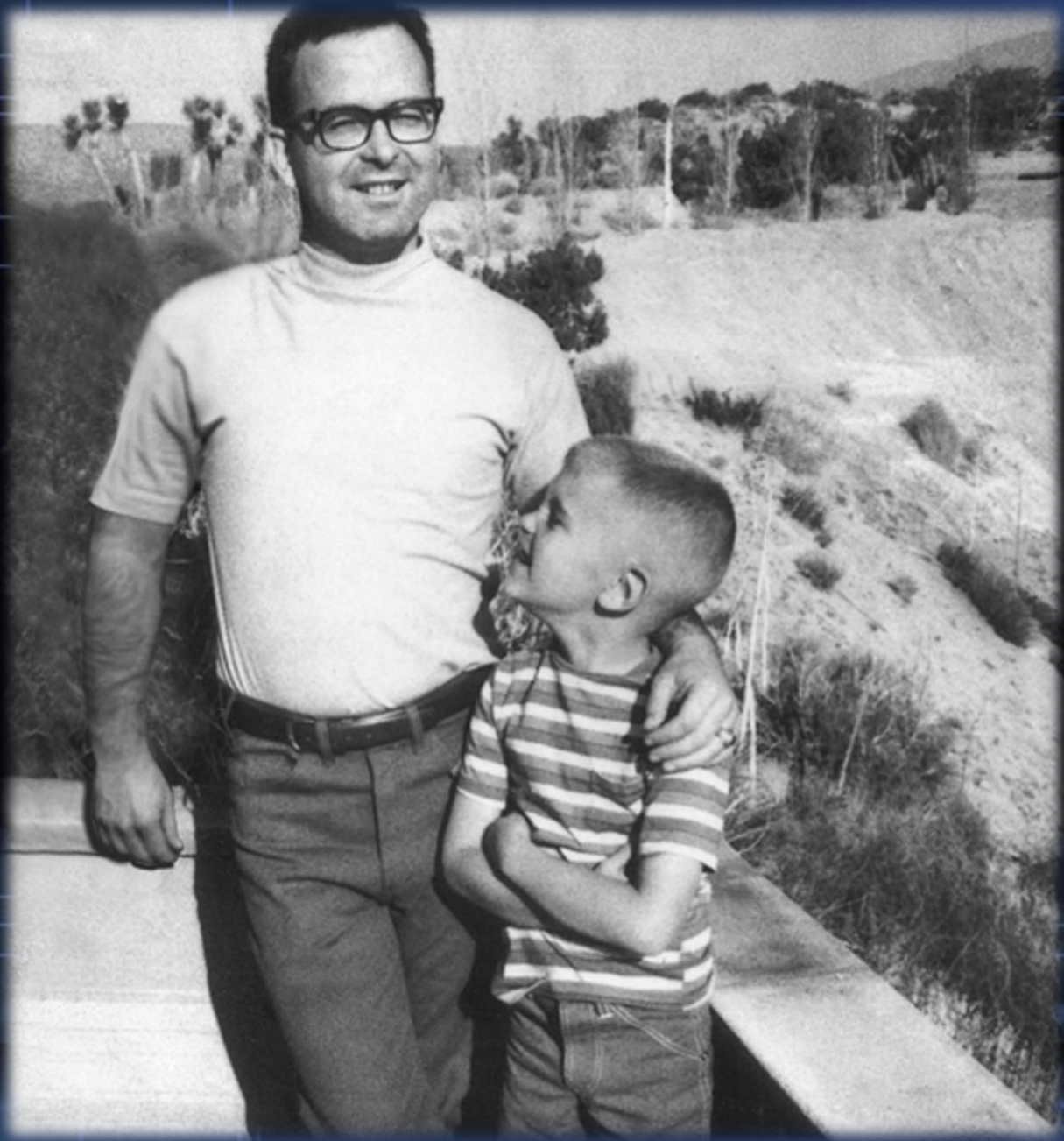


THE POWER OF QUESTIONS

Questions, Questions, Questions

- **THE PEOPLE:** “Has the LORD abandoned Jerusalem? Is her King no longer there?” (Jeremiah 8:19b)
- **THE LORD:** “Oh, why have they provoked my anger with their carved idols and their worthless foreign gods?” (Jeremiah 8:19c)
- **THE PROPHET:** “Is there no medicine in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why is there no healing for the wounds of my people?” (Jeremiah 8:22)



calvin and HOBBS

by WATERSON



WHY DOES THE SKY TURN RED AS THE SUN SETS?

THAT'S ALL THE OXYGEN IN THE ATMOSPHERE CATCHING FIRE.



WHERE DOES THE SUN GO WHEN IT SETS?

THE SUN SETS IN THE WEST. IN ARIZONA ACTUALLY, NEAR FLAGSTAFF.



OH.

THAT'S WHY THE ROCKS THERE ARE SO RED.





The Power of Questions

- We tend to overlook the value of questions and overrate the importance of answers
- “We are moving into some uncharted territory. We are finding in our journey that we value questions more than answers. Ambiguity neither surprises nor threatens us. In fact, we are comfortable with ambiguity, because our confidence is in our relationships more than our documents.” [— Paul Anderson, 2003, “ARC Principles”]

The Power of Questions

- “We value questions more than answers” ... this runs contrary to the way we’ve been taught to do life — our habit is to divide much of life into competing certainties and then form alliances with those who agree with us while keeping our distance from those who don’t

Questions & Our Life Together

- “Who is God? What is prayer? How to approach the problem of evil? What is the content of Christian hope? I can disagree with your opinion, it turns out, but I can’t disagree with your experience. And once I have a sense of your experience, you and I are in relationship, acknowledging the complexity in each other’s position, listening less guardedly. The difference in our opinions will probably remain intact, but it no longer defines what is possible between us.” [Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise* (Penguin Publishing, ©2016)

p. 22]

Questions & Who We Are as a Church

- At WMC, relationship is more important than being right
- We don't feel pressure to have the answers; we welcome questions with an open heart and a humble spirit
- Not because there are no answers or because we think truth is relative
- “It is true that there is everything to be said for an open mind, but there is nothing to be said for the mind which is open on both ends.” [William Barclay, *A Spiritual Autobiography* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, ©1975), p. 41.]

Questions & Our Life Together

- “We want others to acknowledge that our answers are right. We call the debate or get on the same page or take a vote and move on. The alternative involves a different orientation to the point of conversing in the first place: to invite searching— not on who is right and who is wrong and the arguments on every side; not on whether we can agree; but on what is at stake in human terms for us all. There is value in learning to speak together honestly and relate to each other with dignity, without rushing to common ground that would leave all the hard questions hanging.” [Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise* (Penguin Publishing, ©2016) p. 30-31]

Questions & Who We Are as a Church

- WMC is a safe place for questions because it's a safe place to think
- It comes down to what we believe about Holy Spirit
- **John 16:13**^a NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”
- You're allowed to belong here before believing what we do because we're confident Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth

Questions & Who We Are as a Church

- Some of the most worthwhile questions are the ones with no immediate answers
- Questions, like those asked by the people and the prophet in Jeremiah 8, can drive us to the heart of the Father
- **James 1:19**^a PASSION TRANSLATION
“My dearest brothers and sisters, take this to heart: Be quick to listen, but slow to speak...”
- Our goal isn't being right but being right there with each other

THE POWER OF QUESTIONS