

Liberty Church

Foundations

Foundations

Week 1 - Theology & Its Sources

Week 2 - The Bible & Story

Week 3 - Man, Sin & Salvation

Week 4 - The Church

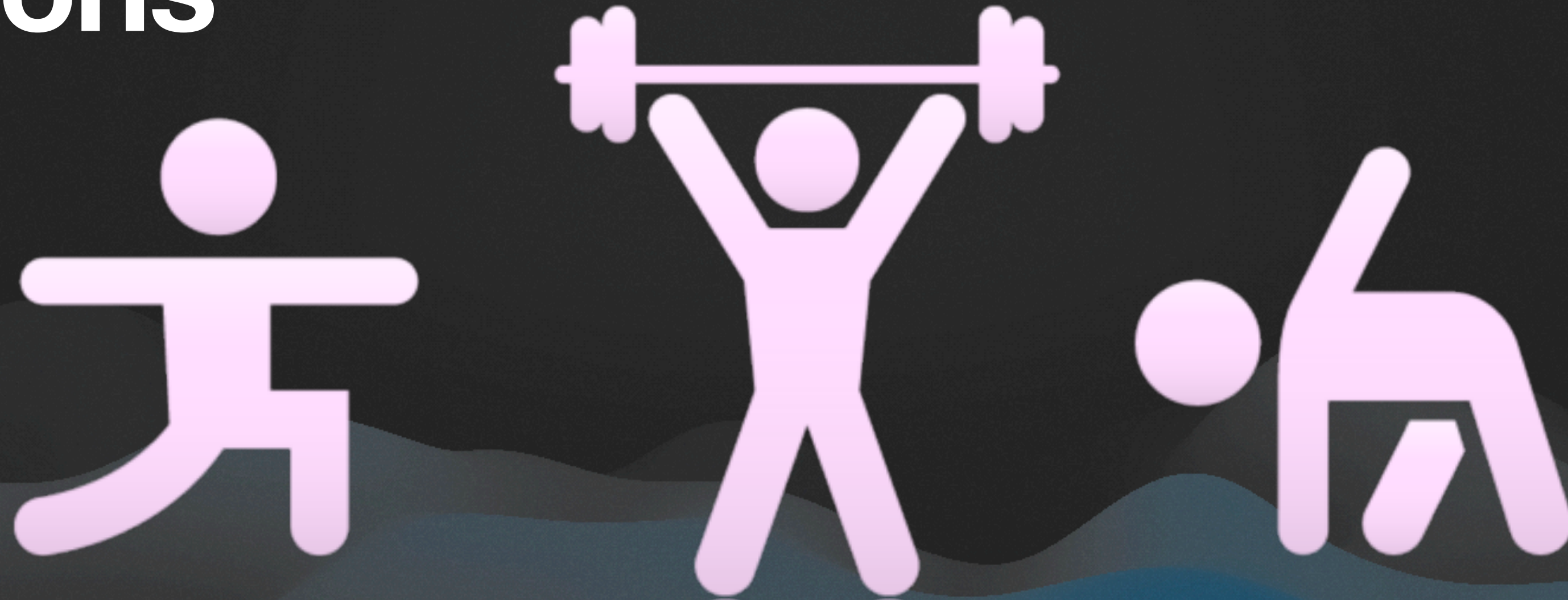
Week 5 - Devotional Practices: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting

Week 6 - How to Study the Bible

Week 7 - Shaping/Formative Practices: Simplicity & Submission

Week 8 - Church Practices: Confession & Worship

Foundations



Building upon theology (the things of God) are spiritual disciplines including inward, outward, and communal.

Spiritual disciplines are the means by which we can grow spiritual, much like physical discipline.

spiritual disciplines

Foundations

Why should we practice spiritual discipline?

“Rather train yourself for godliness;

⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”

-1 Timothy 4:7b-10

“Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.”

- Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

Foundations

Discussion:

- 1) **Scripture says “Above all else, guard your heart.” (Proverbs 4:23). How does someone practically guard their heart?**
- 2) **Why did Jesus shift sin from actions to attitudes of the heart? (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44)**
- 3) **American culture highly emphasizes individualism; how does this impact the Christian faith? Consider ideas such as “personal savior” and “private worship”**

Foundations

Confession



One of the many ways the enemy paralyzes and stops Christians from being effective is to trap them in shame and guilt of past or present sins. Confession robs the enemy of this power.

“The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.”

- Augustine of Hippo

Foundations

Confession



Christians should pay close attention to their hearts.

