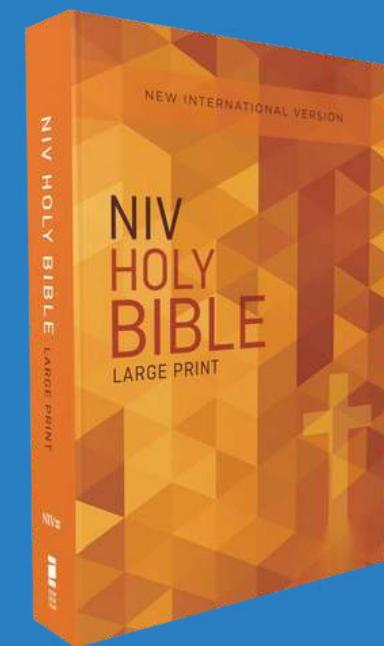


AM I PROMISED PROSPERITY, PLEASURE AND POPULARITY?

THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE



PAGE
963

LUKE 6:12 - 26

PASTOR RANDY BRAINARD

4 JANUARY 2026

THE HIGH MOUNTAINS BELONG TO THE WILD GOATS; THE CRAGS ARE A REFUGE FOR THE HYRAX

PSALM 104:18



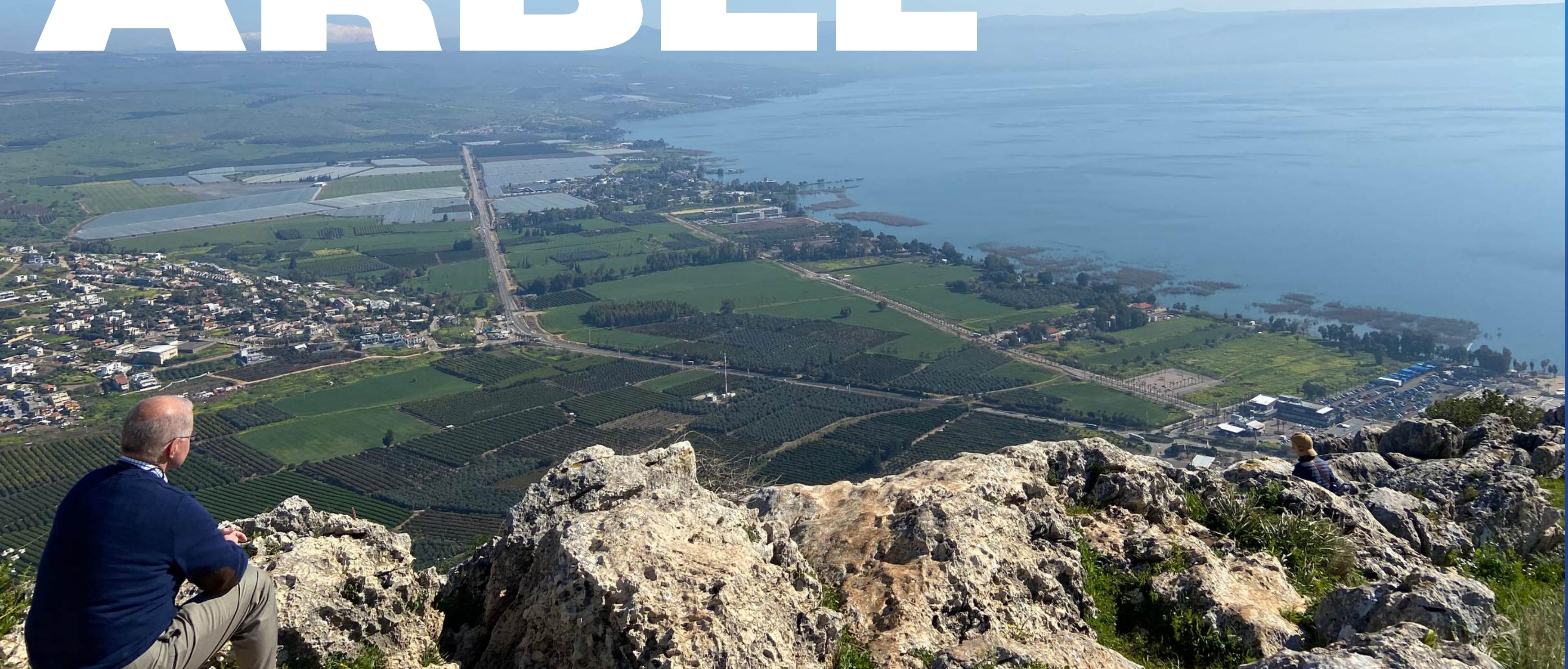


A close-up photograph of a hyrax, a small, brown, rodent-like mammal, looking directly at the camera with its mouth slightly open. The hyrax has a dense, brownish-brown coat with a darker, more