

Practice Series

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# Living Connection

Practices of Prayer



# Questions about prayer

- Does God act in response to prayer?
- What are we doing when we pray?
- Why don't we pray spontaneously in our gatherings?
- How can we develop a shared prayer life when we come from so many different traditions?
- [Your question here]



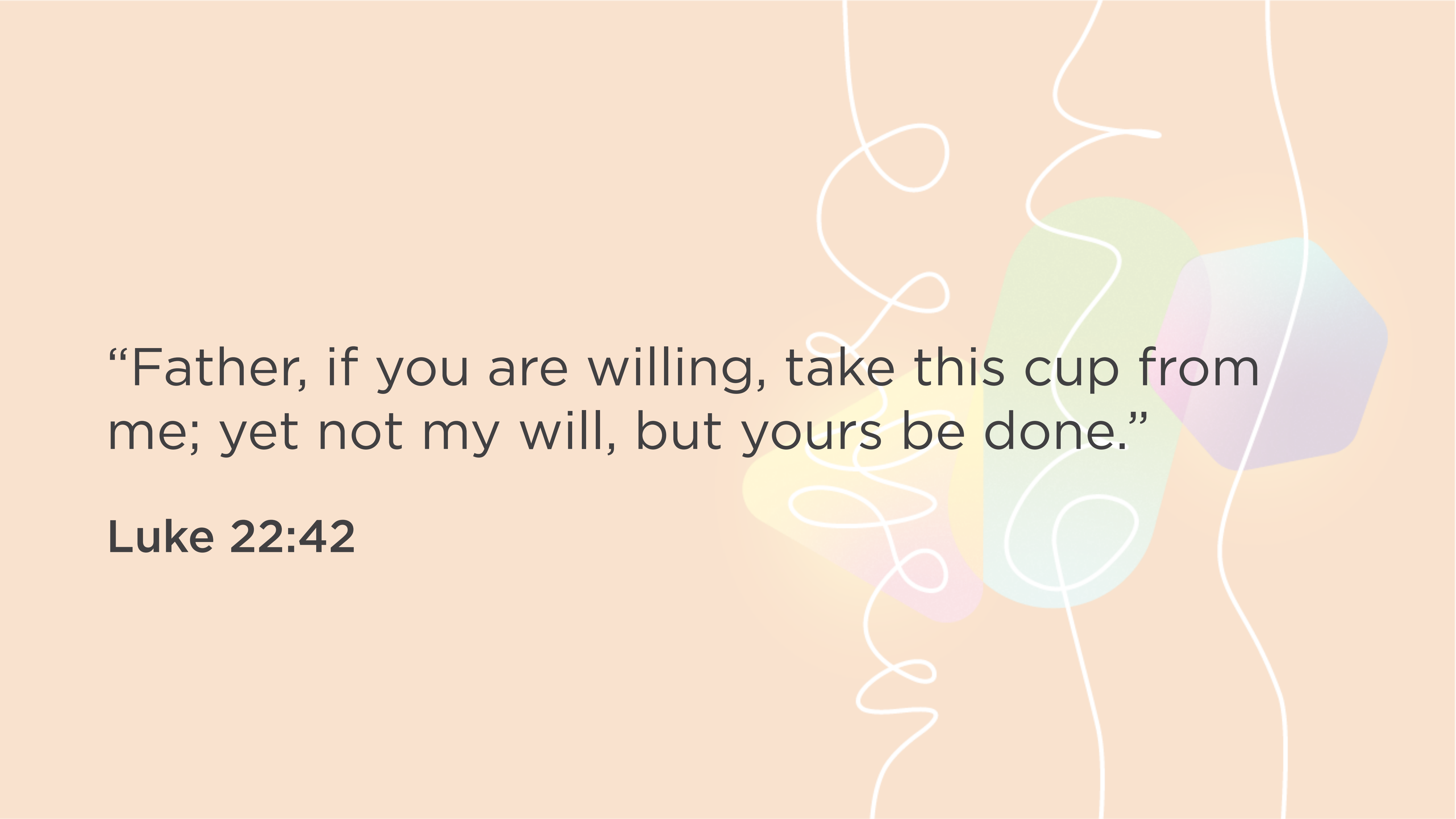
Practice Series



# Living Connection

Practices of Prayer



The background is a solid light orange color. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent pastel shapes: a yellow one at the bottom, a light green one in the middle, and a light purple one at the top. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the entire background, some forming loops and others being straight. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.

