
RELATIONSHIP
Principles

Guiding Principles

- Grow, relate, attract, challenge, encourage.



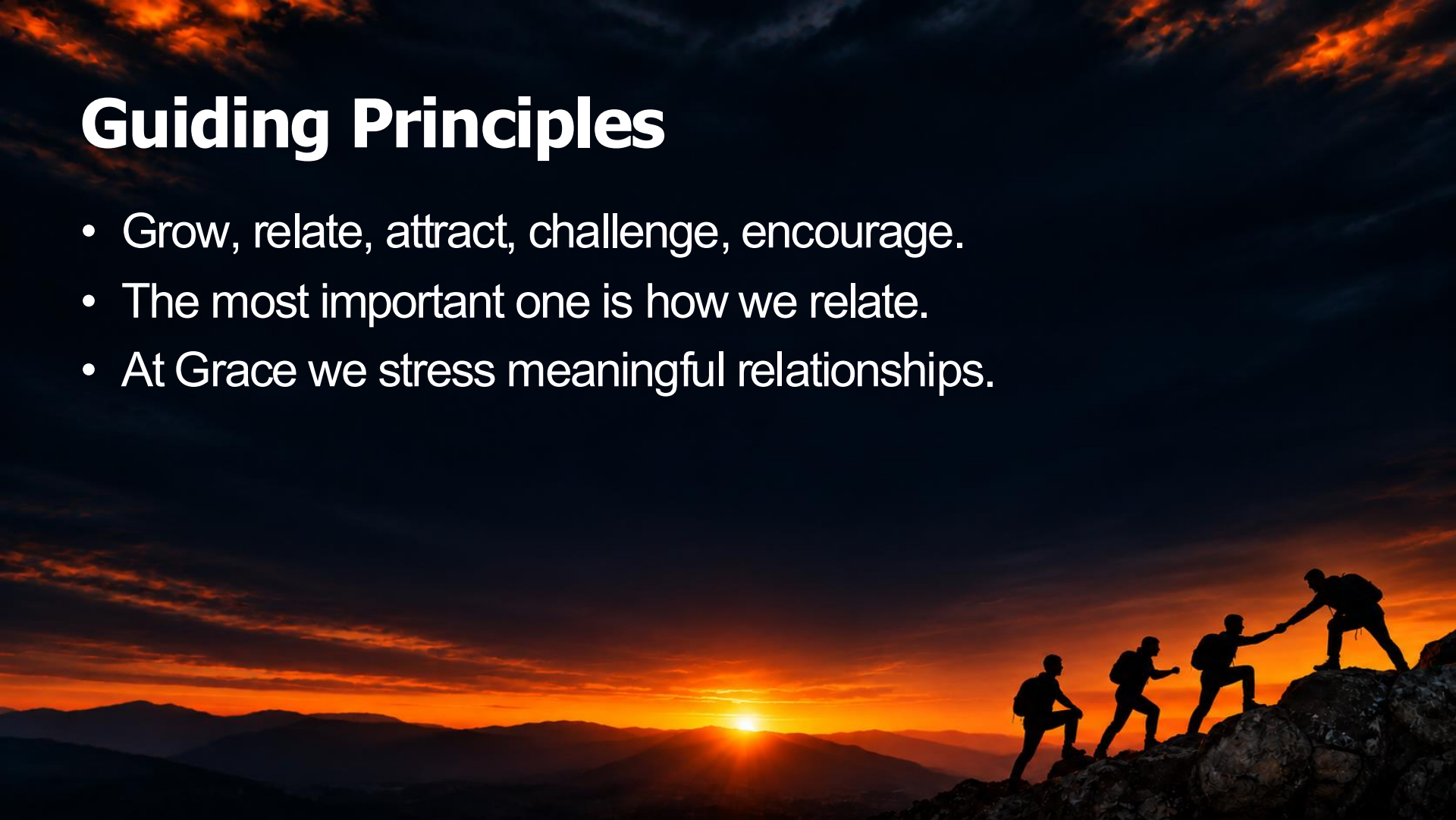
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- The most important one is how we relate.



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- The most important one is how we relate.
- At Grace we stress meaningful relationships.

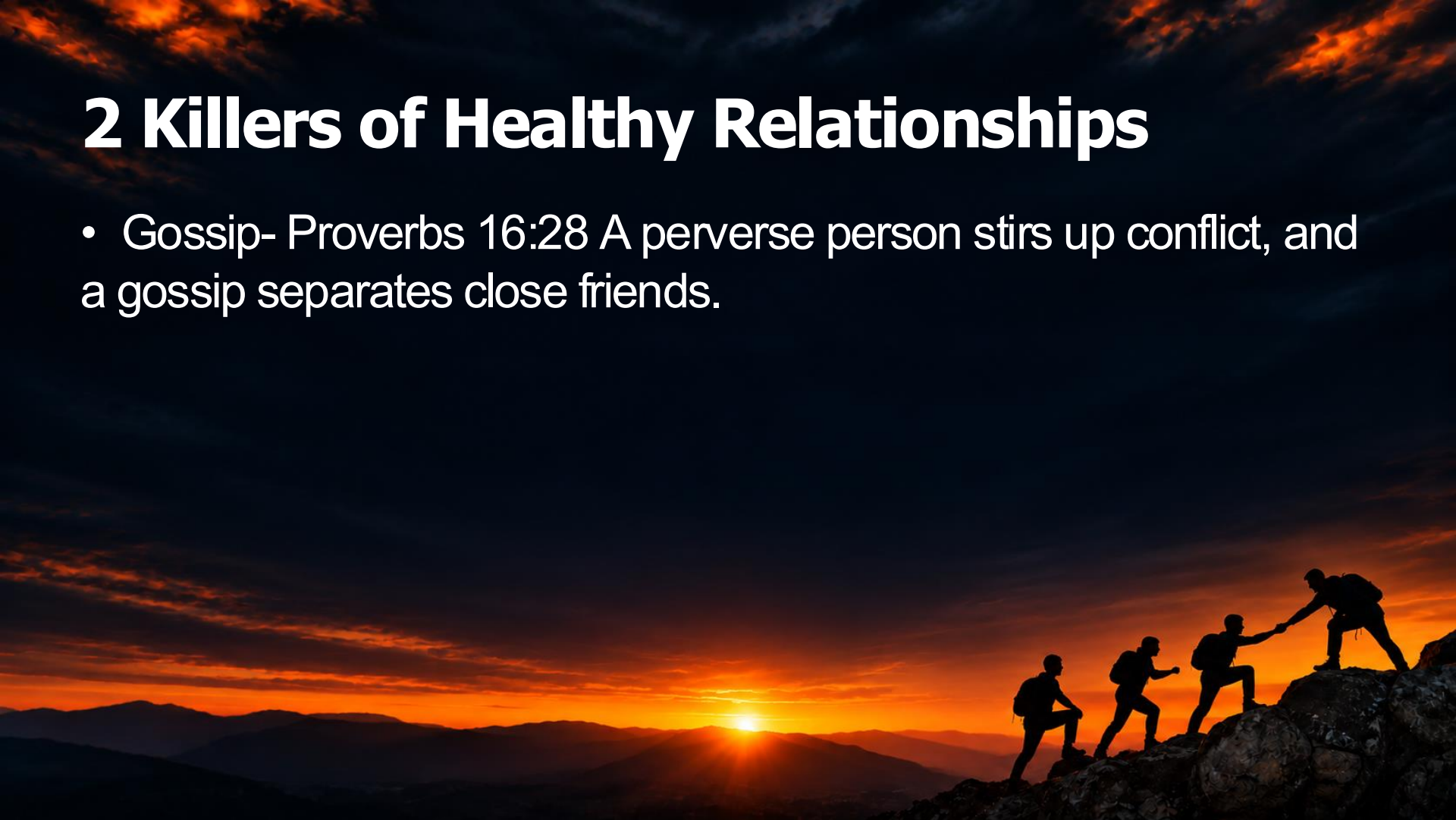


2 Killers of Healthy Relationships



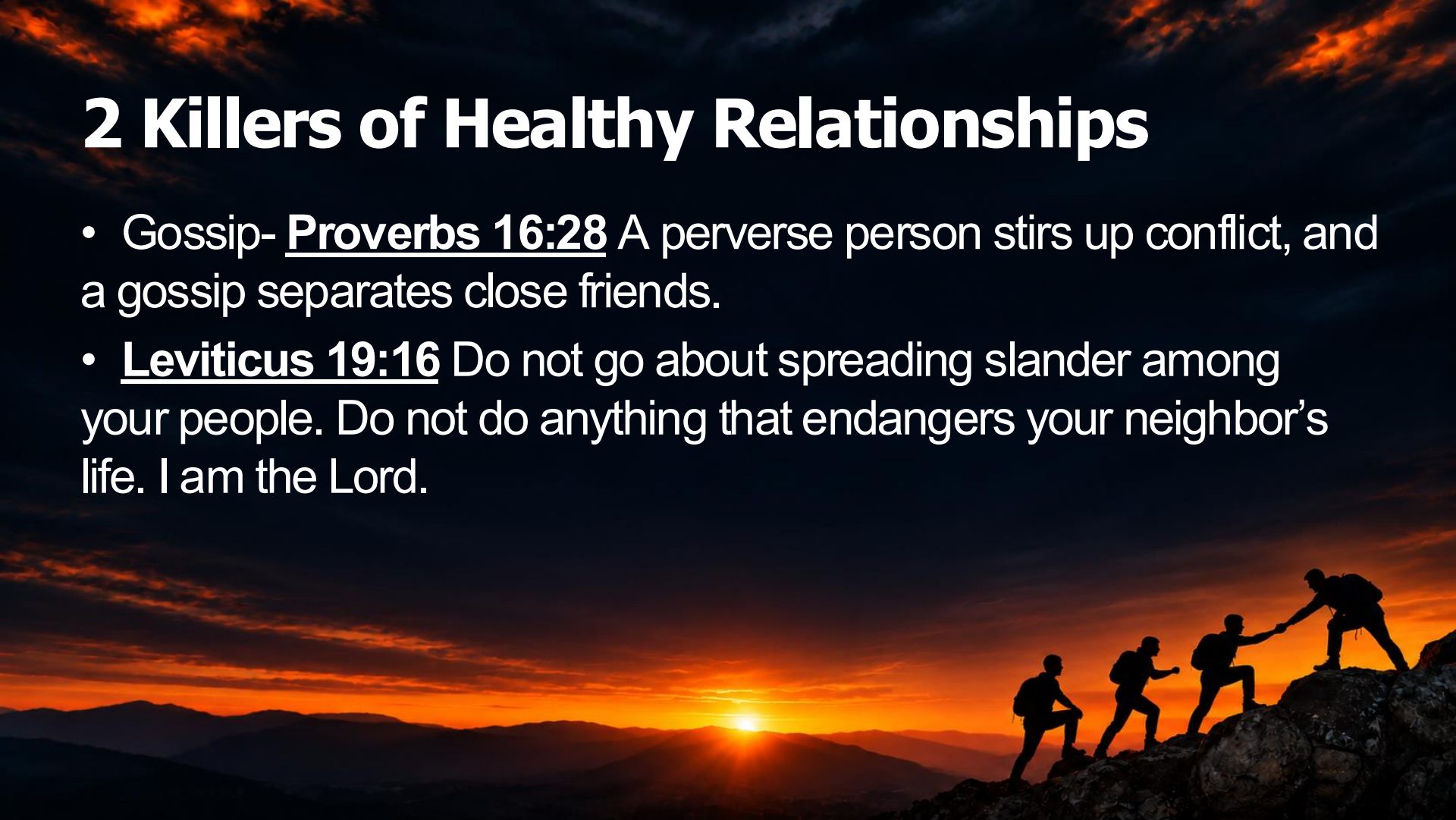
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- Gossip- Proverbs 16:28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.



