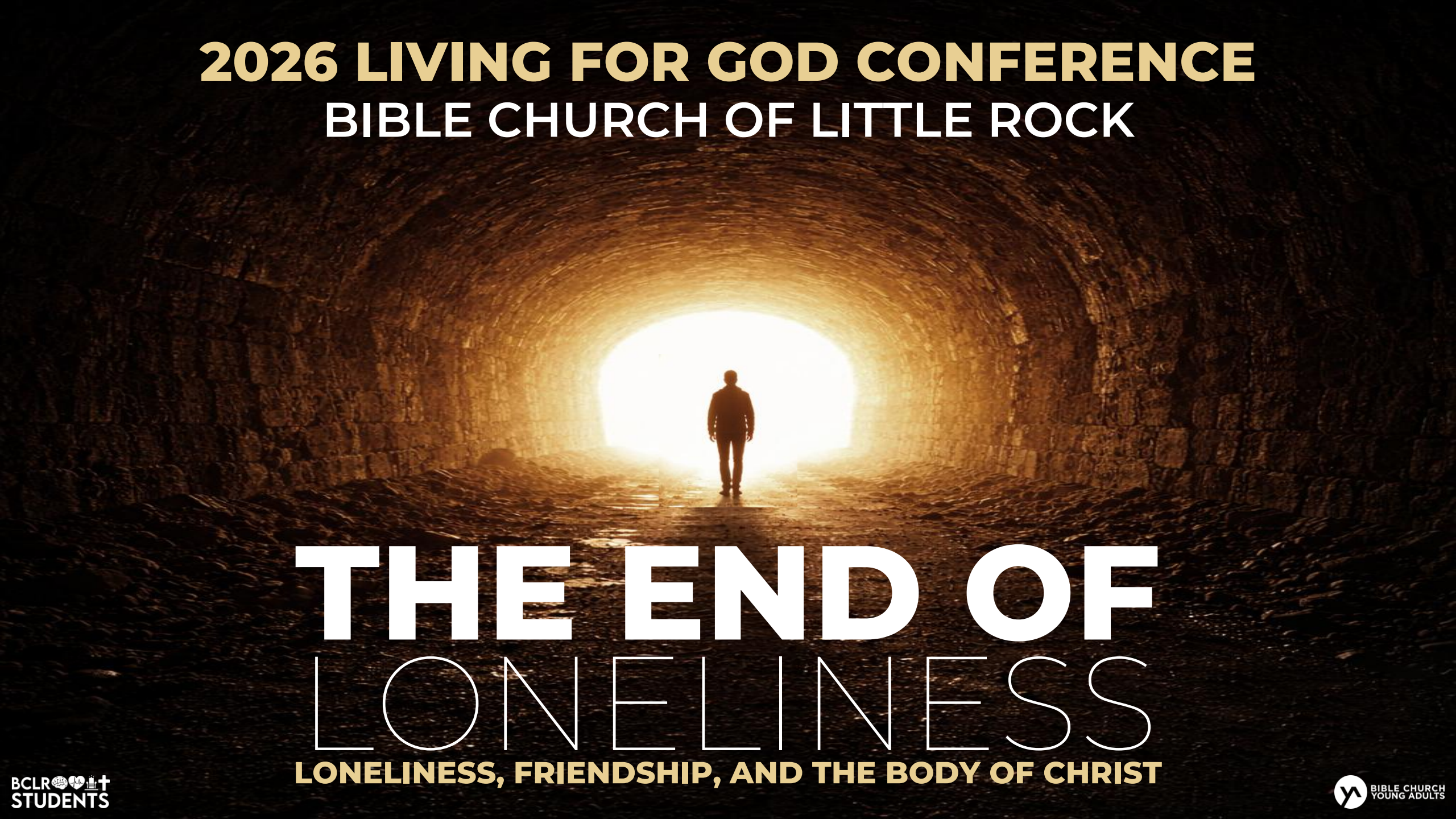


A person stands in the center of a dark, arched stone tunnel. At the far end of the tunnel is a bright, glowing light, creating a silhouette of the person and illuminating the tunnel walls. The text is overlaid on this image.

