


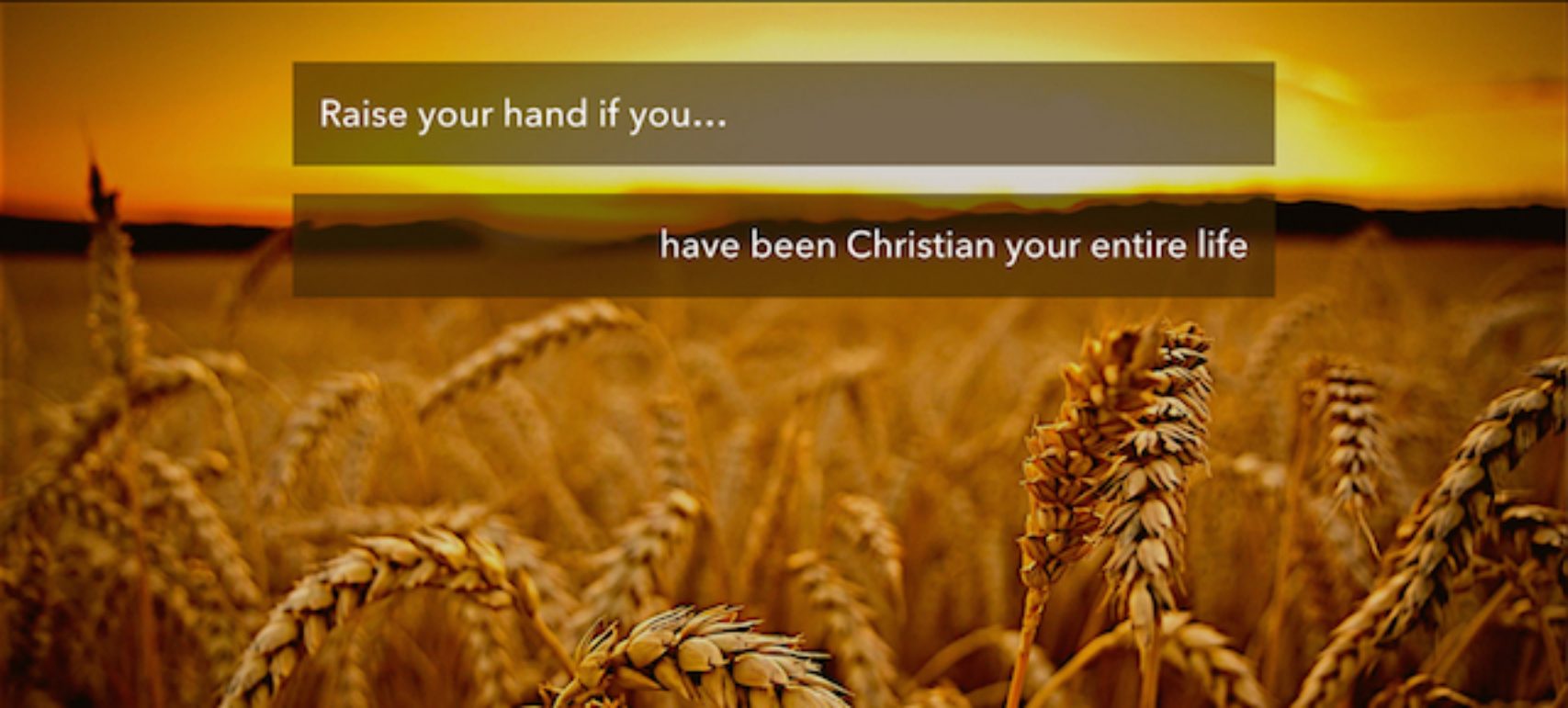
A photograph of a vast wheat field at sunset. The sky is a gradient of warm colors from yellow to orange, with the sun low on the horizon. In the background, dark silhouettes of mountains are visible against the bright sky. The foreground is filled with golden wheat stalks, some in sharp focus and others blurred.

