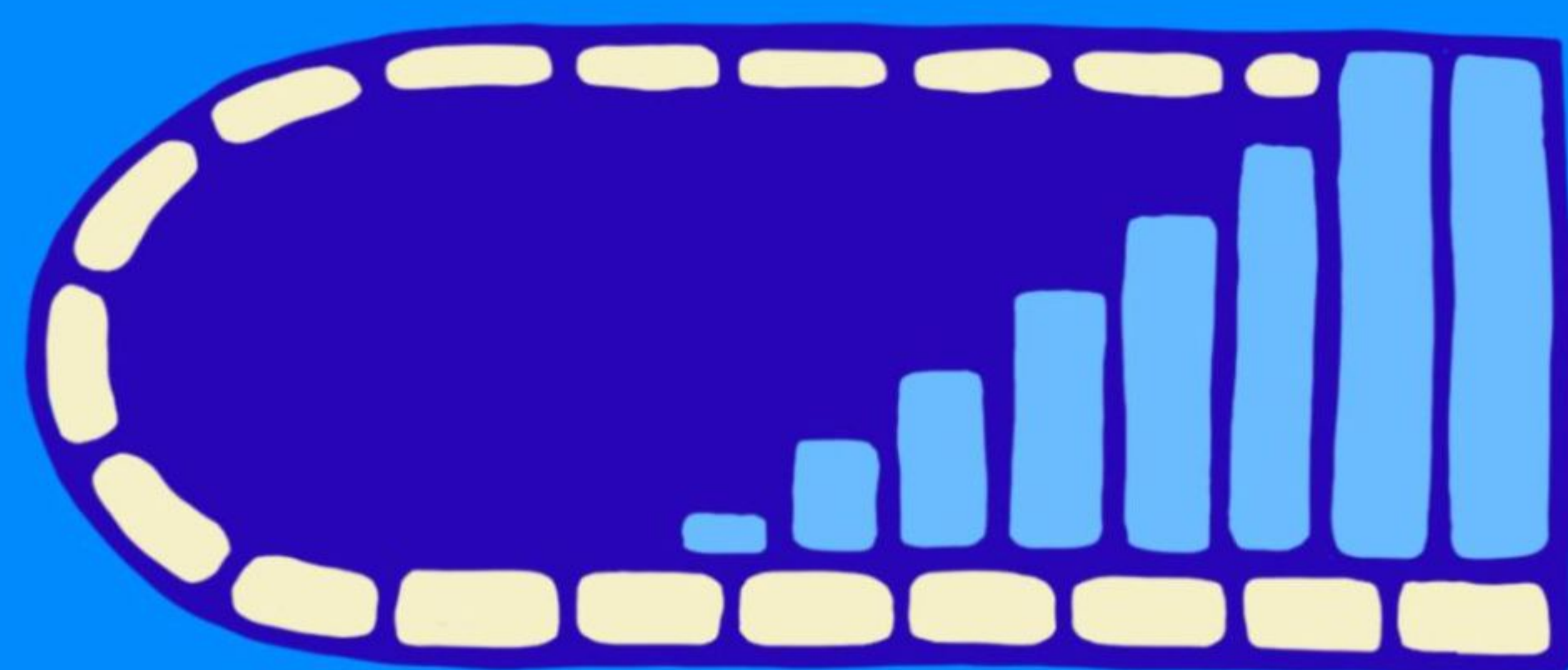
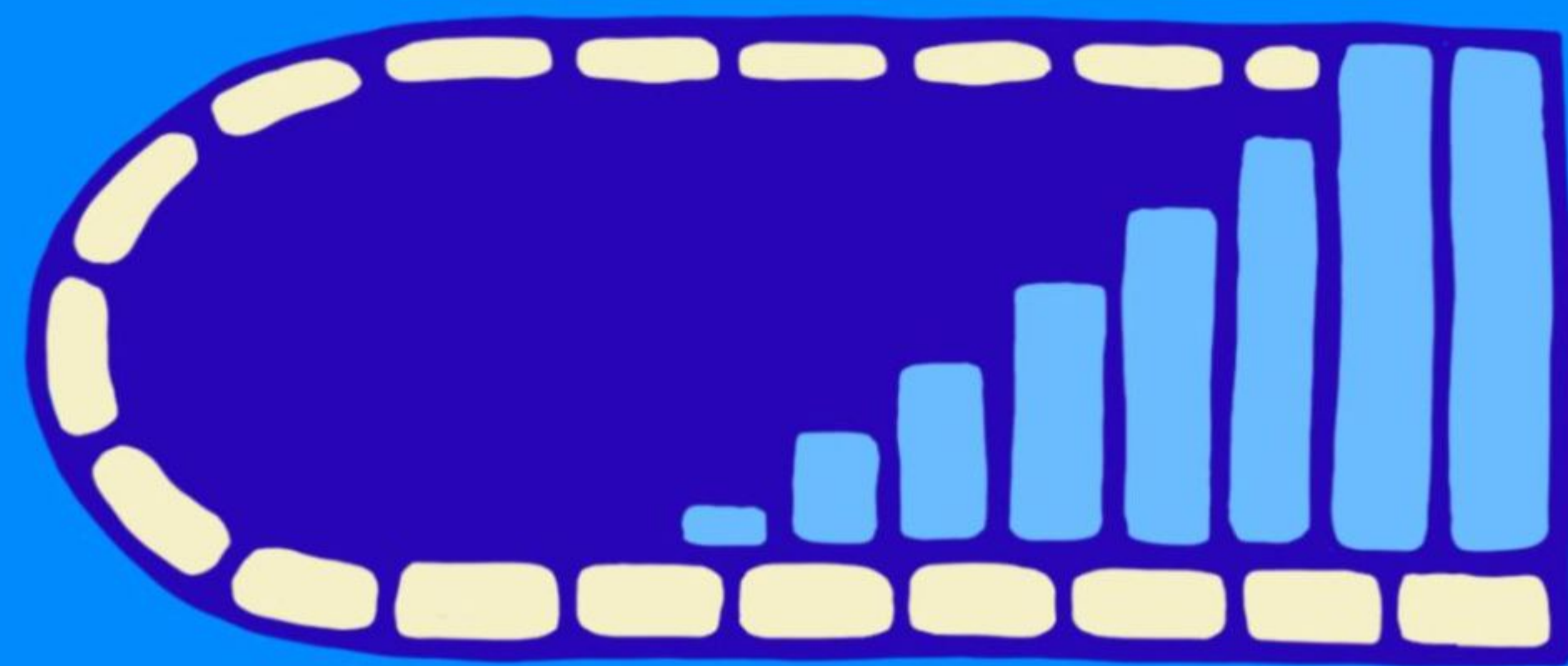
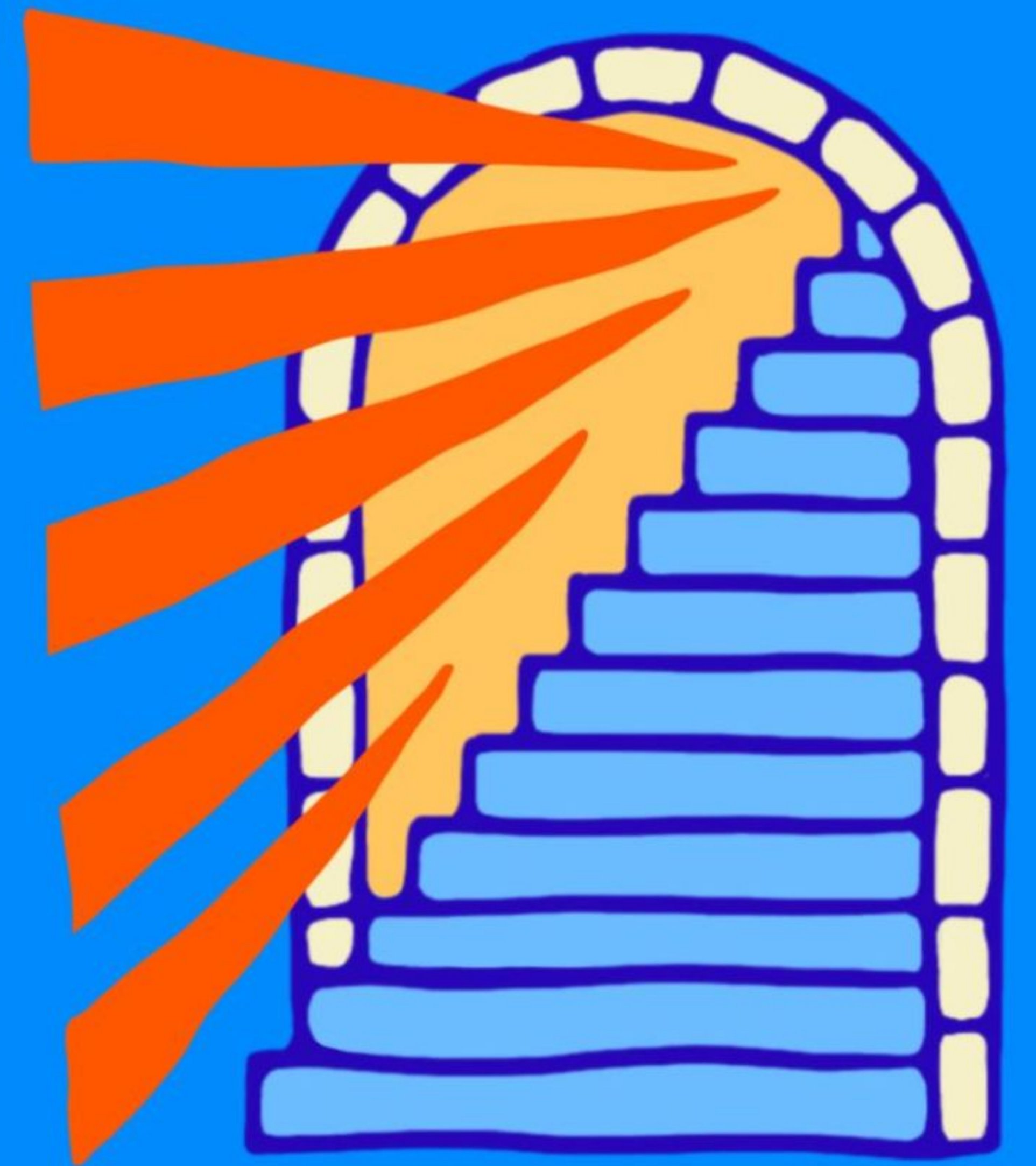


