



# The Kingdom

## IDENTITY

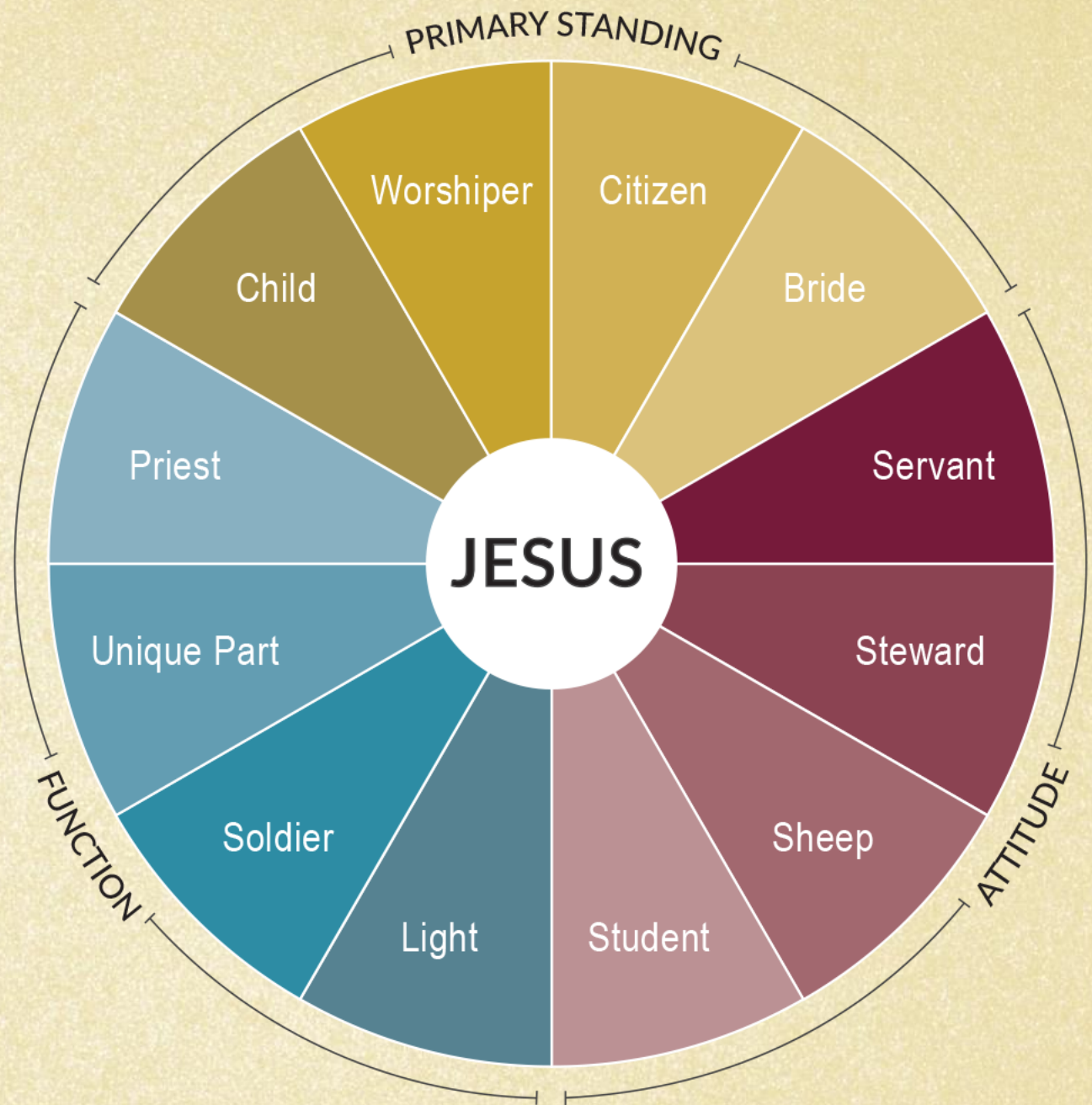


In God's Kingdom We Are Priests &  
Servants/Slaves

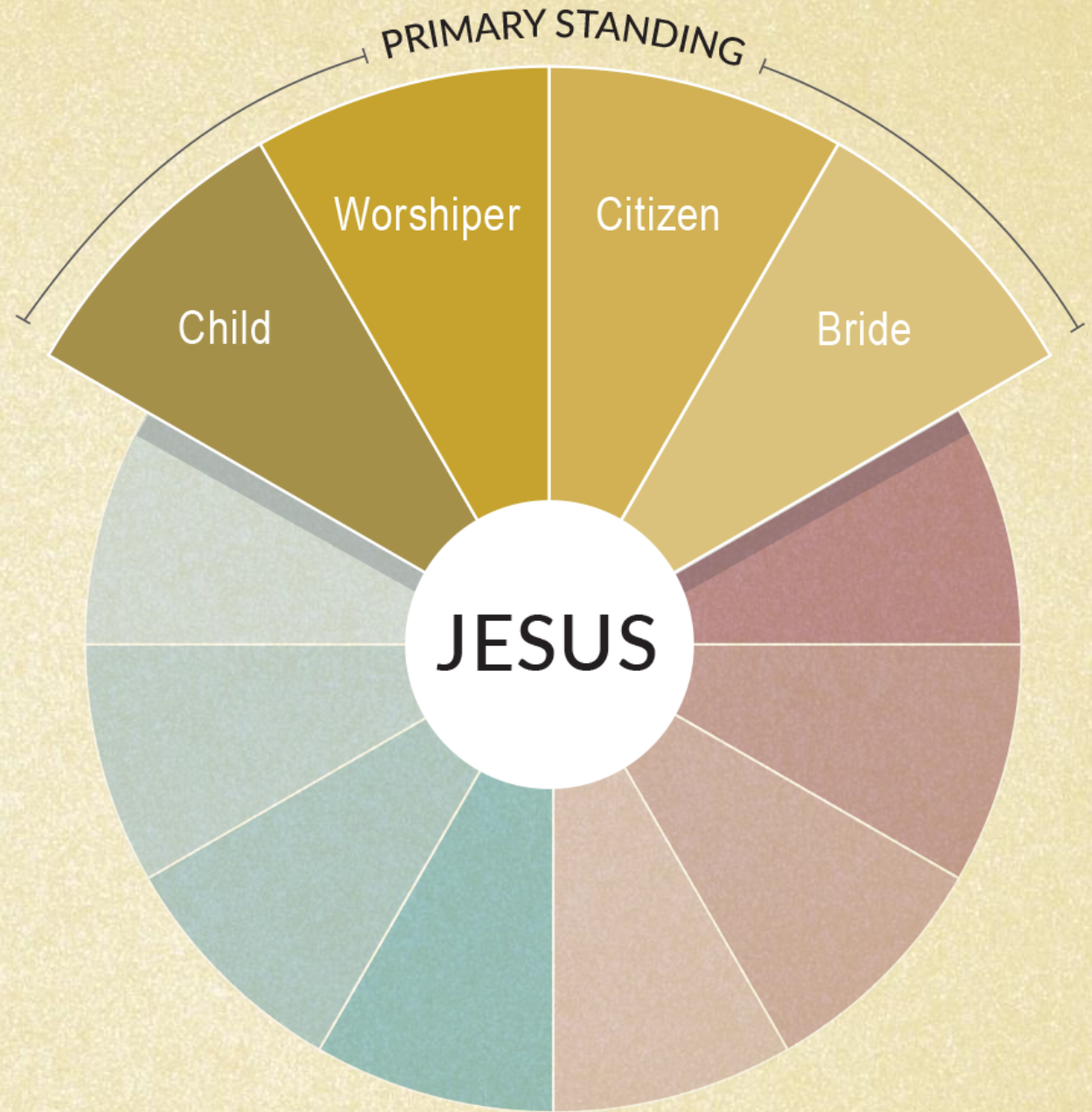
# What God Says

<sup>5</sup> Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin... <sup>11</sup> So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus... <sup>14</sup> Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. (Romans 6:5-6, 11, & 14 - NLT)

