

Wild Hope: Faith for an Unknown Season

What orients the church during
this season of disorientation?



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wild
hope
faith series
2014



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wild
hope
faith series
2014



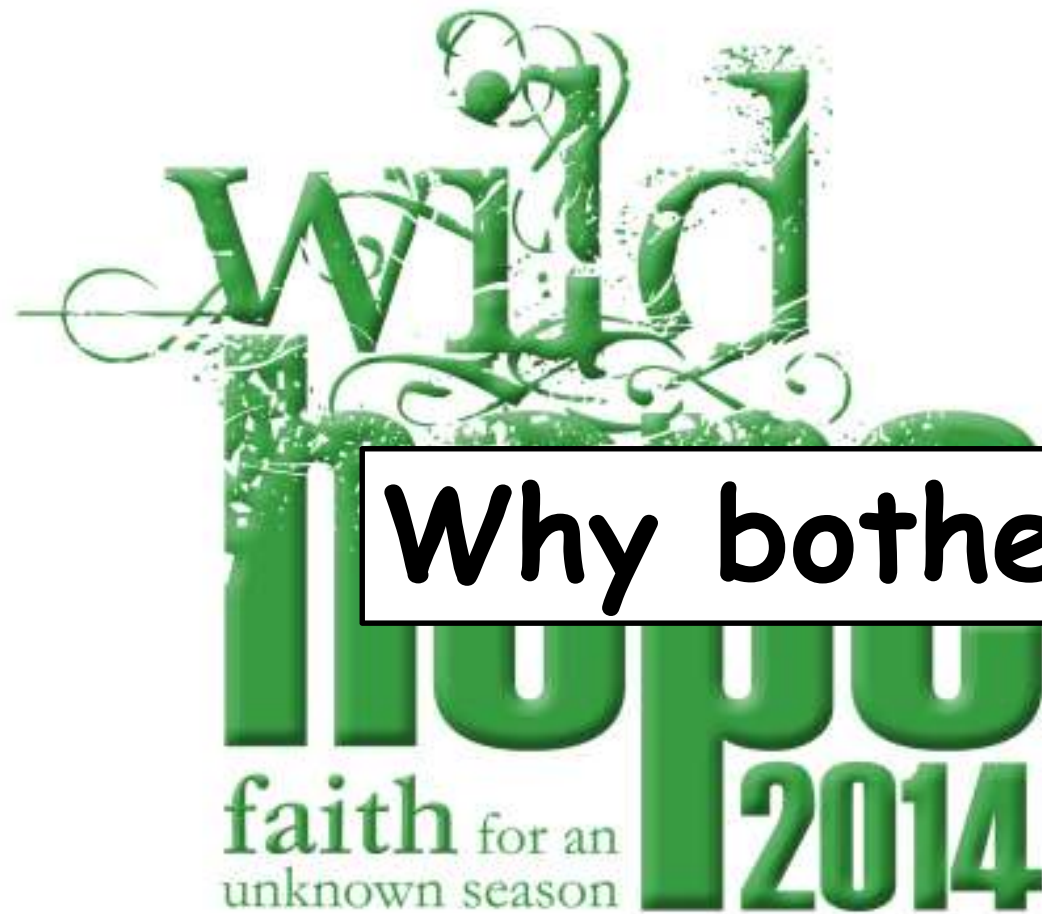
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hope
faith for an
unknown season 2014



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wild
hope
faith for an
unknown season 2014



Why bother?



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The church is far too...



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The church is far too...

Liberal



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wild
hope
faith in 2014

The church is far too...

Conservative

Liberal



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Out of touch

The church is far too...

Conservative

Liberal



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Out of touch

The church is far too...

Conservative

Liberal

Consumer
oriented



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Out of touch

The church is far too...

insular

Conservative

Liberal

Consumer
oriented



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Out of touch

Lacking in spiritual
depth

The church is far too...

insular

Conservative

Liberal

Consumer
oriented



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HARD TIMES



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wild
hope
faith...
2014

WILD HOPE?