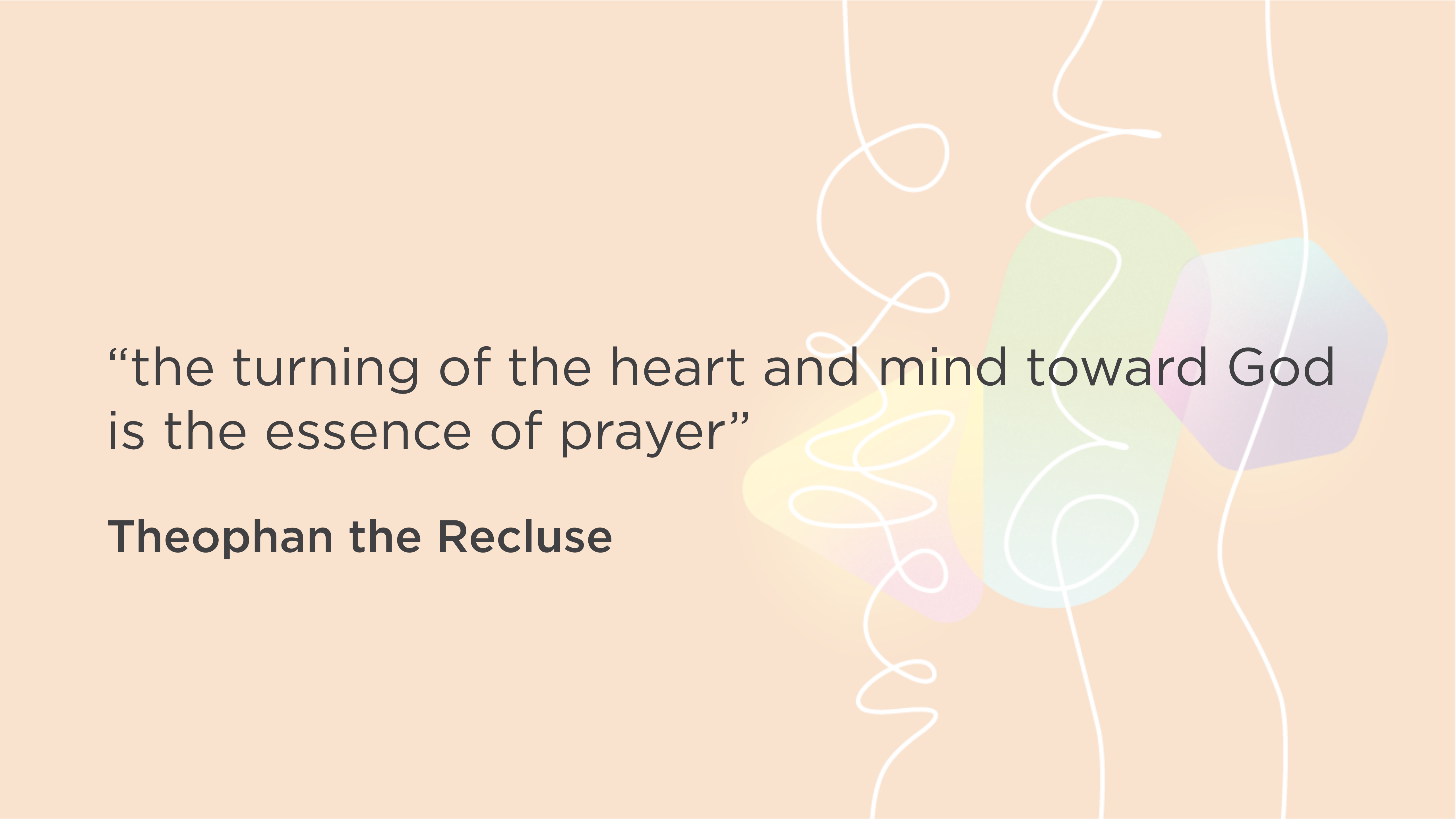
“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

**Luke 22:42**

“pray without ceasing”