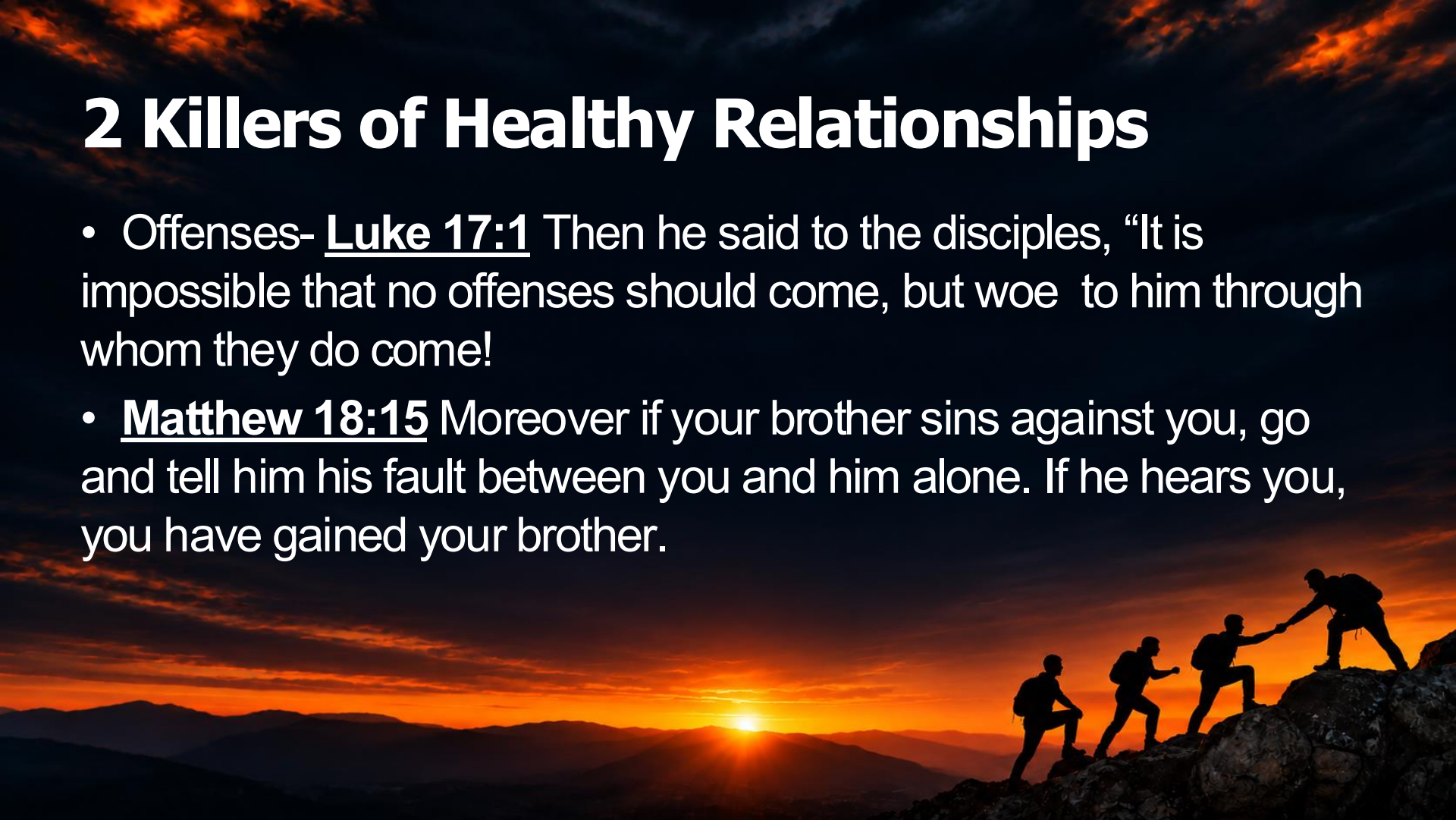
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- Gossip- **Proverbs 16:28** A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.
- **Leviticus 19:16** Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.



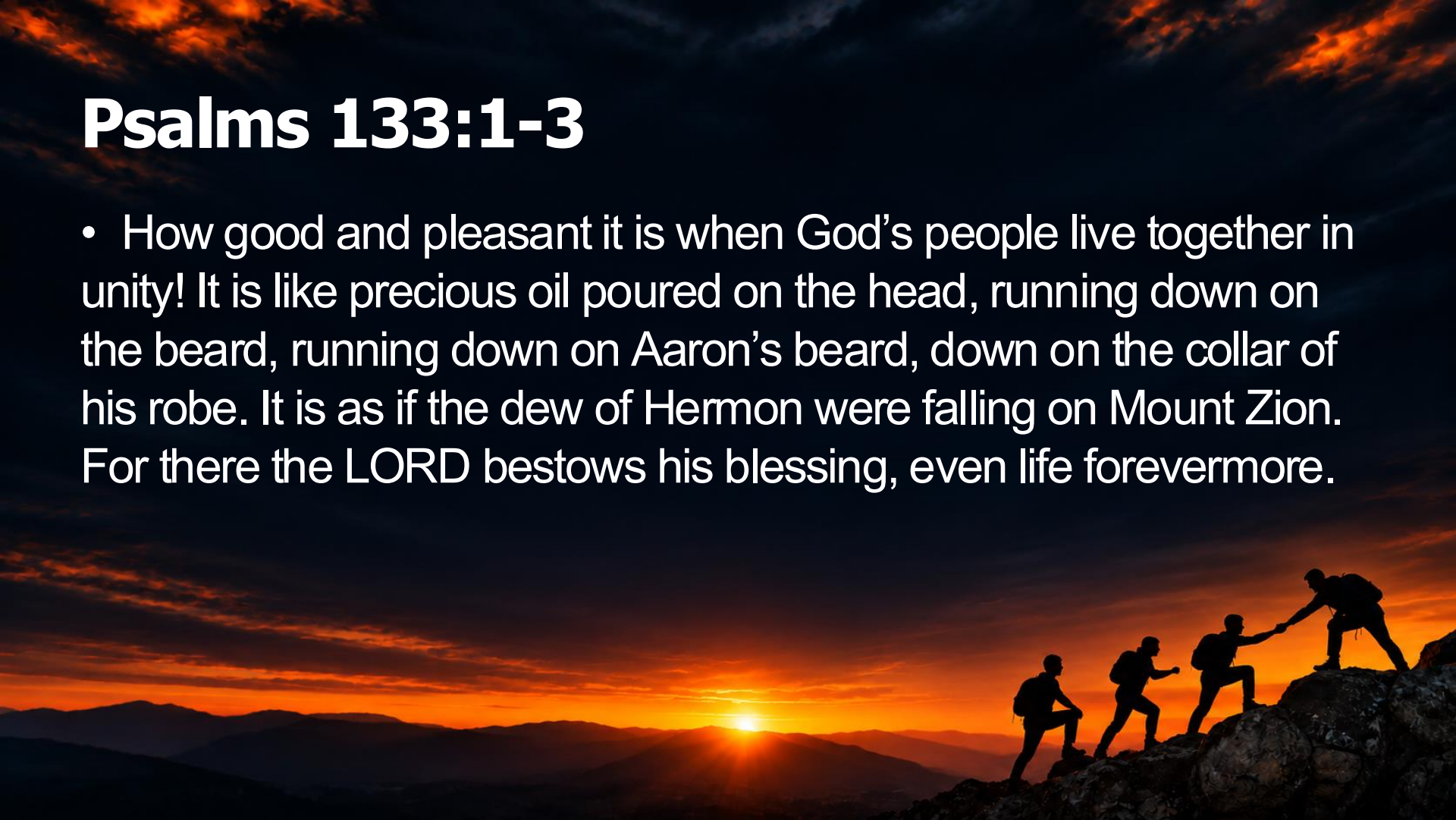
2 Killers of Healthy Relationships

- Offenses- **Luke 17:1** Then he said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!
- **Matthew 18:15** Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.



