



# **Integrating a Biblical Worldview Into Our Agriculture Work**

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# Definition of Worldview

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- the lens through which we see and understand the world



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- our set of assumptions about how the world works



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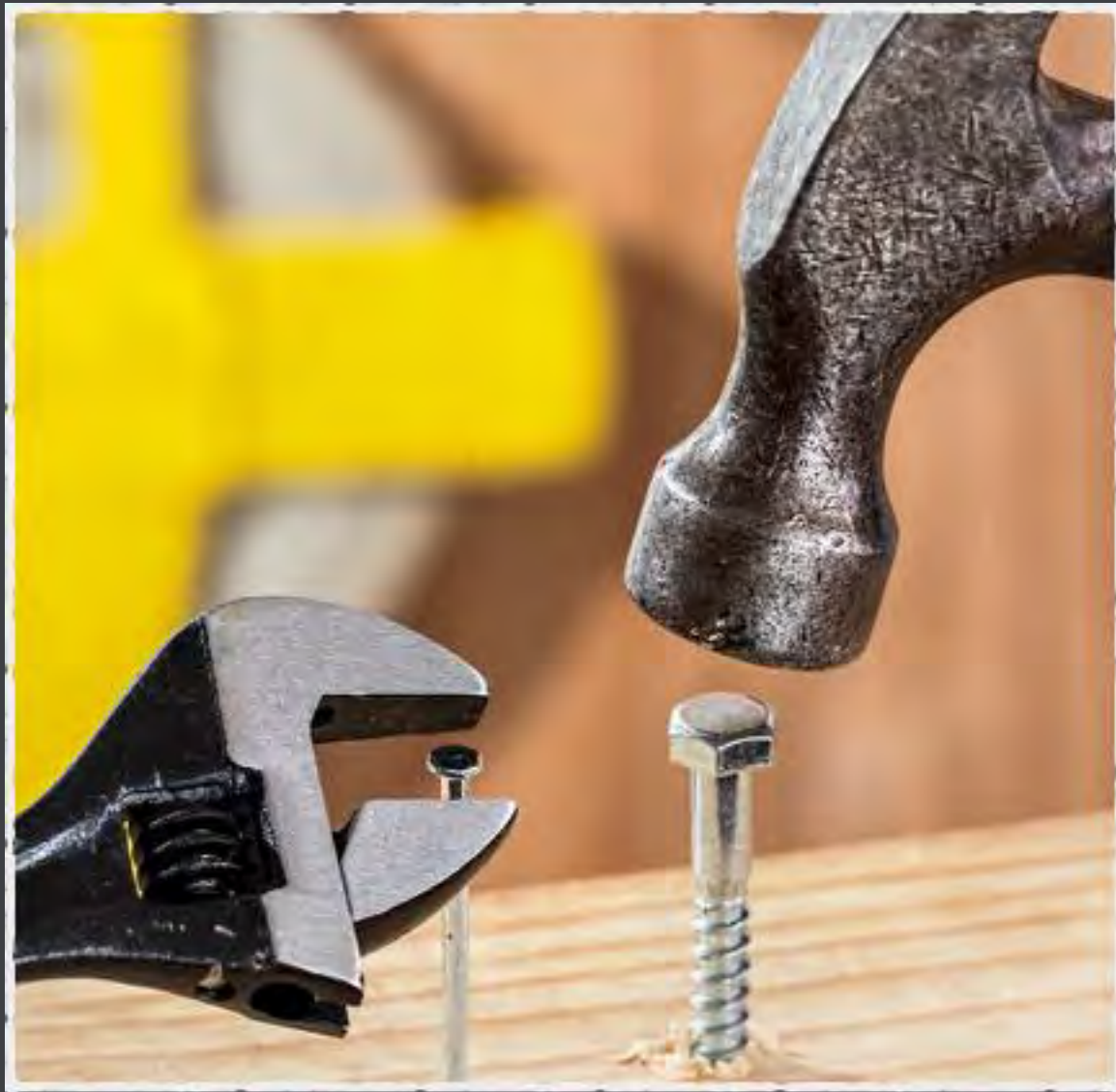


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- generally not good or bad (right or wrong), but different



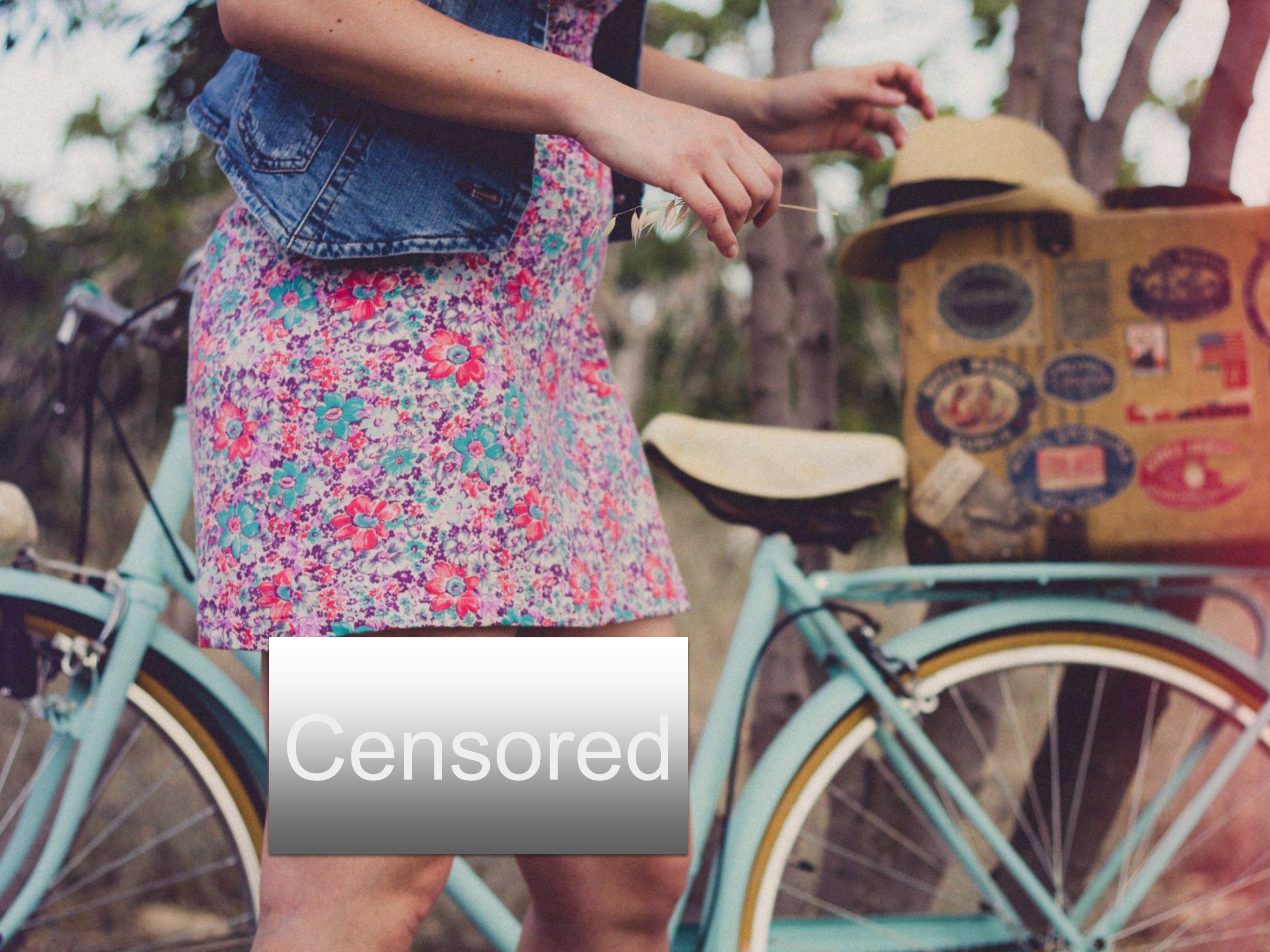
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- our set of assumptions about how the world works
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- generally not good or bad, but different
- **worldview IS reality to those within it**





