

JOURNEY

— CHURCH TAMPA —

D O W N T O W N

To those who gave birth this year to their first child,
We celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child through miscarriage,
We mourn with you.

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To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains,

We appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through failed adoptions or any circumstance,

We mourn with you.

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To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with appointments, medications, tears and disappointment,
We walk with you.

To those who have lost their mothers,
We grieve with you.

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To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children,

We stand with you in the waiting.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, whether expected or surprising,

We anticipate and celebrate with you.

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THIS IS



US.

CHURCH

AS

FAMILY



The idea of salvation cannot be reduced to a personal relationship with Jesus. God's plan is much more encompassing. God intends for salvation to be a **community-creating event.**

—
Joseph H. Hellerman,
When the Church Was a Family



SERMON TEXT:
Matthew 12:46-50,
Romans 12:10-13

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While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." He replied to him, **"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"** Pointing to his disciples, he said, **"Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."**

Matthew 12:46-50 ESV

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Church as Family



Church as Family

Defined - In Focus - On Mission



Family Defined

- **Family of Origin** - the family dynamic someone was raised within



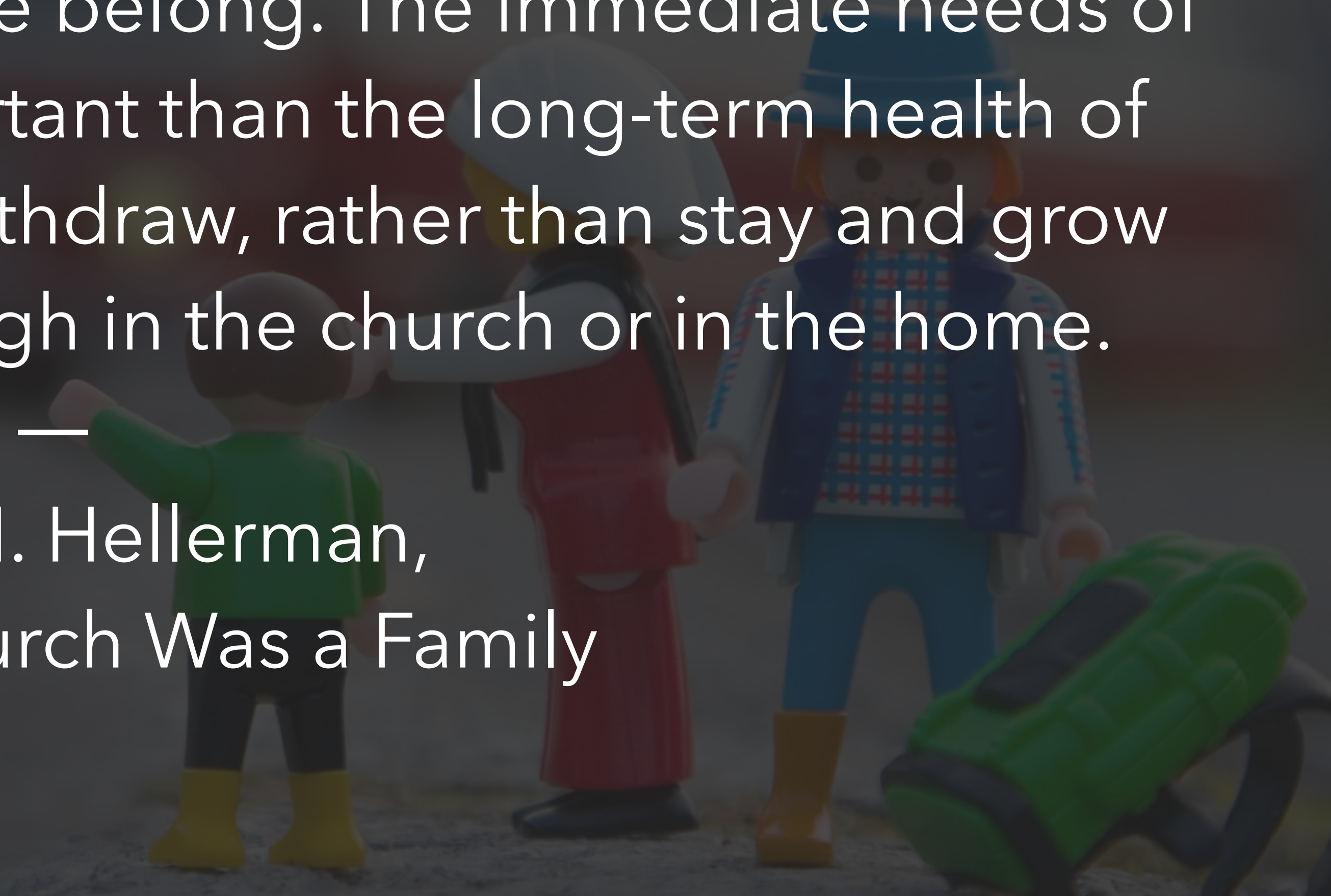
Family Defined

- **Family of Origin** - the family dynamic someone was raised within
- Families of Origin are wildly diverse and distinct



