

# *Dipple Effects*

**Tracing the Bible's  
Christ-Shaped Patterns**

*Grace Community Church 2026 Women's Summer Study*

Written and Taught by Brandy Eldridge and Melani Grone

Graphics by Brandy Eldridge





## *It All Points to Jesus*

Jesus Christ is the towering figure of world history. As such, He casts a bright shadow not only forward over all post-Bethlehem history but also backward over all Old Testament history that led up to Him. He is the person to whom and from whom all history flows. His luminous shadow brightens both BC and AD...

- David Murray, *Jesus on Every Page*

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. - Hebrews 1:1-4

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Structure of the Study.....	2
The Grand Narrative of the Bible.....	3
Session One – Getting a Feel for Biblical Ripples.....	5
Session Two – The Tabernacle and Temple.....	9
Session Three – The Passover.....	15
Session Four – The Priesthood.....	21
Session Five – The King.....	27
Session Six – The Image of God.....	33

## Study Goals

Identify Jesus as the center and main point of the entire Bible

Learn about “ripples” which flow through the entire biblical narrative and how tracing them back to their origin inevitably leads to Jesus

Familiarize yourself with a framework for identifying “ripples” as a Bible study tool for future use

So this is what the sovereign LORD says:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic.

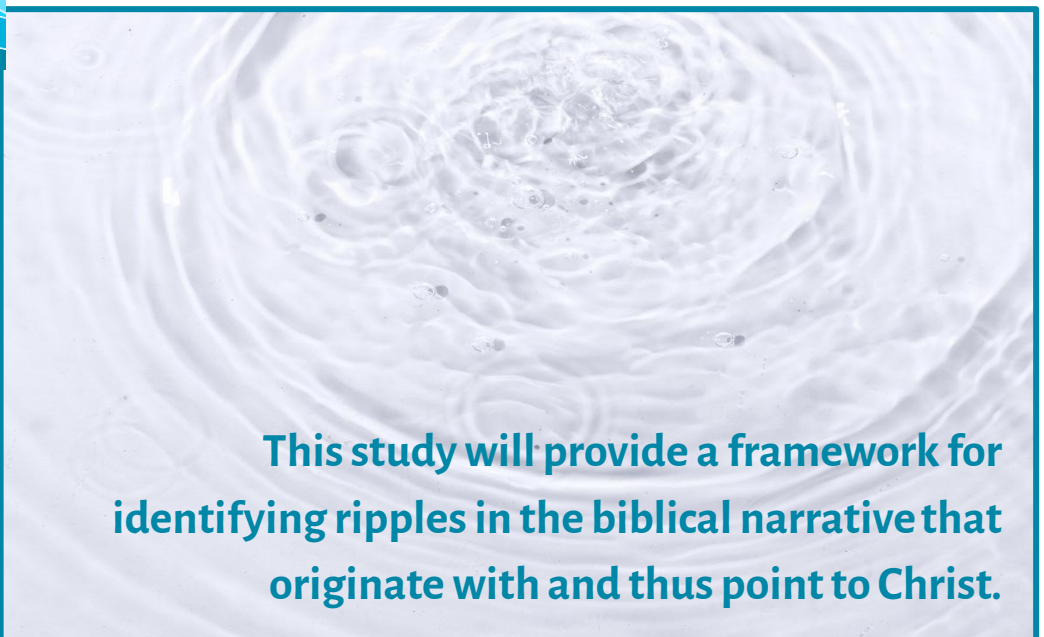
-Isaiah 28:16

# Introduction

Picture in your mind a still pond of water, undisturbed and smooth at the surface. What would happen if a stone was dropped straight into the center of it?

**The Incarnation of Christ is like a stone cast into the pond of human history. Ripples flow out from it and affect everything that had come before and everything that has happened since.**

Ripples in water always have an origin. They occur because something dropped into the water. If you were to follow them back to where they began, you would likely find the stone that set the ripples off resting on the pond bottom. Similarly, **when you trace a biblical ripple back to its origin it will inevitably lead to Christ.** When He inspired the biblical authors, God knew the whole time what was to come and the role Jesus would play in it. Therefore, whenever we read the Bible we ought to be paying attention to how what it says pertains to Christ.



**This study will provide a framework for identifying ripples in the biblical narrative that originate with and thus point to Christ.**

# Structure of the Study

This study is designed to encourage reflection on how Scripture reveals the importance and centrality of Jesus Christ. **To get the most out of it, we encourage you to approach it in with the following rhythm:**

- *Prepare:* Complete the Scripture readings and answer the associated questions in each session's homework. The included passages were selected to highlight how a particular ripple appears throughout Scripture. As such, sometimes there will be quite a few passages across the Old and New Testaments to look up. This can be intimidating, but we trust it will be worth it. This helps familiarize you both with where things are in the Bible and with the passages that the teaching will cover. The ideas in the Further Preparation section are simply that – optional ideas to pursue as you have time and interest.
- *Attend:* Come to the in person teaching. Each one draws on the homework passages to show how God uses that ripple to point us to Jesus.
- *Reflect:* The homework and teaching aren't meant to be a mere intellectual exercise, but one that allows the "word of Christ to dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:17). After the teaching, we will meet in smaller groups for discussion focused on application.
- *Act:* God's desire for us is that we would not just hear His Word, but also do what it says (James 1:22-25). Prayerfully consider how God is asking you to respond to what you have learned. Go and do as God directs.

**Please prayerfully and honestly consider how to carve out space in your schedule to complete each component of the study rhythm.** Trust the promise of Scripture: just like the rain helps flowers to flourish, the efforts you put into Bible study will nourish your soul and bring about God's purposes in you (Isaiah 55:10-11). **No matter what you and God agree to regarding the time you will set aside for the study, we pray that your heart would rejoice as you seek the LORD (Psalm 105:3).**

# The Grand Narrative of the Bible

## *Creation*

God creates the world and everything in it. He creates humanity in His image and places them in a garden in which they can flourish in productivity and enjoy relationship with God, each other, and creation.

## *Fall*

Humanity chooses rebellion over obedience to God, and so sin enters the world, bringing death and brokenness along with it. There is rupture of the harmonious relationships in the created order.

## *Covenant*

God makes a series of promises to humanity that establish His desire for them to again be in right relationship with Him. God teaches what it means for those who follow Him to be His people.

## *Kingdom*

God brings His chosen people to the land He promised to them, and there they struggle with the desire to rule themselves instead of allowing God to be in charge. They desire a human king more than God's rule. God establishes a royal line and promises His chosen one will rule forever.

## *Prophets*

God calls special messengers to speak truth to the world, reminding them that He is the only true God. God's people are called to live righteously and turn away from idolatry and all other evil. A Messiah is promised, one who will rescue the world from the consequences of the fall.

## *Christ*

The promised Messiah, arrives in the form of God's Son, Jesus, who came from heaven to earth as fully God and fully man. He saves sinful humanity by creating the needed pathway for them to return to right relationship with their righteous and holy God.

## *Gospel*

The followers of Jesus obey His command to spread the Good News of God's salvation to the entire world. Recognizing Jesus as the chosen King, God's people strive to enact His Kingdom priorities on earth now as they await His return.

## *Eternity*

Though God tarries because He desires as many people as possible to come to repentance and join His Kingdom, an end to all things will come. At that time, God will judge humanity; those who are found to be following Christ will receive eternal life to dwell in His Kingdom in the presence of God. Those without Christ will be forever separated from God.

# Identifying Biblical Ripples

## Biblical Ripples

A biblical ripple is an event, item, person, or prophecy that ultimately derives its meaning from the accomplished work of Christ.

