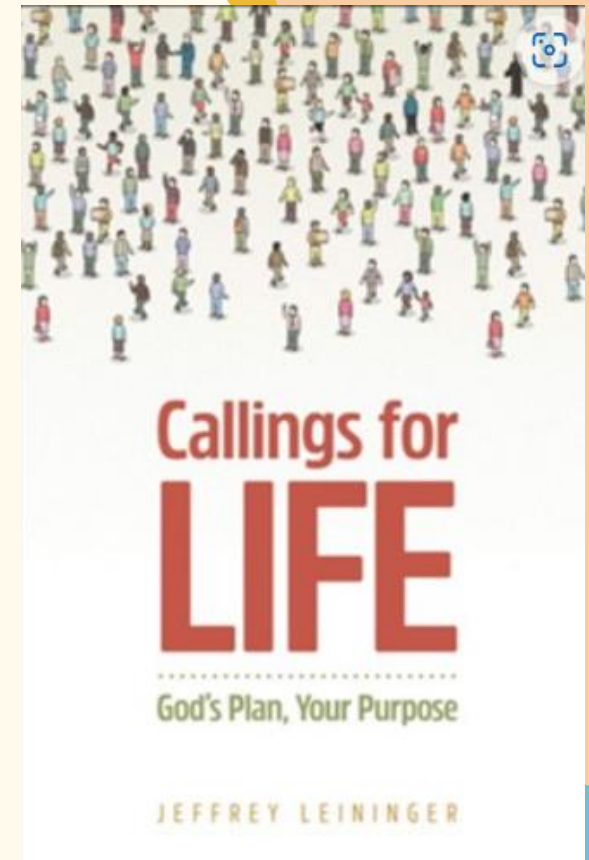
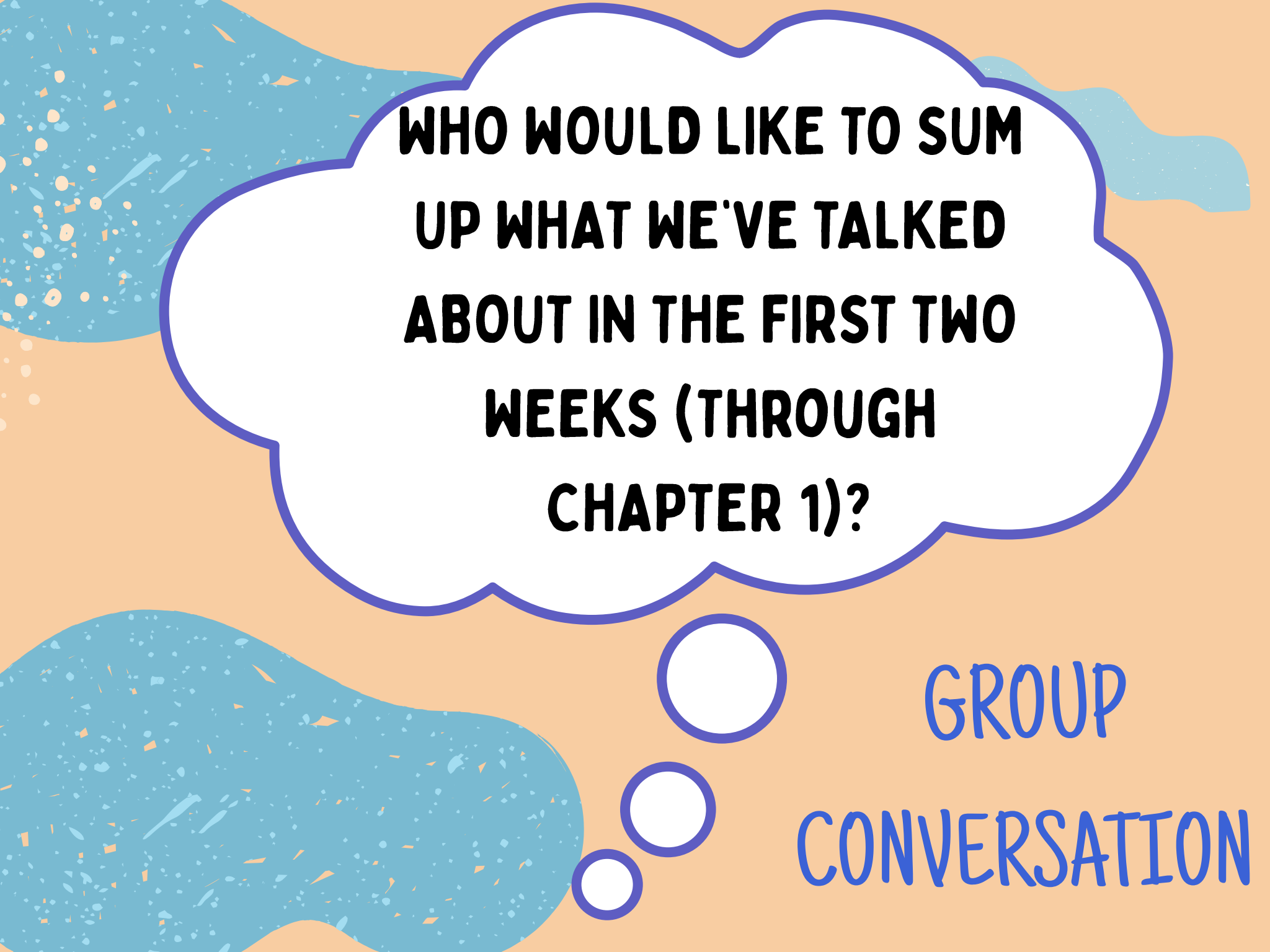




