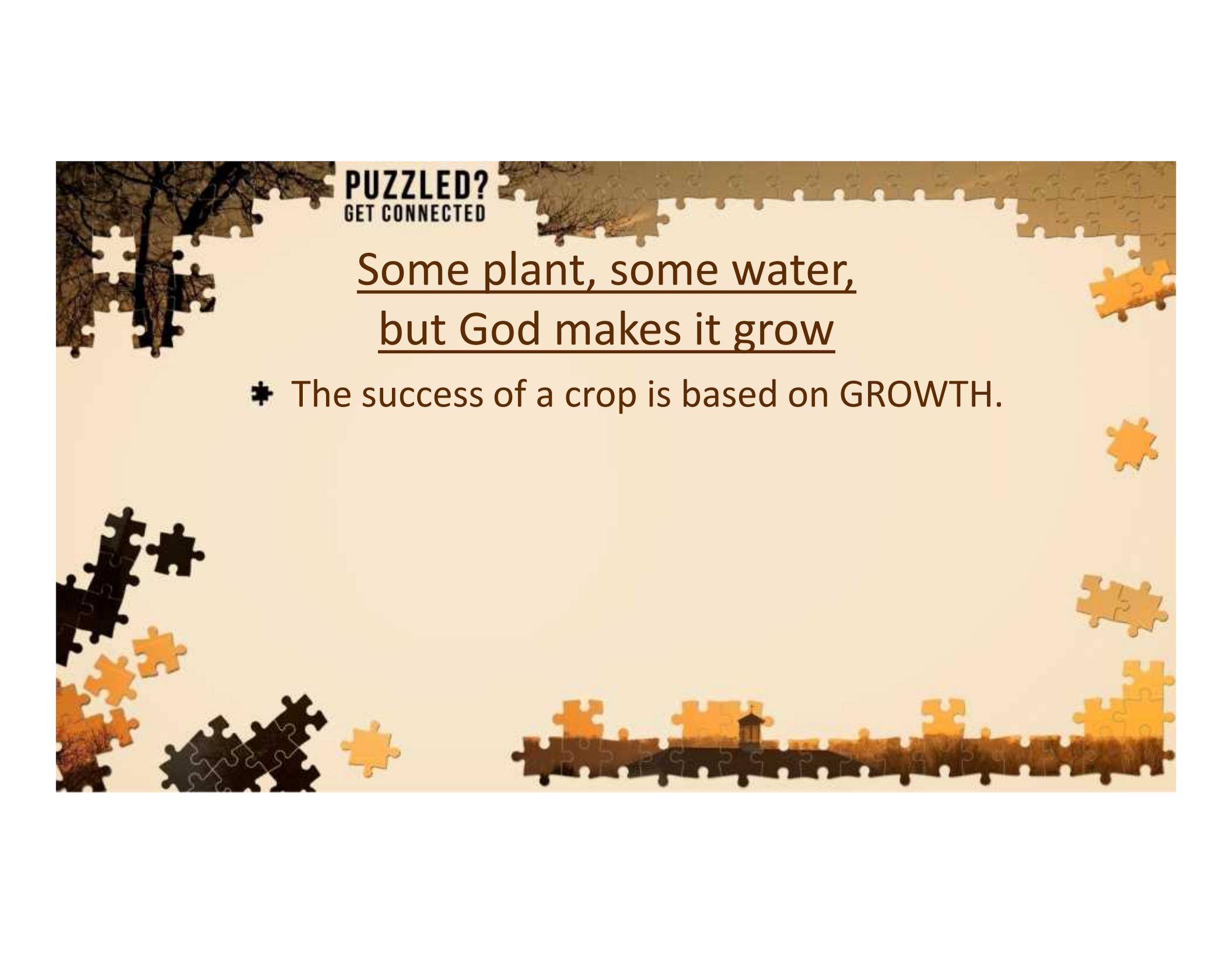
PUZZLED?
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✦ A servant aims only to please his Master.



PUZZLED?
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✦ Some plant, some water,
but God makes it grow.