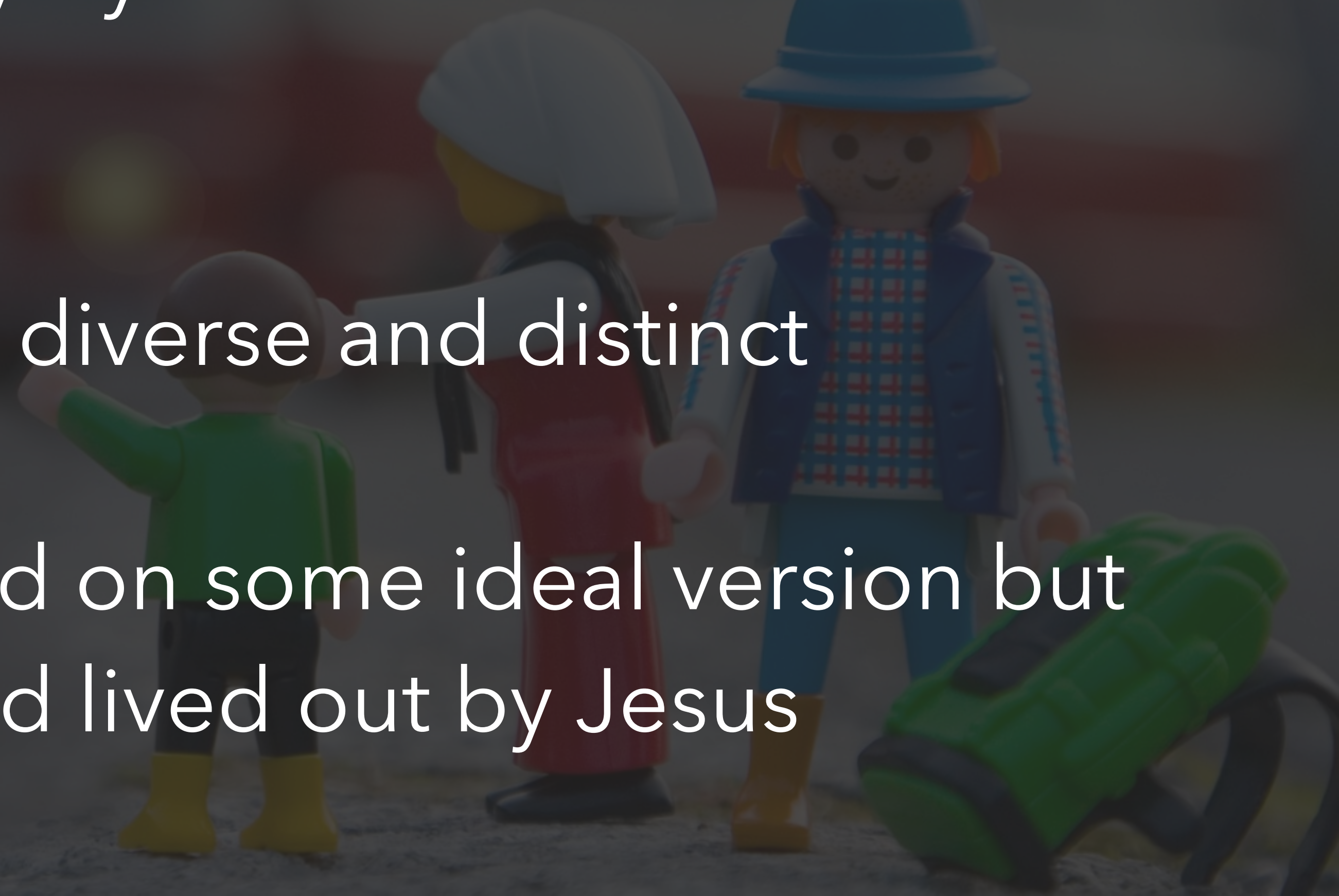
They call it radical individualism. What this amounts to is simple enough. We in America have been socialized to believe that our own dreams, goals, and personal fulfillment ought to take precedence over the well-being of any group—our church or our family, for example—to which we belong. The immediate needs of the individual are more important than the long-term health of the group. So we leave and withdraw, rather than stay and grow up, when the going gets rough in the church or in the home.

—
Joseph H. Hellerman,
When the Church Was a Family



Family Defined

- **Family of Origin** - the family dynamic someone was raised within
- Families of Origin are wildly diverse and distinct
- Church as family is not based on some ideal version but on a new dynamic set up and lived out by Jesus