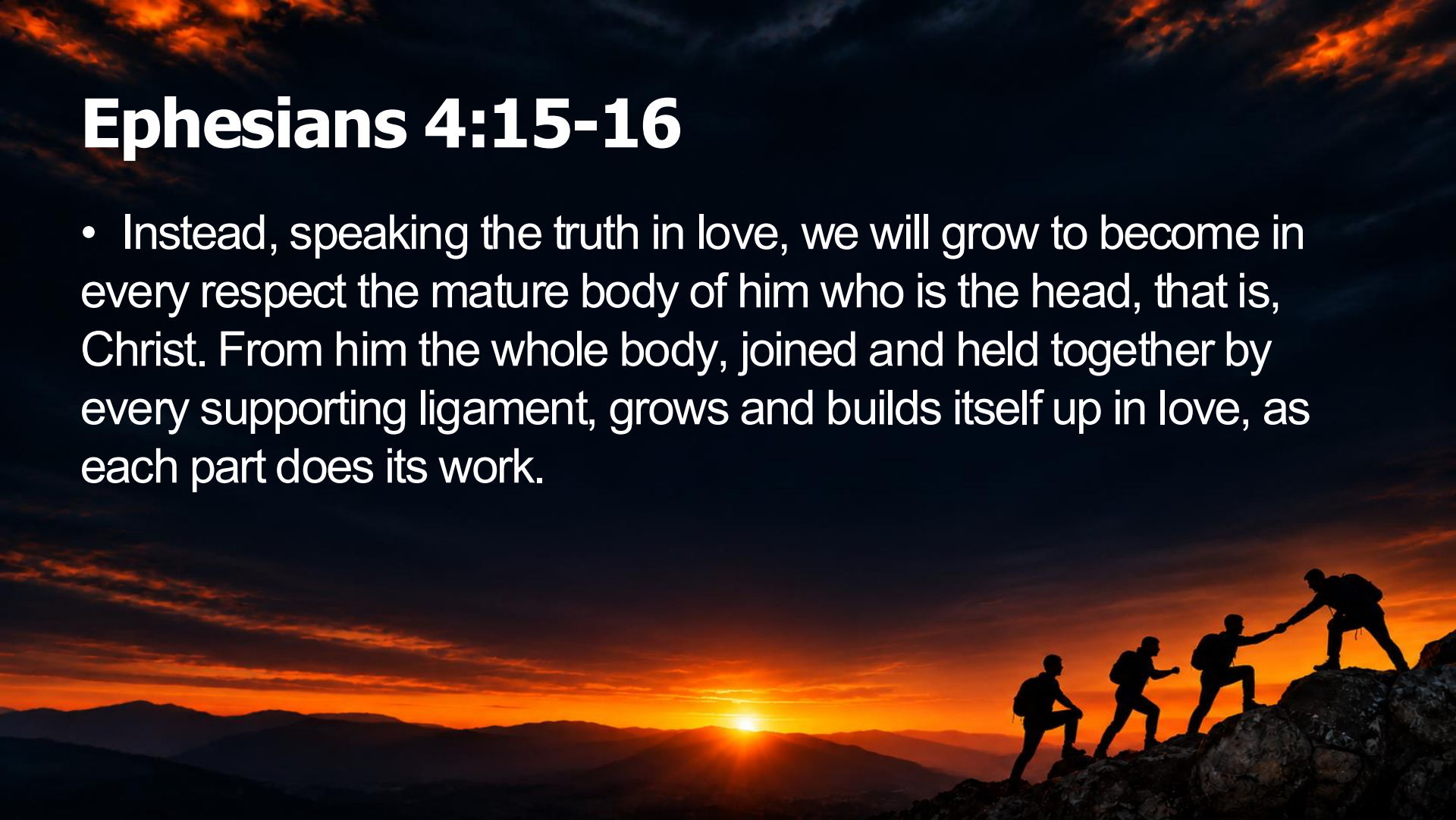
Psalms 133:1-3

- How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.



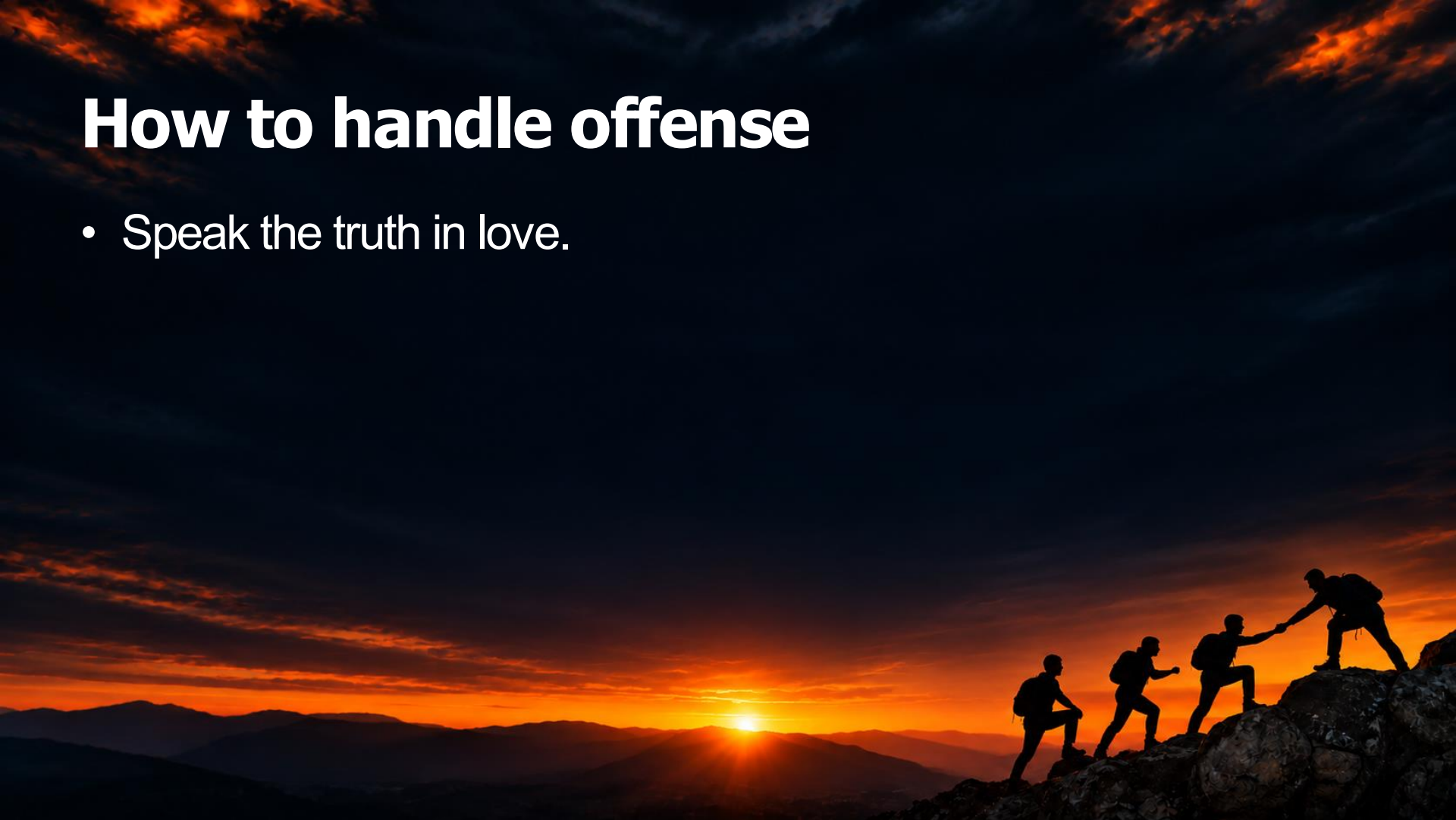
Ephesians 4:15-16

- Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



How to handle offense

- Speak the truth in love.



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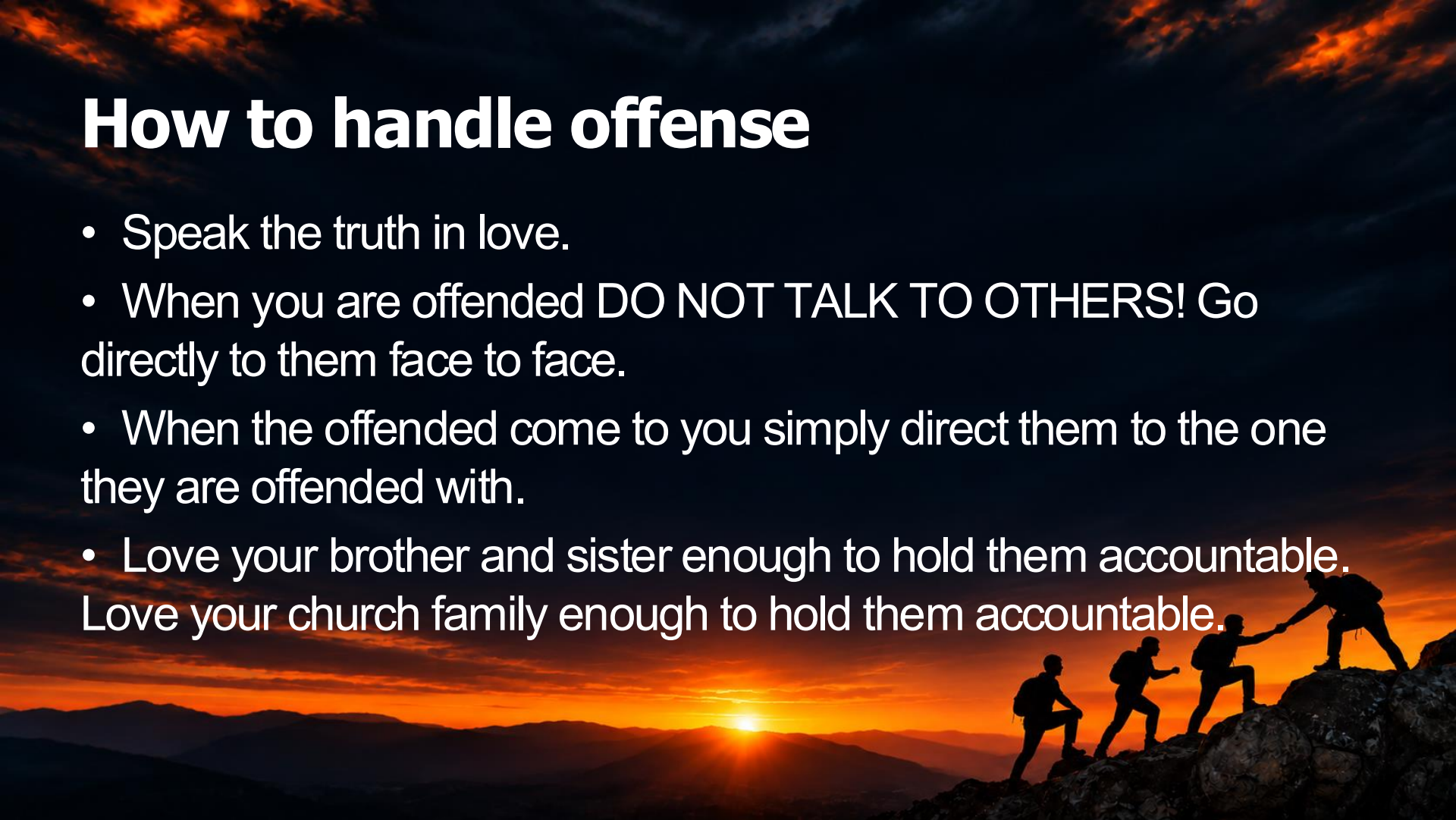
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- Love your brother and sister enough to hold them accountable. Love your church family enough to hold them accountable.