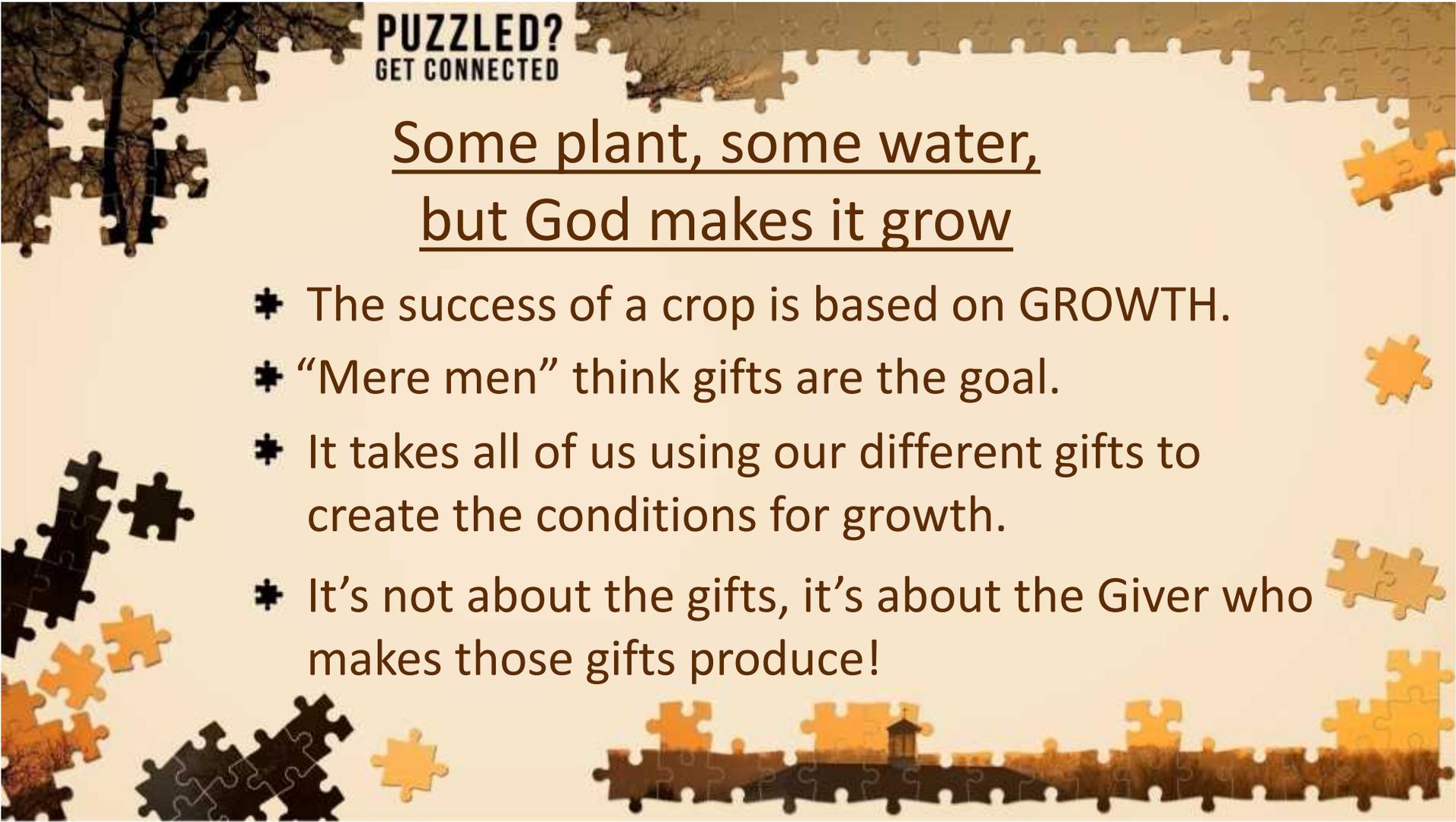
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Some plant, some water,
but God makes it grow

✦ The success of a crop is based on GROWTH.



