

How do we live out our everyday faith?

# Outline of Exploring Theology Session 6

- Recap of Sessions 1-5

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- Summary & closing prayer

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  - Who are we?
  - Why's the Bible important?
  - Why's the church important?
- How do we worship and pray?

How do we live out our everyday faith?

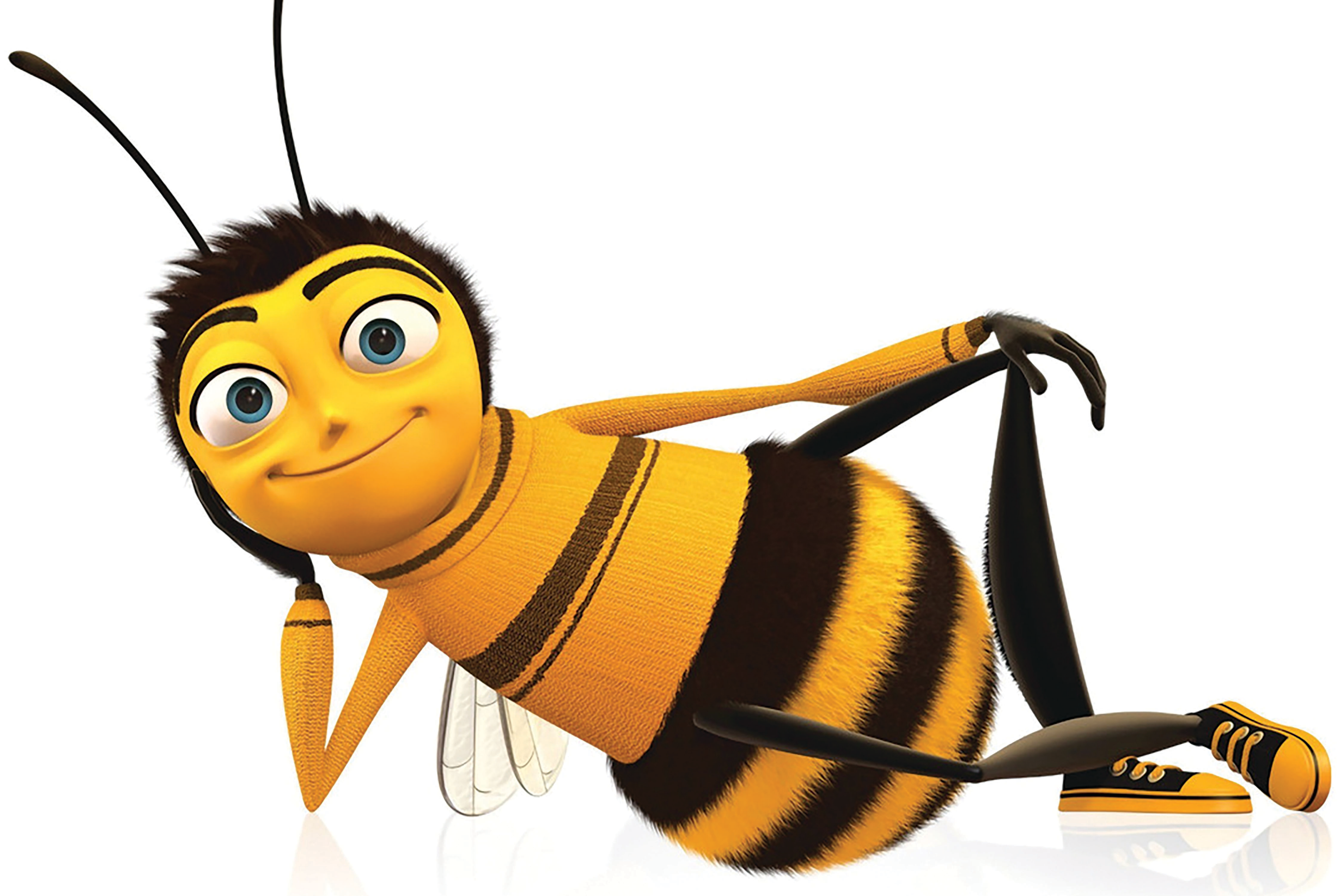
# Opening prayer

O Lord, from whom all good things come:  
grant to us your humble servants,  
that by your holy inspiration  
we may think those things that are good,  
and by your merciful guiding may perform the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever

