

PARKER J. PALMER

Author of Let Your Life Speak

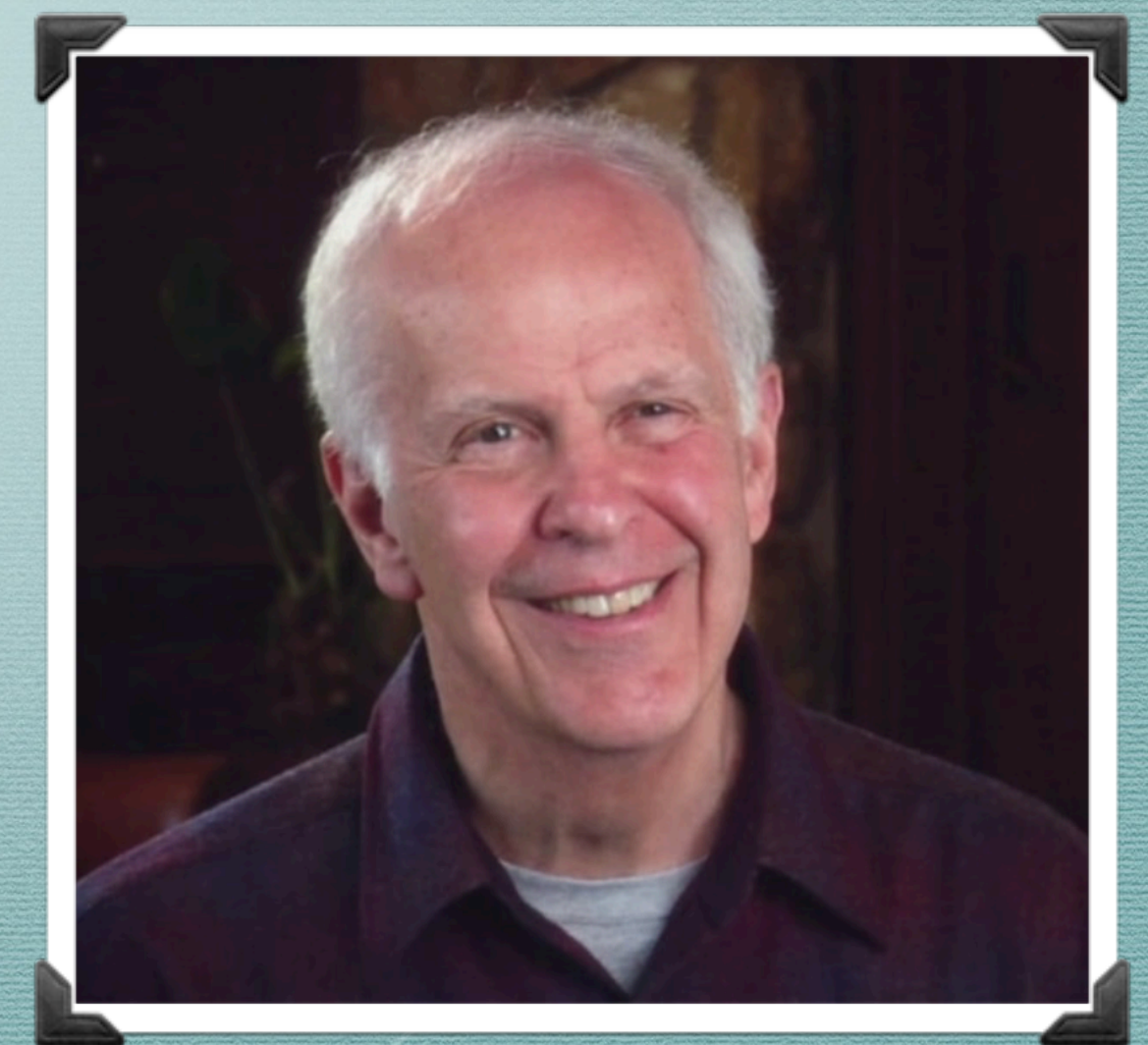
ON the BRINK
of EVERYTHING

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

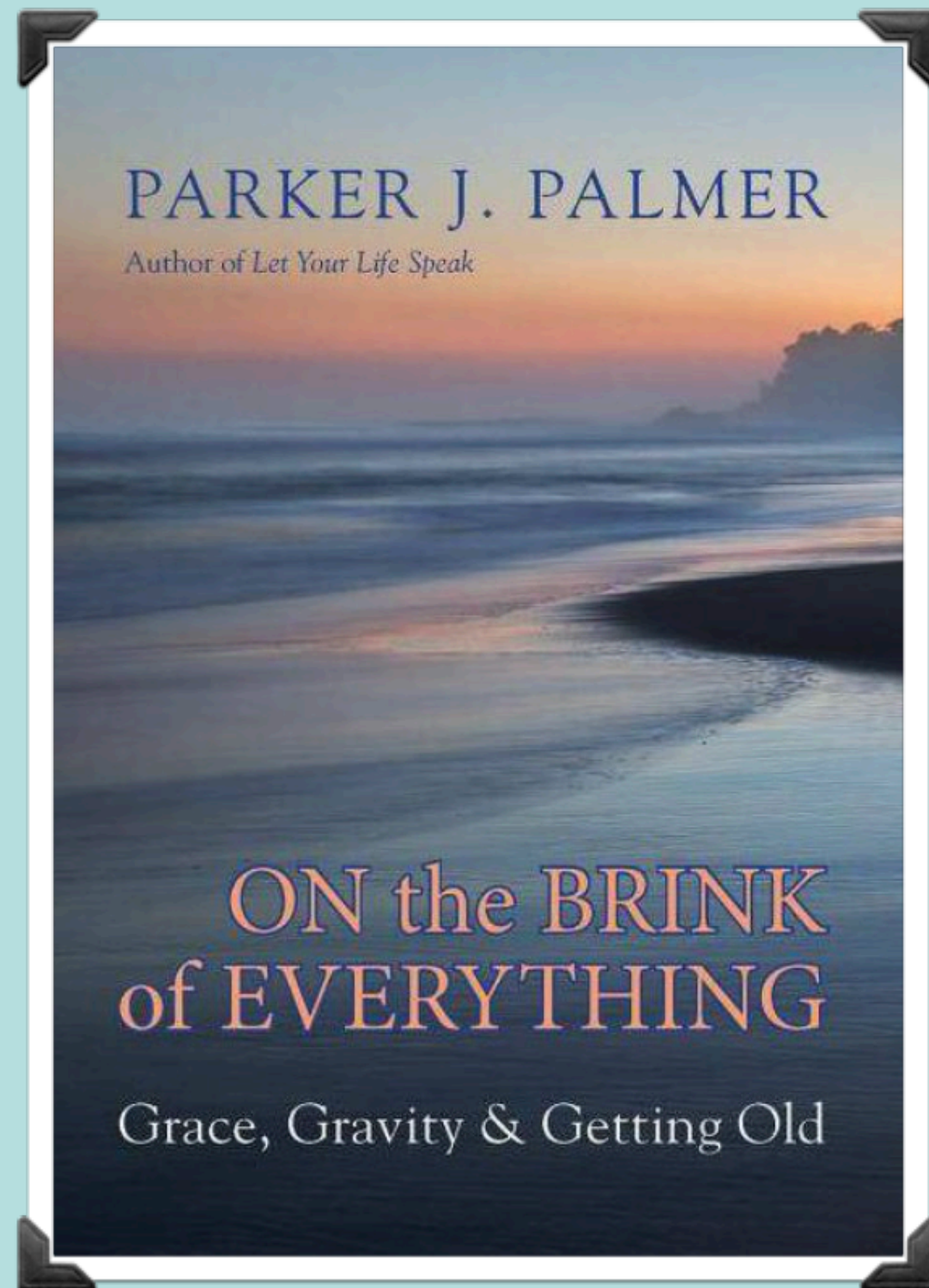
On the Brink of
Everything: Grace,
Gravity & Getting Old

Monday Night Book
Study at St. David's
United Church —

48 - 03



"We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement. Not decline and inaction" (p.8)