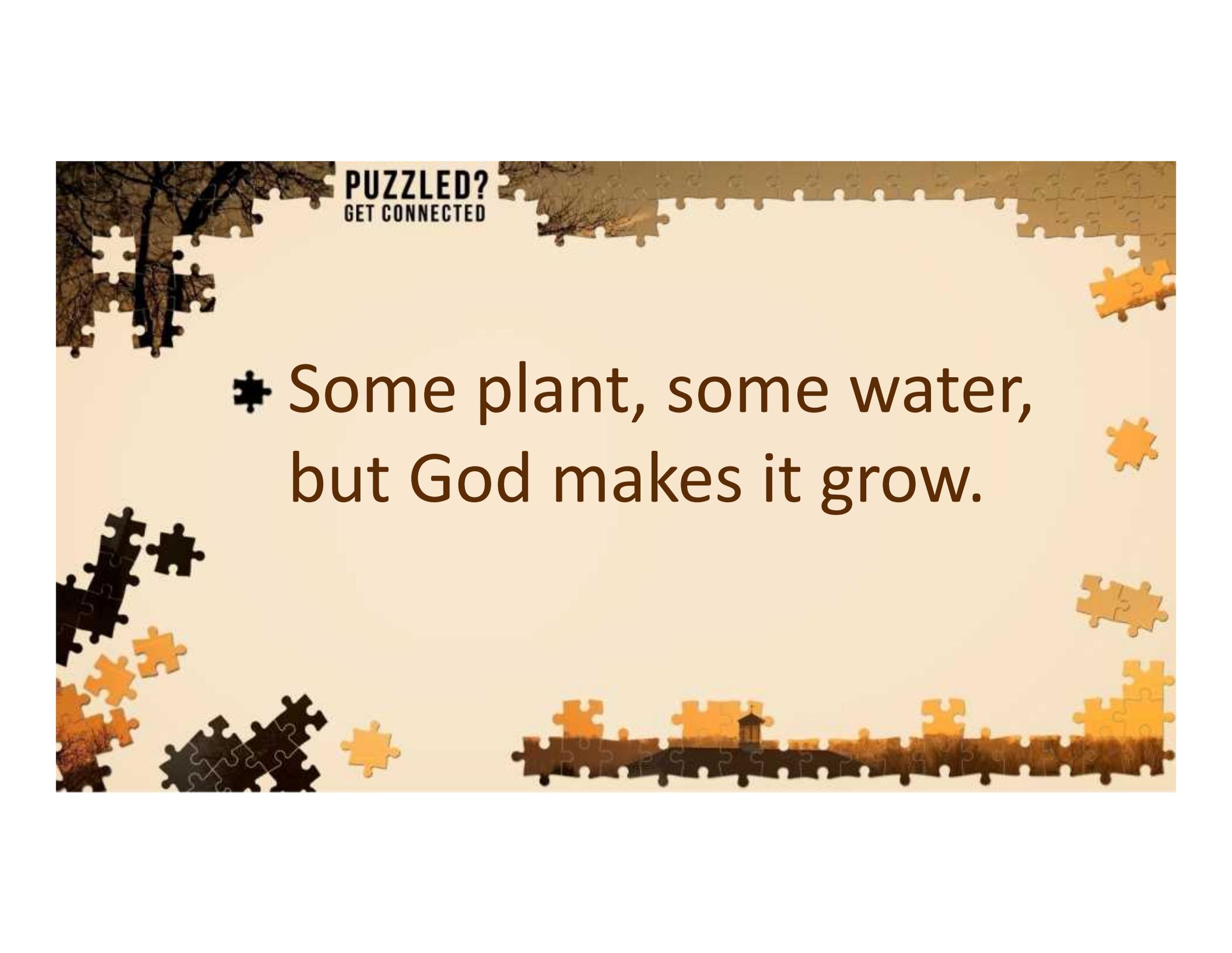




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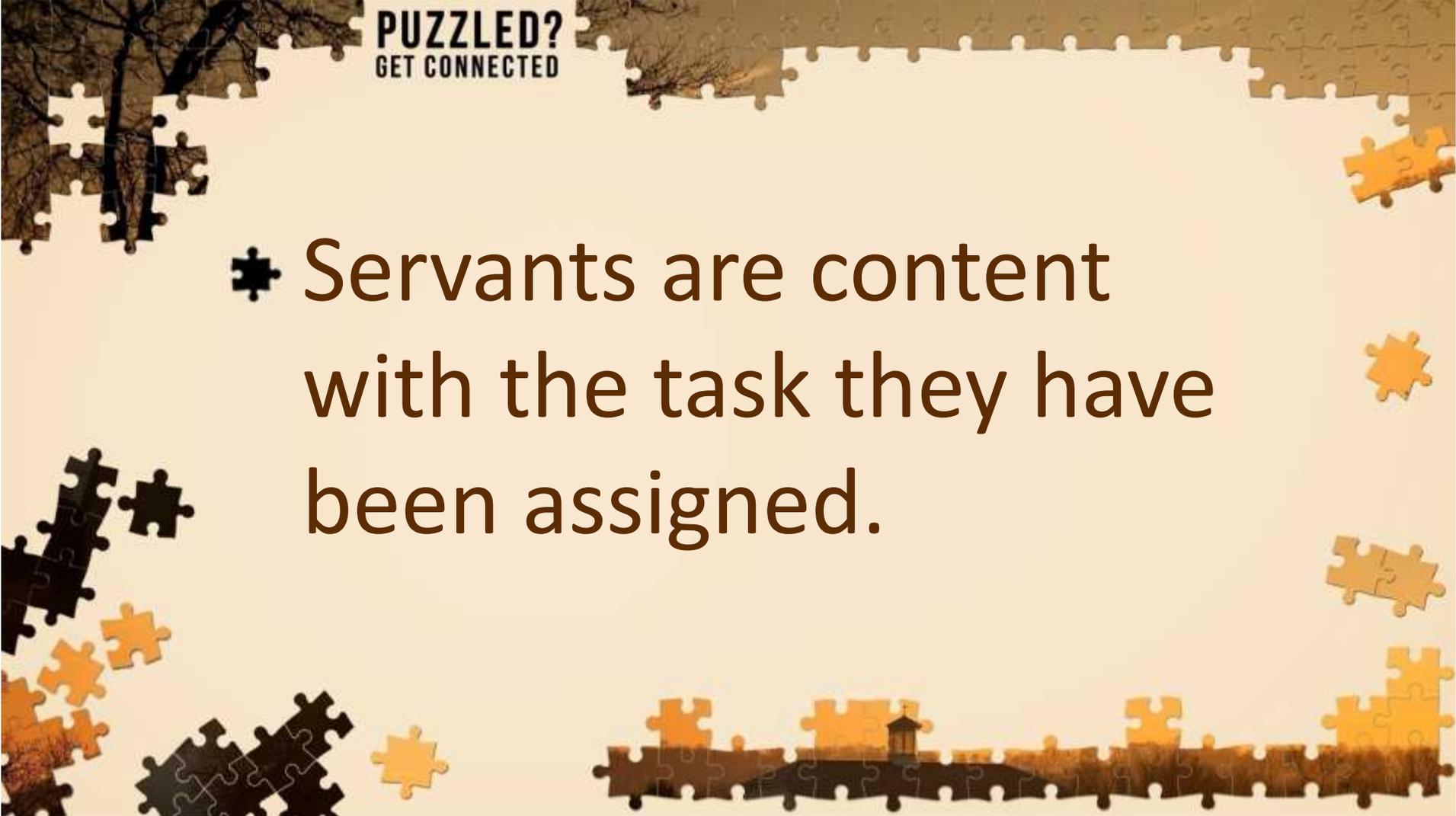
Some plant, some water,
but God makes it grow

- ✦ The success of a crop is based on GROWTH.
- ✦ “Mere men” think gifts are the goal.
- ✦ It takes all of us using our different gifts to create the conditions for growth.
- ✦ It’s not about the gifts, it’s about the Giver who makes those gifts produce!



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✦ Some plant, some water,
but God makes it grow.