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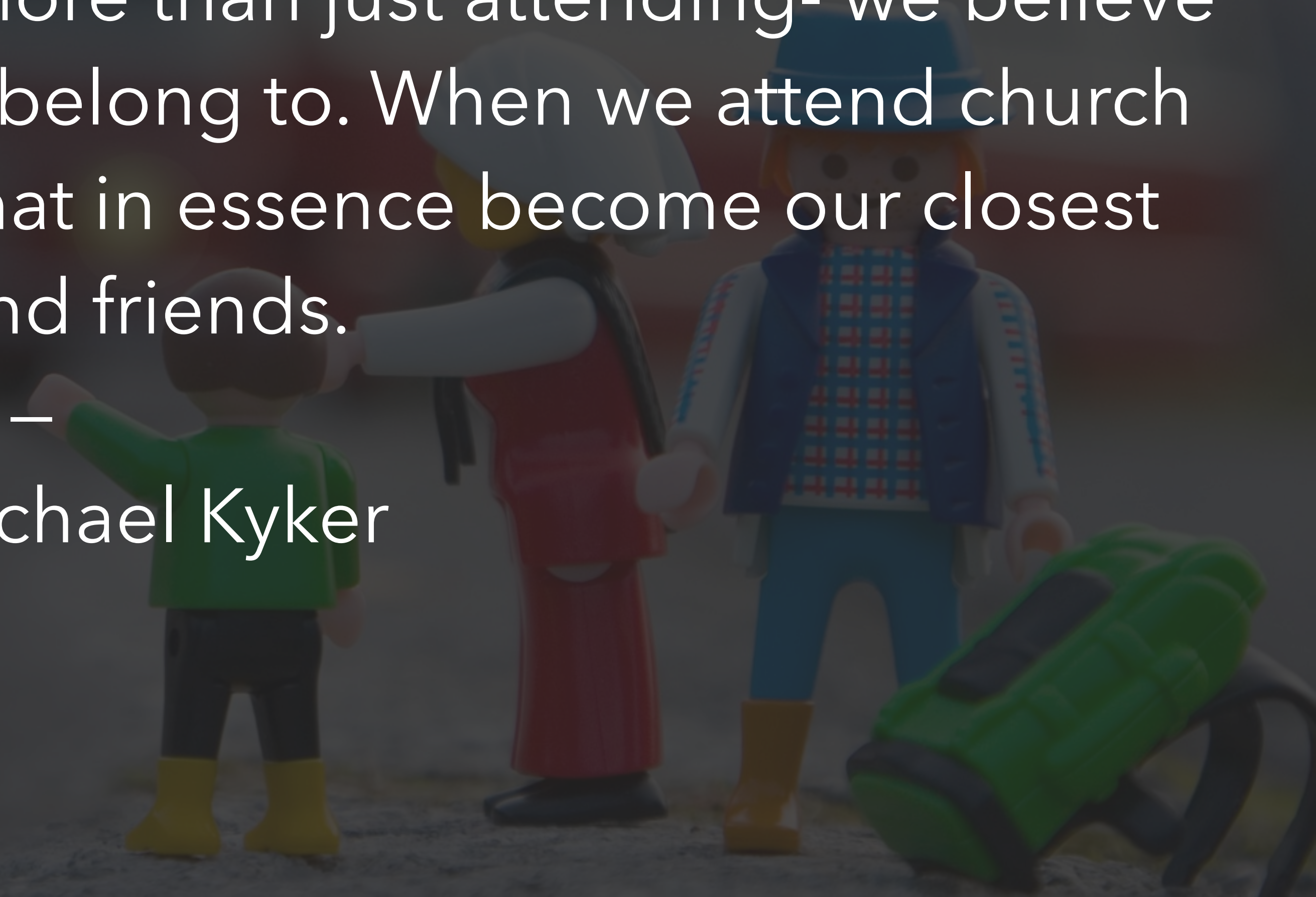
Family In Focus



Church as family is how we function in our mission as a church.
Everything we do is focused through that lens.

We believe that church is much more than just attending- we believe it is the family of God that we all belong to. When we attend church we are "joining a community" that in essence become our closest family and friends.

—
Pastor Michael Kyker



Family In Focus

- When our primary identity comes from being in the family of God, our whole worldview changes



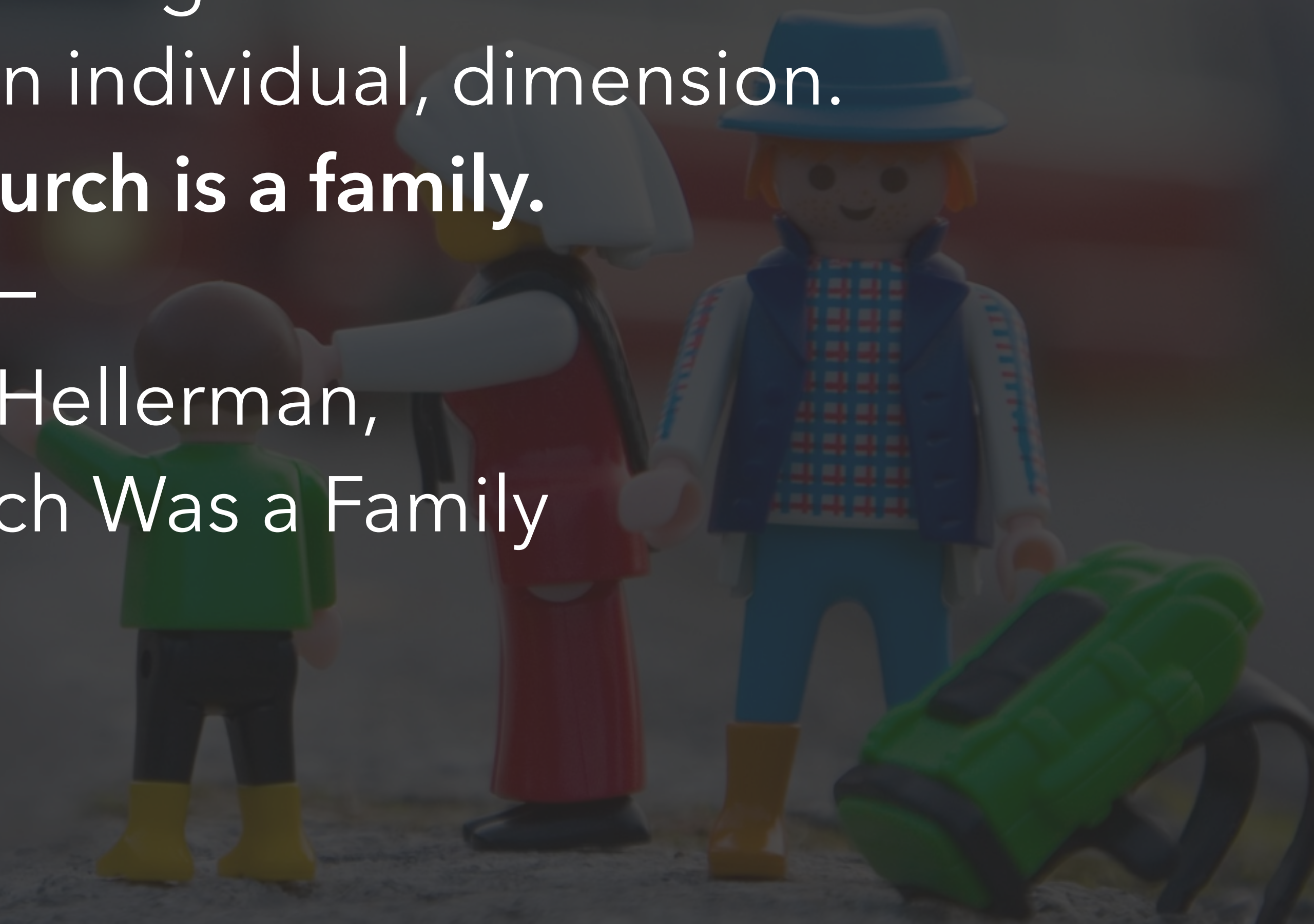
God, in Jesus' great work of redemption, was not establishing a series of isolated personal relationships with His individual followers.