“²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

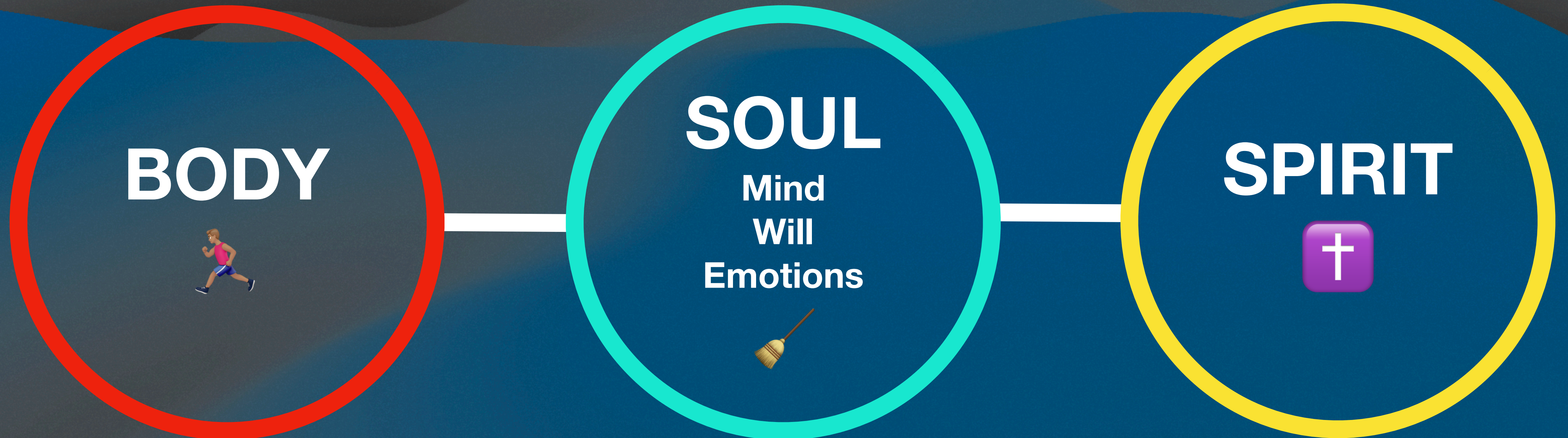
- Proverbs 4:23

Foundations

Confession



The heart is the non-physical center of humanity: the Soul



Foundations

Confession



The heart is the inner life of the believer and is the focus of many of Jesus' teachings and lessons.

“⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

- Luke 6:45

Foundations

Confession

How do we guard our hearts?

Many Christians default to behavior modification. But Jesus shifted his teaching away from what we DO and instead focused upon the heart.



Foundations



Confession

“²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder... ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry...

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery... ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully...

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”

- Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44

Foundations

Confession



Jesus is not about behavior modification, but heart transformation.

Our hearts direct our behavior, therefore, guarding your heart should be top priority... above all else.

But how do we do this?

Foundations

Confession



We can start by asking these questions to search our hearts:

- Did anybody hurt your feelings today?**
- Are you mad at anybody?**
- Are you worried about anything?**
- Did anybody break a promise to you today?**
- Is there anything you wish you could talk about but aren't sure how?**

Foundations

Confession



We can dive deeper with with these questions:

- Is there anyone whose failure you would secretly celebrate?**
- Are there any habits hindering your relationships?**
- Is there something that you are doing that is changing something about you that you do not like?**
- Is there something you have been hiding that you hope nobody finds out about?**

Foundations

Confession



In confession, we often focus on things we do but being able to confess honestly about our heart helps GUARD and PREVENT us from sin taking root to grow and cripple us.

“¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”

- James 1:14-15 (NLT)

Foundations

Confession



Guarding our hearts and confessing to one another regularly helps keep unhealthy secrets from getting stuck in our hearts; this allows for God to work effectively in our lives.

“³ Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ Only those whose hands and hearts are pure...”
- Psalm 24:3-4a

Foundations

Confession



Confession is about restoring relationship:

- 1) Restored relationship with God**
- 2) Restored relationship with individuals**
- 3) Restored relationships with communities**

Foundations

Confession



How do we confess our sins to one another?

- 1) Private Confessions: Confessions before God and Mentor(s)**
- 2) Personal Confessions: Confessions before the one wronged**
- 3) Public Confessions: Confessions before the hurt community**

Foundations

Confession



“Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. ² Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

- Galatians 6:1-2

The Law of Christ:

If we Love God, We Must Love each other (1 John 4:21)

Foundations

Worship

We worship as Christians not to meet with God as individuals, because we should be doing this throughout the week.

Instead, the purpose of Christian worship is to meet with God as a Church, the Body of Christ, and together draw near to God through the act of loving one another and bearing each other's burdens.

Foundations

Worship

The Spirit of God, which represented God's presence & dwelling place throughout Scripture is where the people of God can meet and worship God.