textured area on its back. Its eyes are dark and alert, and its ears are small and rounded. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface, possibly rocks or sand.

HYRAX

The word "HYRAX" is written in large, bold, dark blue capital letters. The letters are outlined in white, creating a high-contrast, graphic look. The "H" is on the left, followed by a space, then "YRAX" on the right.

MOUNT ARBEL



COMMUNITY
CHURCH

hope

LUKE 6:13

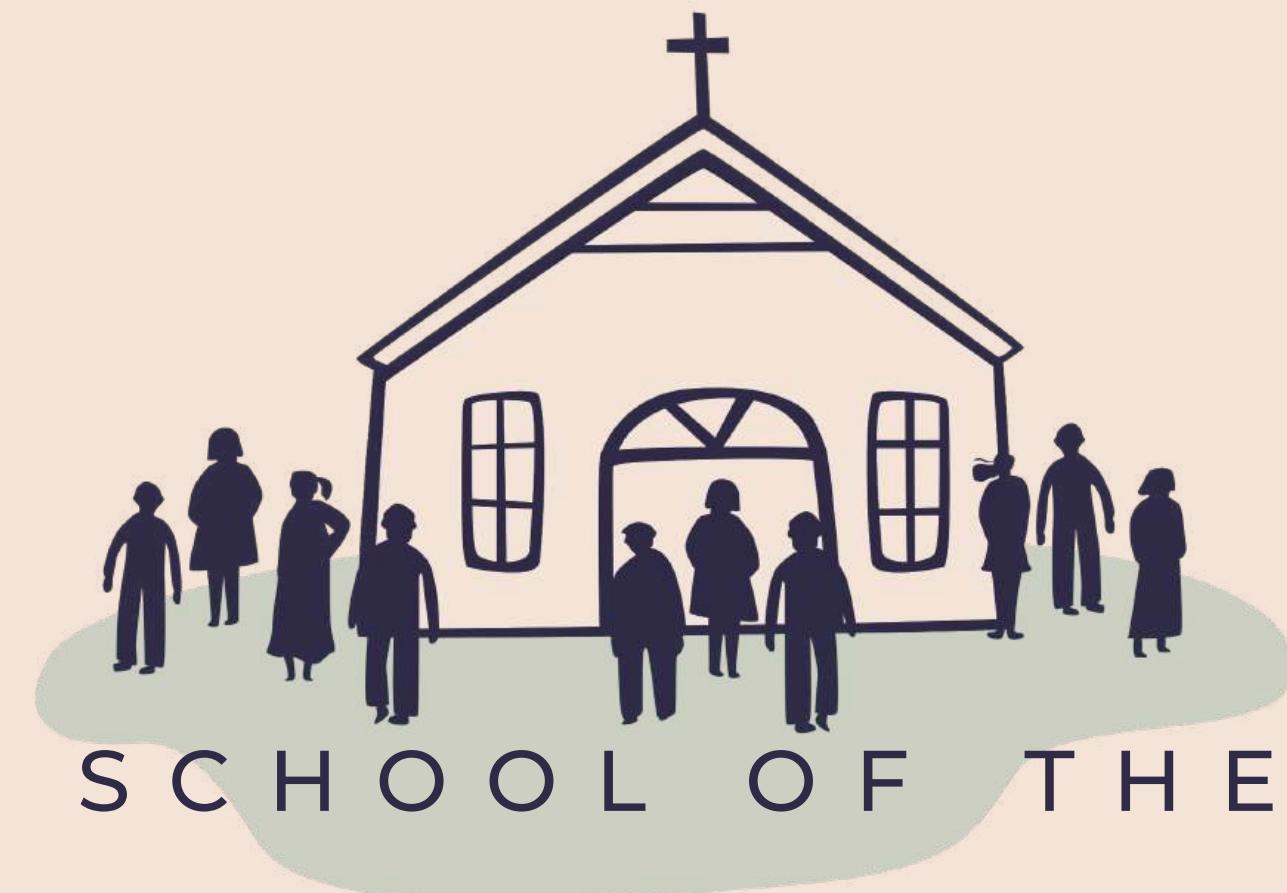
“When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:”

