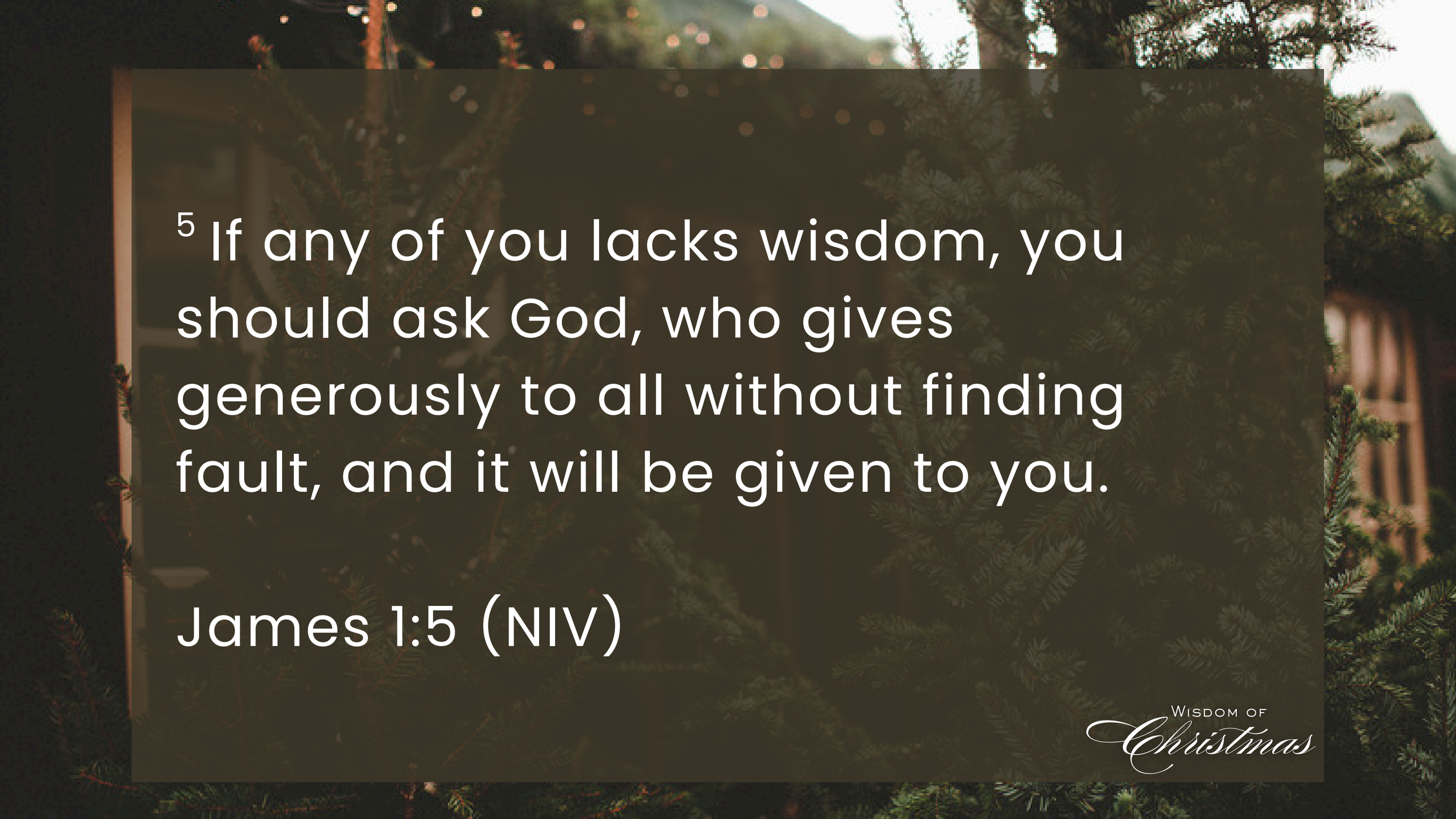

The Wisdom of
Christmas

[7] The beginning of wisdom is this:
Get wisdom. Though it cost all you
have, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

Wisdom of Christmas


5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
James 1:5 (NIV)
Wisdom of Christmas

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, [2] "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, **and we have come to worship him.**" [3] King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. [4] He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

Matthew 2:1-4

Wisdom of Christmas

5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what
the prophet wrote:
6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you who will be the
shepherd for my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the
wise men, and he learned from them the time when
the star first appeared.