There are lots of fancy academic words that can be used to describe aspects of Scripture that point to Christ. For the purposes of this study, we will use the term “ripple” because it is conceptually simple to understand and can apply broadly to different categories of Scriptural references. **A biblical ripple**

**is an event, item, person, or prophecy that ultimately derives its meaning from the accomplished work of Christ.** Ripples can be identified by tracing a predictable pattern of four key features:

<i>Foreshadows</i>	<i>Falls Short</i>
<p>Foreshadowing means to indicate what is to come. Regarding the Bible, this may refer to God’s original intention for creation prior to the Fall (i.e., how things were <i>supposed</i> to be) or to His plan for ameliorating the effects of the Fall by redeeming humanity and restoring creation.</p>	<p>Because of the Fall, things are not as they are supposed to be. Humans are no longer able to live up to what God meant them to be. Additionally, God’s plan for redemption and restoration plays out over time, with some components being not fully sufficient for its completion in and of themselves.</p>
<i>Fulfillment</i>	<i>Forward</i>
<p>Jesus represents the culmination of God’s plan for redemption and restoration. All of God’s goals and purposes were met and completed in the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. He is the fulfillment of all prior messianic hopes and prophecy.</p>	<p>Currently, the world exists in a “now but not yet” state in which the work to bring about God’s goals and purposes is completed, but He is not ready to bring this chapter to a close and usher in the era of eternal life with Him in a new heavens and new earth. While we wait, God intends for believers to <b>follow</b> Christ and look forward to <b>forever</b>.</p>

# Session One – Getting a Feel for Biblical Ripples

**Time to get your feet wet with biblical ripples!** This week's homework will have you practice recognizing them through exploring Jesus' own words about who He is and what He came to do. **Read John 6:30-39** and answer the following questions using our four-part ripple identification framework: **Foreshadows, Falls Short, Fulfillment, Forward.**

**Foreshadow**

What Old Testament event does this passage reference? (Hint: Exodus 16).

Who provided the manna?

What need did it meet?

Did the manna satisfy the Israelites? Why or why not? (Hint: Numbers 11)

According to Deuteronomy 8:3, what was the manna meant to help the Israelites understand?

**Falls Short**

# Fulfillment

What does Jesus say about who He is?

What does the bread that Jesus offers have in common with the bread provided in the desert?

What can Jesus do that manna was not able to do?

What assurance does Jesus make to those who come to him (especially in verse 35)?

What Christian practice uses bread to remember Jesus? (Hint: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

According to verse 39, what two things will Jesus do for His followers?

# Forward

Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.

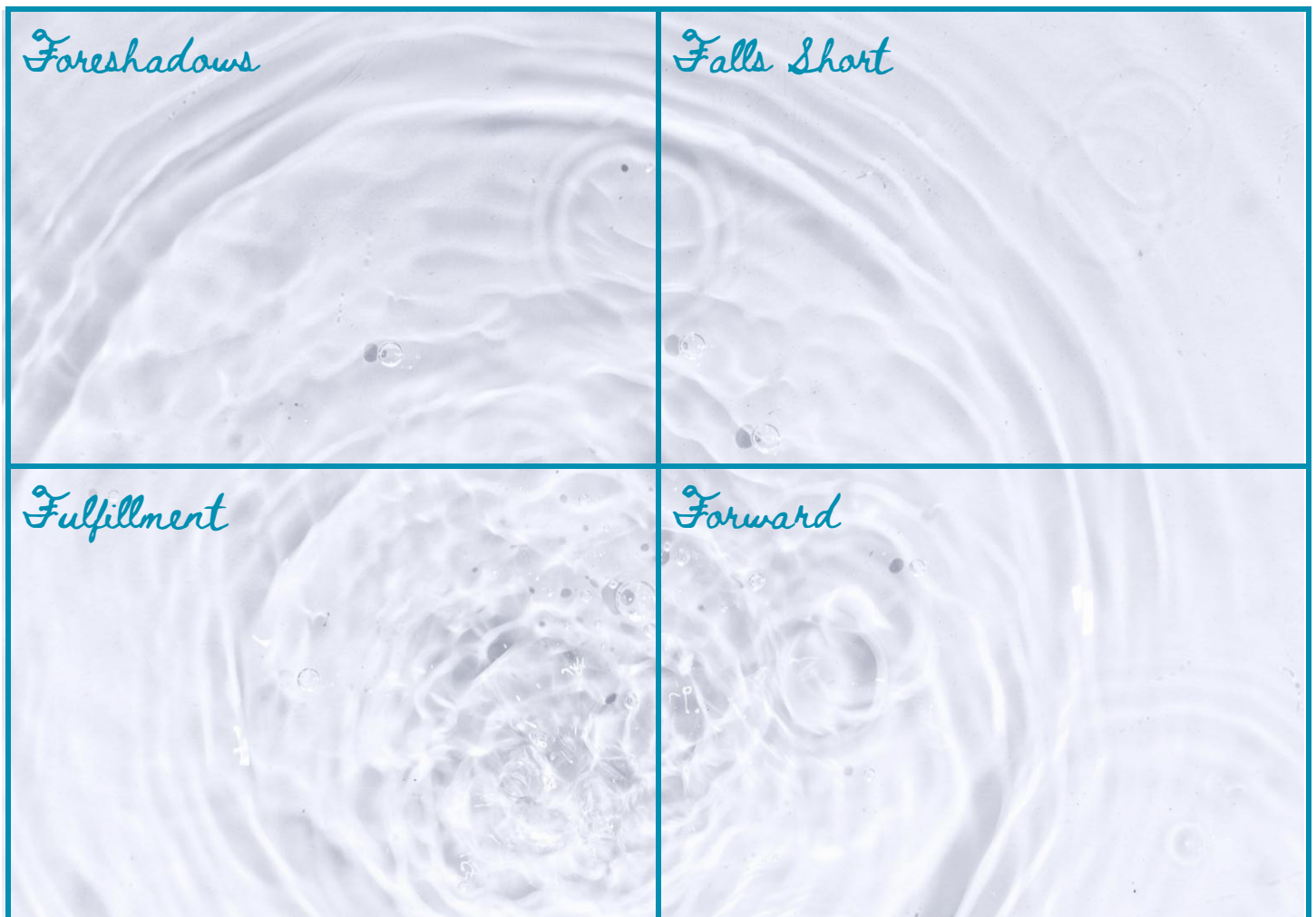
## Further Preparation

The first ripple we're going to look at in this session's teaching is the **Righteous Sufferer**.