Inviting people to encounter Jesus

Luke 5.17-26

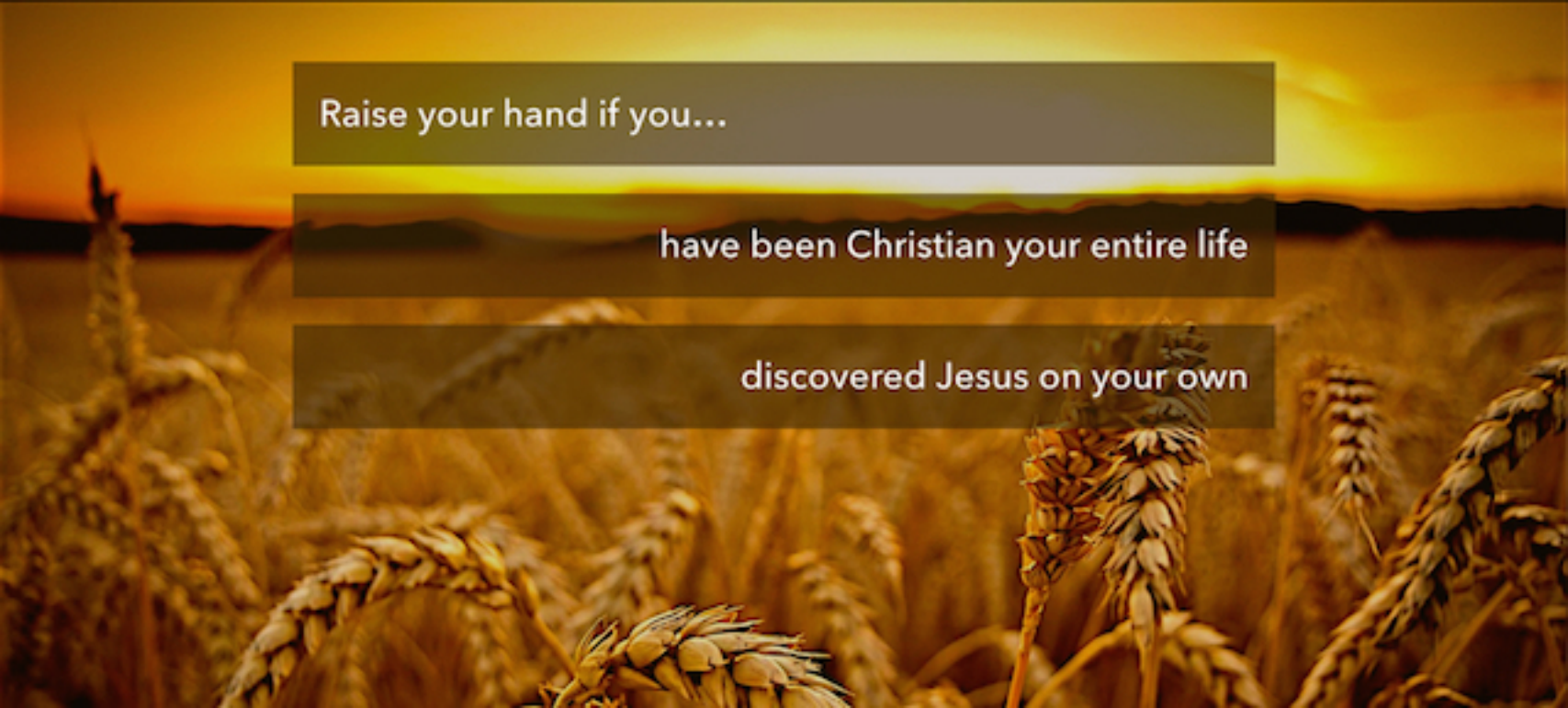
A photograph of a vast wheat field at sunset. The sky is a gradient of warm colors from yellow to orange, with the sun just below the horizon. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, showing their golden-brown heads. A dark grey rectangular box is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, containing white text.

Raise your hand if you...

A golden wheat field at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with a bright sun low on the horizon. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, some in focus and some blurred. Two semi-transparent dark grey text boxes are overlaid on the image. The first box is at the top left and contains the text "Raise your hand if you...". The second box is below it and contains the text "have been Christian your entire life".

Raise your hand if you...