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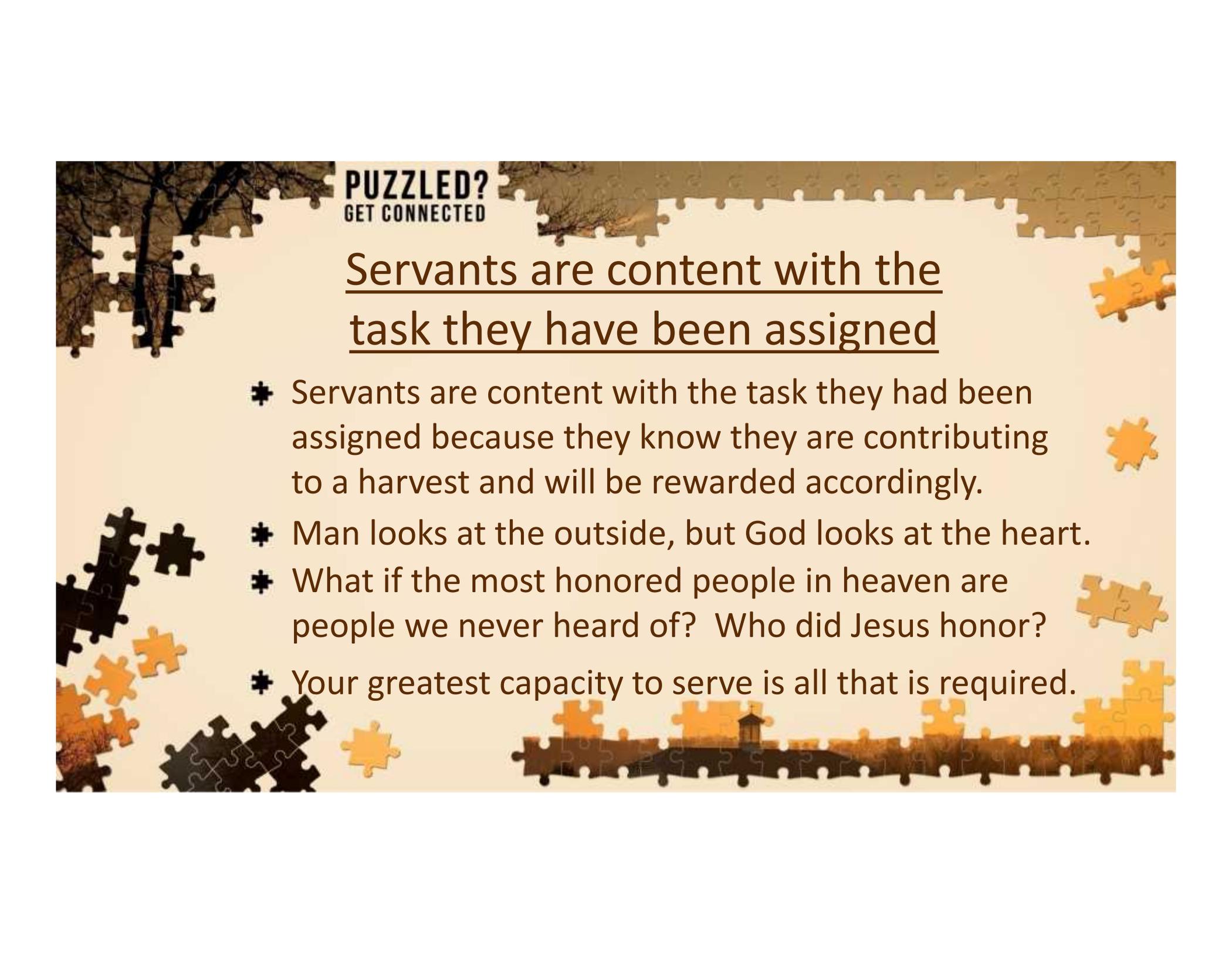
- ✦ Servants are content with the task they have been assigned.



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Servants are content with the task they have been assigned

- ✦ 1 Corinthians 3:8
- ✦ We aren't always very content.
- ✦ A servant is content when he is wholeheartedly obeying the Master.
- ✦ Content ≠ Complacent



