

# *Hopeful Faith*



# **Hopeful Faith**

**... in God**

**... with Others**

**... for Life**



- 1. Philosophy**
- 2. Grammar**
- 3. Reflective Reading**
- 4. Word Cloud**
- 5. Poem**
- 6. Implications**



# Philosophy

- community vs. individual
- connectedness vs. autonomy
- common good vs. personal preference
- Martin Buber's I-thou vs. Intrapsychic self



‘I am because you are; if you are not, I cannot be.’

[African Proverb]

VS.

‘I am my own person/my authentic true self.’

[the West]



## Grammar

- first person pronoun- singular **I** or plural **we**
- become possessive adjective- singular **my** or plural **our**

‘**I** went with Andrew Chong to Temper last week.’

‘**We** went with Andrew Chong to Temper last week.’



Talk to two men about their life, family, house

1. lots of '**I, my** son, **my** house'
2. lots of '**we, our** son, **our** house'

Christian faith? **I** and **my** or **we** and **our**?





- second person pronoun you- singular and plural
- early English- thou was singular; ye was plural
- now:

‘Kim **you** are a good person.’

‘Kim and Matt, **you** are good people.’

- read/hear Bible ‘you’; for me/for us?
- written primarily to us- plural





# Reflective Reading

Watch for:

1. Being a Christian- not my insides but connection with others
2. God, not us, key architect in putting people together

Prepare. Concentrate. Listen. Reflect.  
Eyes closed > Absorbing or Open > Reading



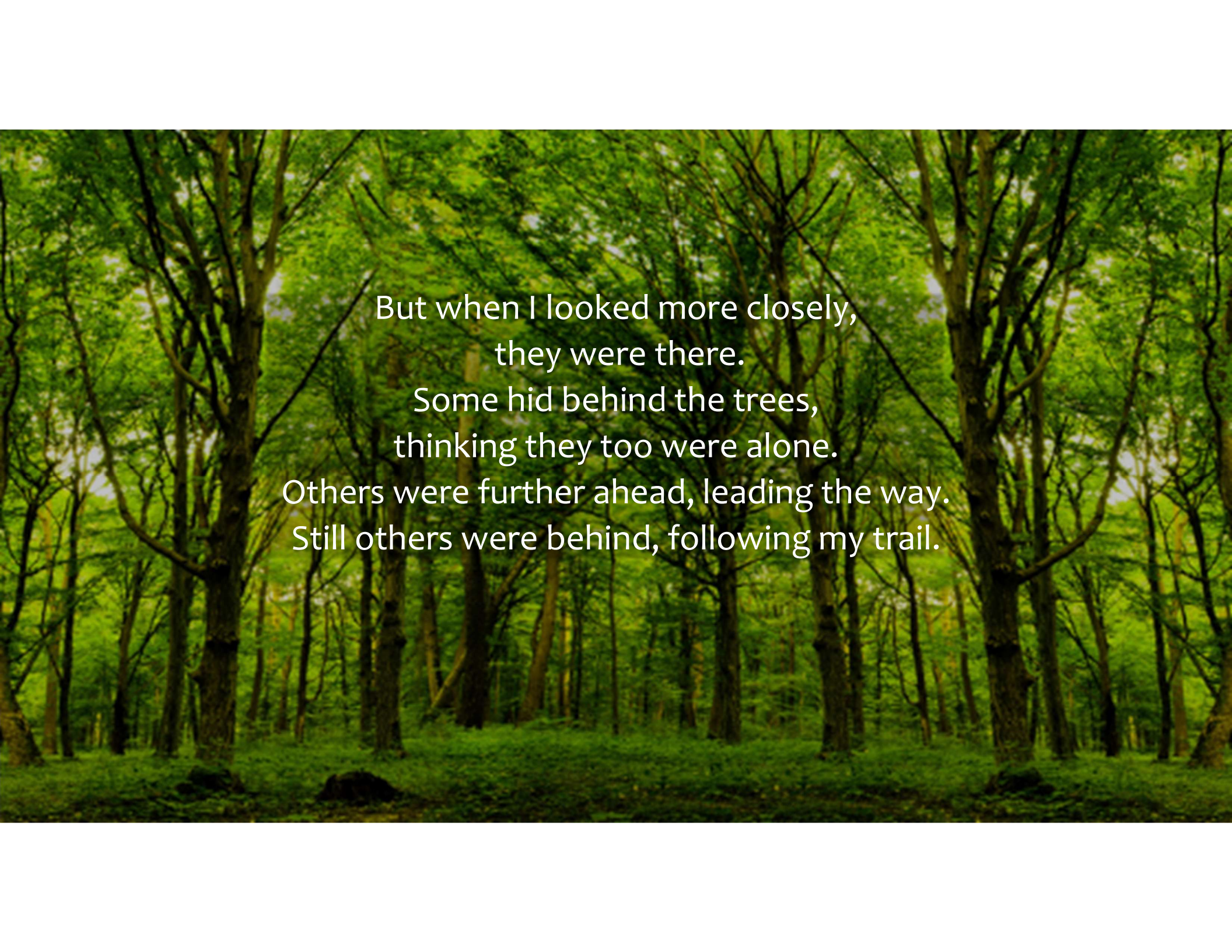
revelation wisdom foreigners apostles heavenly present stopped authority reason faith riches inheritance measure Father heard work whole seated heart God's raised hostility eyes know fullness near enlightened  
will Spirit joined apostles heavenly present stopped authority reason faith riches inheritance measure Father heard work whole seated heart God's raised hostility eyes know fullness near enlightened  
asking body people God's peace love give pray now better  
COTTE also two right name age since made us faithful keep order eyes give pray now better  
power holy Jesus may far one hope rule great pray now better  
ever built strength purpose feet glorious away  
without mature exerted realms believe purpose prophets things longer remember called knowledge Ephesus  
prayers everything remembering placed dominion