Monday Night Book Study

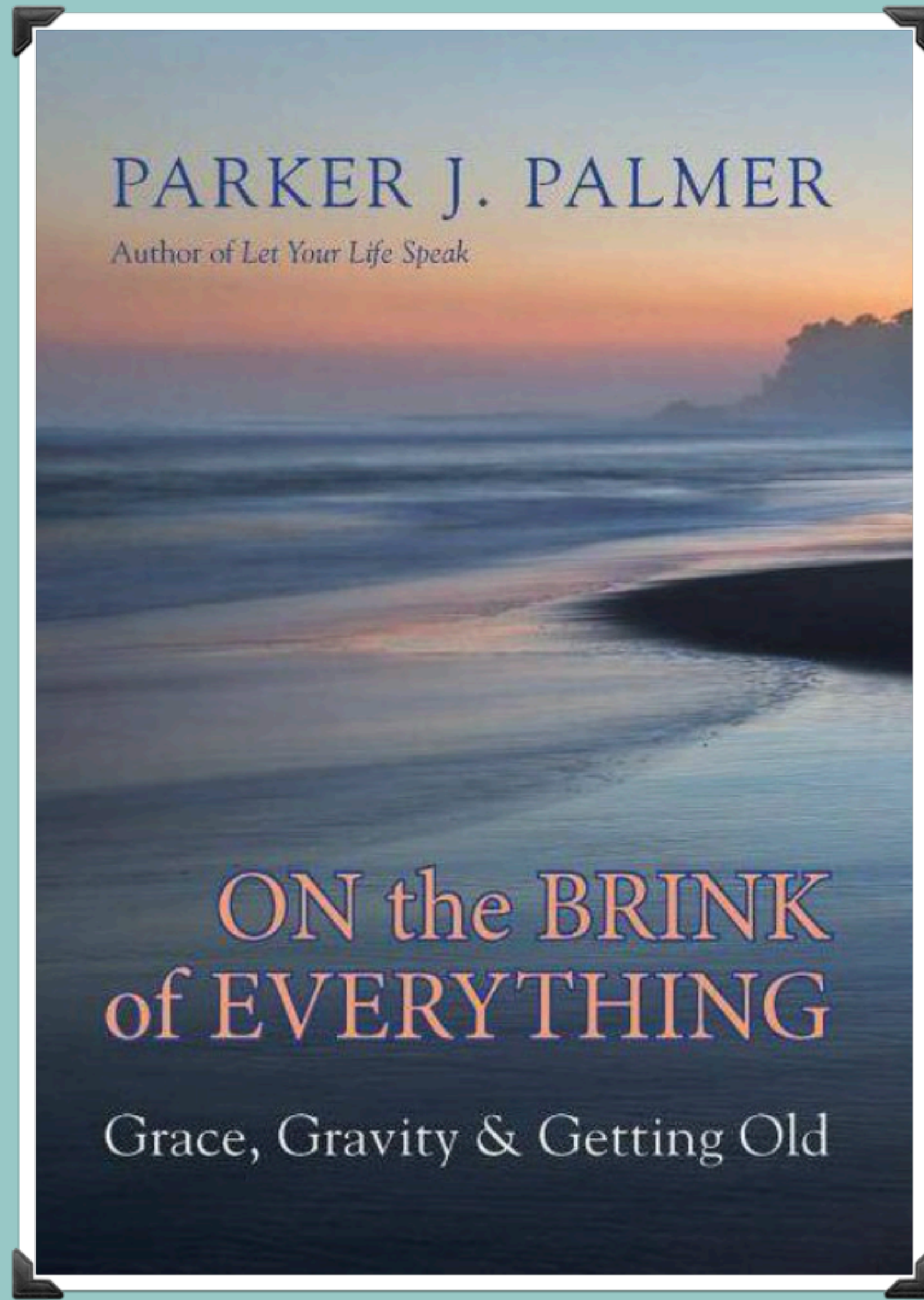
with

WAYNE, JOAN & BRENDA

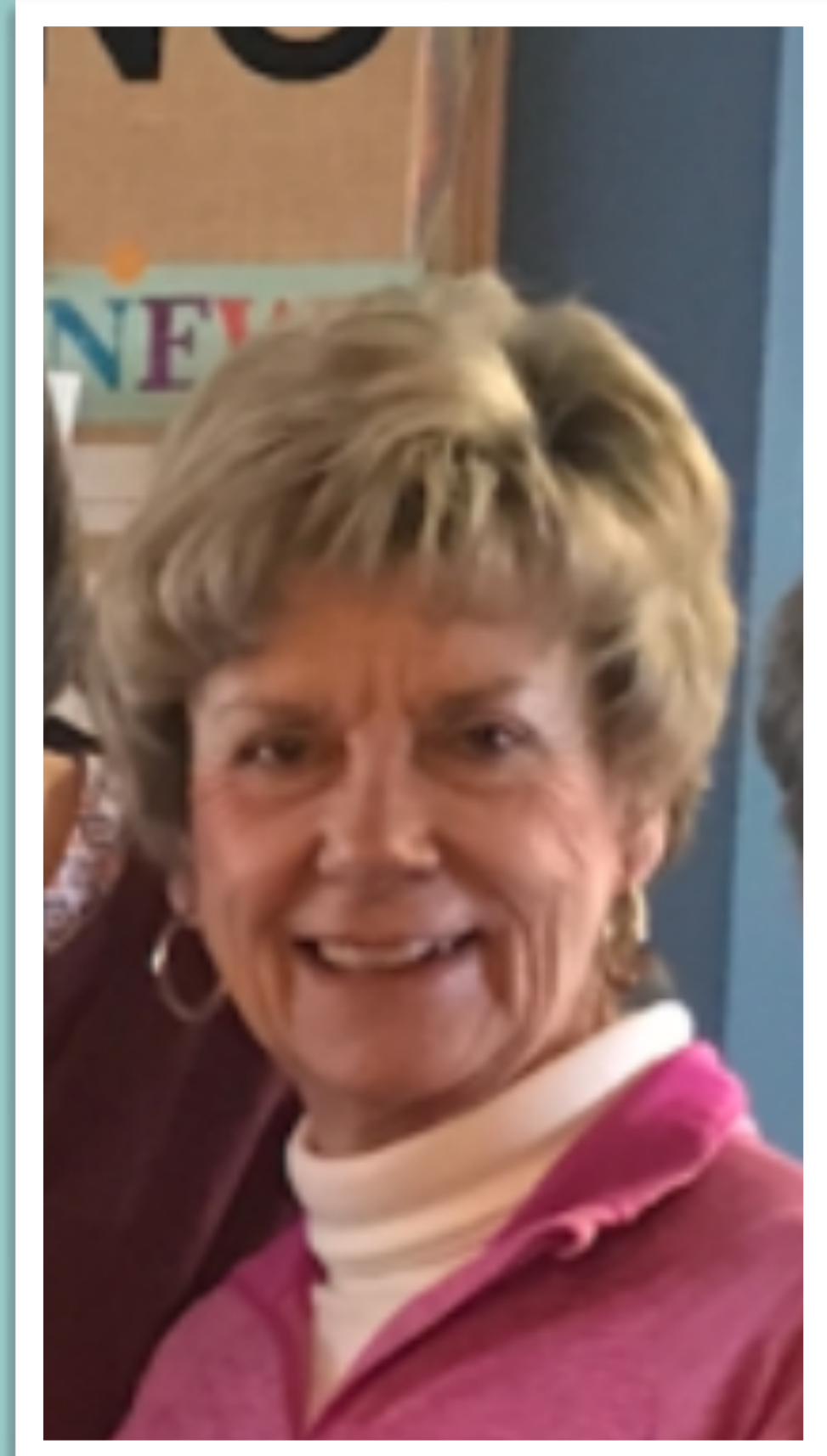
ST. DAVID'S BOOK STUDY TEAM

ACTS WINTER 2022

BEFORE WE BEGIN



**OPENING
with Darlene**



Reading Guide for Monday Nights

* **Session Three: Chapter I** January 31

* ***Session Four: Chapter II*** February 7