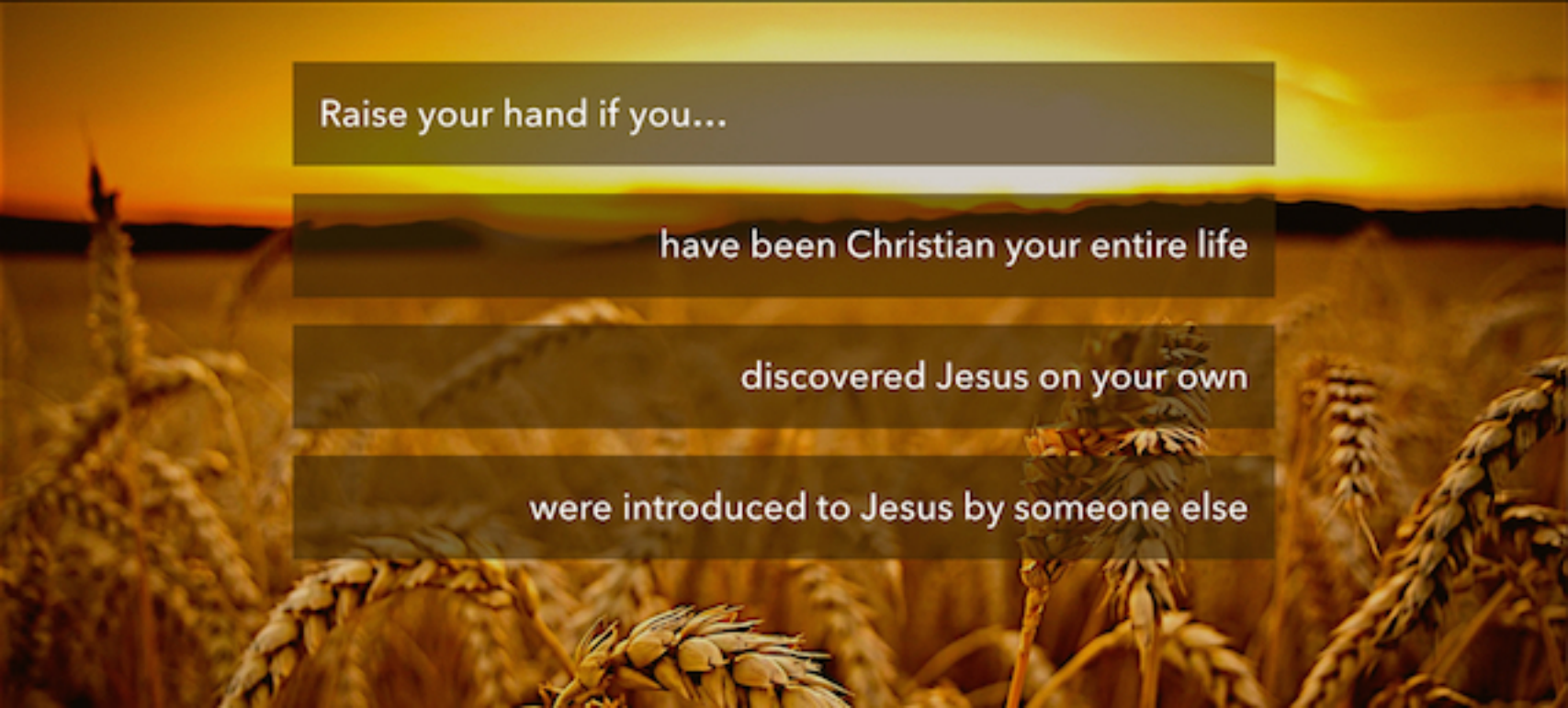
have been Christian your entire life

A golden wheat field at sunset with three text boxes overlaid. The background shows a vast field of wheat in the foreground, with rolling hills and a bright sunset sky in the distance. The text boxes are semi-transparent and contain the following text:

Raise your hand if you...

have been Christian your entire life

discovered Jesus on your own

A golden wheat field at sunset with mountains in the background. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a soft glow over the landscape. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the mountains in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky.

Raise your hand if you...

have been Christian your entire life

discovered Jesus on your own

were introduced to Jesus by someone else

A photograph of a vast wheat field at sunset. The sky is a gradient of warm colors from yellow to orange, with the sun low on the horizon. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with some blurred in the background. A semi-transparent dark circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

"Hey,
Tammy and I
are looking for
community—for
people to share life,
pray, and study the
Bible together with.
Would you be
interested?"