The Construction of the Tabernacle

“And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”

- Exodus 40:35

The Construction of the Temple

“a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”

- 1 Kings 8:10-11

Foundations

Worship

However, in the New Covenant the very presence of God, God's Spirit, dwells within the believer with full and unlimited access to God:

“¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

- 1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)

Foundations

Worship

“¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Foundations

Worship

Therefore, the purpose of gathering as the Church in worship is not to meet with God as an individual. Instead it is to love one another while we worship the LORD:

“²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”

- Hebrews 10:24-25c

Foundations

Worship

If you come to worship and you do not interact with somebody:

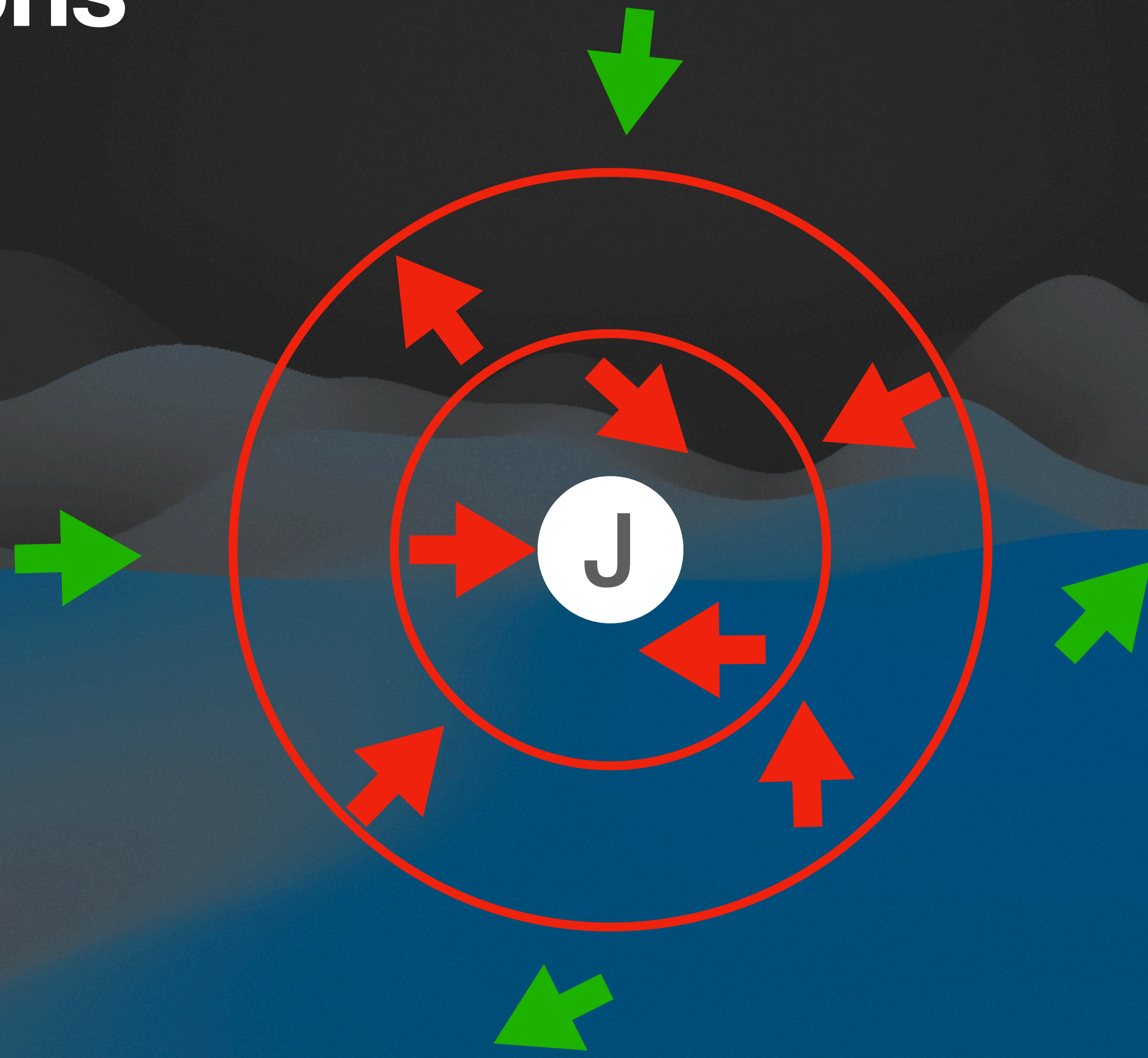
- Encourage someone
- Pray for someone
- Share what God has done (Testimony)
- Serve one another
- Confess and/or Forgive
- Celebrate God together