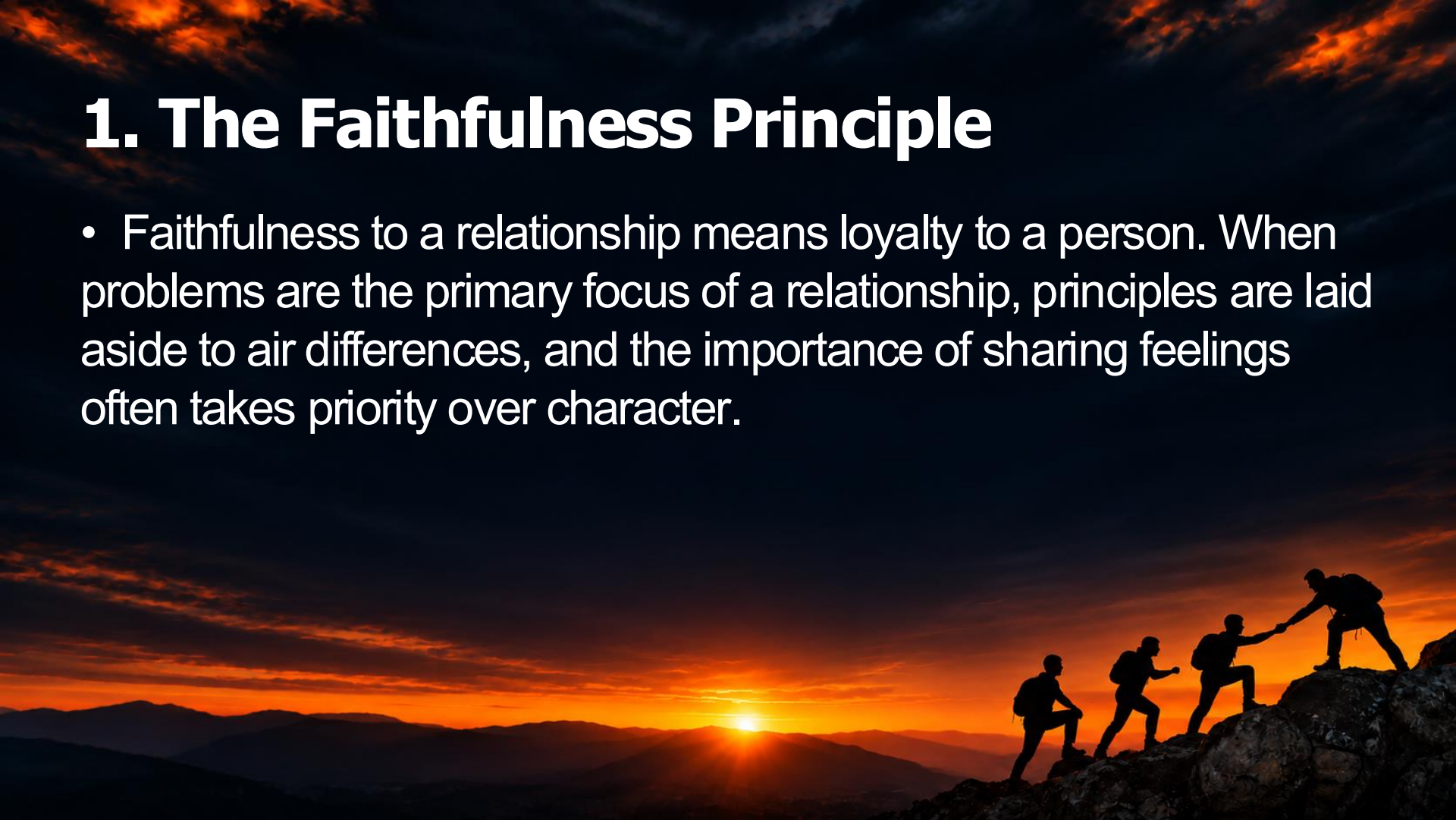


Charles W. Colson

- “The Devil’s chief device is disunity and division. Among Christians there ought to be so great a dislike of schism, as that they may always avoid it so fast as lies in their power. That here ought to prevail among them such a reverence for the ministry of the word and the sacraments that wherever they perceive these things to be, there they must consider the church to exist…nor need it be of any hindrance that some points of doctrine are not quite so pure, seeing that there is scarcely any church which has not retained some remnants of former ignorance.”

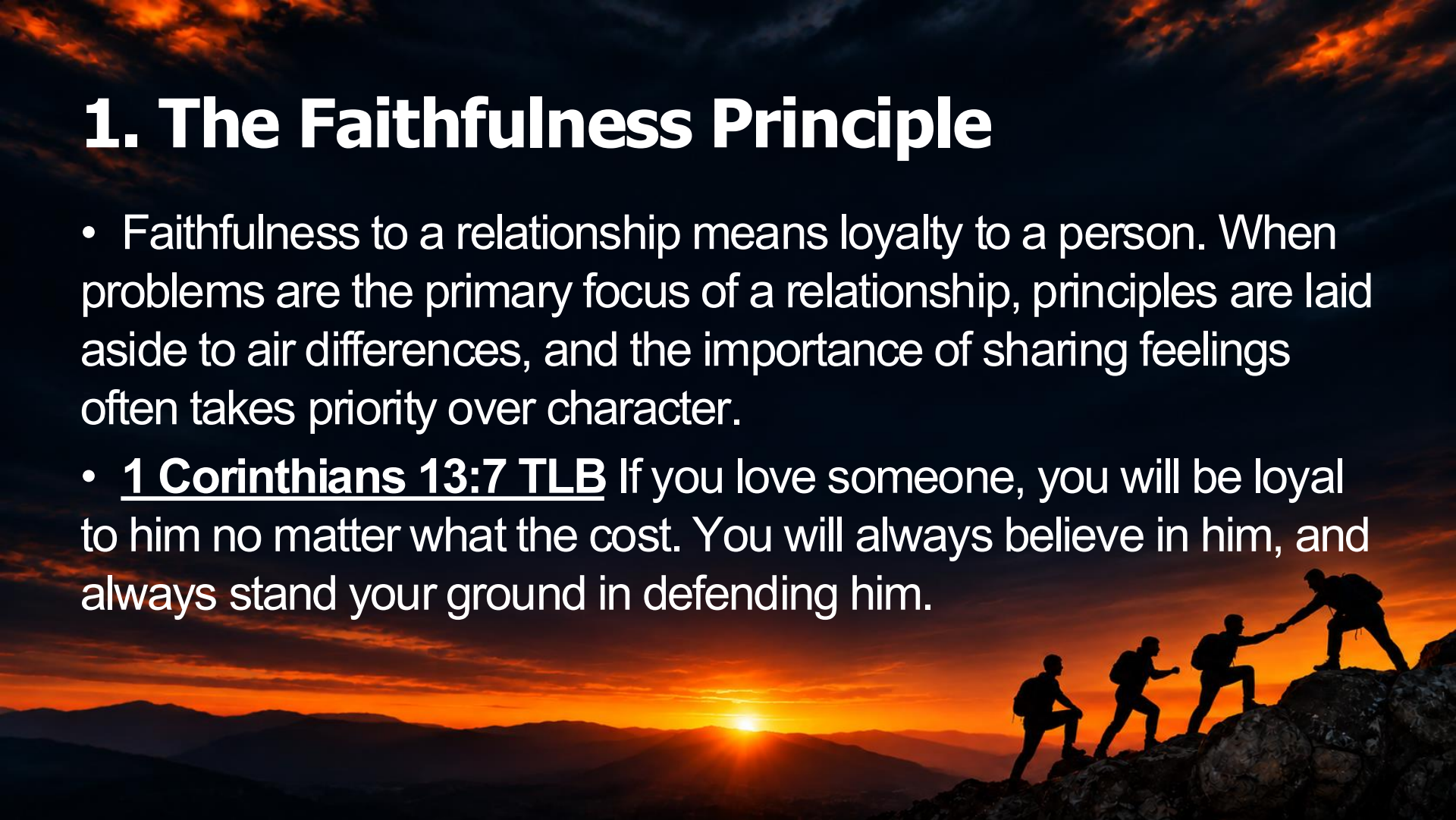
1. The Faithfulness Principle

- Faithfulness to a relationship means loyalty to a person. When problems are the primary focus of a relationship, principles are laid aside to air differences, and the importance of sharing feelings often takes priority over character.