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

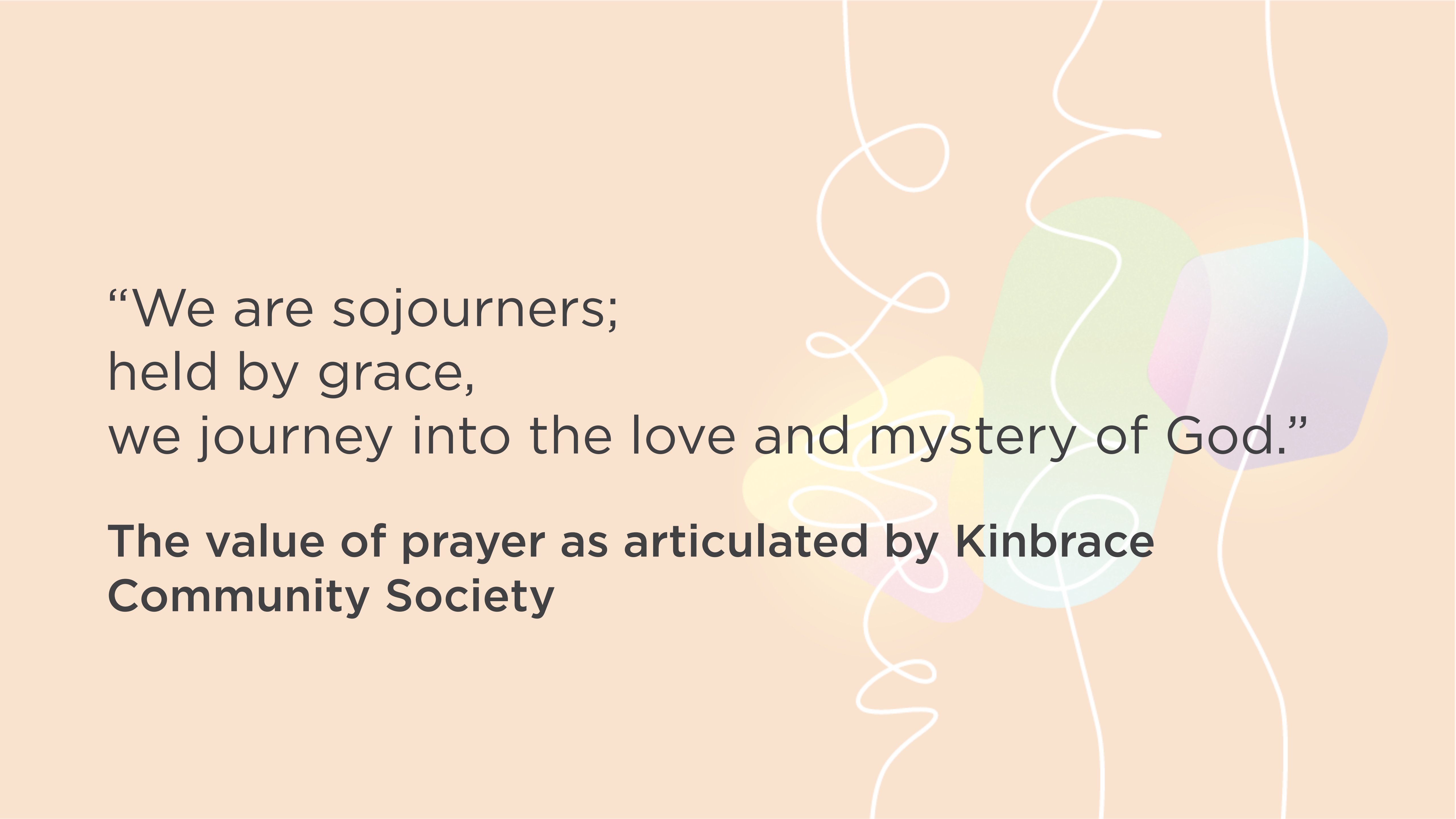


The background is a solid light orange color. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent pastel shapes: a yellow one at the bottom left, a light green one in the center, a light blue one to the right, and a light purple one at the top right. Overlaid on these shapes and the background are several thin, white, hand-drawn style lines that swirl and loop around the central area.

“the turning of the heart and mind toward God  
is the essence of prayer”

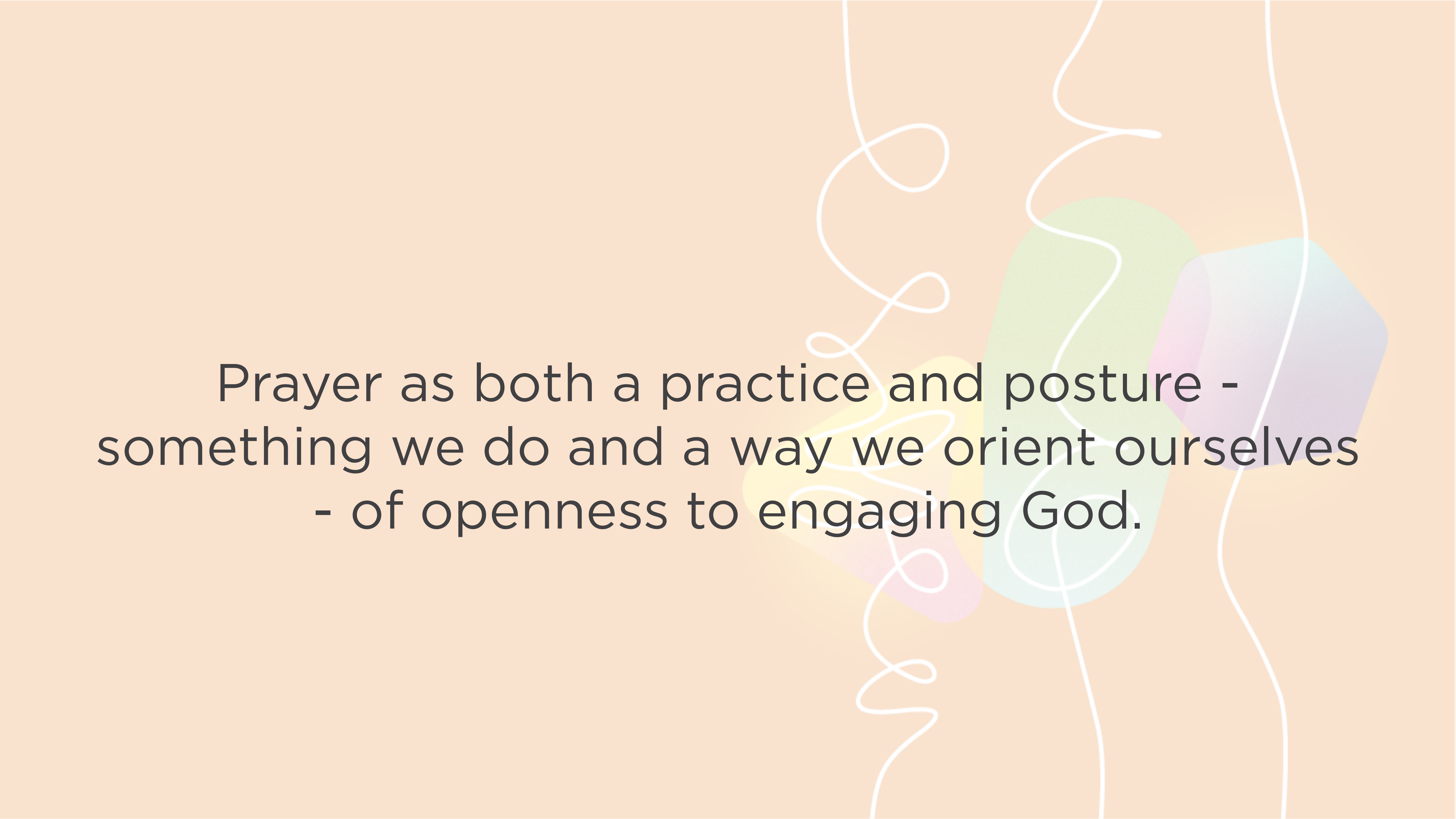
**Theophan the Recluse**



The background is a solid light orange color. Overlaid on this are several abstract elements: a large, irregular green shape in the center-right; a smaller yellow shape to its left; a light blue shape overlapping the green one on the right; and a small pink shape overlapping the yellow one. Several thin, white, wavy lines are scattered across the background, some forming loops and others being straight, creating a sense of movement and depth.