You are missing the point of the body of Christ

Foundations

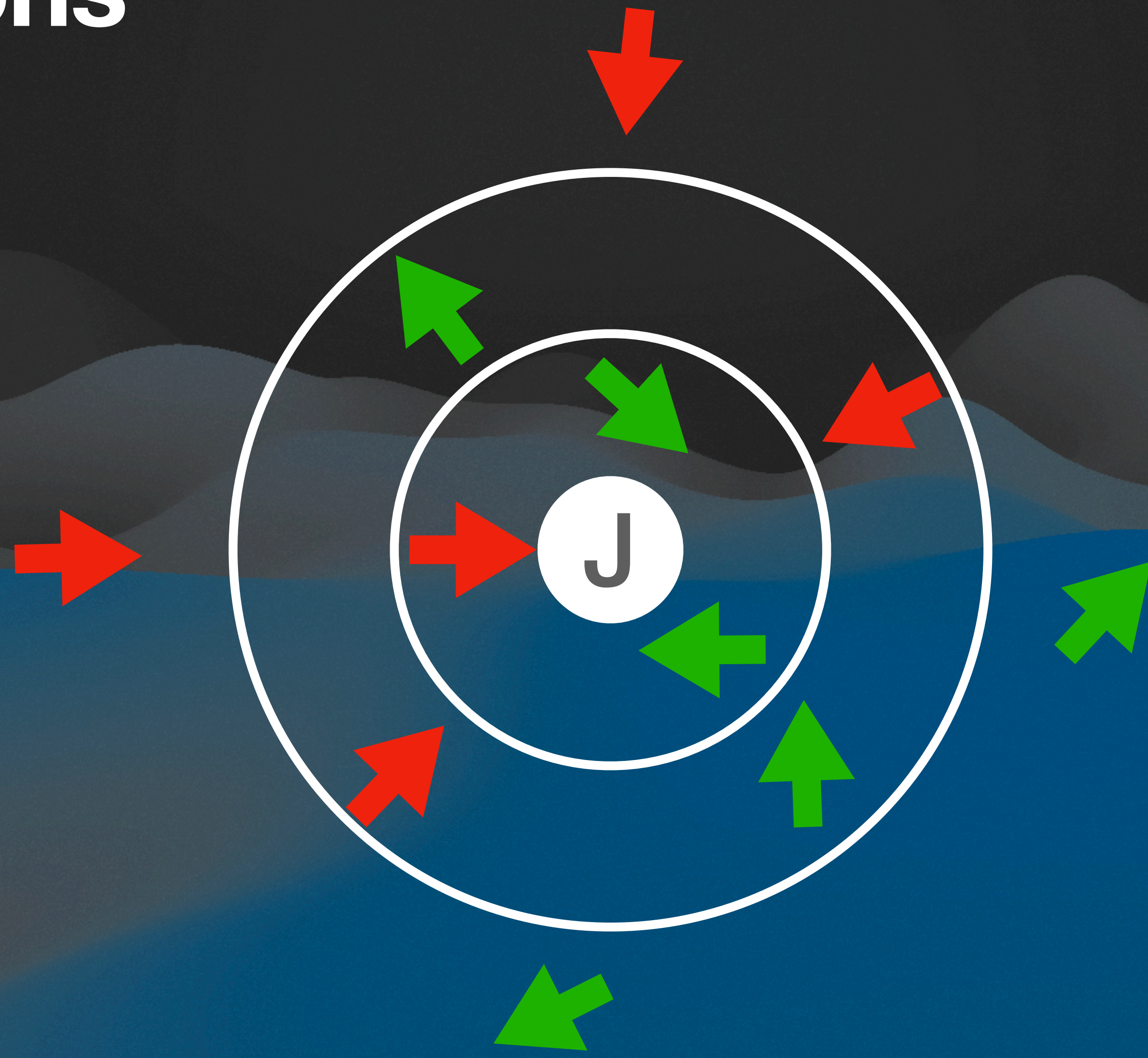


Foundations



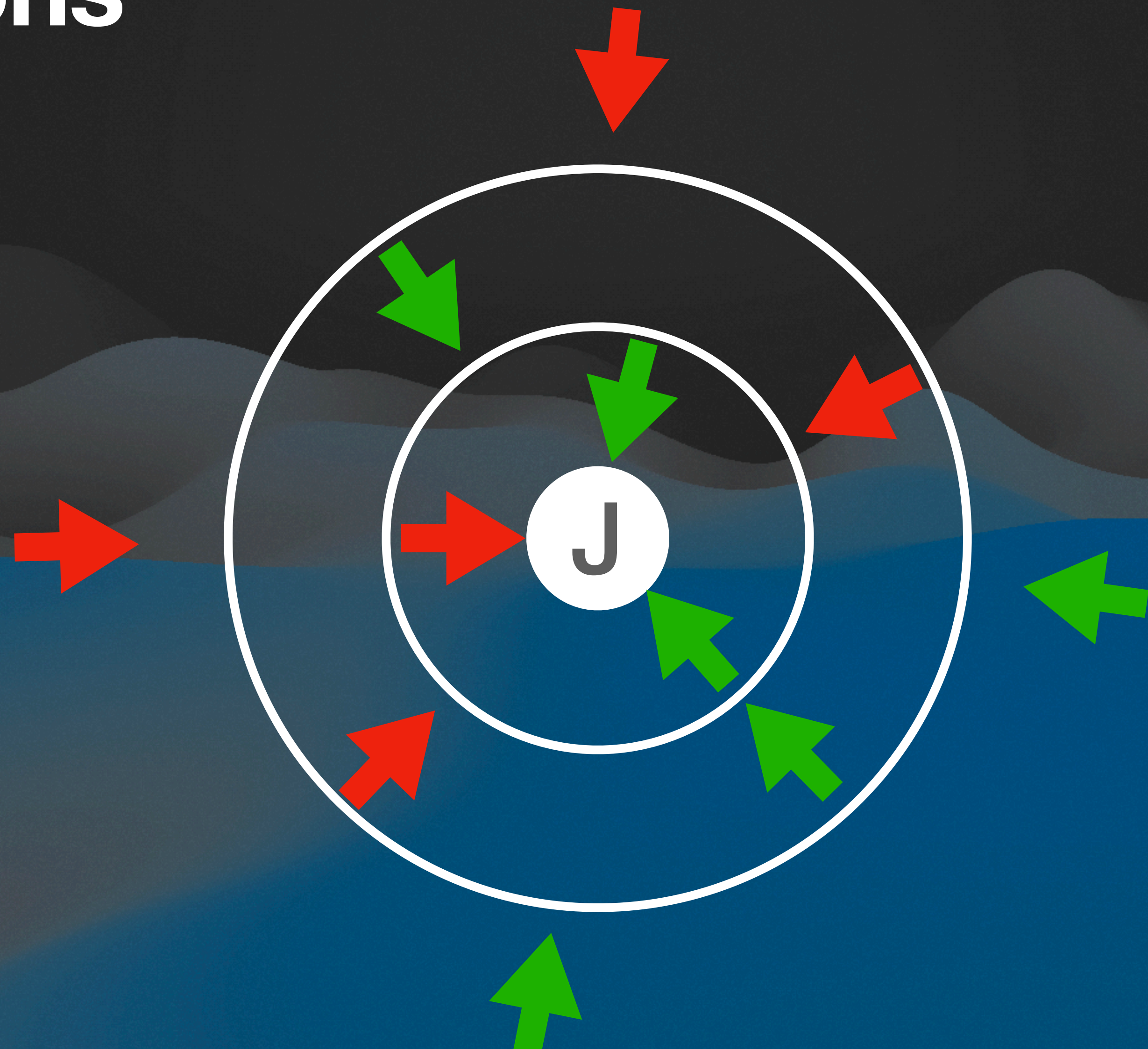