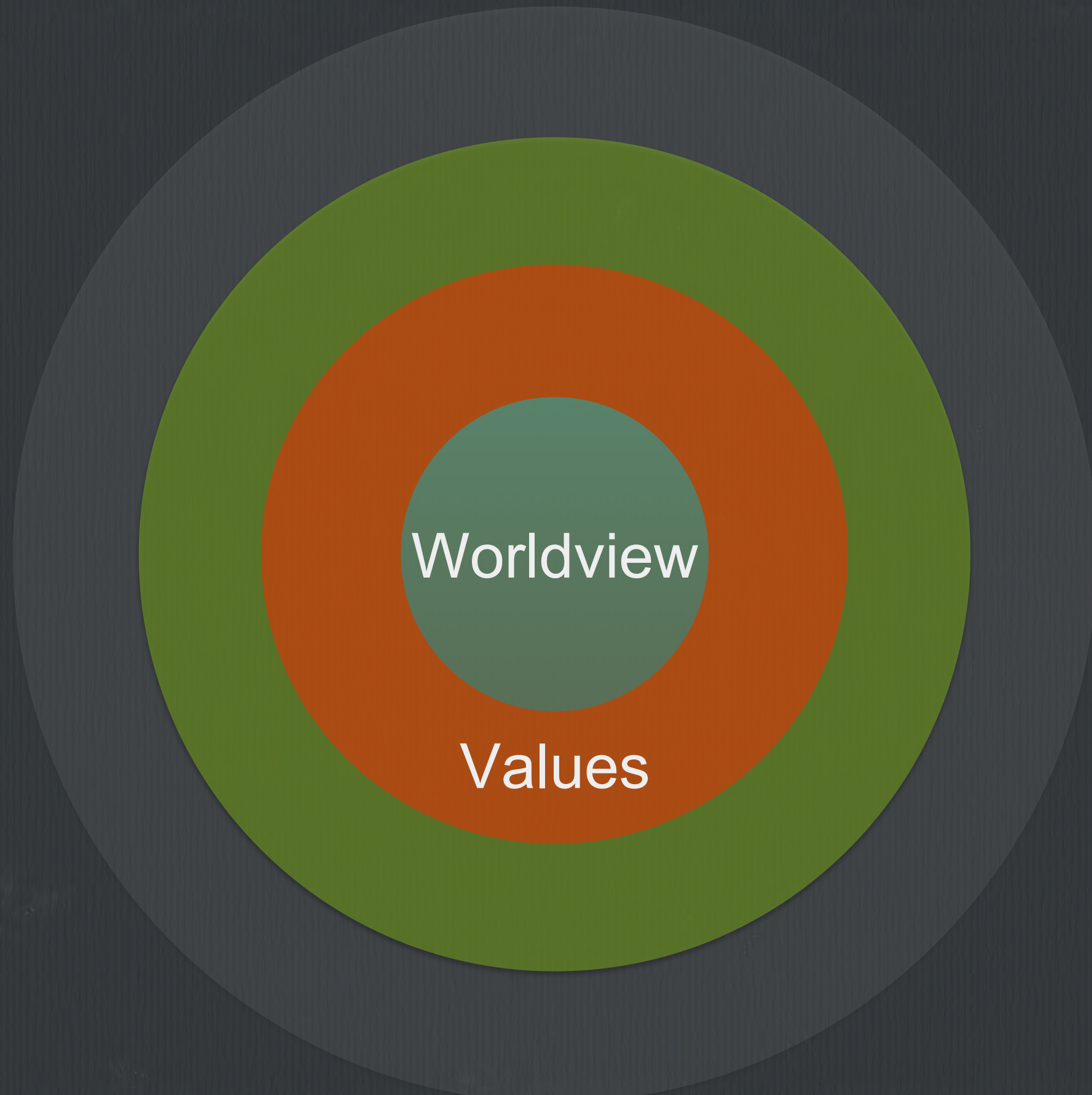
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Worldview

