

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ...

Acts 9:1-21

...<sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.<sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>5</sup> "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.  
"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he  
replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city,  
and you will be told what you must do." ...

Acts 9:1-21

...<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.<sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision,  
"Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered. ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ...

Acts 9:1-21

... <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ...

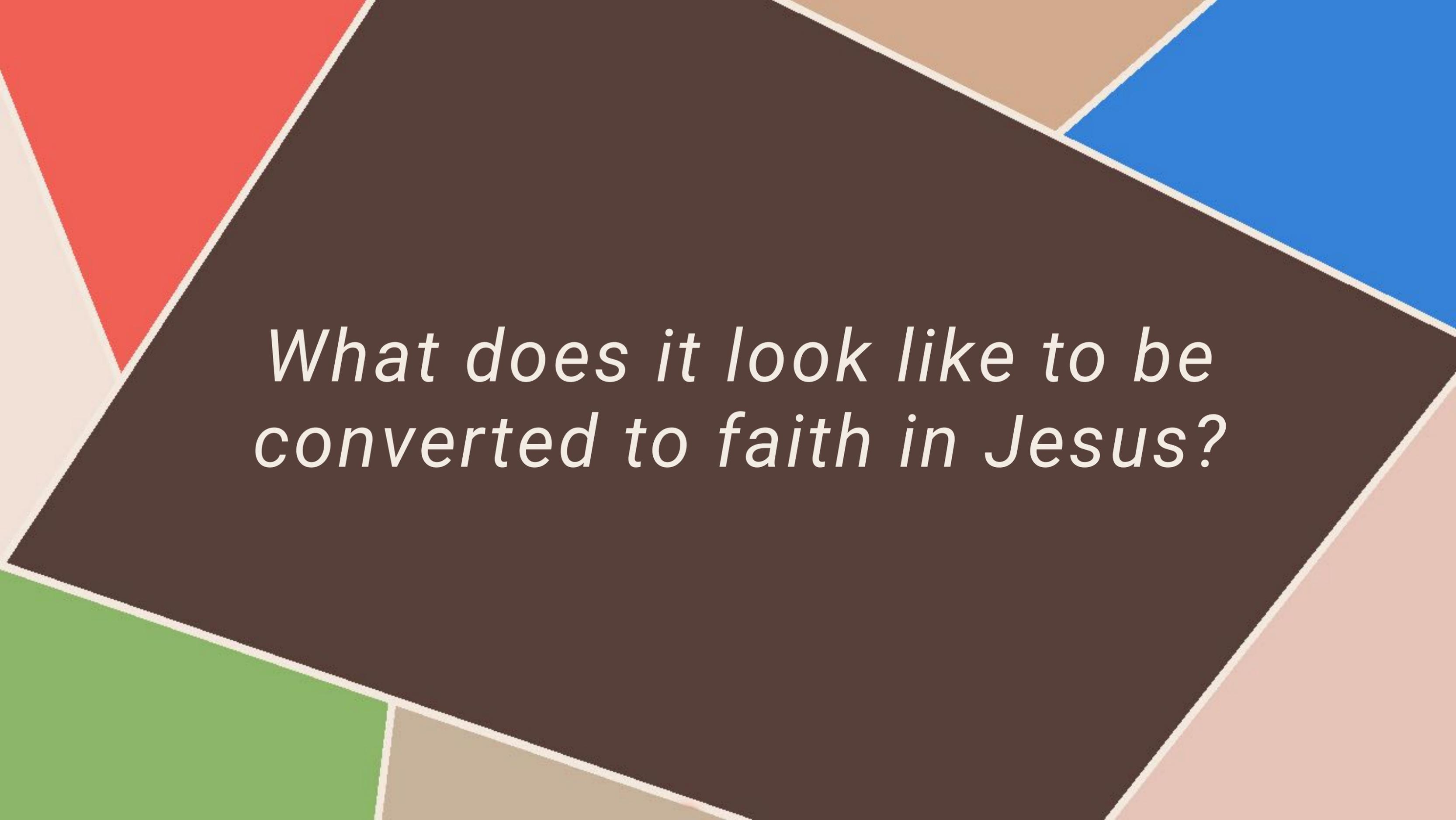
Acts 9:1-21

...<sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.  
<sup>21</sup> All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name?"