Matthew 2:5-7

Wisdom of Christmas

[8] Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” [9] After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

Matthew 2:8-10

Wisdom of Christmas

[11] They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, **and they bowed down and worshiped him.** Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

[12] When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Matthew 2:11-12

Wisdom of Christmas


WISDOM
Worships

Worship is a Choice

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, ***and they bowed down and worshiped him…***

Matthew 2:11a (NLT)

Wisdom of Christmas

Worship is a Choice

13 And so the Lord says, “These people say they are
mine. They honor me with their lips, but their
hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is
nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.

Isaiah 29:13 (NLT)

Wisdom of Christmas

[11] They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

Matthew 2:11 (NLT)

Wisdom of Christmas

Frankincense: The Incense of Worship

Exodus 30:34a,37 (NLT)

34 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Gather fragrant spices.....and mix these fragrant spices with ***pure frankincense,*** weighed out in equal amounts..... 37Never use this formula to make this incense for yourselves. It is reserved for the Lord and you must treat it as holy.

Leviticus 2:1–2 (NLT)

“When you present grain as an offering to the Lord, the offering must consist of choice flour. You are to pour olive oil on it, sprinkle it with frankincense, 2 and bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests. The priest will scoop out a handful of the flour moistened with oil, together with all the frankincense, and burn this representative portion on the altar. It is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

Psalm 141:2 (NLT)

2Accept my prayer as incense offered to you, and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

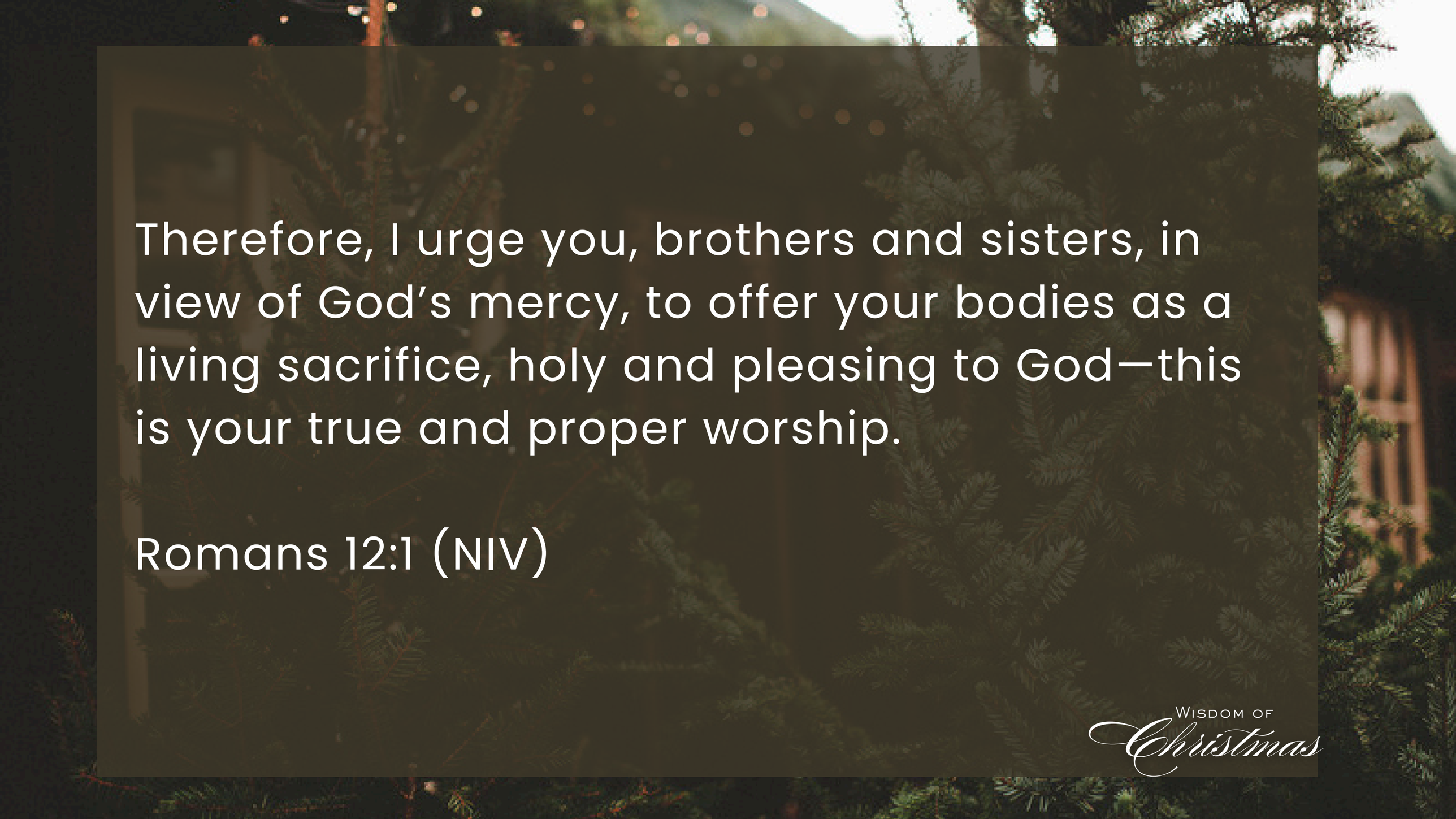
Isaiah 60:6 (NLT)

6Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshiping the Lord.