BE MADE



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BE MADE



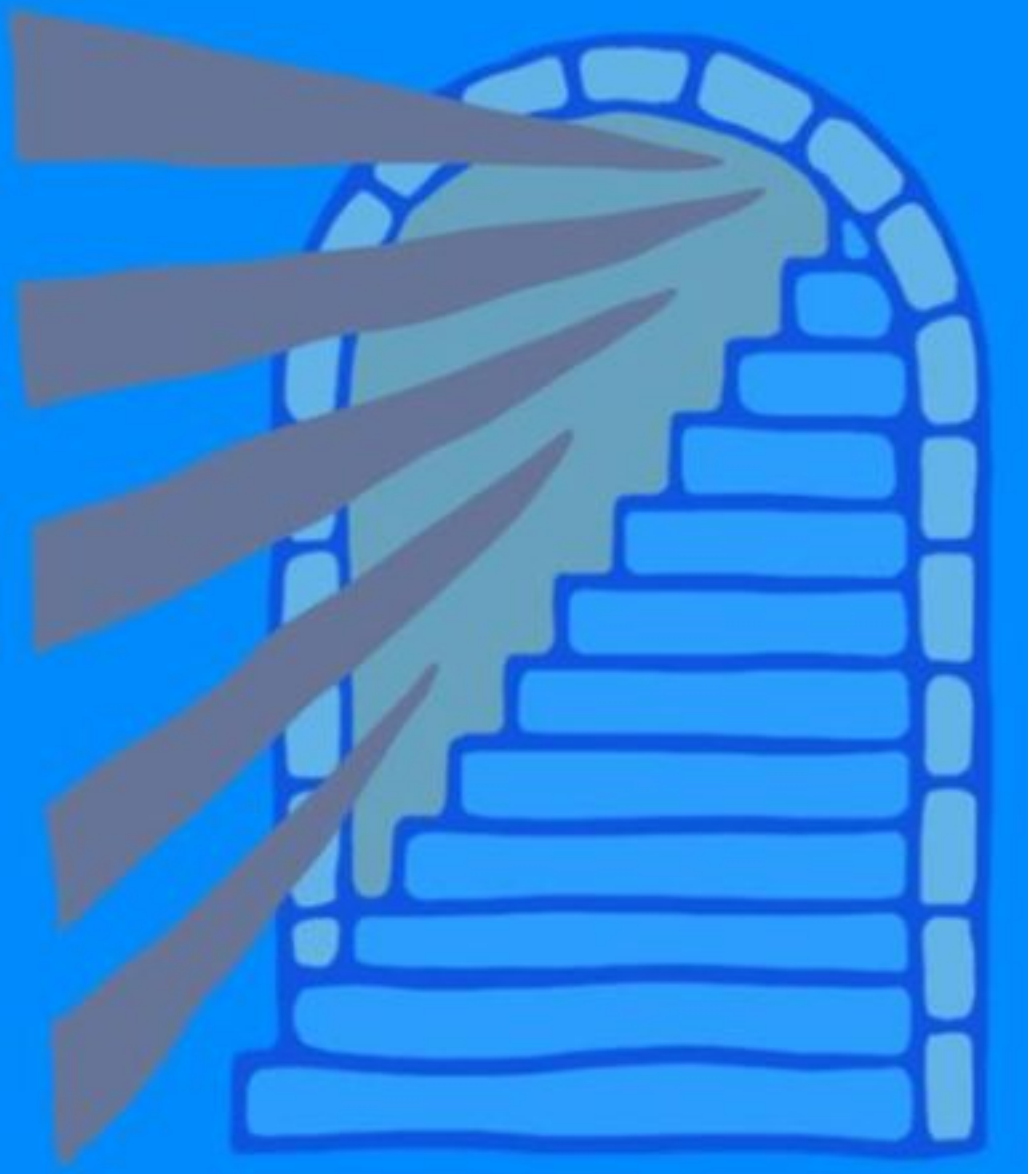
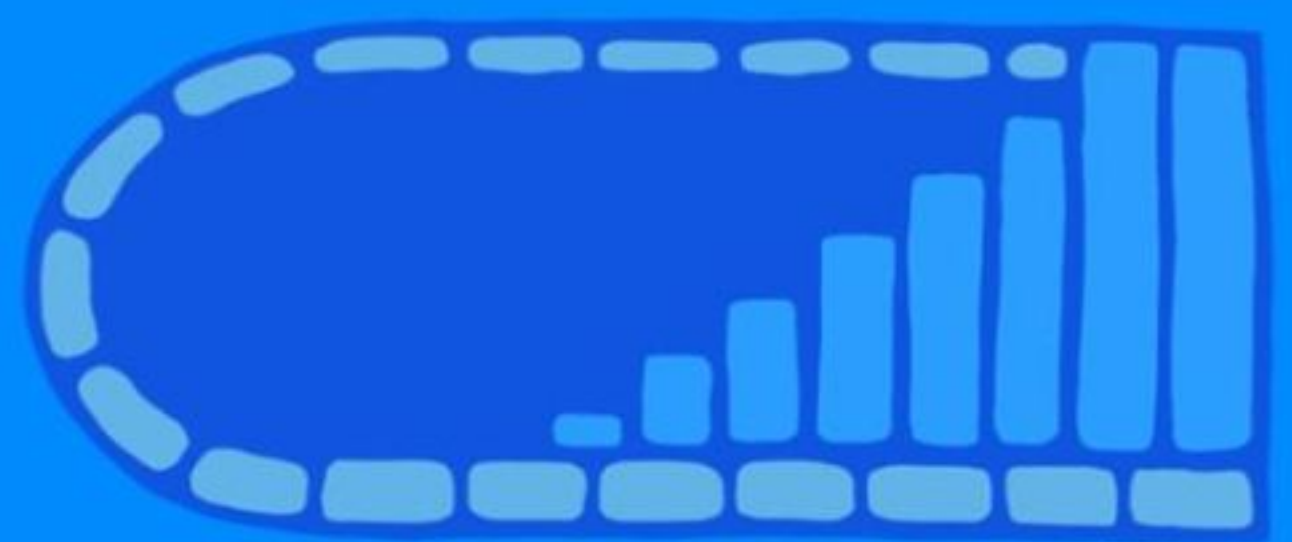
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Ephesians 5:1 – 7

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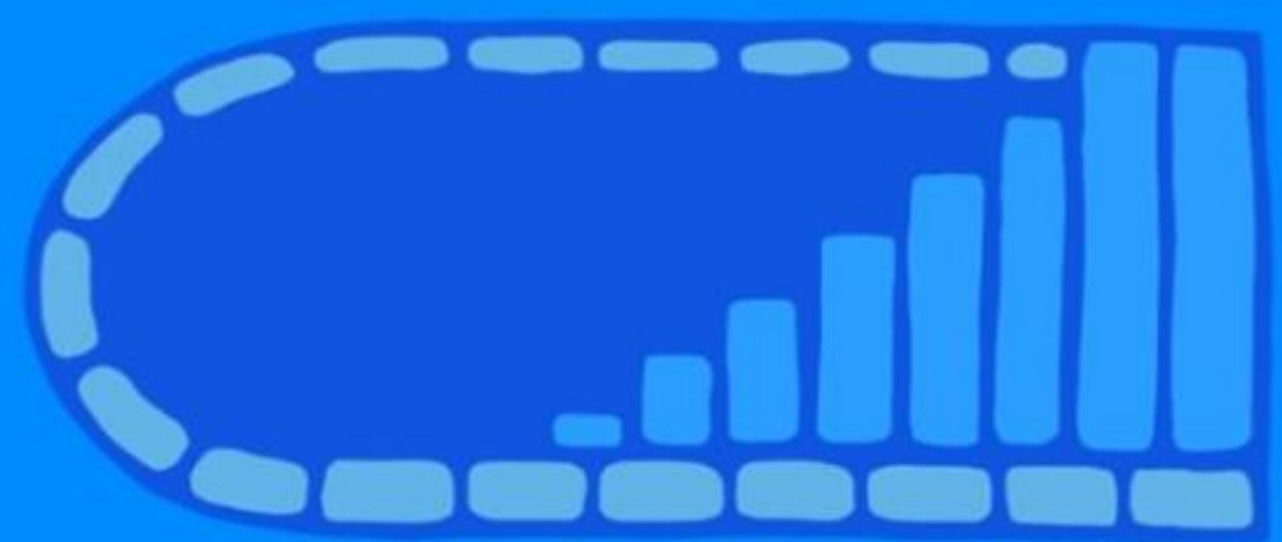
Ephesians 5:1 – 3

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. 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.



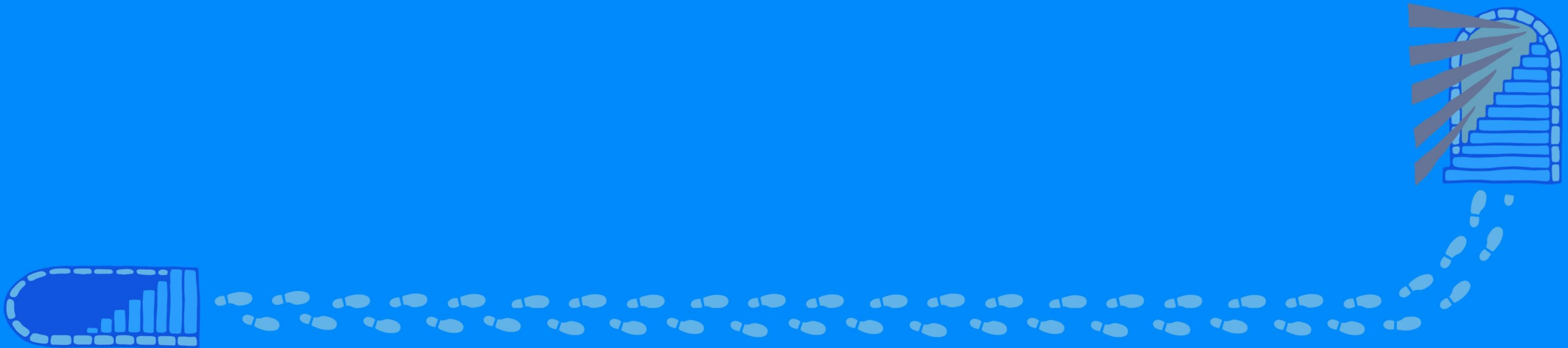
Ephesians 5:4 – 5

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

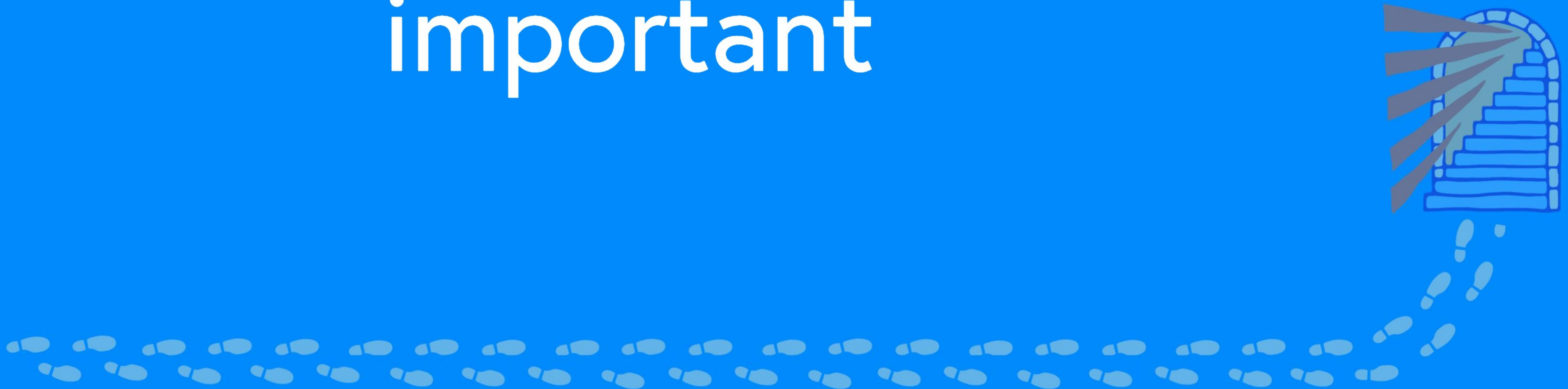
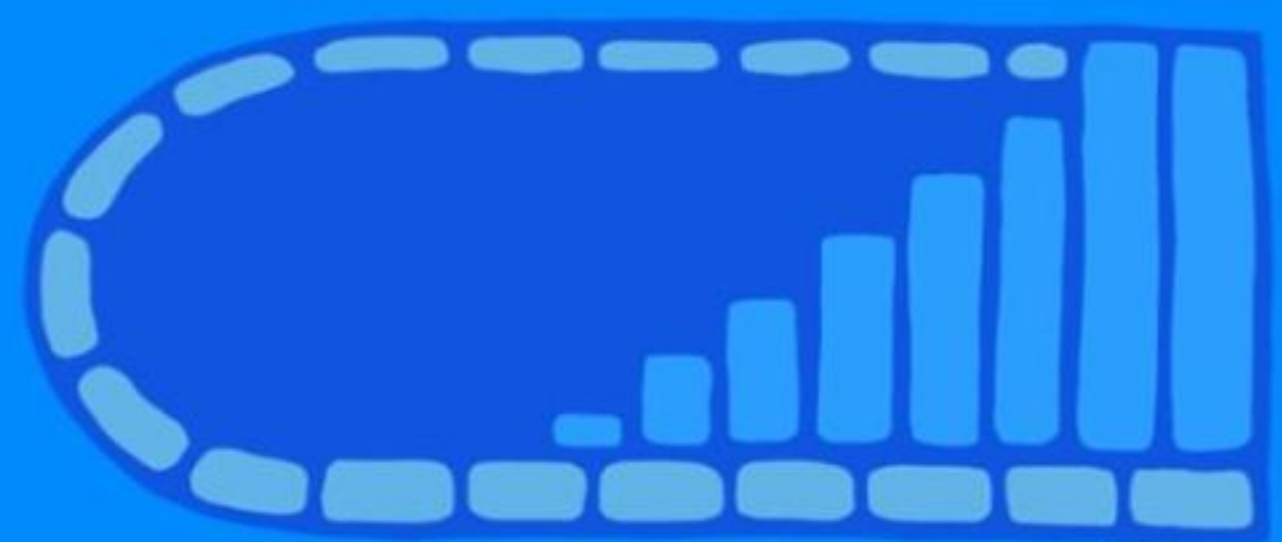