Acts 9:1-21



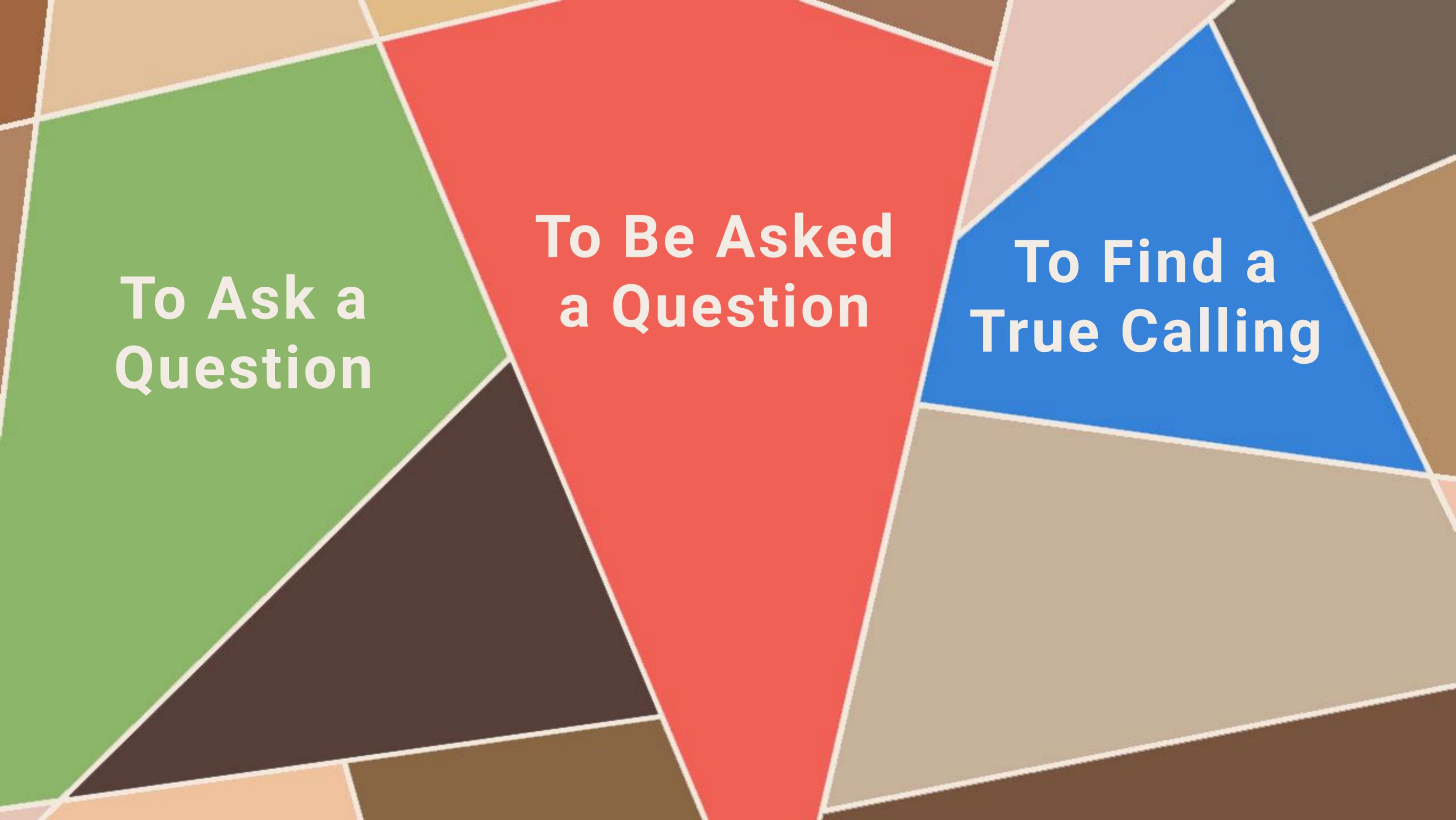
**THE BEST**  
**IS YET**  
**TO COME**

The image features a central dark gray diamond shape. The background is composed of several overlapping geometric shapes in various colors: a red triangle in the top-left, a blue triangle in the top-right, a green triangle in the bottom-left, and a light beige triangle in the bottom-right. The diamond shape is the largest and most prominent, containing the text.