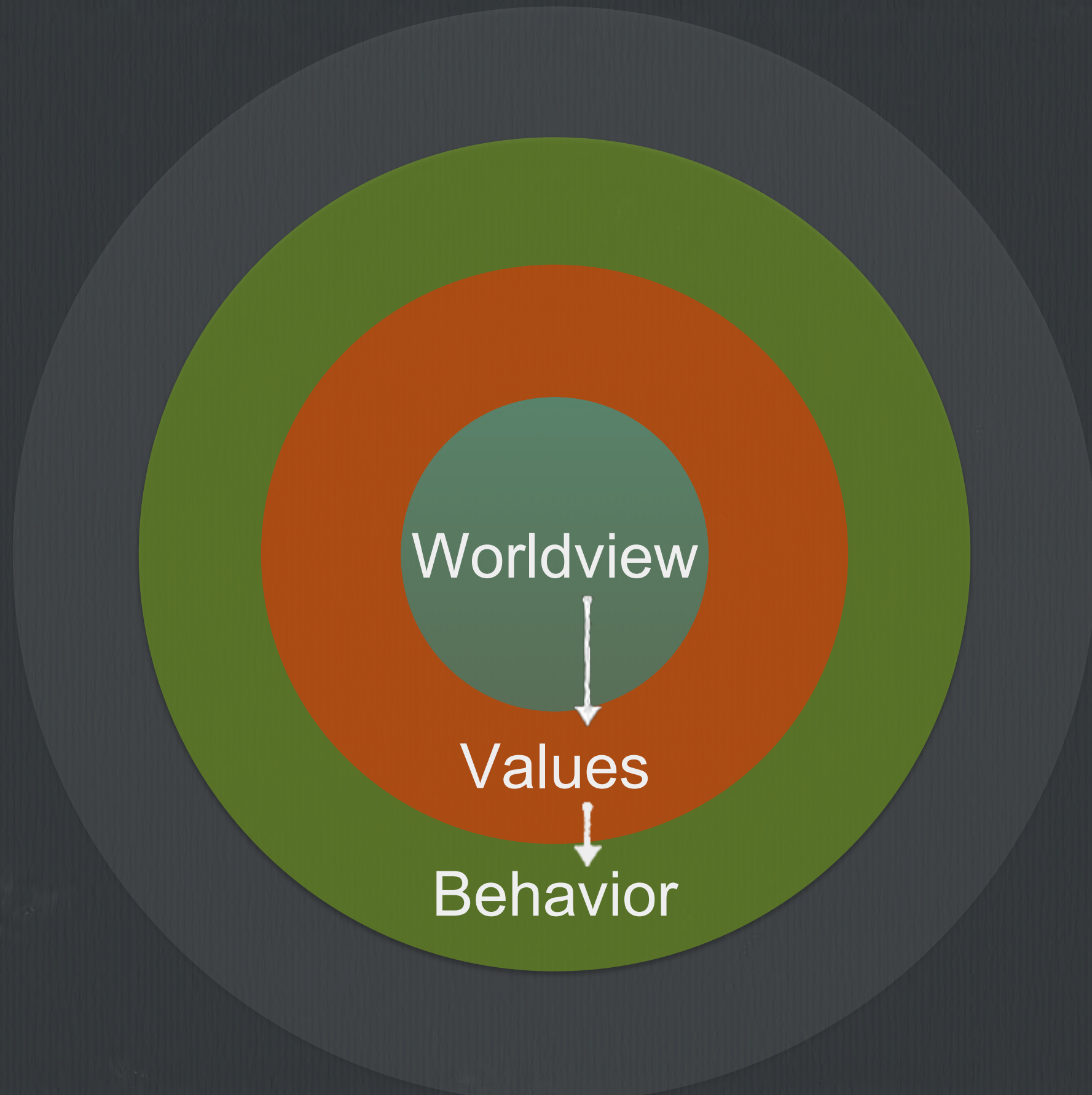




Worldview

Values



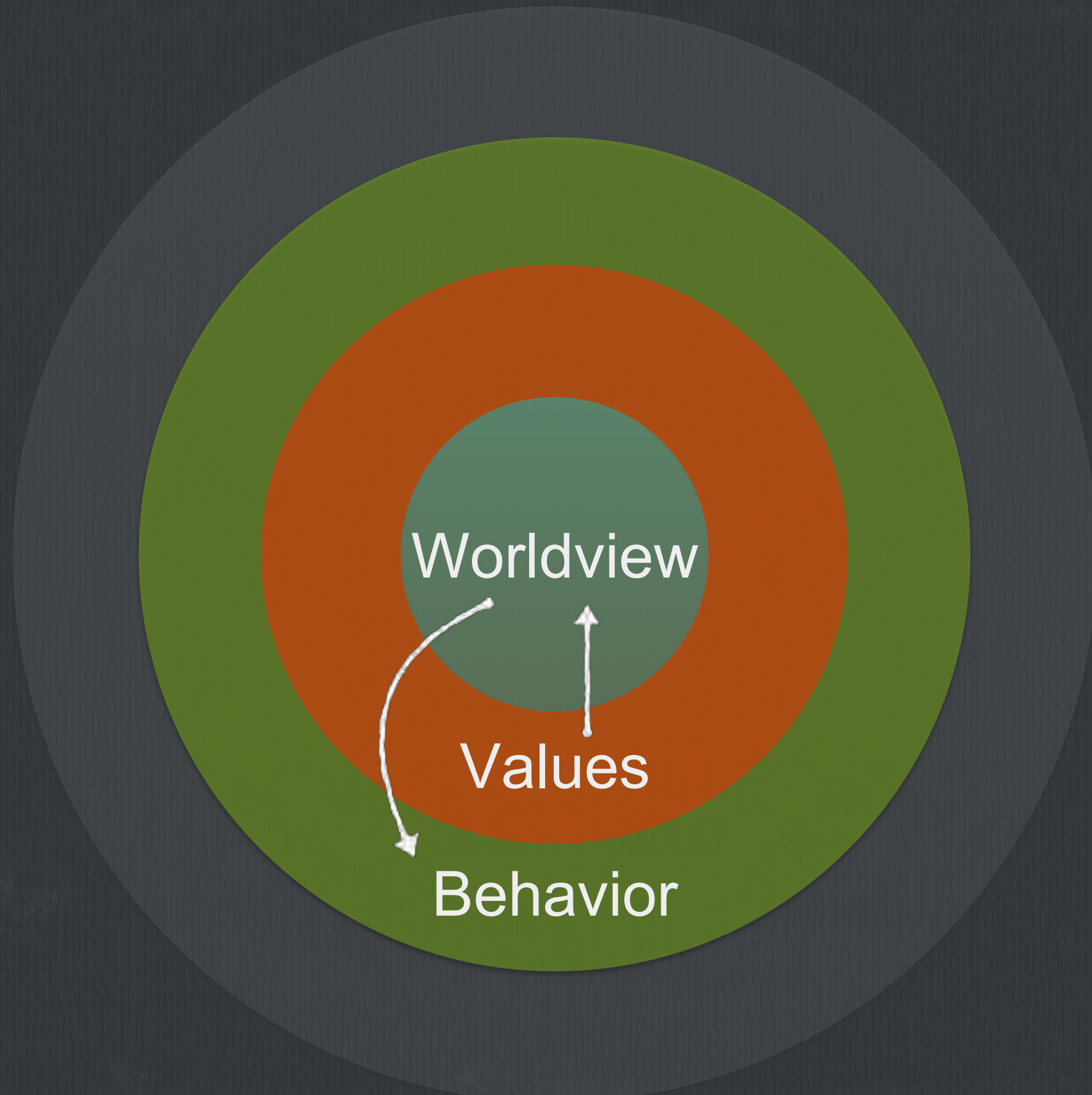


Worldview

Values

Behavior



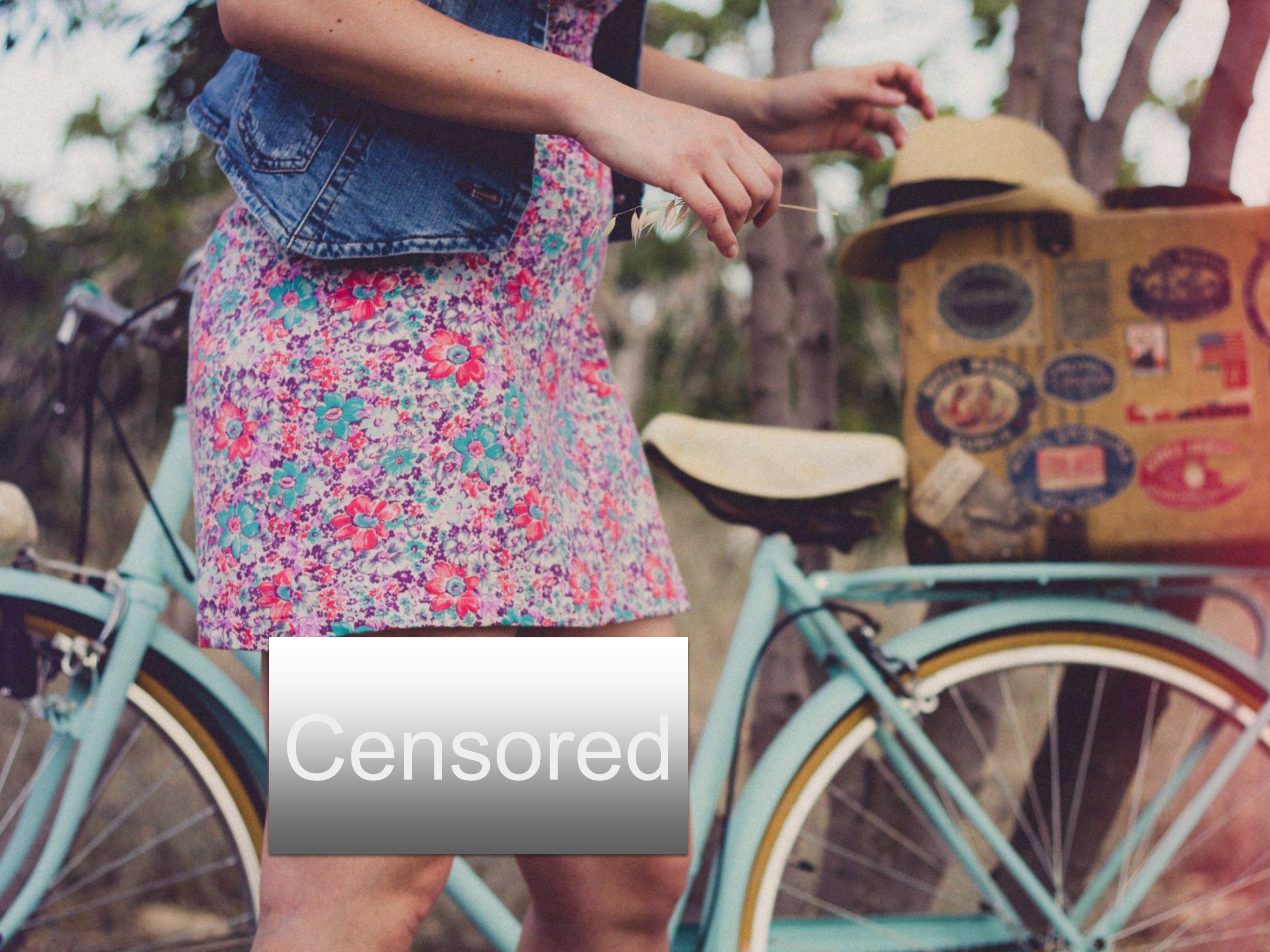


Worldview

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Behavior

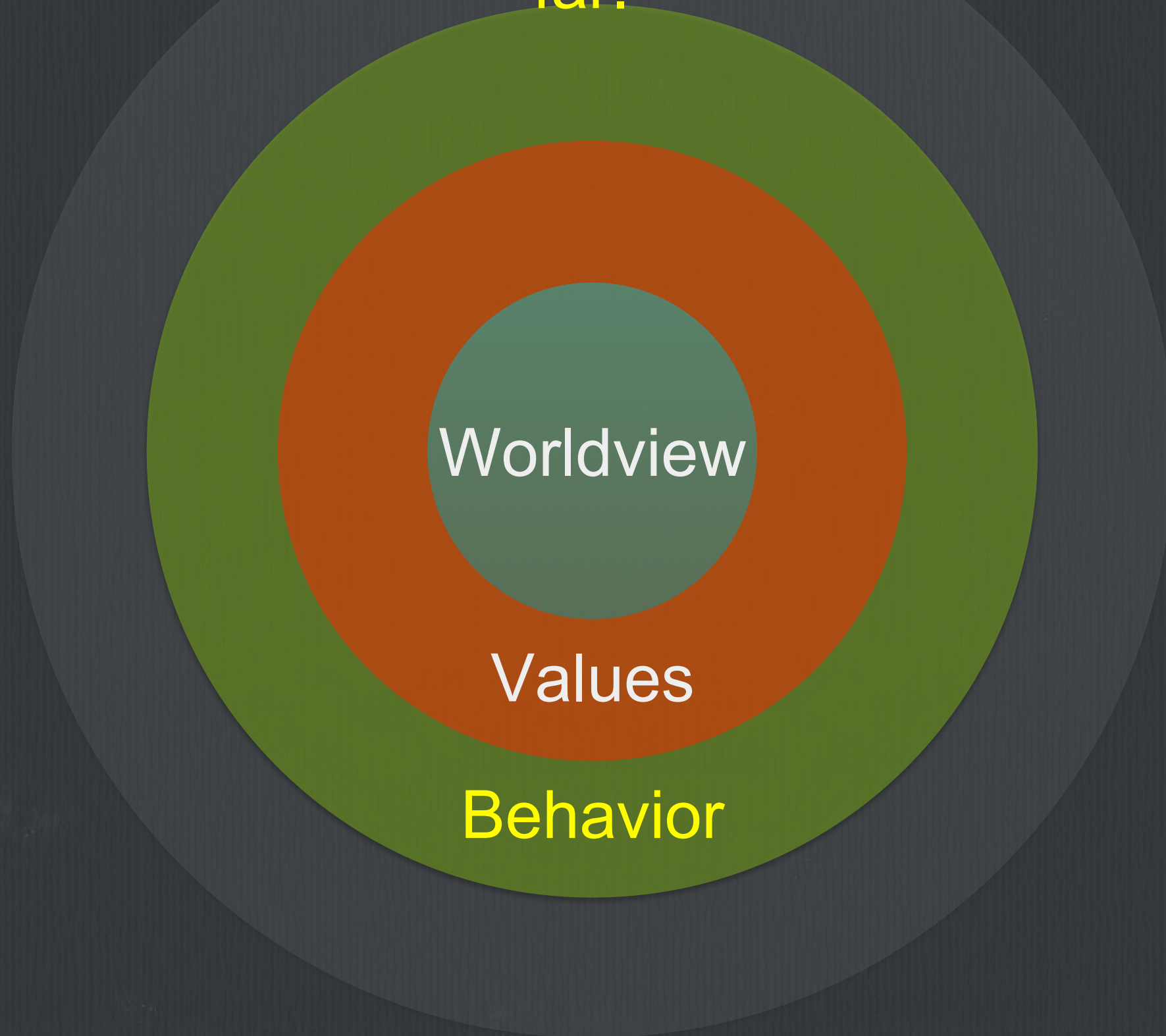




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“A stranger has big eyes but doesn’t see very far.”







Worldview

Values

Behavior

(Consequences)



# Time

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- How do rural Tanzanian farmers deal with time?



# Time

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- How do rural Tanzanian farmers deal with time?
- What time does a 9:00 class begin?



# Time

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- “Tanzanians don’t care about time.”



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- How do rural Tanzanian farmers deal with time?
- What time does a 9:00 class begin?
- “Tanzanians don’t care about time.”
- **Clock-orientation vs Event-orientation**



# Malaria

- How does someone get malaria?





# Malaria

- How does someone get malaria?
- **Mechanical vs spiritual**





# Malaria

- How does someone get malaria?
- Mechanical vs spiritual
- But who created the mosquito?





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- Why was it sent to me?





# Malaria

- How does someone get malaria?
- Mechanical vs spiritual
- But who created the mosquito?
- Why was it sent to me?
- Where did the illness come from initially?