Most Churches focus on these

Foundations



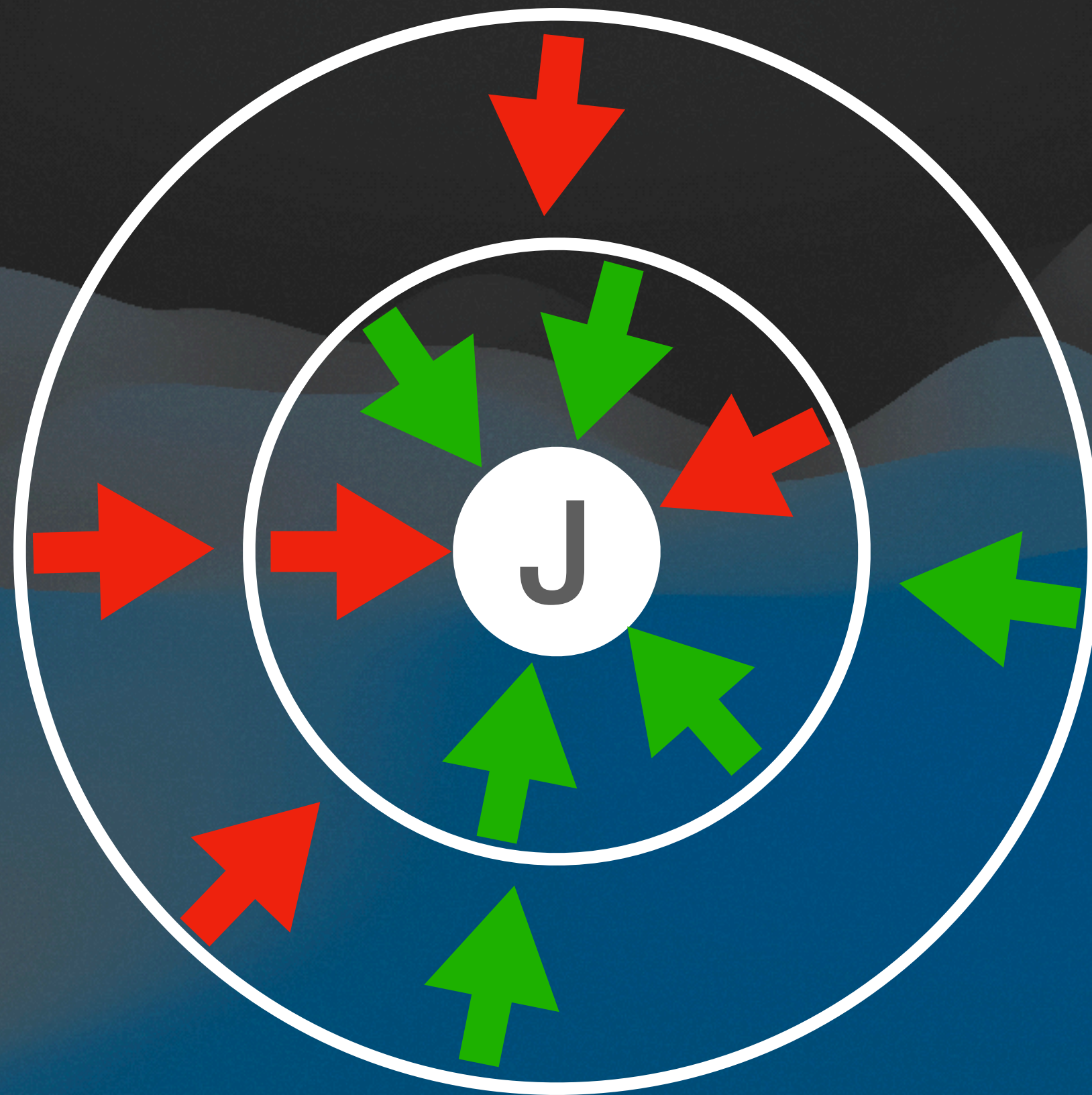
Jesus focused on these

Foundations



Worship Draws us to Christ