*What does it look like to be  
converted to faith in Jesus?*

"a pattern"

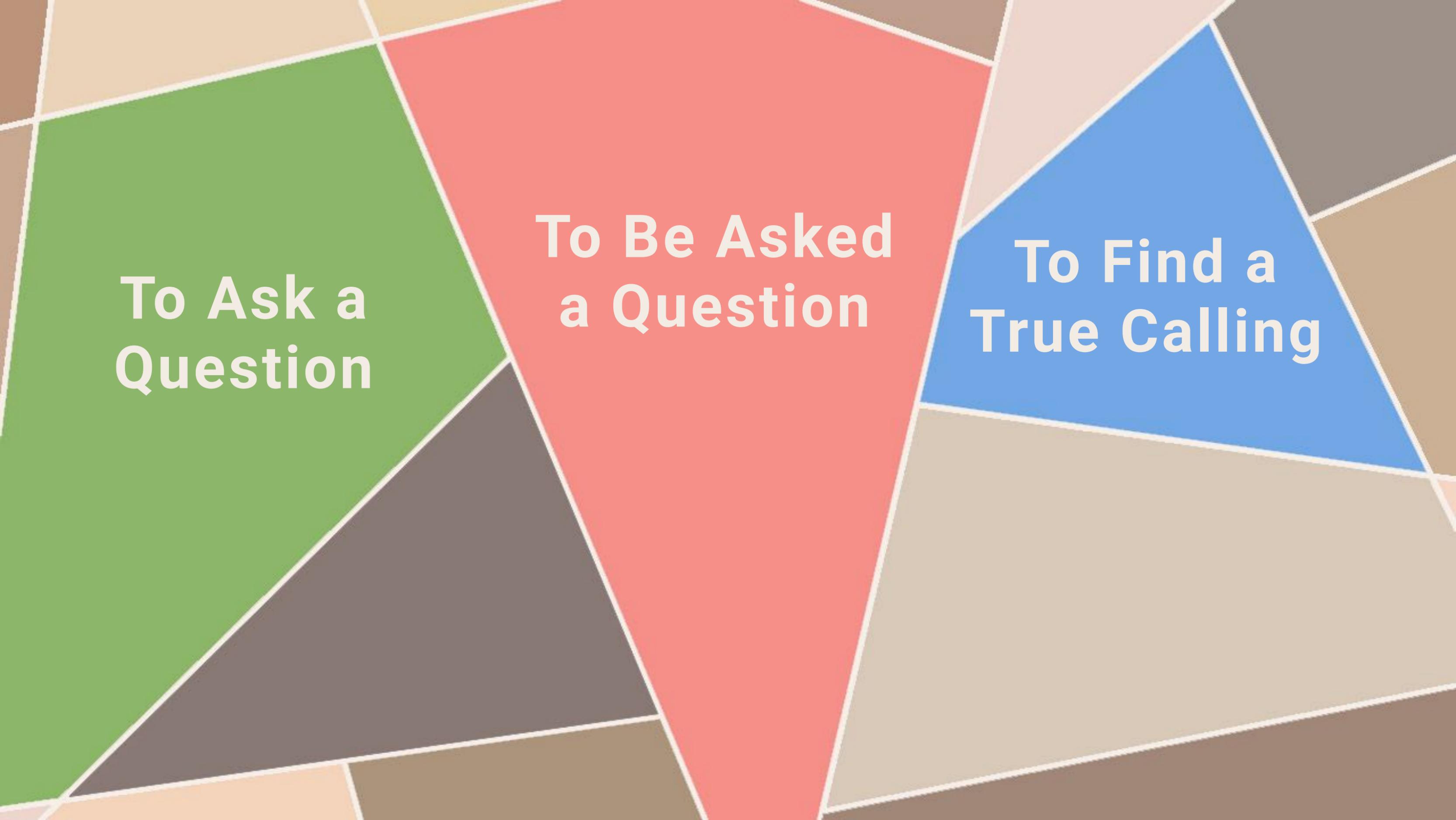
1 Timothy 1:16