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- **1 Corinthians 13:7 TLB** If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, and always stand your ground in defending him.



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- Ruth & Naomi



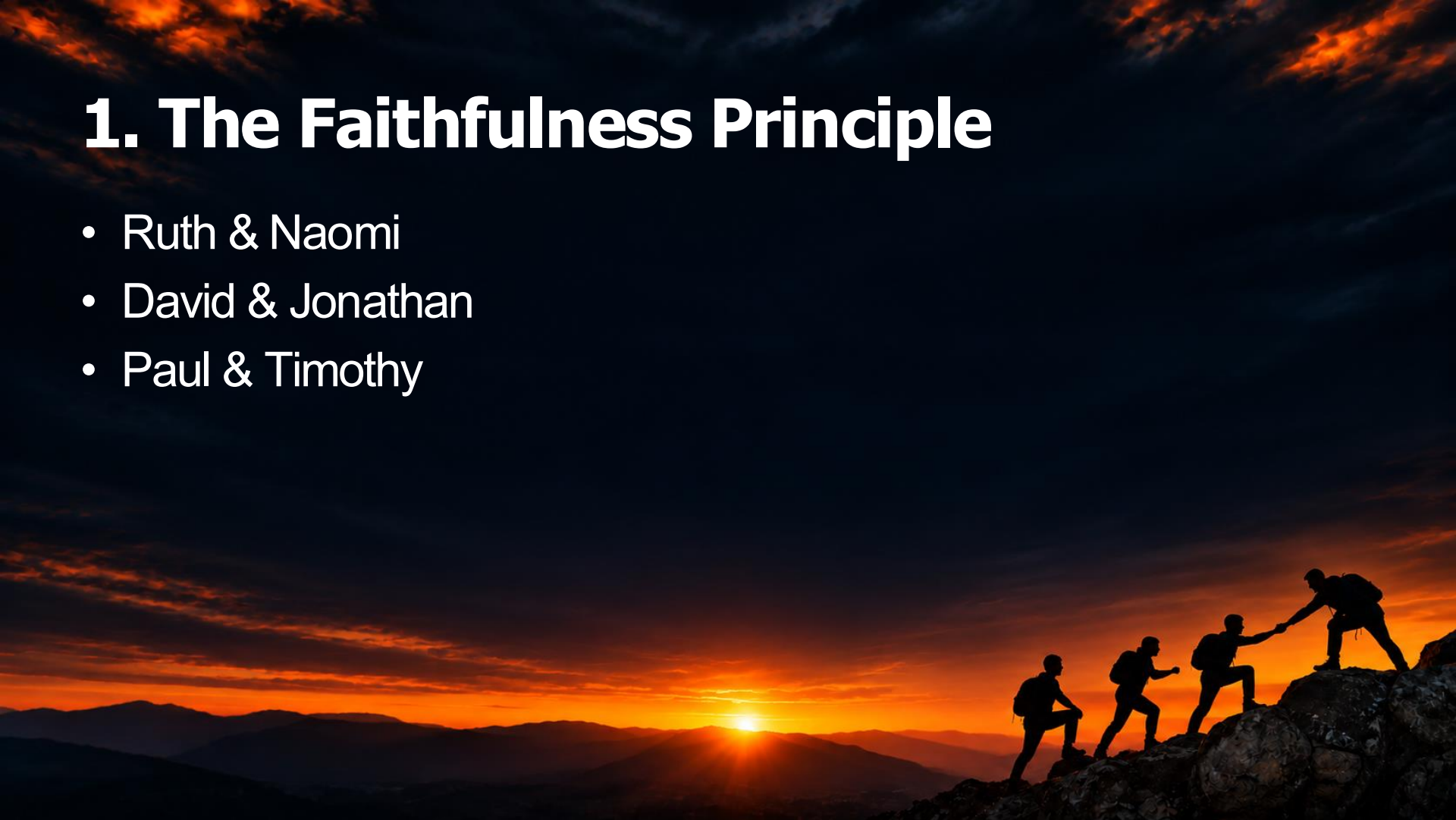
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- David & Jonathan



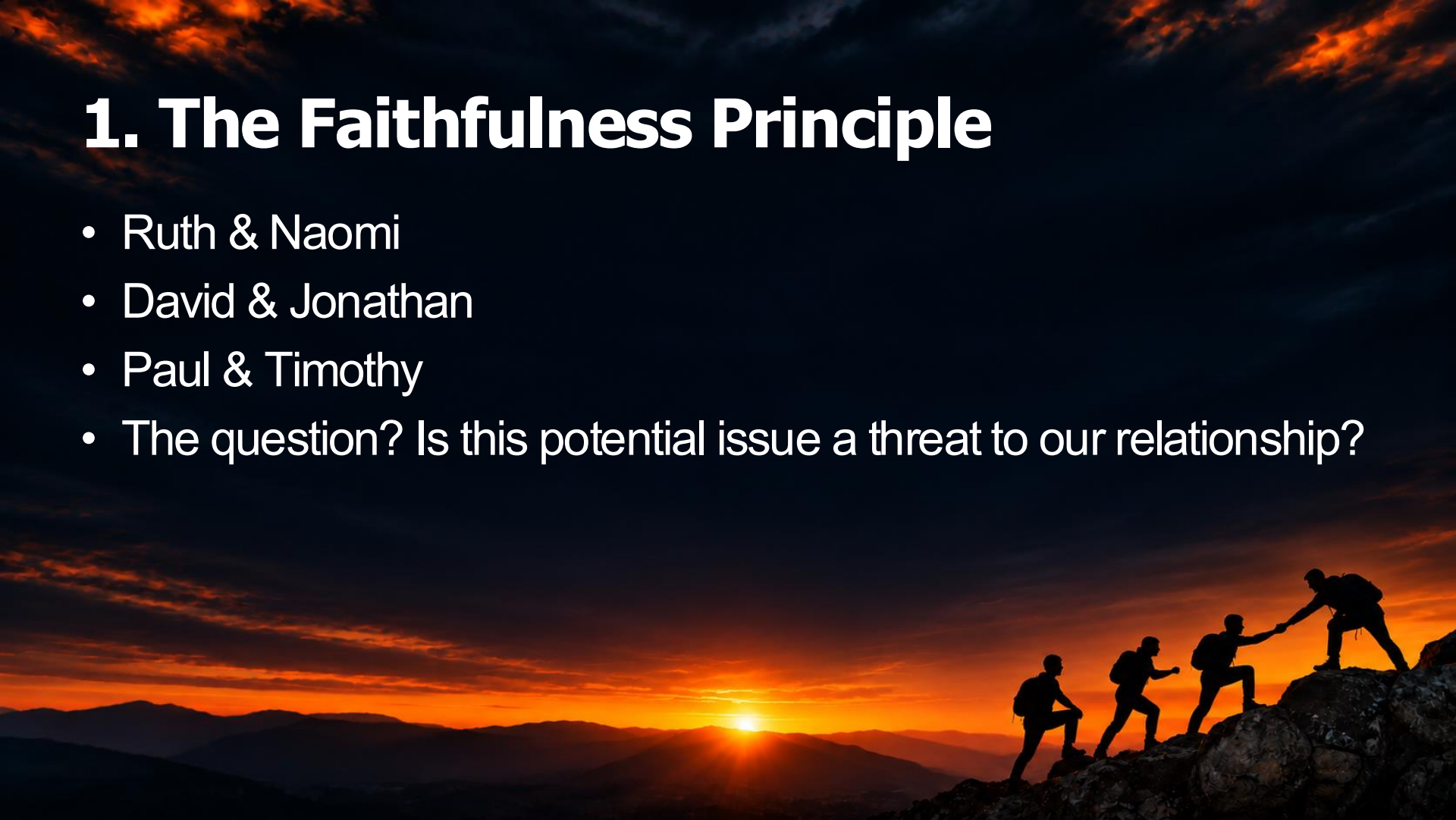
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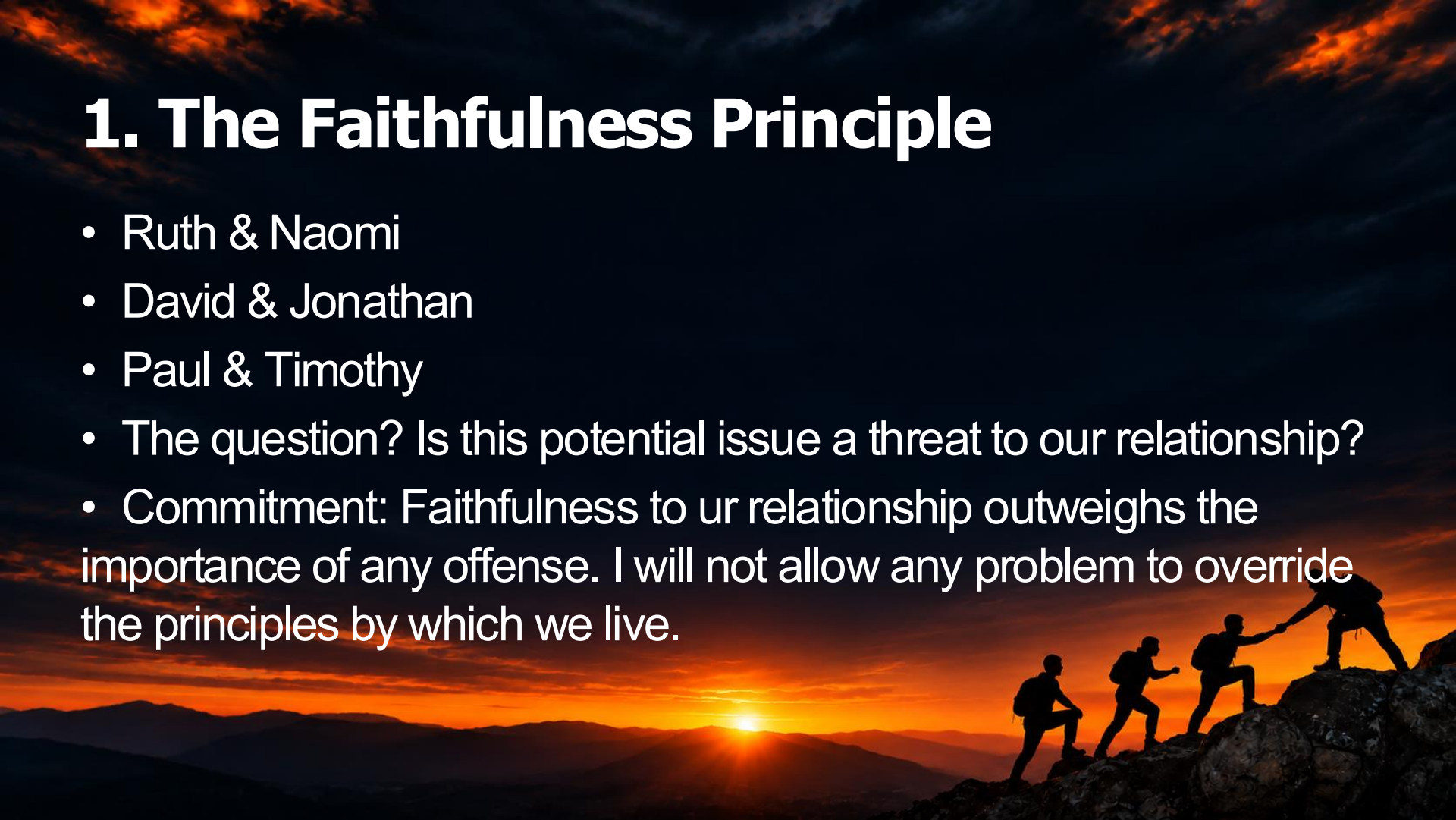
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- The question? Is this potential issue a threat to our relationship?