# African Traditional Religion

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Distant  
God



Living Living



# African Traditional Religion

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Ancestors

Distant  
God



Living Living



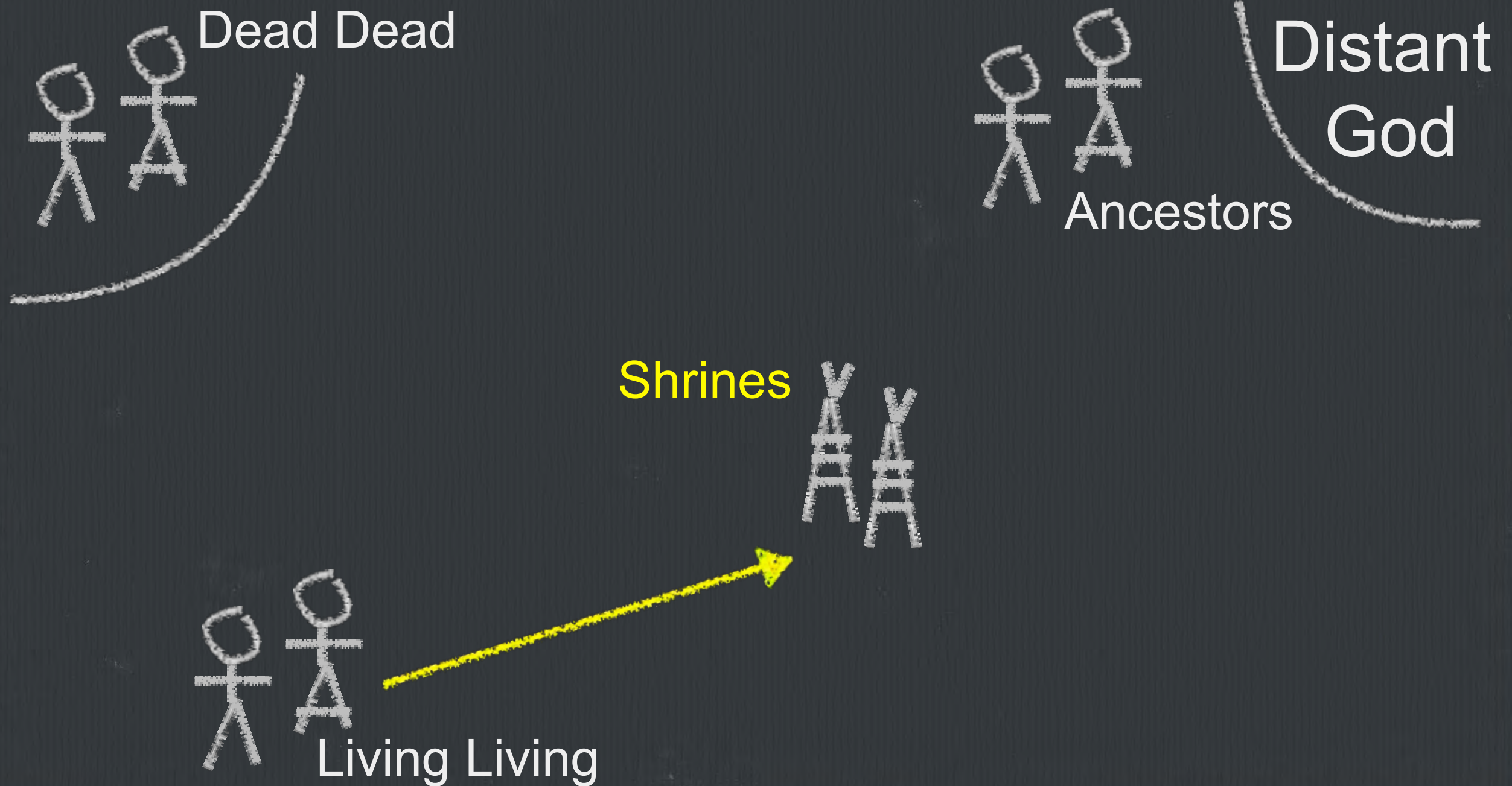
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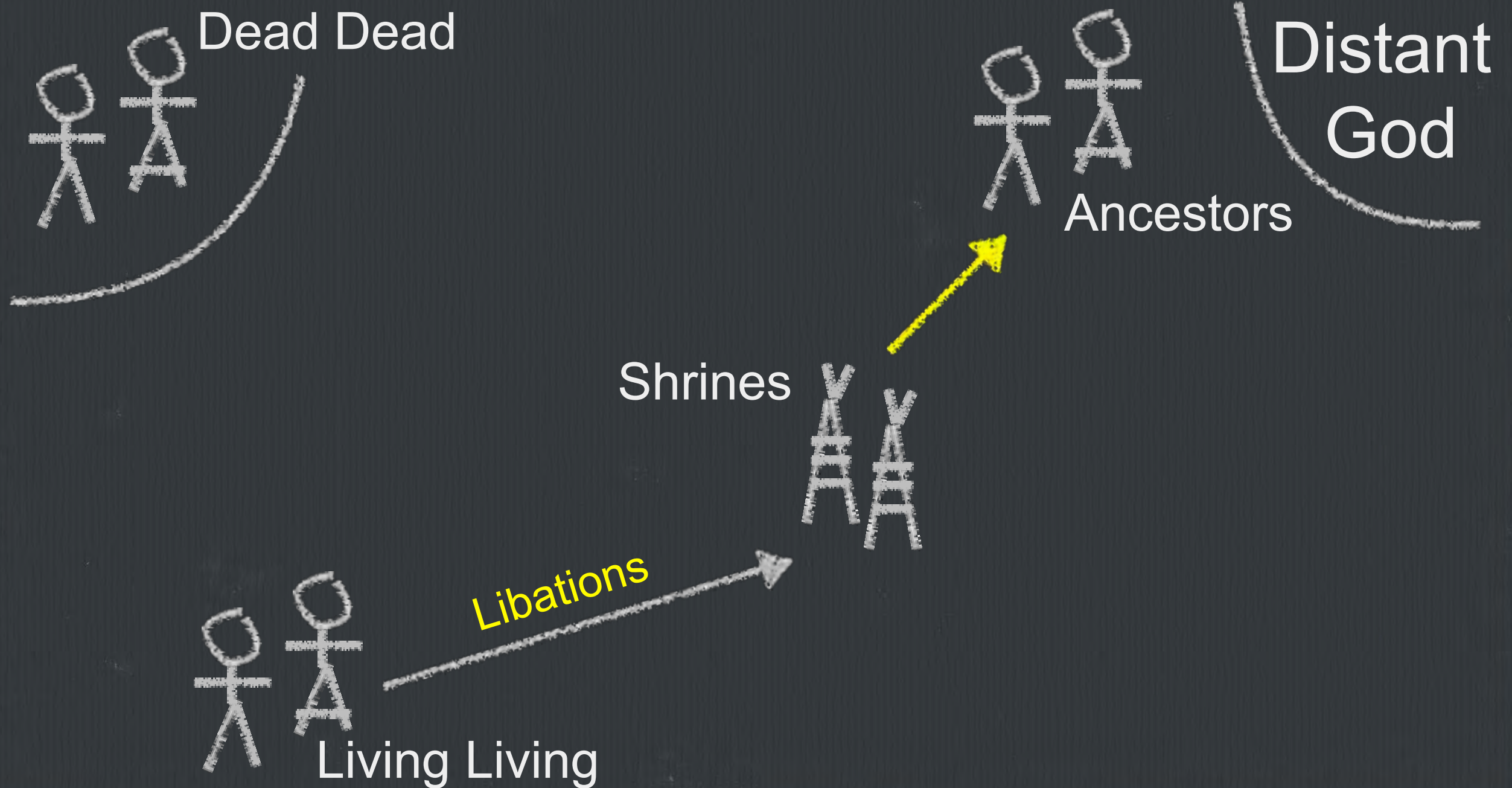