He was creating a family of sons and daughters—siblings—who are now "all one in Christ Jesus". The saving work of Christ therefore has a corporate, as well as an individual, dimension.

For Paul, **the church is a family.**

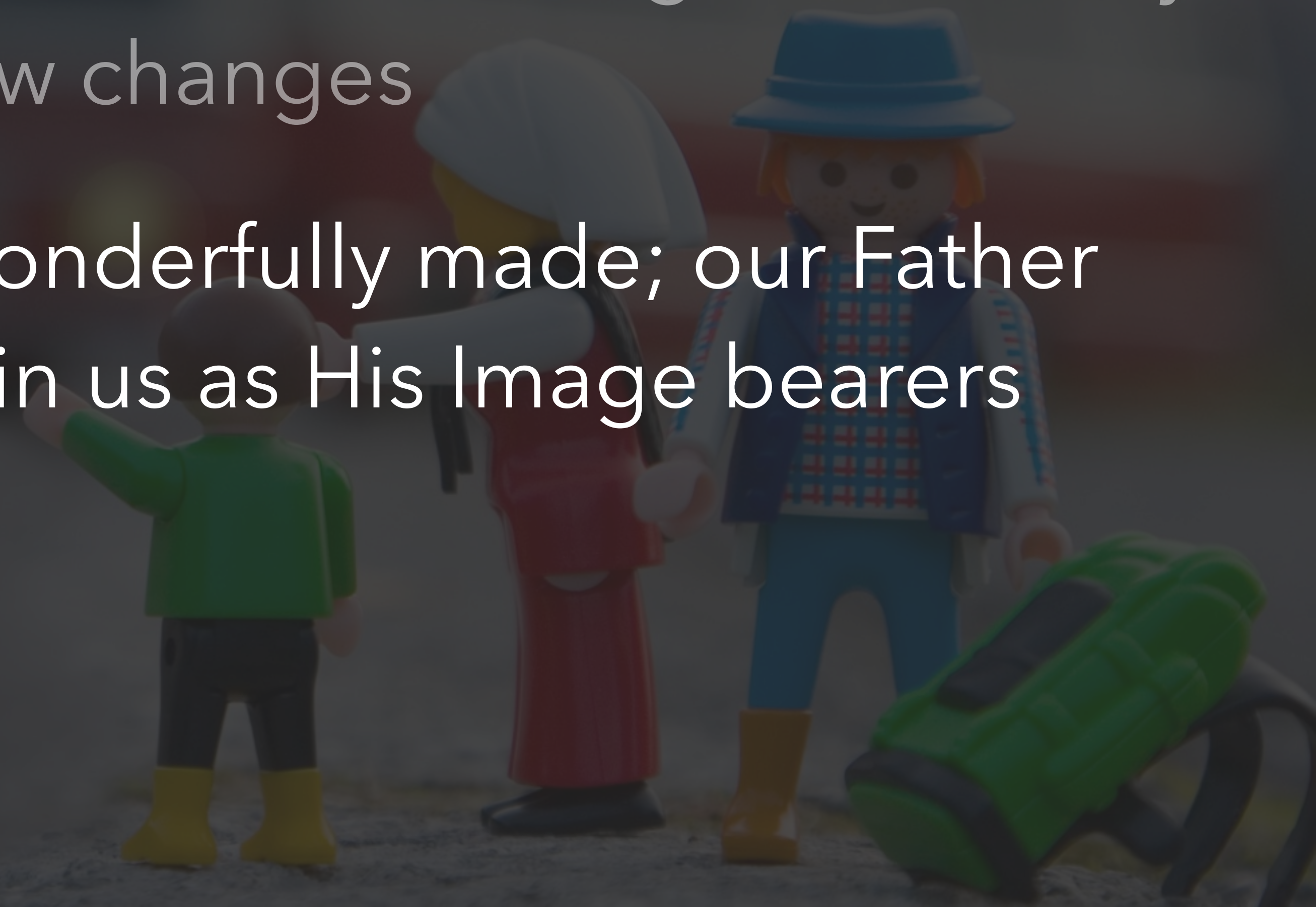
—

Joseph H. Hellerman,
When the Church Was a Family



Family In Focus

- When our primary identity comes from being in the family of God, our whole worldview changes
- We have been fearfully & wonderfully made; our Father has placed great value within us as His Image bearers