“We are sojourners;  
held by grace,  
we journey into the love and mystery of God.”

**The value of prayer as articulated by Kinbrace  
Community Society**

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Prayer as both a practice and posture -  
something we do and a way we orient ourselves  
- of openness to engaging God.

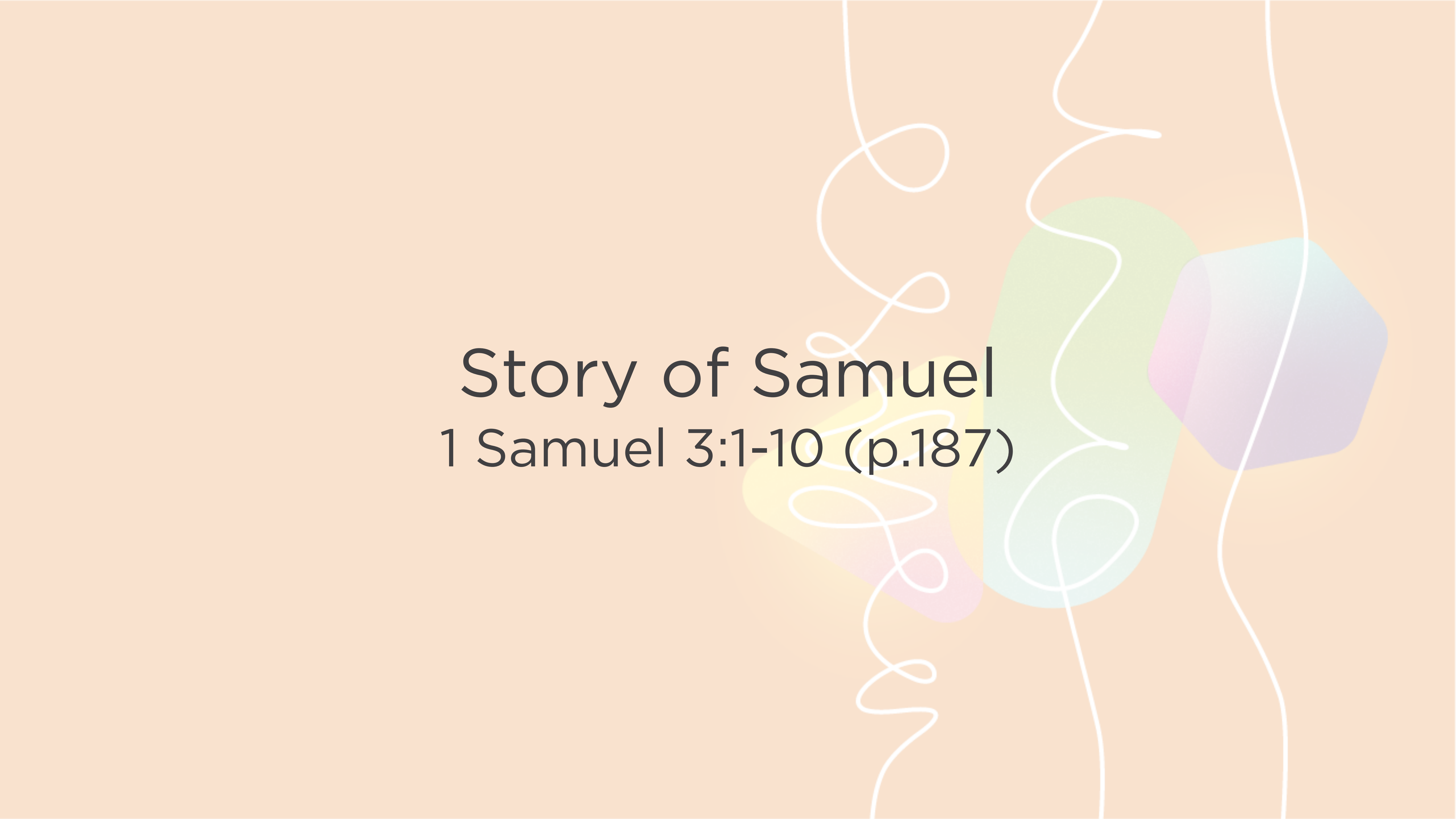


The background is a solid light orange color. It features several overlapping, semi-transparent pastel shapes: a yellow one on the left, a light green one in the center, a light blue one on the right, and a light pink one at the bottom left. Thin, white, wavy lines are scattered across the background, some forming loops and others as simple curves.

What are the barriers to prayer?  
or, What blocks me from praying?

Why pray?