**To Ask a  
Question**

**To Be Asked  
a Question**

**To Find a  
True Calling**



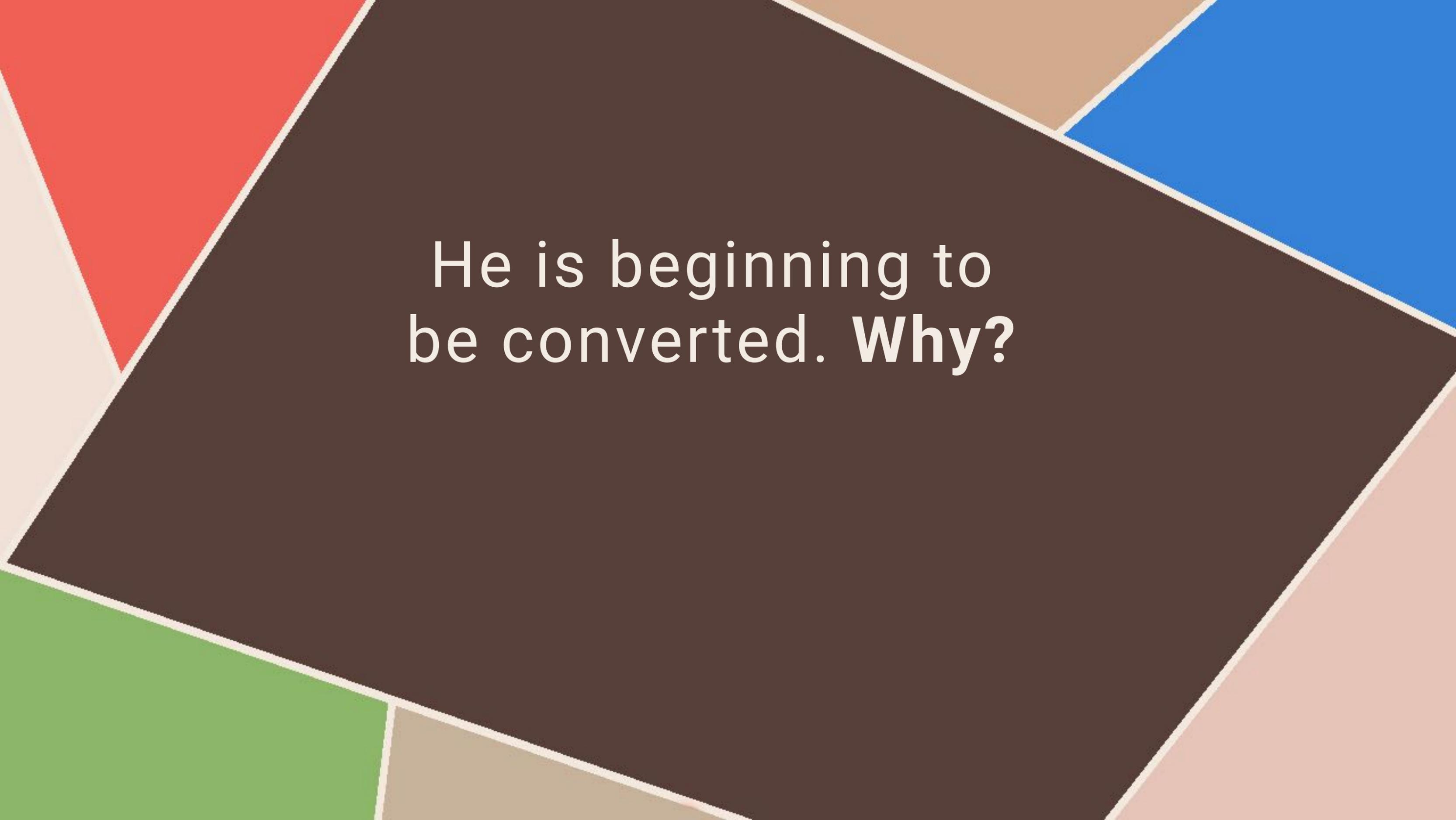