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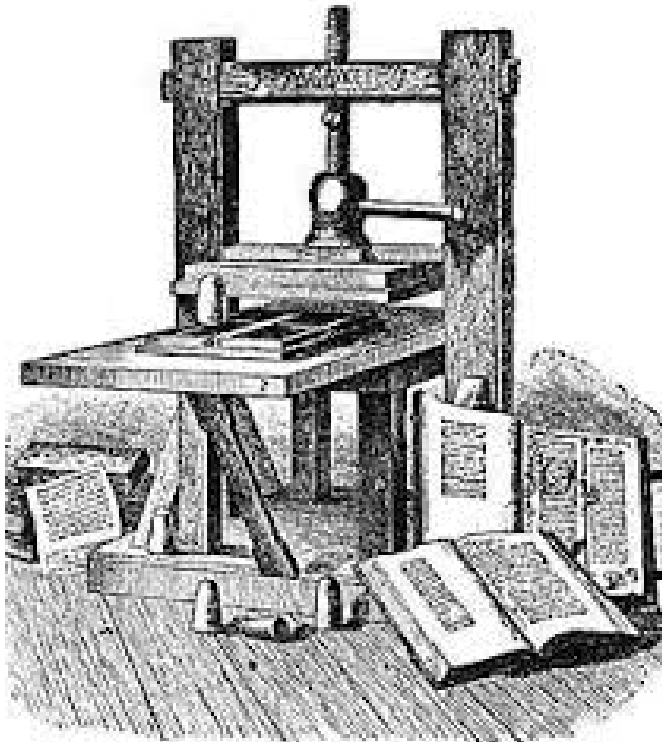




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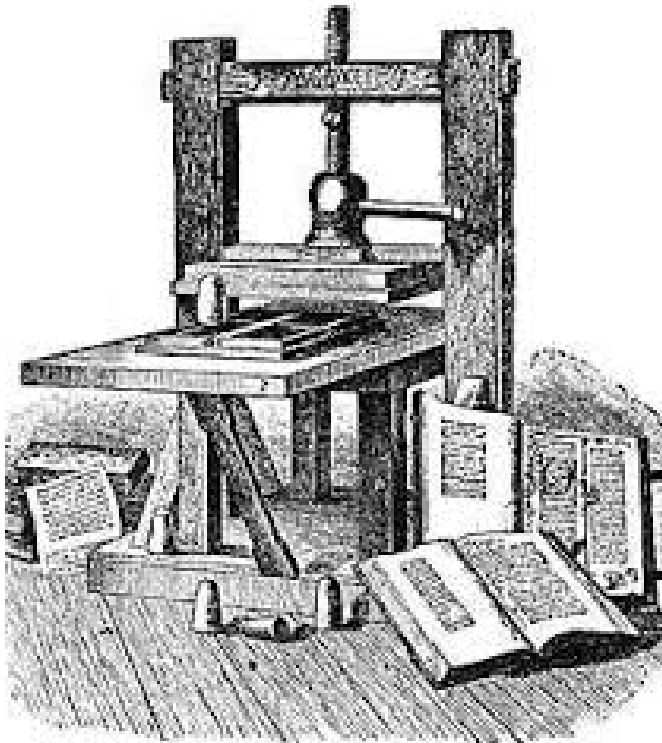
wild
hope
faith 2014



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wild
hope
faith...
2014



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wild
hope
faith...
2014

It is worth thinking about what
we can learn from the
Catholic experience of the
Reformation.



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Three Choices

1. Fight back



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Three Choices

1. Fight back
2. Give up altogether



Three Choices

1. Fight back
2. Give up altogether
3. Discover all over again who we are meant to be as children of God



The church today is in an
internal exile.