* **Session Five: Chapter III** February 14

* **Session Six: Chapter IV** February 28

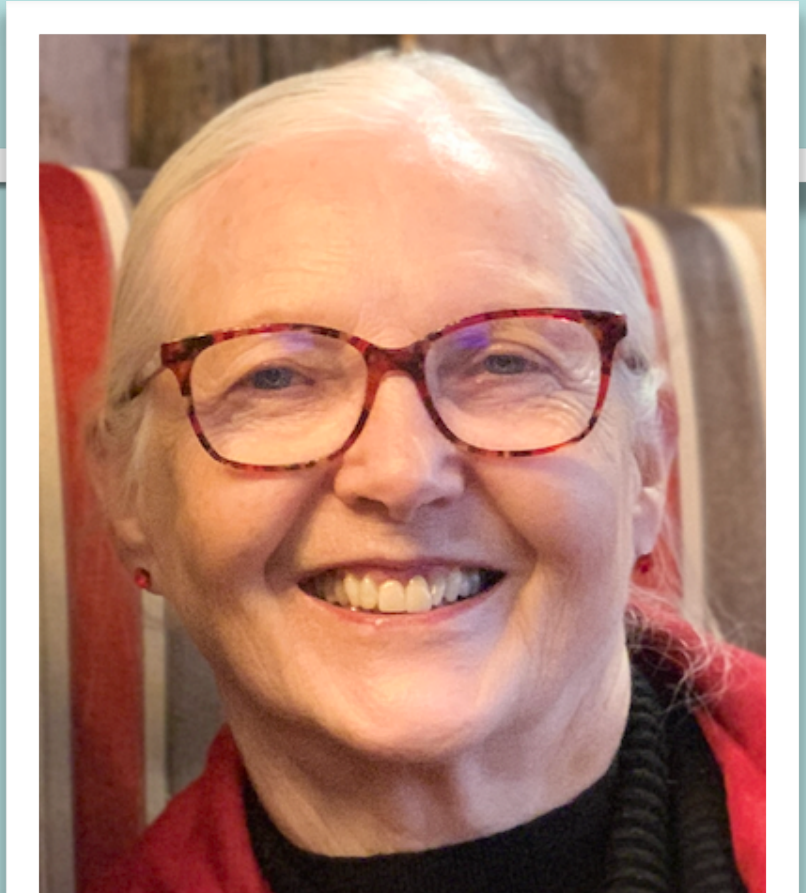
* **Session Seven: Chapter V** March 7

* **Session Eight: Chapter VI** March 14

* **Session Nine: Chapter VII & Postlude** March 21

* **Session Ten: Conclusions and Where to from here** March 28

housekeeping



Reflection on “View from the Brink”