**To Ask a  
Question**

**To Be Asked  
a Question**

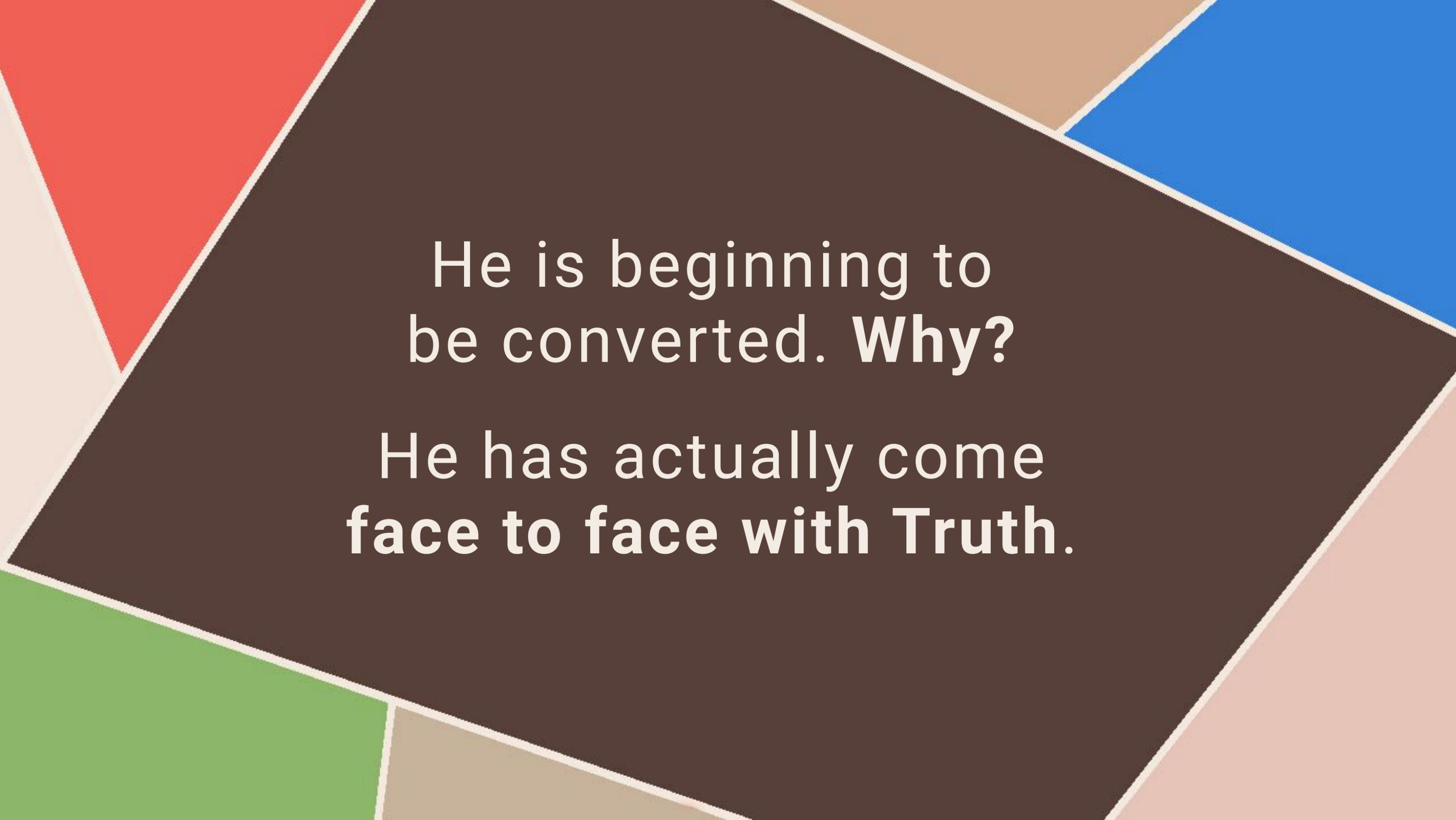
**To Find a  
True Calling**

"Who are you, Lord?"