Ephesians 5:6 – 7

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

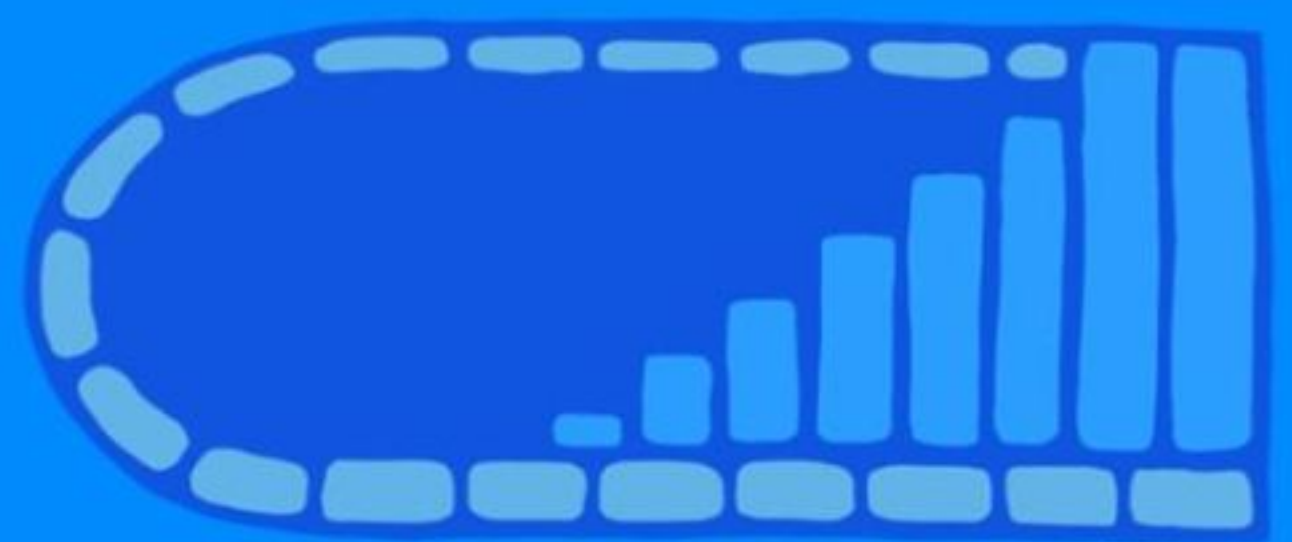


Your words are
terrifyingly
important



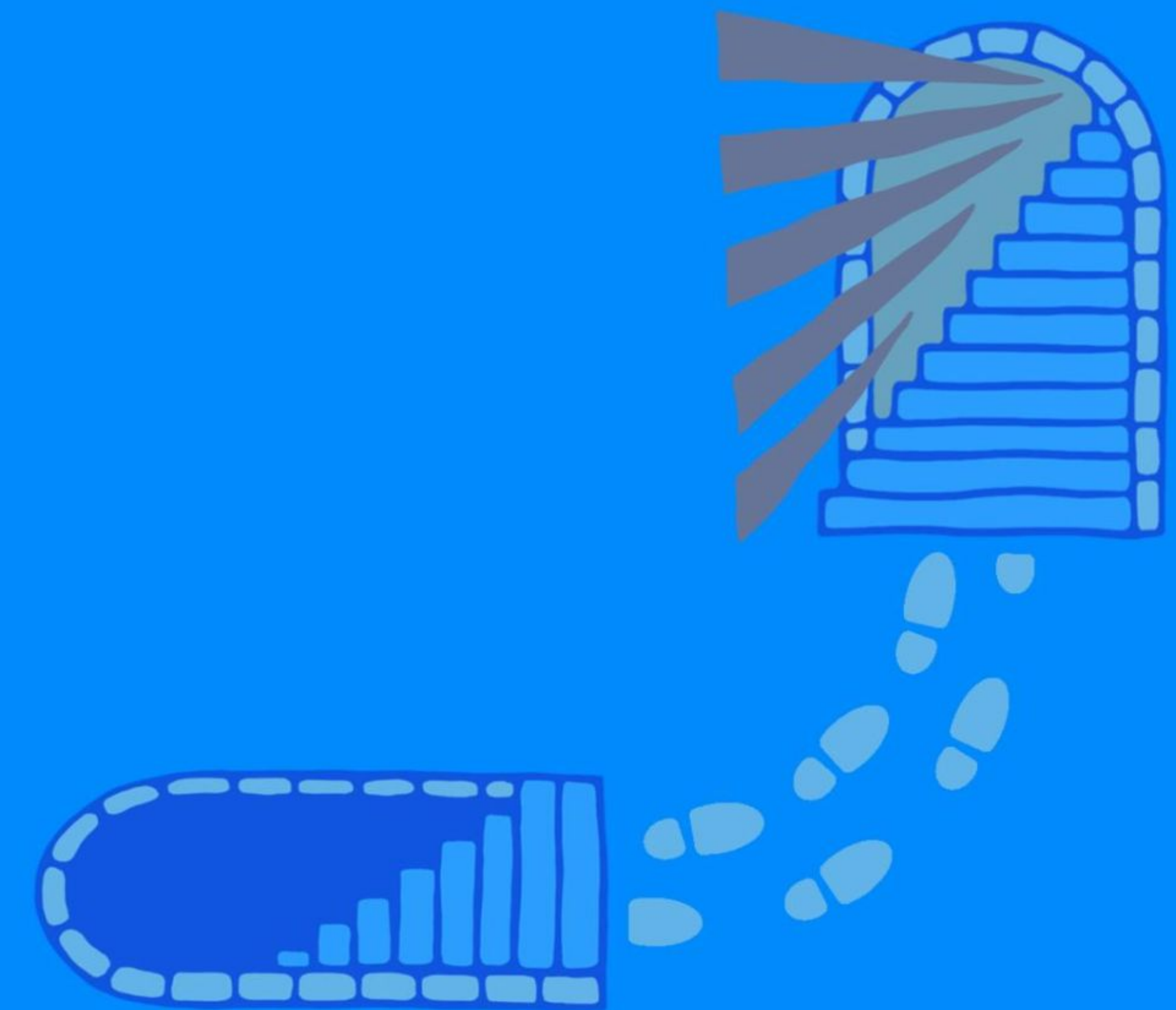
Proverbs 15:4

The tongue that brings healing
is a tree of life, but a deceitful
tongue crushes the spirit.



Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.



See Also:

Proverbs 10:20, 15:4, 18:21, 21:23,

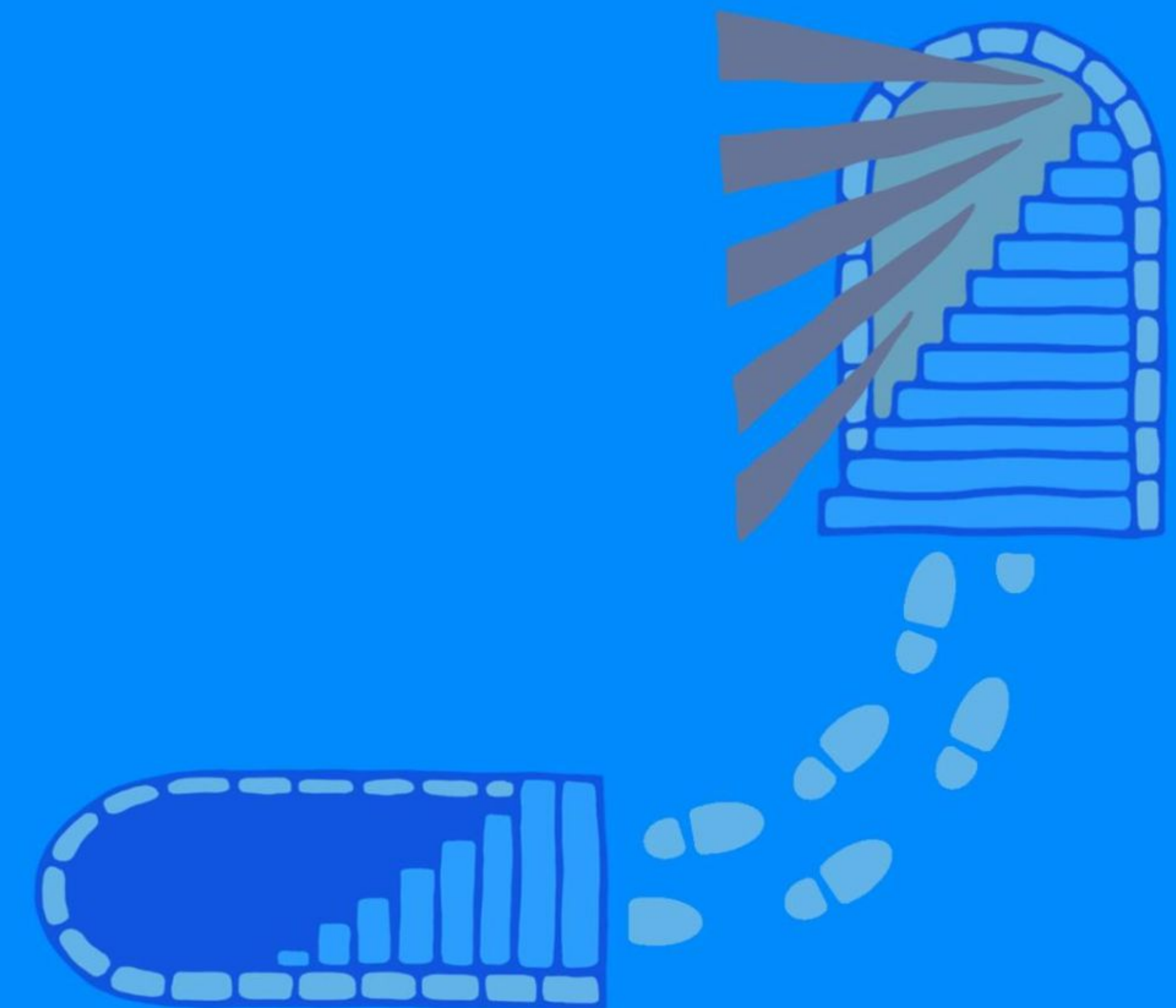
James 1:26-27, 3:1-10,

Matt 5:21-22,

Eph 4:29, 5:4,

Psalms 15:3, 12:1-3, 5:9, 34:11ff,

37:30, 139:4



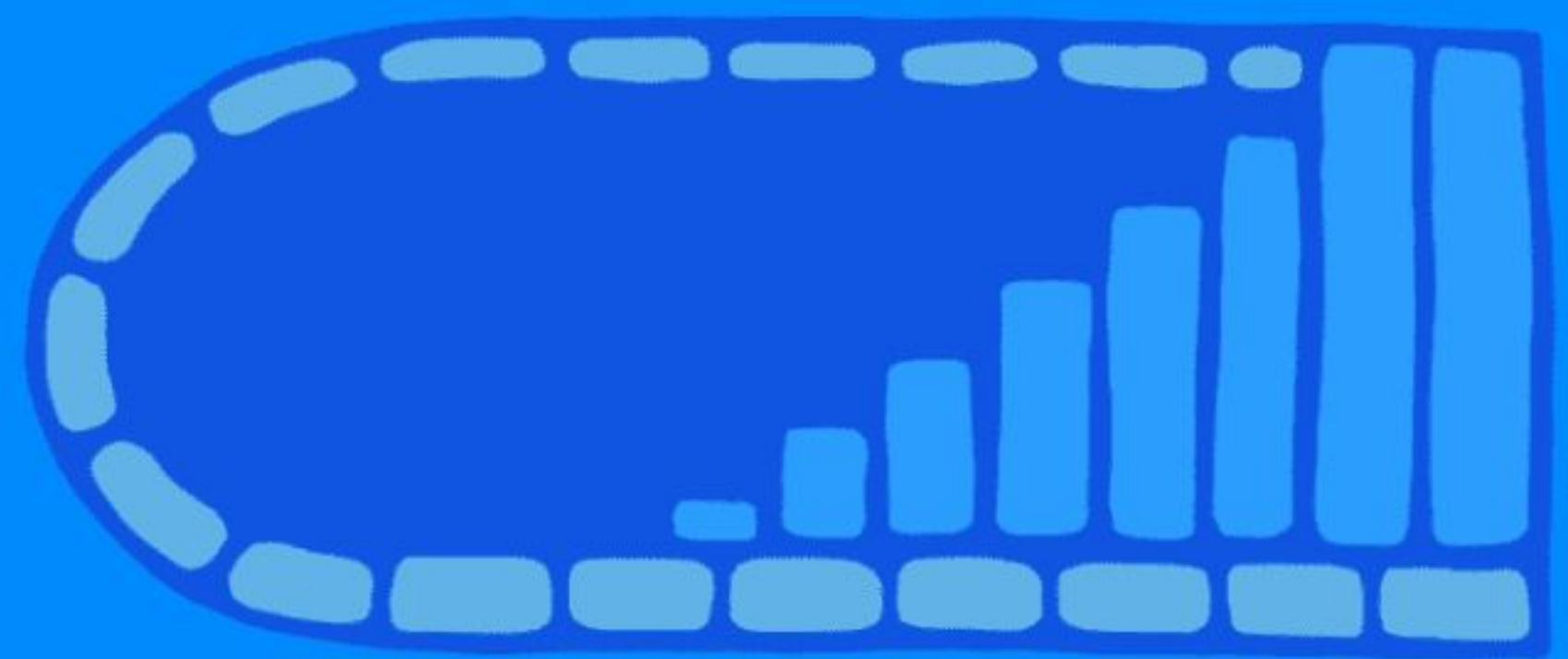
James 1:26 – 27

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



Matthew 5:21 – 22

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

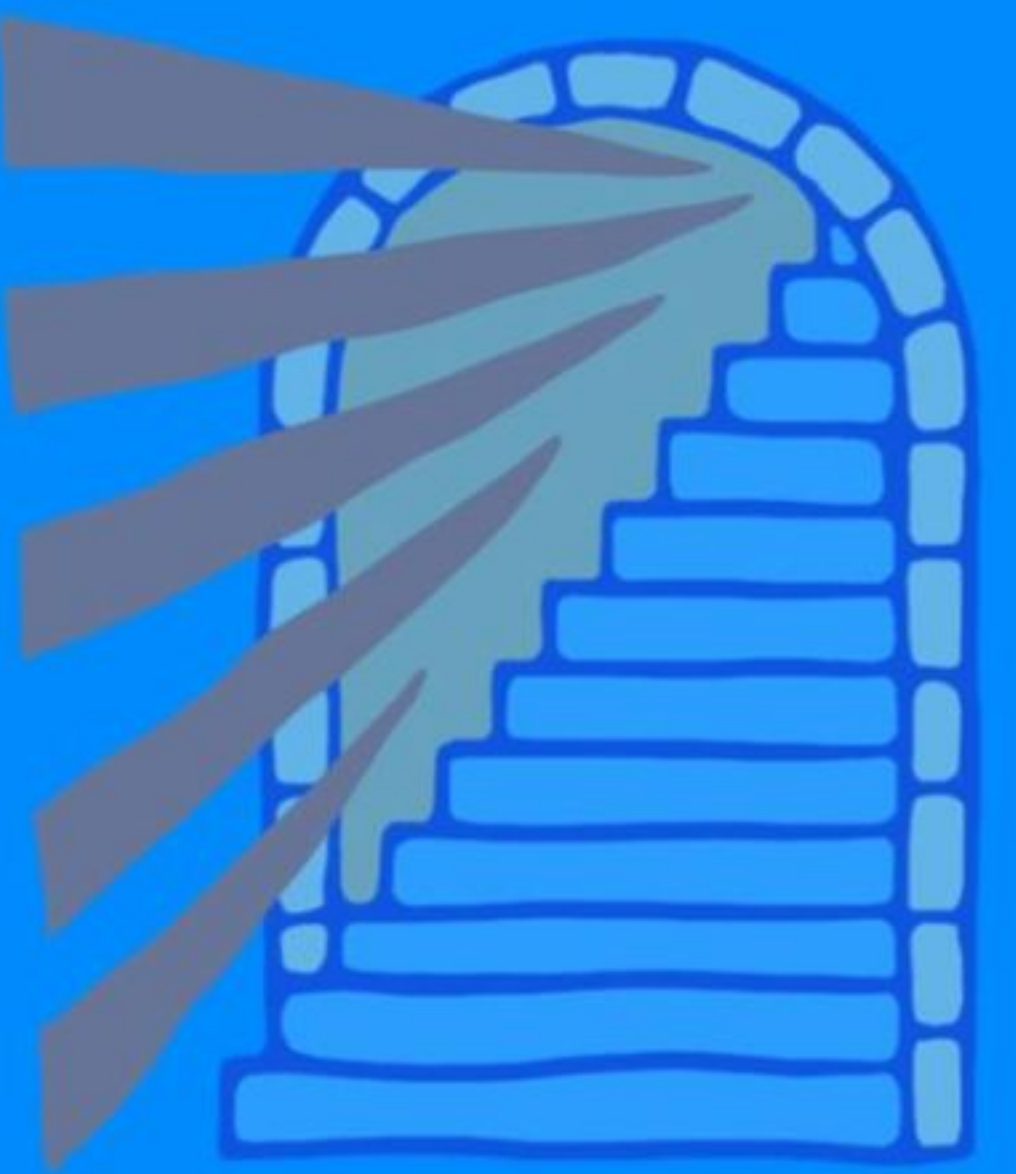
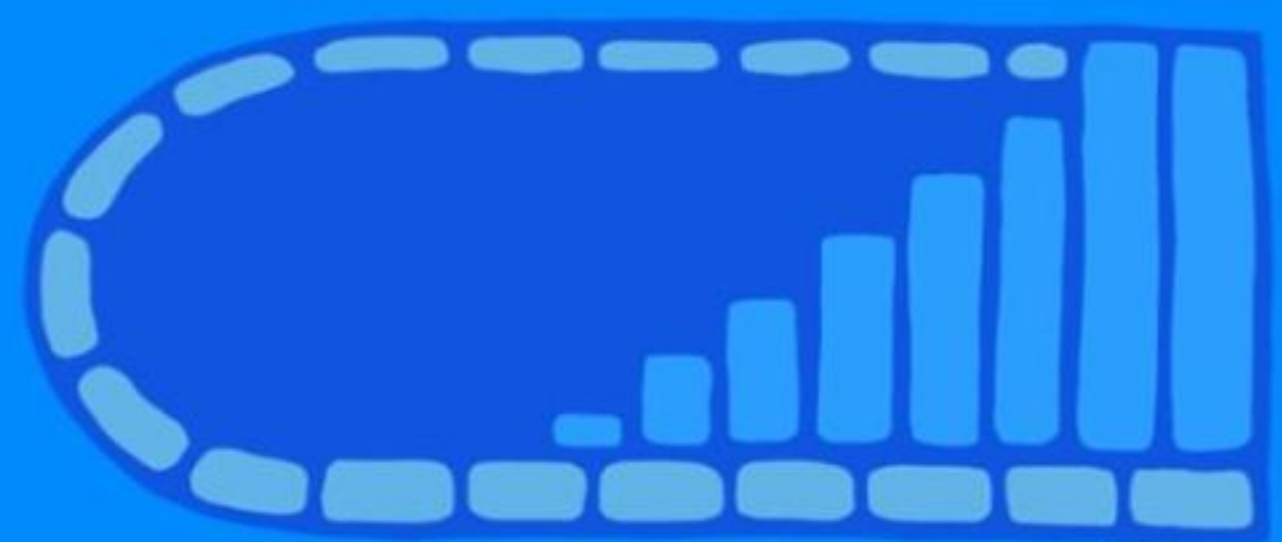


James 3:9 – 12

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

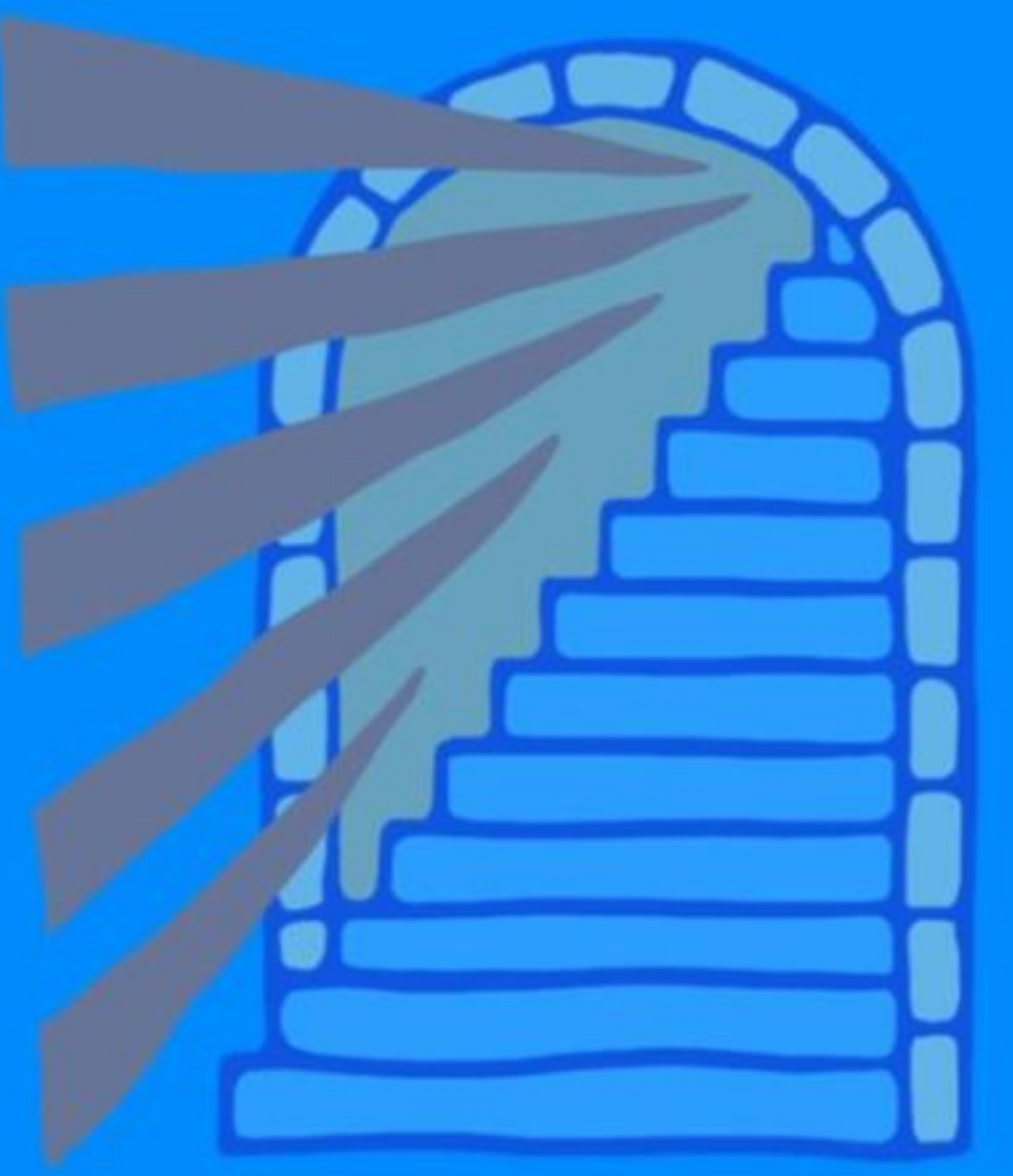
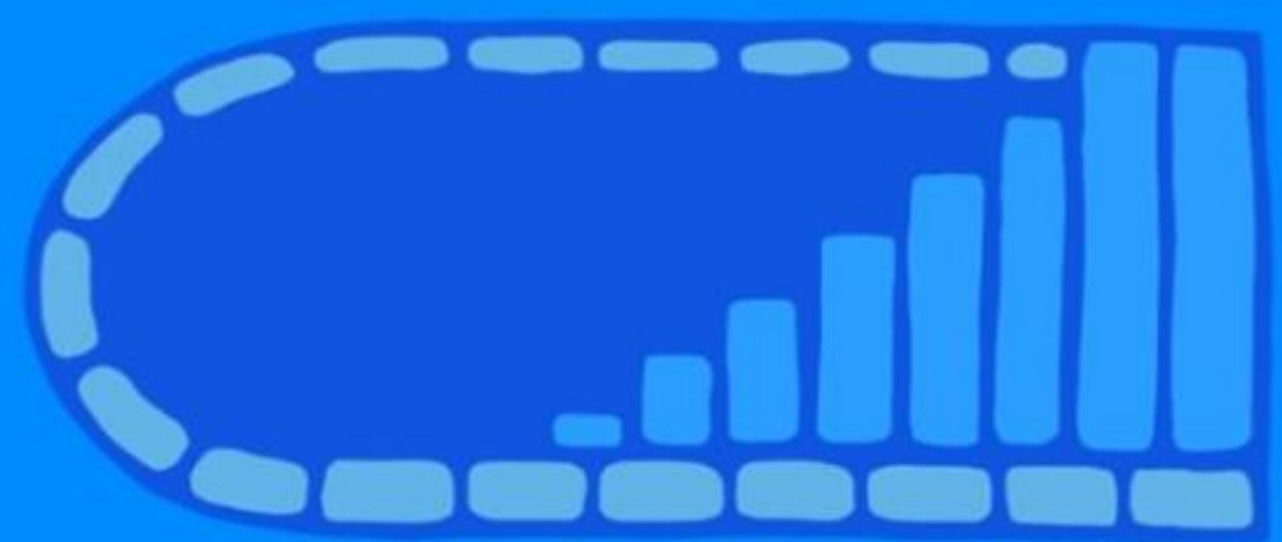


So should we all be
100% Positive?



So Should we all be 100% Positive?

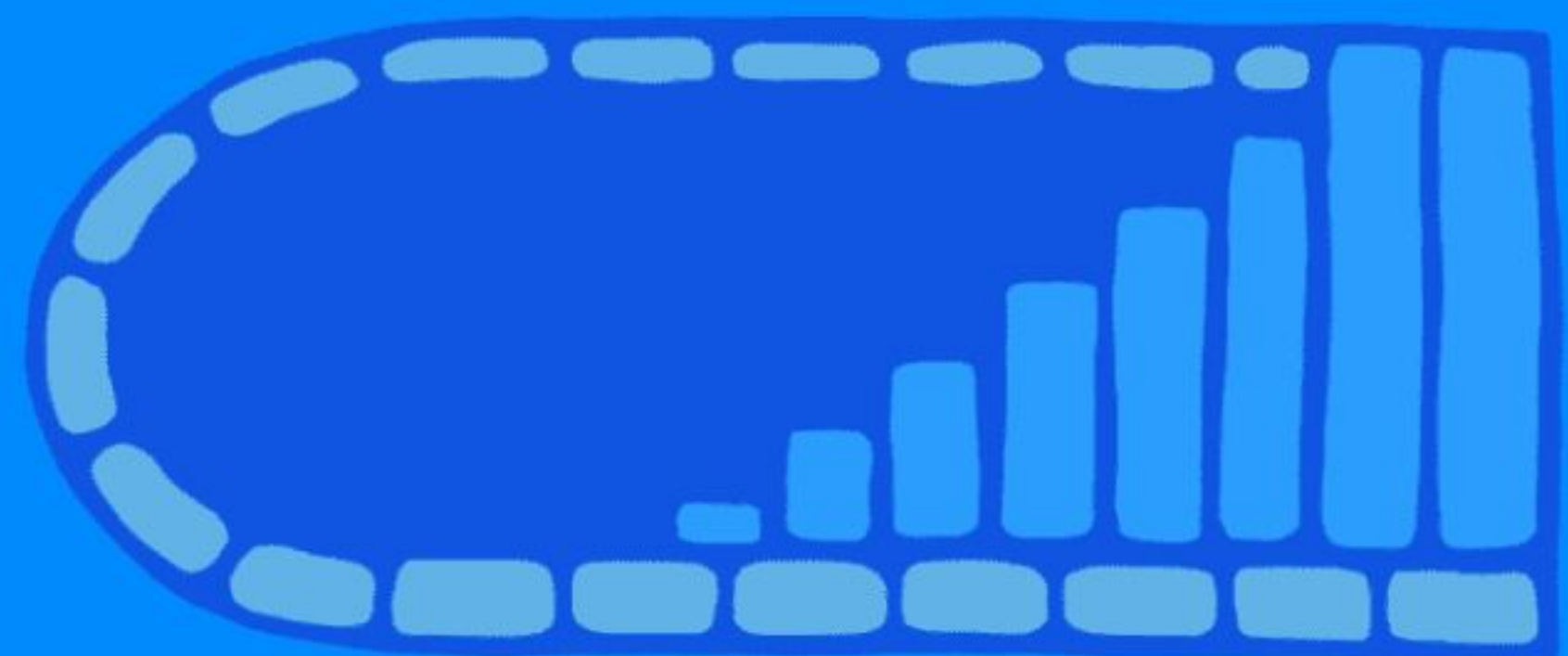
- Jesus didn't talk that way
- It doesn't ever work



Attempts at 100% positivity are
always either...