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a thick canopy of green leaves. The ground is covered in green undergrowth. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

## Together

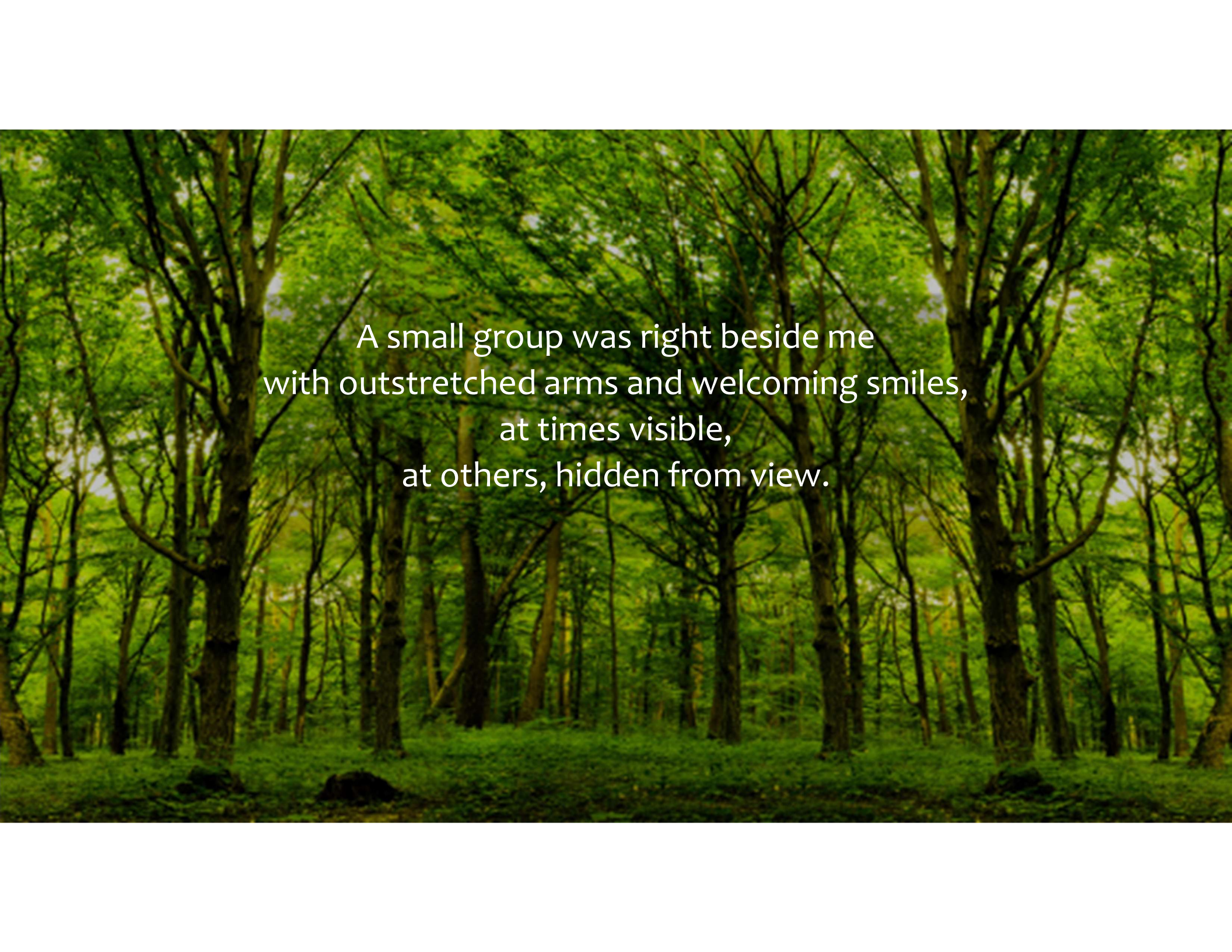
One night I dreamed a dream:  
I was walking through dense woods.  
At times I appeared to be walking alone;  
it seemed that no one was around.  
No one cared  
or expressed interest.