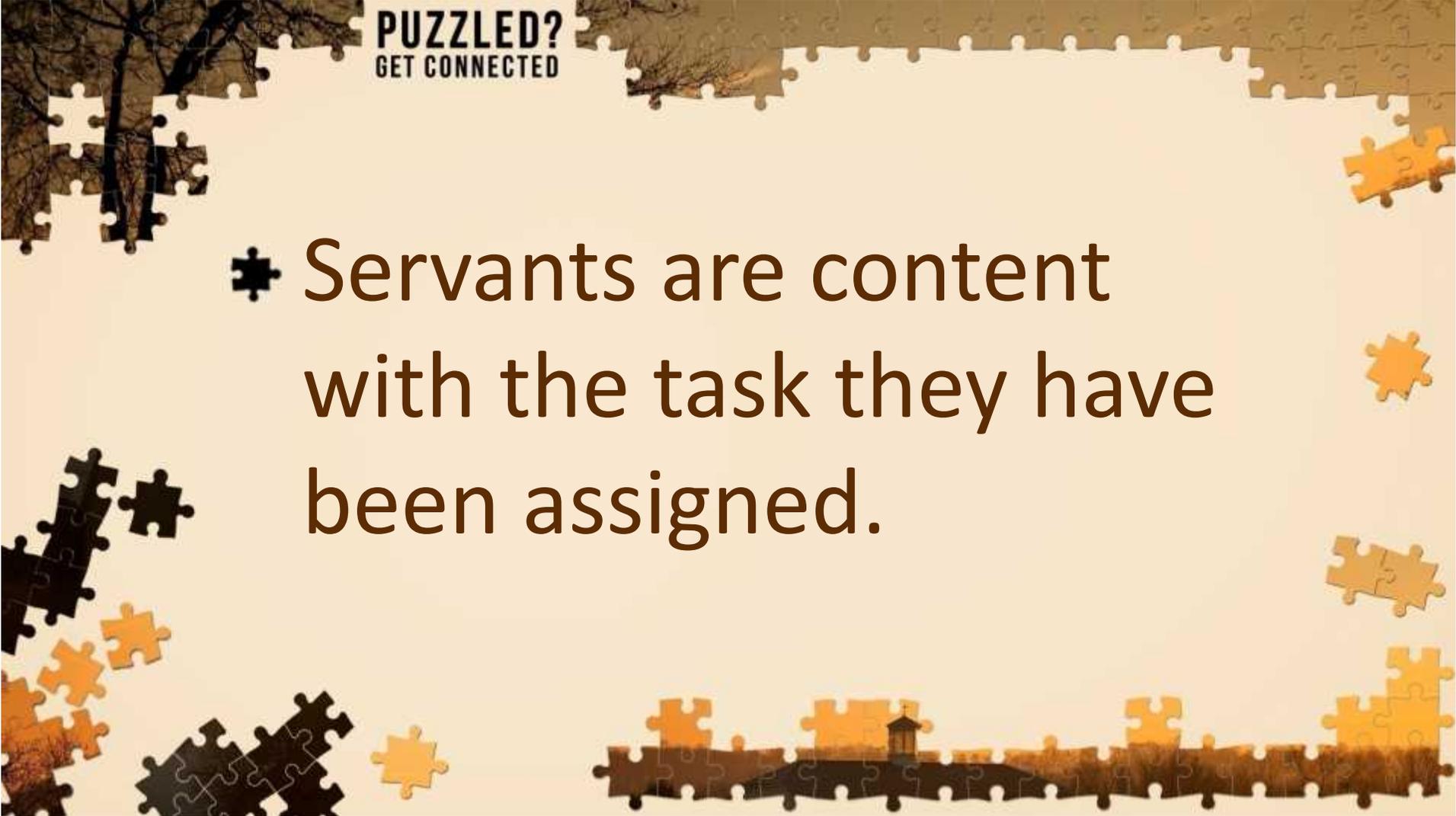
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Servants are content with the task they have been assigned

- ✦ Servants are content with the task they had been assigned because they know they are contributing to a harvest and will be rewarded accordingly.
- ✦ Man looks at the outside, but God looks at the heart.
- ✦ What if the most honored people in heaven are people we never heard of? Who did Jesus honor?
- ✦ Your greatest capacity to serve is all that is required.



- ✦ Everyone of you is important.
There is no hierarchy of importance.
- ✦ There are different roles/gifts.
Some come with a certain level
of authority, but never importance.
- ✦ **Without you, we fall.**