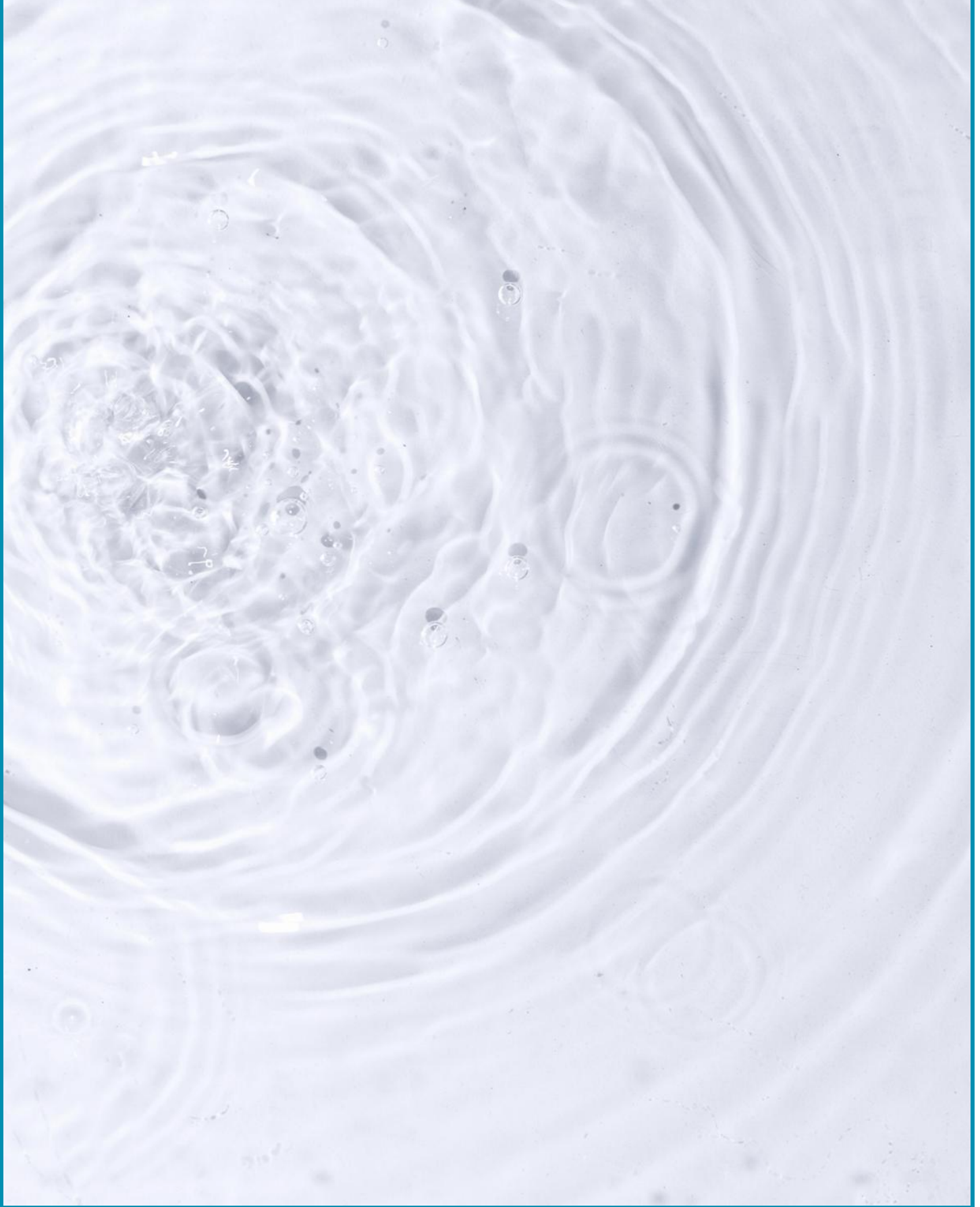
What do you already know about righteous suffering in the Bible?

What (if any) examples come to mind?

If you have examples you noted, how do they fit within our biblical ripples framework?



# Teaching Notes – The Tabernacle and Temple



# Session Two – The Tabernacle and Temple

**They say home is where the heart is.** Though there is no universal agreement about where this phrase originated, this week you may discover that there is some biblical precedent for the concept.

Read each of the passages included in the four sections below and answer the associated questions. **As you go, think about common threads that link the four components of this biblical ripple.**

## Foreshadows

### **Exodus 25:1-9; 29:44-45; 33:7-11; & 40:34-36**

What did God ask Moses to do? Why did He want it done? What activities happened in the tent? What happened when it was completed?

### **2 Chronicles 6:1-10; 7:1-10**

What did Solomon do for the LORD and how did it compare to what Moses did in Exodus?

### **Hebrews 9:1-10**

What additional clarification do we receive about the purpose of the earthly tabernacle/temple in this passage?

Based on these passages, what were the main purposes and functions of the tabernacle and later the temple?

### **Jeremiah 7:1-11**

What were the people doing, and why was it a problem?

### **Amos 5:18-27**

What does God say is going to happen because of the people's actions?

### **2 Kings 25:8-17**

What happened to the temple Solomon built?

### **Ezra 3:7-13**

What did the people do when they returned to Jerusalem? How did it compare to what before?

### **John 2:13-17**

How were the people treating the new temple at the time of Jesus?

**John 1:1-4, 14**

Who is the Word? What was the Word sent to do? What key word do you see repeated here that was also present in Exodus 25:8, Exodus 29:45, and 2 Chronicles 6:1?

**John 2:18-22**

What does Jesus say about the temple? How does this differ about what had been true previously?

**Hebrews 9:11-28**

How did Jesus fulfill the purpose of the tabernacle/temple? Why was what He did better than what had come before?

**Acts 7:44-50**

Where does God live?

Why is where He lives superior to a house made by human hands?

### **Hebrews 10:19-24**

What do we receive through Christ, and what are we called to do as a result?

### **1 Peter 2:4-10**

What is the temple made up of currently? (see also Ephesians 2:19-22)

### **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1**

What does God instruct us to do?

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-17**

What test awaits the work we do to build up the temple of God?

### **Revelation 21:1-4**

What promise based on the pattern established by the tabernacle/temple awaits us in eternity?