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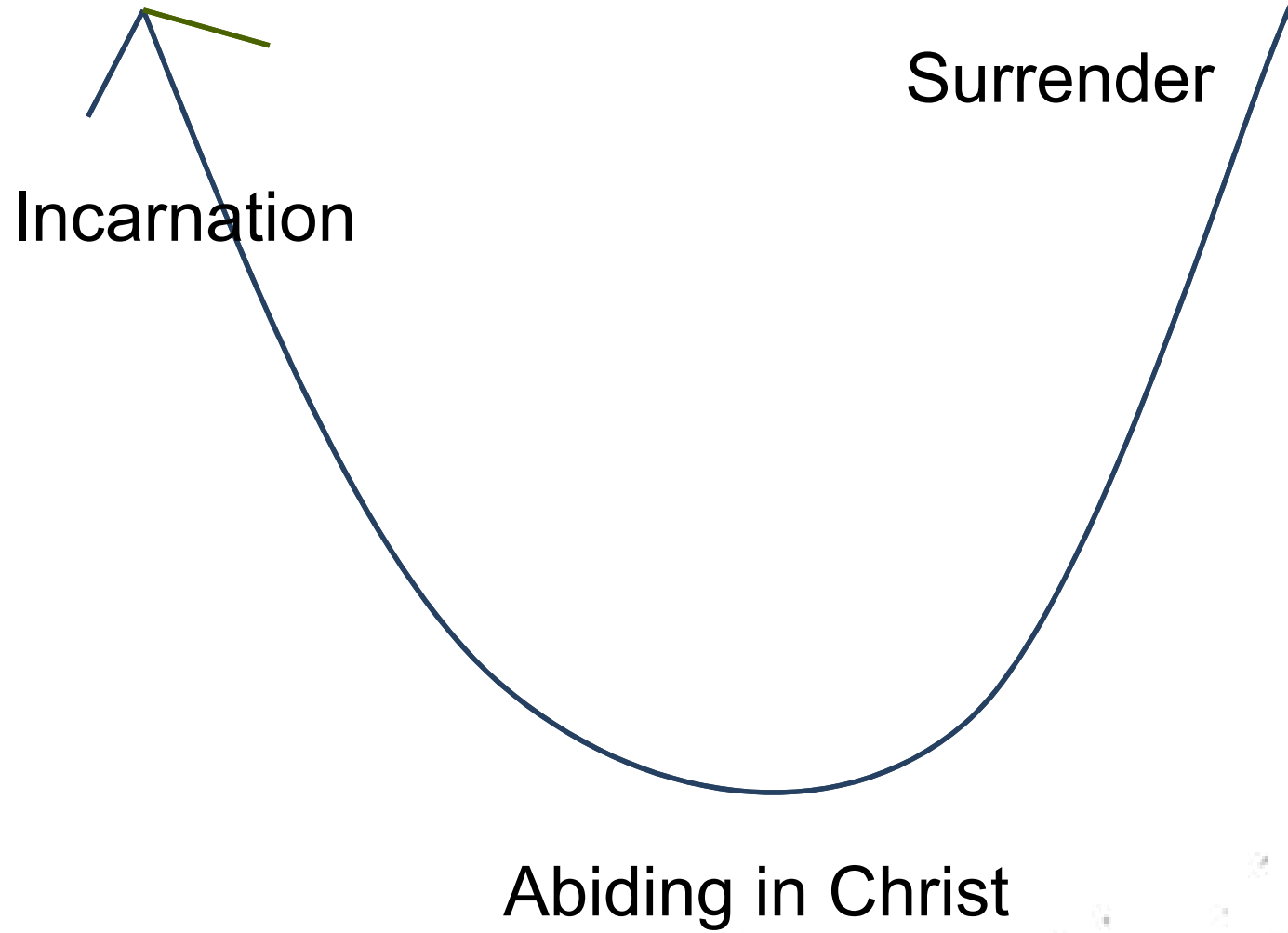
This is opportunity &
invitation...