NAKED

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community—for
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Would you be
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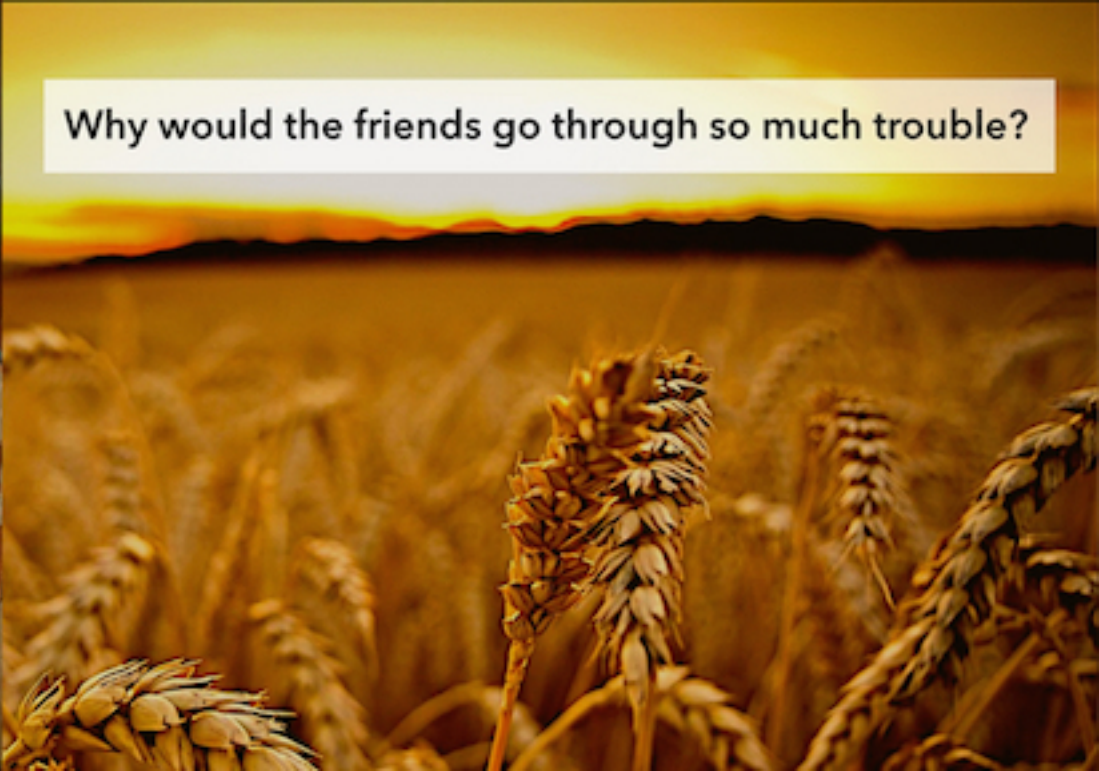
At our first retreat

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

Luke 5.17-19



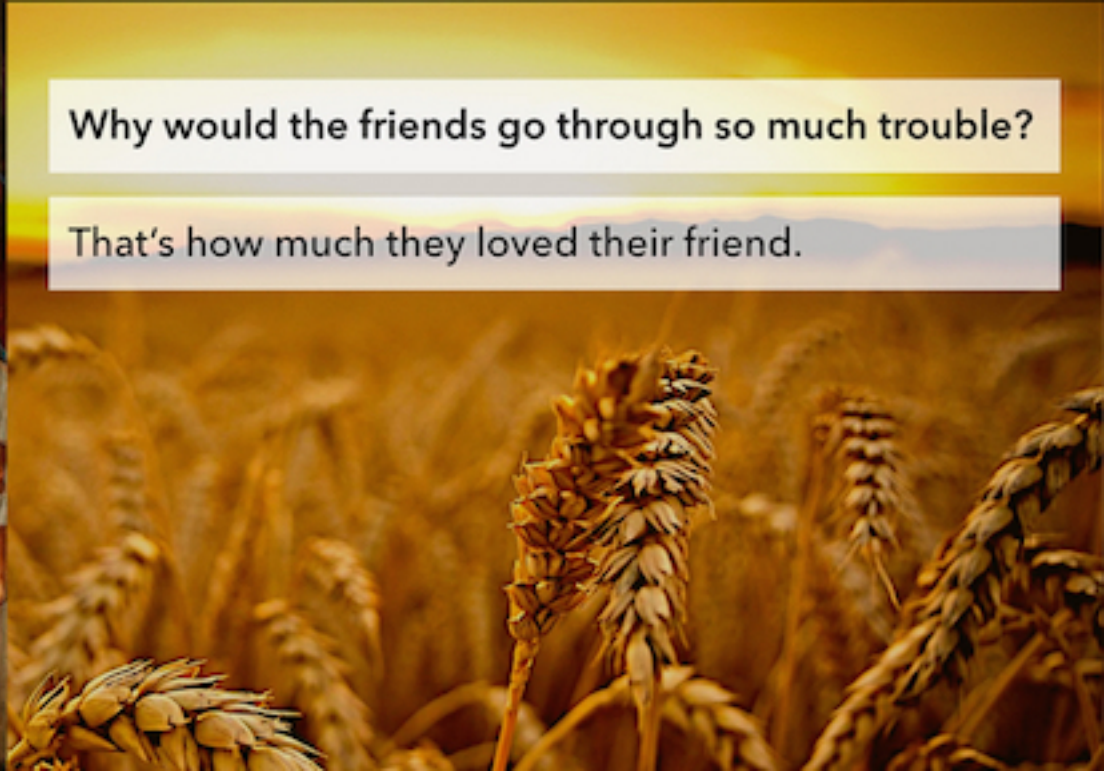
Why would the friends go through so much trouble?