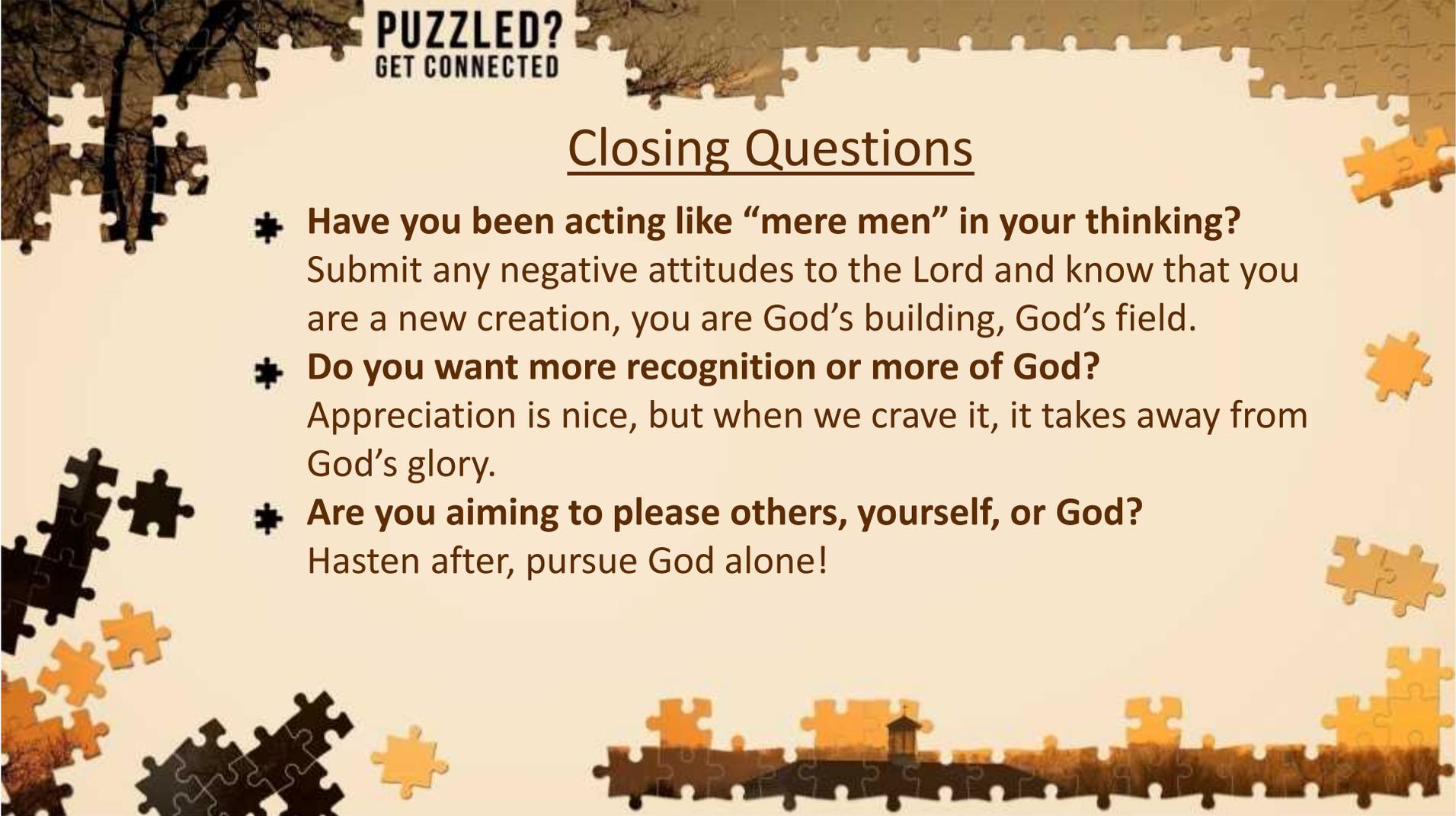


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- ✦ Servants are content with the task they have been assigned.