μαθητής
DISCIPLE (PUPIL/STUDENT)
FOLLOWER, LEARNER

ἀπόστολος
APOSTLE (SENT ONE)
SPECIAL MESSENGER, DELEGATE

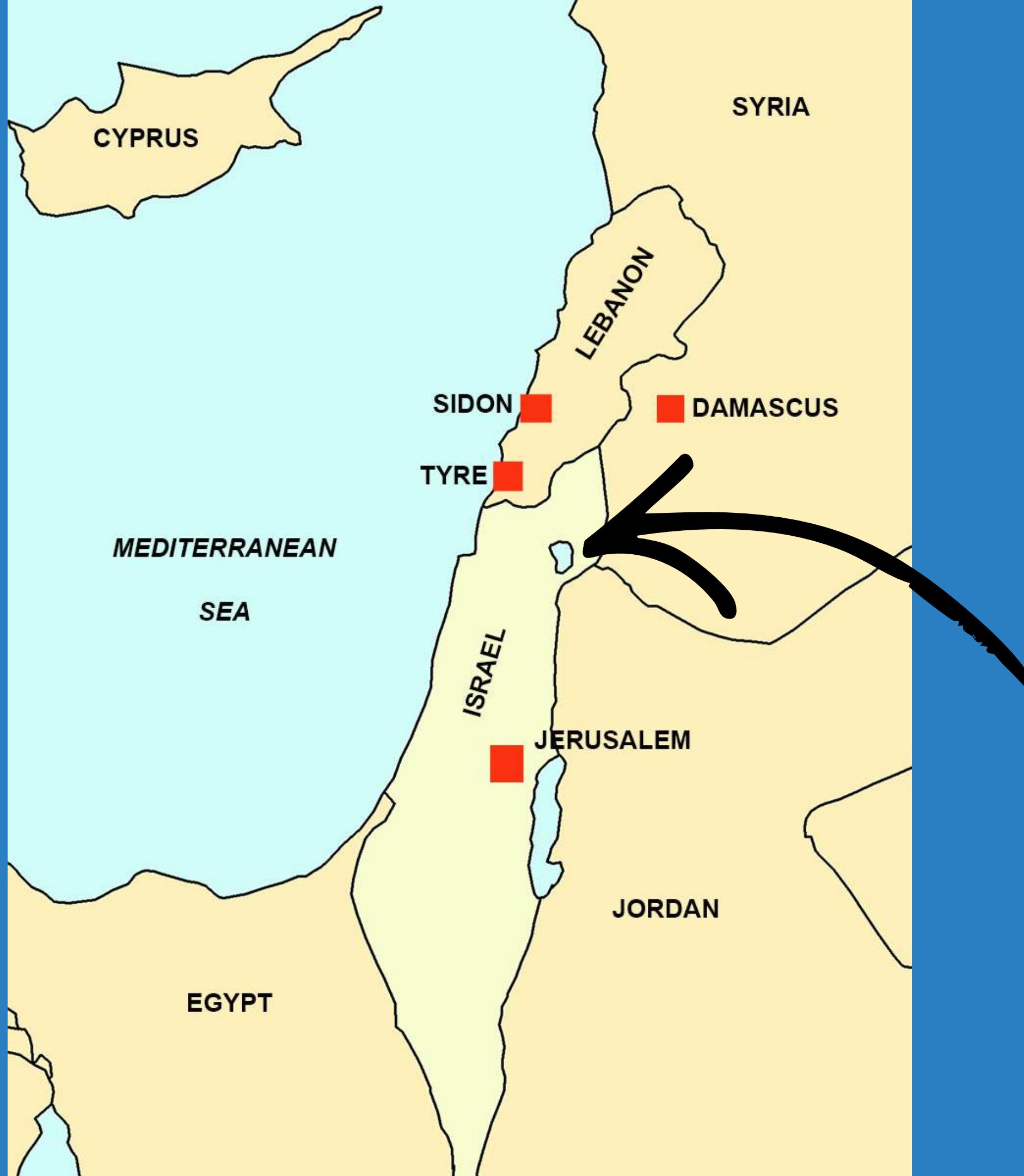
EPHESIANS 4:11-13

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”



GREAT COMMISSION

EVERY MEMBER IS A MINISTER



**Jesus does not offer the
...Gospel of prosperity, pleasure,
and popularity**

**Jesus tells His disciples that
following him
...requires humility, will be
painful, and people will hate you**



BLESSING IS FOR THE POOR (IN SPIRIT)

**FOLLOWING JESUS (DISCIPLE) IS NOT
GOING TO INCREASE YOUR CELEBRITY
STATUS OR BRING YOU GREAT FAME**

**BLESSING IS FOR THOSE WHO HUNGER
AND WEEP NOW**

**FOLLOWING JESUS (DISCIPLE) DOES
NOT PROMISE THE FINEST FOODS AT
THE WORLD'S GREATEST RESORTS - A
LIFE OF LEISURE, RECREATION, AND THE
FINER THINGS OF LIFE**