Callings for Life

WEEK 3



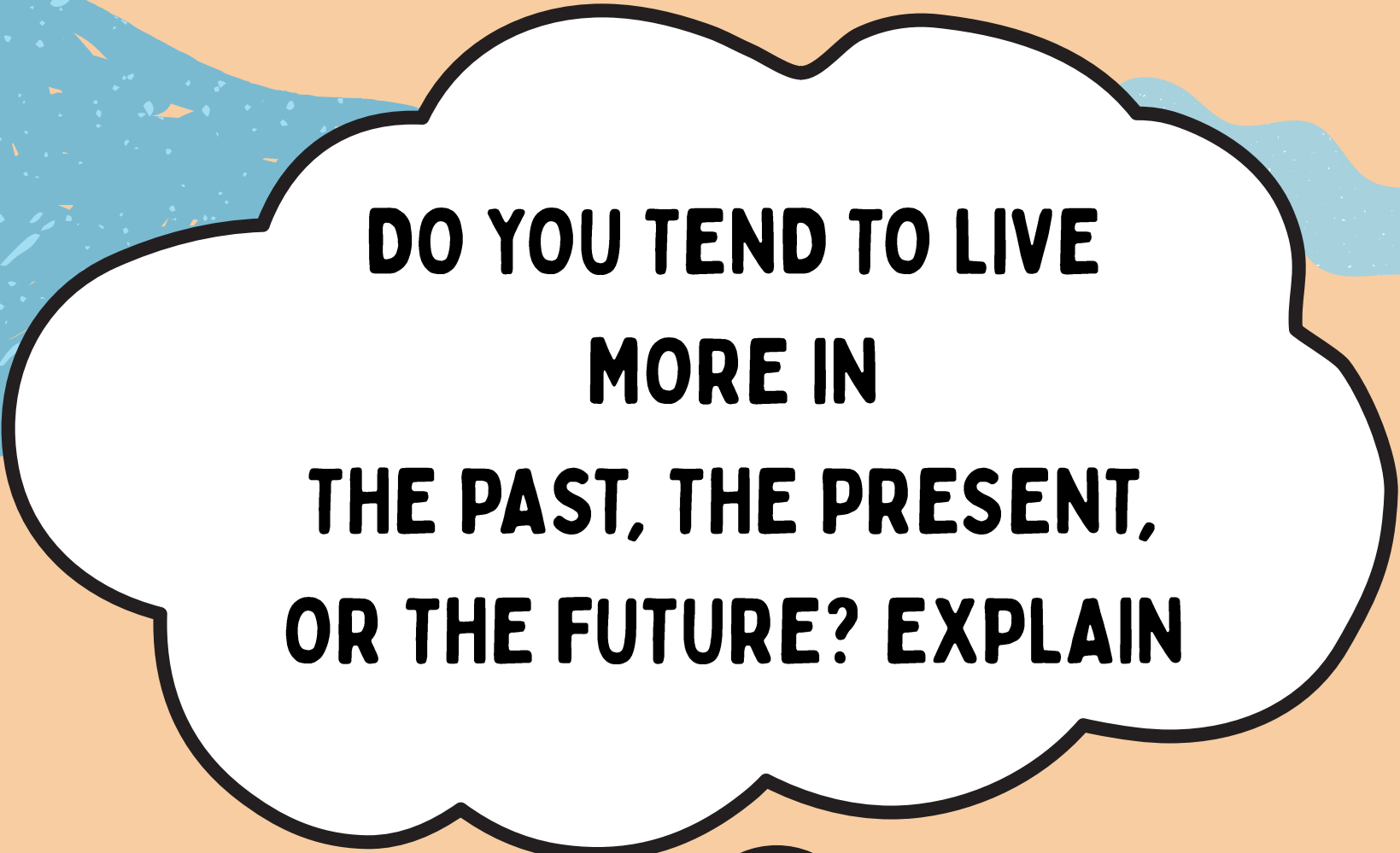


**WHO WOULD LIKE TO SUM
UP WHAT WE'VE TALKED
ABOUT IN THE FIRST TWO
WEEKS (THROUGH
CHAPTER 1)?**

GROUP
CONVERSATION

CALLINGS FOR LIFE

1. **“Callings”**: Our calling in life is better understood in the plural rather than the singular
2. **“Presence”** ...present rather than the future
3. **“Diapers and Sippy Cups”** ...ordinary rather than dramatic
4. **“God Loves Dirt”** ...this-worldly rather than otherworldly
5. **“God-Given ”** ...God-given rather than self-chosen