**IT'S SUPPOSED TO
LOOK DIFFERENT**

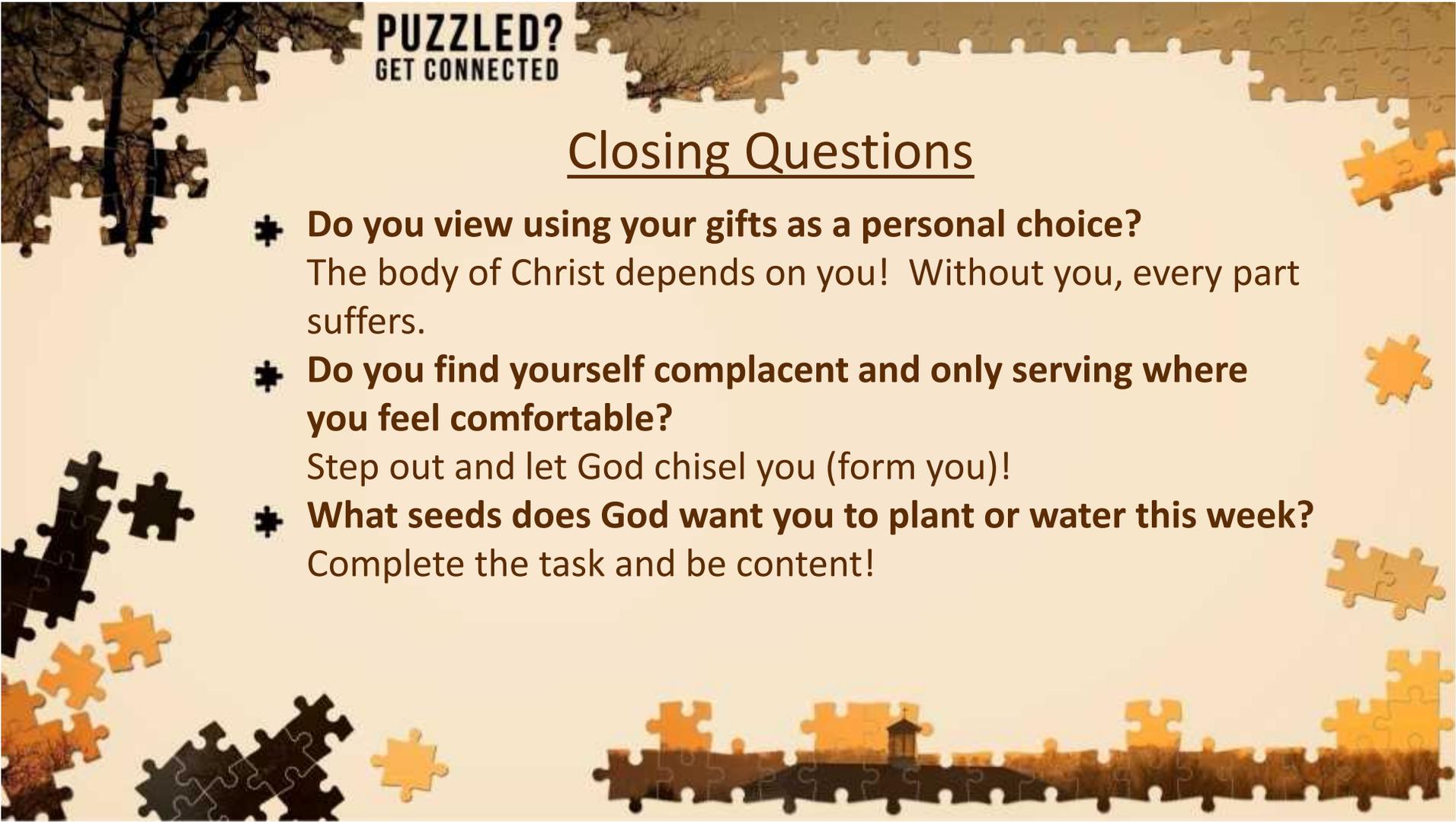




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Closing Questions

- ✦ **Have you been acting like “mere men” in your thinking?**
Submit any negative attitudes to the Lord and know that you are a new creation, you are God’s building, God’s field.
- ✦ **Do you want more recognition or more of God?**
Appreciation is nice, but when we crave it, it takes away from God’s glory.
- ✦ **Are you aiming to please others, yourself, or God?**
Hasten after, pursue God alone!



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Closing Questions

- ✦ **Do you view using your gifts as a personal choice?**
The body of Christ depends on you! Without you, every part suffers.
- ✦ **Do you find yourself complacent and only serving where you feel comfortable?**
Step out and let God chisel you (form you)!
- ✦ **What seeds does God want you to plant or water this week?**
Complete the task and be content!



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Closing Questions

- ✦ **How you been able to “reap a harvest” recently? In your life or someone else’s?** Praise God he made it grow! And tell the sower so they also can rejoice with you.
- ✦ **Do you find yourself discontent with the role/gifts God has given you?**
Why? You are the perfect fit!
- ✦ **Not sure how to get connected?**
Merv will address this specifically related to spiritual gifts, but any way you can find to LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE is a great start.



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