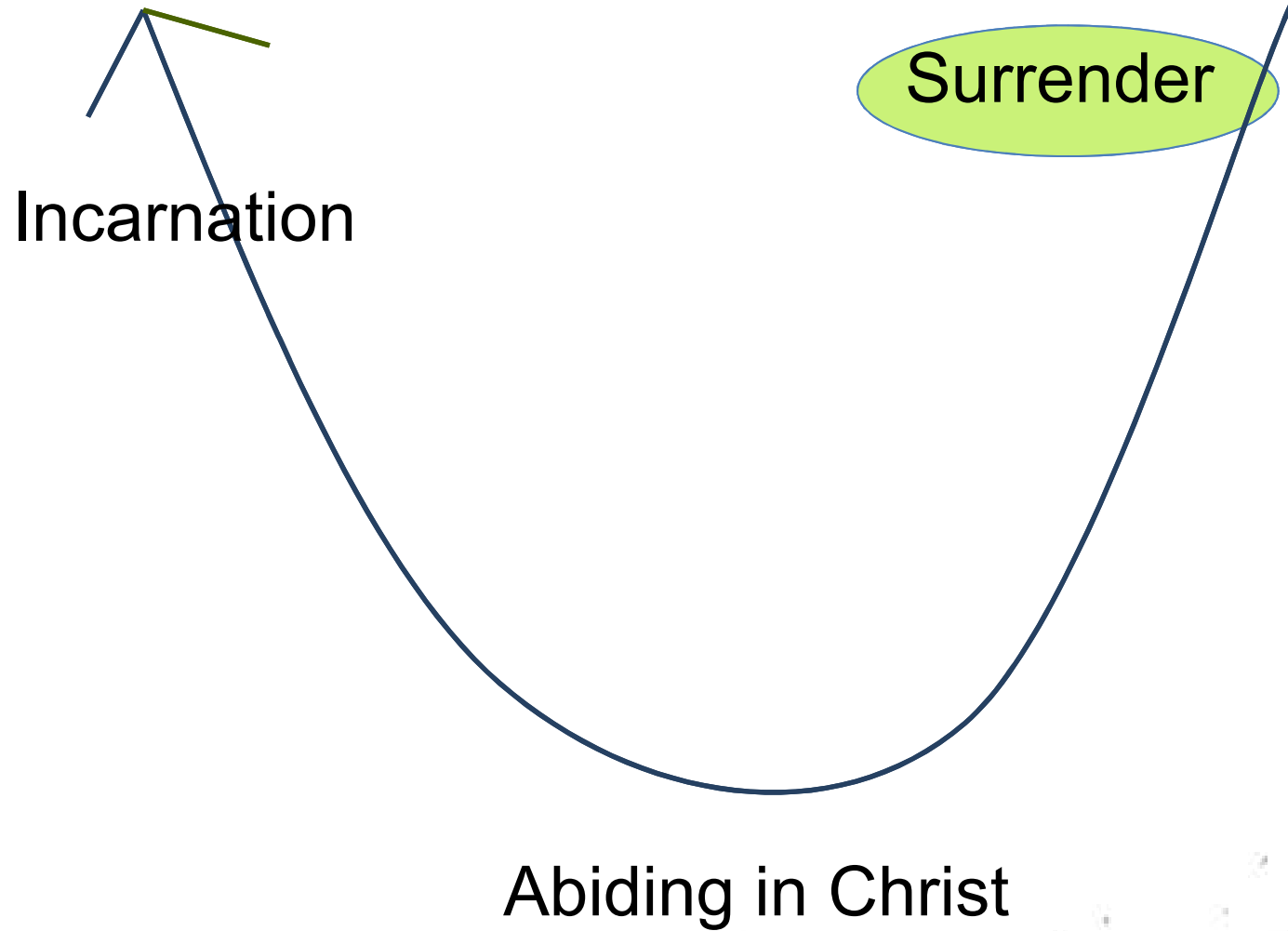
To discover all over again
who we are meant to be
children of God.



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Exile journeys are faith
journeys.



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To surrender to God is to
surrender our minds, our
hearts and our wills.