VIDEO

MARK 10:21-22

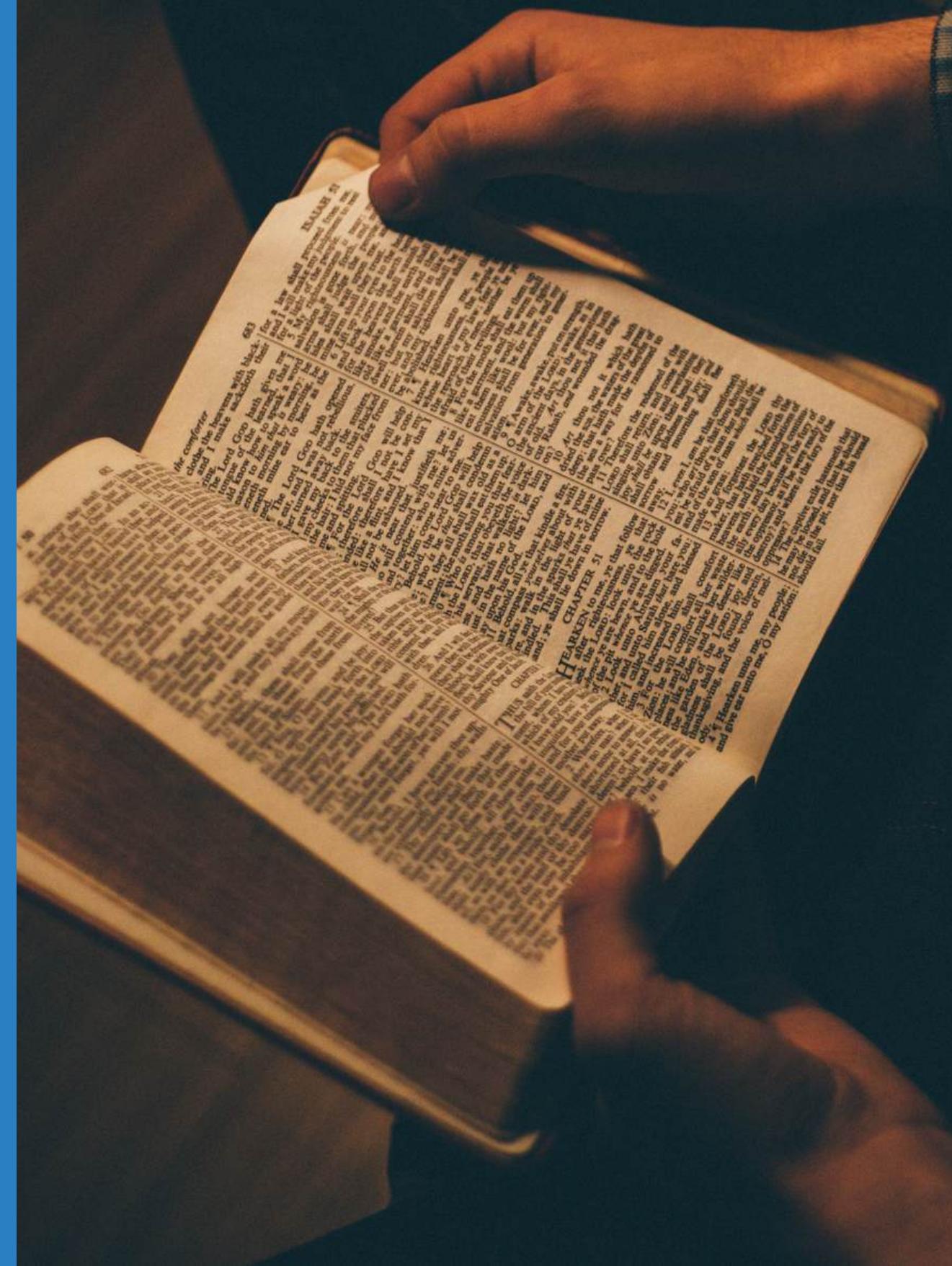
“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”

**BLESSING COMES FOR THE HATED, THE
EXCLUDED, THE INSULTED**

**FOLLOWING JESUS (DISCIPLE) WILL
NOT RESULT IN EVERYONE LIKING YOU**

“THE APOSTLES LEFT
THE SANHEDRIN,
REJOICING BECAUSE
THEY HAD BEEN
COUNTED WORTHY OF
SUFFERING DISGRACE
FOR THE NAME.”

ACTS 5:41



A photograph of a large Saguaro cactus in a desert landscape. The cactus is the central focus, with its tall, ribbed trunk and multiple arms. The background shows a clear blue sky and other smaller desert plants and rocks. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

Is It Worth It?

Should I give up
prosperity, pleasure, and
popularity in this life for
blessings in eternal life?

hope

COMMUNITY
CHURCH



“I CONSIDER THAT OUR
PRESENT SUFFERINGS
ARE NOT WORTH
COMPARING WITH THE
GLORY THAT WILL BE
REVEALED IN US.”

ROMANS 8:18

HomeGroup Questions

1. What significance can we glean from Jesus spending the night in prayer before choosing the Twelve Apostles?
2. How do the Beatitudes and Woes in the "Sermon on the Plain" challenge societal norms and values?
3. Reread verse 23 and 26. How were the false prophets treated and how were the true prophets treated? Read a great example of this in the dramatic war scene of 1 Kings 22:1-40.