Acts 9:5



He is beginning to  
be converted. **Why?**



He is beginning to  
be converted. **Why?**

He has actually come  
**face to face with Truth.**

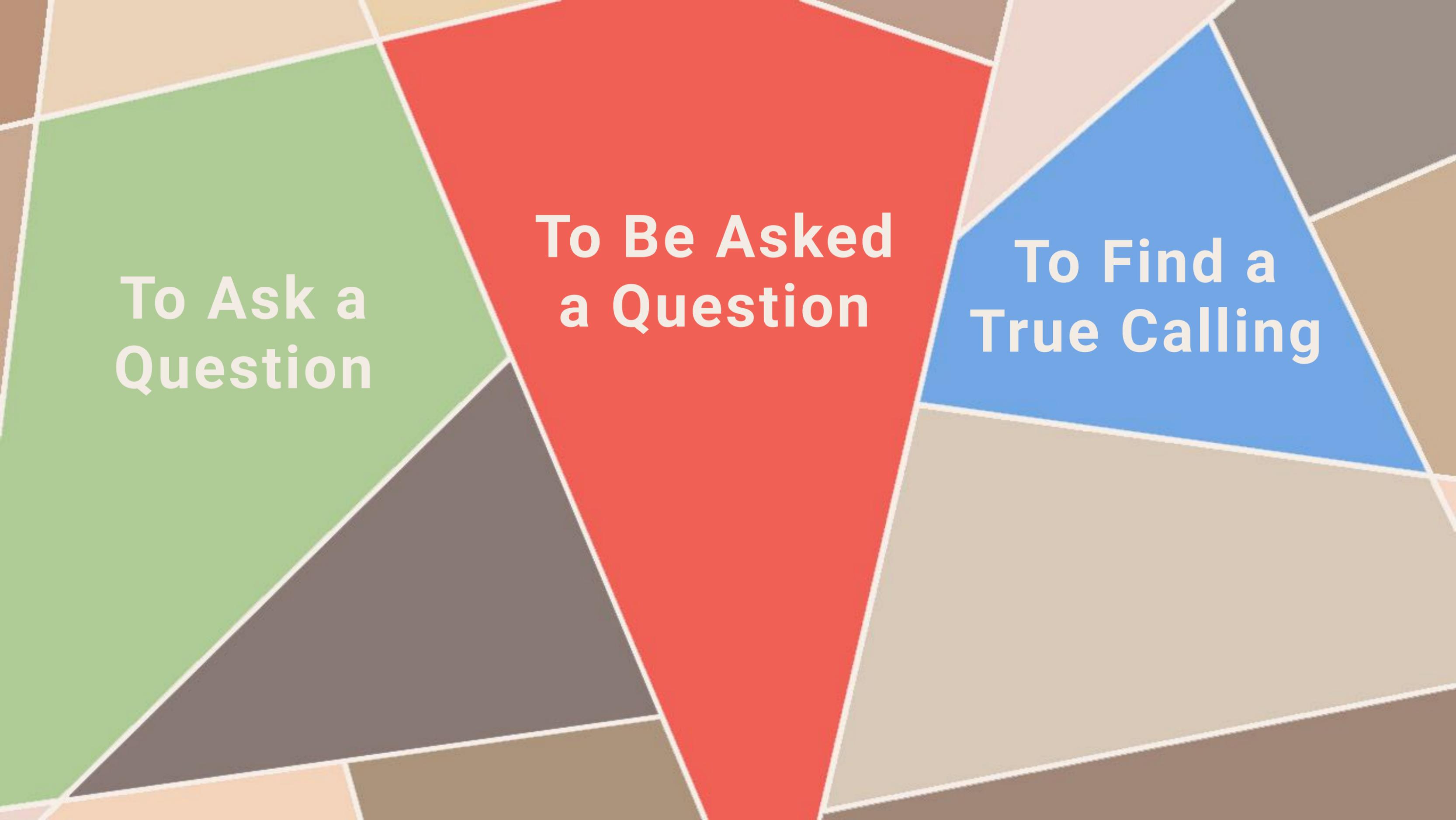
"...had a deep, black, wordless conviction that the best way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin."

Flannery O'Connor

Wise  
Blood

<sup>5</sup> "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:5-6



**To Ask a  
Question**

**To Be Asked  
a Question**

**To Find a  
True Calling**

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Acts 9:4

The background is an abstract composition of geometric shapes. A large, dark grey diamond shape is the central focus, tilted slightly to the right. It is surrounded by several other shapes: a red triangle in the top-left corner, a blue triangle in the top-right corner, a green triangle in the bottom-left corner, and a tan triangle in the bottom-right corner. The shapes are separated by thin white lines.

Saul, why are you doing  
what you're doing?

Paul needed to discover two things:

He didn't understand **the Bible**

"These texts are subverting these cultural practices, not supporting them."

Dr. Robert Alter

Paul needed to discover two things:

He didn't understand **the Bible**

He didn't understand **himself**

But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded  
by the commandment, produced in me  
every kind of coveting.

Romans 7:8

Once I was alive apart from the law;  
but when the commandment came, sin  
sprang to life and I died.

Romans 7:9

**Harold Abrahams:** "And now in one hour's time, I will be out there again. I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor; 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my existence. But will I?"