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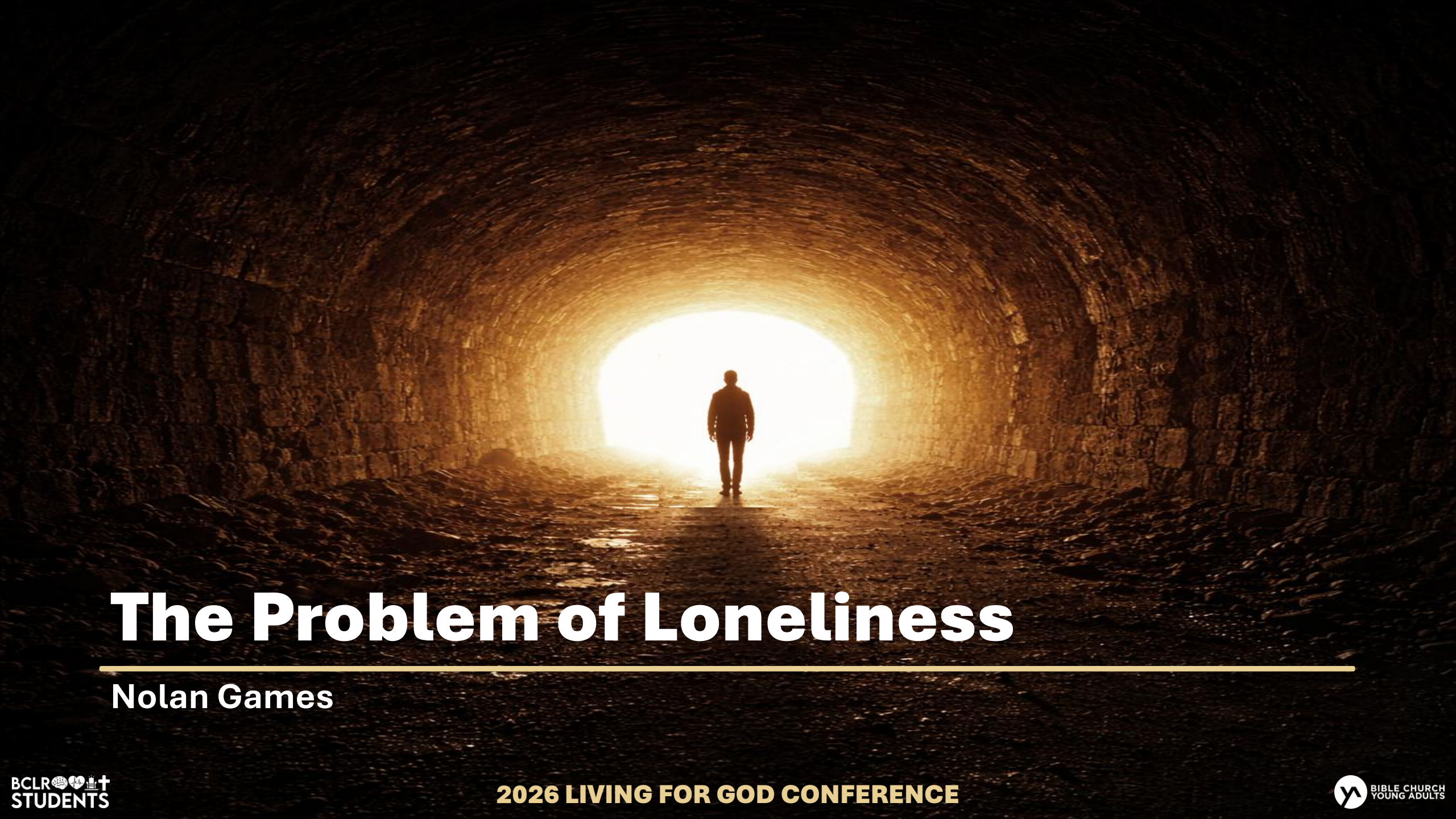
BIBLE CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

THE END OF LONELINESS

LONELINESS, FRIENDSHIP, AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

Conference Schedule

- 
- 9:00 || Session 1: The Problem of Loneliness
 - 10:30 || Session 2: The World's Answer for Loneliness
 - 11:30 || Panel 1
 - 12:00 || Lunch
 - 1:00 || Session 3: The Bible's Answer for Loneliness
 - 2:30 || Session 4: Biblical Hope for Lonely People
 - 3:30 || Panel 2

A person stands in the center of a dark, arched stone tunnel. At the far end of the tunnel, a bright, glowing light illuminates the scene, creating a silhouette of the person and casting a long, warm glow down the length of the passage. The stone walls of the tunnel are rough and textured, and the floor appears to be made of cobblestones or similar material.