**Changing
Perspectives over
time**

Nine Key Discoveries



**1. TELLING THE
TRUTH ... IN LOVE**



HONESTY WITH COMPASSION

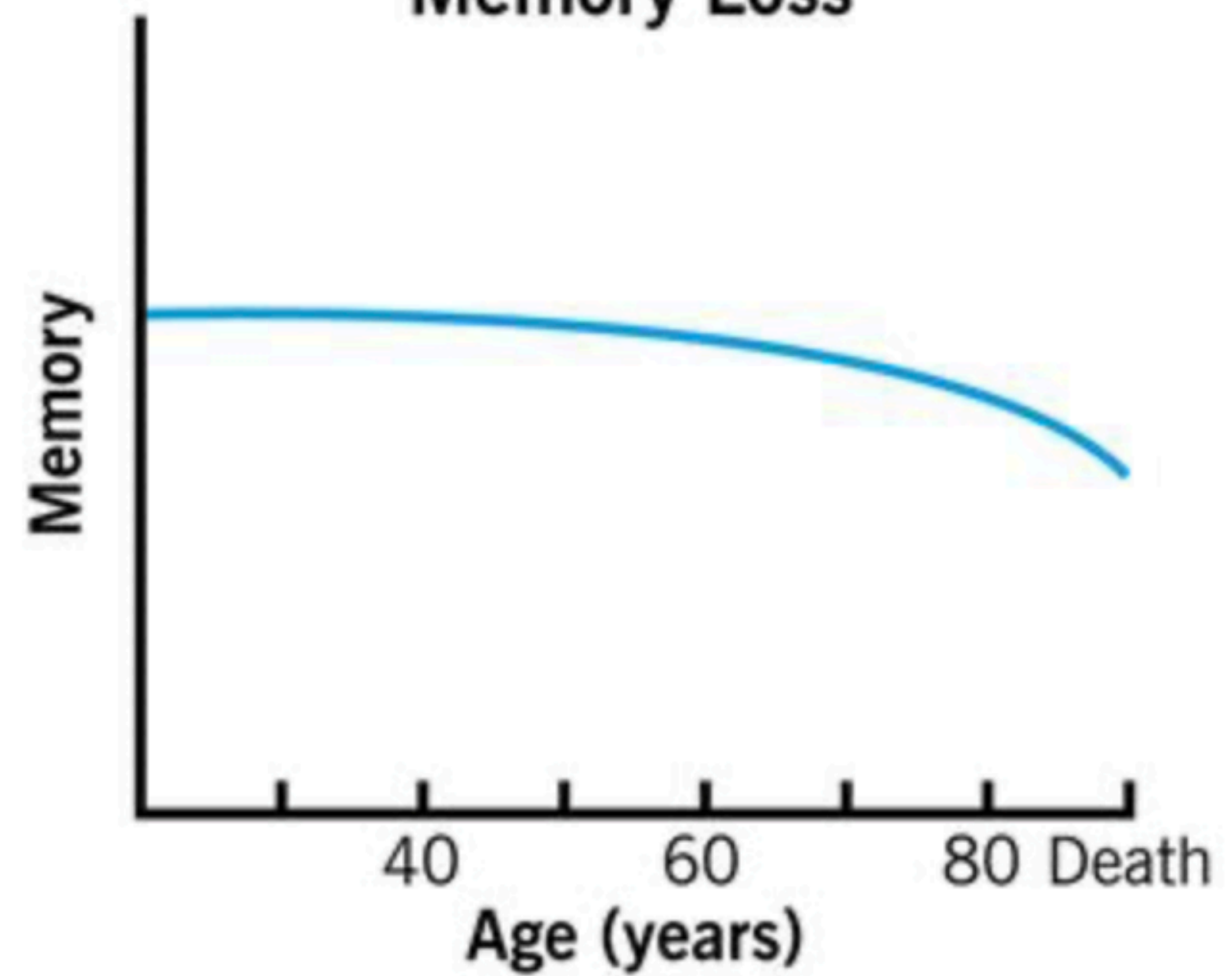


**2. “I CAN ALMOST SEE
DEATH FROM HERE...”**



**Changed
Perspectives over
time**

**Normal Age-related
Memory Loss**



3. In Awe of the Diminishment of Old Age

4. “You must be perfect.”