Why would the friends go through so much trouble?

That's how much they loved their friend.





Why would the friends go through so much trouble?

That's how much they loved their friend.

They heard that Jesus could heal.



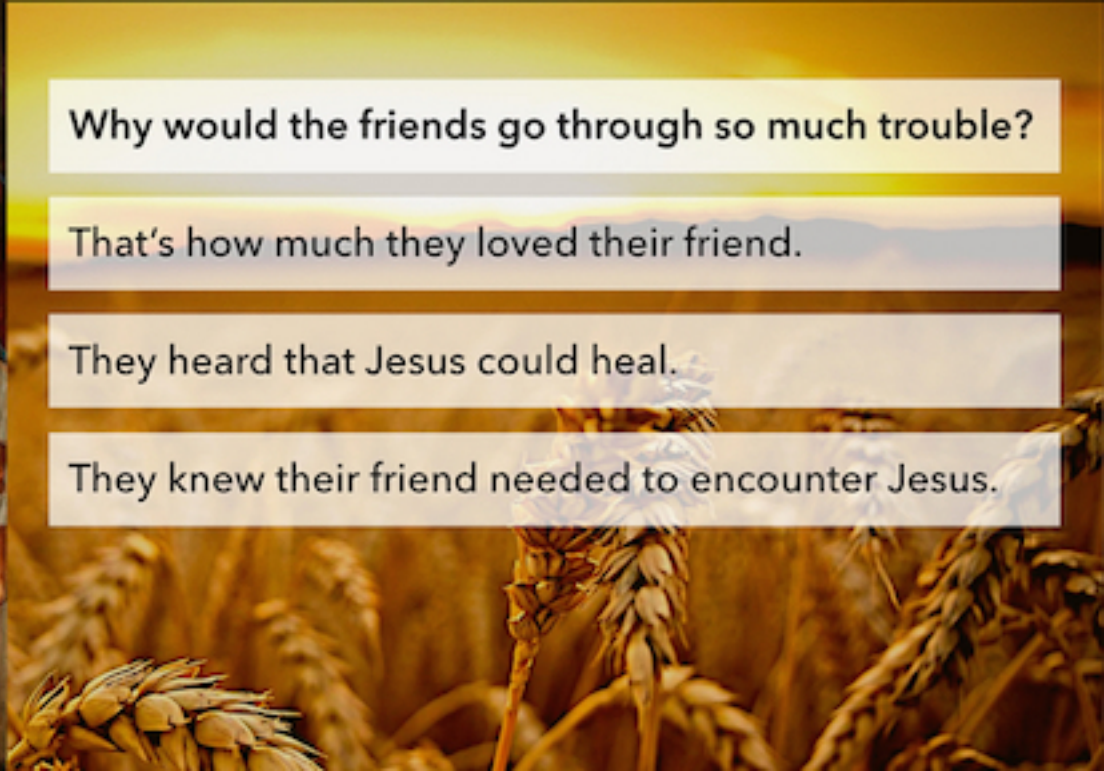


Why would the friends go through so much trouble?

That's how much they loved their friend.

They heard that Jesus could heal.

They knew their friend needed to encounter Jesus.