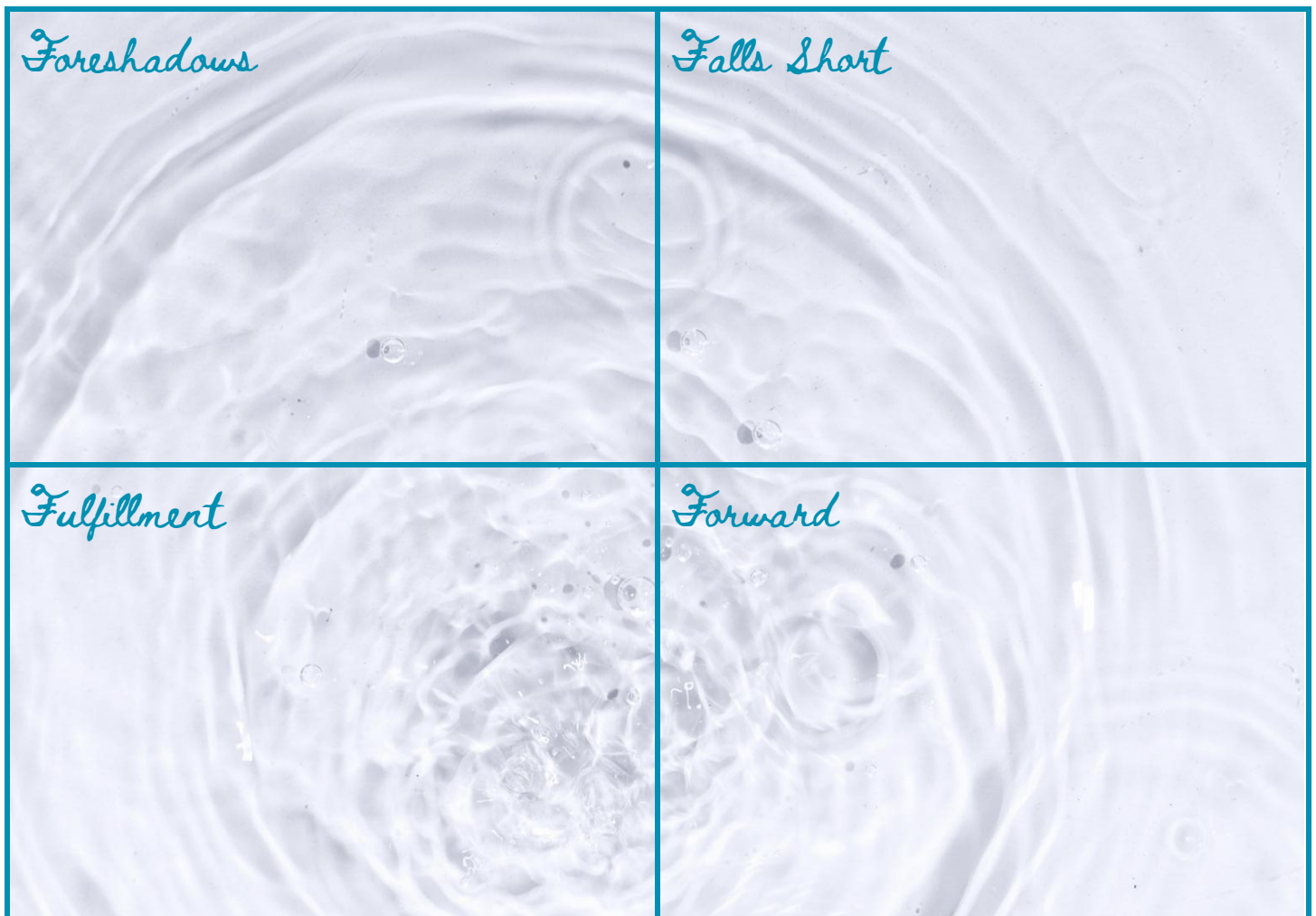
Forward

**Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.**

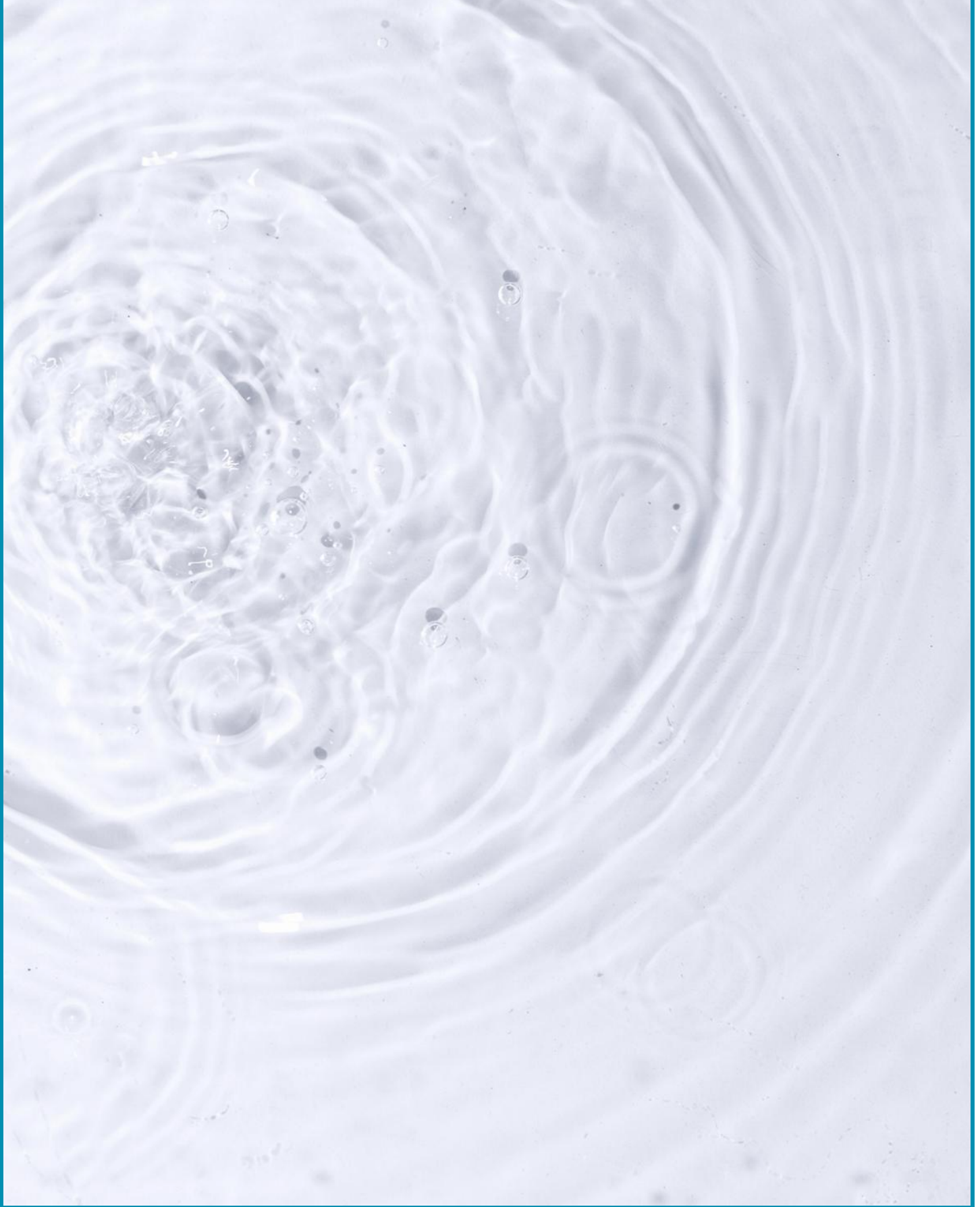
## Further Preparation

The Bible includes instructions building the tabernacle in minute detail. Reading through them can feel tedious, but if we trust that all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for our faith development (2 Timothy 3:16), we must conclude that there is value in studying these particulars.

Read **Exodus 35:4-40:38**. As you go along, make notes about anything that you find which fits into our biblical ripples paradigm, using the chart below.



# Teaching Notes – The Tabernacle and Temple



# Session Three – The Passover

**“Deliver us from evil.”** This final request in the Lord’s prayer is rooted in God’s centuries-old track record of saving His people from disaster and calamity of all kinds. From the very beginning, God has been invested in delivering us from evil.

Read each of the passages included in the four sections below and answer the associated questions. **As you go, think about common threads that link the four components of this biblical ripple.**

## Foreshadows

### Exodus 12:1-42

Who “passed over” the land of Egypt during the Passover?

How were the Israelites to prepare their homes?

What three things were the Israelites to eat on this night?

What was demonstrated in how the Israelites were to eat?

What happened to those households (like the Egyptians) that did not prepare?

What happened after the night of the Passover?

Why did God command an annual celebration of the Passover?

## **Numbers 28:16-25**

When and how often was Passover to be celebrated?

What dietary restriction was given?

What did they need to do at the beginning (v. 18) and end (v. 25) of the celebration?

Why was a goat included as a required offering?

There are only a few mentions of Passover being observed in the Old Testament, such as during the reign of King Hezekiah, approximately 250 years after King David.

## **2 Chronicles 30:1-5**

Why did they change when Passover was celebrated?

What had Passover celebrations looked like in the years before Hezekiah called everyone to come celebrate?

## **2 Chronicles 30:13-27**

What did the Israelites do to prepare for Passover?

What did the priests and Levites have to do to prepare for Passover? How did this celebration compare to the ones that came before it?

## **1 Corinthians 5:7**

Who is the Passover lamb?

## **John 1:29**

How does John the Baptist describe Jesus?

## **Matthew 26:1-2 & John 19:14-16**

What did Jesus warn His disciples would happen?

Was He correct?

## **Matthew 26:17-25**

What does Jesus celebrate with his disciples?

What new meaning does Jesus give the bread and the wine?

## **Romans 5:9-10, 1 Peter 1:18-19, & 1 John 1:7**

What does the blood of Jesus do for us, according to these verses?

### **Hebrews 9:14**

What does the cleansing of Jesus's blood enable us to do?

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Why is communion commanded?

What does this command have in common with the initial command to celebrate the Passover in Exodus 12?

What is different?

What does communion remember?

What does communion anticipate?

### **Revelation 5:1-14**

Who is the Lamb and what does He receive?