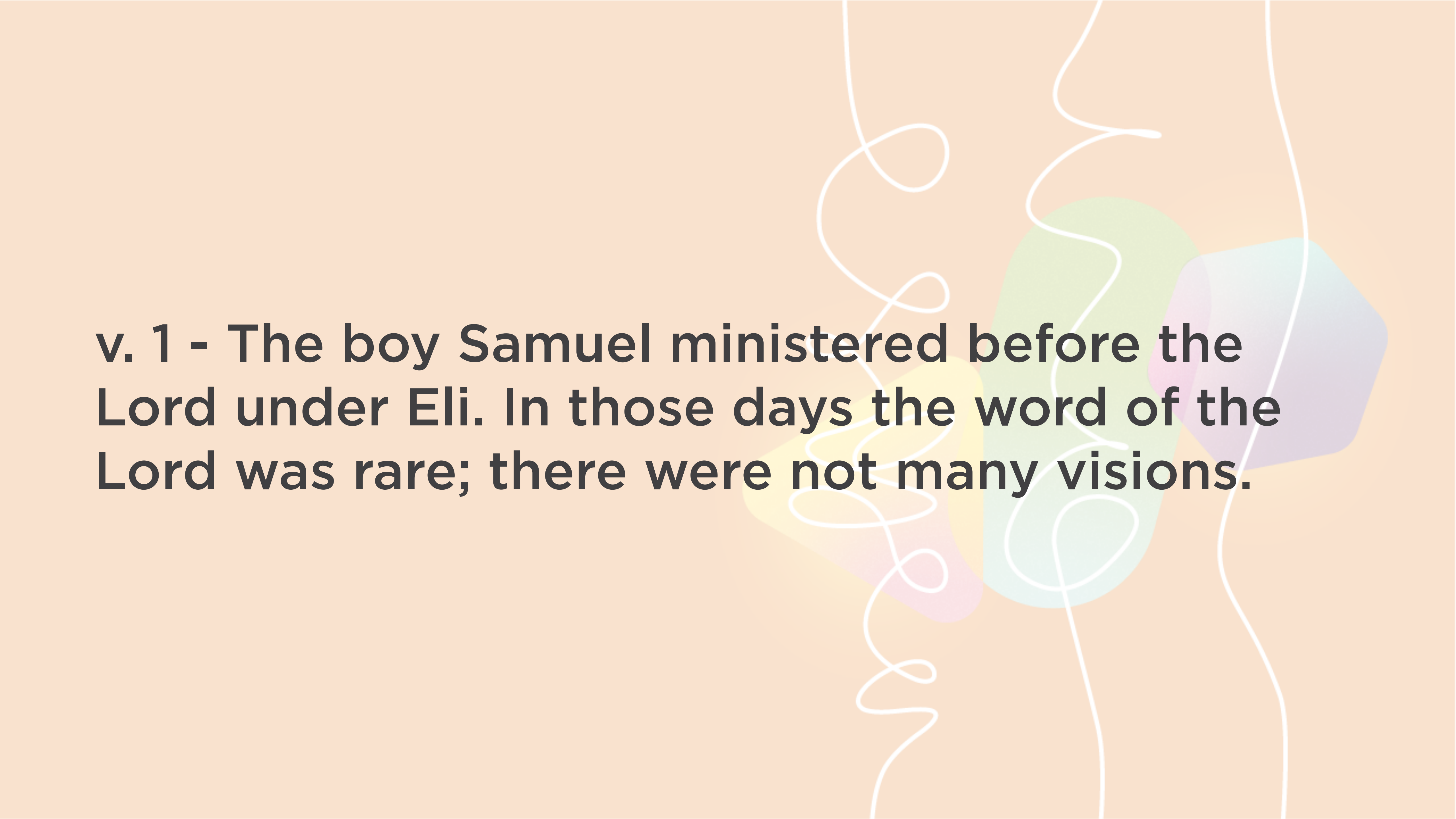


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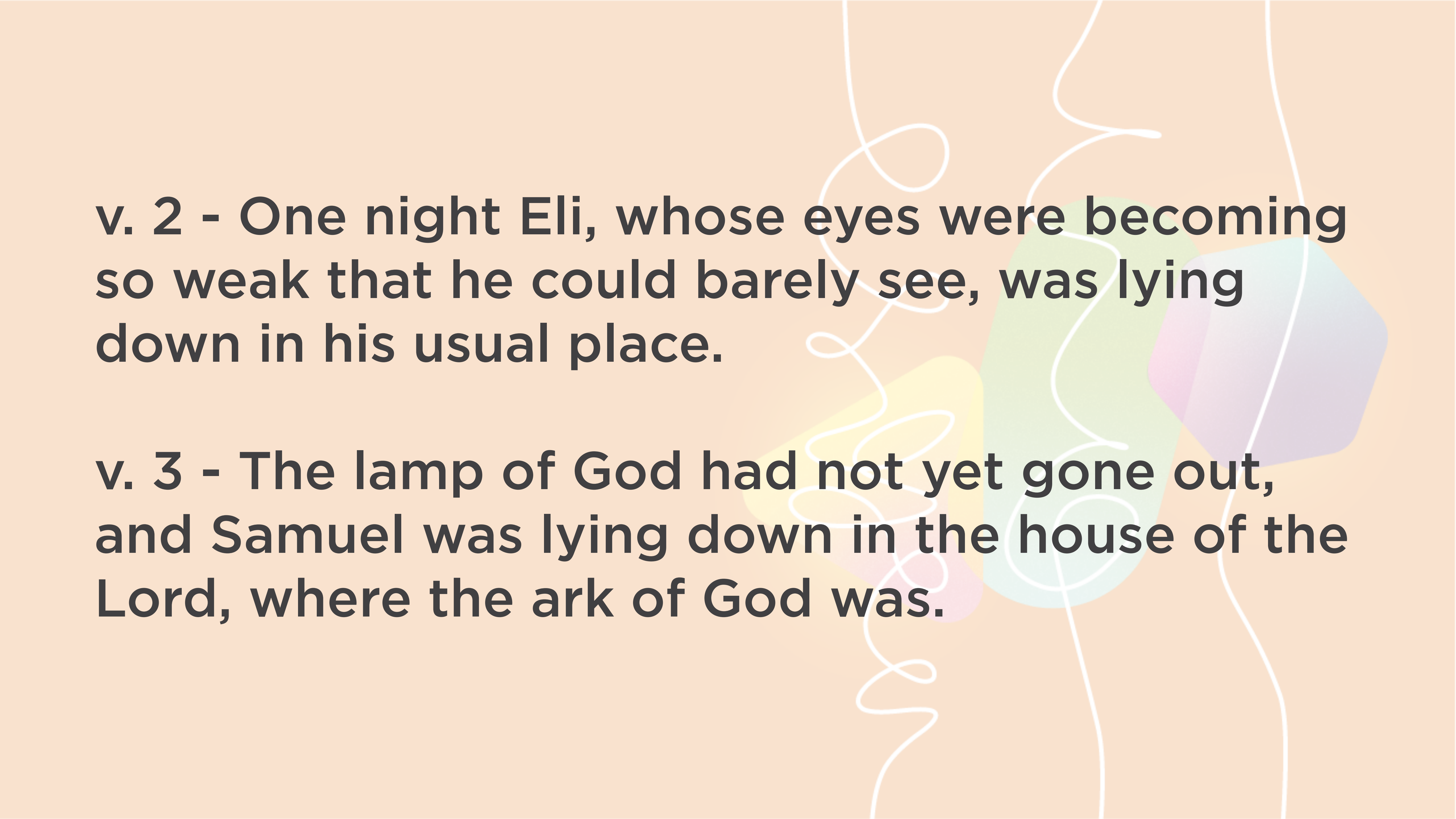
# Story of Samuel

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (p.187)



The background is a solid light orange color. It features several overlapping, semi-transparent pastel shapes: a large light green circle, a light blue circle, a light purple circle, a light yellow circle, and a light pink circle. These shapes are arranged in a cluster on the right side of the image. Overlaid on these shapes and the background