# African Traditional Religion



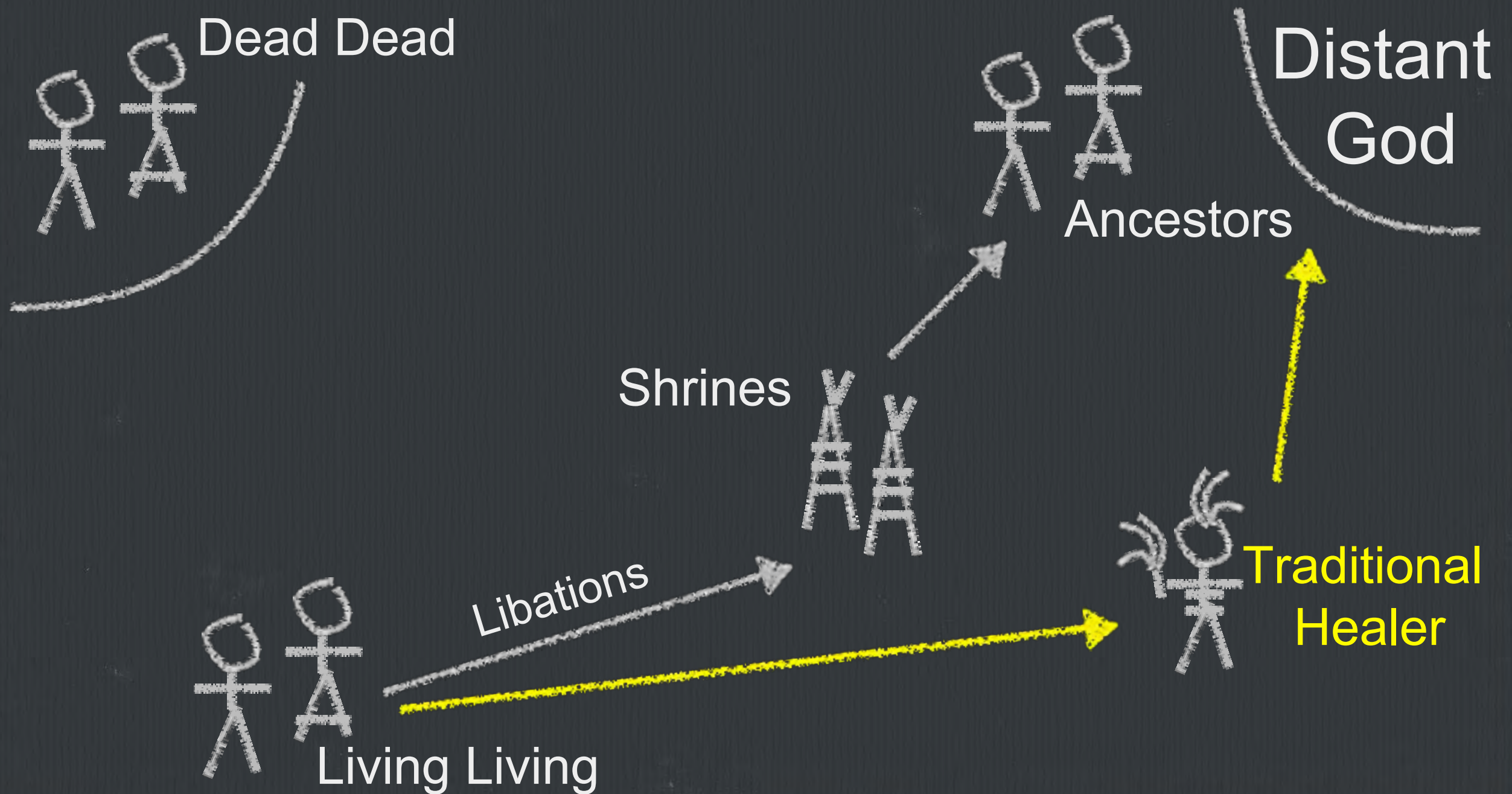


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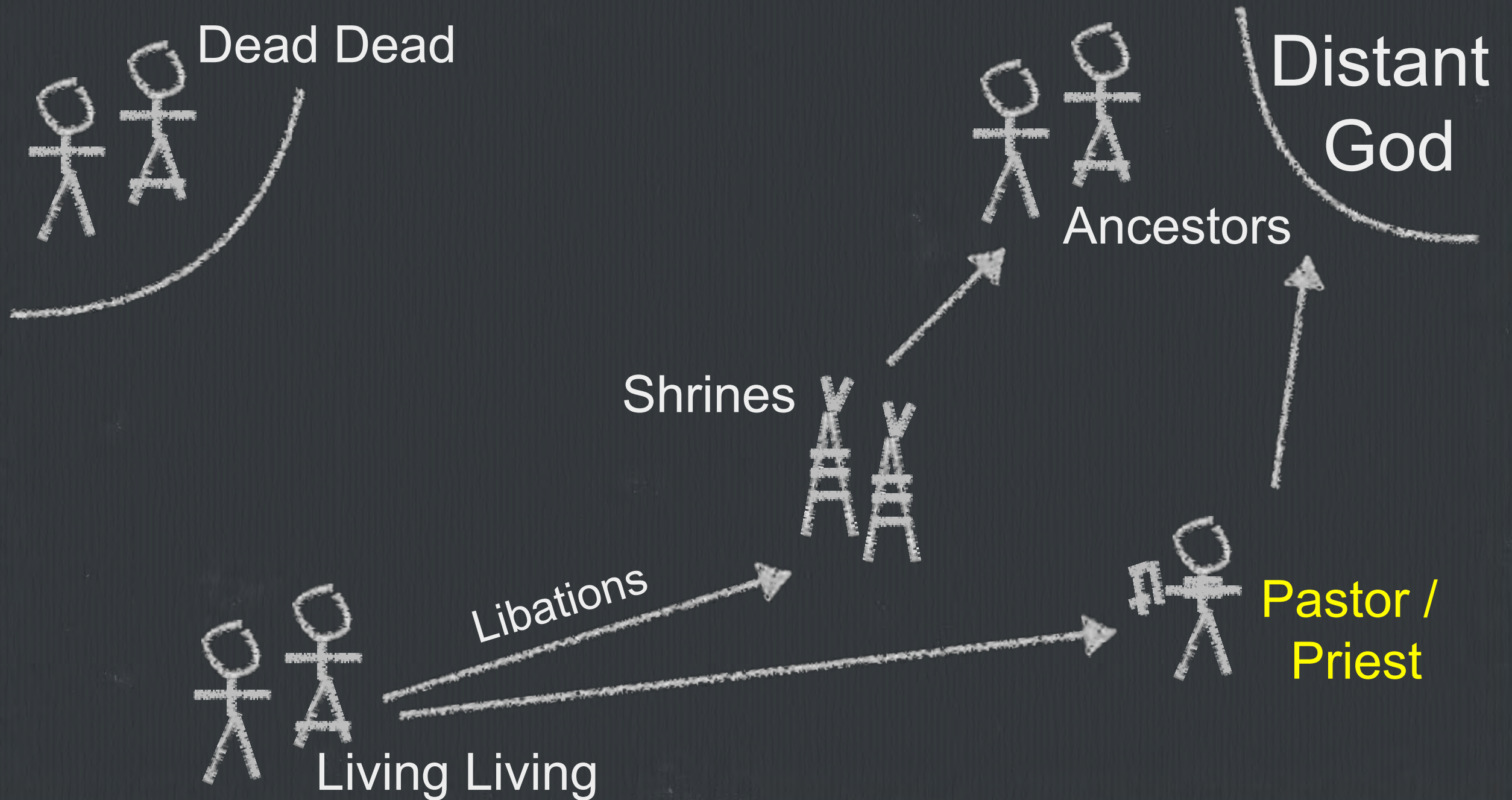
# Christianity Without New Worldview

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What happens if adherents to African Traditional Religion (ATR) accept Christianity, but experience no transformation in their worldview?

