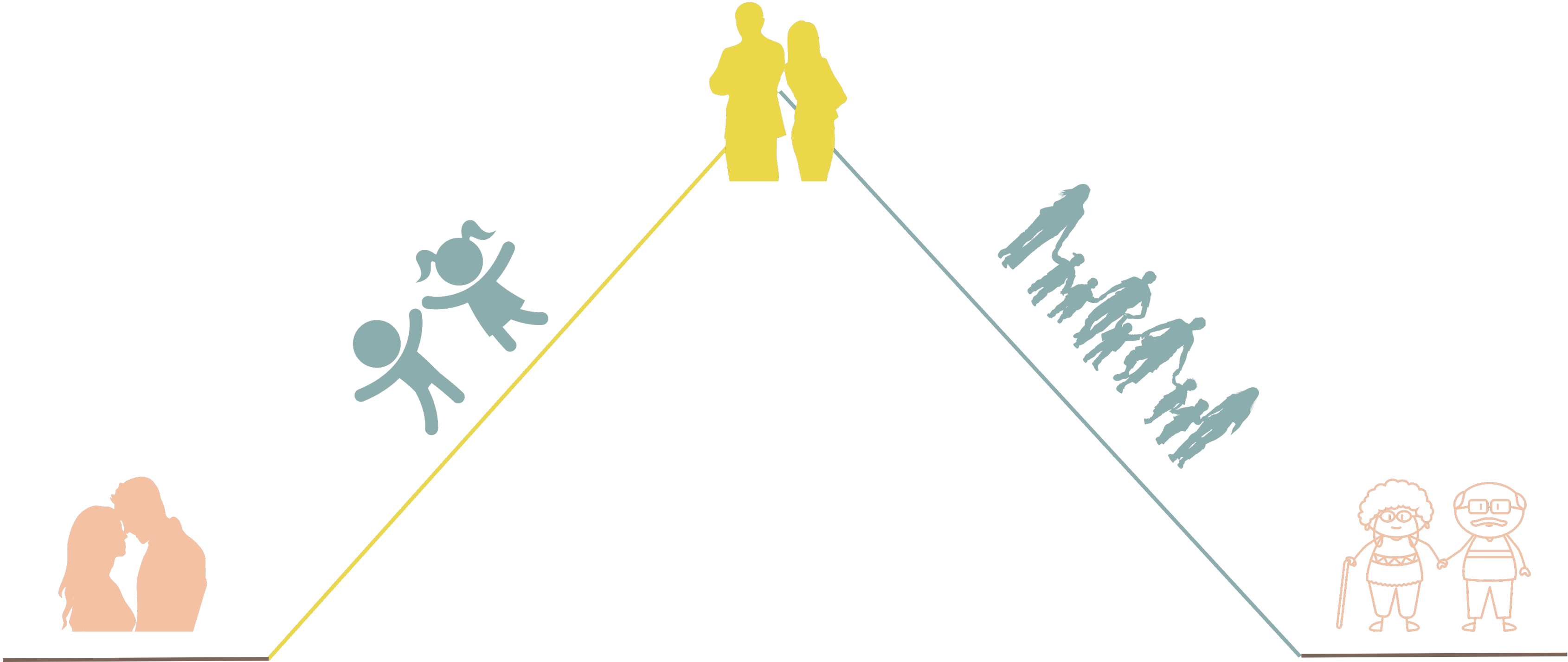


INTEGRATING SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

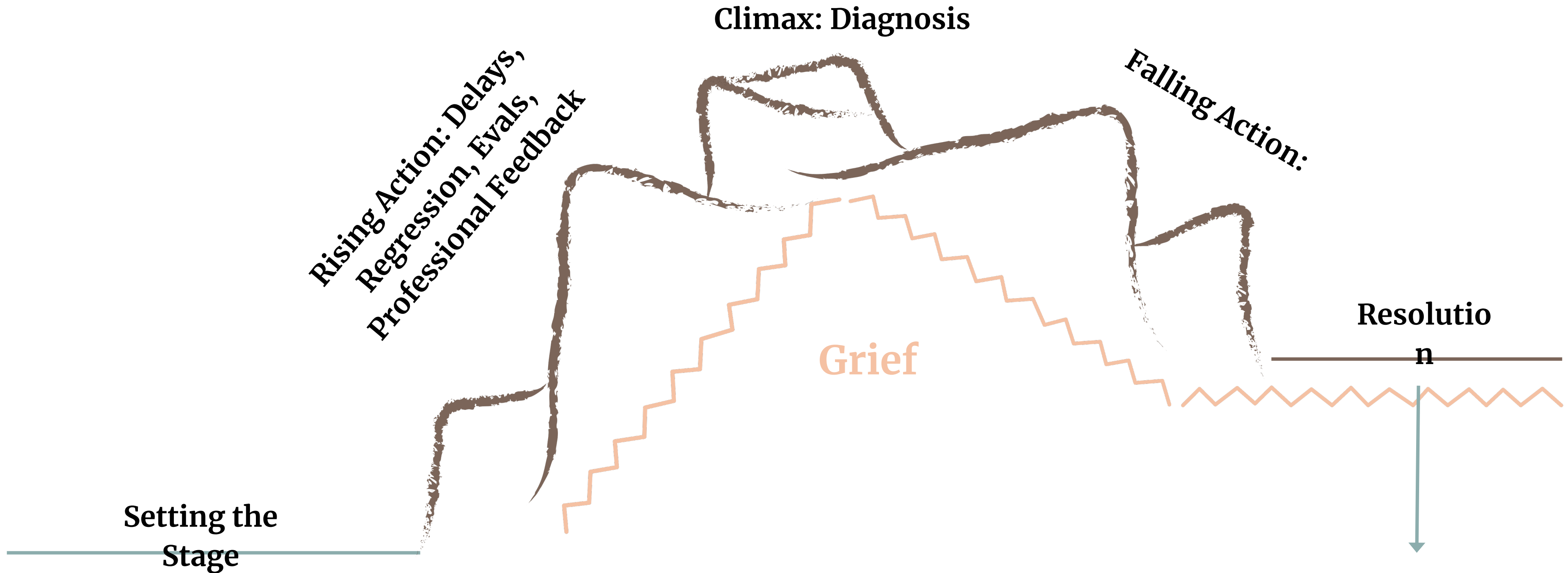
SUPPORTING SPECIAL-NEEDS FAMILIES AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Who to Serve and Where to Start

TYPICAL FAMILY STORY NARRATIVE

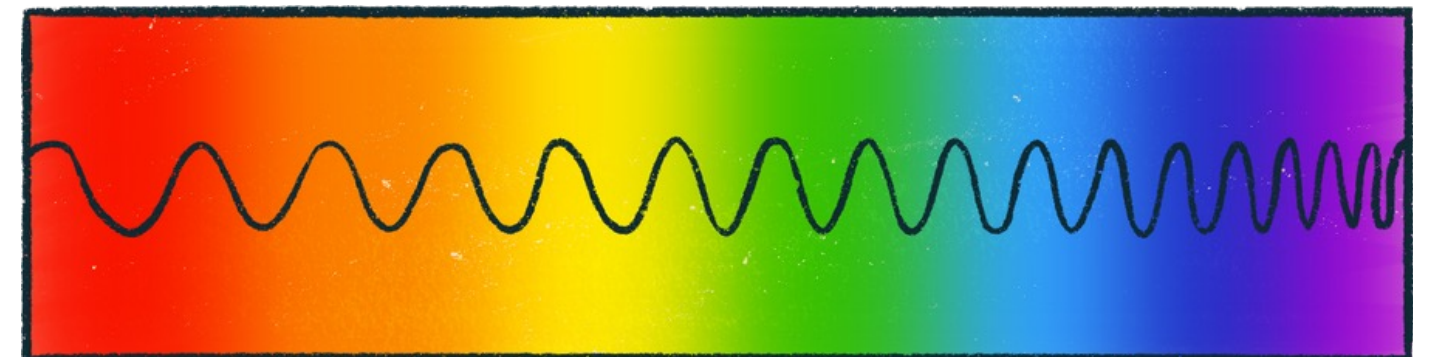


UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIAL-NEEDS FAMILY



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT FAMILIES WHO ARE IN THIS COMMUNITY

- They don't always consider their kids to have disabilities or special needs
- They consistently hear more bad news than good news
- They feel discouraged and isolated
- They are less likely to attend church than a typical family and are more likely to have had negative past experiences
- Often times weary from the journey



WHO DO WE SERVE?

Those who need adjustments and accommodations to understand the lesson and participate in the activities.

SPECTRUM OF DISABILITIES

- **Disabilities**
 - Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability, Deaf, Blind, other physical/cognitive disabilities
- **Learning Disabilities**
 - Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, other oral/written language disorders
- **Mental Health/Behavioral Diagnosis:**
 - ADD, ADHD, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Trauma, Social Anxiety, OCD

Physical &
Invisible



**1 IN 5 FAMILIES HAVE A
FAMILY MEMBER
WITH A DISABILITY**

WHAT CHALLENGES KEEP CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FROM BEING SUCCESSFUL AT CHURCH?

- Struggle with self-regulation and impulse control
- Sensory seeking or avoiding tendencies
- Social anxiety
- Rigid behaviors, inflexibility
- Executive function deficits
- Unable to meet academic expectations
- Immature social skills



WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE DISABILITY MINISTRY?

Safe Environment

High Quality Care

Sensory-Friendly

Evidence-Based Strategies and Standards of Care

Whole-Family Discipleship and Support