Collect for the weekdays after Pentecost

# Praying like bees

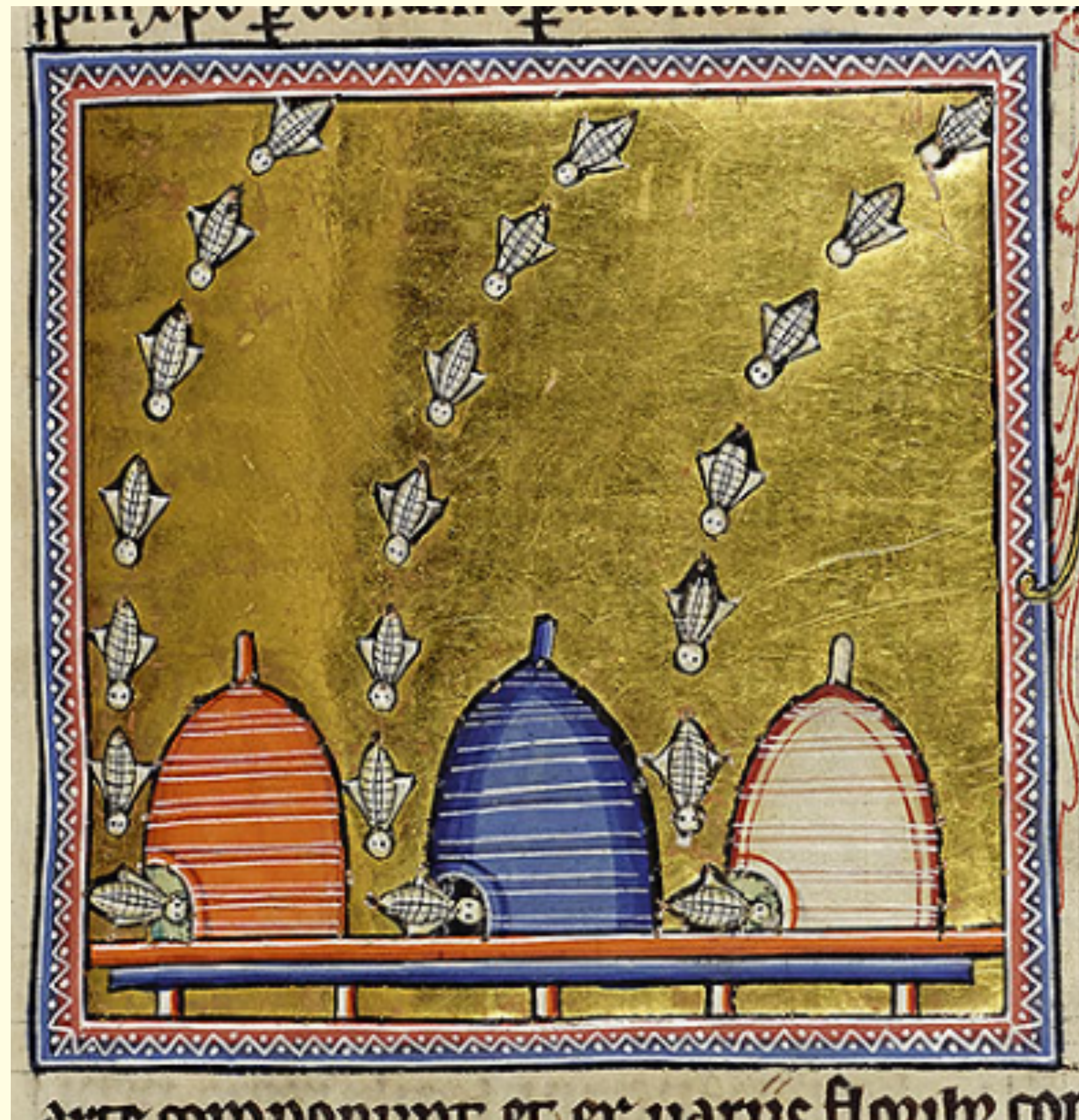






# The Aberdeen Bestiary

‘On bees’  
- Folio 63r





## Ezekiel 2:8 - 3:3

He said to me, O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.



## Revelation 10:8-10

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, ‘Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.’ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, ‘Take it, and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth.’

## Psalm 19:10

‘they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb’

## **Psalm 19:10**

‘they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb’

## **Psalm 119:103**

How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!





Cristina Marin, Unsplash



“The honeycomb is honey in the wax; honey in the wax is the spiritual understanding lying hidden in the letter [of Scripture], but the honeycomb is dripping, while sweet allegory is flowing from the letter.”

Honorius of Autun, 12th Century theologian













Bee Movie, Dreamworks







“Divine Scripture is a honeycomb filled  
with the honey of spiritual wisdom.”

Rabanus Maurus, 9th century Benedictine theologian

# Lectio Divina

- Read (Lectio)
- Meditate (Meditatio)
- Pray (Oratio)
- Contemplate (Contemplatio)

- Read (Lectio)
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- Pray (Oratio)
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- Read (Lectio)
- Meditate (Meditatio)
- **Pray (Oratio)**
- Contemplate (Contemplatio)

- Read (Lectio)
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## Exodus 3:1-6



## Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'

Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

What are our key sources  
for theological reflection?

- Scripture

- Scripture
- Tradition

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience
- Worship



How do we live out our everyday faith?

# Experience

What comes to mind  
when you think of experience?

What have been some of  
the key experiences  
of your life?