Forward

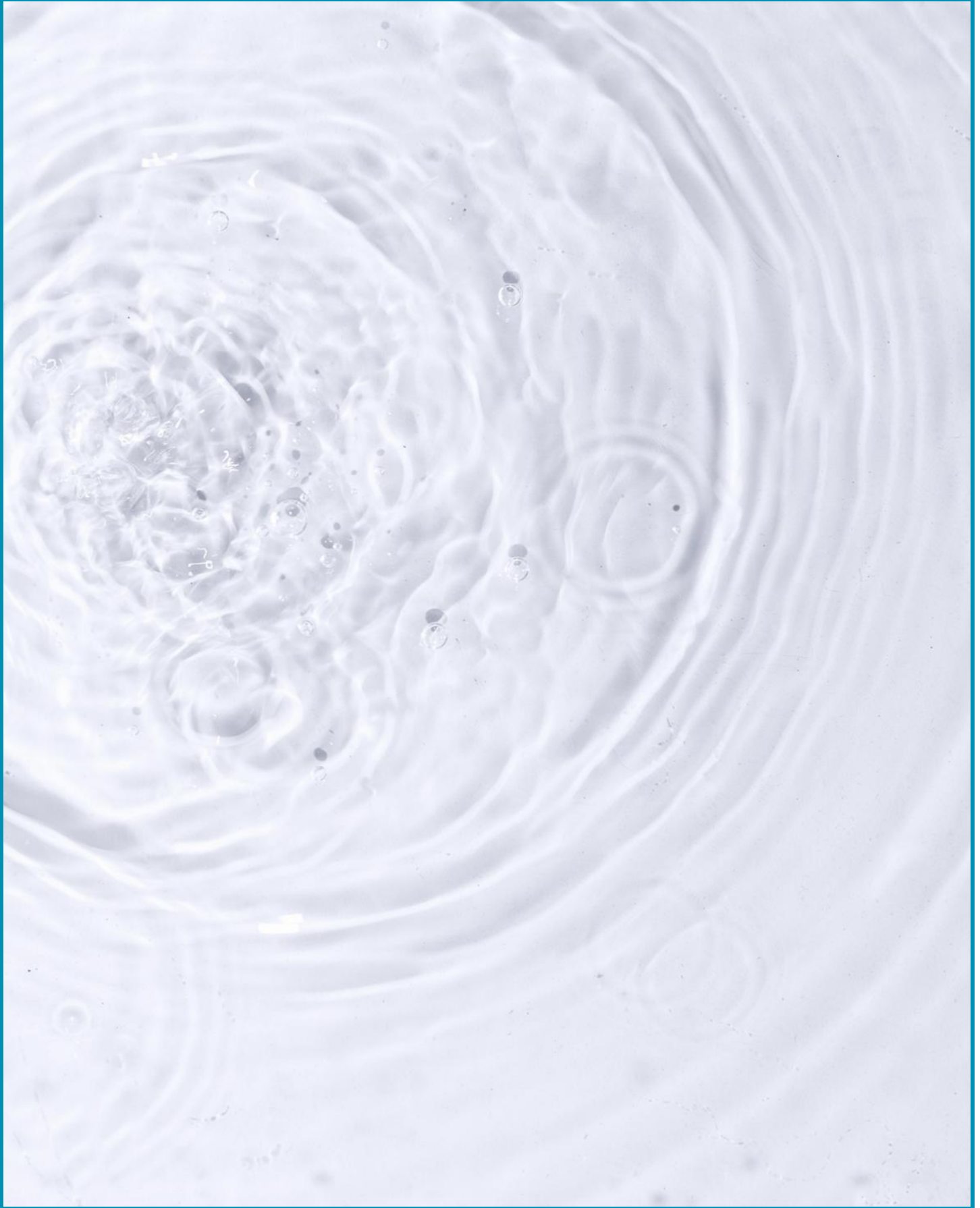
Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.

## *Further Preparation*

The two other places we see Passover celebrated in the Old Testament were during the reign of King Josiah (**2 Chronicles 35:1-19**) and after the Exile, when some were able to return to Israel and rebuild a temple (**Ezra 6:1-22**). How did these celebrations look compared to what God had commanded?

Use a concordance to look up where in Revelation “Lamb” appears. Look up those verses and make notes about what the Lamb does.

# Teaching Notes – The Passover



# Session Four – The Priesthood

**In our culture, everyone wants to be special in some way.** In the Bible, certain people were selected for special roles. They were set apart, made holy, and dedicated to God's purposes.

Read each of the passages included in the four sections below and answer the associated questions. **As you go, think about common threads that link the four components of this biblical ripple.**

## Foreshadows

### **Exodus 19:1-6**

What does God say will be special about the Israelites?

What do they need to do to maintain their special status?

### **Exodus 29:44-46**

What special job is given to Aaron and his sons?

### **Leviticus 22:1-16**

What reasons are given for why the priests must perform their duties properly?

Who makes priests holy?

### **Leviticus 10:10-11; 16:29-34; Numbers 8:5-26, 18:1-7; 2 Chronicles 19:8-11**

According to these passages, what are the main jobs that priests are to carry out?

### **Leviticus 10:1-7**

What did Nadab and Abihu do incorrectly?

What does this passage repeatedly indicate will be the consequence of a priest doing his job incorrectly?

### **1 Samuel 2:12-17, 27-36**

What improper behavior did Eli's sons exhibit and why was it a problem?

What does God tell Eli will happen as a result?

### **1 Kings 2:26-27**

What happened that fulfilled what God told Eli in 1 Samuel 2?

### **Malachi 1:6-14**

How did the priests show contempt for God's name?

### **Malachi 2:7-9**

What important duty did the priests neglect, and what happened as a result?

**Hebrews 8:1-13**

Who is the superior high priest?

Who set up the true tabernacle?

Why is the new covenant better than the old?

**Hebrews 9:11-27**

Who is the mediator of the new covenant?

What sacrifice is offered by the true high priest?

How does the earthly sanctuary compare to the heavenly one?

Will there ever be a need for another human high priest?

**Review 1 Samuel 2:35-36**

Who is the faithful priest God had promised?

## **Revelation 1:5-6**

What did the Jesus accomplish for His people?

## **Review Hebrews 9:14-15**

What did Jesus set believers free from?

What purpose do we have now that we are free?

## **1 Peter 2:1-12**

What are we as believers being built up into?

What description of believers is repeated in v. 5 and v. 9?

What differentiates believers from those who have not trusted in Christ?

## **Romans 12:1-2**

What constitutes true and proper worship for believers?

## **Hebrews 13:15-16**

What other tasks are appropriate for believers to undertake?

Forward

Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.