See **what great love** the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

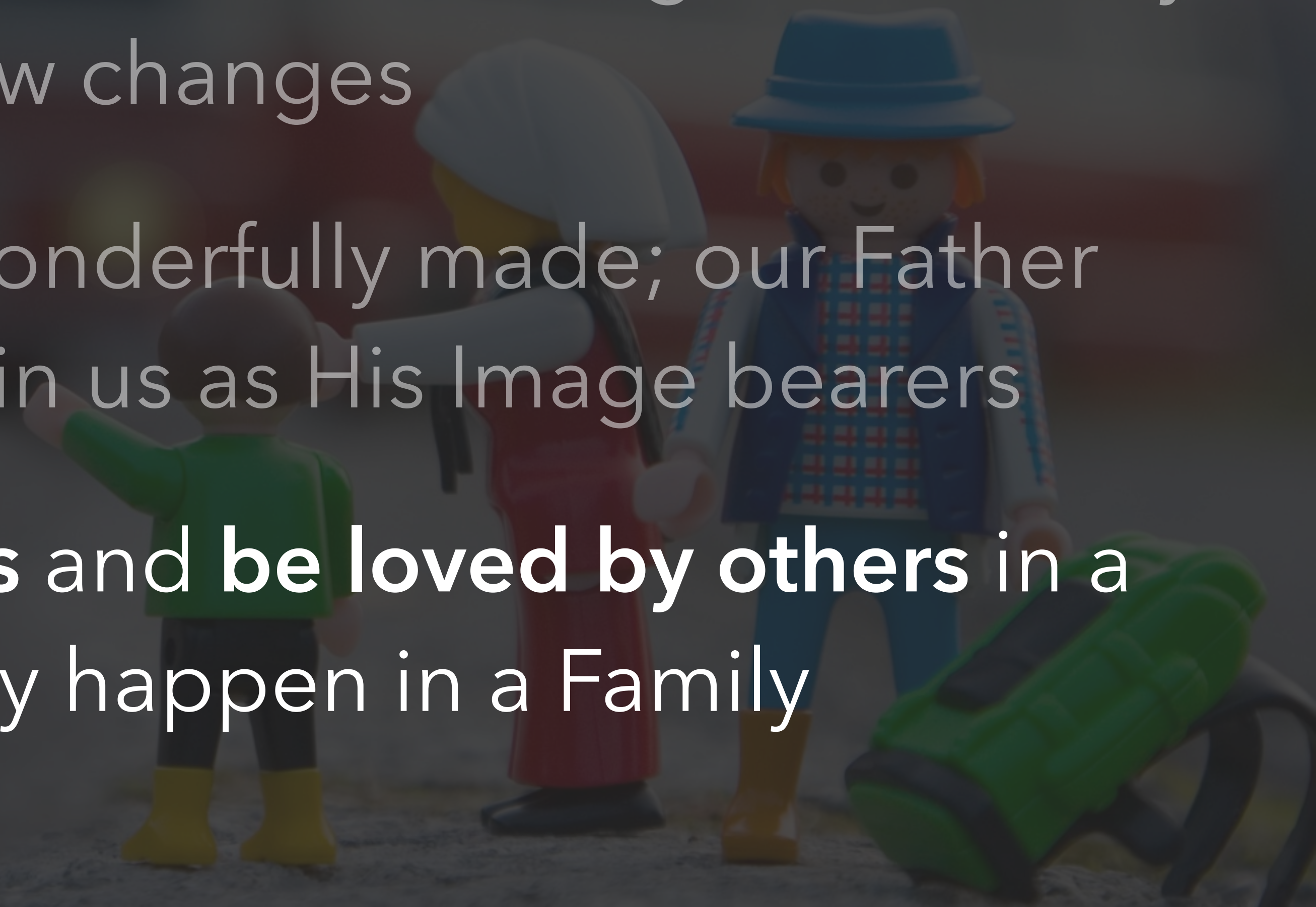
1John 3:1a

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Family In Focus

- When our primary identity comes from being in the family of God, our whole worldview changes
- We have been fearfully & wonderfully made; our Father has placed great value within us as His Image bearers
- This allows us to **love others** and **be loved by others** in a whole new way that can only happen in a Family



Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:10-13

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Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

