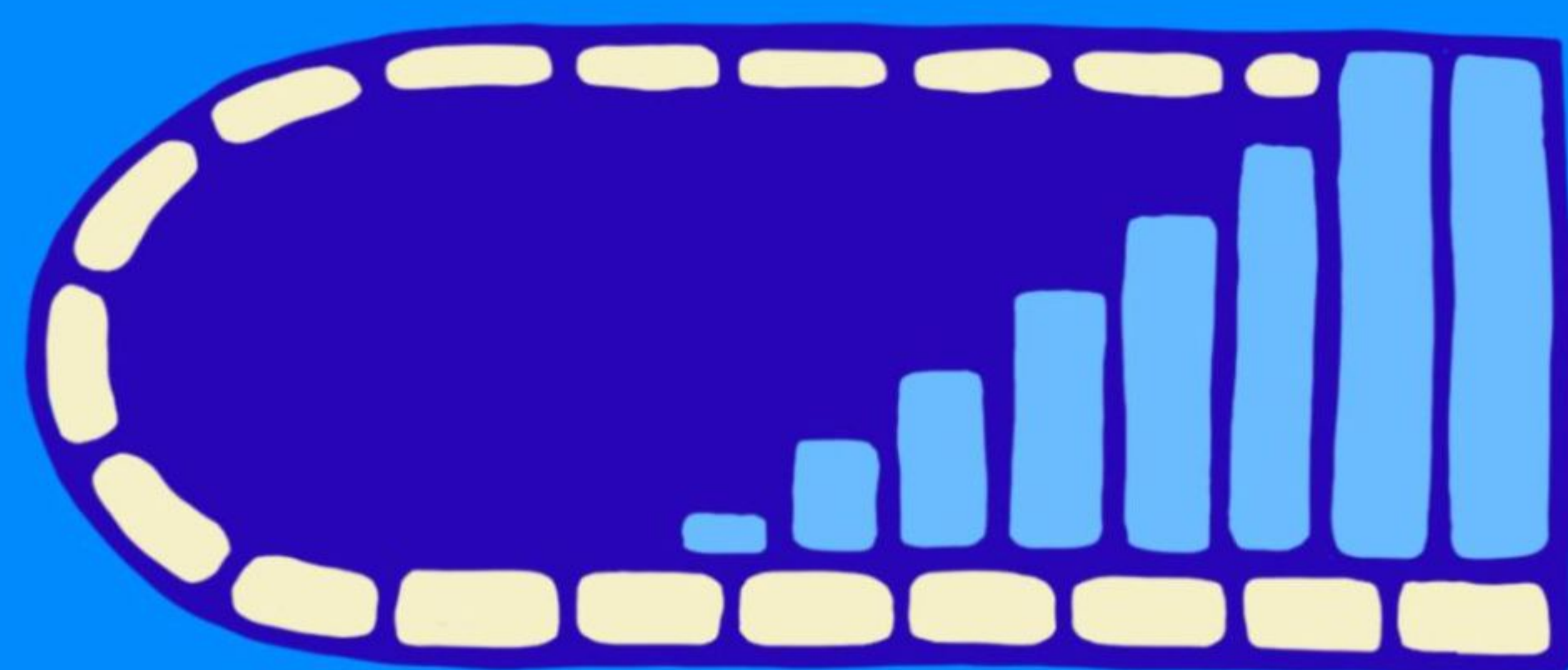
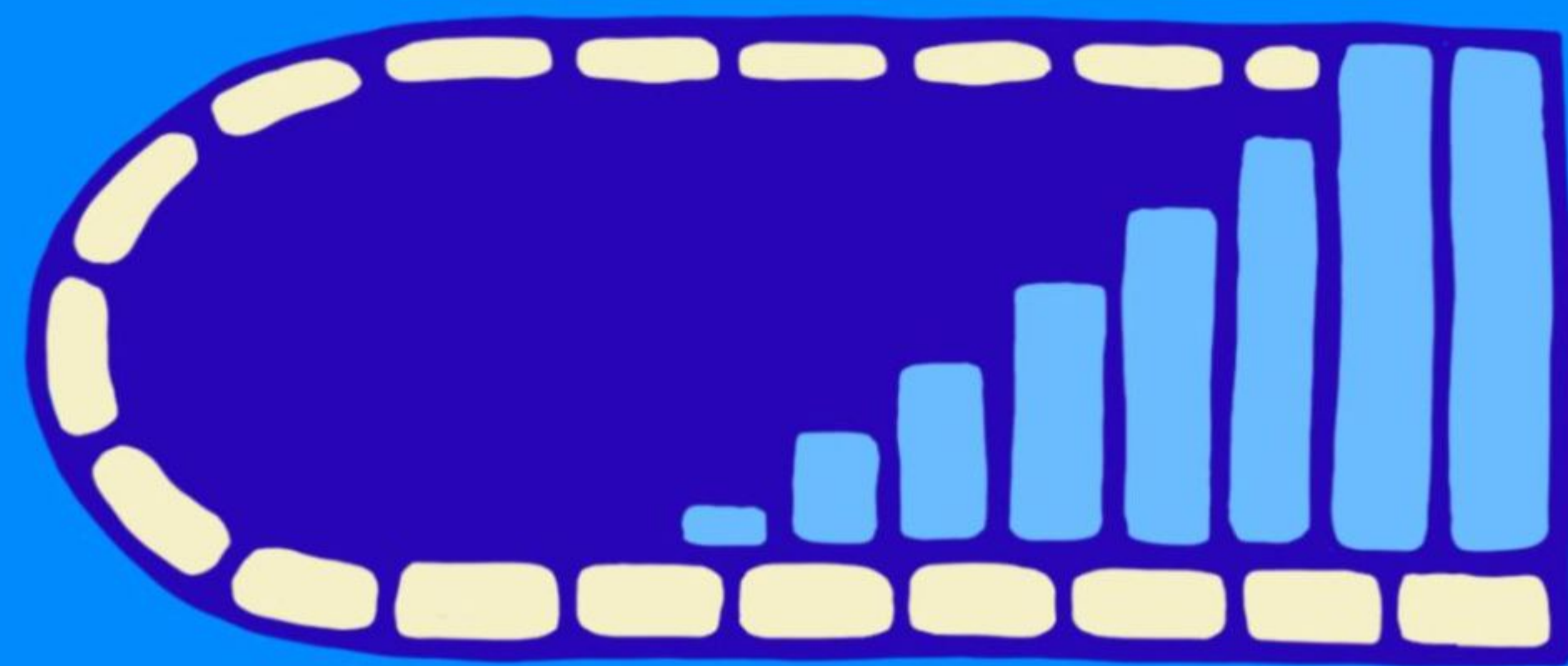
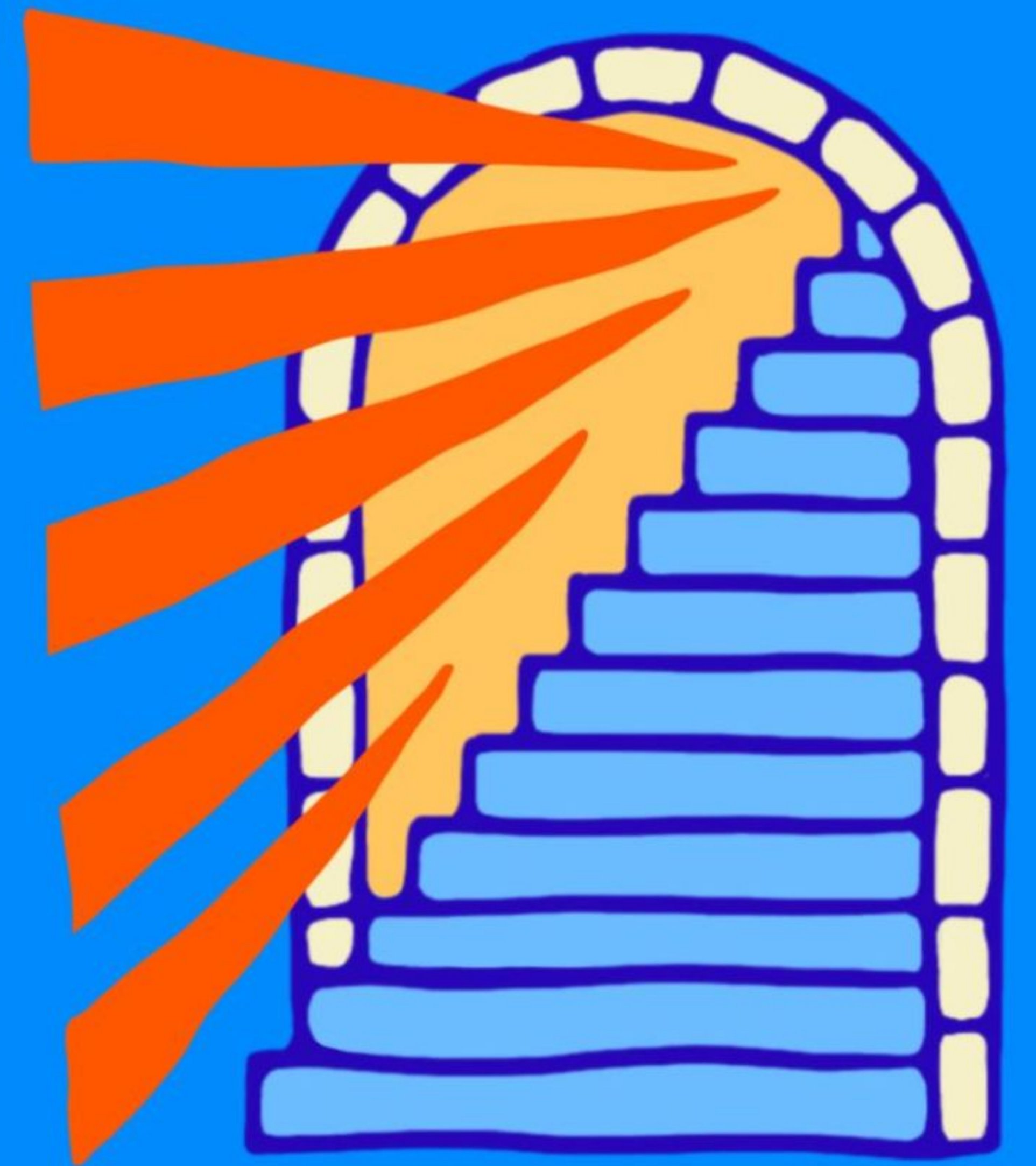