# Experience as encounter

# Sacred and secular

# Sacred



Sacred = holy

Holy = set apart

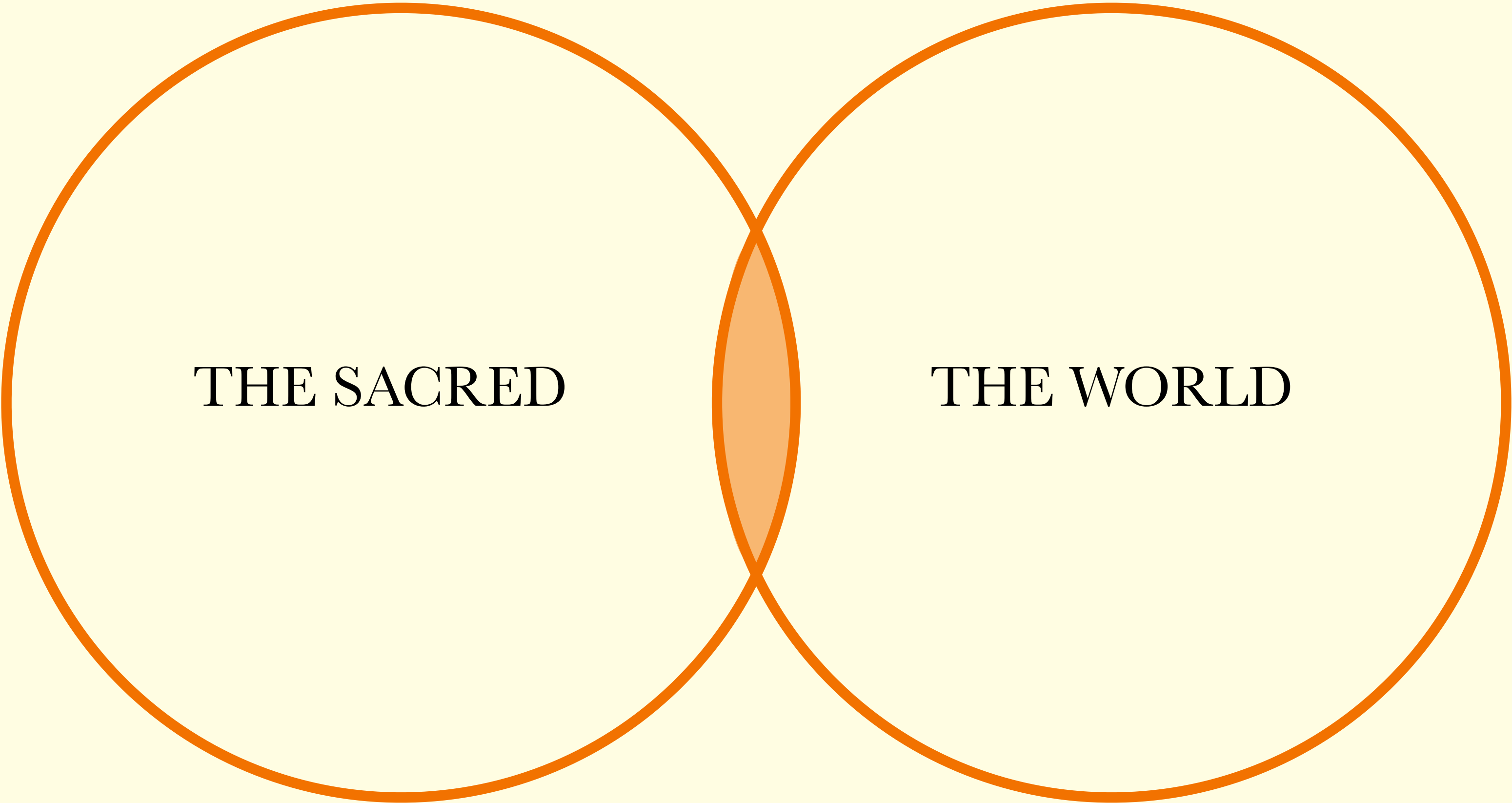
Sacred = set apart



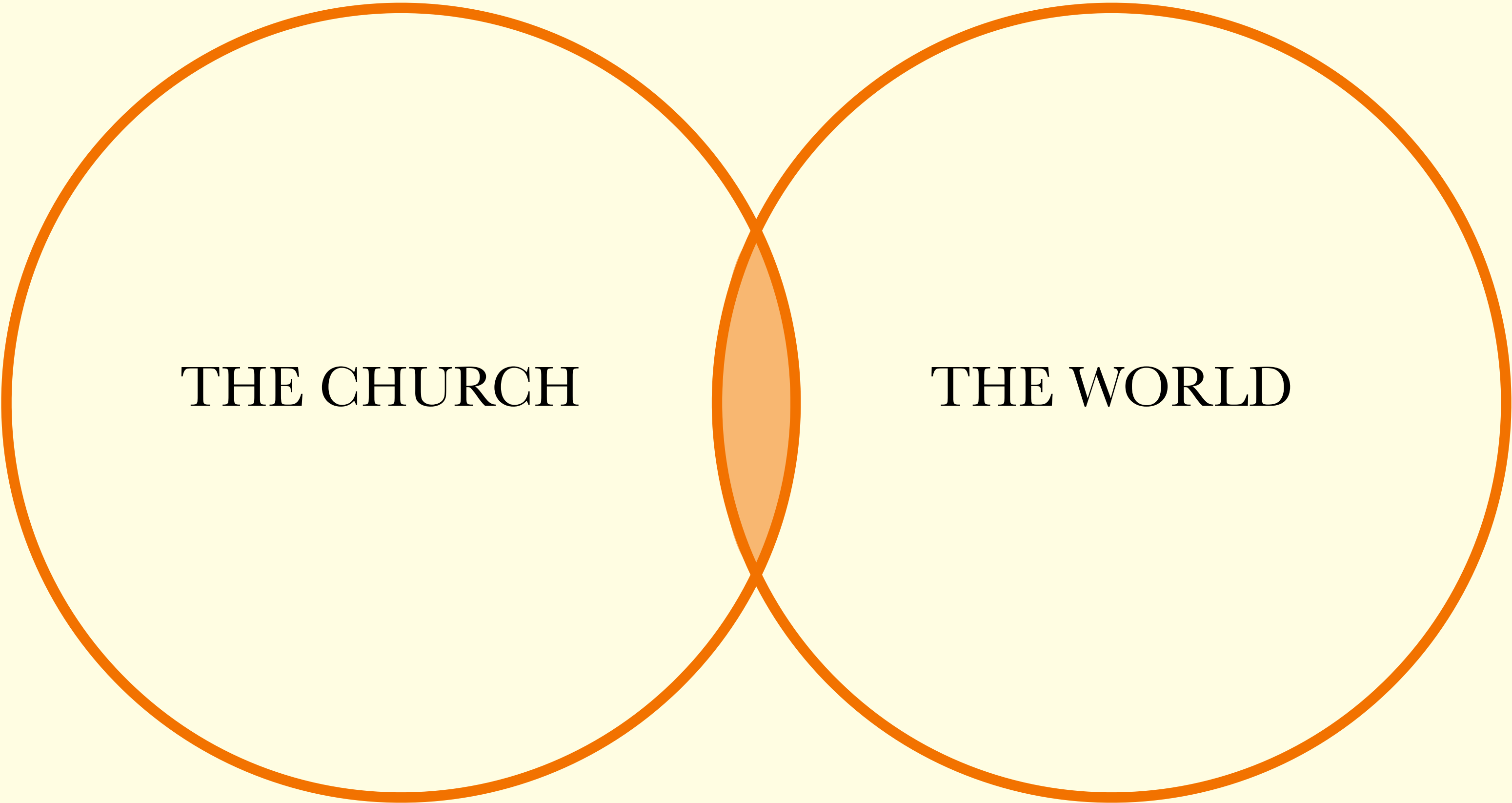
Secular?

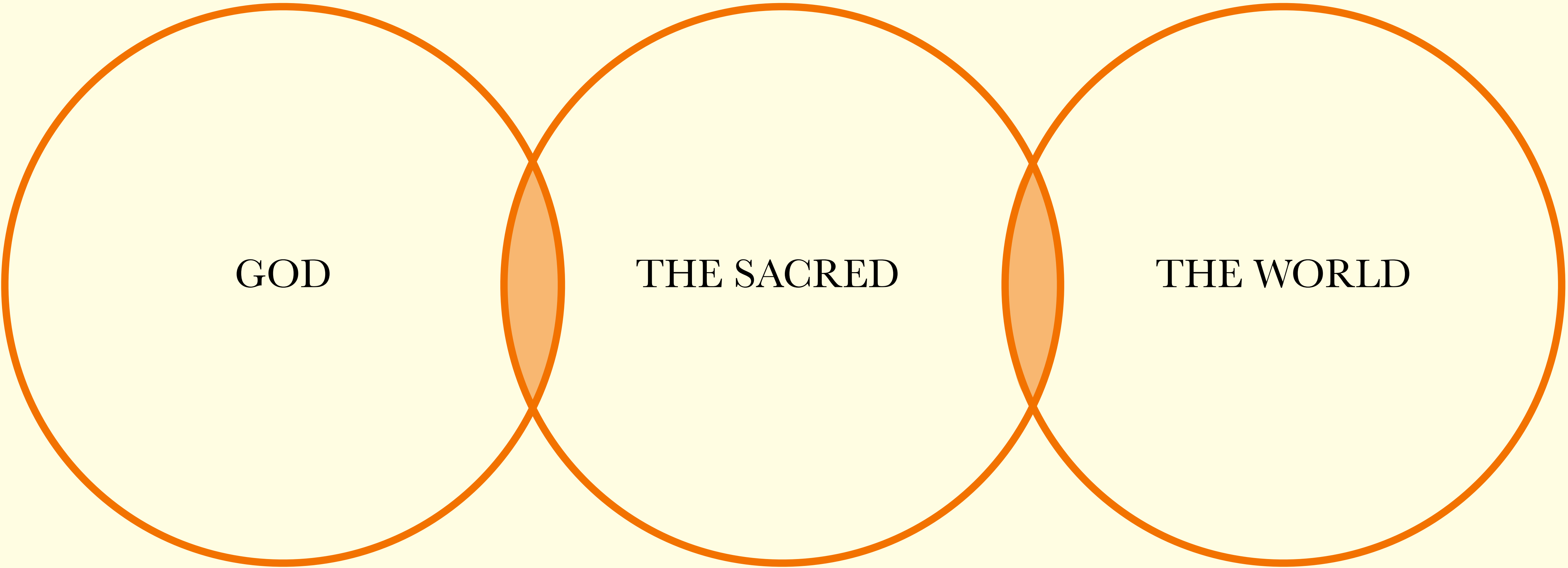
All the rest...