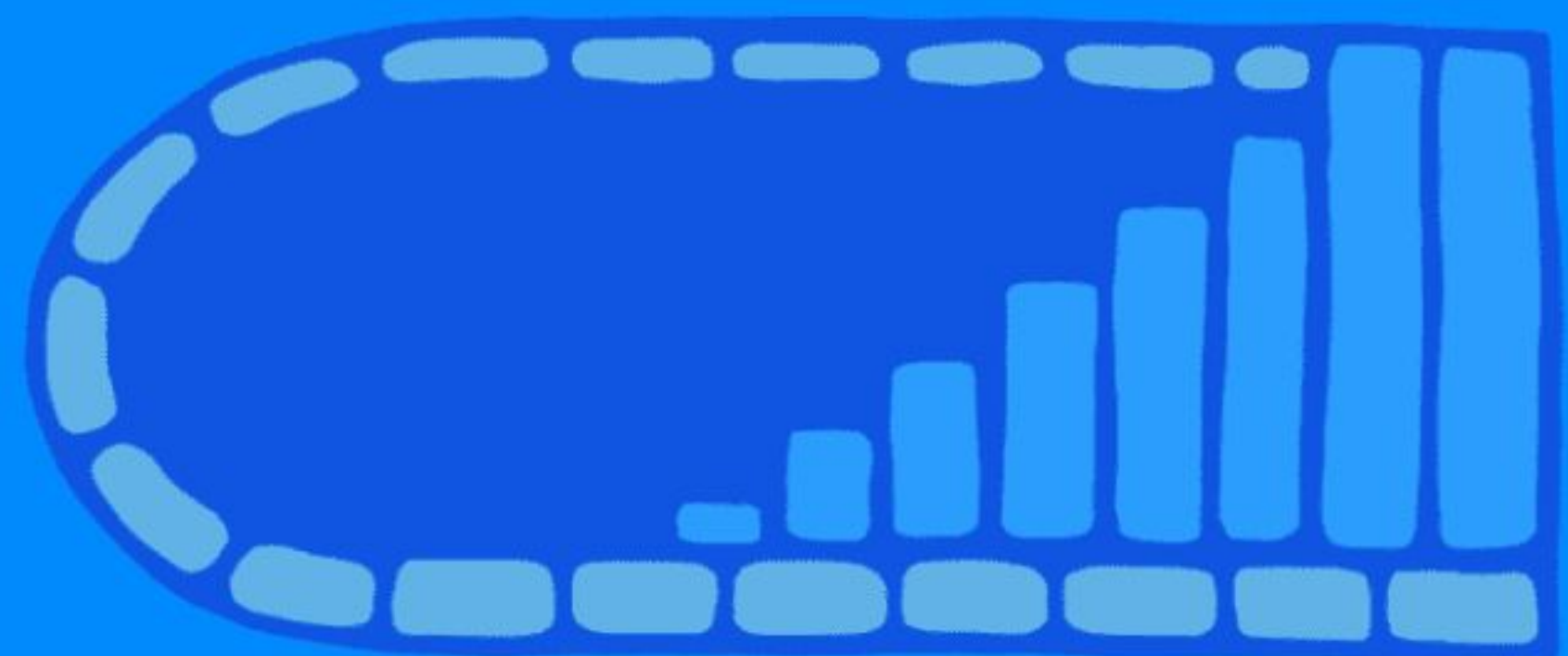
cynical or unsustainable

Venting or Passivity



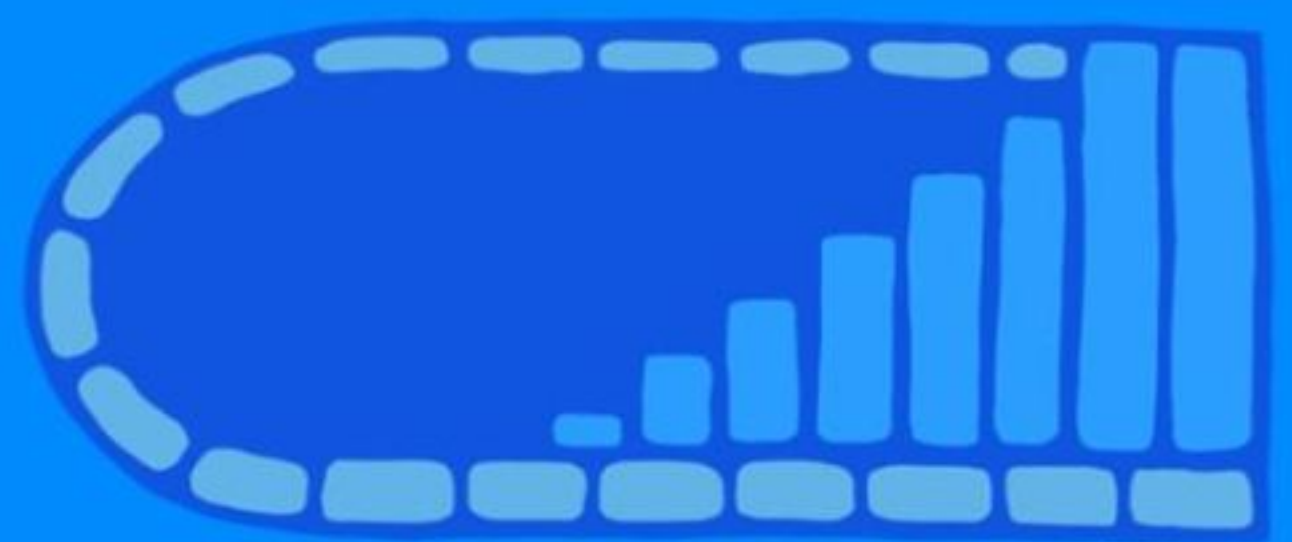
Think about THIS
passage...

Negative speech is a
different tool than positive
speech—ex. sobering



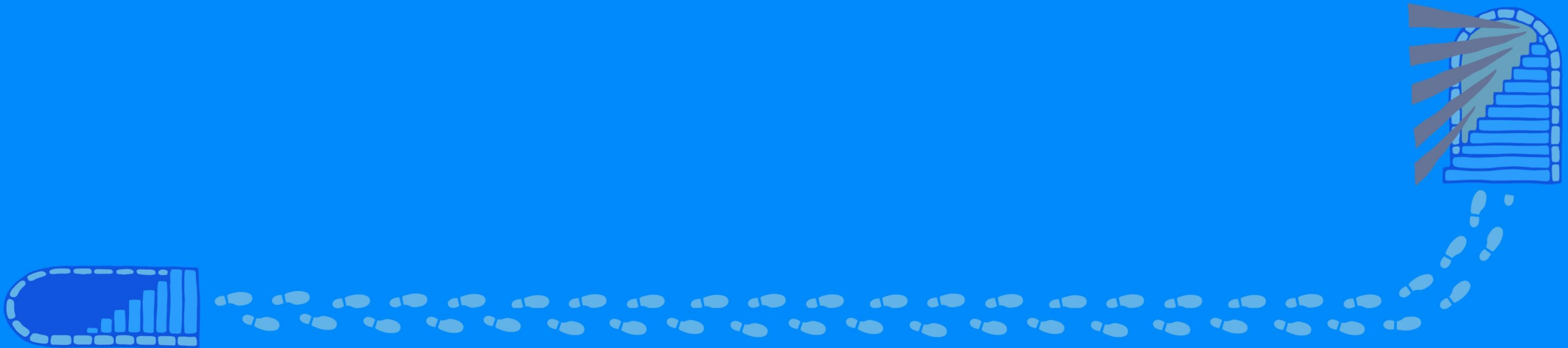
Ephesians 5:4 – 5

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Ephesians 5:6 – 7

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.



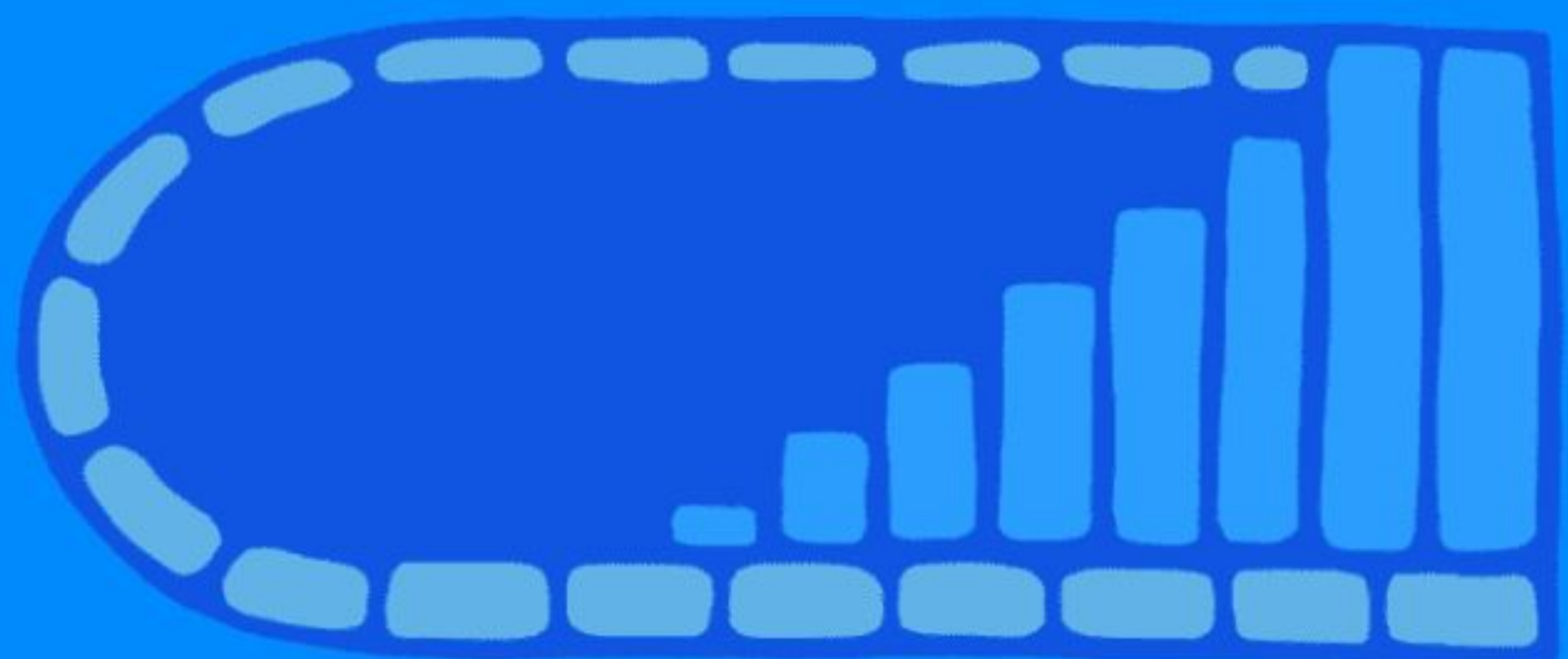
What about:

"Always Speak the truth"

or

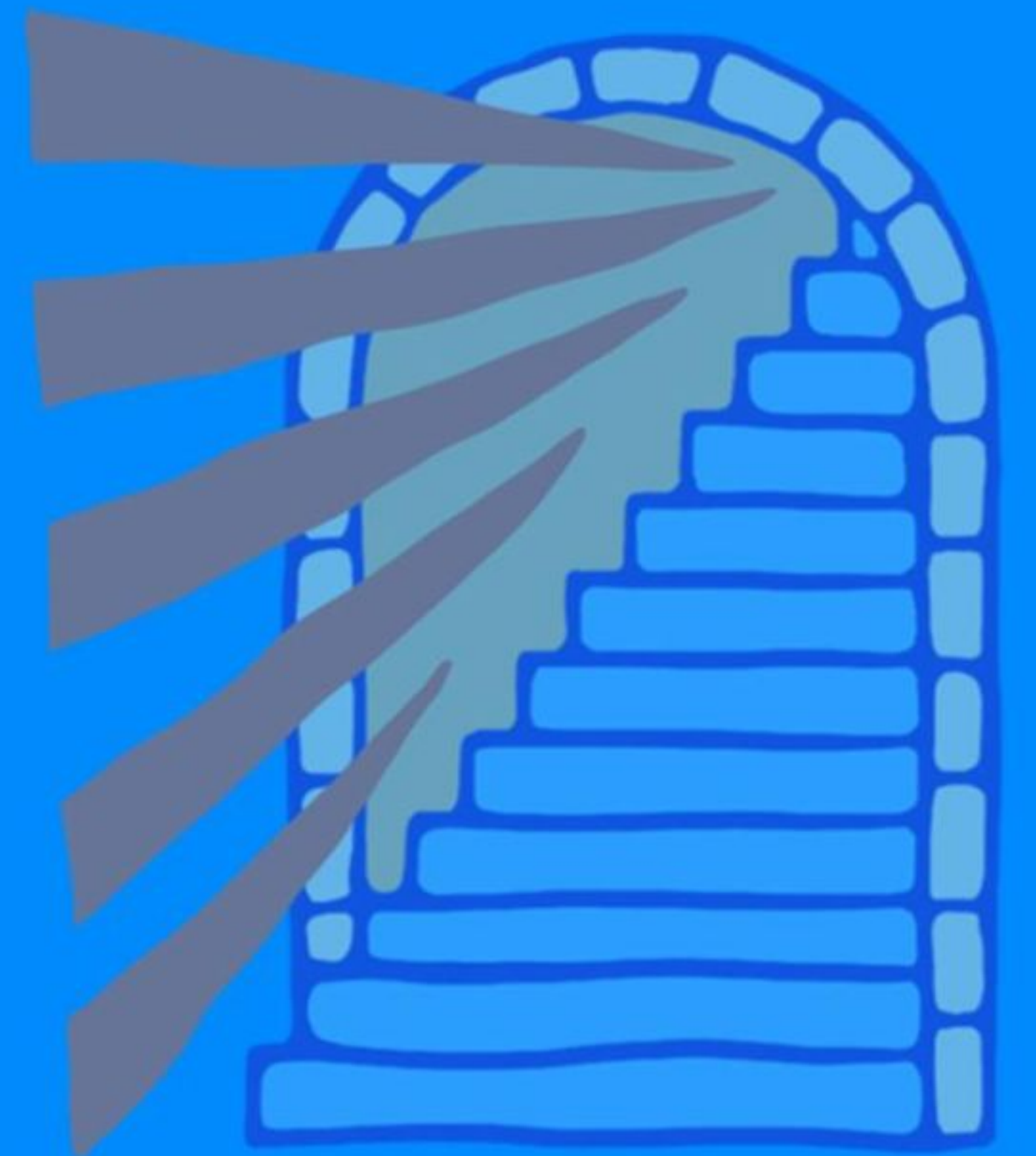
"Speak your truth"

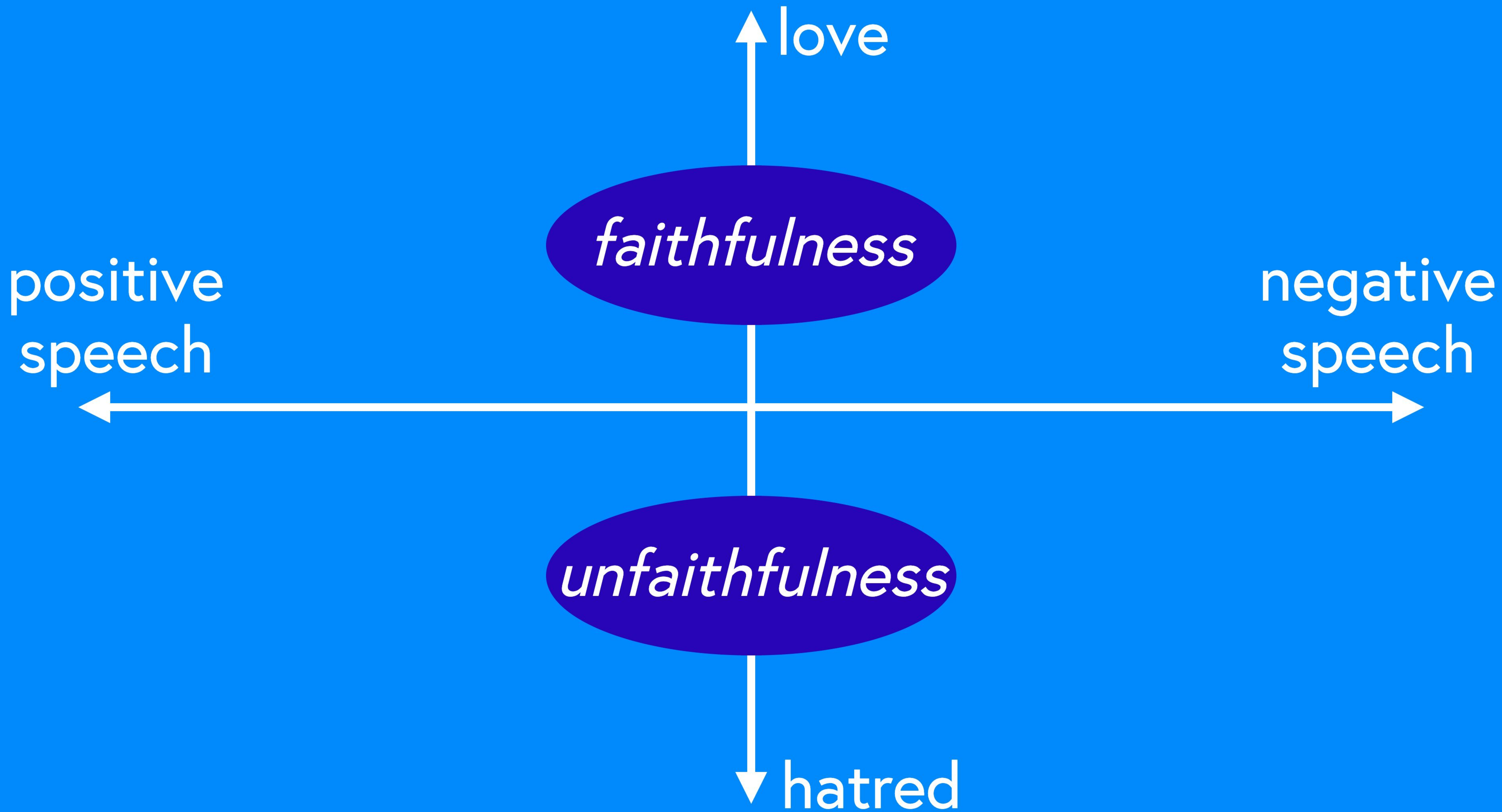
(Closer—depending on what we mean. But this degenerates to selfishness and dismissiveness really quickly.)



Jesus' Standard:
Grace (good manner)
and Truth (good content)

Grace + Truth = Faithfulness







Too Complicated?