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Surrender of Mind

- Asking God to help us to see



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Surrender of Heart

- Asking God to help us to hear



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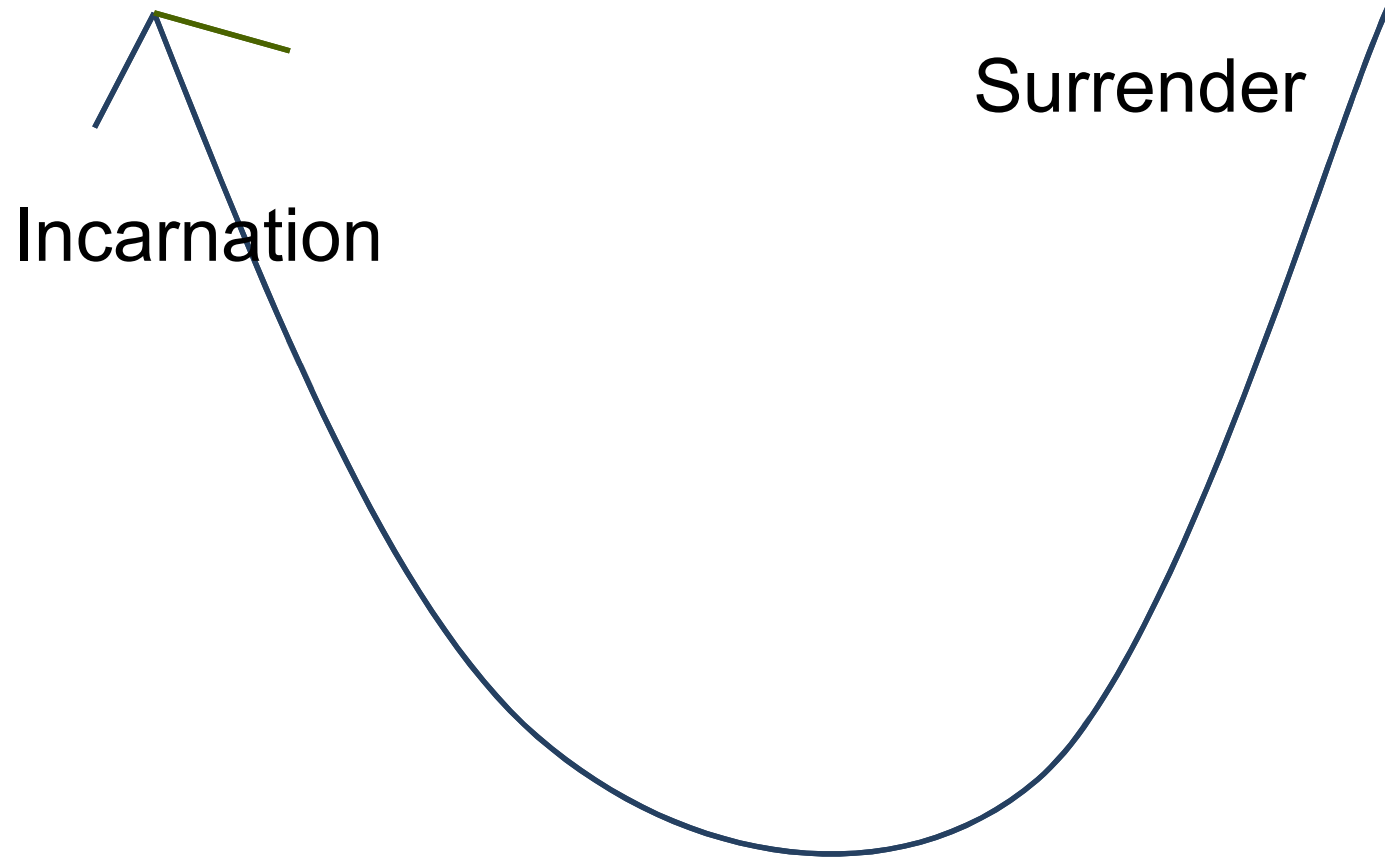
Surrender of Will