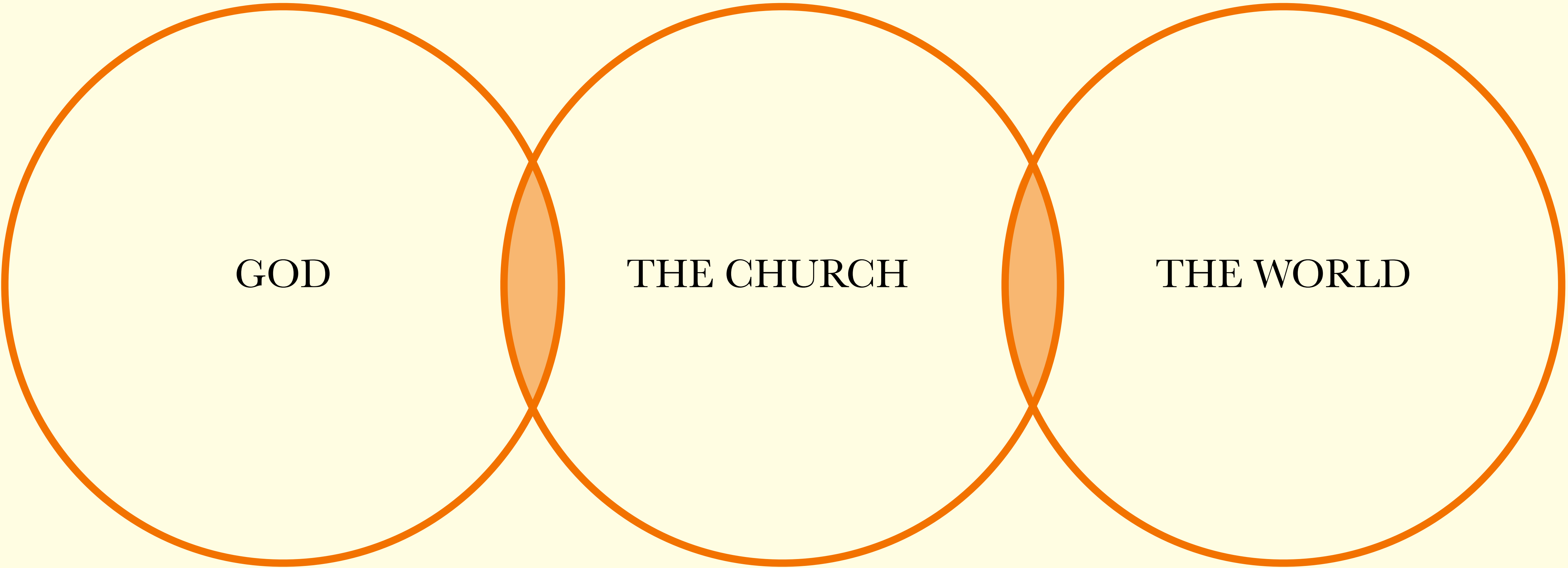
How does this shape how we think?









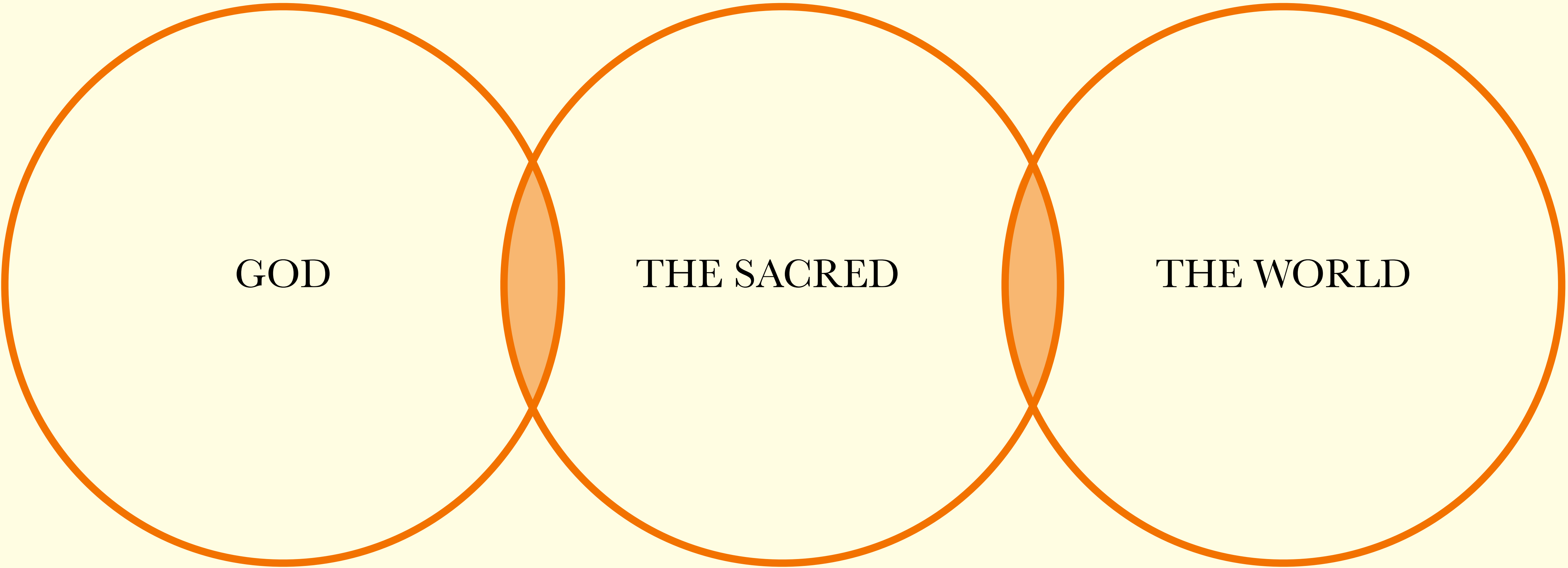


Is there another way?