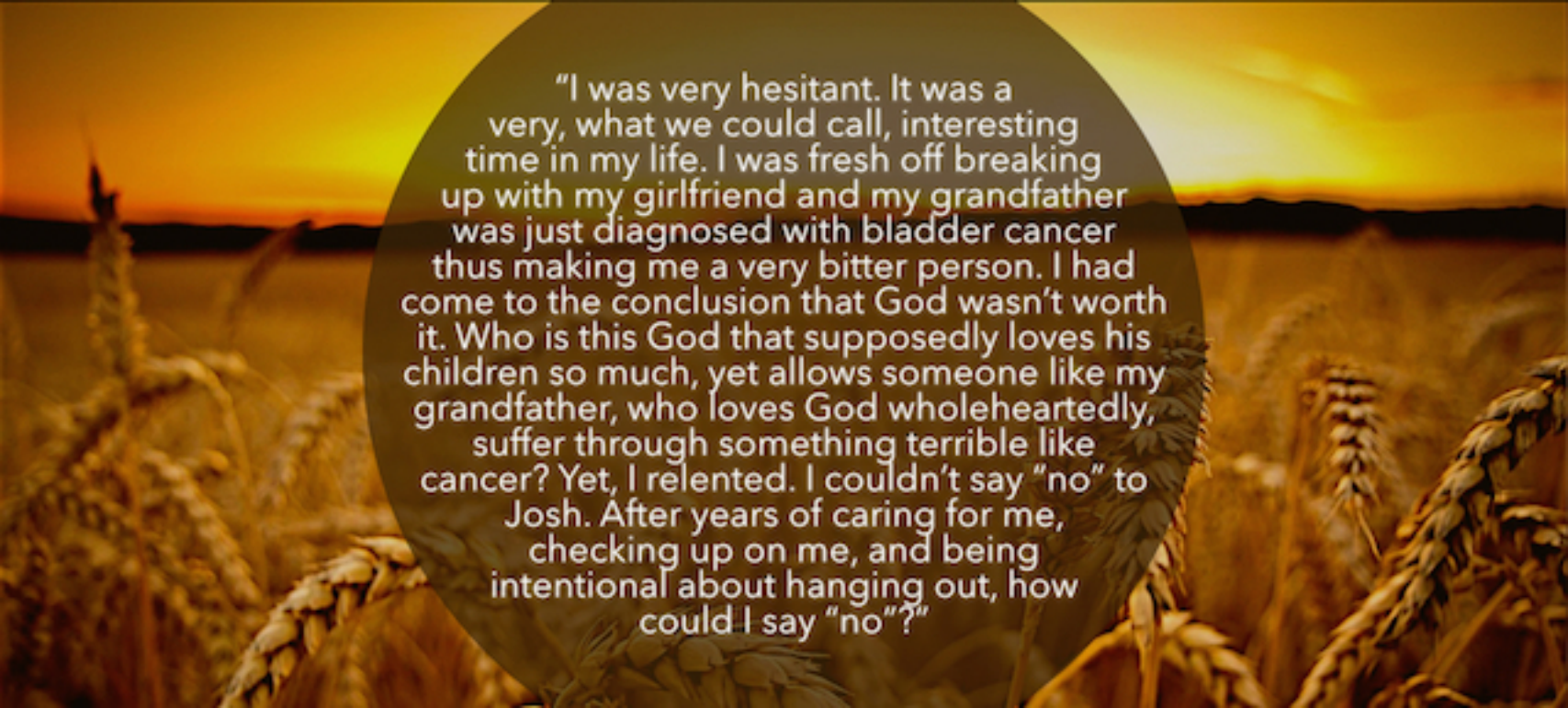
Why would the friends go through so much trouble?

That's how much they loved their friend.

They heard that Jesus could heal.

They knew their friend needed to encounter Jesus.

Their eyes were on Jesus and on their friend.

The background of the image is a golden wheat field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, some in focus and some blurred. A large, semi-transparent dark circle is centered over the image, containing white text.

"I was very hesitant. It was a very, what we could call, interesting time in my life. I was fresh off breaking up with my girlfriend and my grandfather was just diagnosed with bladder cancer thus making me a very bitter person. I had come to the conclusion that God wasn't worth it. Who is this God that supposedly loves his children so much, yet allows someone like my grandfather, who loves God wholeheartedly, suffer through something terrible like cancer? Yet, I relented. I couldn't say "no" to Josh. After years of caring for me, checking up on me, and being intentional about hanging out, how could I say "no"?"