are several thin, white, wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth.

**v. 1 - The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.**

The background features a solid light orange color. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent pastel shapes in shades of yellow, light green, and light purple. Thin, white, hand-drawn style lines swirl and loop across the entire background, creating a decorative, ethereal feel.

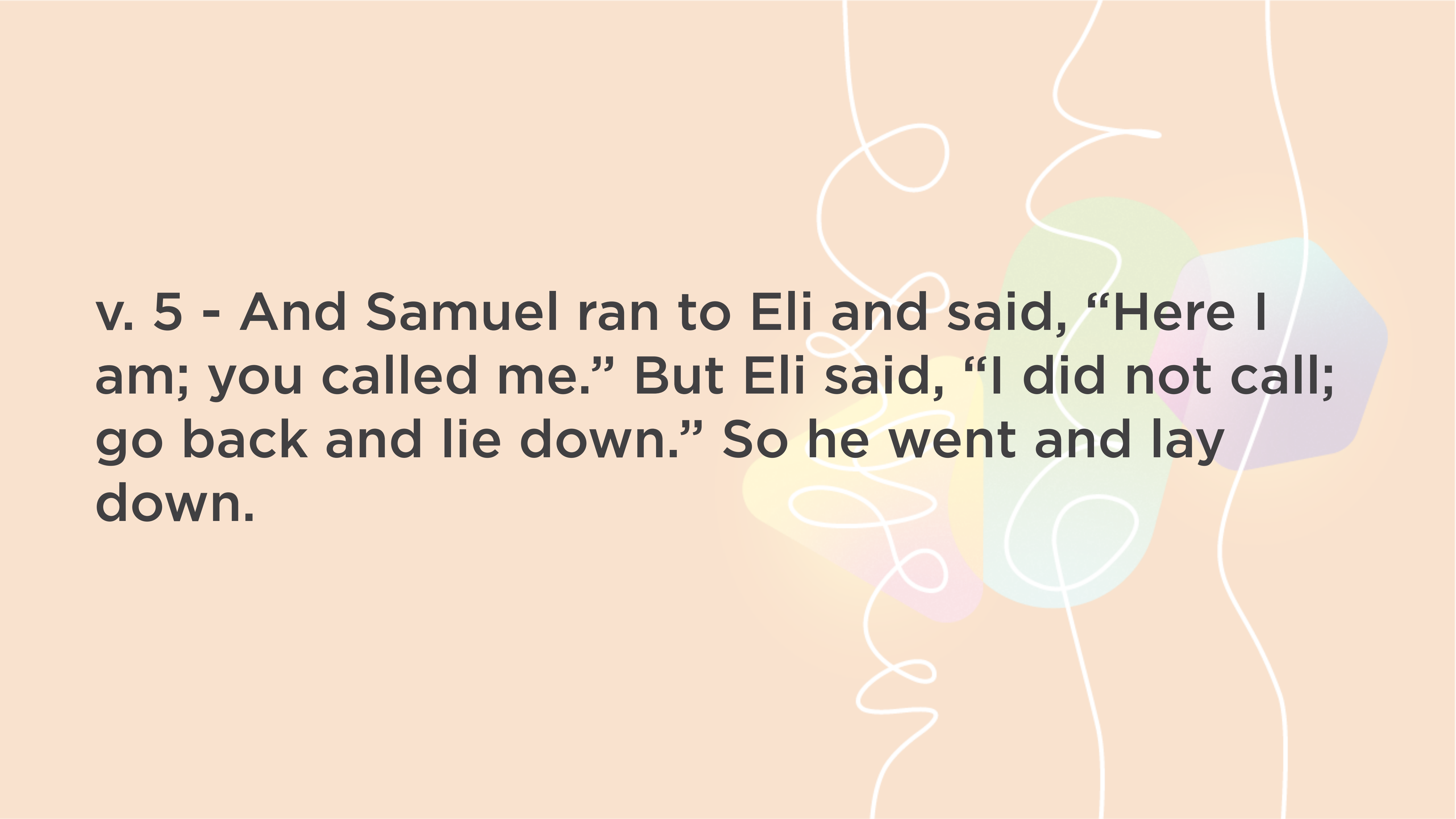
**v. 2 - One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.**