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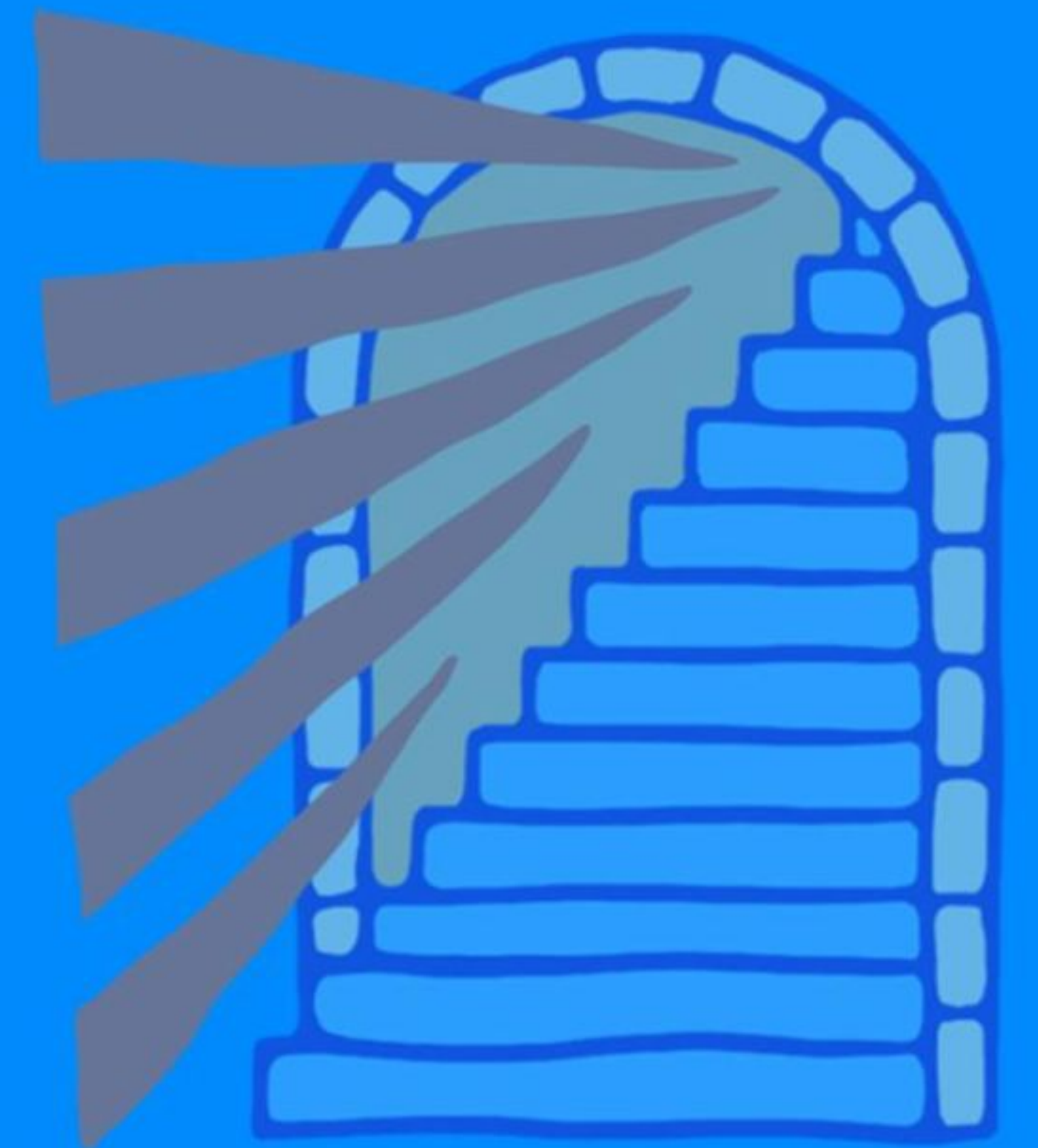
Ephesians 5:1 – 7

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Ephesians 5:1 NIV

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Most other translations translate vs 1:
"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children." (ESV, NAS, NIV 82)



Trinitarian formulation:

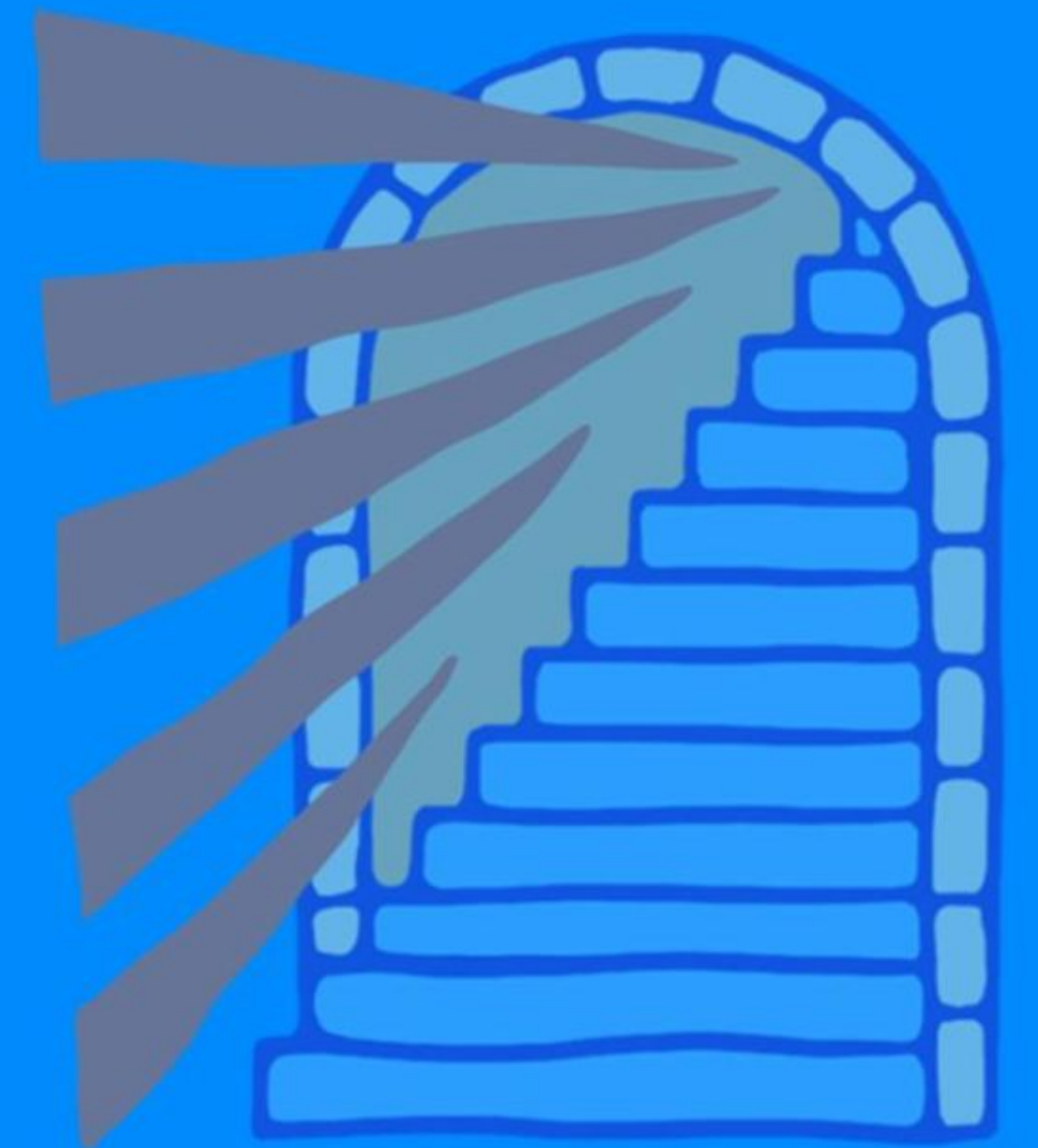
Ephesians 4:30 "Do not grieve the **Holy Spirit of God...**"

Ephesians 5:1–2 "**Follow God's example,** therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, **just as Christ** loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"