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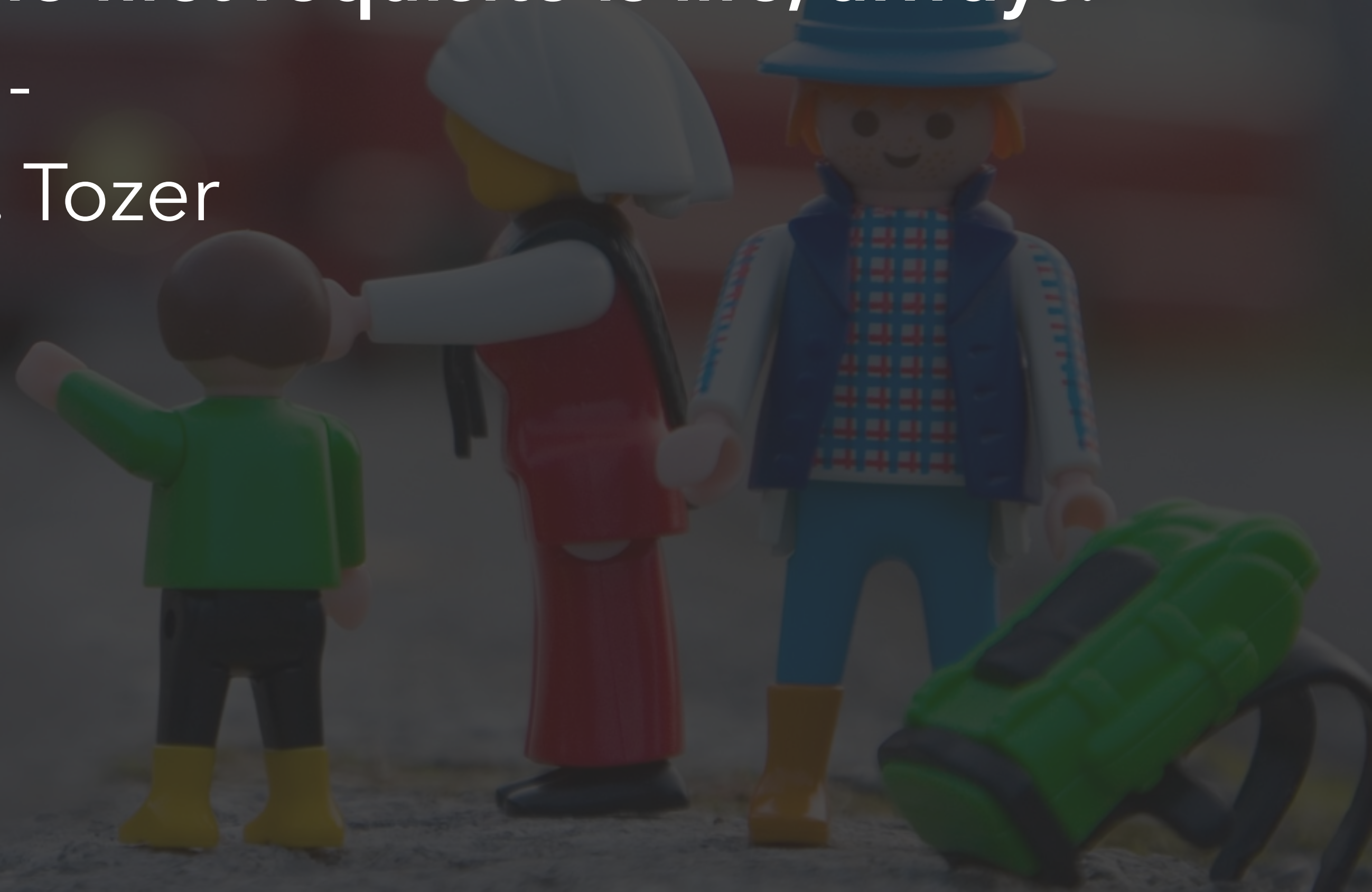
D O W N T O W N

Family On Mission



One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organization do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. **The first requisite is life, always.**