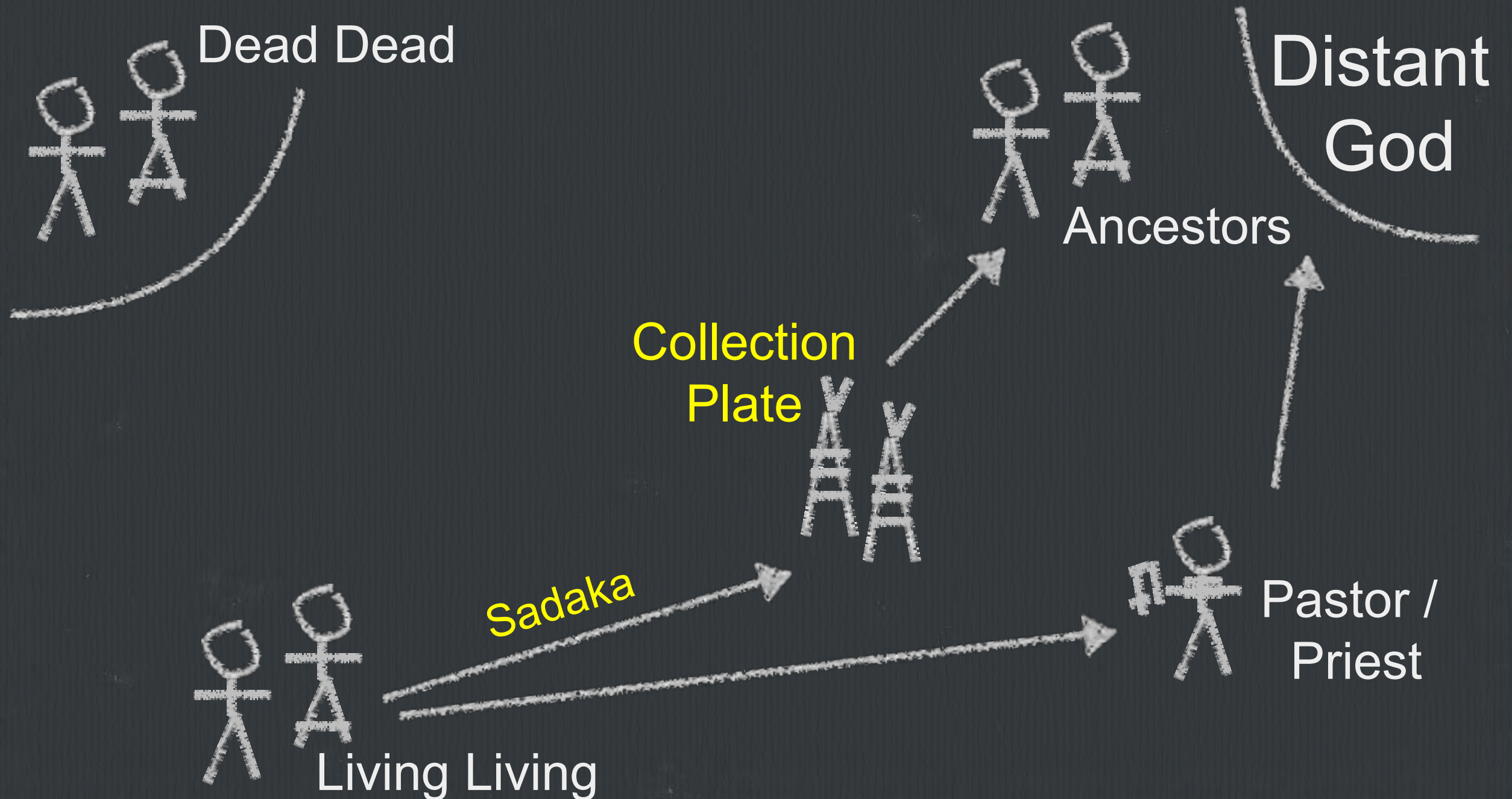


# Christianity Without New Worldview





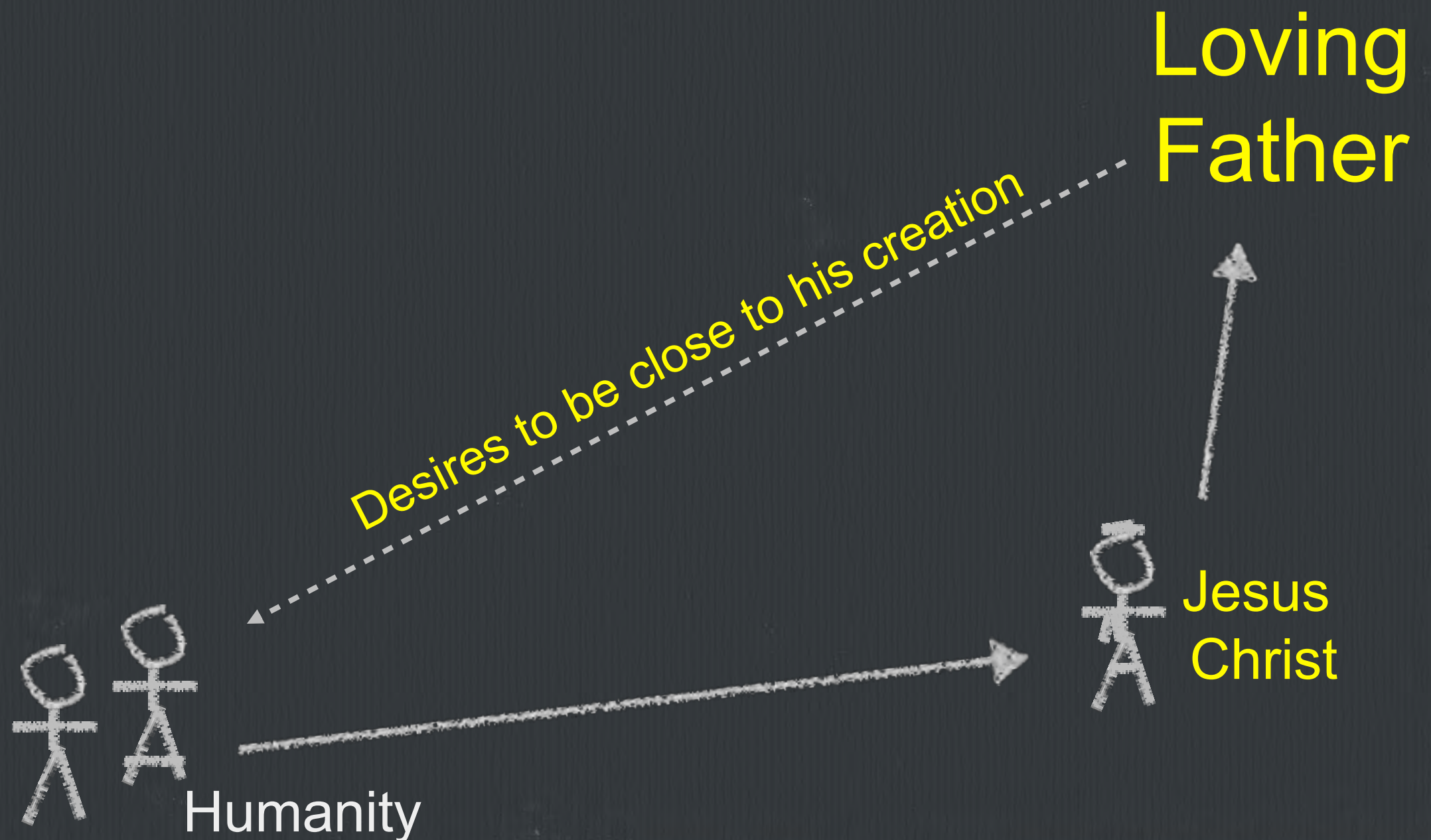
# Christianity Without New Worldview





# Christianity Within a Biblical Worldview

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# Atomism vs Holism

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# Atomism vs Holism

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- view a thing as made up of component parts
- view all things as connected and whole



# Atomism vs Holism

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- view a thing as made up of component parts
  - sharp boundaries between parts, each a complete unit
- view all things as connected and whole
  - each part an incomplete piece of the larger whole, loose boundaries



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- view a thing as made up of component parts
  - sharp boundaries between parts, each a complete unit
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  - individual's identity / rights based on roles / experiences w/in group



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- sharp boundaries between parts, each a complete unit
- individual judged to have own identity / rights
- **individualism: group exists for benefit of the individual**

- view all things as connected and whole
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- individual's identity / rights based on roles / experiences w/in group
- **collectivism: individuals exist for benefit of the group**



# Atomism vs Holism

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- view a thing as made up of component parts
- sharp boundaries between parts, each a complete unit
- individual judged to have own identity / rights
- individualism: group exists for benefit of the individual
- **I am independent.**

- view all things as connected and whole
- each part an incomplete piece of the larger whole, loose boundaries
- individual's identity / rights based on roles / experiences w/in group
- collectivism: individuals exist for benefit of the group
- **We are interdependent.**



# Malaria

- How does someone get malaria?
- Mechanical vs spiritual
- But who created the mosquito?
- Why was it sent to me?
- Where did the illness come from initially?
- Why did it choose to bite me instead of her?
- Big picture vs component parts





# Time

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- How do rural Tanzanian farmers deal with time?
- What time does a 9:00 class begin?
- “Tanzanians don’t care about time.”
- Clock-orientation vs Event-orientation
- **Value = respect for others**



# 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

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There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its parts form one body, so it is with Christ.



# 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

## View from Atomism

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# Romans 12:1

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Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.



# Romans 12:1-2

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Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. **Do not conform to the pattern of this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his pleasing and perfect will.