The 2 goals of the tongue



Edification

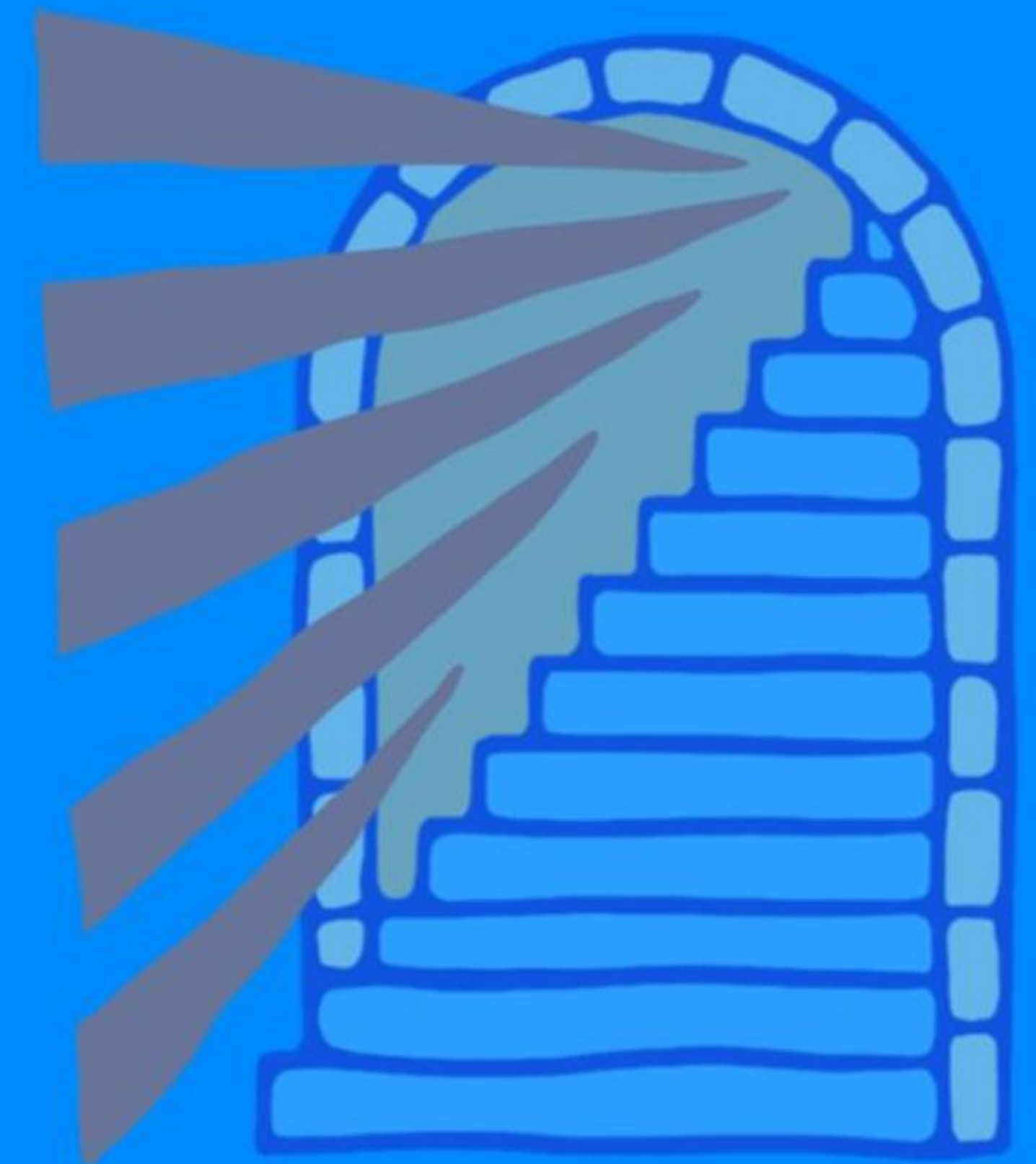
Ephesians 4:11–13

2 Corinthians 13:10

James 3:5–10

Hebrews 10:22–25

Fruitfulness



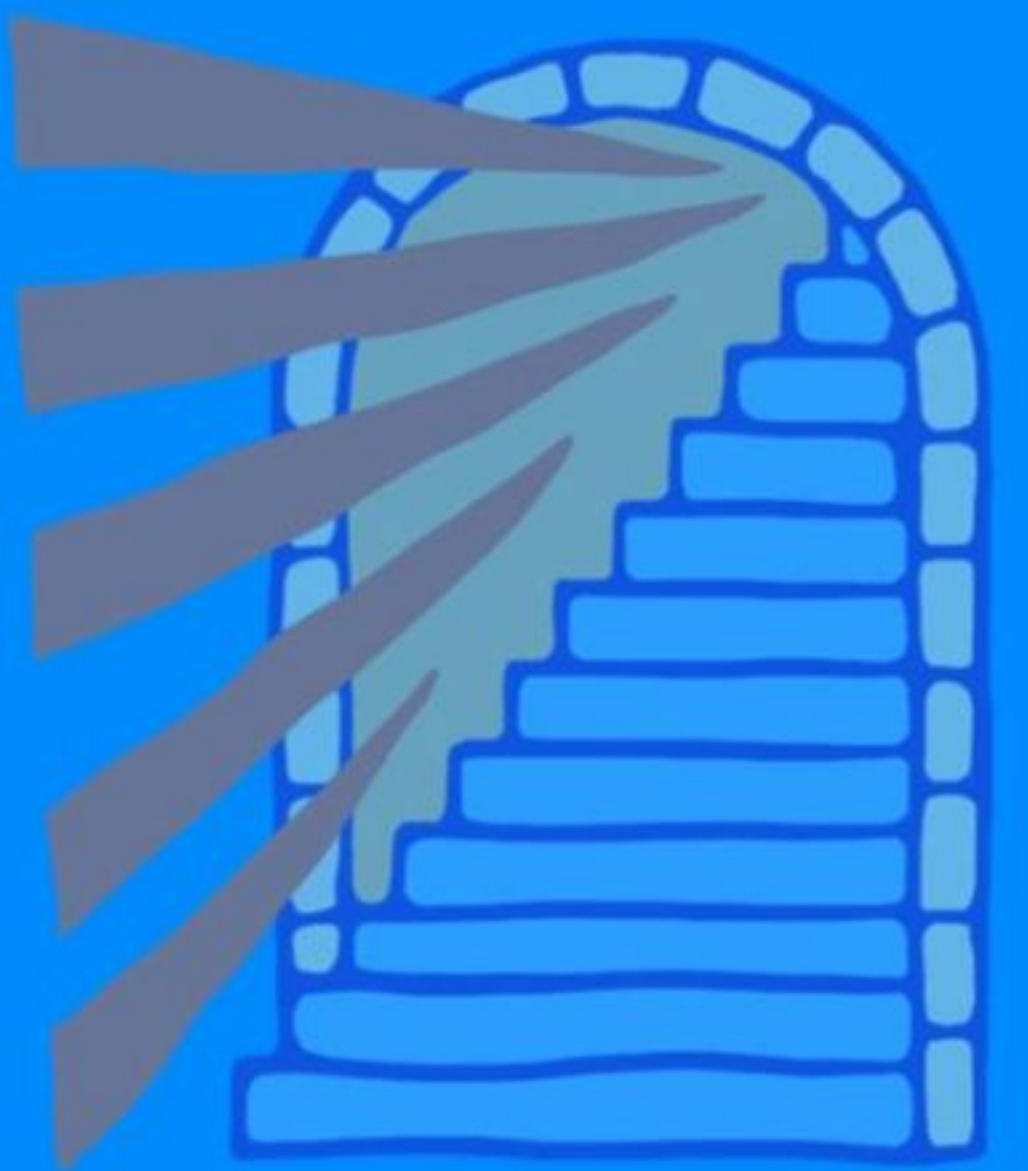
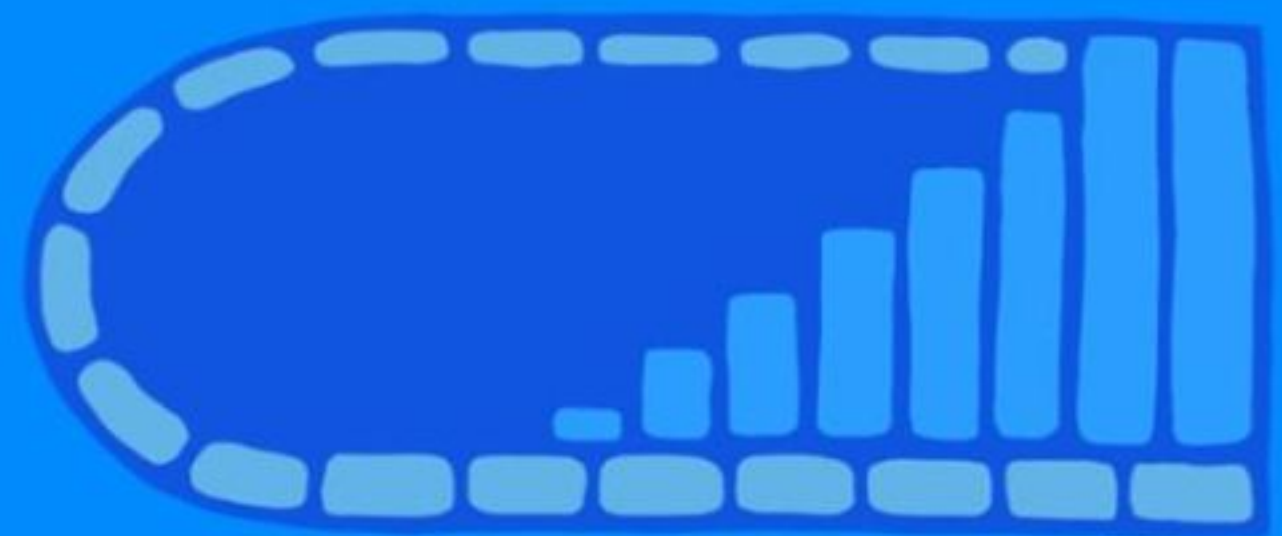
2 Corinthians 13:10

This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

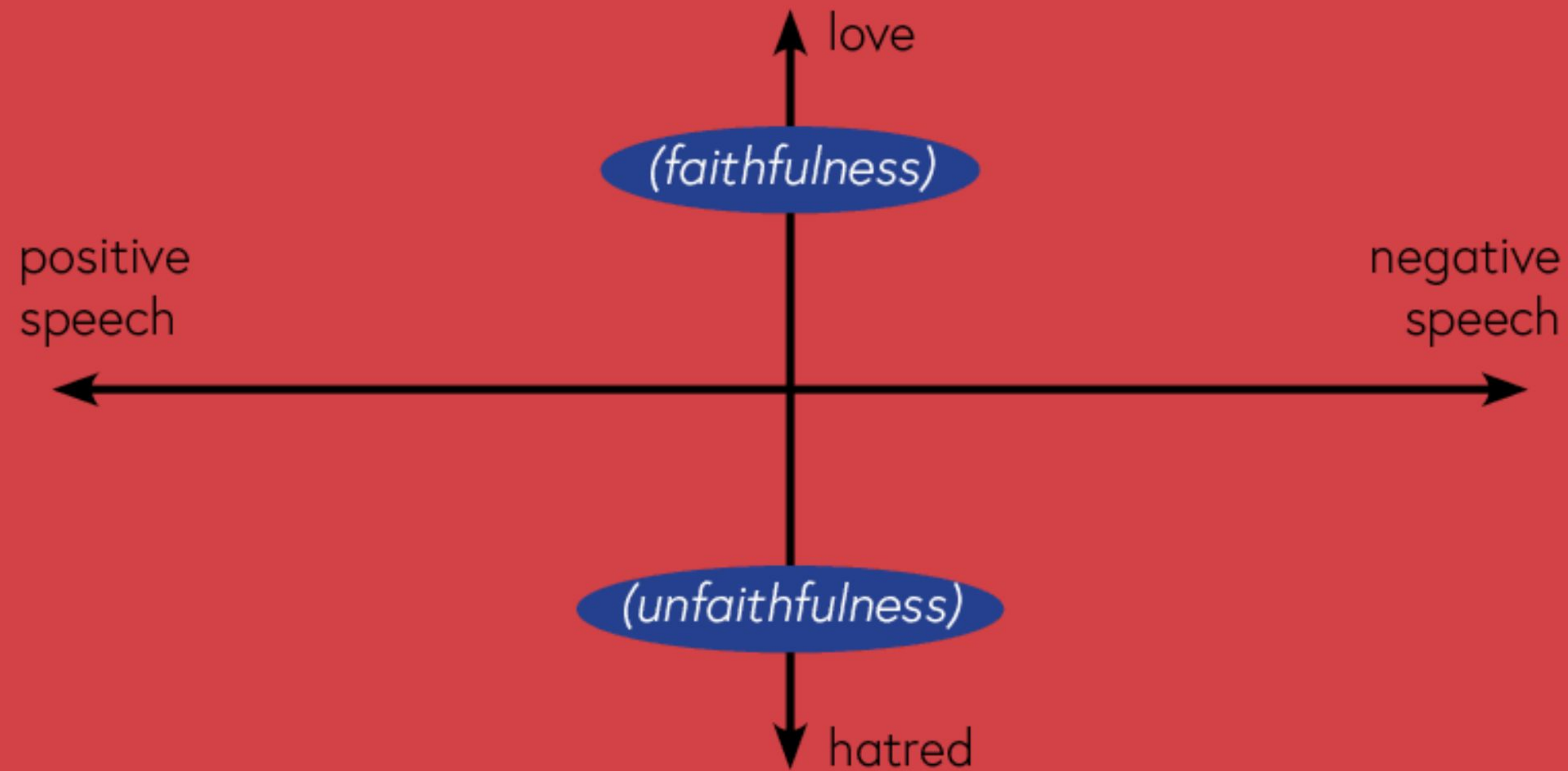


So What?

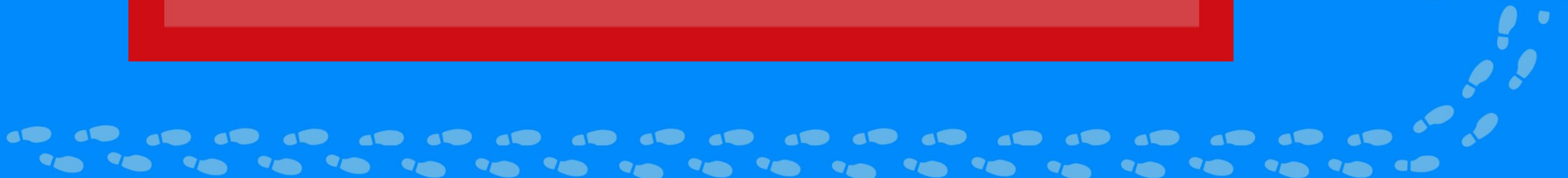
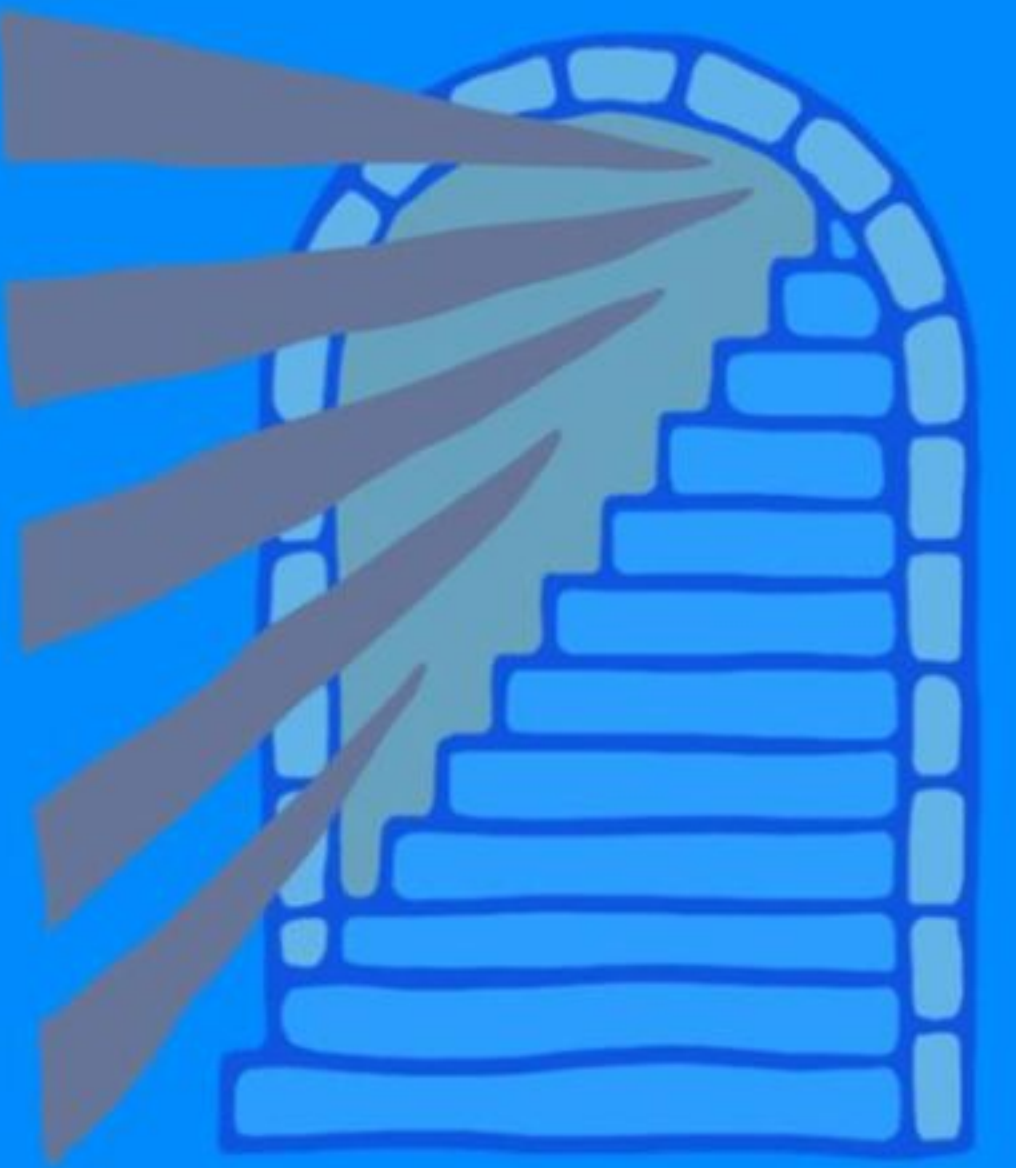
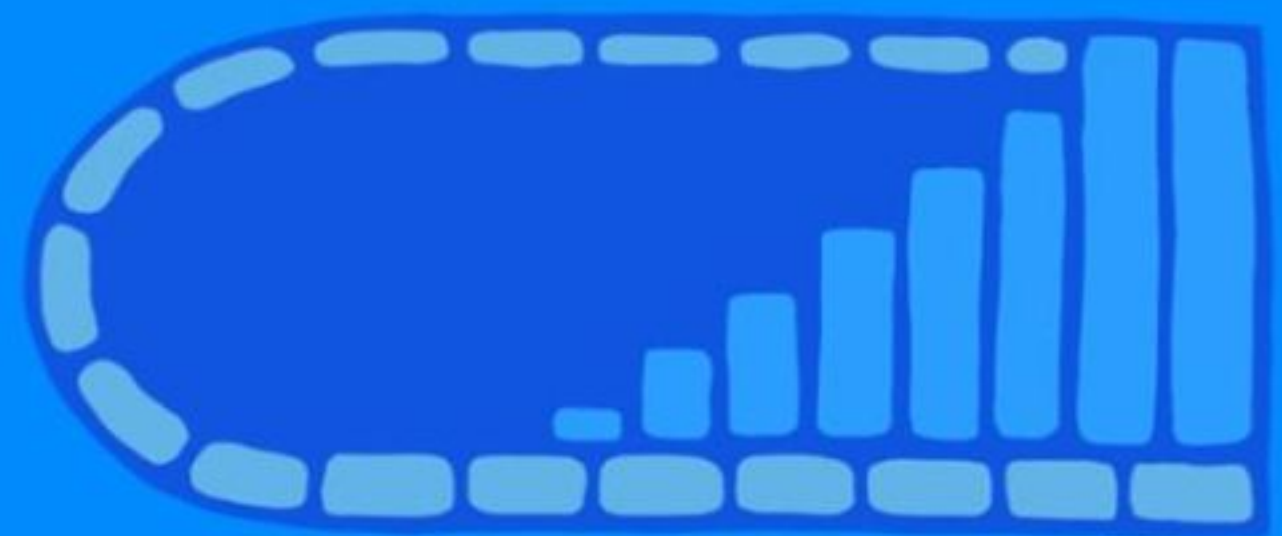
What are we going to
do about it?