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- The question? Is this potential issue a threat to our relationship?
- Commitment: Faithfulness to ur relationship outweighs the importance of any offense. I will not allow any problem to override the principles by which we live.



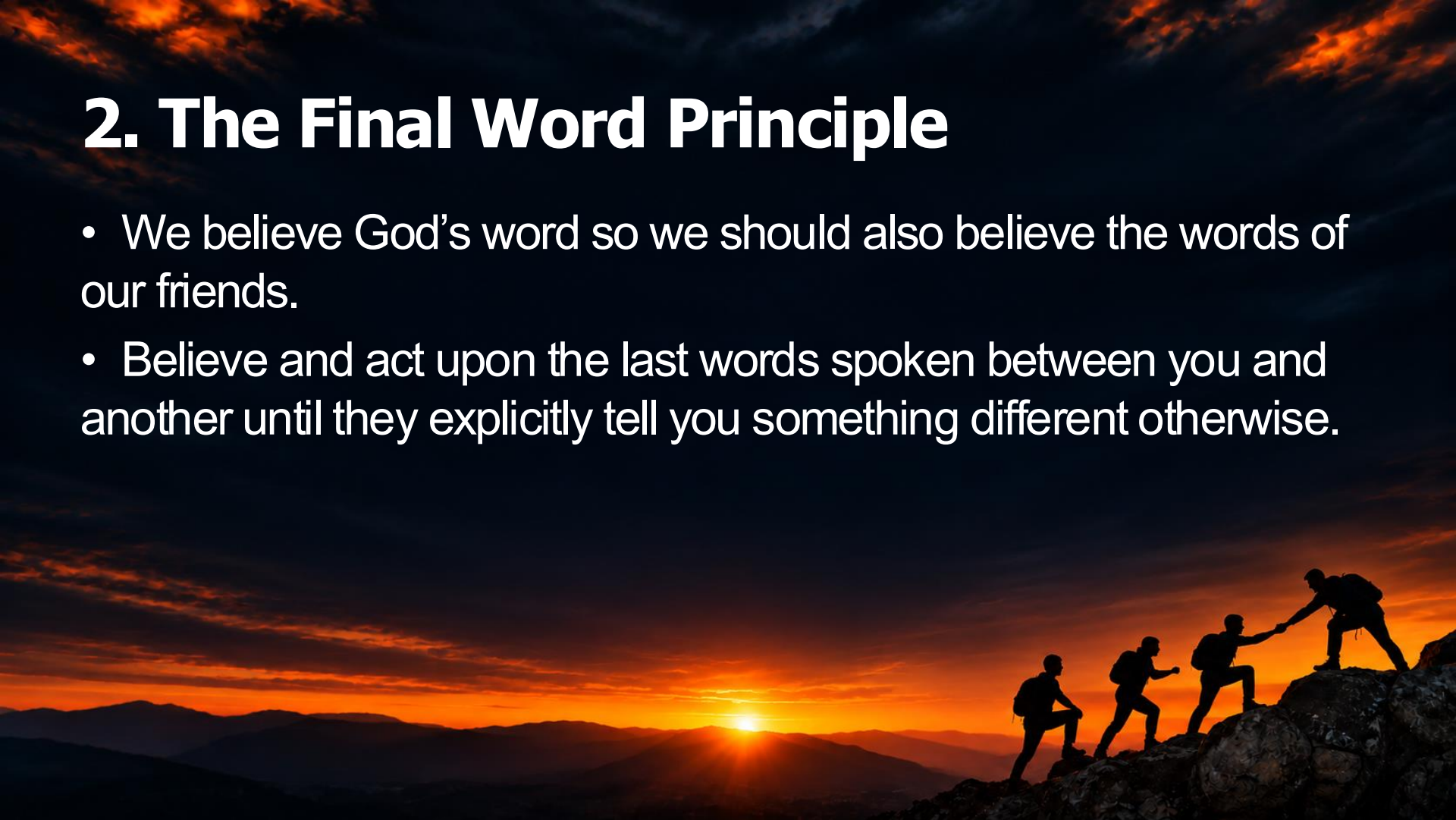
2. The Final Word Principle

- We believe God’s word so we should also believe the words of our friends.