The Problem of Loneliness

Nolan Games

孤独死

Big Idea: Loneliness begets loneliness

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

Outline:

Loneliness & the Individual

- Physical
- Emotional
- Spiritual

Loneliness & the Community

Loneliness & the Society

Loneliness & the Individual

26%- 29%
**Premature
Death**

50%
**Experienced
Loneliness**

36% ^
**Increased
BP**

32% ^
Stroke

50% ^
Dementia

29% ^
**Heart
Disease**

Loneliness & the Community

17%, 7%
**Facebook &
Instagram**

2+ hours
50% ^
Loneliness

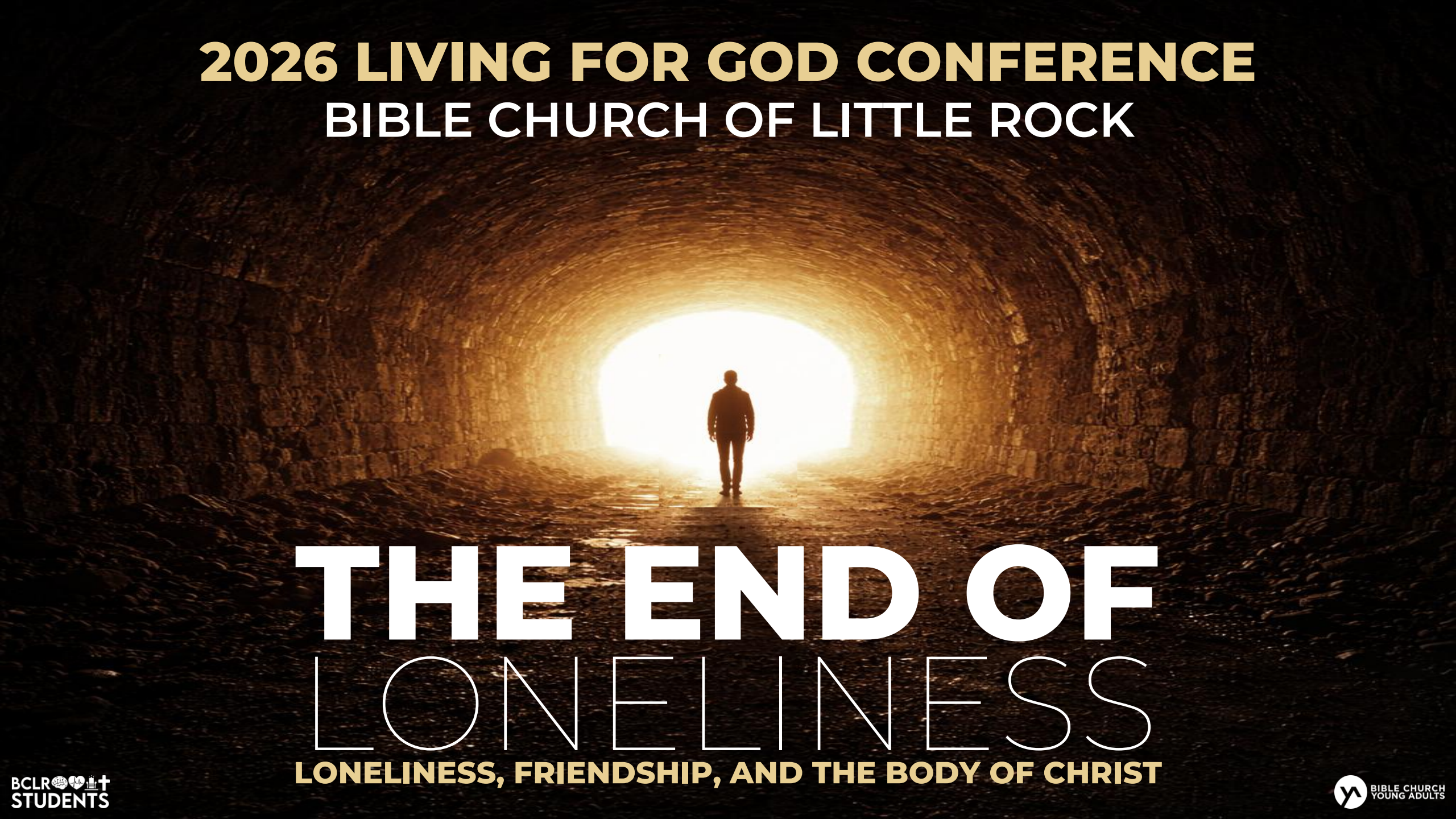
29%
**Single-person
Households**

Loneliness & the Society

16%
**American
Connection**

16.8% ^
**Social
Isolation**

21%
**Reduction in
Violent Crime**

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The World's Answer for Loneliness

Douglas Allison

No one talks about Jesus's greatest miracle...

having twelve close friends in his 30s.