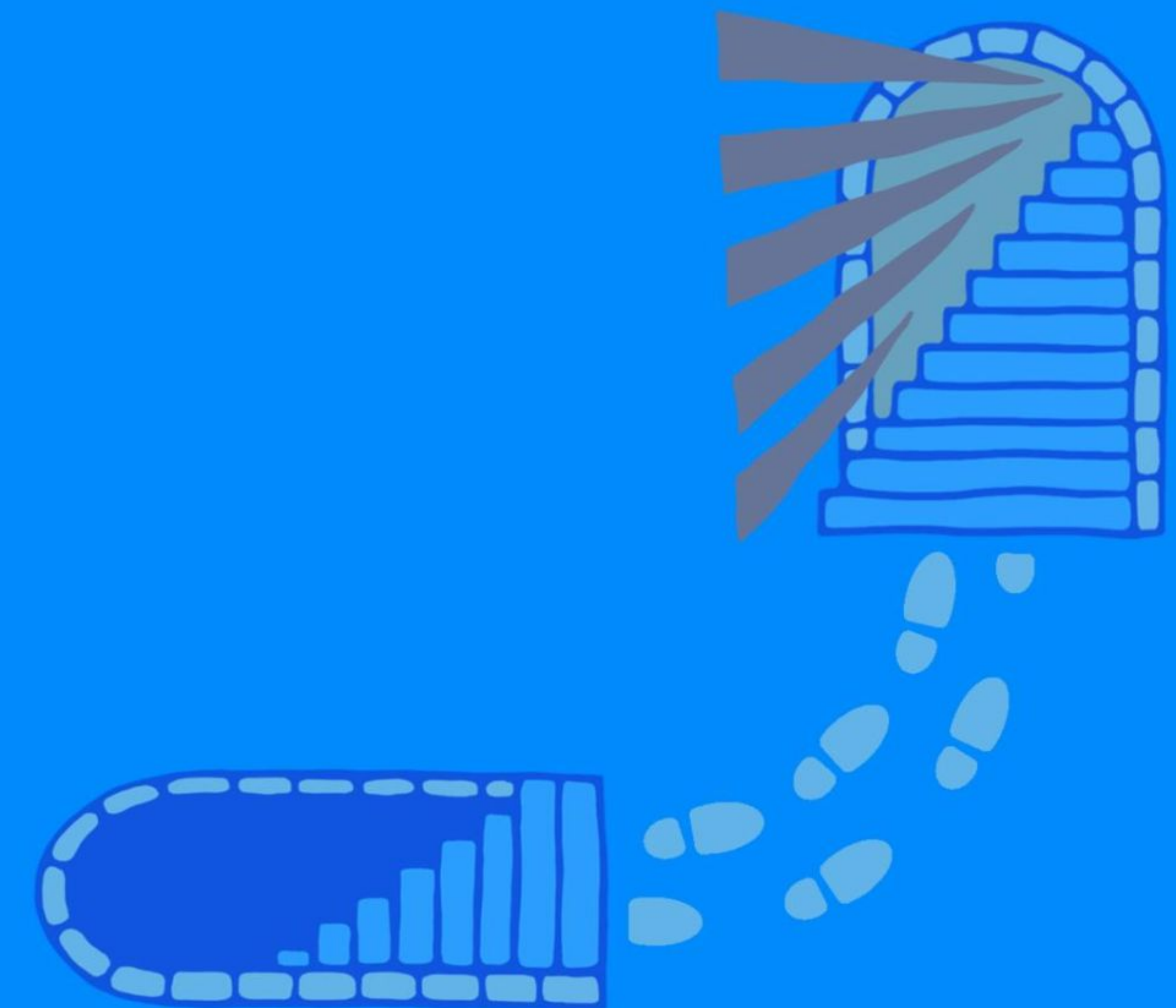
1. Be an imitator of God

Ephesians 5:1–2 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

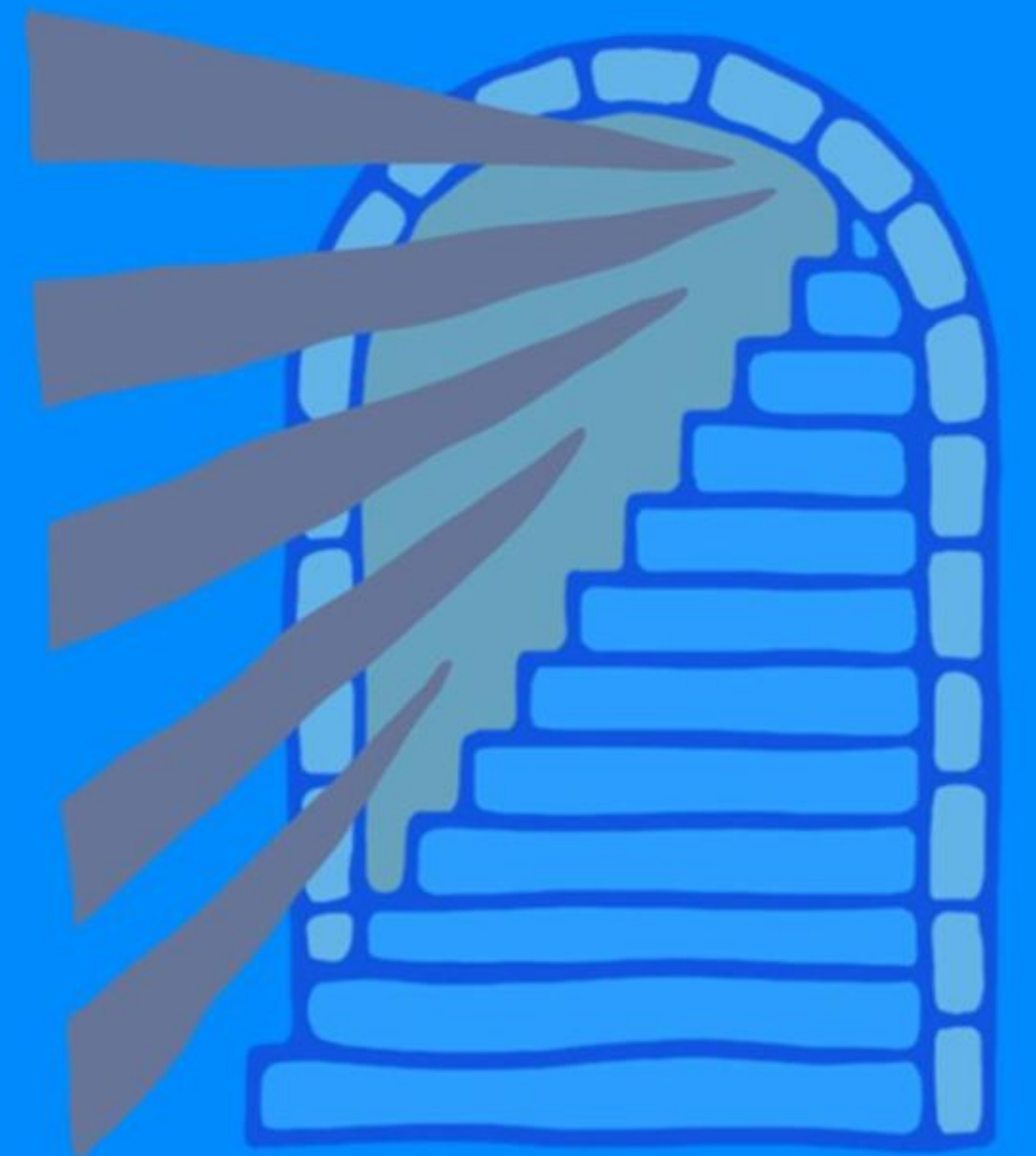


Spiritual imitation is not obscure:

- 1 Corinthians 4:16–17
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- Hebrews 6:12
- Hebrews 13:6–8
- 3 John 1:11
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6–7
- 1 Thessalonians 2:14



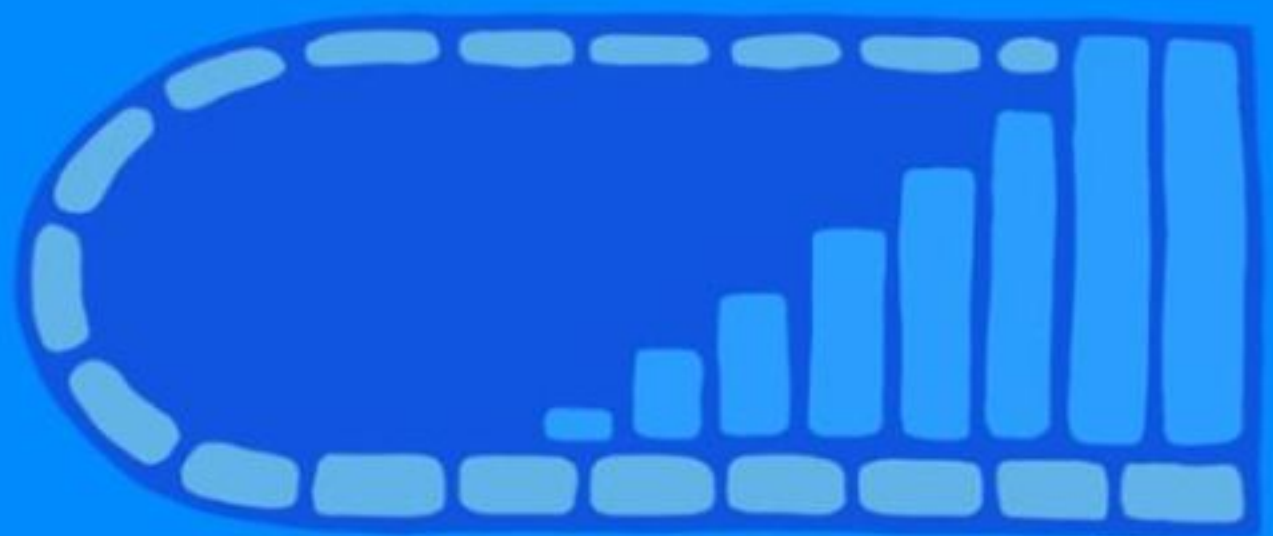
Imitation is natural for "dearly loved children" of an admirable parent.



Imitation of God in what?

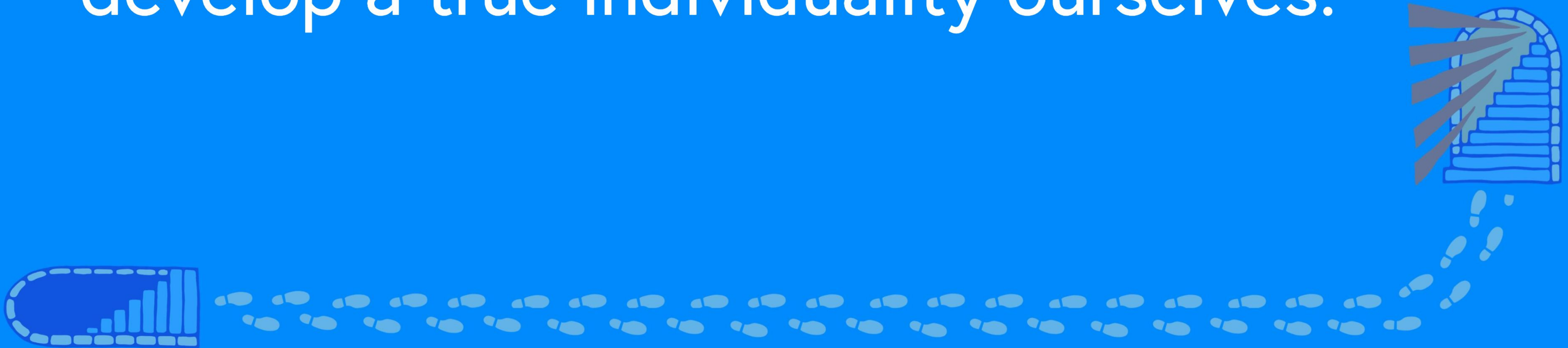
- Everything
- Here: Sexuality + speech

Irreligious objection: Is imitation a good thing? Or a sin against our individuality?