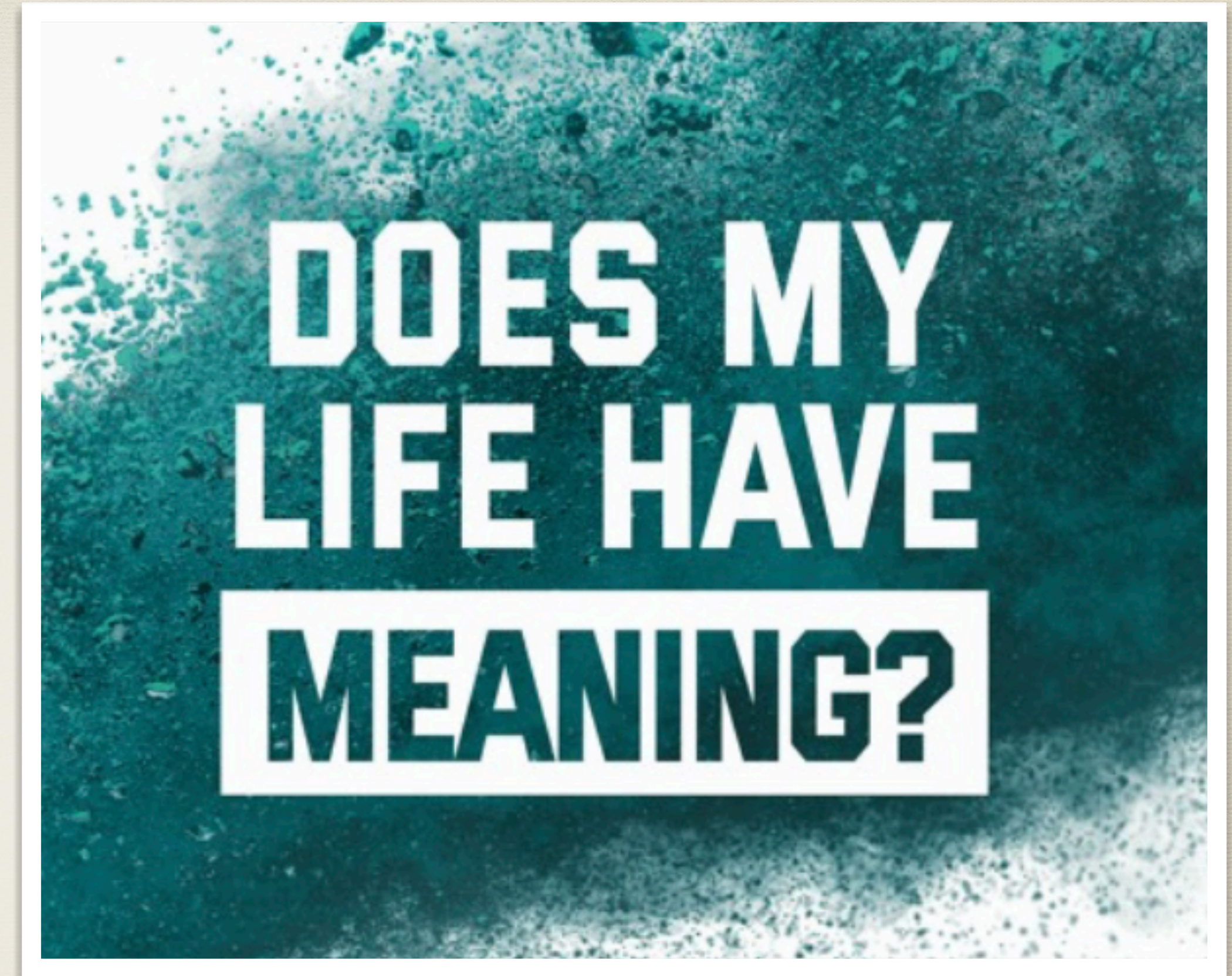
Matthew 5:48



“You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

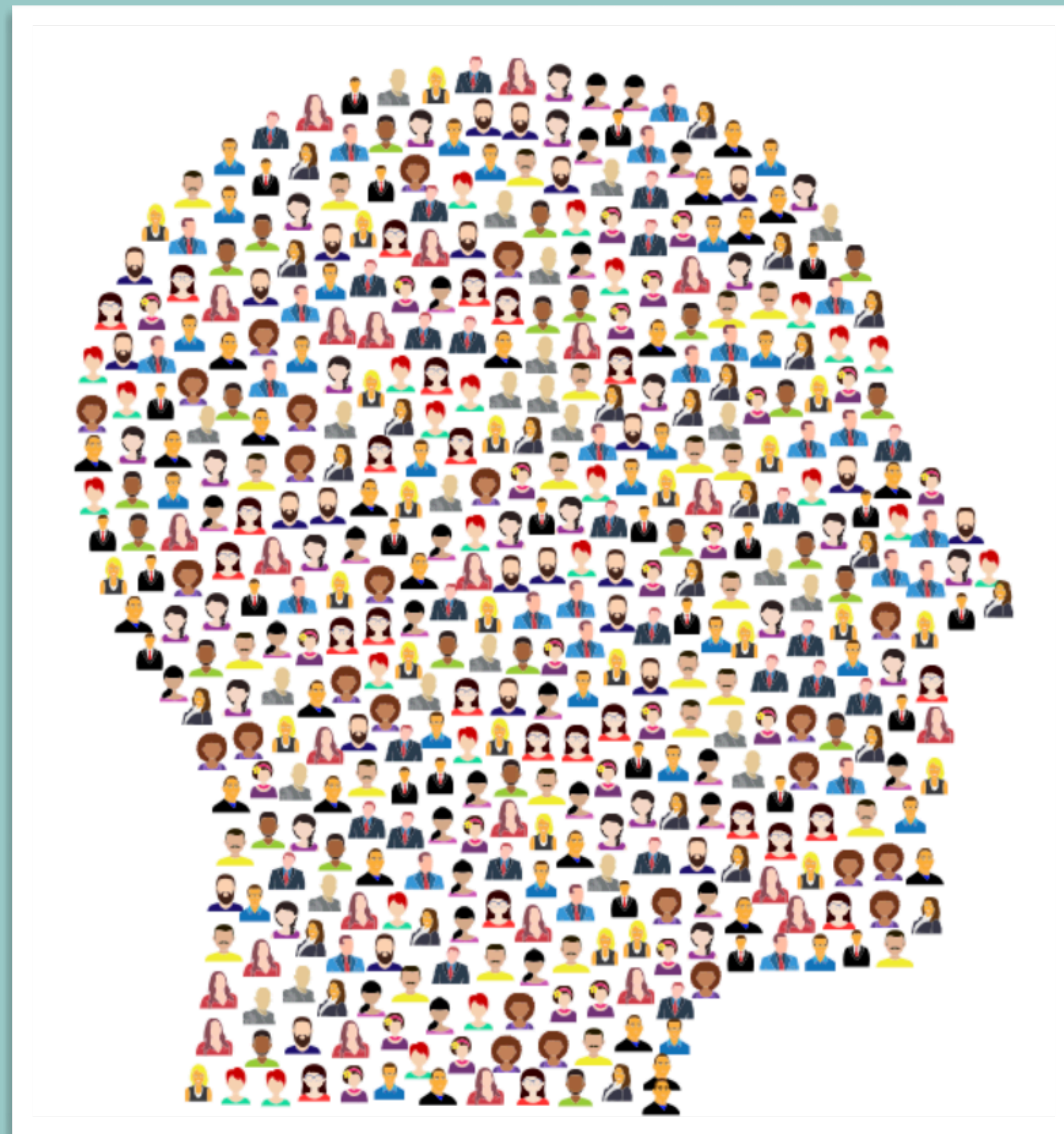
**... wholeness or
perfection
... integrating
brokenness as a
part of life**





5. Does my life have meaning?

6. All I need to do is to keep living as one among many as well as I can.



7. “Perhaps the most important sentence I’ve ever written is that one word, ‘Enough.’”