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Luke 5.20



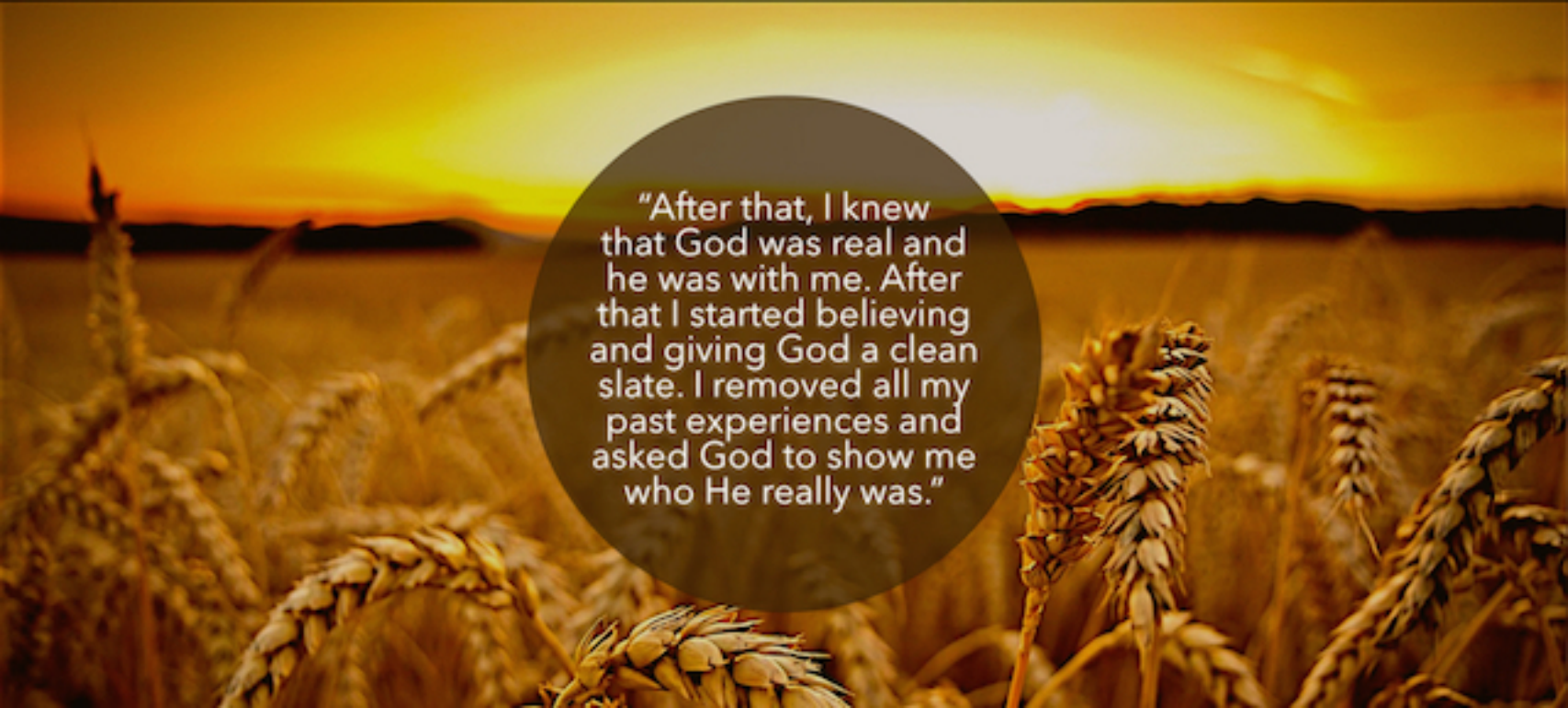
20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

Luke 5.20-24



The image features a circular graphic in the center, overlaid on a background of a golden wheat field at sunset. The text inside the circle is white and reads: "I remember one week at lifegroup, my frustrations with God came to a tipping point and I erupted. We were done reading our passage and in our discussion, I kept hearing people say how good God was and how he does all these good things. I snapped. I went on a big rant about how it was all a lie and no matter what anyone said, no one could change my mind because this is how he was in my life. I was so frustrated I went for a walk to cool off. During my walk I started crying and asking why God was good to others but terrible to me." The background shows a vast field of wheat under a bright, low sun, creating a warm, golden glow across the entire scene.

"I remember one week at lifegroup, my frustrations with God came to a tipping point and I erupted. We were done reading our passage and in our discussion, I kept hearing people say how good God was and how he does all these good things. I snapped. I went on a big rant about how it was all a lie and no matter what anyone said, no one could change my mind because this is how he was in my life. I was so frustrated I went for a walk to cool off. During my walk I started crying and asking why God was good to others but terrible to me."

A photograph of a golden wheat field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and the field. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with some blurred in the background. A semi-transparent dark circle is centered over the image, containing white text.

"After that, I knew that God was real and he was with me. After that I started believing and giving God a clean slate. I removed all my past experiences and asked God to show me who He really was."

So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."
²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Luke 5.24b-26