-
A. W. Tozer



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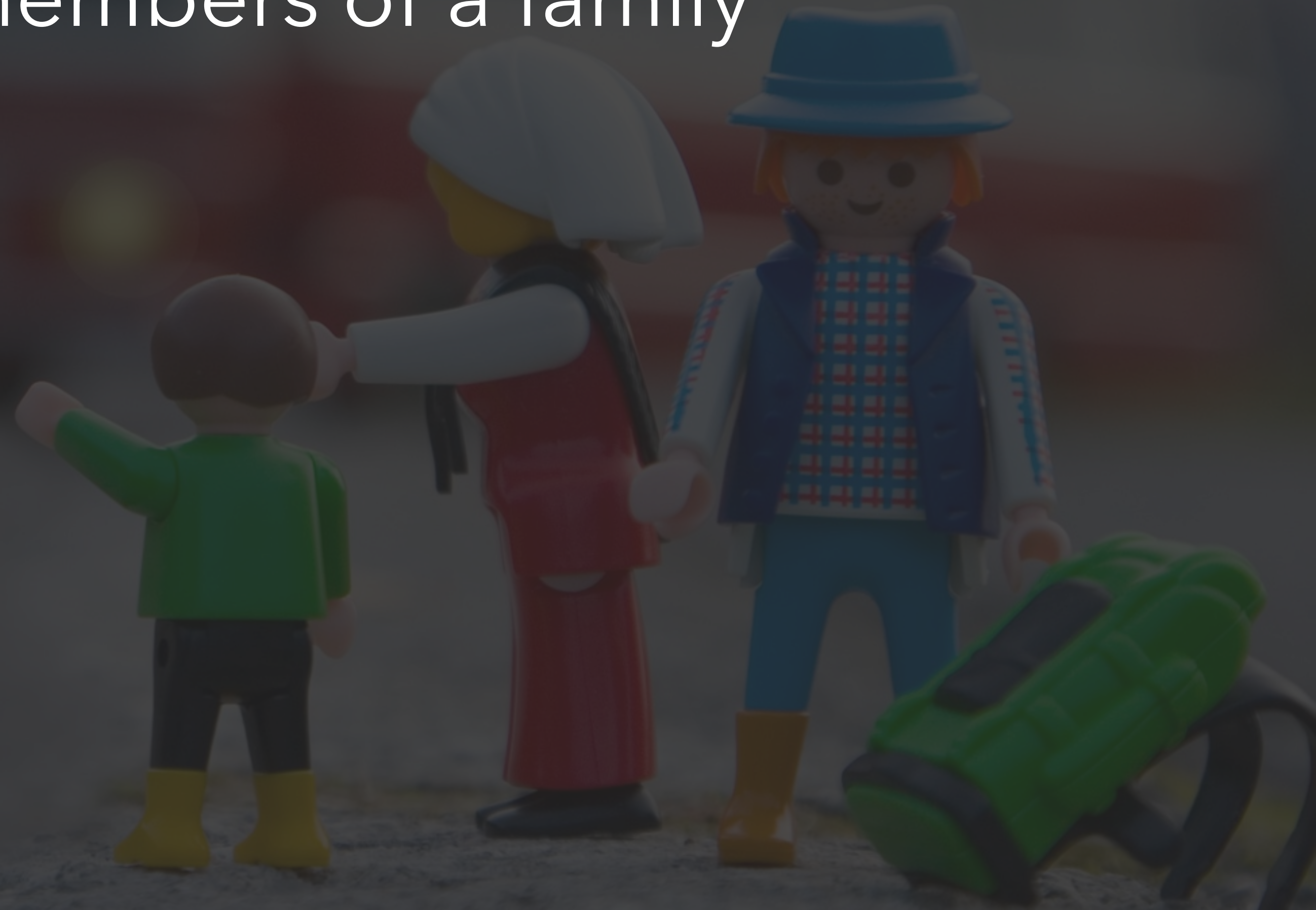
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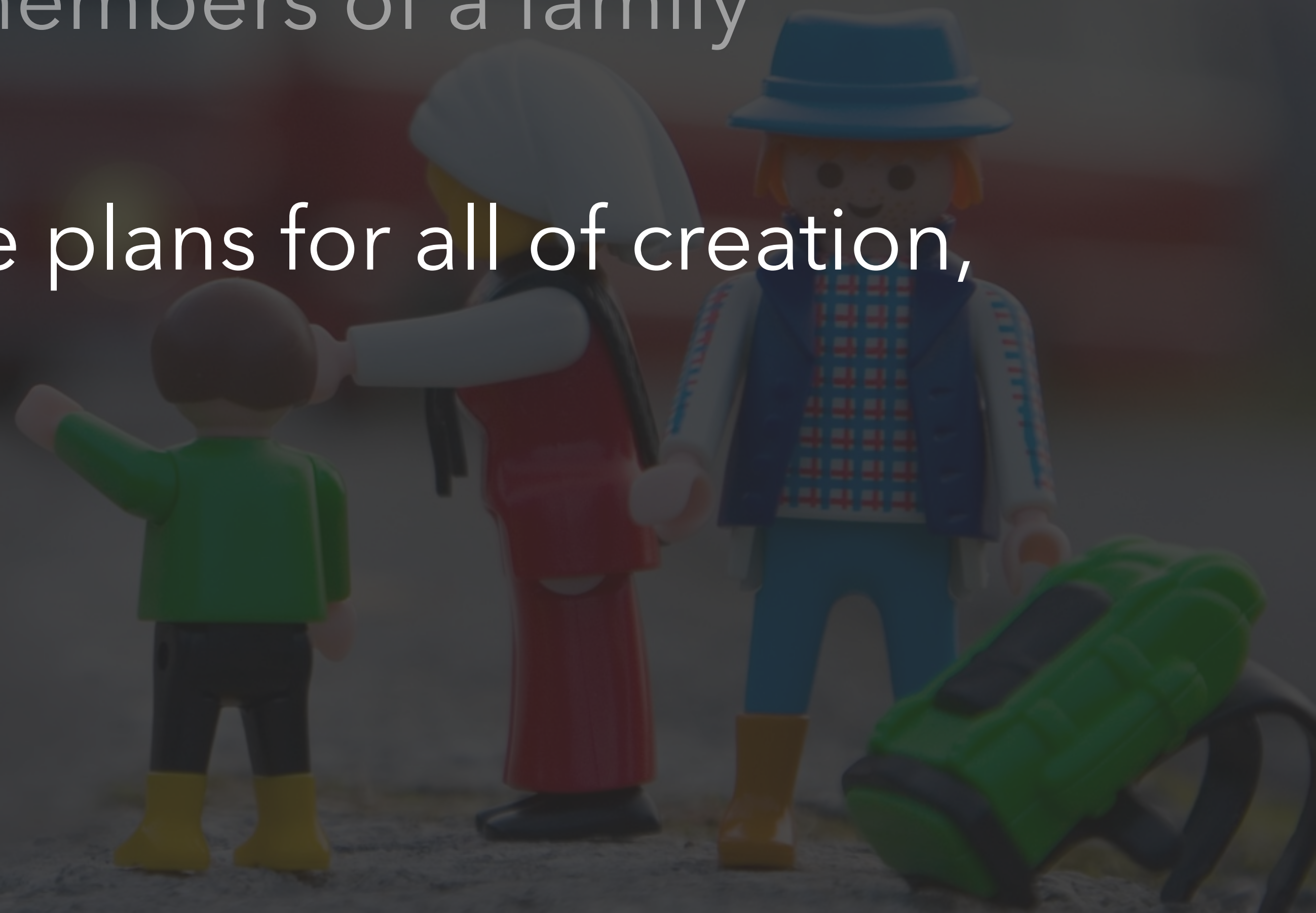
Family On Mission

