



Finding Grace in
Your Story



What's Your Favorite Type of Story?

Use the Chat Function to Type Your Answer

Romance

Horror

Action/Adventure


Comedy

Science Fiction

Western

Drama

Other



The Common Storyline of Great Stories

- Things were once good
- Something terrible happened
- Battle/Journey/Adventure
- Life is restored to good again




Our Story Starts Well

- **Ephesians 1:4 AMPC** Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, *even* above reproach, before Him in love.
- **Jeremiah 1: 5 NIV** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”



Pain Enters Our Story

- We are opposed.
 - We have an enemy.
 - He is created, not the Creator
 - He is not proactive, but reactive
- 



Our Wounds are Not Random


- “The wound is too well aimed and far too consistent to be accidental. It was an attempt to take you out; to cripple or destroy your strength and get you out of the action. Do you know why there's been such an assault? The Enemy fears you. You are dangerous big-time. If you ever really got your heart back, lived from it with courage, you would be a huge problem to him. You would do a lot of damage . . . on the side of good.”

- John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart*





God's Provision



“Grace is the omnipotent, operational power of the Holy Spirit *that is given to us at our point of weakness* that enables us to do what we are supposed to do and be what we are supposed to be.”

Pastor Art Guice

God's
Thoughts are
Not Our
Thoughts

- **1 Corinthians 1: 27 KJV** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- **28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
- **29** That no flesh should glory in his presence.

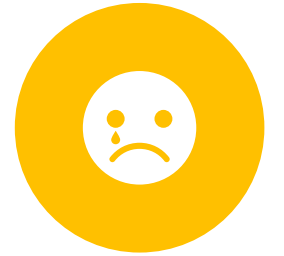
How Do You View Your Weakness?



DESPISED IT?



ASHAMED OF
IT?



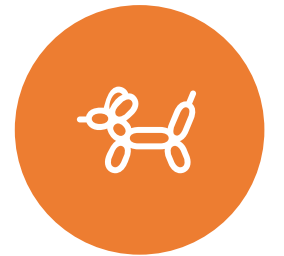
CURSED IT?



TOLERATED IT?



HID IT?



GLORIED IN IT?

A. W. Tozer

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”



Break Out Group Discussion Question

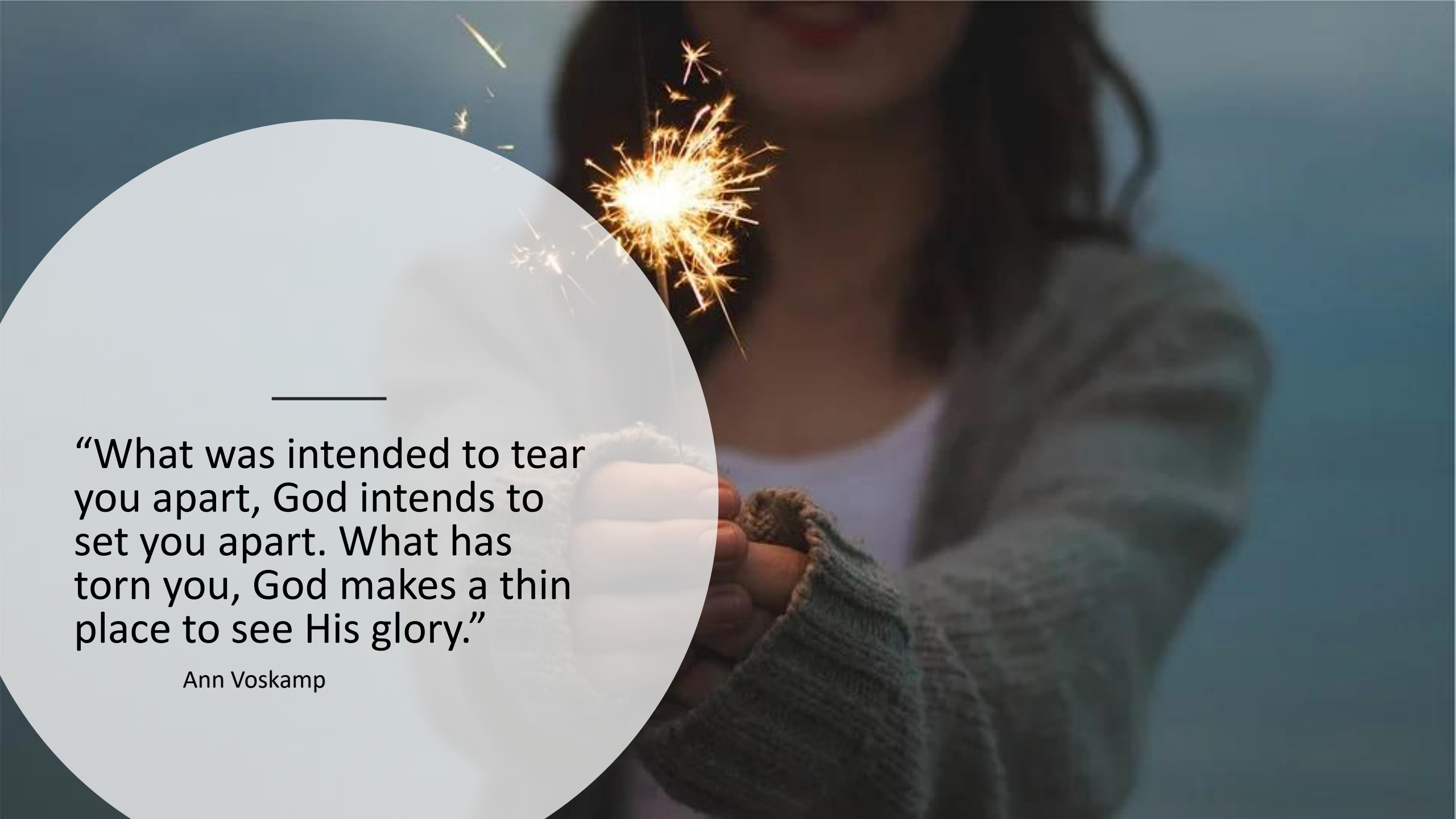
What comes to mind when you think about God as Father?