**DO YOU TEND TO LIVE
MORE IN
THE PAST, THE PRESENT,
OR THE FUTURE? EXPLAIN**

TABLE

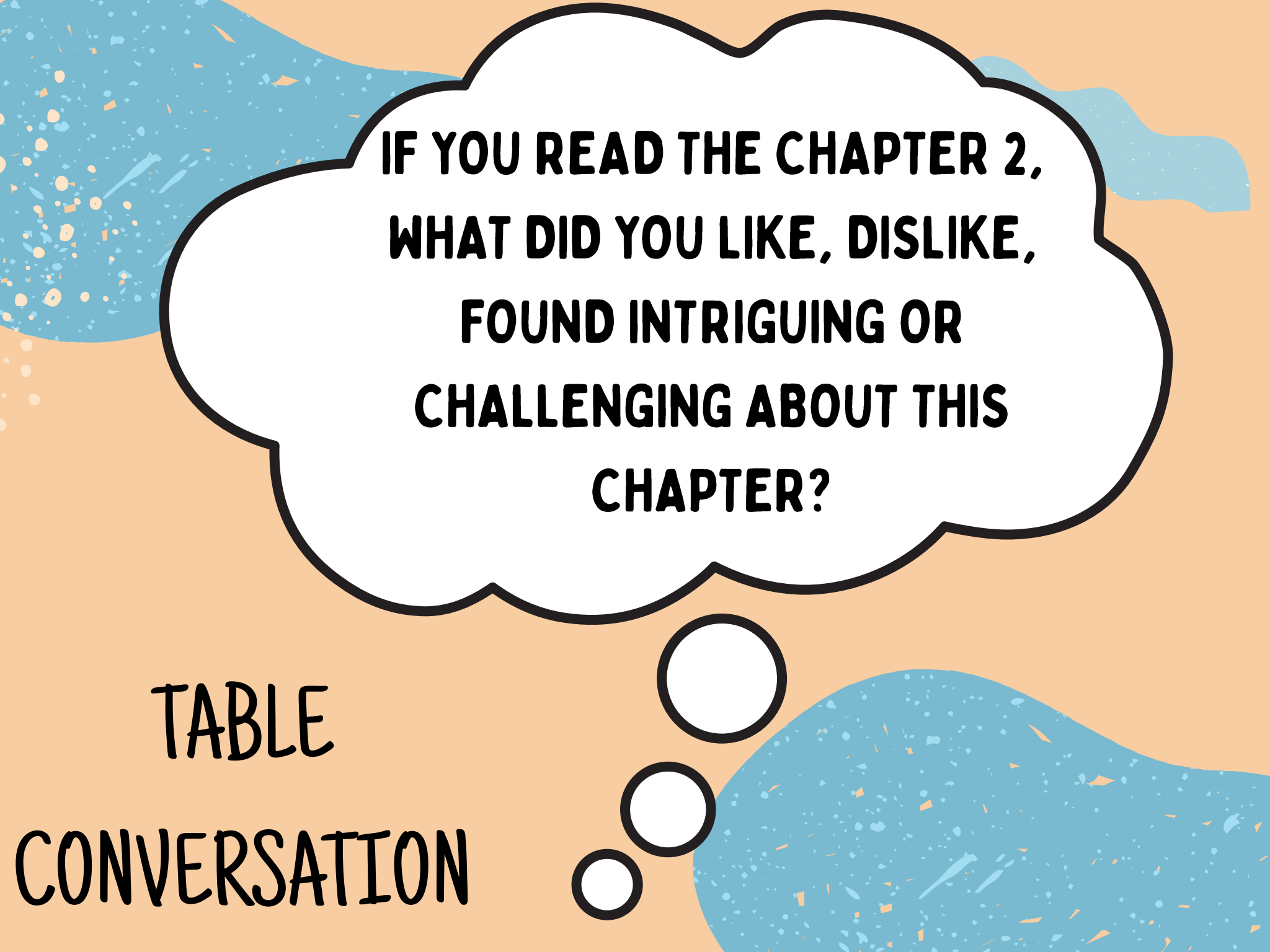
CONVERSATION



CALLINGS FOR LIFE

Presence

Our calling in life is better understood in the present rather than the future



**IF YOU READ THE CHAPTER 2,
WHAT DID YOU LIKE, DISLIKE,
FOUND INTRIGUING OR
CHALLENGING ABOUT THIS
CHAPTER?**

TABLE


CONVERSATION



JANUS.

“Anything can become a false god if it replaces God’s rightful place in our lives, even (and especially) the good things God has given us.”

Leinger, Jeffrey. *Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose* (p. 32). Concordia Publishing, Kindle Edition.

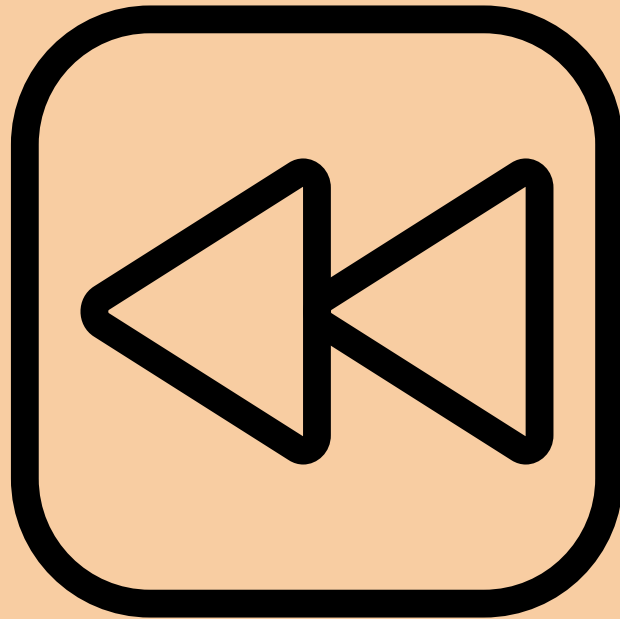


“You shall have no other gods. What does this mean?
We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things”

Small Catechism, First Commandment

Leininger, Jeffrey. *Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose* (p. 32). Concordia Publishing. Kindle Edition.

THE PAST



**-WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR
PAST YOU LOVE TO REMEMBER?**

OR

**- WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR
PAST YOU WISH YOU COULD
FORGET?**

TABLE

CONVERSATION

THE PAST

GUILT

Aaron

GLORIFICATION

**Repristination
Lutheran Church**

CASE STUDY: AARON

THE PROBLEM: LIVING UNNECESSARILY
IN GUILT AND DISAPPOINTMENT





If we confess our sins

He is Faithful to

FORGIVE

1 John 1:9

CASE STUDY: REPRISTINATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE PROBLEM: GLORIFICATION OF PAST
- IN GUILT AND DISAPPOINTMENT



THREE CHALLENGES WITH "REPRISTINATION"

PAST IS NEVER AS GOOD AS WE REMEMBER IT

2

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTORE THE PAST

3

THE ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO A GLORIOUS

PAST CAN BE IDOLATROUS

THE FUTURE





**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU
ARE LOOKING FORWARD
TO IN THE FUTURE?**

TABLE

CONVERSATION

FACING FORWARD - WORSHIPPING THE FUTURE

ANXIETY

"WHAT IF I FAIL?"