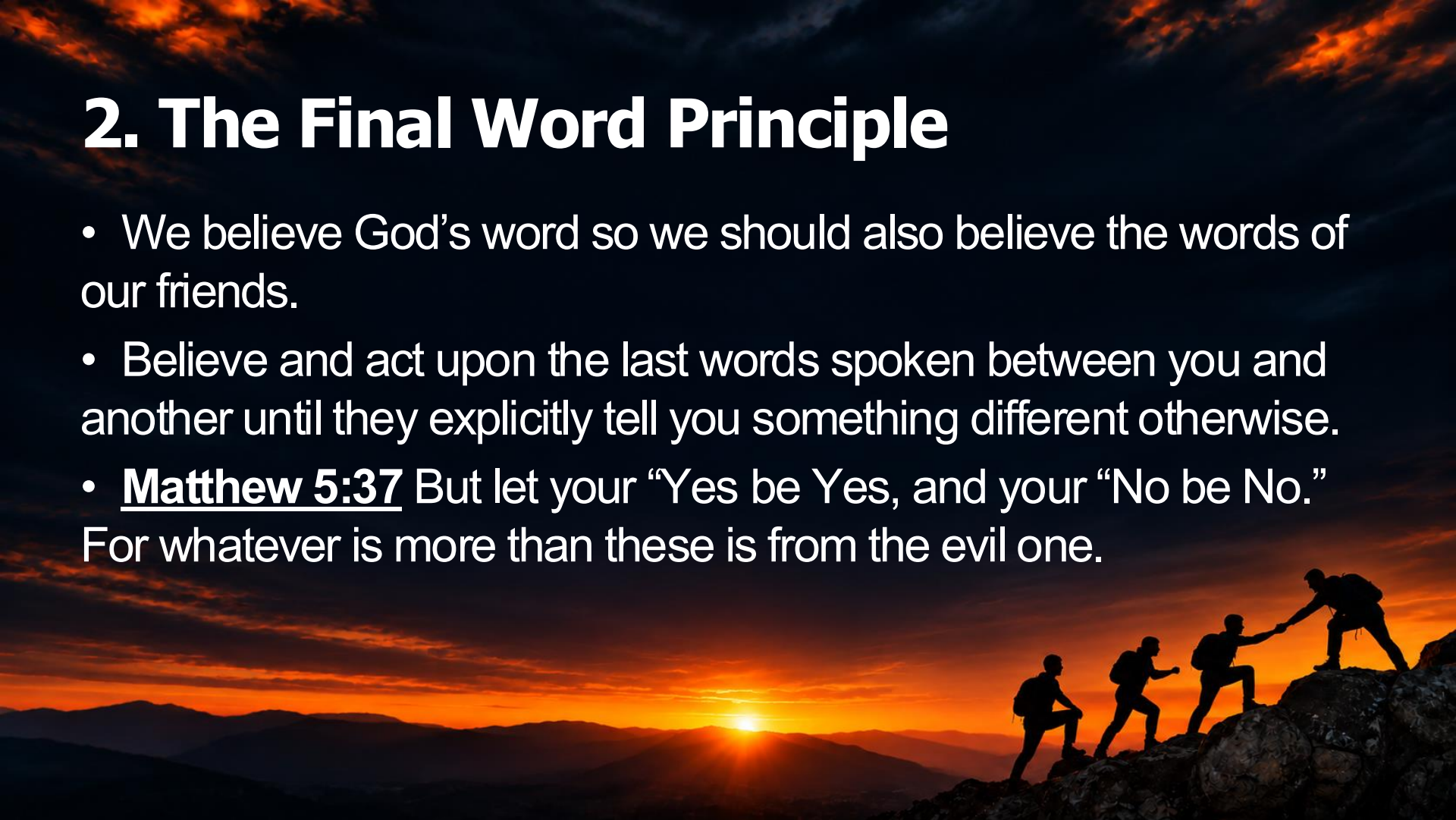
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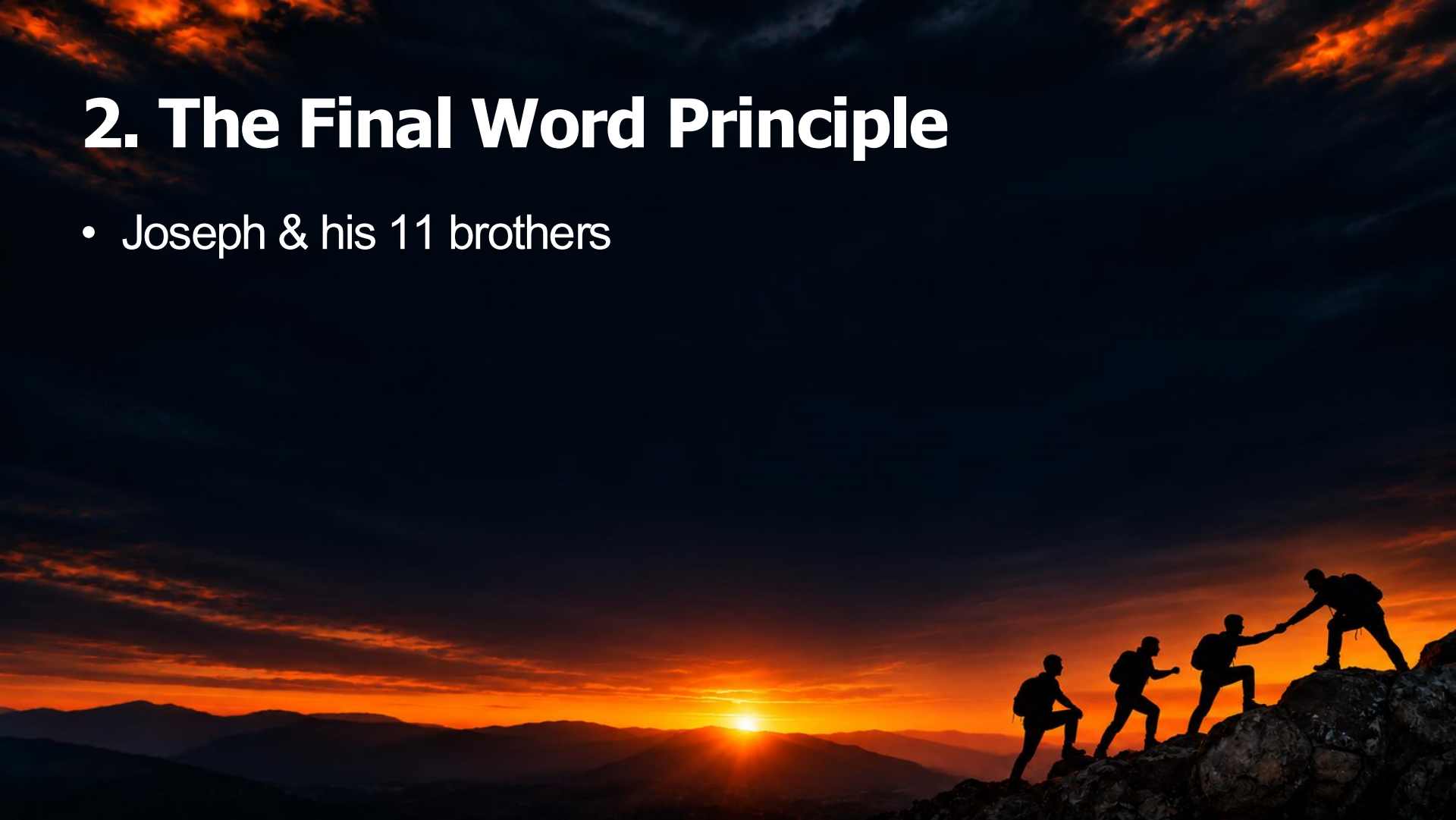
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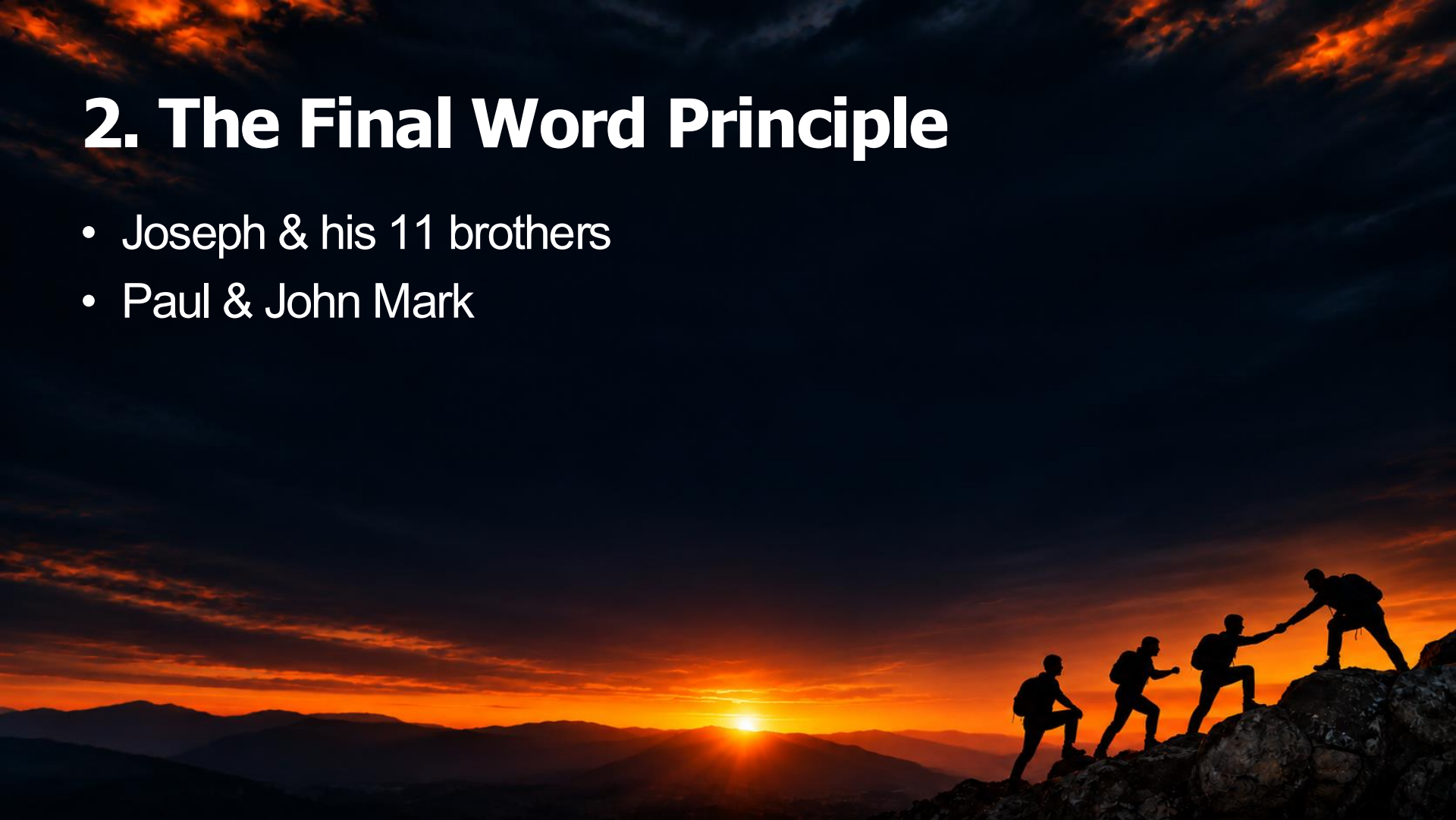
- We believe God's word so we should also believe the words of our friends.
- Believe and act upon the last words spoken between you and another until they explicitly tell you something different otherwise.
- **Matthew 5:37** But let your "Yes be Yes, and your "No be No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.