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a thick green undergrowth. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the canopy. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

But when I looked more closely,  
they were there.  
Some hid behind the trees,  
thinking they too were alone.  
Others were further ahead, leading the way.  
Still others were behind, following my trail.



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a thick green canopy. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

A small group was right beside me  
with outstretched arms and welcoming smiles,  
at times visible,  
at others, hidden from view.





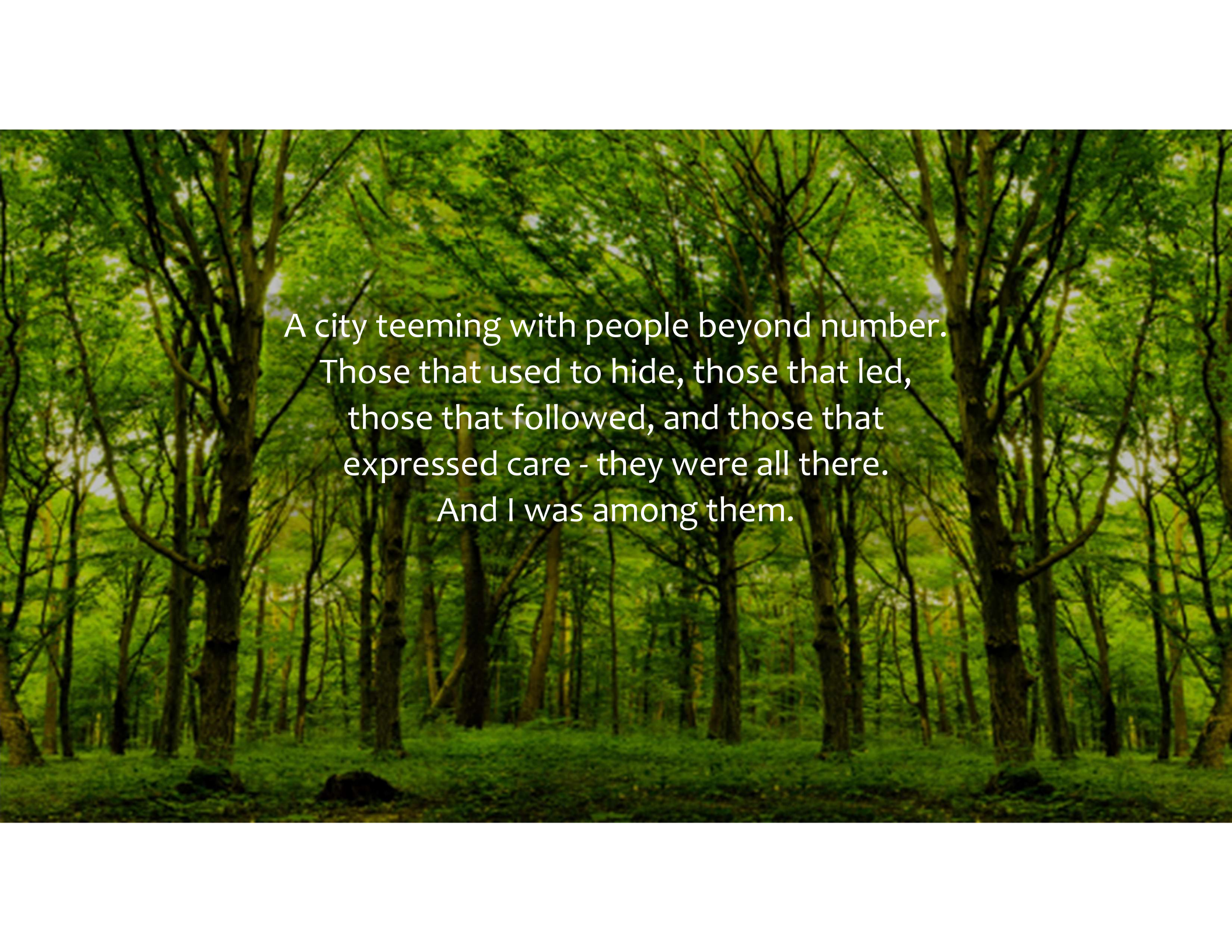
And behind them all, and in them all,  
and through them all-  
those that hid, those that led,  
those that followed, and those close at hand-  
God.