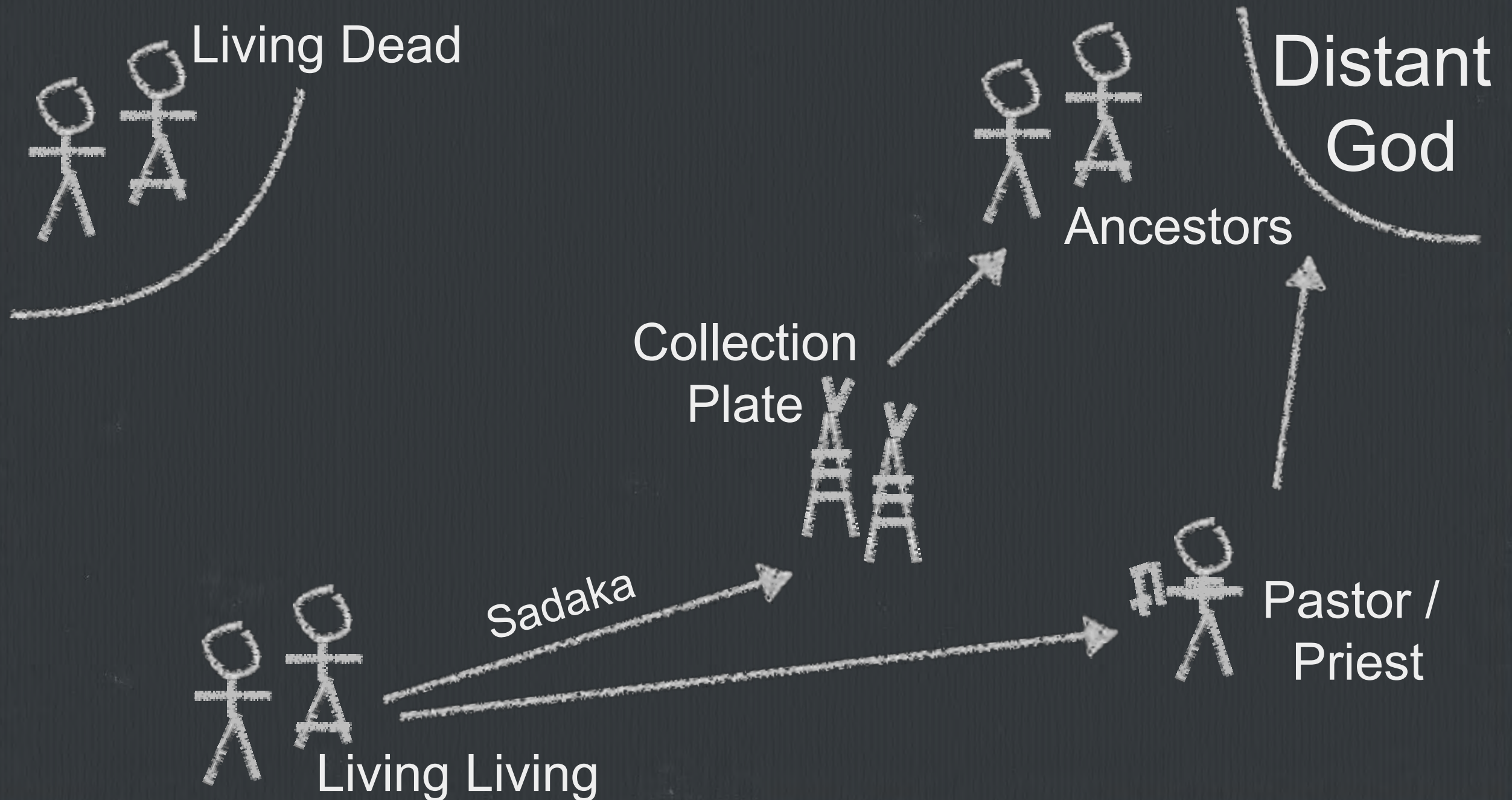
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# Christianity Without New Worldview





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- our set of assumptions about how the world works
- usually determined by the culture in which we live
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- worldview IS reality to those within it



# Definition of a Biblical Worldview

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- the lens through which Christians (should) see and understand the world
- how the world (should) function(s), as designed by God
- a major goal of the church is to transform our communities so the world actually does function in this way (redemption of the world / return to a garden-like state / on earth as it is in heaven)



# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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1. It is my role as a development worker to adapt to the target culture, and to function as a servant within that culture.



# John 1:14

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The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



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## Philippians 2:5-8

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In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!



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# Philippians 2:5a

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# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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2. Study and understand the worldview of those I seek to serve, because...

A. The farmers with whom I work will judge my behavior through the lens of their own worldview and culture.







# 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

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Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I become like one not having the law... so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.







# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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2. Study and understand the worldview of those I seek to serve, because...
  - A. the farmers with whom I work will judge my behavior through the lens of their own worldview and culture.
  - B. The farmers with whom I work will judge my interventions and technologies through the lens of their own worldview and culture.







# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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3. Our work should flow out of a Biblical worldview. This means our agricultural interventions are based on — or (at least) grounded in — the nature of God.



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A. As Christian development workers, this is a tremendous advantage — in that our appeals are not based on efficiency or “rational” decision-making,\* but rather on the very nature of God and what he desires for mankind.

*\*which we generally define by decision-making processes which are based on our own worldview and values*



# Genesis 2:15

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Now the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.



# Genesis 2:15

---

Now the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it** and **take care of it**.



# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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3. Our work should flow out of a Biblical worldview. This means our agricultural interventions are based on — or (at the very least) grounded in — the nature of God.
  - A. As Christian development workers, this is a tremendous advantage — in that our appeals are not based on efficiency or “rational” decision-making,\* but rather on the very nature of God and what he desires for mankind.
  - B. As development workers, we have a tremendous responsibility — in that we are choosing to effect change in another culture. A Biblical worldview guides this process, ensuring we make good decisions.



# Romans 12:1-2

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## Good development workers:

- understand the differences between their own worldview and the target culture worldview
- are able to consider both with objectivity.



## Good development workers:

- understand the differences between their own worldview and the target culture worldview
- are able to look at both with objectivity.

## Good Christian development workers:

- possess a Biblical worldview
- understand both their former worldview and the target culture worldview
- critique both against God's plan for mankind
- choose with wisdom which assumptions to challenge (and perhaps even in what order)



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## Galatians 3:26-28

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So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



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## Ephesians 6:5-9

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**Slaves, obey your earthly masters** with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, **just as you would obey Christ....**

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no

favoritism with him.



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# Transforming Communities: Worldview and Agriculture

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4. Address the complicated spiritual issues which are reality for the farmers with whom I work. [Use scripture when possible and practical.]



- God is distant and angry.
- God provides protection for the week when I make a contribution to the church.
- Sin is merely creating disharmony in the community.
- Village collection for mganga to bring rain.



# Good vs Better

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- The wise usage of legumes and manure enables us to restore soil while reducing labor and continuing to harvest a maize crop each year.



# Good vs Better

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- The wise usage of legumes and manure enables us to restore soil while reducing labor and continuing to harvest a maize crop each year.
- God created the earth to be sustainable and expects my family to be good stewards of what he has given us. The wise use of legumes and manure enables us to restore our soil in order to provide food not only for ourselves, but also for future generations — which is pleasing to God.



# Good vs Better

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- The wise use of legumes and manure enables us to restore soil while reducing labor and continuing to harvest a maize crop each year.
  - Comes from a mechanical worldview, emphasizes the individual and time / labor saving.
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  - Comes from a mechanical worldview, emphasizes the individual and time and labor saving.
- God created the earth to be sustainable and expects my family to be good stewards of what he has given us. The wise use of legumes and manure enables us to restore our soil in order to provide food not only for ourselves, but also for future generations — which is pleasing to God.
  - Addresses a spiritual worldview, emphasizes important relationships in community, and is based on the nature of God.





# **Integrating a Biblical Worldview Into Our Agriculture Work**

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Brett Harrison

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