- Asking God to help us to be



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Abiding in Christ



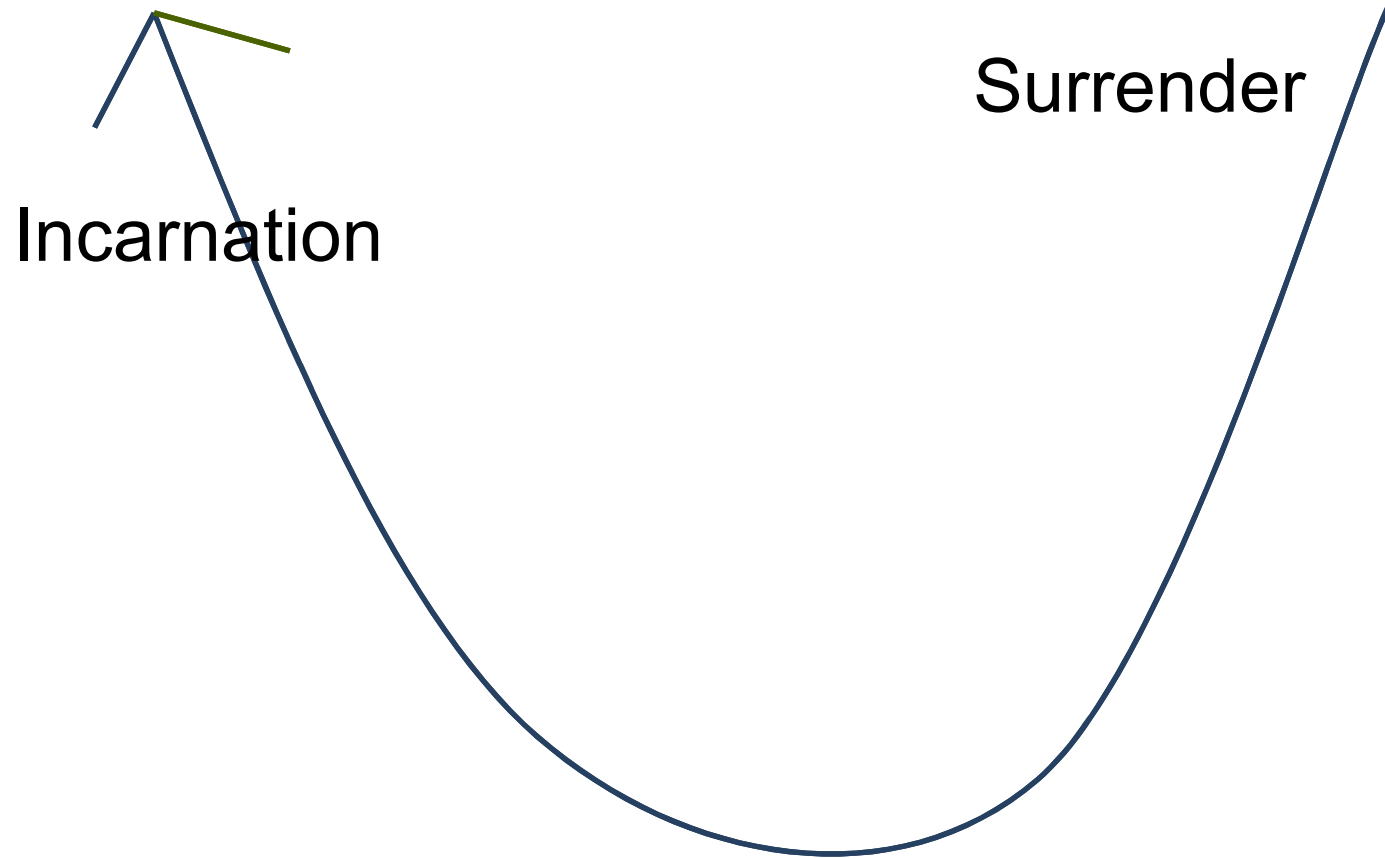
Surrender of Will

When our inner space is crowded with our attachments – whatever they might be – how can God plant wild hope within us?



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Abiding in Christ



Abiding in Christ

- We are invited to wait.



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Abiding in Christ

- We are invited to wait.
- We are invited to become aware.



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Abiding in Christ

- We are invited to wait.
- We are invited to become aware.
- We are invited to engage in listening prayer.



The time we spend in silence with
God becomes our training ground...

...it readies our souls so that we are
able to listen for God's voice 24/7.



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The point is to return again
and again with open ears to
the heart of God, knowing that
it is in this space that we are
being transformed.



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Abiding in Christ

What would it be like for each of us individually to follow Jesus into the wilderness?