8. Eric Erikson — “En route to old age, we face a critical choice between *generativity* and *stagnation*.”



DISCUSS

...

9. “The junk I need to unload in my old age is not so much material as psychological.”

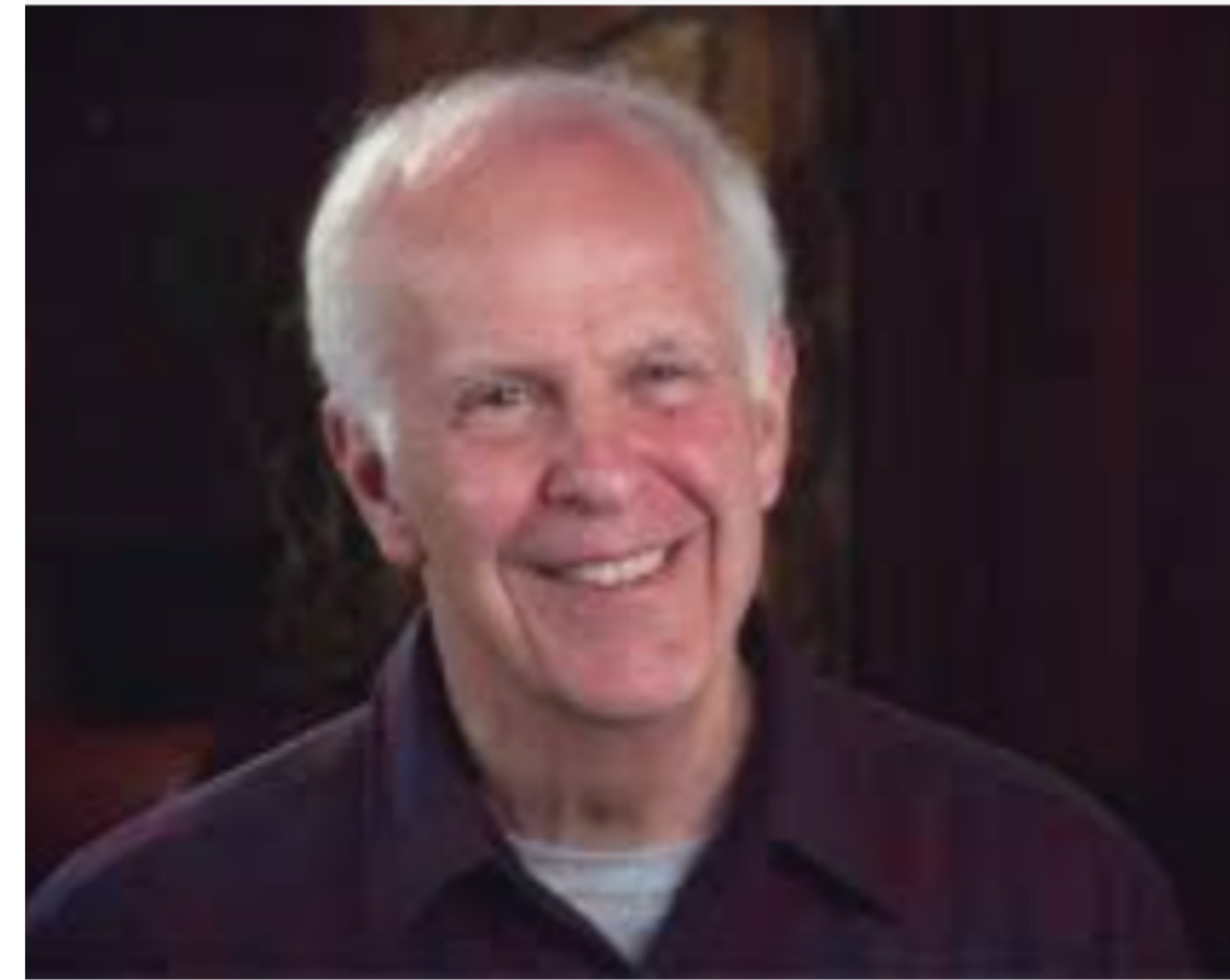


10. Key theme of this study -

“We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement, not decline and inaction.”



**Dr.
Parker
Palmer
Ph.D.
Sociology**



[https://
www.newcomer
palmer.com/
home](https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home)

[https://
onbeing.org](https://onbeing.org)

The Growing Edge Podcasts

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

“Withering into the truth....the simplicity that lies on the other side of complexity.”
Parker J. Palmer

I am my ignorance and my insight, my doubts and my convictions, my fears and my hopes.

“We come from mystery and we return to mystery.”

“Delight in the gift of life and be grateful.”

**PARKER PALMER in conversation with SONDRA SAMUELS
at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC
We the People: A Time to Act**

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**D
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**11/16/19
beginning at 29:30-41:00**

Parker Palmer on Zoom May 2020

beginning at 21:27 to 28:44



Well-being for Changemakers

Czeslaw Milosz:

“You are only one thing among many”

William Butler Yeats:

“Now may I wither into truth”

Parker Palmer:

“Enough. The job is done.”