**v. 3 - The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.**

**v. 4 - Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am”**





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**v. 5 - And Samuel ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.**

The background is a solid light orange color. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent pastel shapes in shades of yellow, green, blue, and purple. White, thin, wavy lines are scattered across the background, some looping around the pastel shapes.

**v. 6 - Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”**

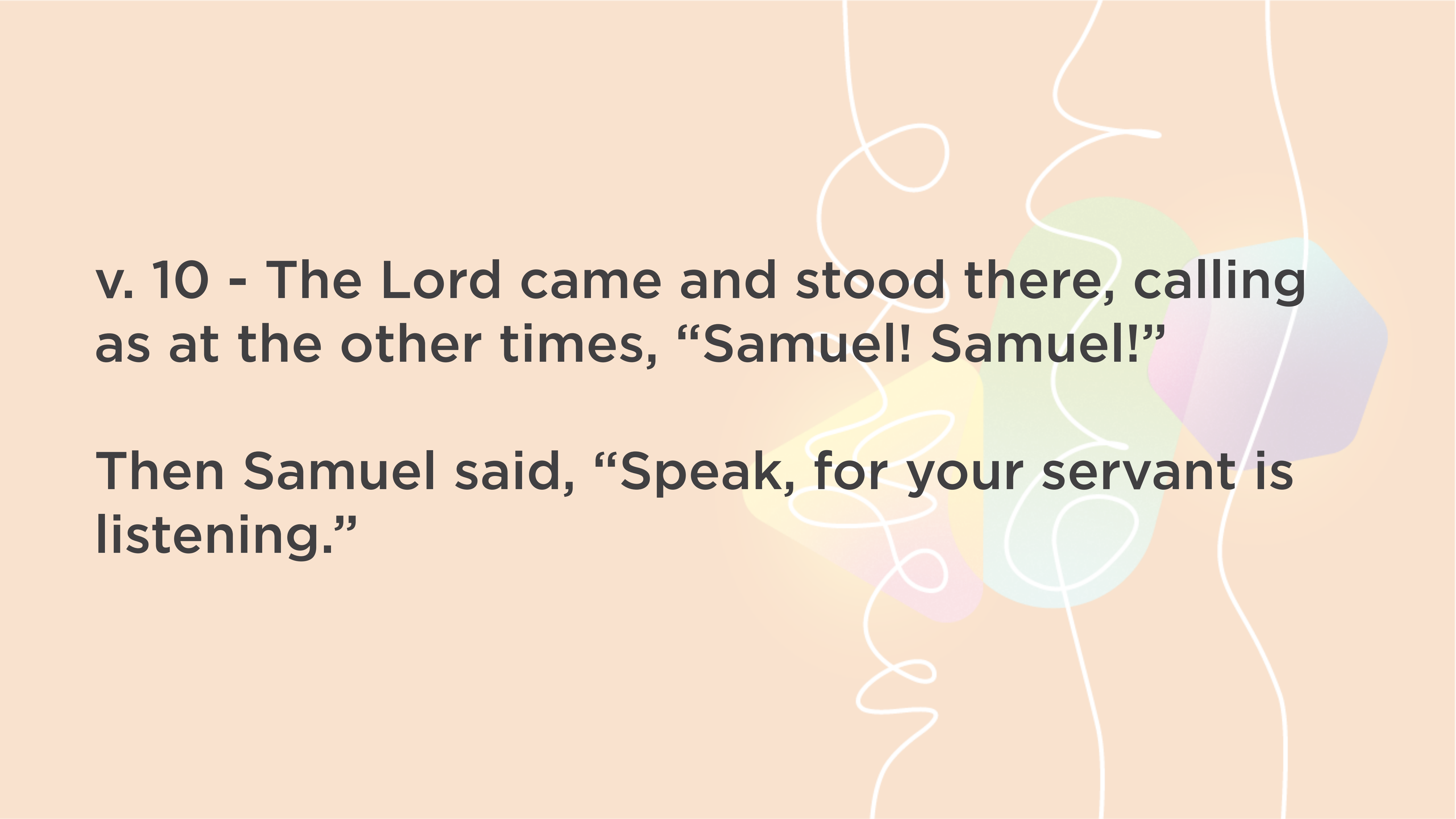
**“My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”**