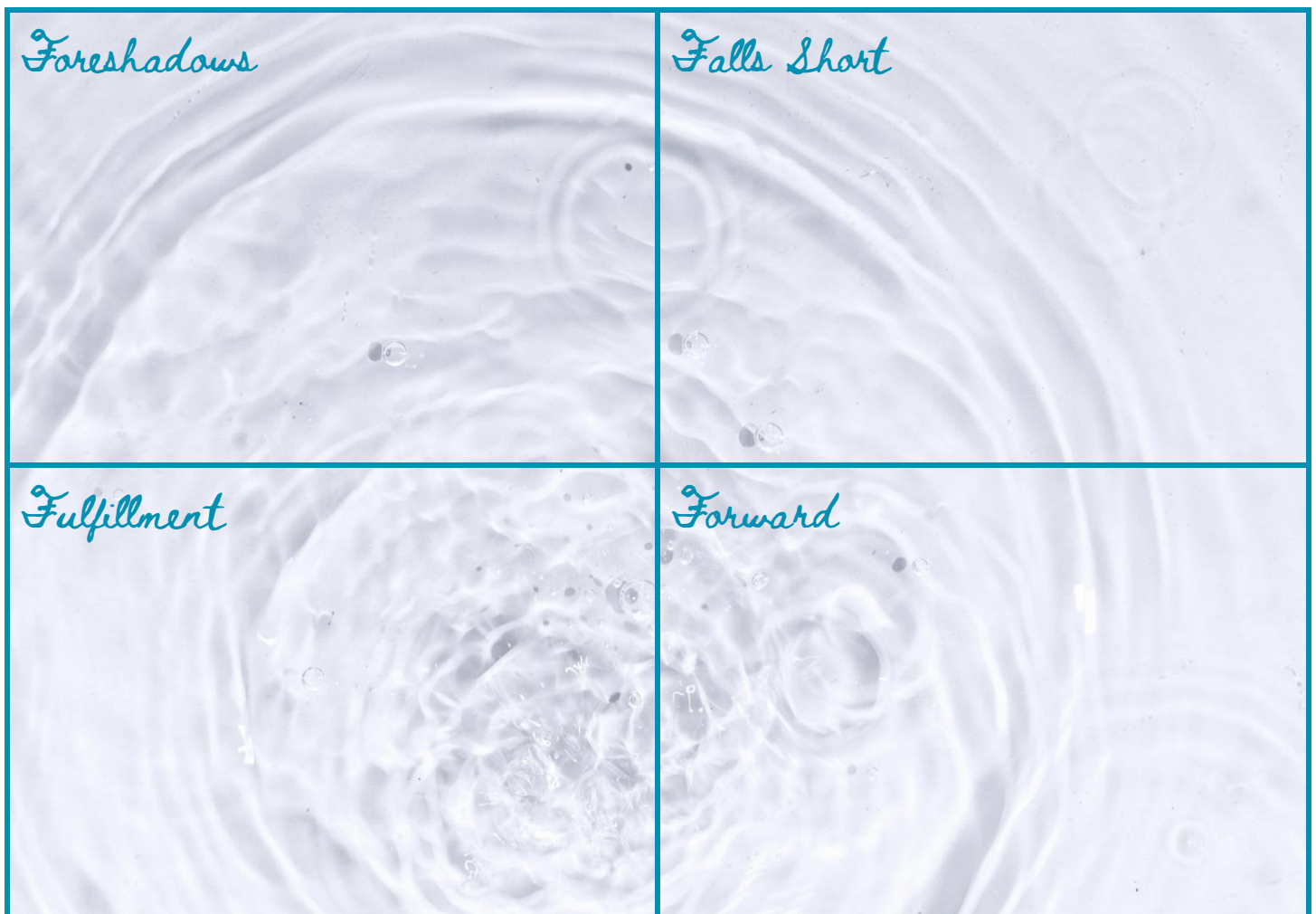
## Further Preparation

Review the genealogy of Jesus in **Matthew 1:1-17**. From which of Jacob's sons does Jesus descend?

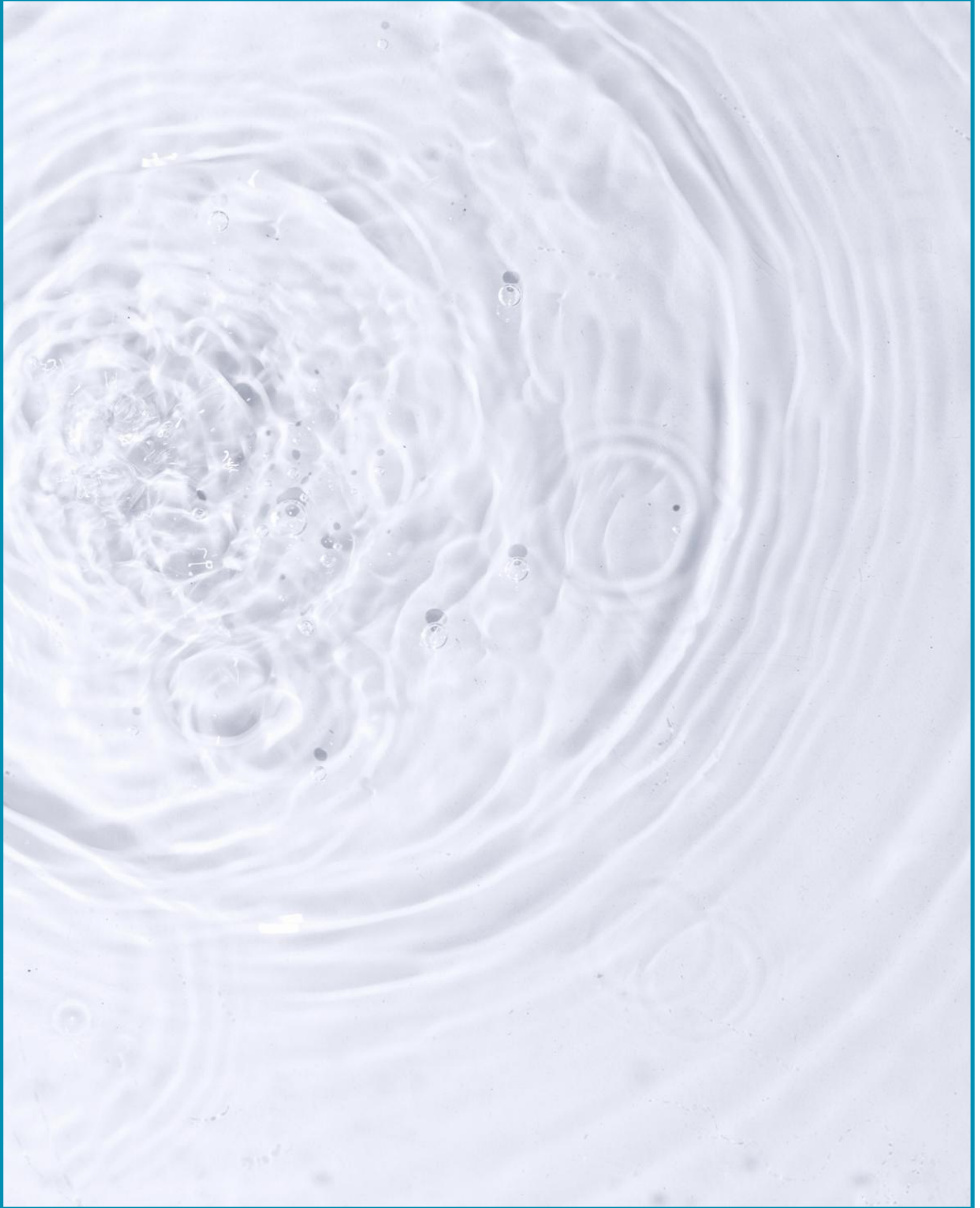
According to **Deuteronomy 18:1**, which of Jacob's sons do the priests descend from?

Read **Hebrews 7:1-28**. From which priestly order does Jesus draw His authority?

Use **Hebrews 7:1-28** alongside **Genesis 14:18-20** and **Psalms 110:4** to learn everything you can about this priestly order. Plot it using our fourfold paradigm of **Foreshadows**, **Falls Short**, **Fulfillment**, and **Forward**. Do not get discouraged if it is difficult – even the best biblical scholars scratch their head a little bit on this particular biblical ripple.



## Teaching Notes – The Priesthood



# Session Five – The King

**As children, many of us played a game called Follow the Leader.** It often started out fun, was prone to end with tears as disagreement broke out about who the leader should be. As you will see here, humans have been confused about who the leader is for a long time.

Read each of the passages included in the four sections below and answer the associated questions. **As you go, think about common threads that link the four components of this biblical ripple.**

## Foreshadows

### **Deuteronomy 17:14-20**

What instructions are given for a human king?

### **Psalm 2**

How should human kings relate to God?

### **Psalm 47:1-9**

Who is the true king, and over what does He rule?

### **Isaiah 9:1-7**

What promises about a king are found in this prophetic passage?

### **Zechariah 9:9-17**

How will the king arrive, and what will He do?

What will the LORD do when the king arrives?

### **1 Samuel 8:1-22**

What does God predict will happen if there is a king?

Do the people heed the warning?

Compare Exodus 13:21 and 14:14 to 1 Samuel 8:19-20. Who had previously been providing what the people were asking for?