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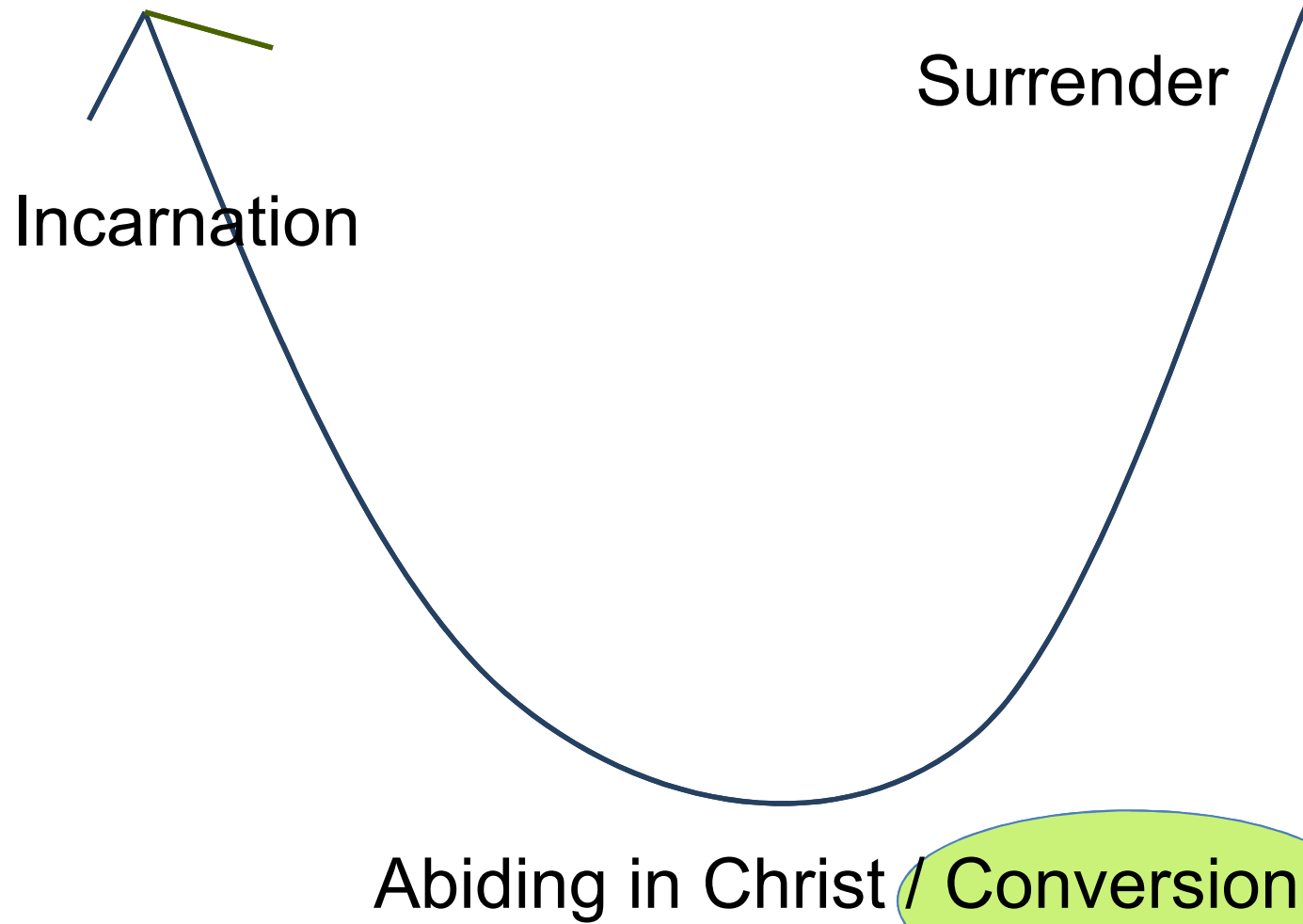
Abiding in Christ

What would it be like for the church to enter the wilderness together to wrestle with its demons and to listen for God's leading?



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“Yes, I have spent time
in the womb of the divine and
I was born, not a child but a
woman.”



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Yes, I have spent time in the womb of the divine...

- When did you last spend time in the womb of the divine?



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Yes, I have spent time in the womb of the divine...

- When did you last spend time in the womb of the divine?
- How were you transformed in that space?



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Yes, I have spent time in the womb of the divine...

- When did you last spend time in the womb of the divine?
- How were you transformed in that space?
- What calling was given to you as you emerged from that warm and protective place?



Yes, I have spent time in the womb of the divine...

- When was **your congregation** last in the womb of the divine?
- How was it transformed in that space?
- What calling was given to your church as it emerged from that womb?



Yes, I have spent time
in the womb of the divine...

What **wild hope** has God been planting in
your life and in your congregation?



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Being in the womb of the divine together

How do we discern from among the voices that tell us that they have heard God speak, especially when we have heard God differently from one another?



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Being in the womb of the divine together

- Are we holding our truth with humility?



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Being in the womb of the divine together

- Are we holding our truth with humility?
- Are we listening for the truth in the voices that differ from ours?



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Being in the womb of the divine together

- Are we holding our truth with humility?
- Are we listening for the truth in the voices that differ from ours?
- Is a sense of synergy emerging?



Being in the womb of the divine together

- Are we experiencing a sense of peace (and just a hint of fear)?