**v. 7 - Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord:  
The word of the Lord had not yet been  
revealed to him.**

**v. 8 - A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!”  
And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said,  
“Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized  
that the Lord was calling the boy.**

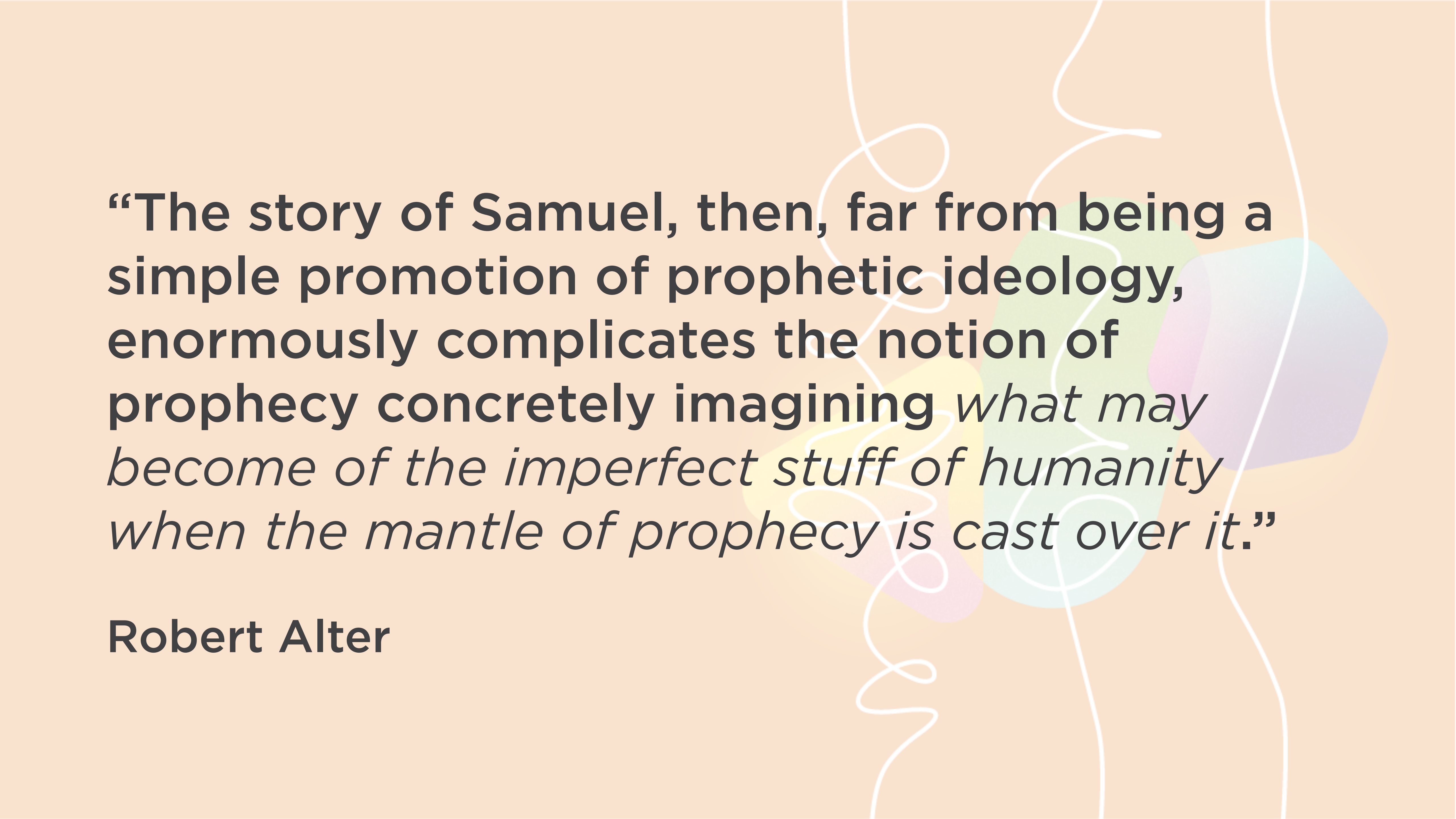
**v. 9 - So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and  
if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your  
servant is listening,’” So Samuel went and lay  
down in his place.**



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**v. 10 - The Lord came and stood there, calling  
as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”**

**Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is  
listening.”**

The background is a solid light orange color. Overlaid on this are several abstract elements: a large, irregular shape composed of overlapping pastel colors (light green, light blue, light pink, and light yellow) on the right side; and several thin, white, swirling lines that meander across the page, some forming loops and others being more linear.

**“The story of Samuel, then, far from being a simple promotion of prophetic ideology, enormously complicates the notion of prophecy concretely imagining *what may become of the imperfect stuff of humanity when the mantle of prophecy is cast over it.*”**

**Robert Alter**

# Trauma-informed prayer ministry

- Prayer as connection
- Trauma as disconnection
- Praying together as potential reconnection

How do we create spaces that are “safe enough” for people to engage in healing their relationship with prayer?



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# Invitation...

...try a new prayer practice this month

- Opportunities to pray together in weekly email
- Resources to explore in weekly email
- Prayer books to look through
- Speak with Neighbourhood Group or pastors

# Praying

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.

- Mary Oliver