"WHAT IF TRAGEDY STRIKES?"

"WHAT IF I FALL ON MY FACE?"



“Our eyes become fixated on the future rather than the One who holds the future - Christ Jesus Himself.”

Leininger, Jeffrey. *Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose* (p. 37). Concordia Publishing. Kindle Edition.

MATTHEW 6:25-35

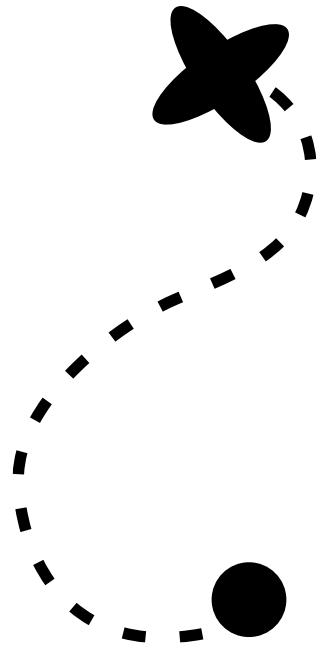
MATTHEW 6:25-34



FACING FORWARD - WORSHIPPING THE FUTURE

SINGULAR QUEST

CAN LEAD TO NEGLECT IN THE "MULTITUDE
OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOVE AND SERVICE
GOD IS CURRENTLY PLACING BEFORE US"



FACING FORWARD - WORSHIPPING THE FUTURE

ANXIETY

"WHAT IF I FAIL?"

"WHAT IF TRAGEDY STRIKES?"

"WHAT IF I FALL ON MY FACE?"