‘The earth is the LORD’s and the fulness thereof’

Psalm 24



GOD

THE WORLD

THE  
SACRED

# Experience as encounter in our everyday life



# Moses and the burning bush

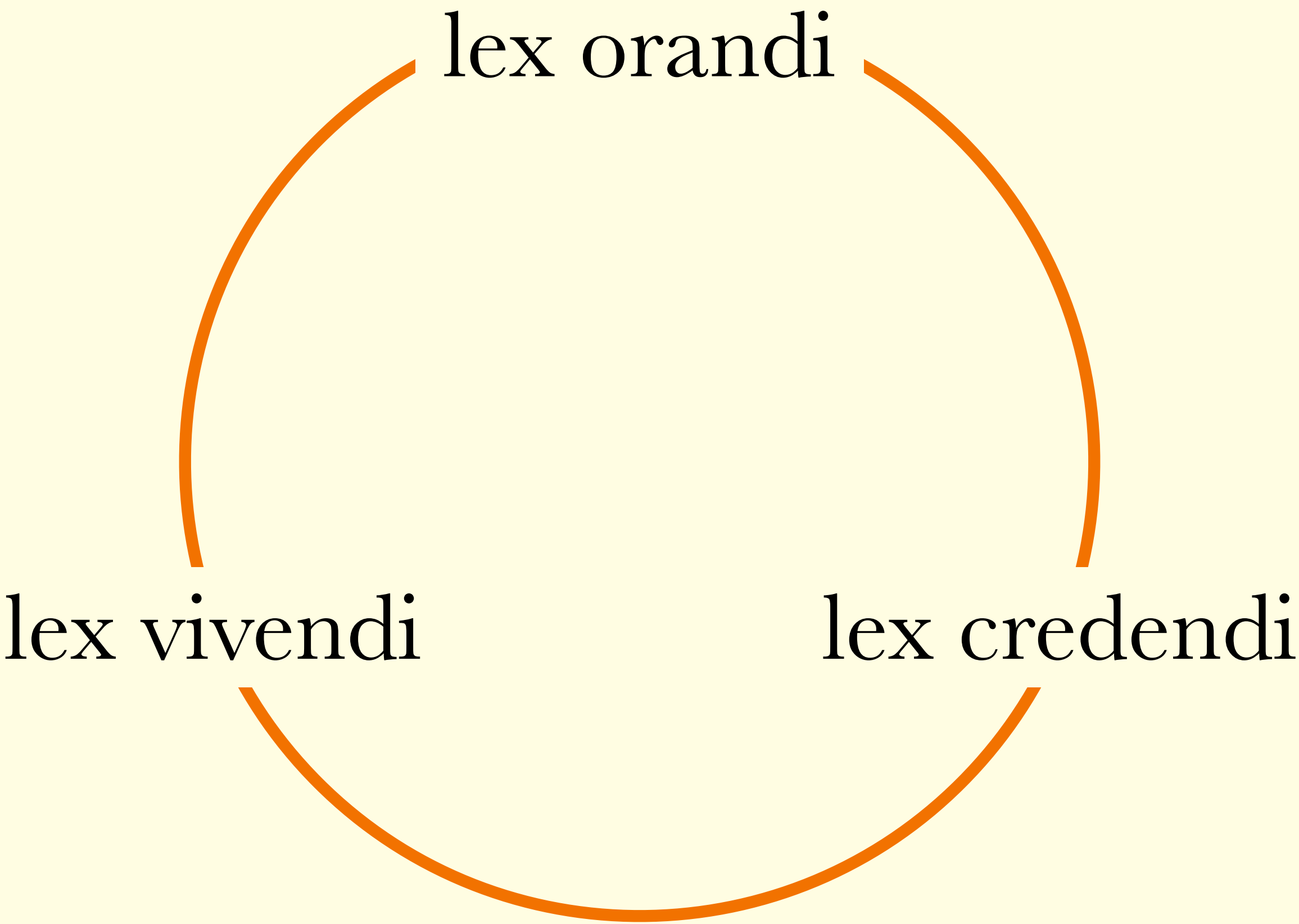
Where was God in your experiences?