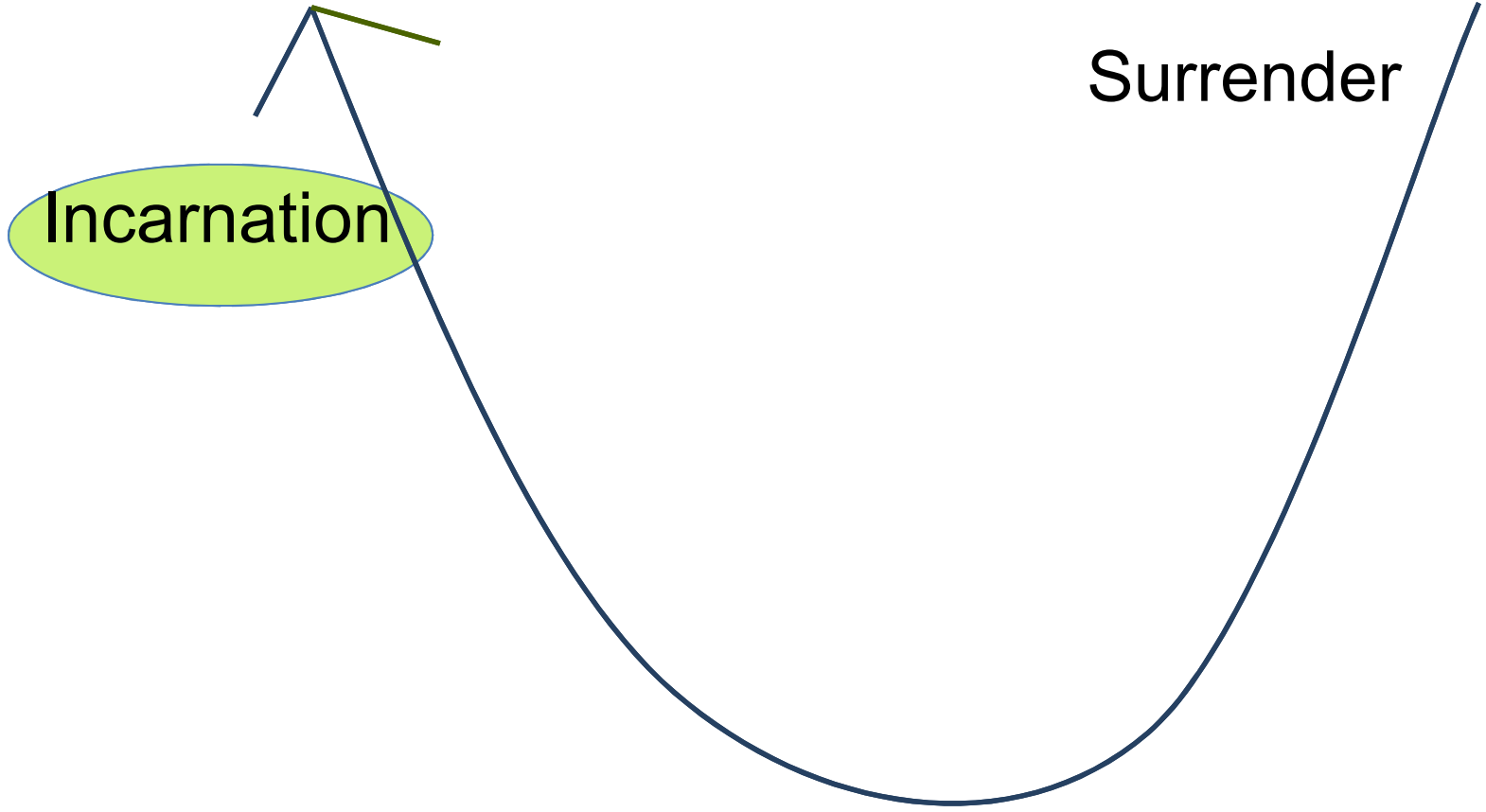
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Being in the womb of the divine together

- Are we experiencing a sense of peace (and just a hint of fear)?
- Are we surprised? Does it nurture a sense of wild hope within us?





Abiding in Christ



Incarnation

- How are we... embodying, living into, translating into our lives... our experience of encountering God as we have abided in God's presence?



Incarnation

The longing in our society for hope, connection, meaning and purpose is growing at a *feverish pace*.



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The role of the church in our society today is to embody God's presence in a manner that brings stillness to the world's noise.



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Transforming stillness



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Transforming stillness
- Meaningful stillness



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Transforming stillness
- Meaningful stillness
- Listening stillness



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Transforming stillness
- Meaningful stillness
- Listening stillness
- Waiting stillness



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Stillness that gives space, rest, safety, hope



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Stillness that gives space, rest, safety, hope
- Stillness that is infused with compassion and grace.



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Incarnation: To offer stillness

- Stillness that invites all of us – churched and non churched alike – to discover all over again what it means to be children of God.



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Peace. Be still.



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