THE FUTURE

**FAITHLESS
ANXIETY**

Lexi

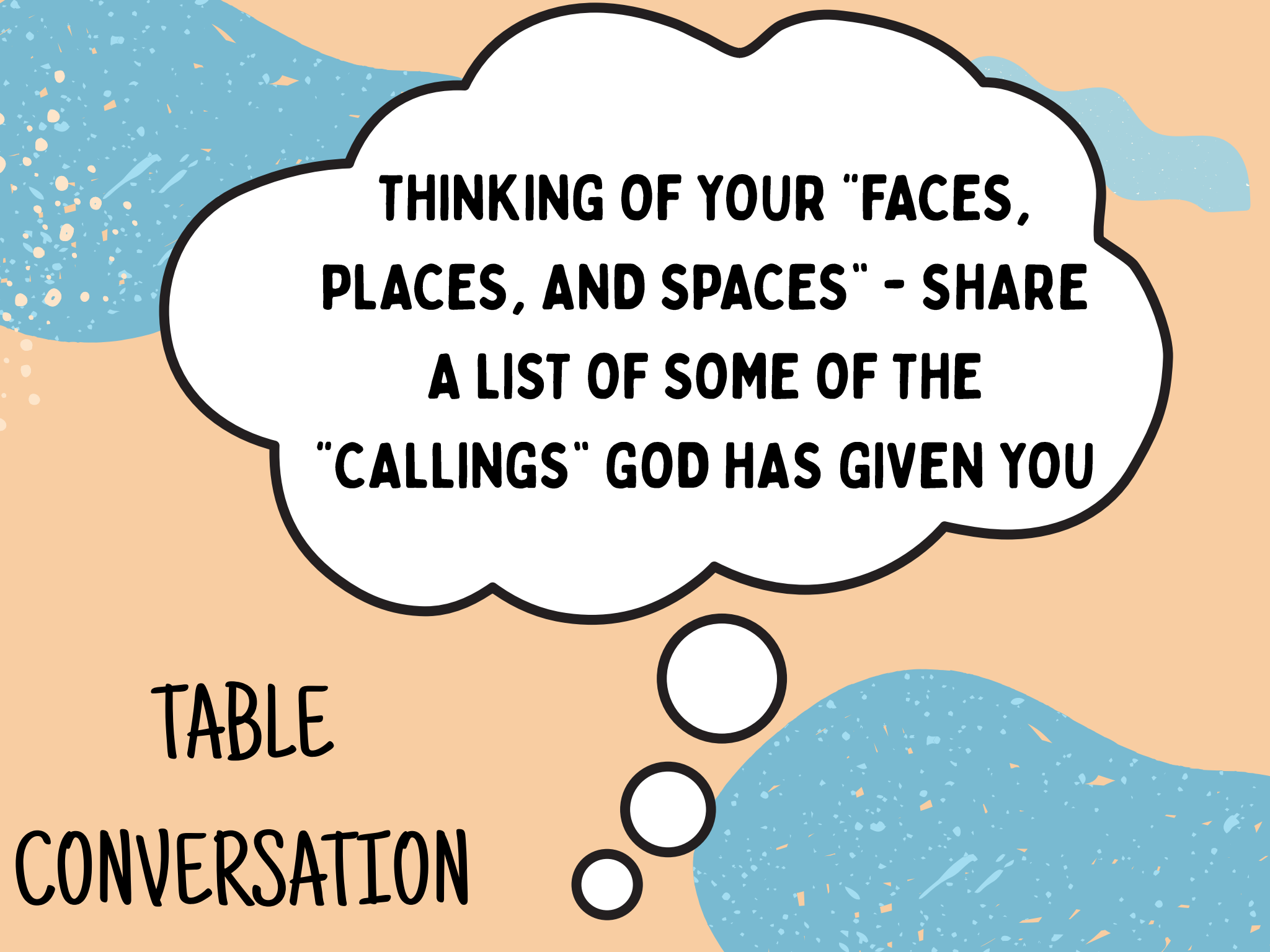
**FAITHLESS
NEGLECT**

Jordan

THE

PRESENT