### **1 Samuel 12:12-15**

What were the people to do now that they had a human king?

### **1 Kings 10:23-11:6**

Compare this passage to instructions God had given in Deuteronomy 17. Was Solomon the type of king God desired?

### **2 Chronicles 33:1-17**

What did Manasseh do that was good?

What was problematic about his reign?

What were the consequences for the people? (Hint: Deuteronomy 12:13-14)

**Luke 1:29-33**

What does the angel tell Mary is going to happen?

What will Jesus be given (vv. 32-33)?

How does that relate to the prophecy in 2 Samuel 7?

**Matthew 4:12-17**

Who does Matthew identify that the prophecy in Isaiah 9 was about?

What did Jesus instruct people to do and why (v. 17)?

**Matthew 21:1-11**

Who does Matthew identify that the prophecy in Zechariah 9 was about?

How was this demonstrated?

**Ephesians 1:19-23**

Where did God place Jesus?

## Hebrews 1:6-9

Who rules in God's Kingdom?

How long will He rule?

What qualifies Him to rule (v. 9)?

## 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? (See also Revelation 19:11-16)

What should those who follow Him do?

## Philippians 2:1-11

What benefits are available to followers of Christ?

How should they act?

How is this rooted in/related to Christ's kingship?

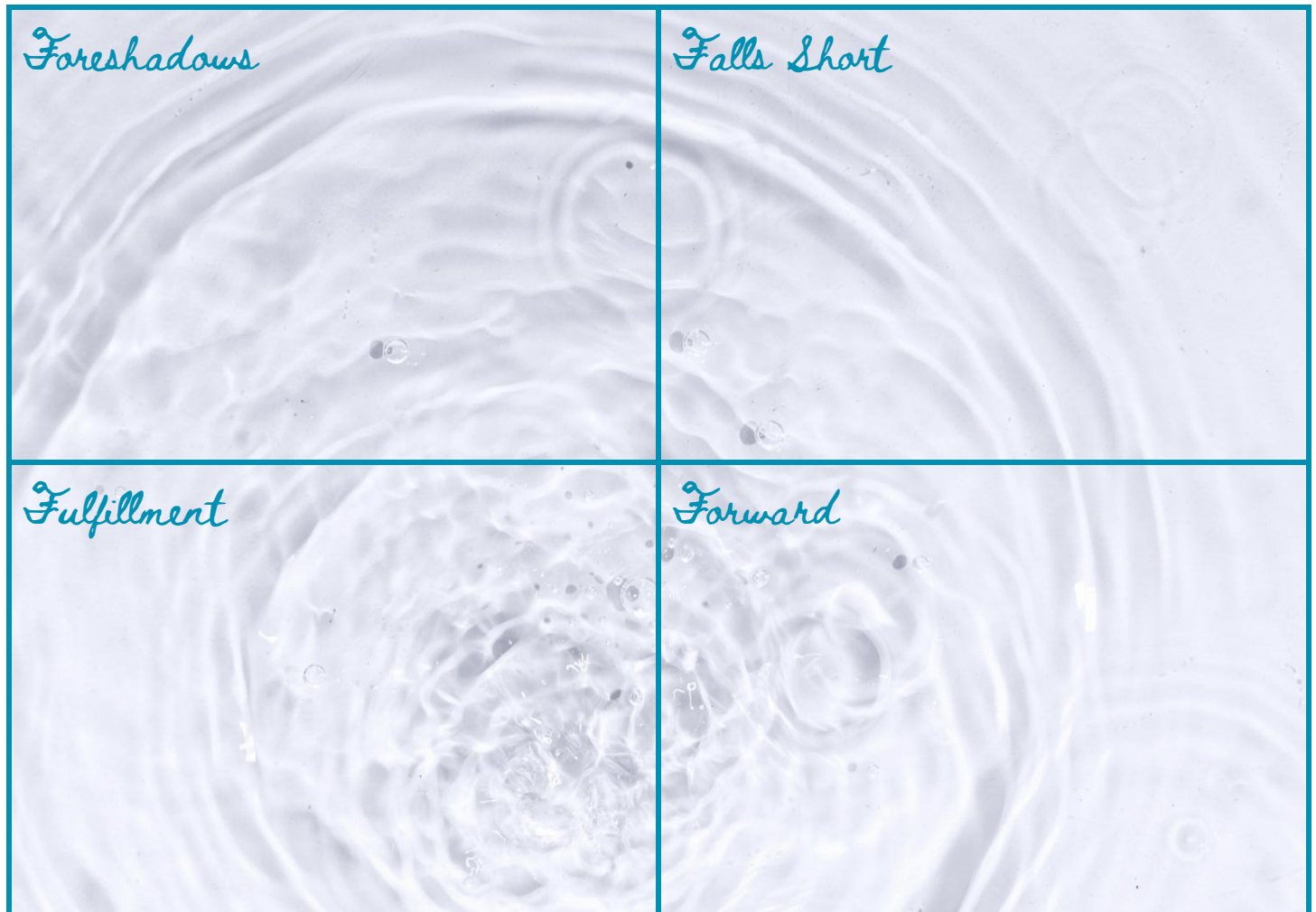
Forward

Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.