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

- **The World's Definition of the Problem**
 - Loneliness is defined as a harmful and maladaptive experience of feeling unattached to and/or unknown by other people, resulting in an unwanted sense of disconnection or detachment from others.
 - "... the small group is the basic survival strategy of the human species..." - Olds and Schwartz, *Lonely American*, 188.
 - "Social health is not an optional extra. It is integral to health." WHO Report, xv.

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

SOLUTIONS

- More Civic Engagement!
- More Social Engagement!
- More Tech!
- Less Tech!
- More Science!
- More Medicine!
- More Religion!



The Six Pillars to Advance Social Connection



1

Strengthen Social Infrastructure in Local Communities

Design the built environment to promote social connection

Establish and scale community connection programs

Invest in local institutions that bring people together

2

Enact Pro-Connection Public Policies

Adopt a "Connection-in-All-Policies" approach

Advance policies that minimize harm from disconnection

Establish cross-departmental leadership at all levels of government

3

Mobilize the Health Sector

Train health care providers

Assess and support patients

Expand public health surveillance and interventions

4

Reform Digital Environments

Require data transparency

Establish and implement safety standards

Support development of pro-connection technologies

5

Deepen Our Knowledge

Develop and coordinate a national research agenda

Accelerate research funding

Increase public awareness

6

Build a Culture of Connection

Cultivate values of kindness, respect, service, and commitment to one another

Model connection values in positions of leadership and influence

Expand conversation on social connection in schools, workplaces, and communities

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

SOLUTIONS

- More Civic Engagement!
- More Social Engagement!
- More Tech!
- Less Tech!
- More Science!
- More Medicine!
- More Religion!



Key messages

The way forward proposed by the WHO Commission on Social Connection consists of five strategic areas: policy, research, interventions, measurement and data, and engagement. Each strategic area includes three actions.

Policy

Governments should develop, adopt, fund, implement and monitor a national policy, strategy or framework to promote social connection in which all sectors, including digital technology are involved.

Strengthen policy leadership.

Facilitate knowledge exchange.

Research

Build global and national research capacity.

Identify and fund research priorities.

Launch a Grand Challenge initiative.

Interventions

Develop guidance.

Launch an “intervention accelerator”.

Support implementation.

Measurement and data

Strengthen national monitoring systems.

Develop a global index of social connection.

Collect data from as many countries as possible during the next decade.

Engagement

Ensure that social connection is placed higher on global policy and political agendas, and build a coalition of governments and public champions.

Increase public awareness in coordinated campaigns and a unified global narrative.

Build a sustainable movement through multi-sectoral collaboration and dedicated funding.

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

SOLUTIONS

- More Civic Engagement!
- More Social Engagement!
- More Tech!
- Less Tech!
- More Science!
- More Medicine!
- More Religion!



BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

The World's Framework

- **No Fundamental Truths, Only Evolutionary Traits**
- **No Fundamental Goods, Only Subjective Experiences**
- **No Fundamental Purpose, Only Personal Self-Determination**



BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

Conclusion

- The world's answers to loneliness correspond to its framing of the problem. Because the current prevailing trend is individualistic, pragmatic, and therapeutic, the answers focus on what an individual wants, what works, and what feels good. People have no place to look other than themselves, which is one reason why the problem is increasingly medicalized and the best working answer is “We need more data.”