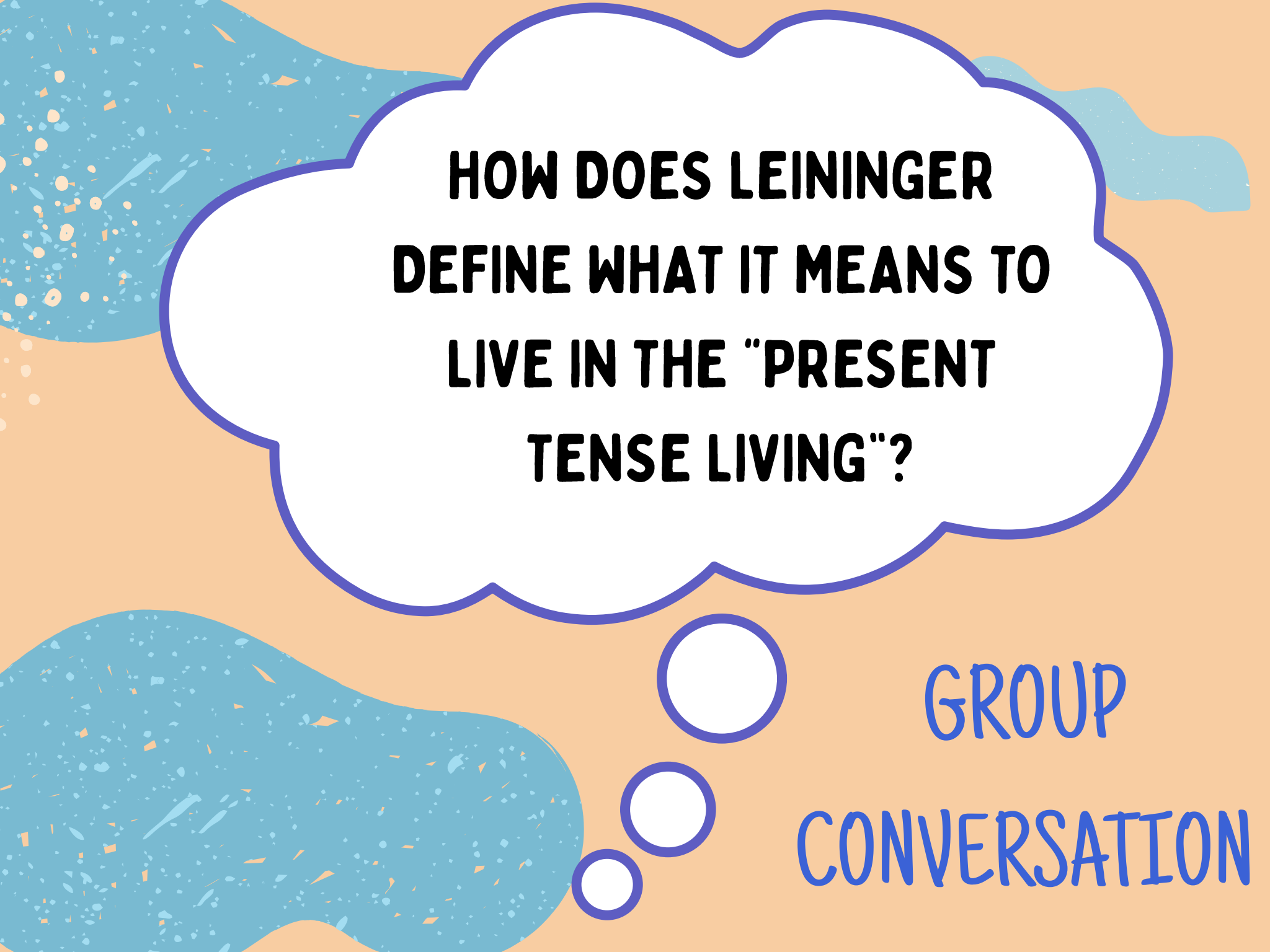
**THINKING OF YOUR "FACES,
PLACES, AND SPACES" - SHARE
A LIST OF SOME OF THE
"CALLINGS" GOD HAS GIVEN YOU**