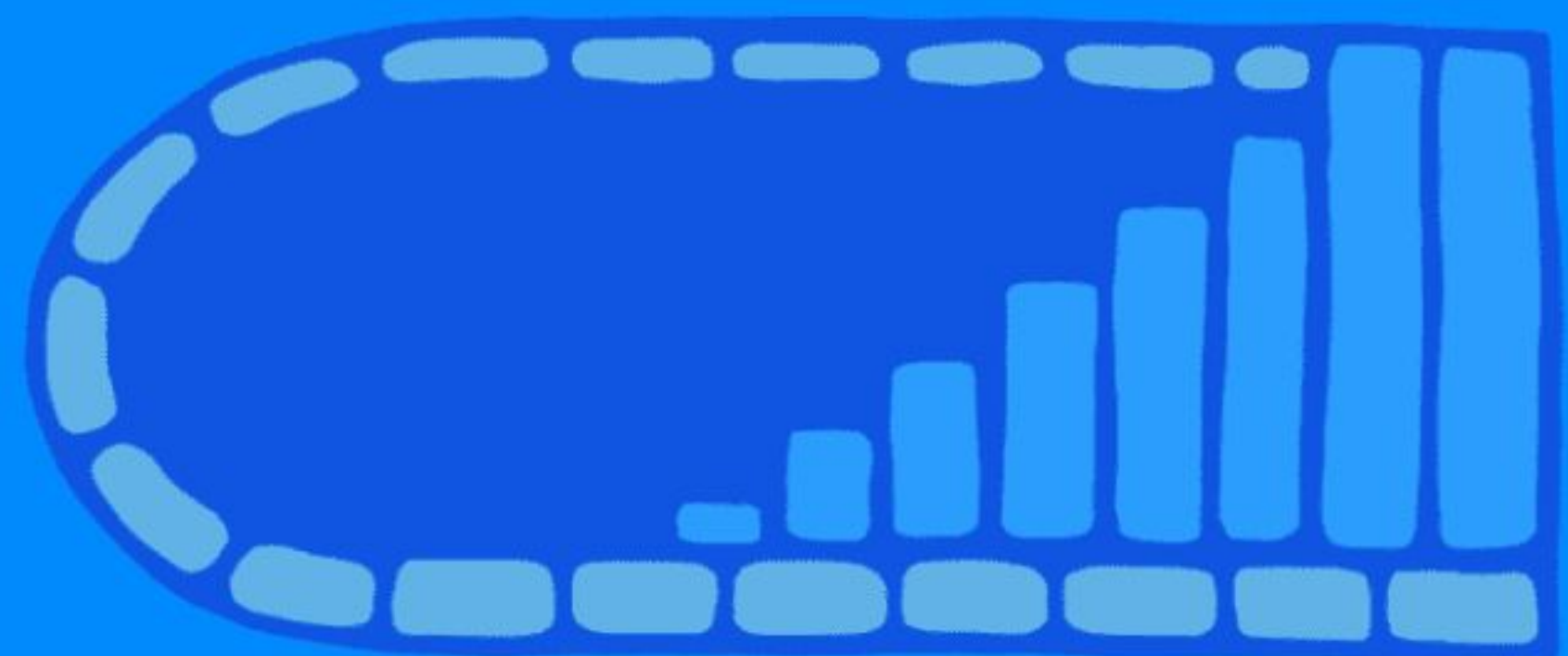
Fallacy: an imitation can be either a cheap knock off or a true replica.

Fear: If we imitate someone else, we won't develop a true individuality ourselves.



Imitation be completely authentic - but it is also the foundation of advancement and good innovation.

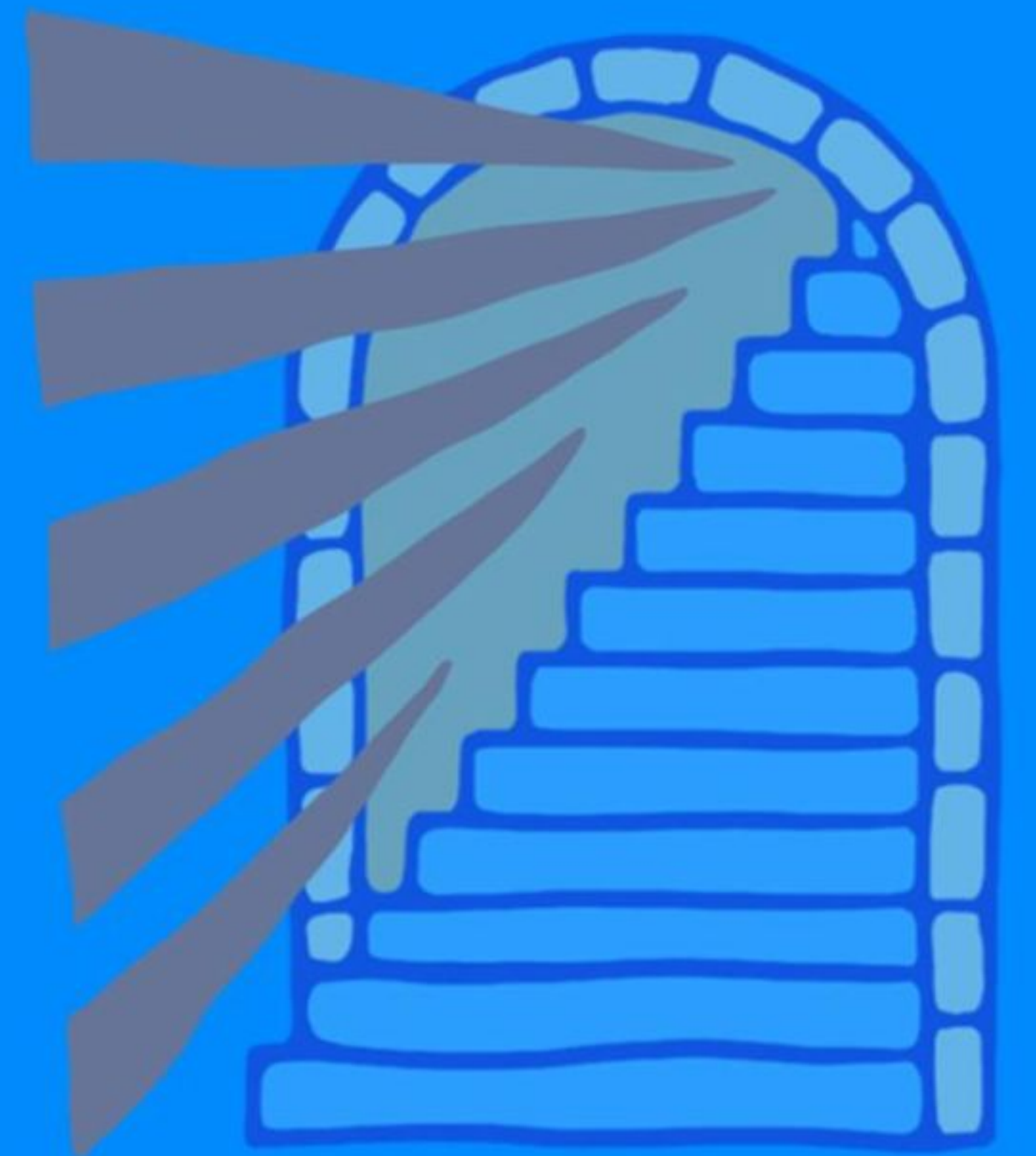
- The quality of the **model**: What are you imitating?
- The quality of the **replica**: Are you imitating to be a knock off or an authentic replication?