5 minutes

Telling your story of grace is the most beautiful gift you can give.

Ministry Characteristics:

- **Authenticity** – live it first
- **Vulnerability** – share it
- **Practicality** – apply it

A person with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored top and a grey knit sweater, is holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright yellow and orange, with many sparks flying out. The background is a dark, clear blue sky. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

“What was intended to tear you apart, God intends to set you apart. What has torn you, God makes a thin place to see His glory.”

Ann Voskamp

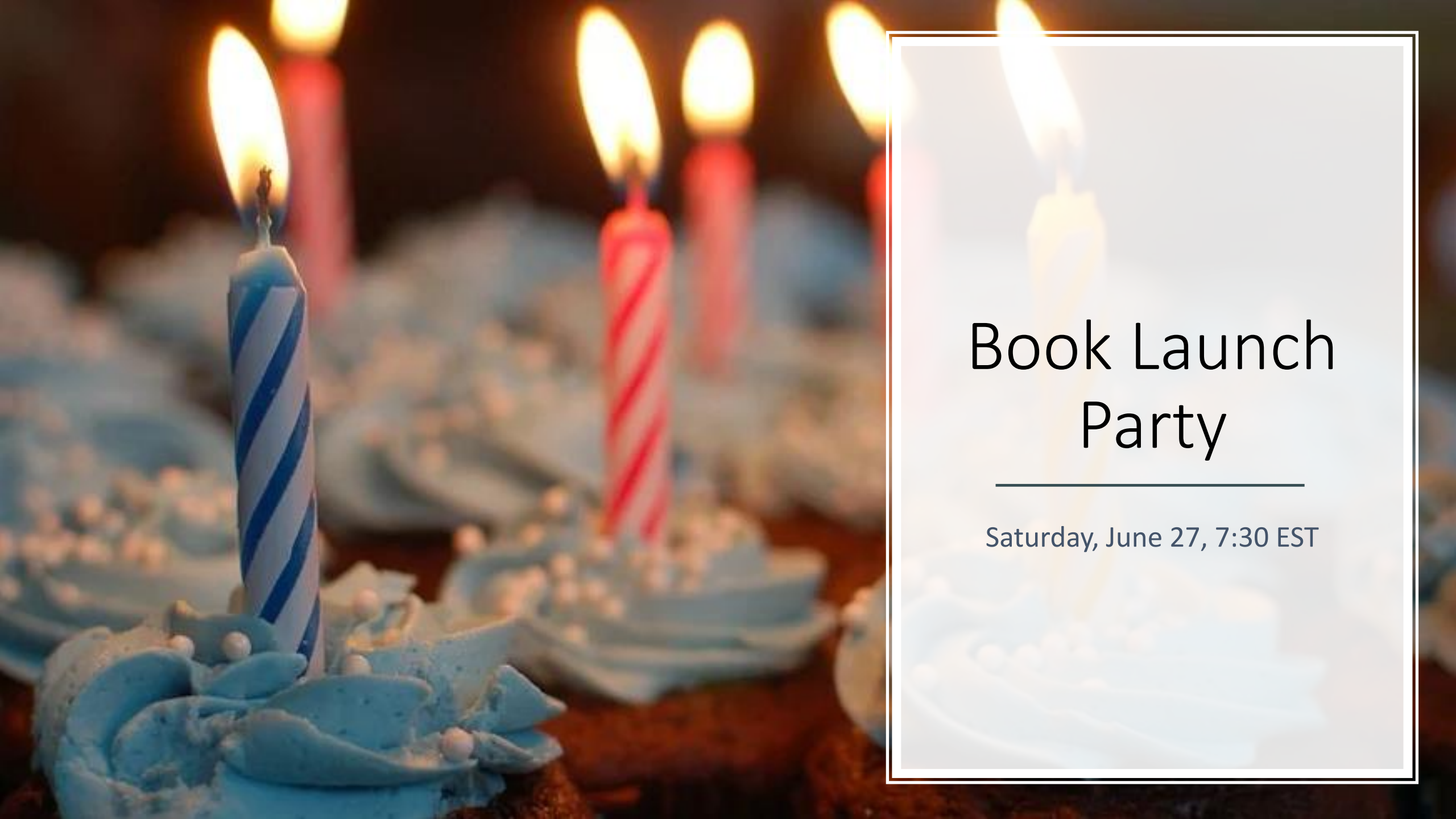
The Book Cover Reveal!



DIVINE REVERSAL



SUSAN JOY SIMKINS, Ph.D.



Book Launch Party

Saturday, June 27, 7:30 EST



Four-Part Series on Divine Reversal: A Scriptural Journey