TABLE

CONVERSATION

“Martin Luther’s redefinition of vocation - which applied the concept to all good and godly work, relationships, and positions - has a remarkable emphasis on the present”

Stay
Present



**HOW DOES LEININGER
DEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO
LIVE IN THE "PRESENT
TENSE LIVING"?**

GROUP
CONVERSATION

THE PRESENT

- MOST OF OUR CALLINGS ARE UNFOLDING
RIGHT NOW

**"GOD BESTOWS COUNTLESS BLESSINGS UPON
THOSE WHO LIVE PRESENT-TENSE LIVES":**

- **AN AWARENESS THAT HE IS ALREADY AT
WORK THROUGH US**
 - **FINDING JOY IN DAILY SERVICE.**
 - **CONTENTMENT**
- **VALUING OTHERS IN WHO THEY ARE - NOT
JUST BY WHAT THEY ACCOMPLISH**



WHAT LEININGER IS NOT SAYING:

“THE PAST DOESN'T MATTER”

“WE SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE”

“THE PRESENT CANNOT BE IDOLIZED”

**IF NOT VIEWED RIGHTLY
THROUGH THE LENS OF
VOCATION, CAN THE
PRESENT BE AN IDOL TO US?
IN WHAT WAYS?**

GROUP
CONVERSATION

OUR BAPTISMAL IDENTITY



“Holy Baptism is the essential and foundational calling of every Christian. It is the source from which all other Godly vocations spring...”

Leininger, Jeffrey. Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose (p. 50). Concordia Publishing. Kindle Edition.

“These two parts, (A) to be sunk under the water and (b) drawn out again, signify Baptism’s power and work. It is nothing other than putting to death the old Adam and affecting the new man’s resurrection... Both of these things must take place in us all our lives” - Large Catechism, Part 4, Paragraph 65

OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING IS...

PAST TENSE:

"THROUGH IT, GOD GRAFTS US INTO THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESSURECTION OF JESUS. WHAT OCCURRED MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO - LONG BEFORE ANY OF US AND APART FROM OUR EFFORTS OR ACTIVITY - BECOMES FULLY OURS THROUGH FAITH"

OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING IS...

PRESENT TENSE:

"THE SOURCE OF OUR IDENTITY, SECURITY, AND MEANING COMES NOT FROM OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR ACHIVEMENTS, POWER OR PRESITGE, FAME OR FORTURE, BUT SOLELY FROM WHOM WE HAVE BEEN MADE IN CHRIST JESUS"

OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING IS...

PRESENT TENSE:

**"AND I AM SURE OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A
GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL BRING IT TO COMPLETION
AT THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST."**

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (ESV)

OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING IS...

FUTURE TENSE:

**"BECAUSE I KNOW THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE
FUTURE - I CAN BE AT PEACE WITH WHAT'S TO
COME... WHAT WORRIES CAN OUTWEIGH HIS LOVE?
WHAT ANXIETIES SPEAK LOUDER THAN HIS
ETERNAL VOICE?"**

A PRAYER:

"Make me present in Your presence, O God. Turn my untrusting eyes away from the gods of my past, which shackle me by shame and guilt. Refocus my sight not upon faithless fears of the future, but solely upon the work of Christ Jesus, whose wounds alone make all things new...."

A PRAYER, continued:

By your Spirit, give me new eyes that behold in those placed on my path a calling of love and service.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