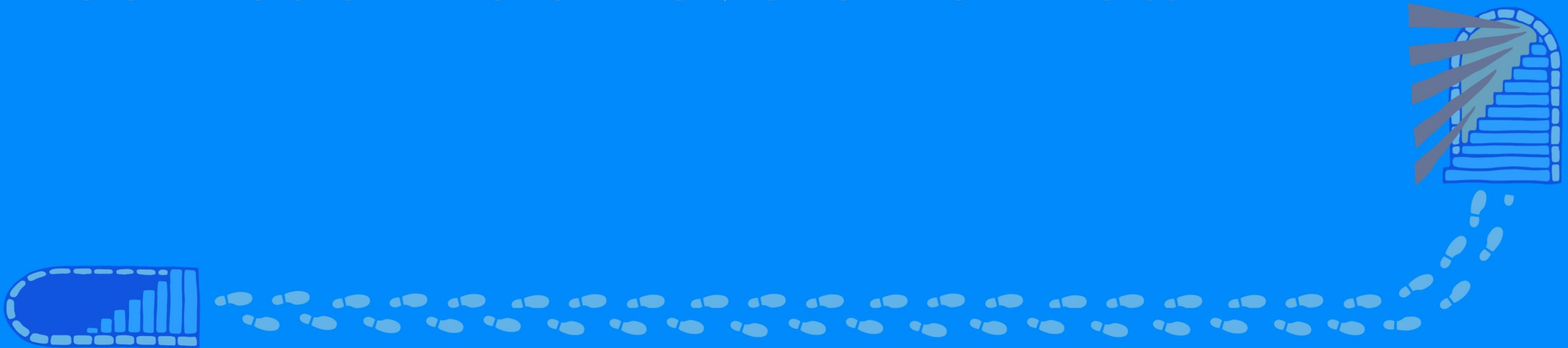
2. Be an imitator of God in your desires.

Ephesians 5:3 "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."

Literally: "But sexual immorality and all impurity or greediness/covetousness must not even be named among you."

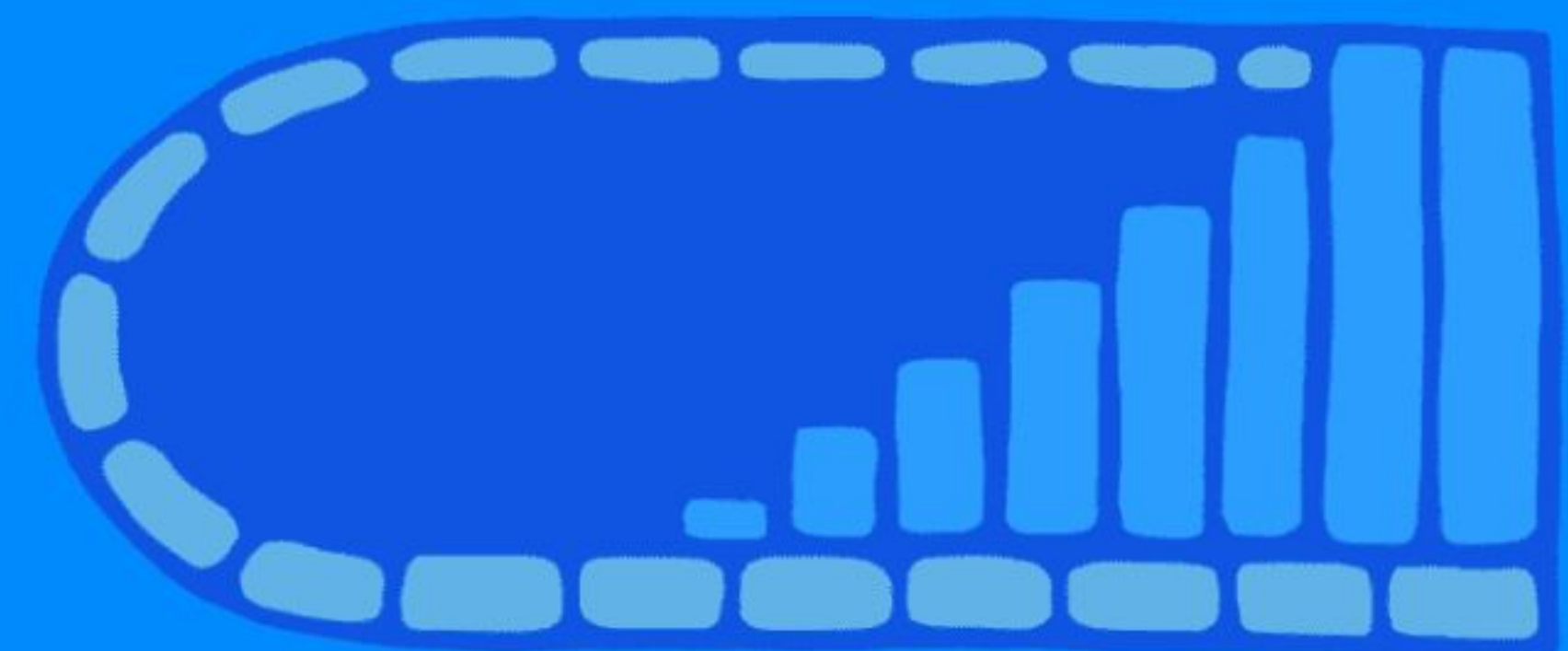


These expressions of self-indulgent sensuality are contrasted with the self-sacrificial love of Christ.



What counts as sexual immorality?

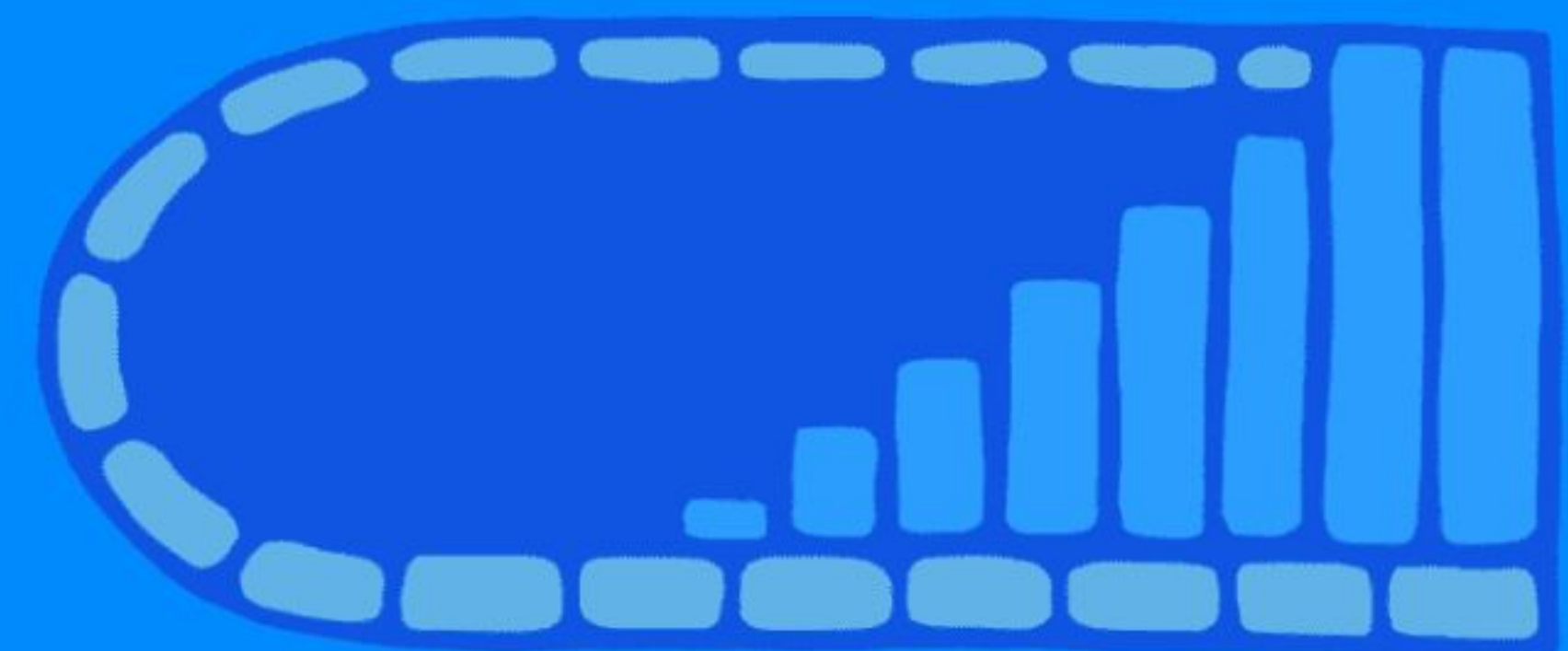
Remember: "and **ALL IMPURITY** and greediness/covetousness."