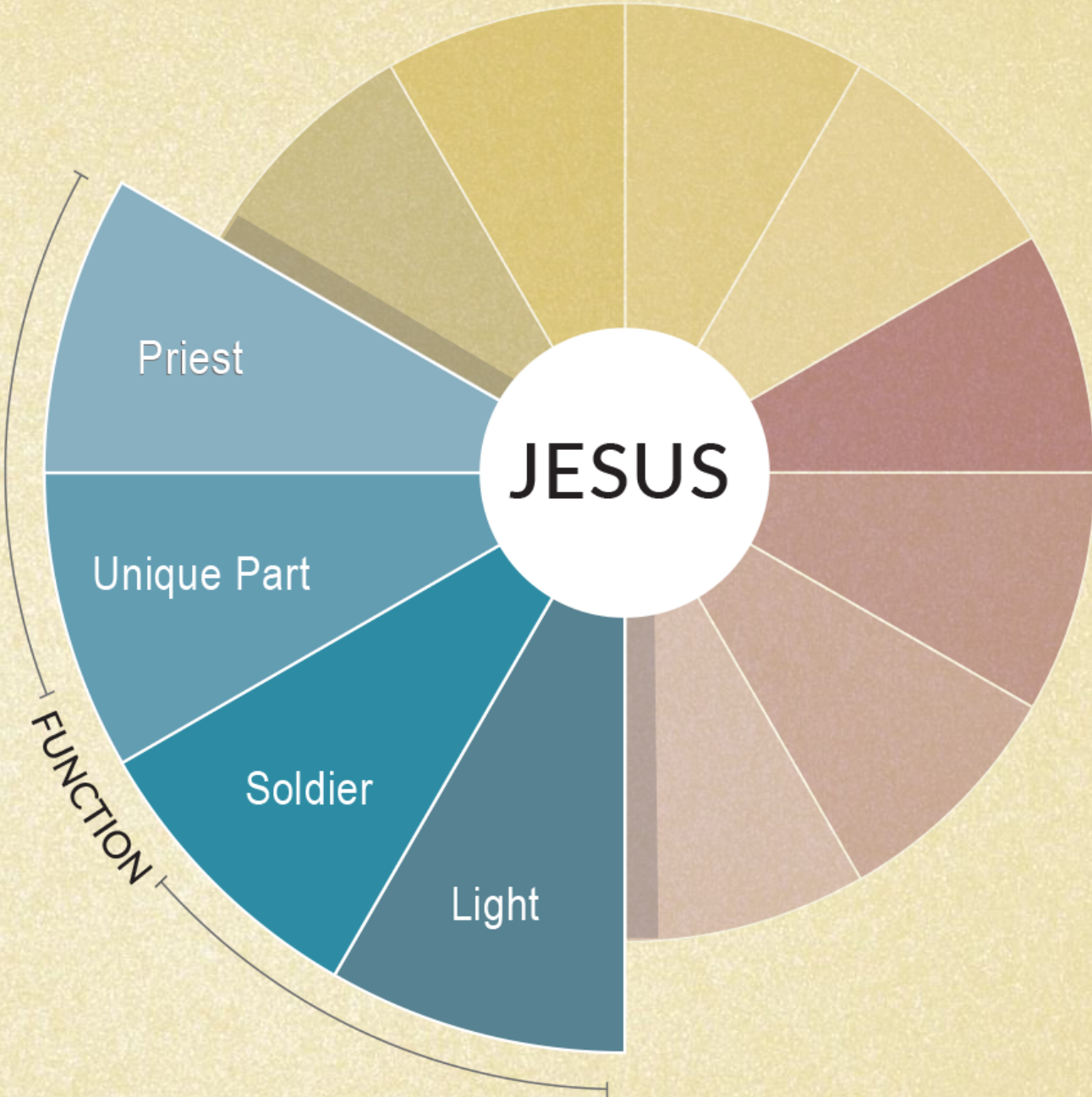
# 12 Identities in Christ



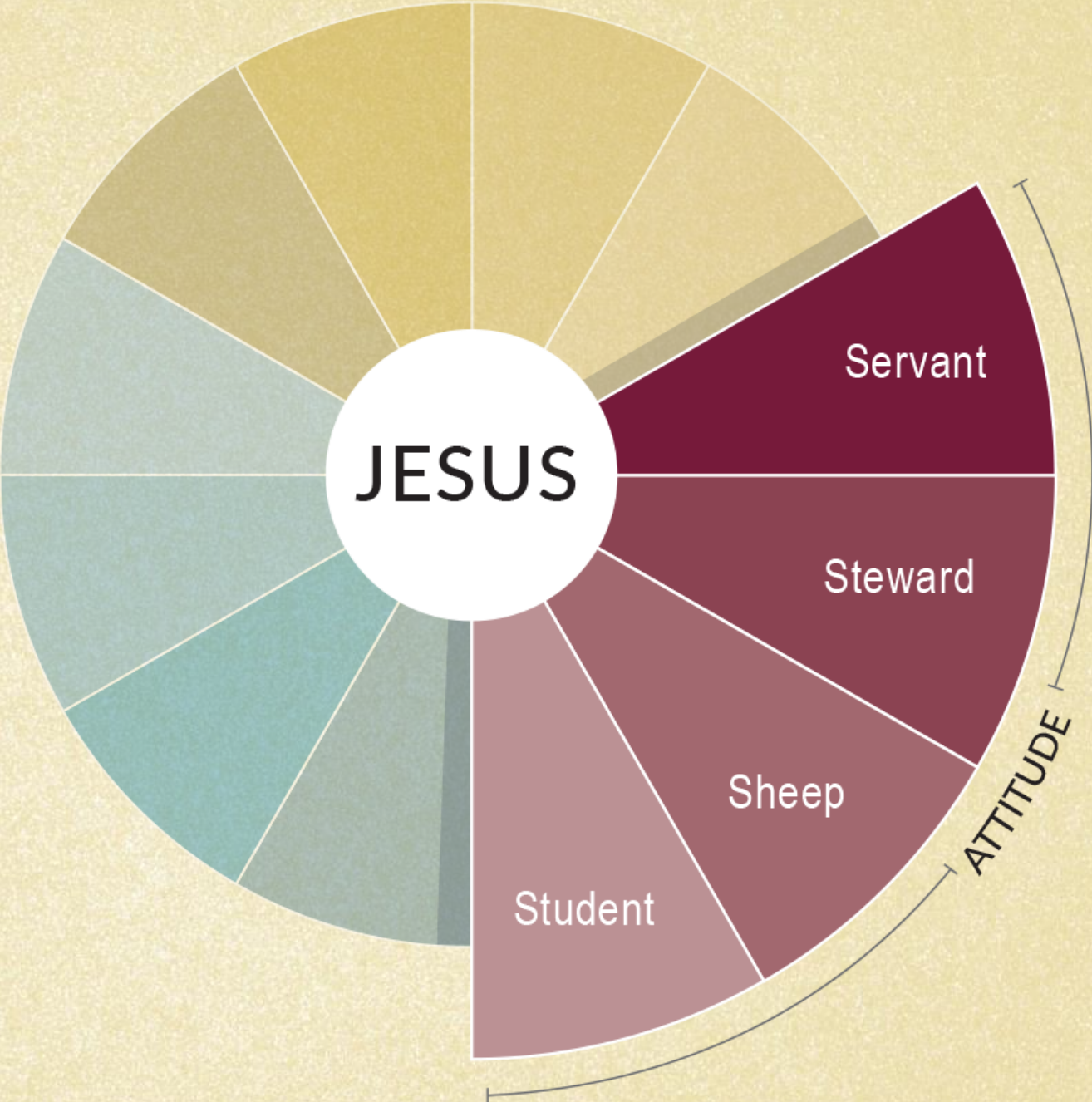
# Primary Standing



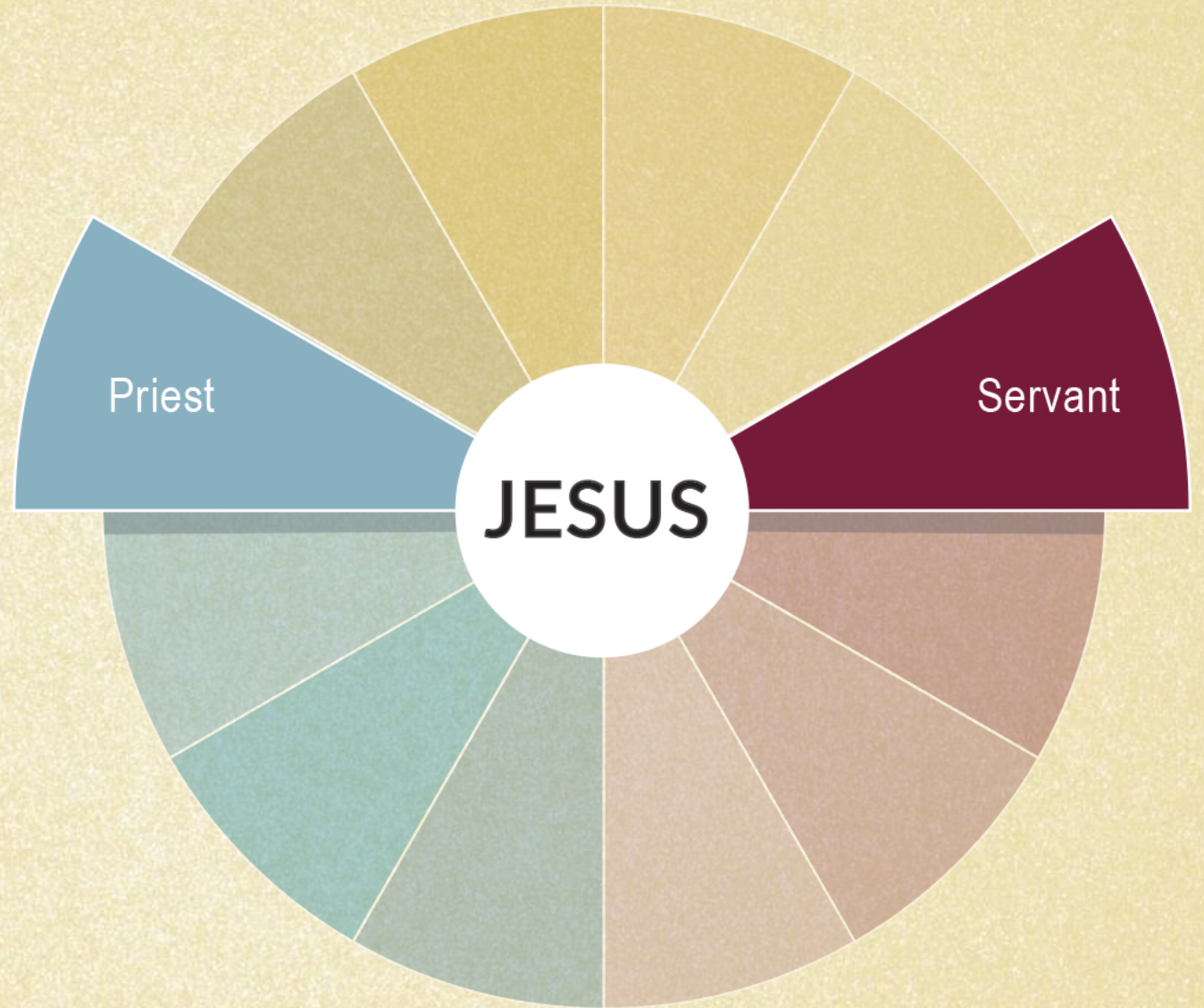
# Functions



# Attitudes



# Pairing Function & Attitude













# What Did Old Testament Priests Do?

- Intermediary
- Go-between, negotiator, mediator, intercessor—facilitates relationship between us and God.

# What Did Old Testament Priests Do?

- Made sacrifices
- Communicated God to people and people to God
- Lived as people set apart
- Modeled purity

# Why Do We Need Priests Today?

- Reformation
- Going beyond rugged individualism
- God helps us through others

# God Says That *We* Are Priests

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

(1Peter 2:9-10 - The Message)