BIG IDEA: CULTIVATE SOCIAL CONNECTION

“remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

- Fundamentally, the world has not rejected this truth; it has *embraced it*



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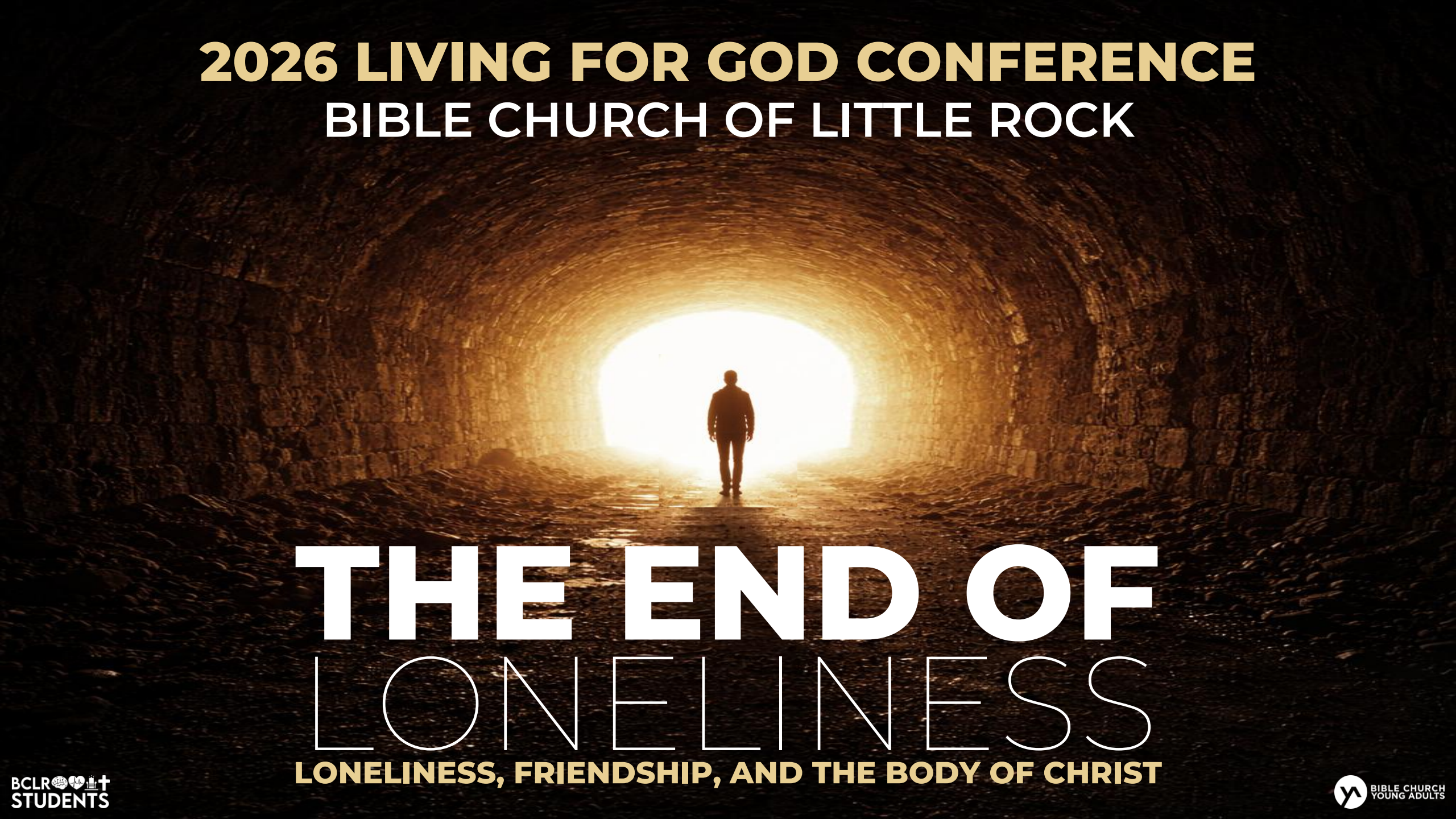
THE END OF
LONELINESS

LONELINESS, FRIENDSHIP, AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

A person is standing in the center of a dark, arched stone tunnel. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a very bright, circular opening that glows with a warm, golden light, creating a strong silhouette effect on the person and the tunnel walls. The stone walls of the tunnel are rough and textured.

PANEL 1

Text Questions: 479.462.2620

A person stands in the center of a dark, arched stone tunnel. A bright, golden light emanates from the circular opening at the far end of the tunnel, creating a strong silhouette of the person and illuminating the tunnel walls with a warm glow.

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LONELINESS, FRIENDSHIP, AND THE BODY OF CHRIST



The Biblical Response to Loneliness

Garrett Plunkett

The Biblical Response to Loneliness

■ Sermon Title:

- A biblical response to loneliness – biblically shaped friendships

■ Big Idea:

- Biblically shaped friendships are formed by and focused on following Christ. They are formed with and focused on those I am ministering with, those I am ministering to, and those who are ministering to me.

■ Sermon Outline:

- **The Portrait of Friendship** (1 Samuel 23:15-18)
- **The Power & Purpose of Biblical Friendship** (John 15:12-17)
- **The Promise of Biblical Friendship** (Luke 18:28-30)

The Portrait of Biblical Friendship

- **Primary Passage:**

- 1 Samuel 23:15-18

- **Passage Text (ESV):**

15 David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. **16.** And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God.

17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this."