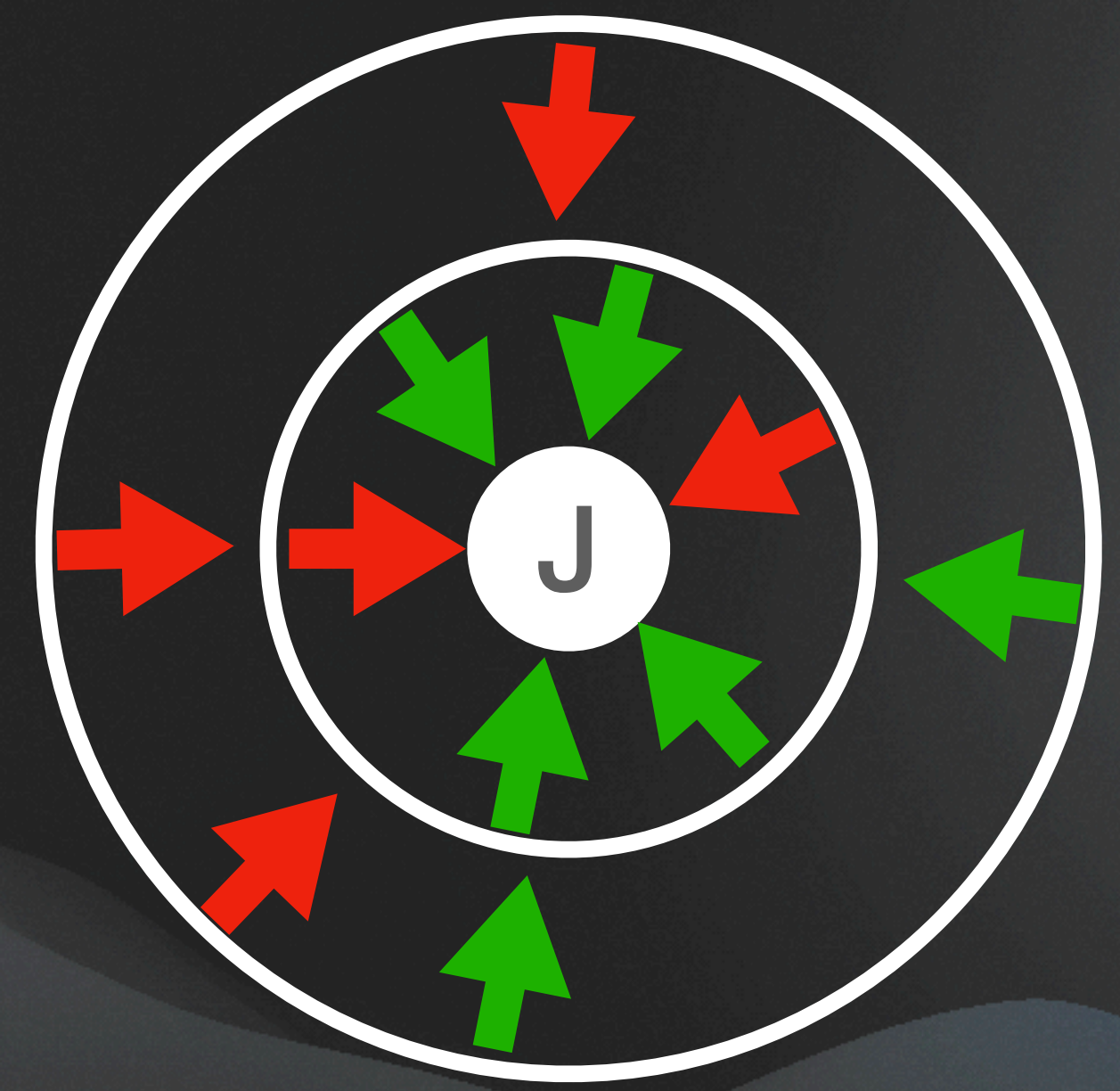
Foundations



The Purpose is the Draw Closer

Foundations

Worship



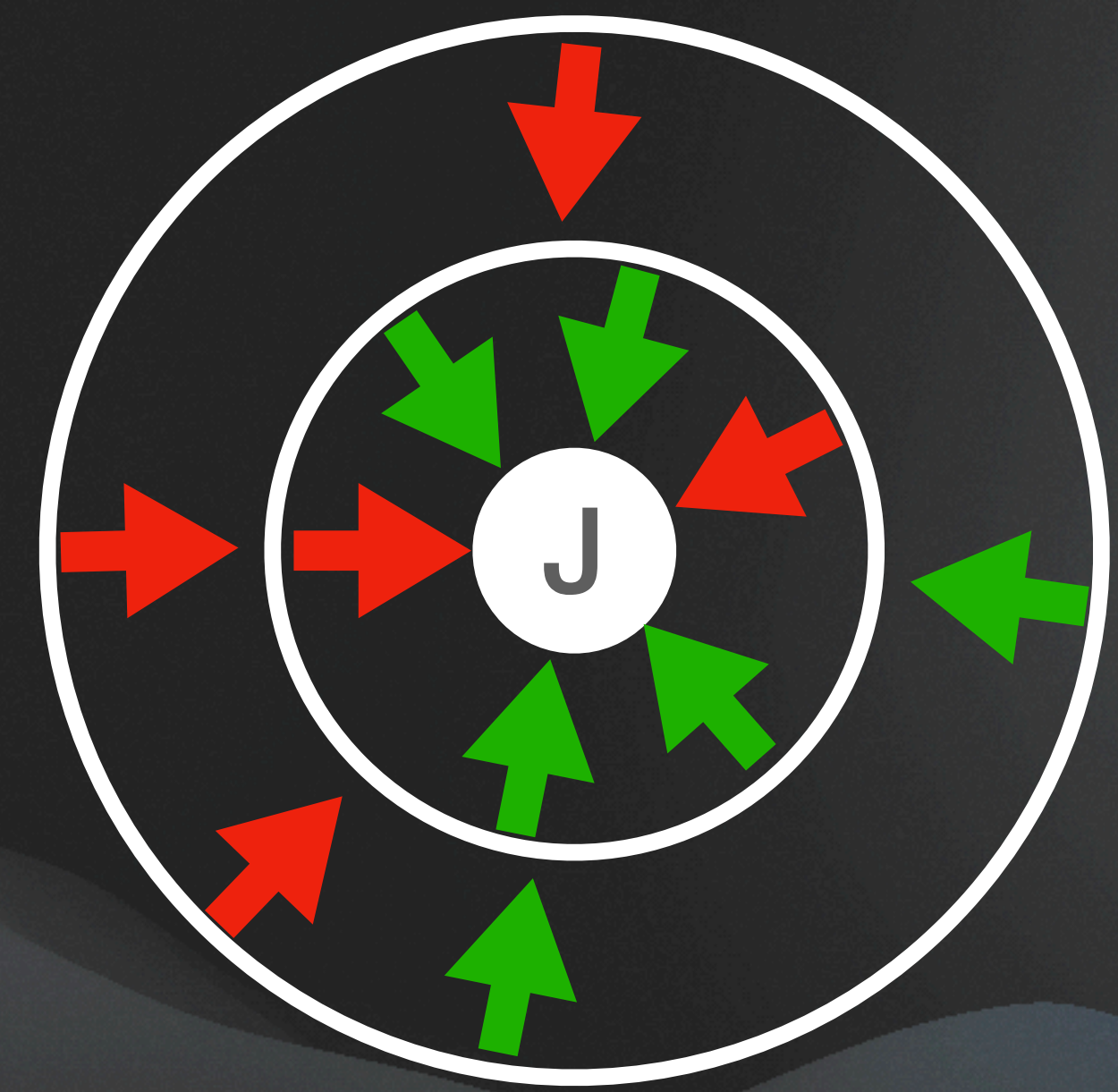
The purpose of gathering for worship is to provide a place for **SEEKERS** to find and grow closer with Jesus by letting them meet his bride, the Church.