Frankincense: The Incense of Worship

Leviticus 2:1–2 (NLT)

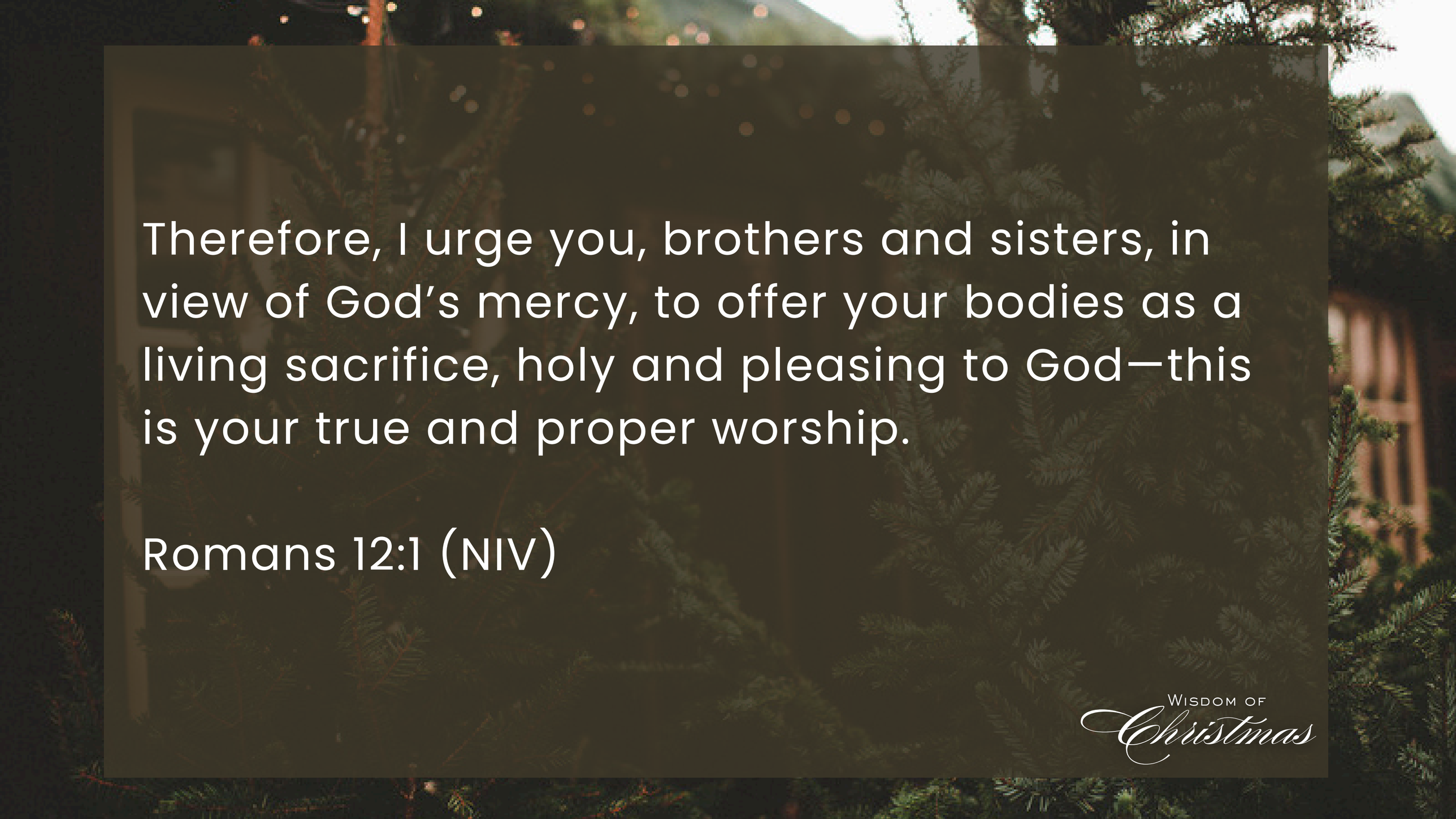
“When you present grain as an offering to the Lord, the offering must consist of choice flour. You are to pour olive oil on it, sprinkle it with frankincense, [2] and bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests. The priest will scoop out a handful of the flour moistened with oil, together with all the frankincense, and burn this representative portion on the altar. It is a special gift, a ***pleasing aroma to the Lord.***