18 And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

The Portrait of Biblical Friendship

■ Primary Passage:

□ 1 Samuel 23:15-18

■ Big Idea:

○ Focused friendships flourish through faithfulness

■ Key Points:

1. Friendship takes right action
2. Friends strengthen one another in God
3. Friends comfort one another with words
4. Friends seek to protect one another
5. Friends encourage one another with truth
6. Friends live to the LORD together
7. Friendship continues in separation



The Power & Purpose of Biblical Friendship

- **Primary Passage:**

- John 15:12-17

- **Passage Text:**

- Friendship flows from following Christ faithfully



The Power & Purpose of Biblical Friendship

■ Primary Passage:

□ John 15:12-17

■ Passage Text:

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

17 These things I command to you, so that you will love one another."

The Portrait of Biblical Friendship

■ Primary Passage:

□ John 15:12-17

■ Big Idea:

○ Focused friendships flourish through faithfulness

■ "You" (Plural):

1. Chosen by Christ
2. Appointment for ministry
3. Going and bearing fruit
4. Bearing fruit that abides
5. Asking in the name of Christ

16 "You did not choose me, but I chose **you** and appointed **you** that **you** should go and bear fruit and that **your** fruit should abide, so that whatever **you** ask the Father in my name, he may give it to **you**."

The Power & Purpose of Biblical Friendship

- **Primary Passage:**

- Luke 18:28-30

- **Passage Text:**

- Faithfully following Christ creates future friendships



The Promise of Biblical Friendship

- **Primary Passage:**

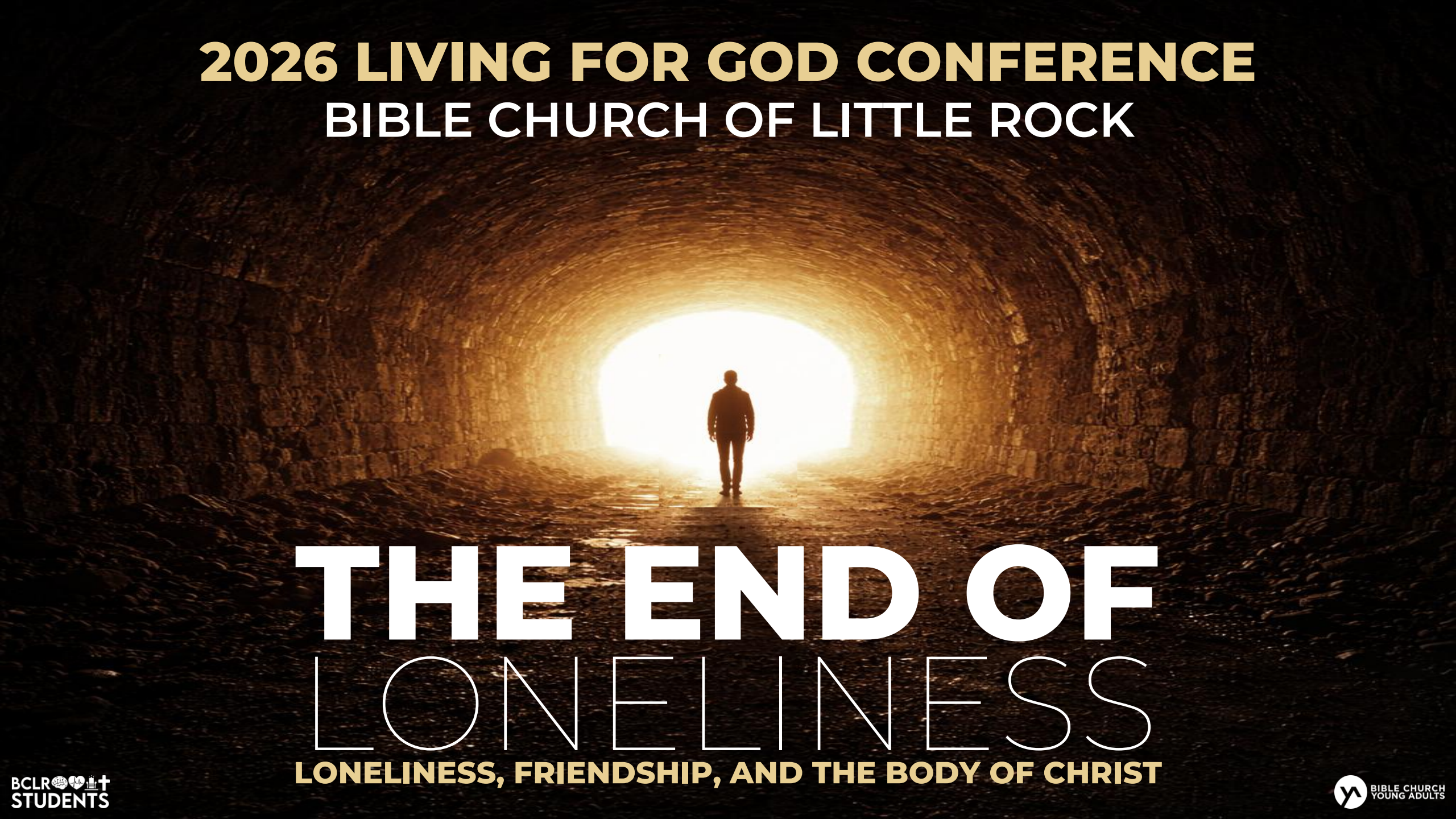
- Luke 18:28-30

- **Passage Text (ESV):**

- 28** And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you."

- 29** And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,

- 30** Who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

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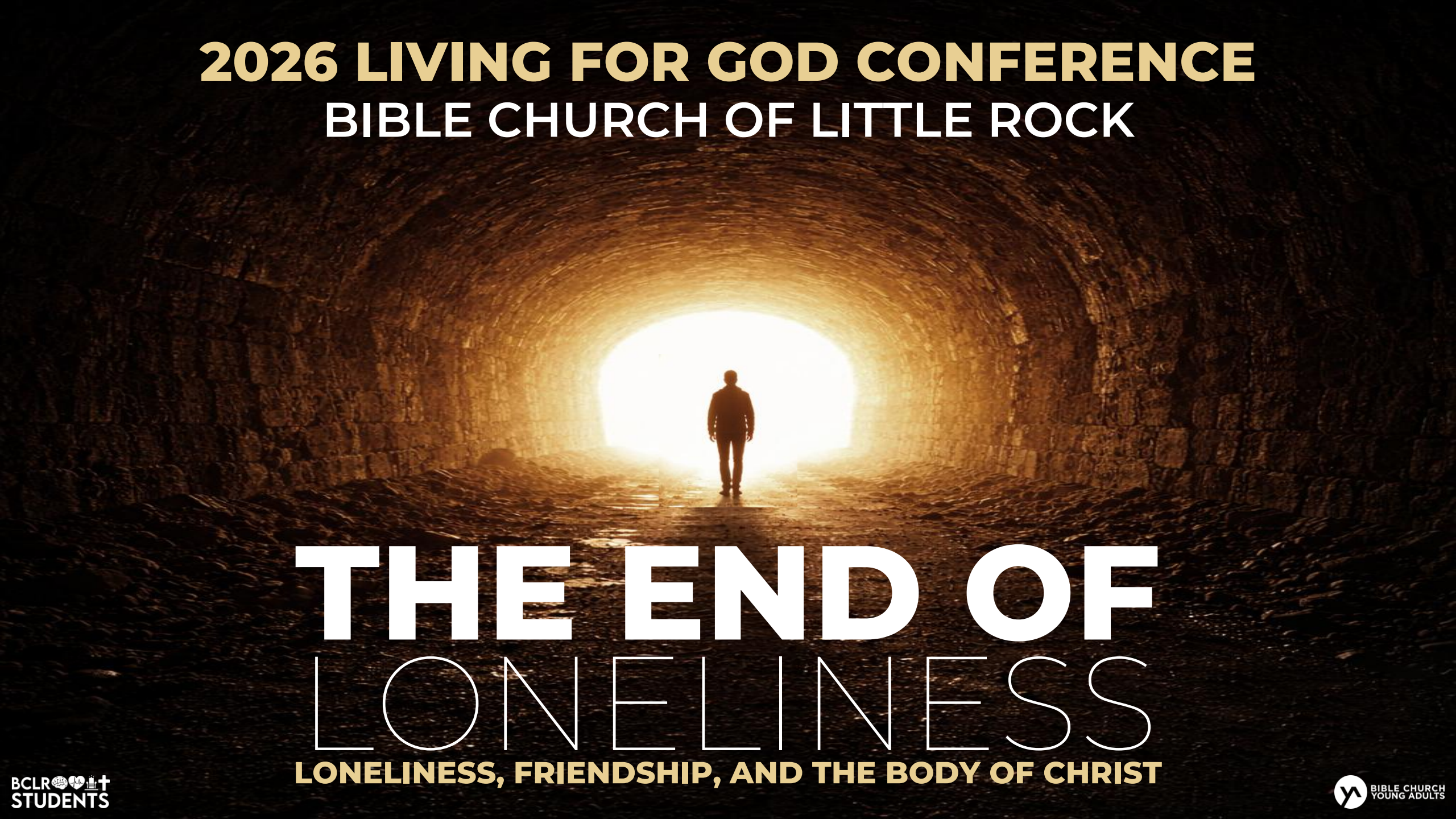
Biblical Hope for Lonely People