Lucille Clifton:

“But oh, at last, the things themselves.”

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

Break out Rooms

2022: Some things to discuss

*** Growing edges? Coping? Gratitude * Writing * Risk Taking**
*** Faithfulness * Speaking the Truth in Love * Changing Perspectives * Perfection? * Generativity vs Stagnation**

*** Racism/Anti Racism** — Parker's Growing Edge

*** Healing the Heart of Democracy** — Parker's Growing Edge

Feedback and Summary

***Great ideas and stories that need to be shared**

**NEXT WEEK: Session III —
February 7 , 2022**

- **Read Chapter Two:
Young and Old: The Dance
of the Generations ...**
- **Check out ‘Pause to Consider’**
- **VOLUNTEER FOR OPENING
AND/OR CLOSING Next Week**



CLOSING WITH BRENDA

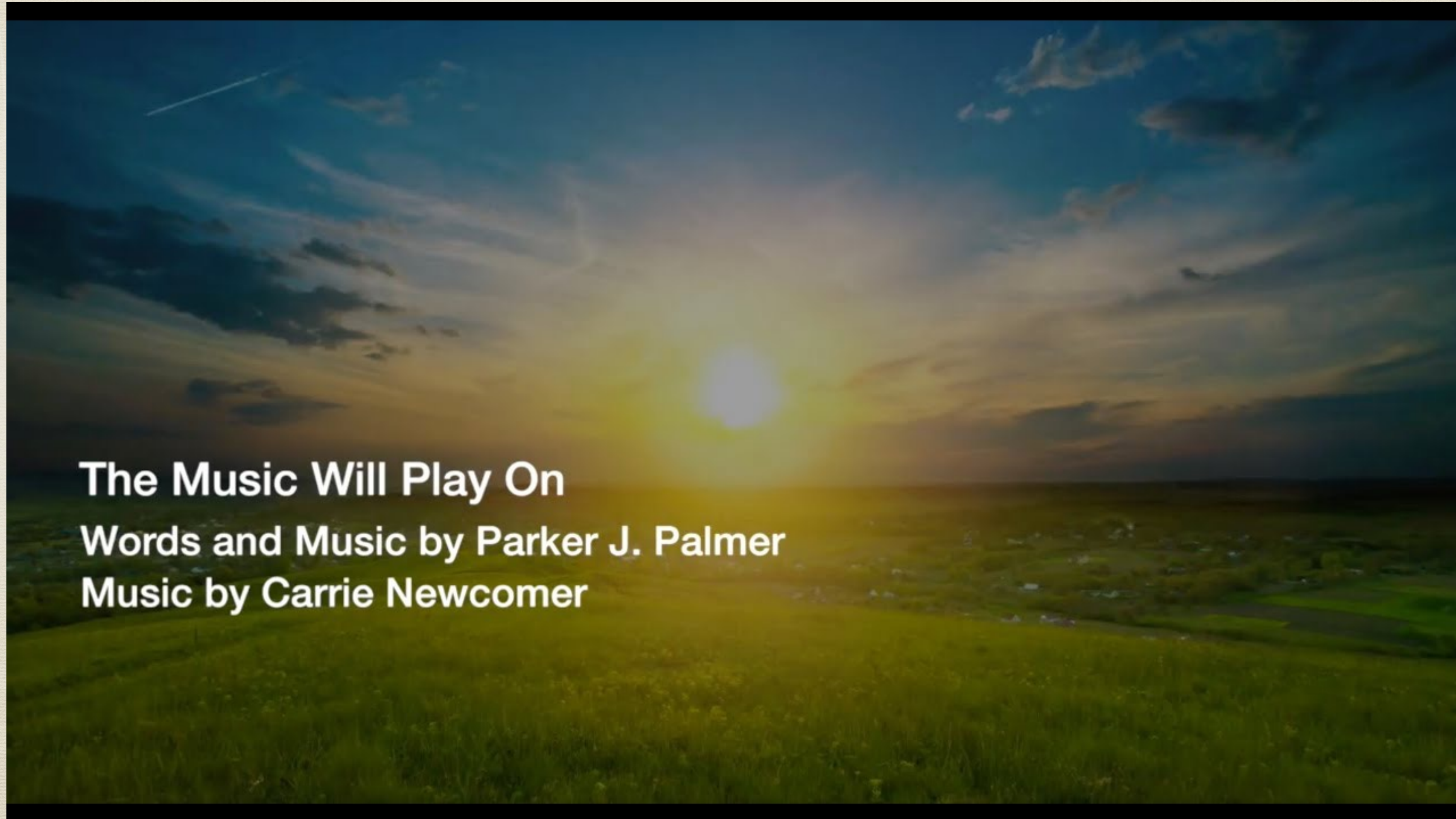


**Carrie
Newcomer &
Parker
Palmer:
The Growing
Edge**



Carrie Newcomer & Parker Palmer ...

“The Music Will Play On”



The Music Will Play On
Words and Music by Parker J. Palmer
Music by Carrie Newcomer

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