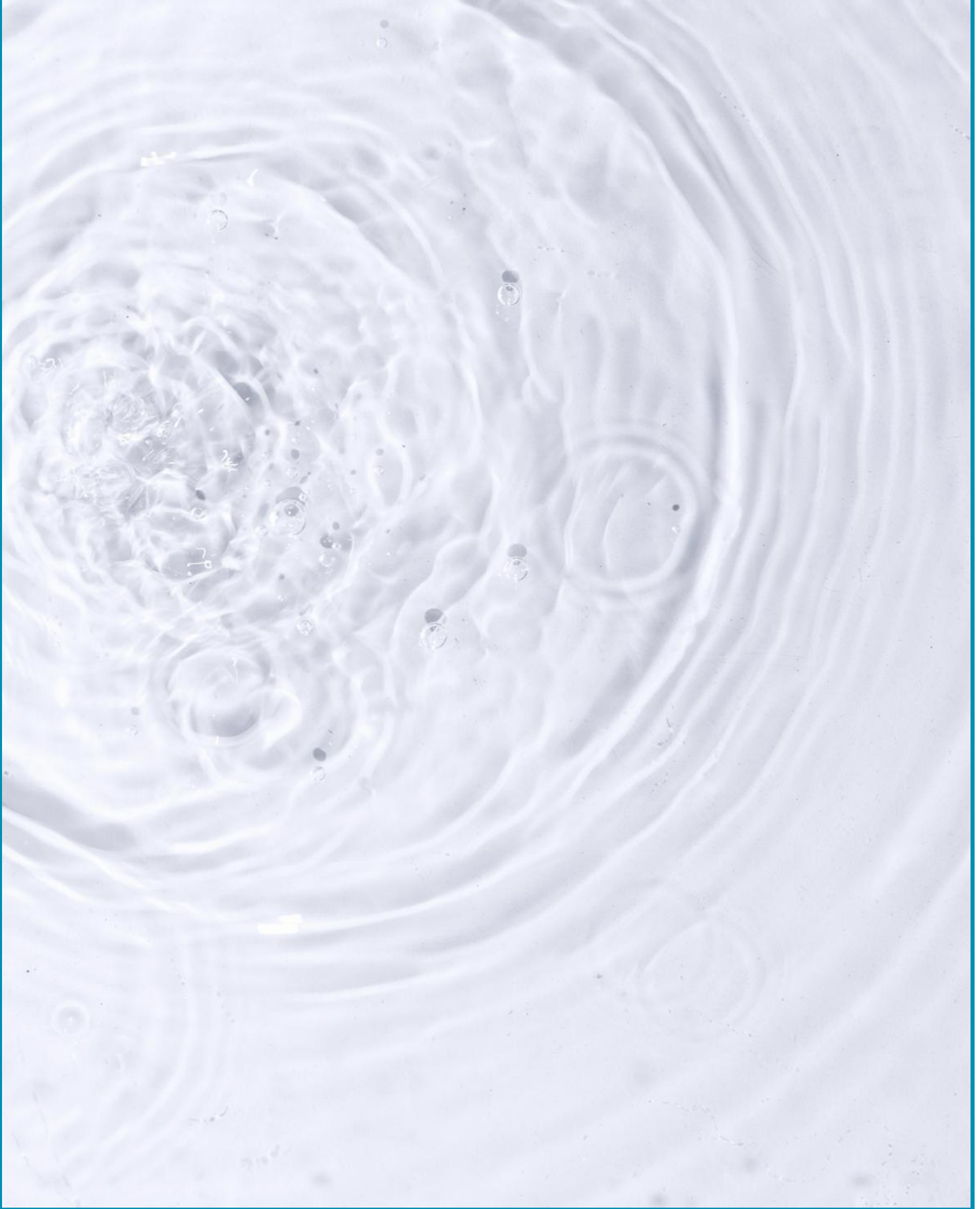
## Further Preparation

Read about the reign of Israel's first king, Saul in **1 Samuel 9:1-15:35**.

How do you see **Foreshadowing** and **Falling Short** playing out in his life? What hints of **Fulfillment** and **Forward** do you detect in this text?



## Teaching Notes – The King



# Session Six – The Image of God

**People often compare children to their parents, trying to determine who they look like.**

Our heavenly Father is likewise invested in who His children look like, and for good reason.

Read each of the passages included in the four sections below and answer the associated questions. **As you go, think about common threads that link the four components of this biblical ripple.**

## Foreshadows

### **Genesis 1:26-31**

What part of creation was specifically made in God's image?

What were the instructions and benefits associated with being made in God's image (vv. 28-29)?

### **Psalms 8**

What does this psalm suggest about the relationship between humanity and God?

### **Exodus 20:4-6**

What instruction does God give in the second commandment?

What is the rationale for this command?

### **Review Exodus 19:3-6**

Based on what you learned in Session Four, how does God's promise to make His people a nation of priests connect to being made in His image?

### **Genesis 3:1-6**

How did the first image bearers handle their responsibility?

According to **Genesis 3:21-24**, what occurred as a result?

### **Exodus 32:1-8**

What did Israel do when Moses took a long time to come down from the mountain?

Why was this such a big deal (v. 8)?

### **Isaiah 1:1-31**

What did Israel do instead of following what God meant for them?

What does God say is going to happen as a result?

What seed of hope still remains (vv. 26-27)?

### **Isaiah 44:6-23**

Who is like God (v. 8)?

Can any idol made by human hands offer what God does?

**John 1:1-4 & 14**

What did the Word put on?

What did that allow others to do (v. 14)?

**Colossians 1:15-20**

Who is the image of God?

What are His notable characteristics?

What is accomplished through Him (vv. 19-20)?

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

What is the relationship between God and the Son?

## **2 Corinthians 4:1-18**

Who is the ultimate image of God?

How does this shape how believers behave currently?

How does it grant hope for the future?

## **Romans 8:28-30**

What does God do for those He calls?

## **2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

What happens when we contemplate God's glory?

## **Revisit Philippians 2:1-11.**

What does it say about the proper mindset for believers?

What additional instructions are offered in **Philippians 2:12-18**?

## **Philippians 3:20-21**

What promise awaits those who are in Christ?

FORWARD

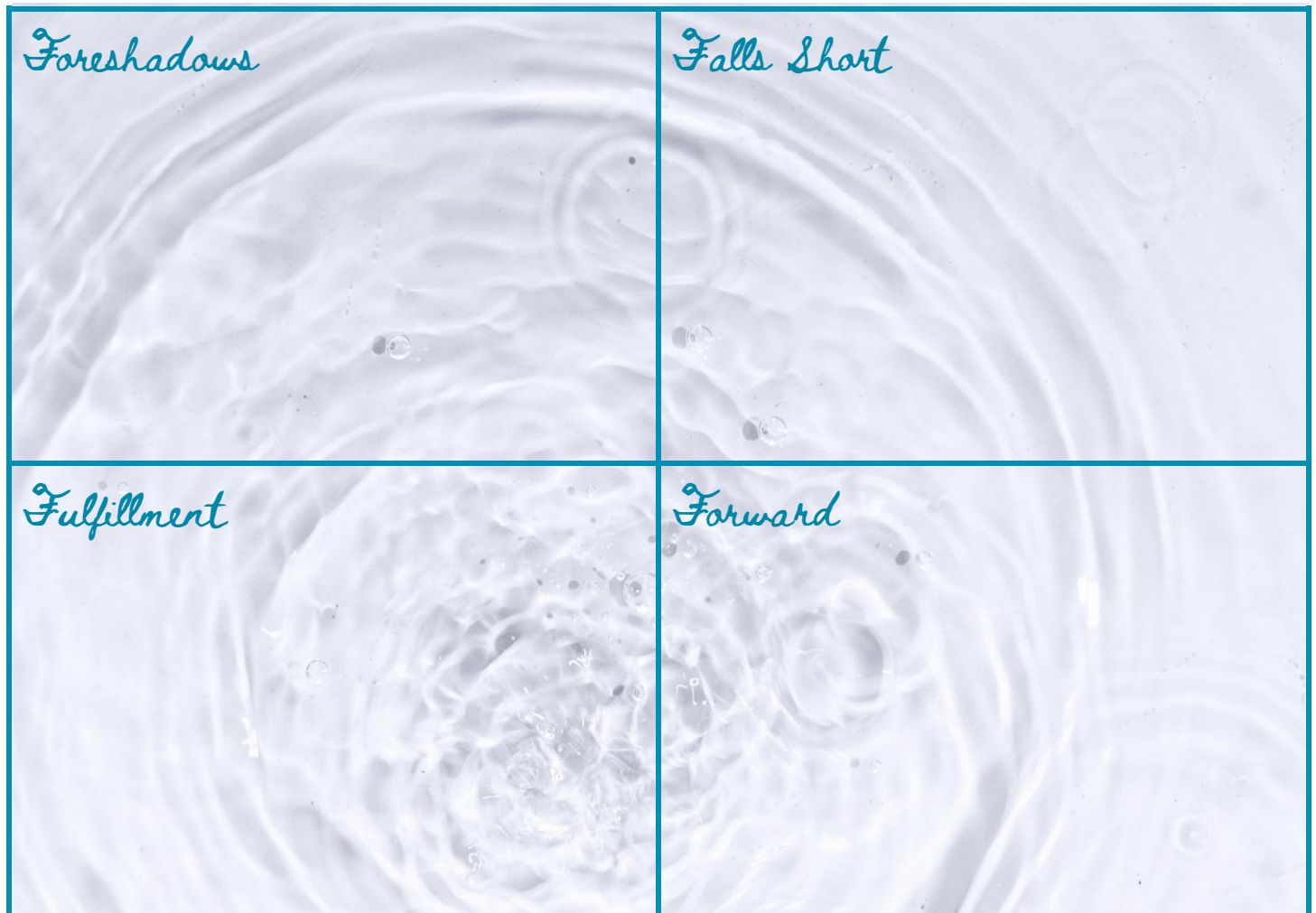
Pick one key word or phrase to identify the main point or content of this ripple.

## Further Preparation

Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-58** and **2 Corinthians 5:1-21**.

What does the resurrection have to do with image bearing (v. 49)?

How does the fourfold pattern of **Foreshadows**, **Falls Short**, **Fulfillment**, and **Forward** map on to Paul's teaching about resurrection bodies?



## Teaching Notes – The Image of God