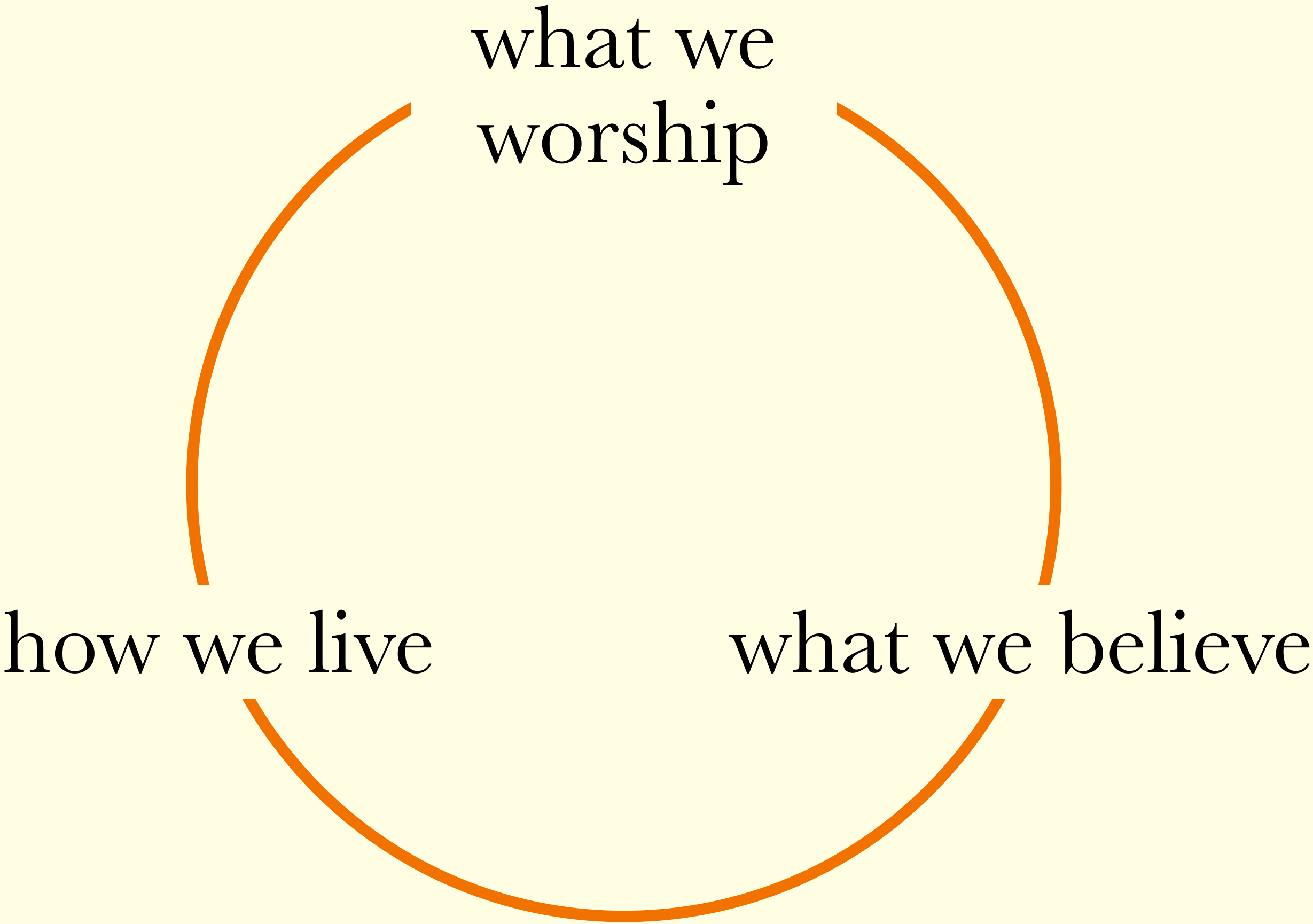
Lex orandi, lex credendi

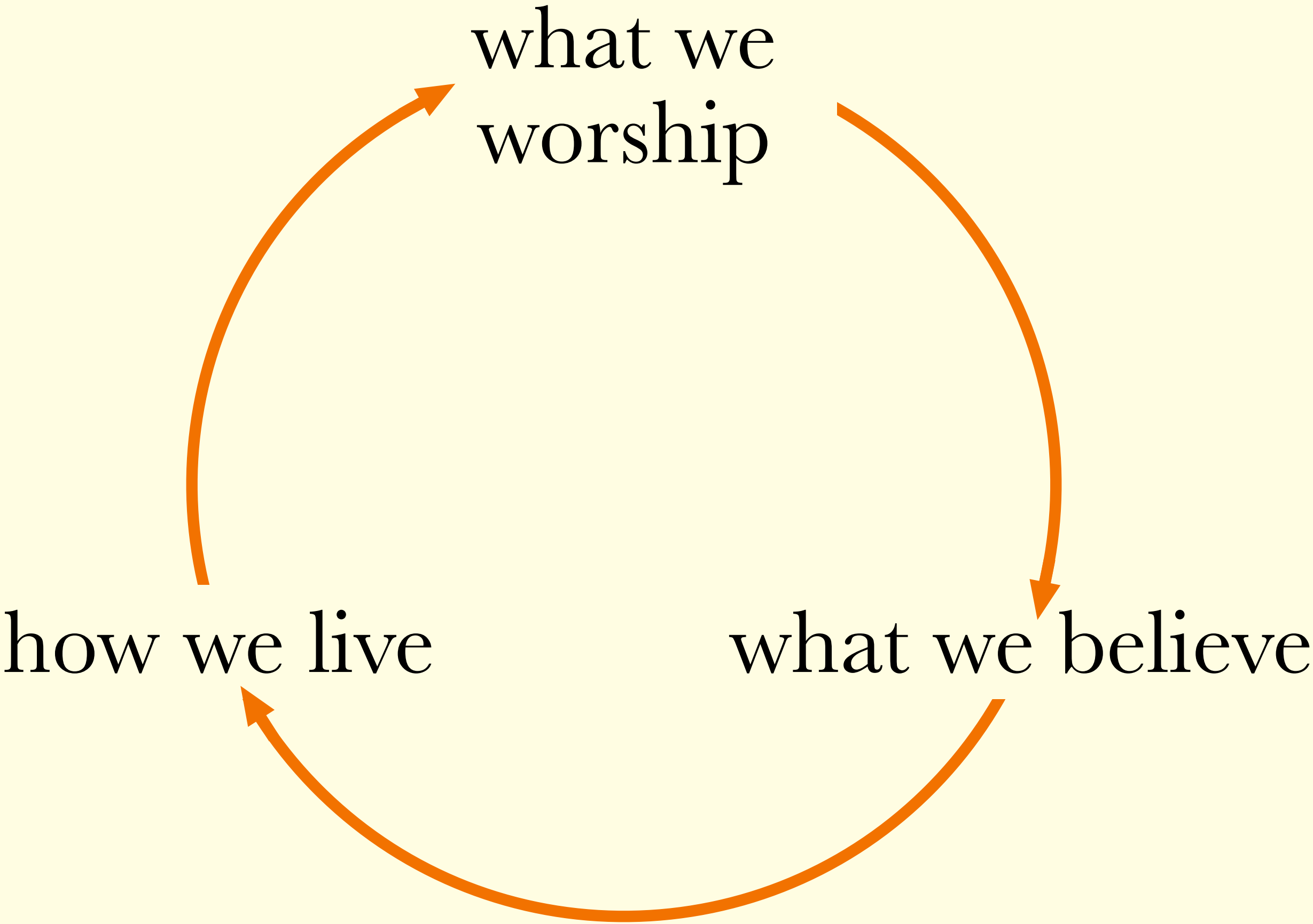
Lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi



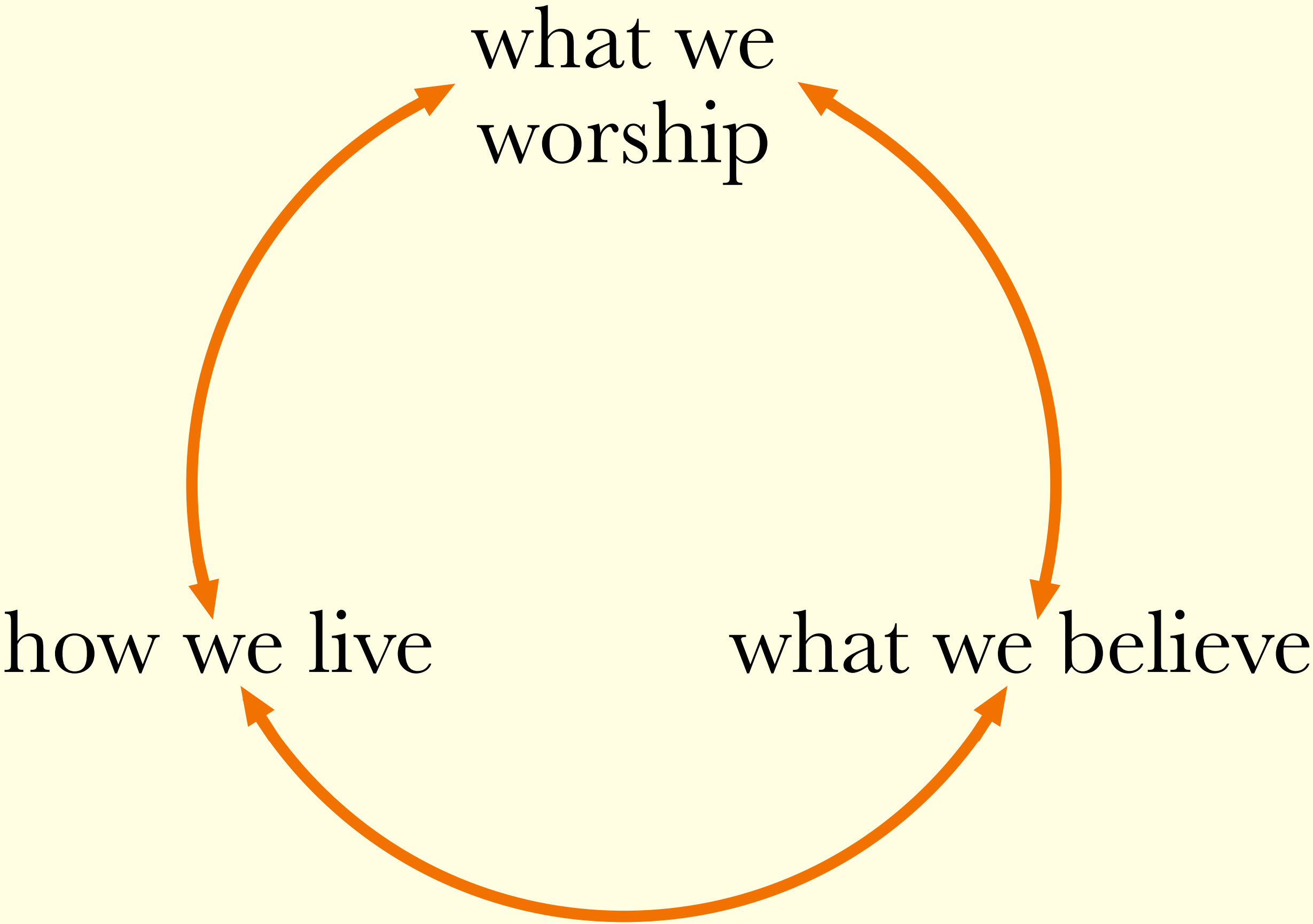
What we worship  
shapes what we believe  
which shapes how we live











What are some of the other things  
our culture encourages us to worship?

Worship = *worth*-ship

# Time, attention, and money



# Experience as encounter

Experience as encounter  
Our theology interprets our experience

All of life as an act of worship

# Wide shots



Lawrence of Arabia,





The Fellowship of the Ring





Star Wars: A New Hope

# Close-ups



The Good, The Bad and The Ugly via United Artist





Oppenheimer, Christopher Nolan



What do we pay attention to?







How do we learn what to pay attention to?

# Story

What stories does our society  
encourage us to live by?



# Our story

# God's story

# The Five Act Play

- Act 1: Creation
- Act 2: Israel
- Act 3: Jesus
- Act 4: Church
- Act 5: The End

# The Five Act Play

- Act 1: Creation
- Act 2: Israel
- Act 3: Jesus
- Act 4: Church
- Act 5: The End



# Act 4

# A time of improvisation

# Melody of Scripture

# Musical patterns





Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra





Sarah Vaughan

33. **AUTUMN IN NEW YORK** - VERSION DUKE

Handwritten musical score for "Autumn in New York" by Duke Ellington. The score is written on ten staves, each with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The notation includes various musical symbols such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with handwritten chord symbols above the notes. The chords include G-7, A-7, Bb6, C7, Fmaj7, G-7, A-7, D7b9, G-7, A-7, Bb6, C7, A-7b5, D7, G-7, Bb-7, Eb7, Abmaj7, D-7b5, C-7, D-7, G7b9, Cmaj7, C7, C+7, G-7, A-7, Bb6, C7, Fmaj7, G-7, A-7, D7, D7b9, C-7, D-7, Eb-6, F7, Bb-6, Ab-7, G7b9, F-7, C7, F-7, Ab7, Dbmaj7, Ab7, Dbmaj7, Ab7, G-7, A-7, Bb-6, C7b9, F-7. The score is signed "MSA - THE MODERN SINGERS QUARTET" at the bottom.