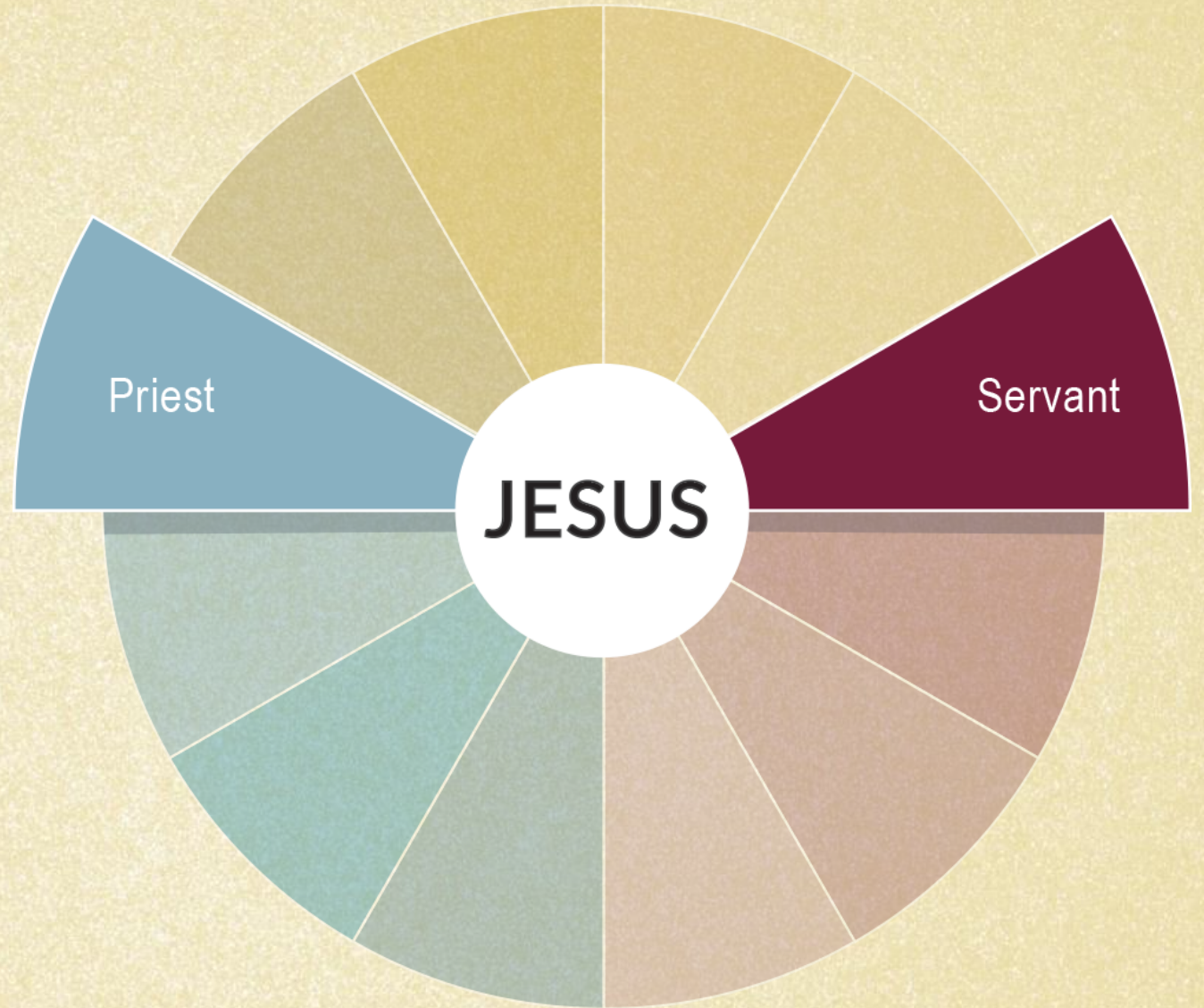
# God Says That *We* Are Priests

- Tell others what God is like
- Show what God is like
- Reflect God's holiness
- Show what it's like to live in relationship with God
- Be God's Instruments

# A Big Challenge

- Busy
- Mission above love

# God Says That We Are Servants



# Servant

- *Diakonos*—Server. wait tables
- You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. (Col. 1:7 - NLT)
- *Doulos*—Slave
- This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. (Romans 1:1 - NLT)

# Servant

- Contradicts cultural religion
- I decide
- I am the boss of me
- Those who tell me what to do are enemies

<sup>5</sup> So he (Jesus) got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.... <sup>12</sup> After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. <sup>14</sup> And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

(John 13:4-5, 12-17 NLT)

# Feet Washers

- Posture
- Feet washing today

# Servant Leaders

<sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>43</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
(Mark 10:42-45 - NLT)

# Servant Leaders

The more responsibility you have in the Kingdom of God, the less “powerful” you are.

# How?

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who...are identified as “Christians” will become disciples—students, apprentices, practitioners—of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.” —Dallas Willard

# How?

“I could not agree more: The greatest issue facing the world today is not climate change, surveillance capitalism, human rights, or the specter of nuclear war, as utterly crucial as all these are. But can you imagine how many of those problems would effectively be solved overnight if the billions of living humans who identify as Christians all became apprentices of Jesus? If their driving aim was to approach every challenge as Jesus would?”

—John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way*

# How?

- Surrender

# High Calling and Low Calling

- High Calling—Priest who is intermediary between God and people
- Low Calling—Servant/Slave who washes feet and serves others
- We give our identity to God—Best life possible

# Invitation

*Surrender... then surrender again.*

1. Ask God for a specific way he wants you to be a priest today.
2. Do what God says.
3. Ask God for a specific way he wants you to be a servant or even a slave today.
4. Do what God says.
5. Thank God and worship Jesus to show your gratitude for who God says you are and is transforming you to be.