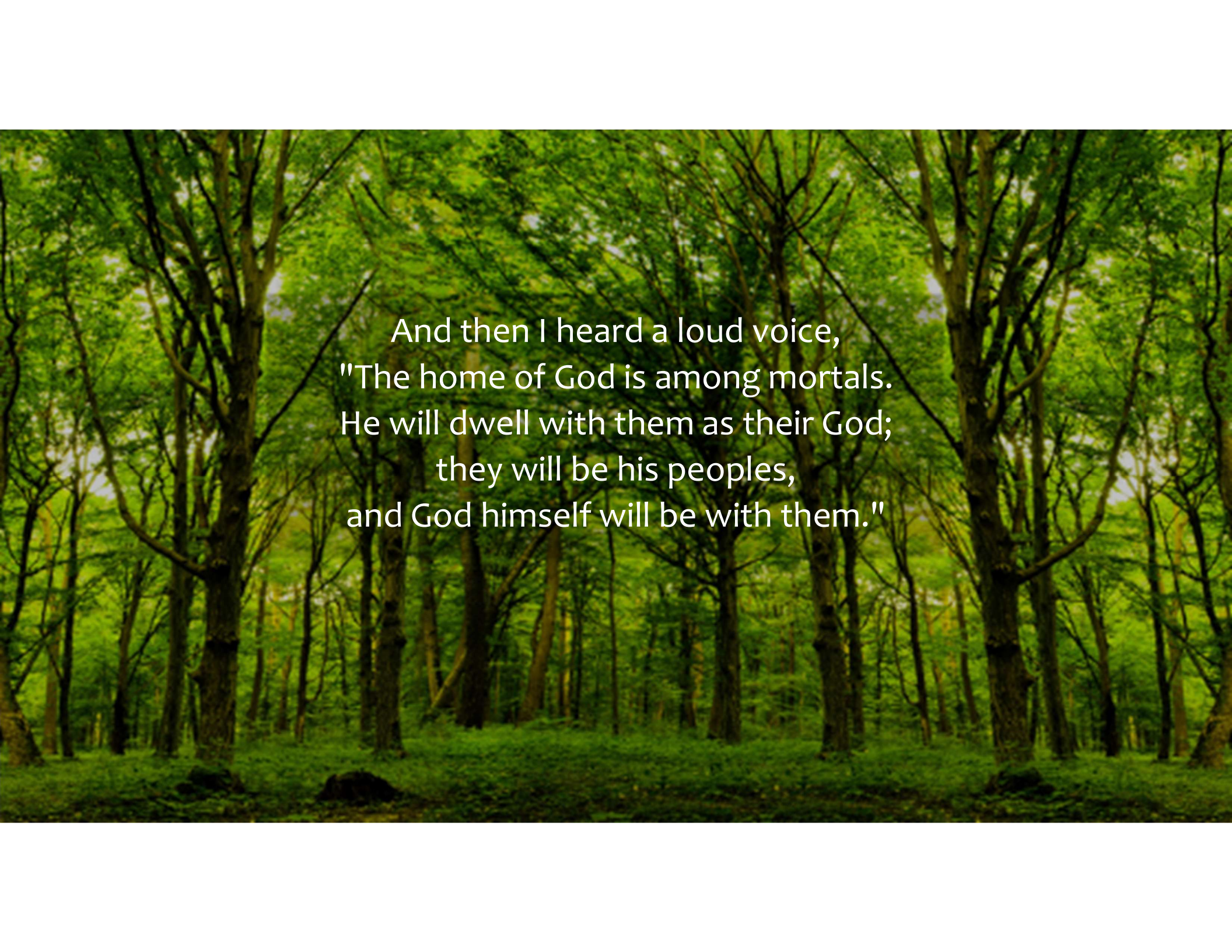
And then I saw a city.  
It was majestic and exquisite,  
like a new bride,  
radiant and perfect.



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a thick green undergrowth. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

A city teeming with people beyond number.  
Those that used to hide, those that led,  
those that followed, and those that  
expressed care - they were all there.  
And I was among them.





And then I heard a loud voice,  
"The home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them."





I wept.  
But then He wiped every tear from my eye.  
Amen.

*Rod Wilson*

## Implications

- You?
- Christian life done with others- not alone > more hope
- 2020- lived experience culture > hi aloneness > less hope
- For those who do not identify as Christian and feel alone > incredible hope is offered on a journey with others