Ella Fitzgerald

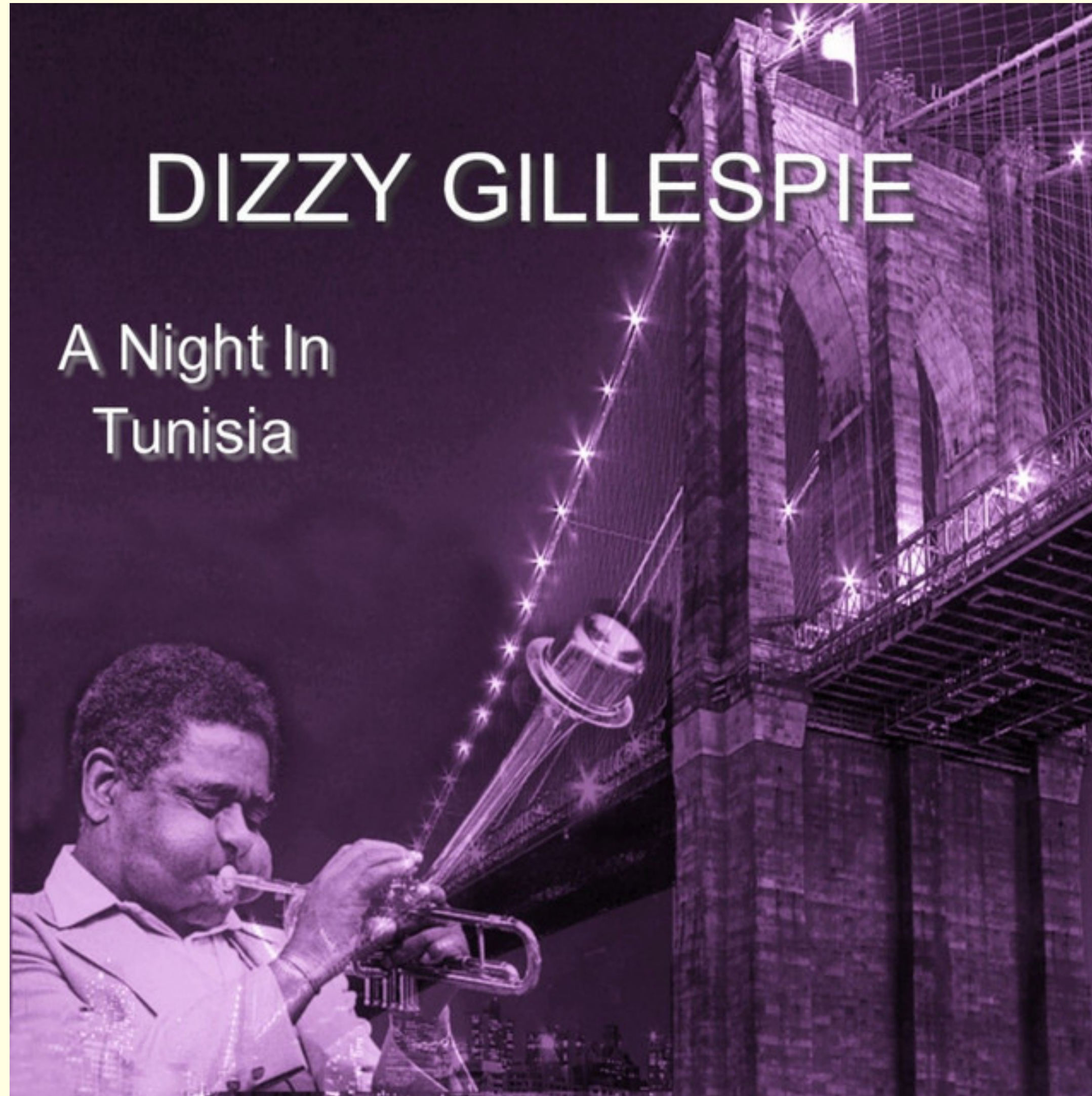
Handwritten musical notation for the song "LULLABY OF BIRDLAND" by George Gershwin. The notation includes a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with various musical notations including eighth, quarter, and half notes, rests, and bar lines. Chord symbols are written above the staff, including F-, G7, C7, F-, Bb7, Eb7, Abmaj7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Abmaj7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Abmaj7, C7, F-, G7, C7, F-, Bb7, Eb7, Abmaj7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Abmaj7, Eb7, Abmaj7, and F7. The notation is handwritten and appears to be a personal or working draft.

Sarah Vaughan



# DIZZY GILLESPIE

# A Night In Tunisia



## Dizzy Gillespie

7.

' MED. AFRO

**A NIGHT IN TUNISIA**

DIZZY GILLESPIE

**BASS LINE**

C7 b9 F#

B-

C7

B-

C7

B-

C#-7b5 F#7b5

B-

F#-7b5

B7(b9)

E-

E-7

A7

E-7b5

A7(b9)

D6

C#-7b5 F#7b5

3. B-

**INTERLUDE**

C#-7b5

C7(#11)

B-

E7(#11)

E7(#11)

E-(NA7)

E-7

E7(#11)

(E7(#9))

(Solo Bass)

D-min7

C#-7b5

F#7b9

LEE MORGAN - "THE COOKER"







Glen Gould

Aria con Variazioni.

Andante espressivo. (♩ = 72.) J. S. Bach.

Aria.

The image displays a page of musical notation for the 'Aria' from J.S. Bach's 'The Goldberg Variations'. The score is written for piano (p) and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'p dolce', 'cresc.', and 'p'. The tempo is marked 'Andante espressivo' with a metronome indication of 72 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is arranged in two staves, with the right hand on top and the left hand on the bottom.





Tom Hulce as Mozart in *Amadeus*





Bobby Jones

# Patterns in Scripture

Improvise the melody of Scripture  
with the music of our lives



We sings songs of worship in church.

Our calling is to live lives of worship in our world

Living in ways that are life-giving

Living in ways  
that anticipate and embody  
the Kingdom of God



“I’ve been to the movies.  
I know how it ends.”

Brandi Carlisle - The Joke



“I’ve been to the movies.  
I know how it ends.”

Brandi Carlisle - The Joke

We might not know all the details ...



But we trust in the One  
whose story it is

By the power of the Spirit

You and I have been written  
into the story of God  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

# Act 4: a time of improvisation



Our focused acts of worship shape us  
to improvise our lives in ways that are true  
to the overarching story of Scripture.

# Summary

- Praying like bees
- Experience as a source for theological thinking and living
  - ▶ Experience as encounter
  - ▶ Sacred and secular?
  - ▶ Lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi
- Questions & reflections on the question 'How do we live out our everyday faith?'
- Summary & closing prayer

# Summary

- Praying like bees
- Experience as a source for theological thinking and living
- Questions & reflections on the question 'How do we live out our everyday faith?'
  - ▶ Close-up and panoramic worship
  - ▶ Story - God's and ours - Act 4
  - ▶ Improvisation in the Kingdom of God

So...



Where does that leave us?

# One final definition of theology



Karl Barth (1886-1968)

“Theology is not a private subject for theologians only. Nor is it a private subject for professors. Fortunately, there have always been pastors who have understood more about theology than most professors. Nor is theology a private subject of study for pastors. Fortunately, there have repeatedly been congregation members, and often whole congregations, who have pursued theology energetically while their pastors were theological infants or barbarians. Theology is a matter for the Church.”

Karl Barth, *God in Action*



In other words ...

Green light!

O Lord, from whom all good things come:  
grant to us your humble servants,  
that by your holy inspiration  
we may think those things that are good,  
and by your merciful guiding may perform the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
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Collect for the weekdays after Pentecost