*Chariots of Fire*

"I have an iron will. And all of my will has always been to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy. My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that's always pushing me, pushing me. Because even though I've become Somebody, I still have to prove that I am a Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will."

*Madonna*

Vogue  
Magazine

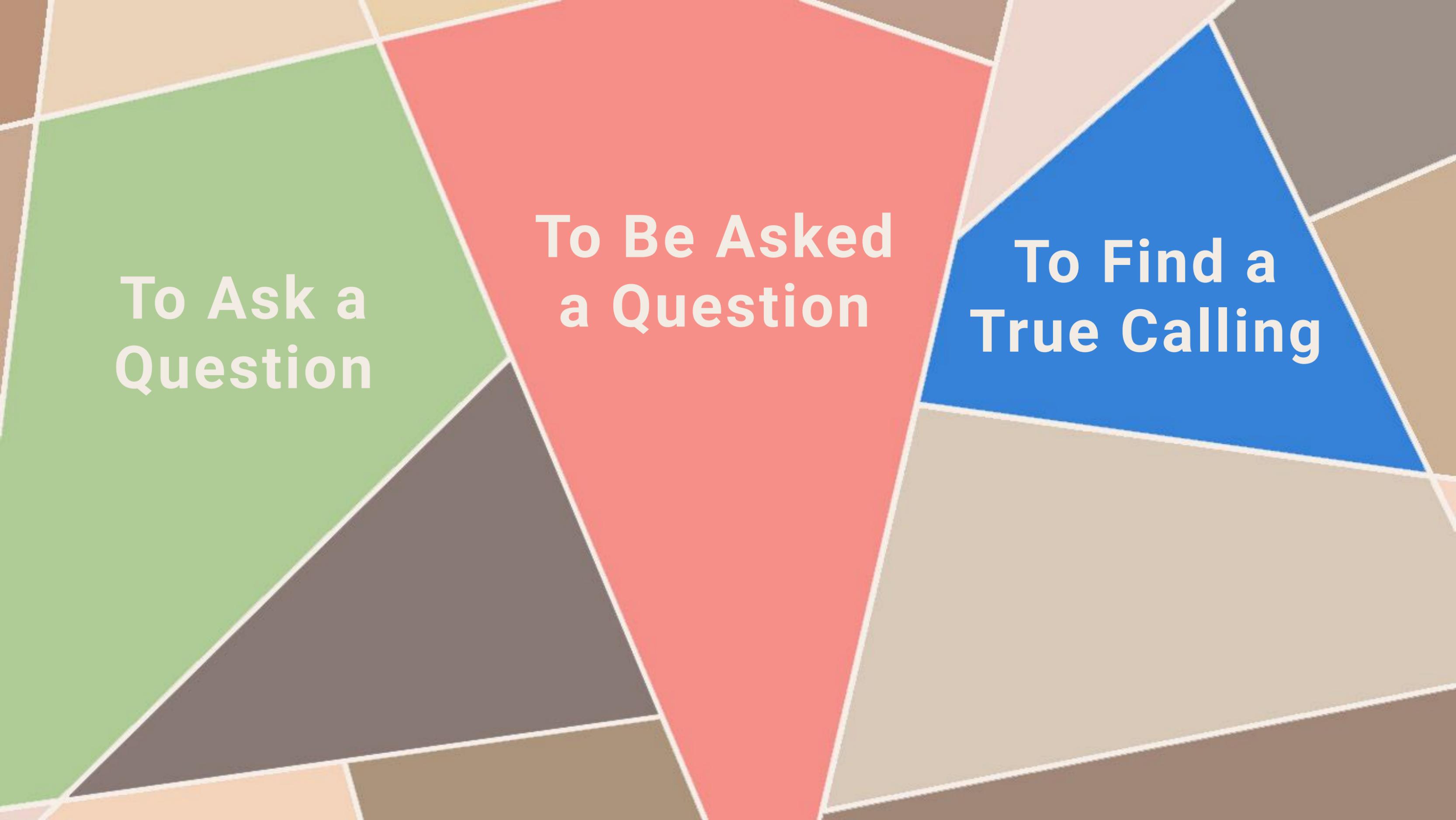
"Performing gives me  
a sense of worthiness."