- We are sent on mission as members of a family



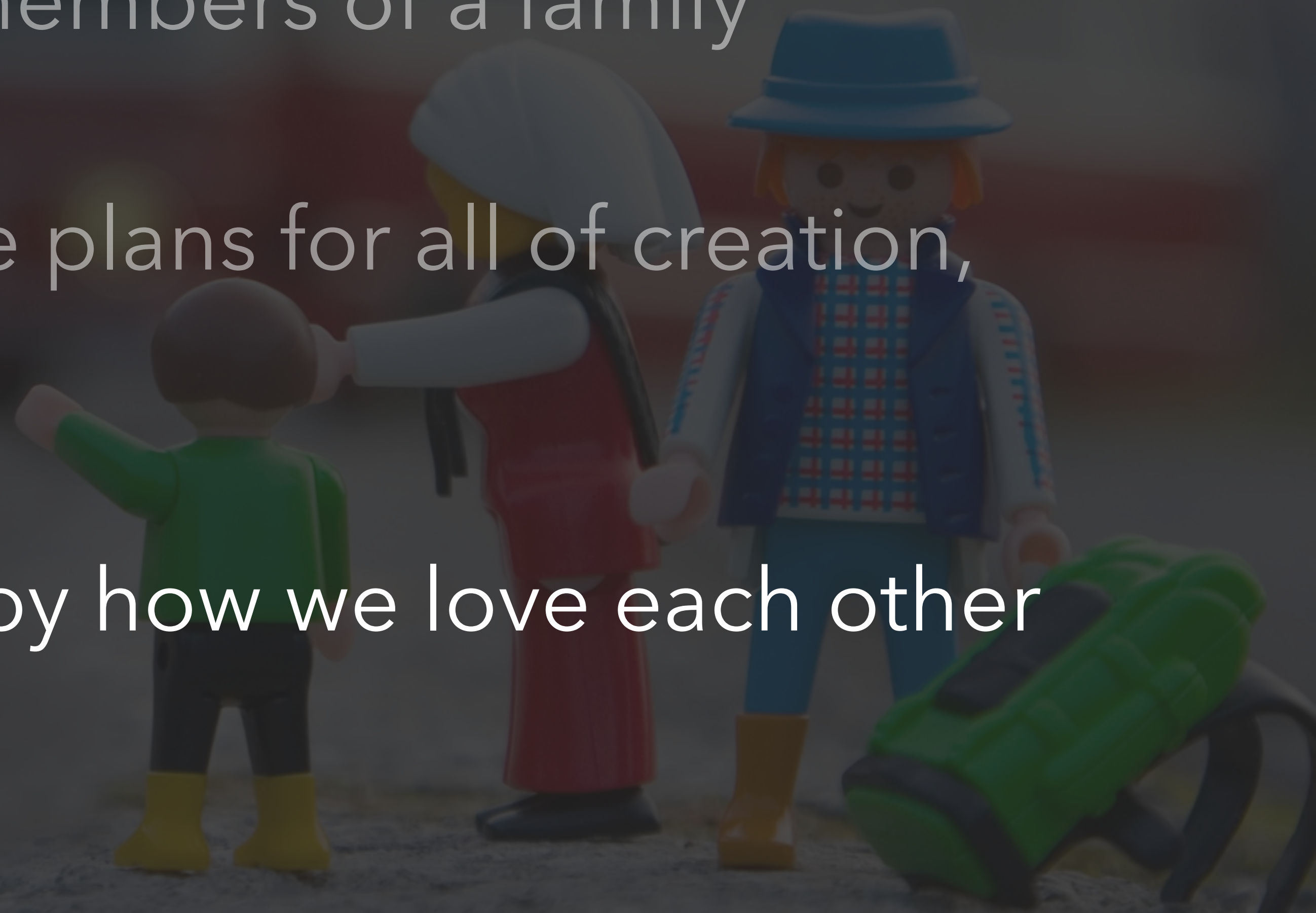
Family On Mission

- We are sent on mission as members of a family
- To join God in his restorative plans for all of creation, together



Family On Mission

- We are sent on mission as members of a family
- To join God in his restorative plans for all of creation, together
- To show the world His love by how we love each other



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

John 13:34-35

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There is nothing we have that we have not received; all we have and are belong to God bought with the blood of Jesus.

To spend everything on ourselves, and to give without sacrifice is the way of the world that the Father cannot abide.

But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord; who love him with free hearts, and serve him with renewed minds; who withstand the delusion of riches that chokes the word; whose hearts are in heaven, and not on earth.

We are determined to increase in generosity until it can be said that there is no needy person among us.

We are determined to be faithful stewards of such a little thing as money that Christ may trust us with true riches.

Above all things, we are determined to be generous because our Father is generous.

It is the delight of His daughters and sons to share their Father's traits, and to show what He is like to all the world.

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