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

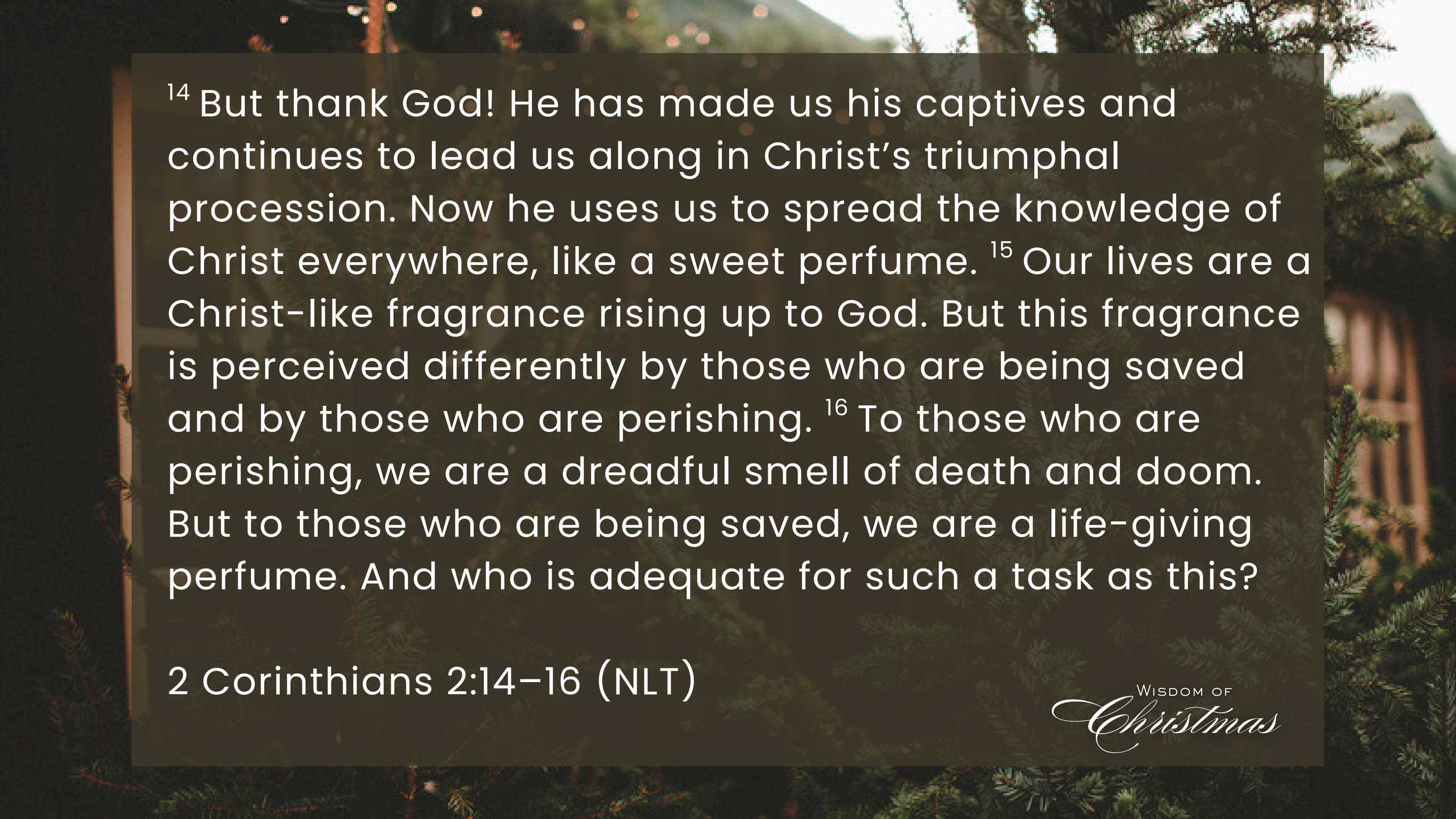
Wisdom of Christmas



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Wisdom of Christmas



[14] But thank God! He has made us his captives and
continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal
procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of
Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. [15] Our lives are a
Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance
is perceived differently by those who are being saved
and by those who are perishing. [16] To those who are
perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom.
But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving
perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

2 Corinthians 2:14–16 (NLT)

Wisdom of Christmas


Worship is a lifestyle that creates a pleasing fragrance to the Lord
Wisdom of Christmas


WISDOM
Worships