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- Joseph & his 11 brothers

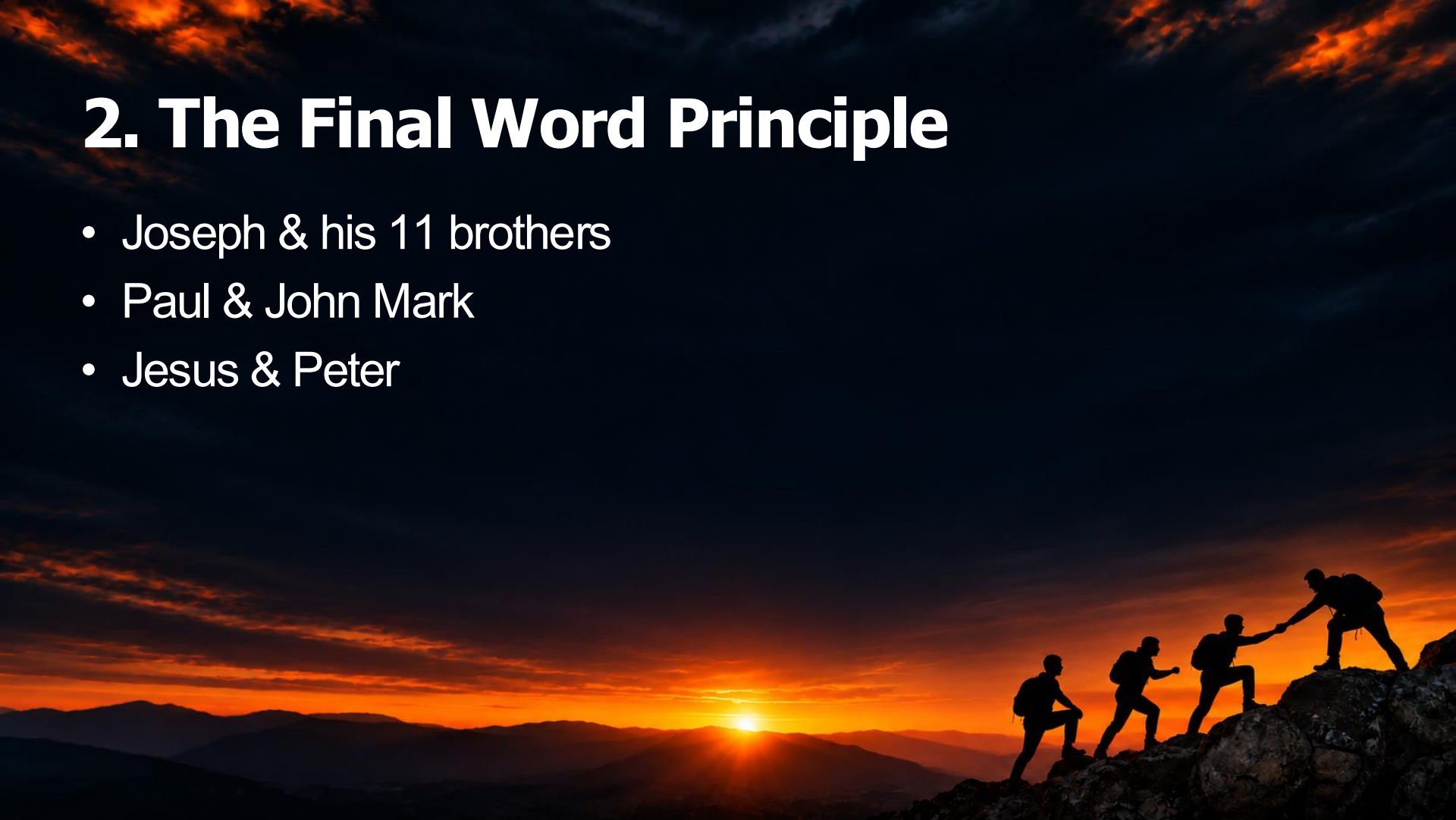


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- Paul & John Mark

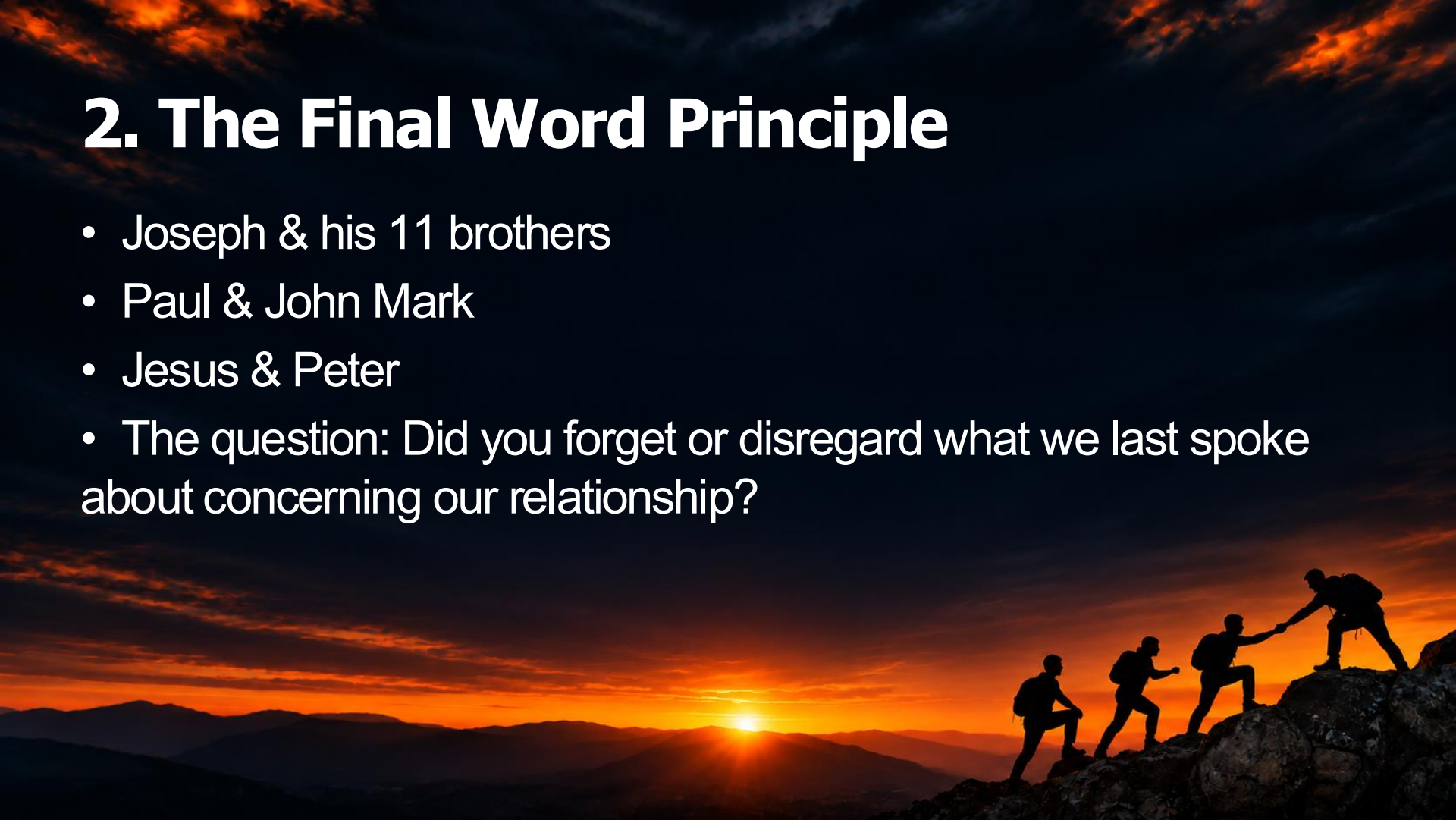
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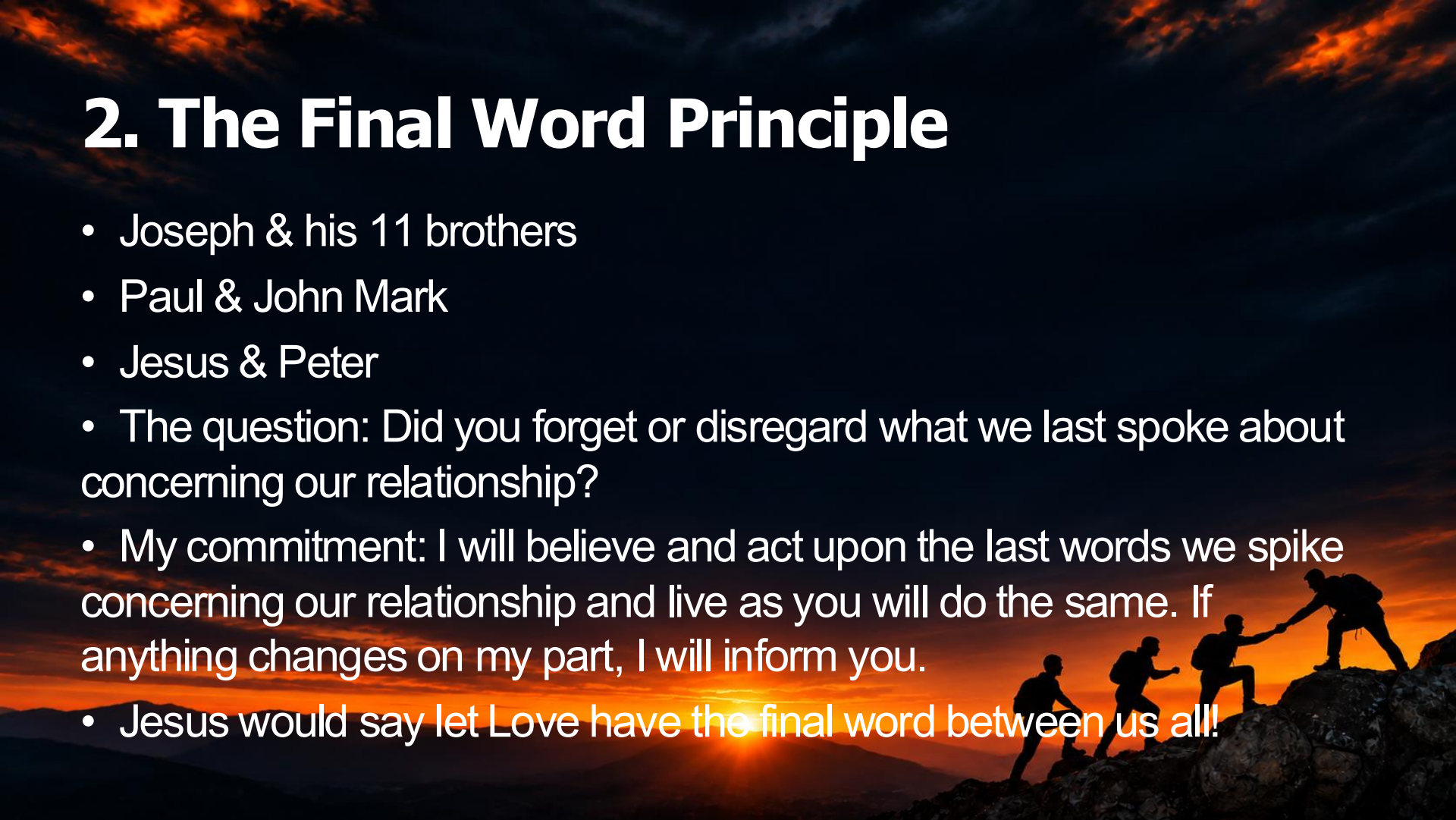


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- Paul & John Mark
- Jesus & Peter
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- Jesus would say let Love have the final word between us all!




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