“²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,”

- Hebrews 10:24-25

Foundations

Worship



Individualism within Christianity at best is apathetic towards fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and, at worst, ignores other believers.

However, those who neglect the Body of Christ, neglect Christ himself:

“²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.”

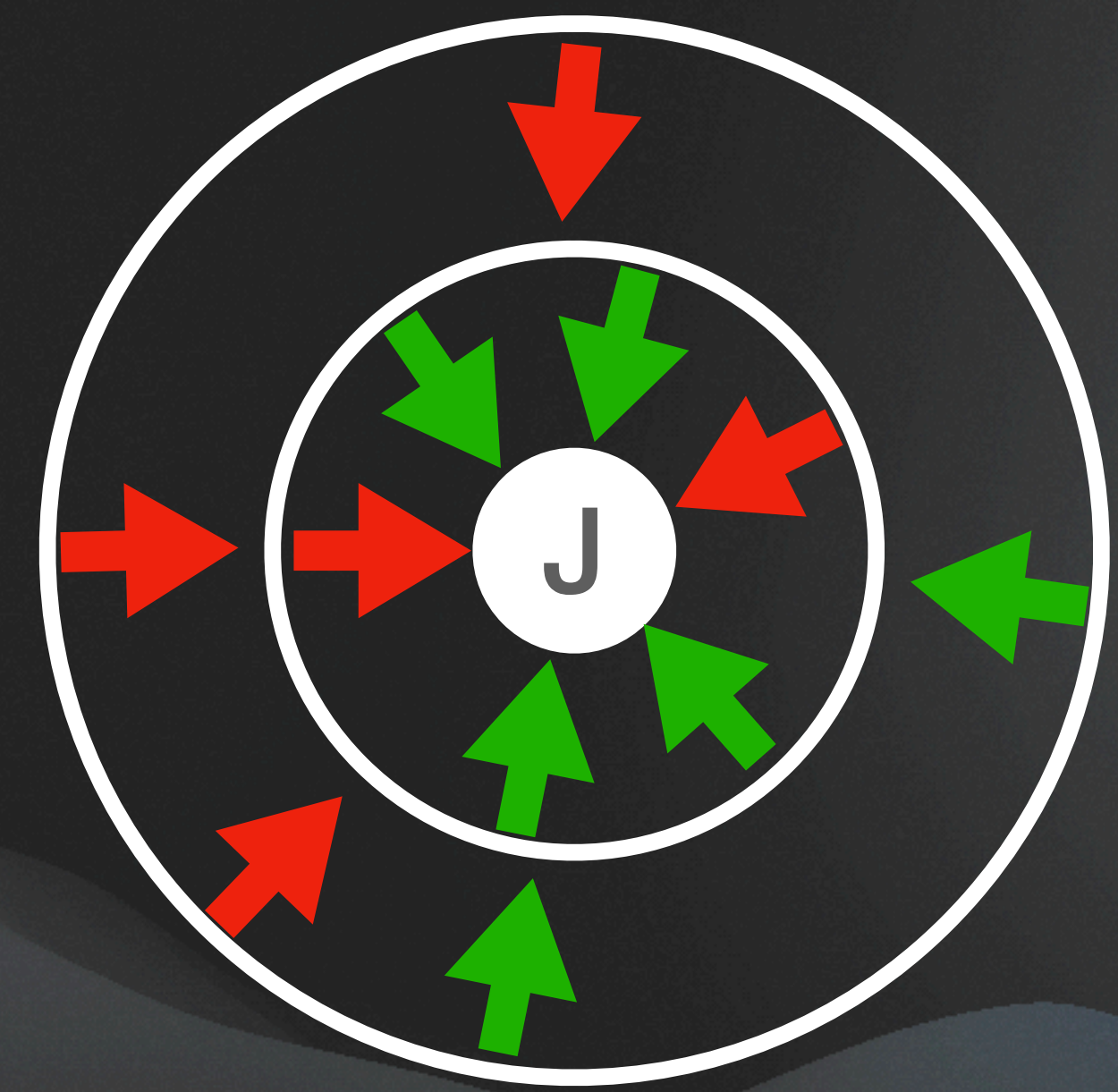
- Ephesians 5:29-30

Foundations



Foundations

Worship



When we gather in worship, we express the unity of the Spirit as one Body and fulfill the Law of Christ by bearing each others burdens through confession, encourage through love, and equip to do good works with the intention of growing closer to Christ.

This is true worship and the purpose of the Church.

Foundation

Discussion:

Q&A

Liberty Church

Foundations