Rong Niu

Chinese  
acrobat

<sup>3</sup> I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup> My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4



**To Ask a  
Question**

**To Be Asked  
a Question**

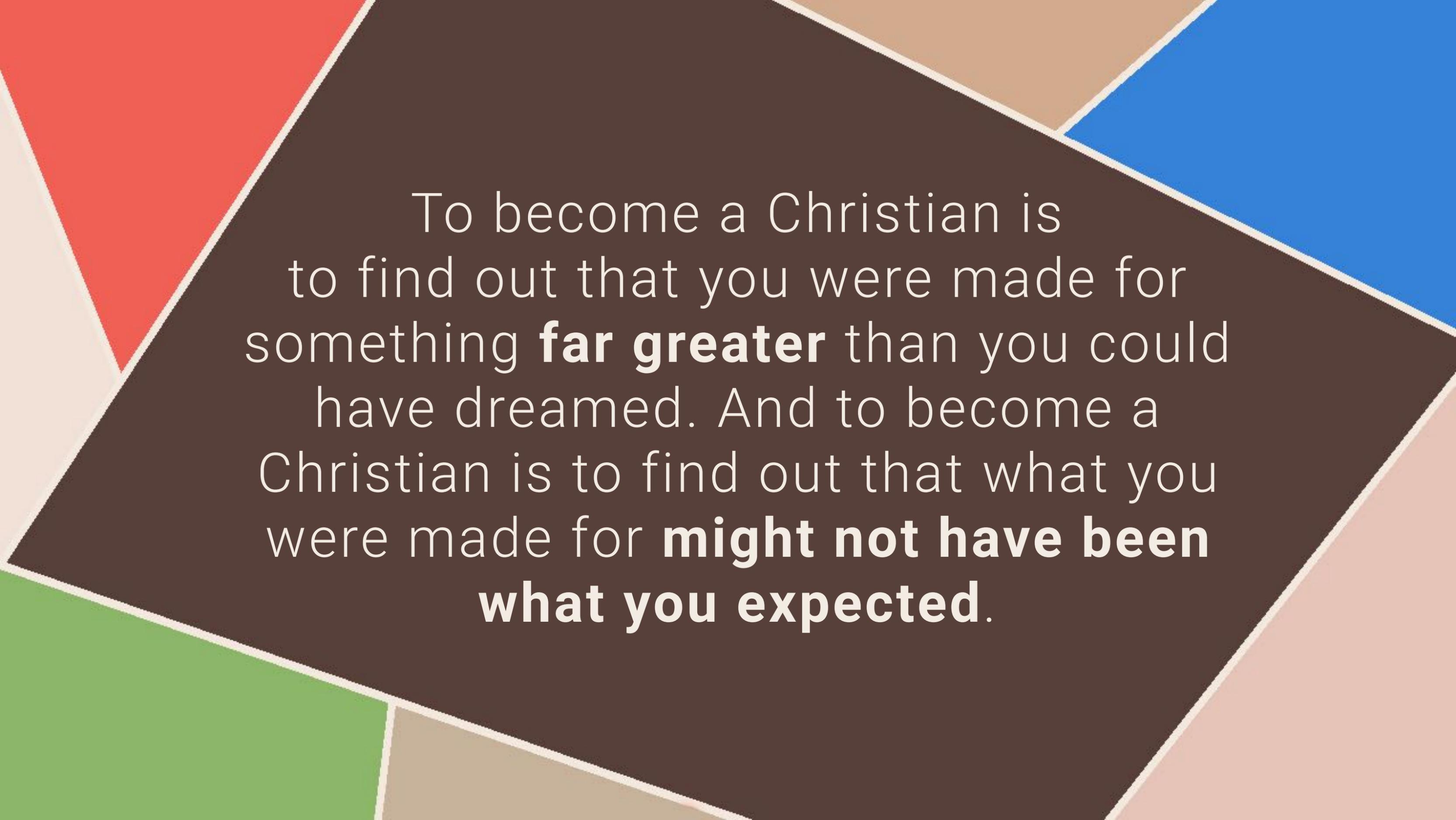
**To Find a  
True Calling**

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."

Acts 9:15

"I will show him how much  
he must suffer for my name."

Acts 9:16



To become a Christian is  
to find out that you were made for  
something **far greater** than you could  
have dreamed. And to become a  
Christian is to find out that what you  
were made for **might not have been  
what you expected.**



**THE BEST**  
**IS YET**  
**TO COME**