Lawson Hembree

Biblical Hope for Lonely People

- Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25
- Big Idea: True hope for lonely people is found in Jesus' redemptive work, which restores our relationships with God, with truth, and with one another.
- The Foundation of our Hope (v19-21)
- Draw Near to God (v22)
- Hold Fast to Truth (v23)
- Stir Each Other Up (v24-25)



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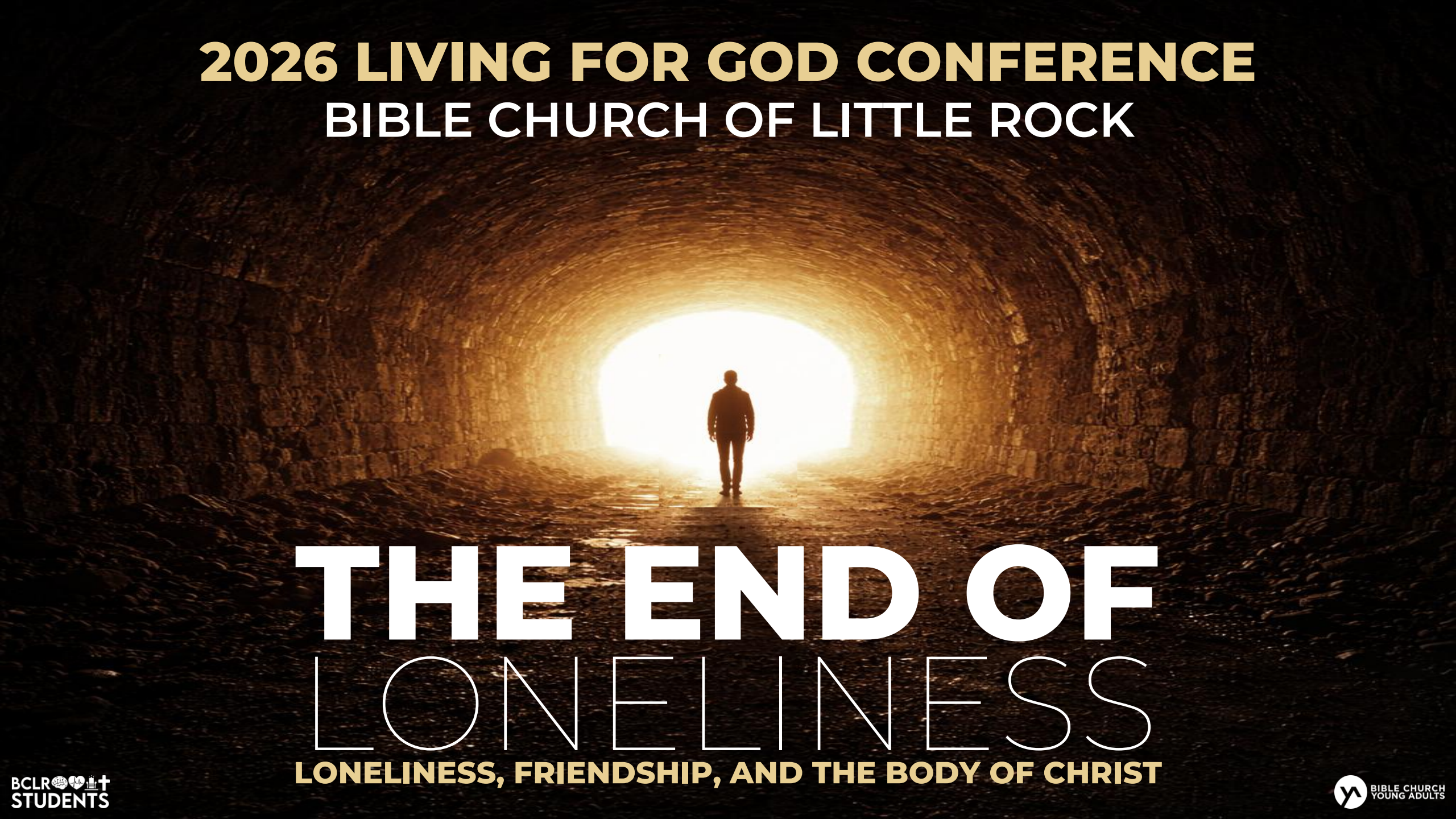
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PANEL 2

Text Questions: 501.658.5245

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