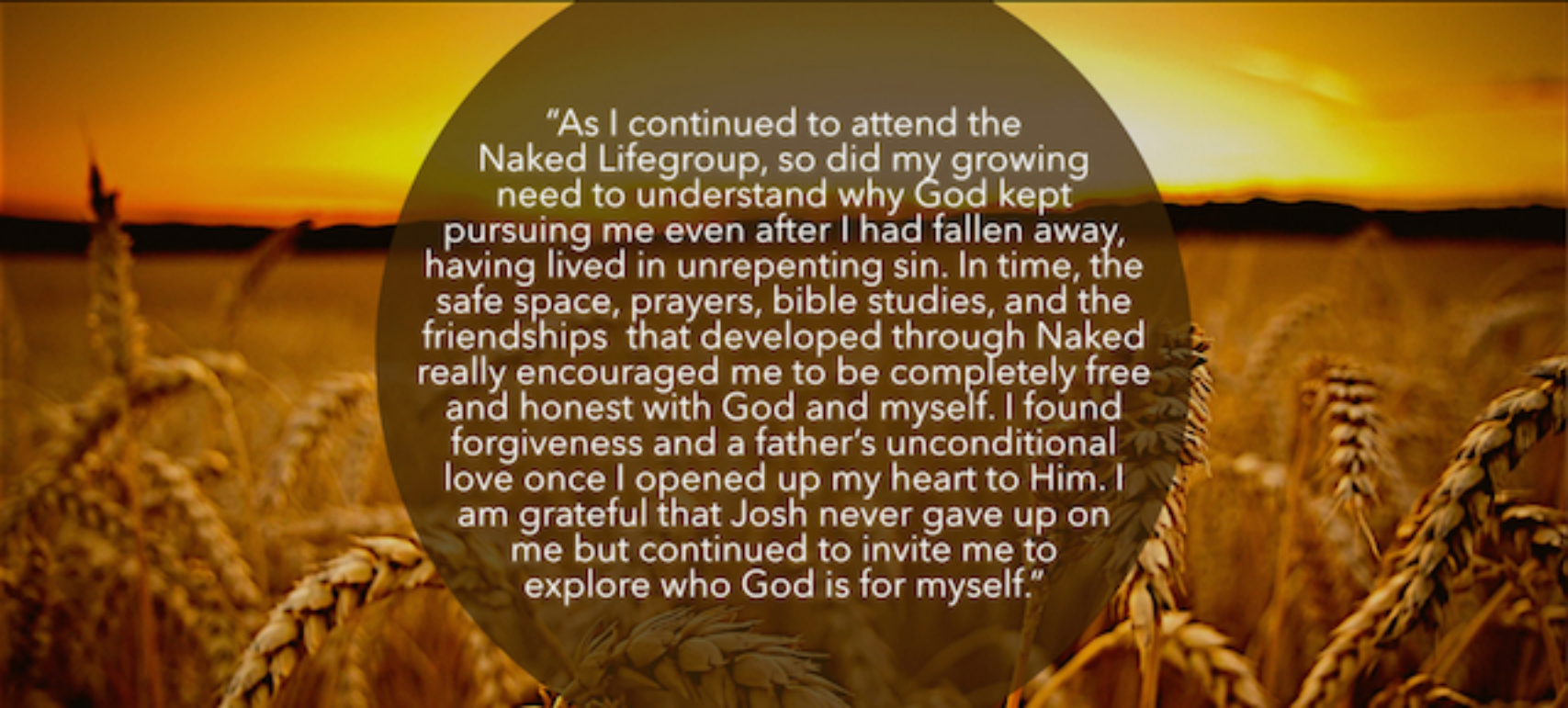


So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."
²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."


Luke 5.24b-26

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching... And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

Luke 5.17

A circular graphic containing text, set against a background of a golden wheat field at sunset. The text is white and centered within a dark grey circle. The background shows a vast field of wheat under a bright, low sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the distance.

"As I continued to attend the Naked Lifegroup, so did my growing need to understand why God kept pursuing me even after I had fallen away, having lived in unrepenting sin. In time, the safe space, prayers, bible studies, and the friendships that developed through Naked really encouraged me to be completely free and honest with God and myself. I found forgiveness and a father's unconditional love once I opened up my heart to Him. I am grateful that Josh never gave up on me but continued to invite me to explore who God is for myself."

The image features a circular graphic with a dark, semi-transparent background, centered over a photograph of a golden wheat field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow across the sky and the tops of the wheat stalks. The wheat stalks in the foreground are in sharp focus, showing their intricate textures. The text is white and centered within the circle.

"After many lifegroup sessions, I was able to sort through a lot of deep seeded anger I had towards God. The openness that the group displayed as I shared, and their acceptance of who I was allowed me to start going through a process of inner healing as God was painting a picture of who He was and how much He loved not only me, but my family as well. In the beginning, I kept coming back for Josh and the other people, but now I go to lifegroup to keep encountering Jesus and supporting others as they encounter Him as well."

Sunday worship service
(family series after Easter)

Lifegroup

Flag football

Inviting people to encounter Jesus

Hanging out

Offering to pray for them

Discovery Bible Study
(training the Sunday after Easter)

Ways to respond

Commit to
praying for your
friends and
coworkers and
inviting them to
encounter Jesus
for themselves

Ways to respond

Commit to
praying for your
friends and
coworkers and
inviting them to
encounter Jesus
for themselves

Ask God to
restore your hope
and to increase your
faith for those
around you

Ways to respond

Commit to praying for your friends and coworkers and inviting them to encounter Jesus for themselves

Ask God to restore your hope and to increase your faith for those around you

Find someone to pray for you and to believe for you that God is good