Leviticus 18–20

Sexual immorality:

- Dishonoring
- Rivalry
- Wickedness
- Defiling
- Profane
- Detestable



(fill in the blanks!)

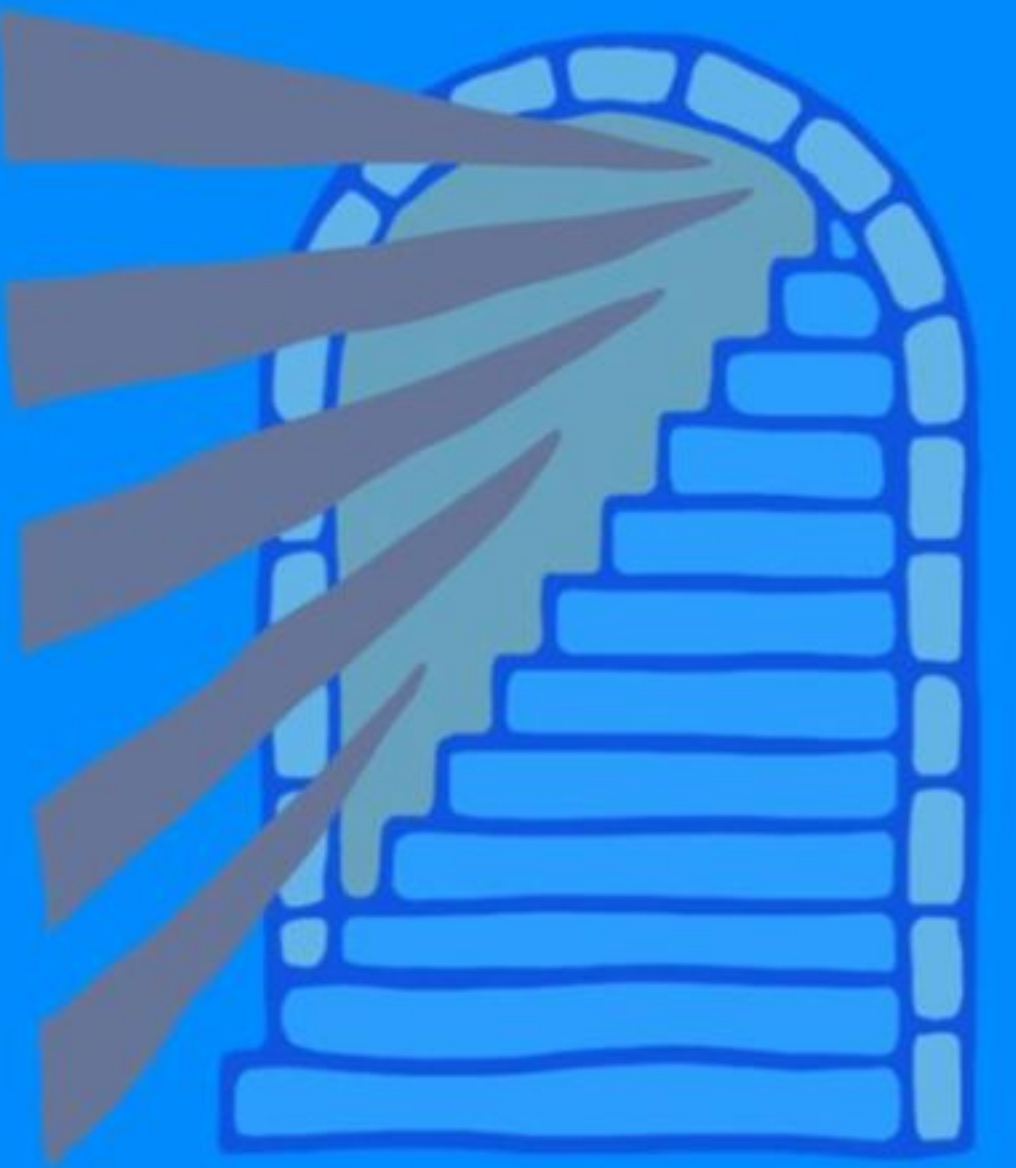
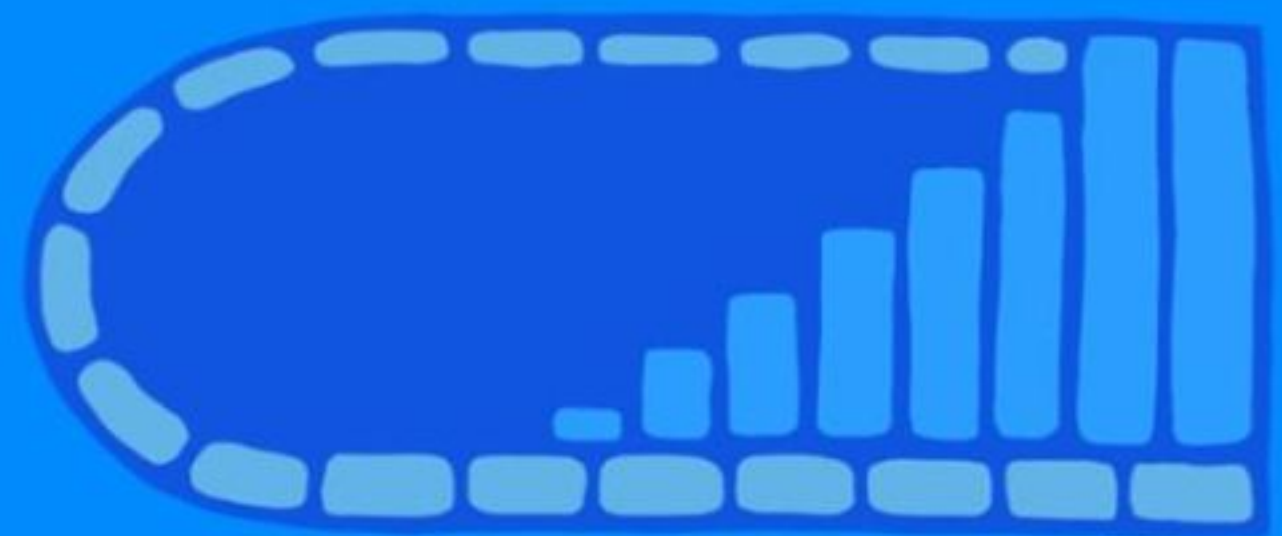
God calls us to:

1. m t Him

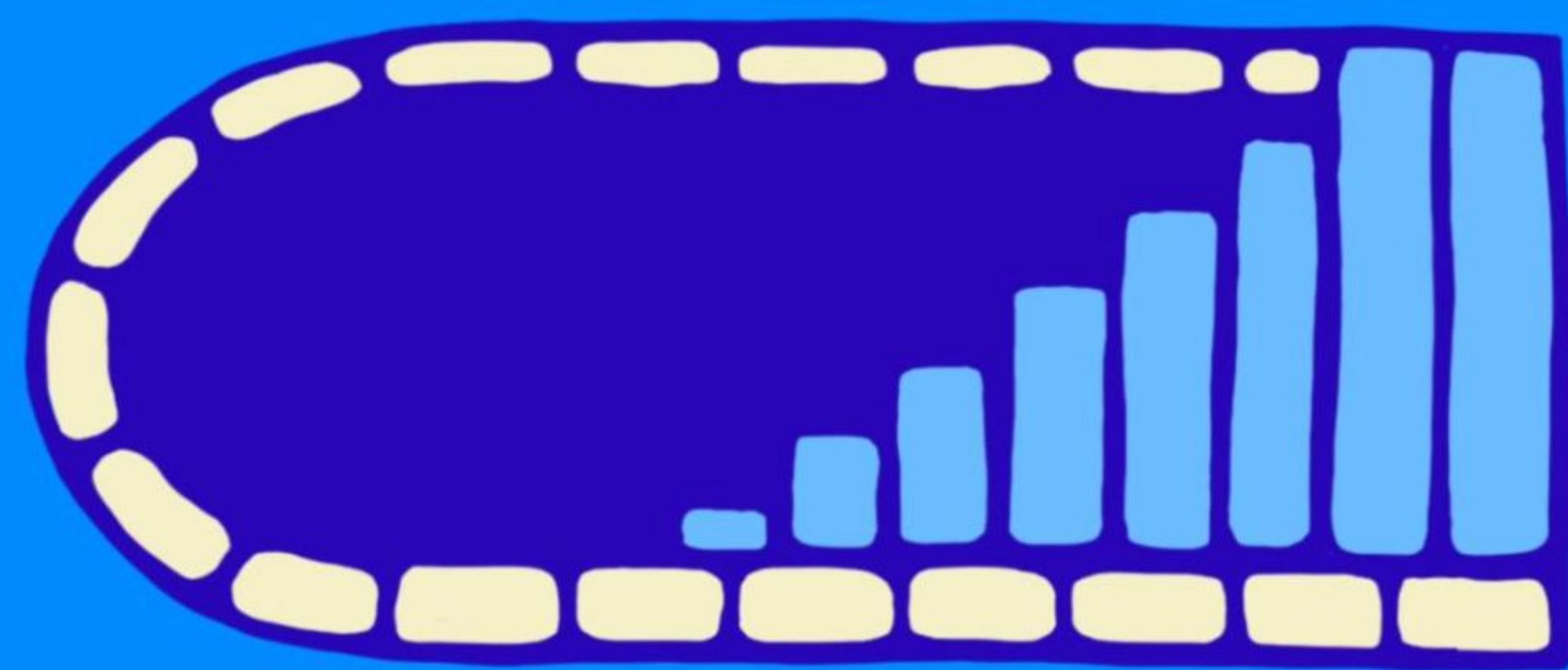
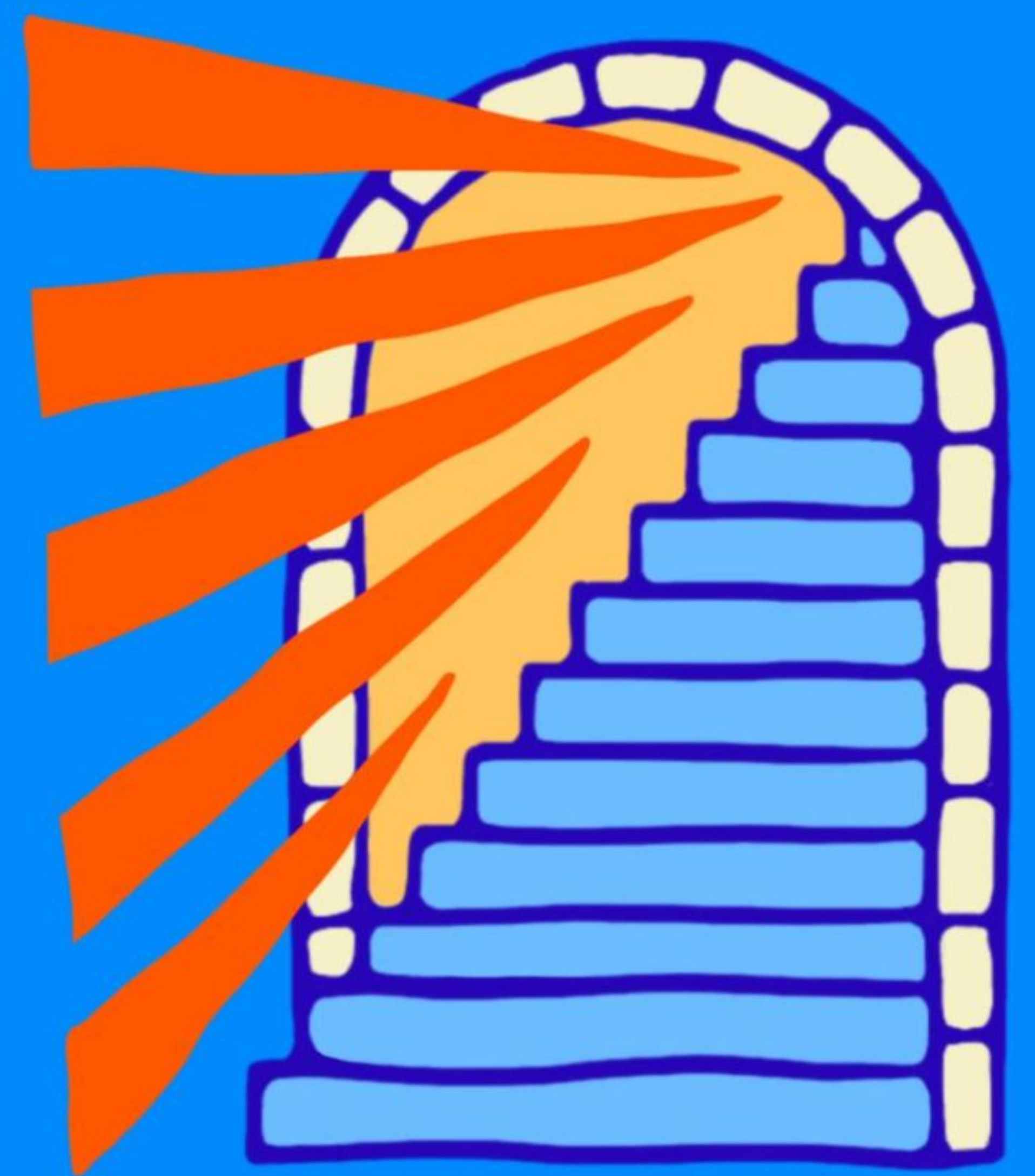
2. l in the way of love

3. be a a n n offering

How will you live this out specifically in
relationship to what was talked about?



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