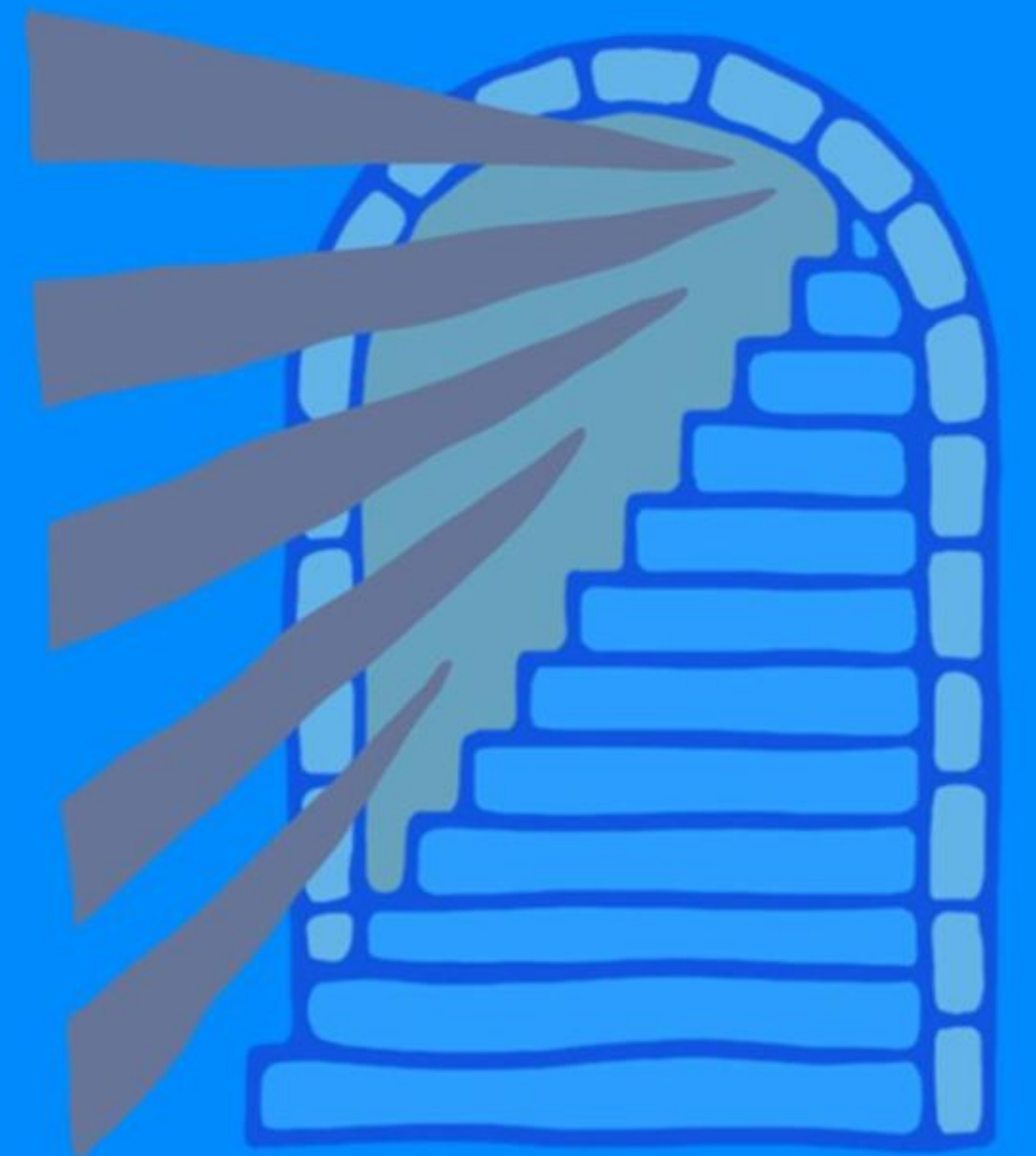
Mark on the grid where you tend to be the most.



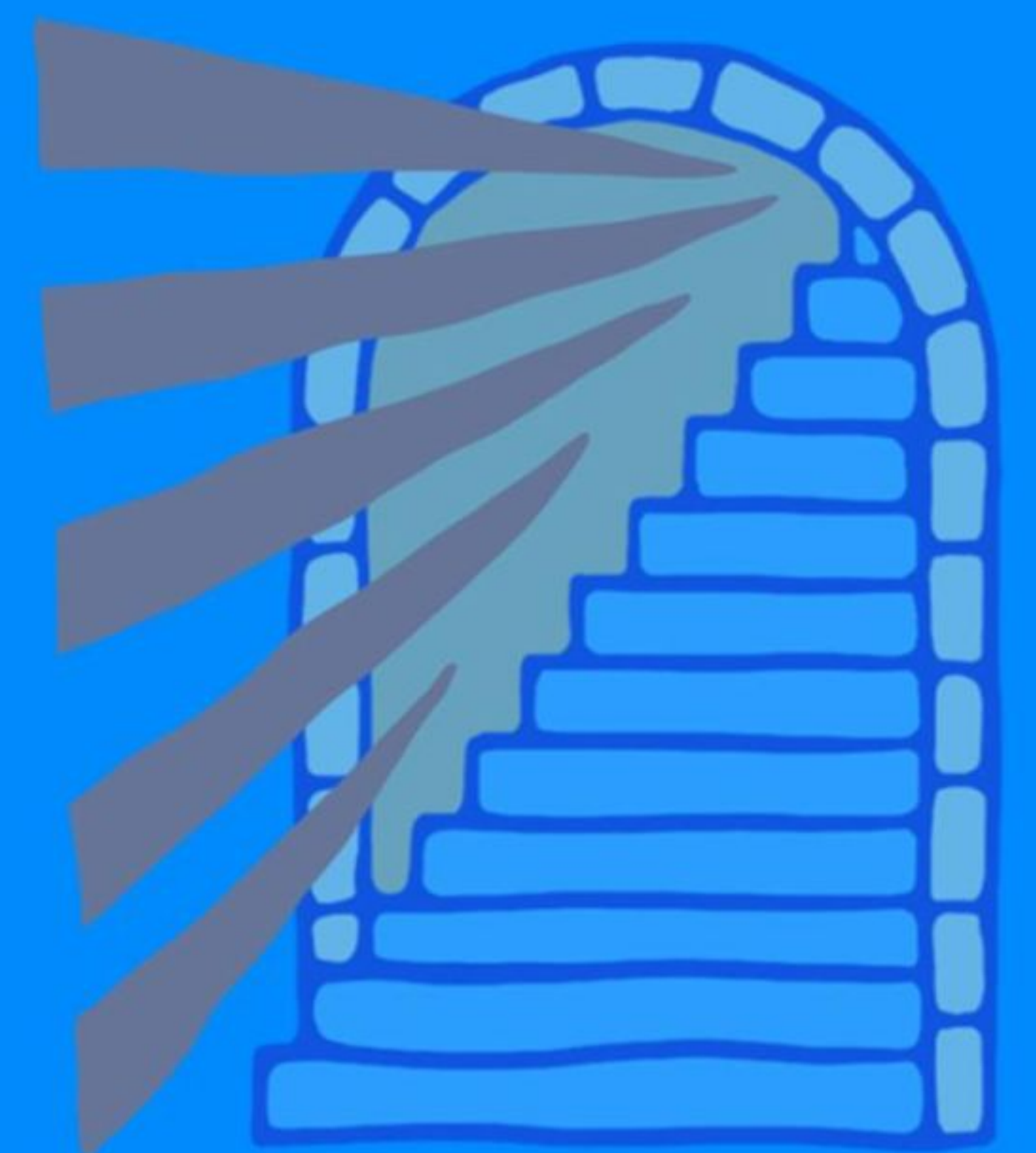
What are forms of unfaithful speech where you need to keep the general idea but find a way to move it above the line?



1. Change your mind about
your speaking



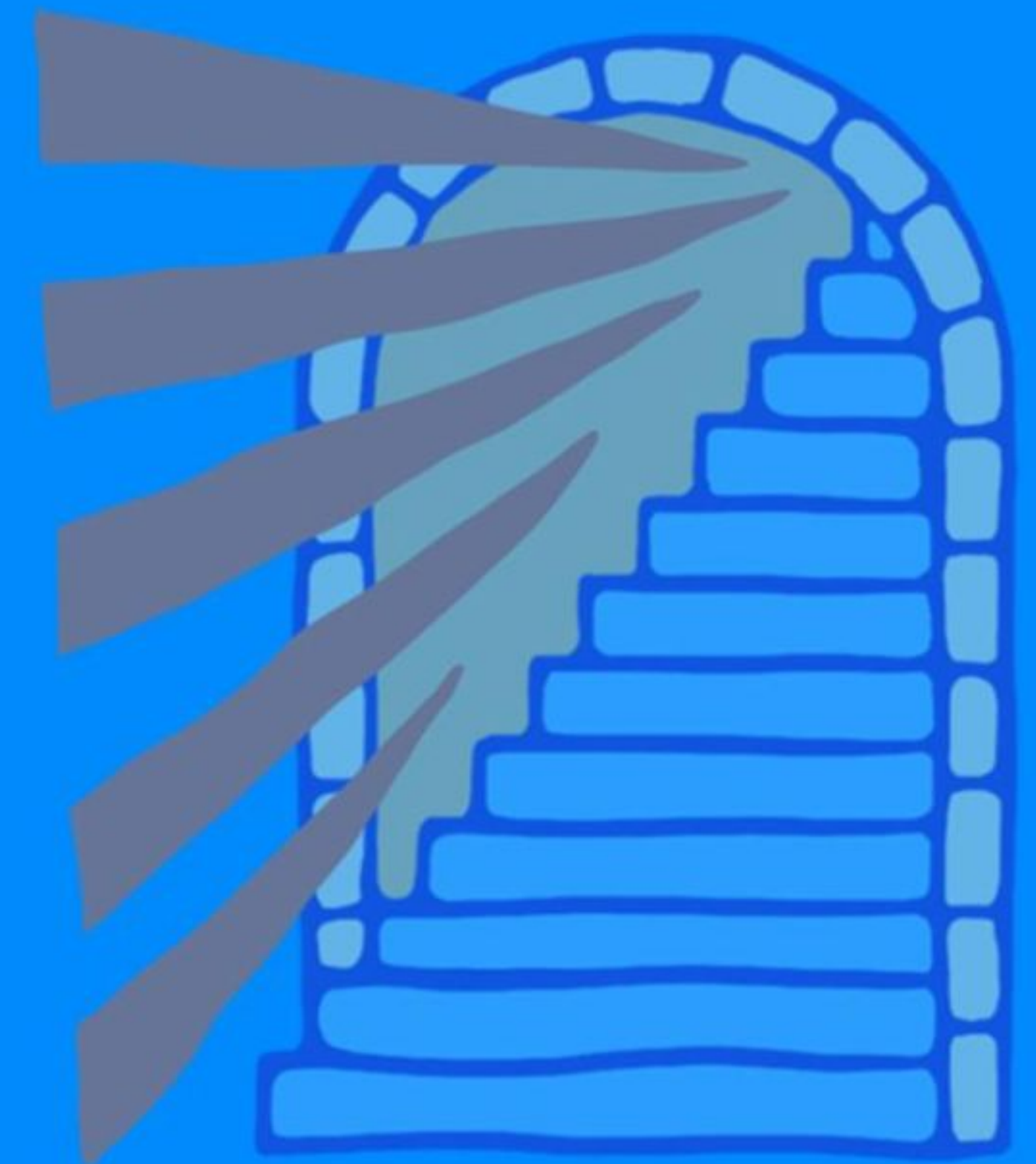
2. Choose to make speaking well a lifelong pursuit in imitating God, walking in the way of love, and being a fragrant offering.



Practice:

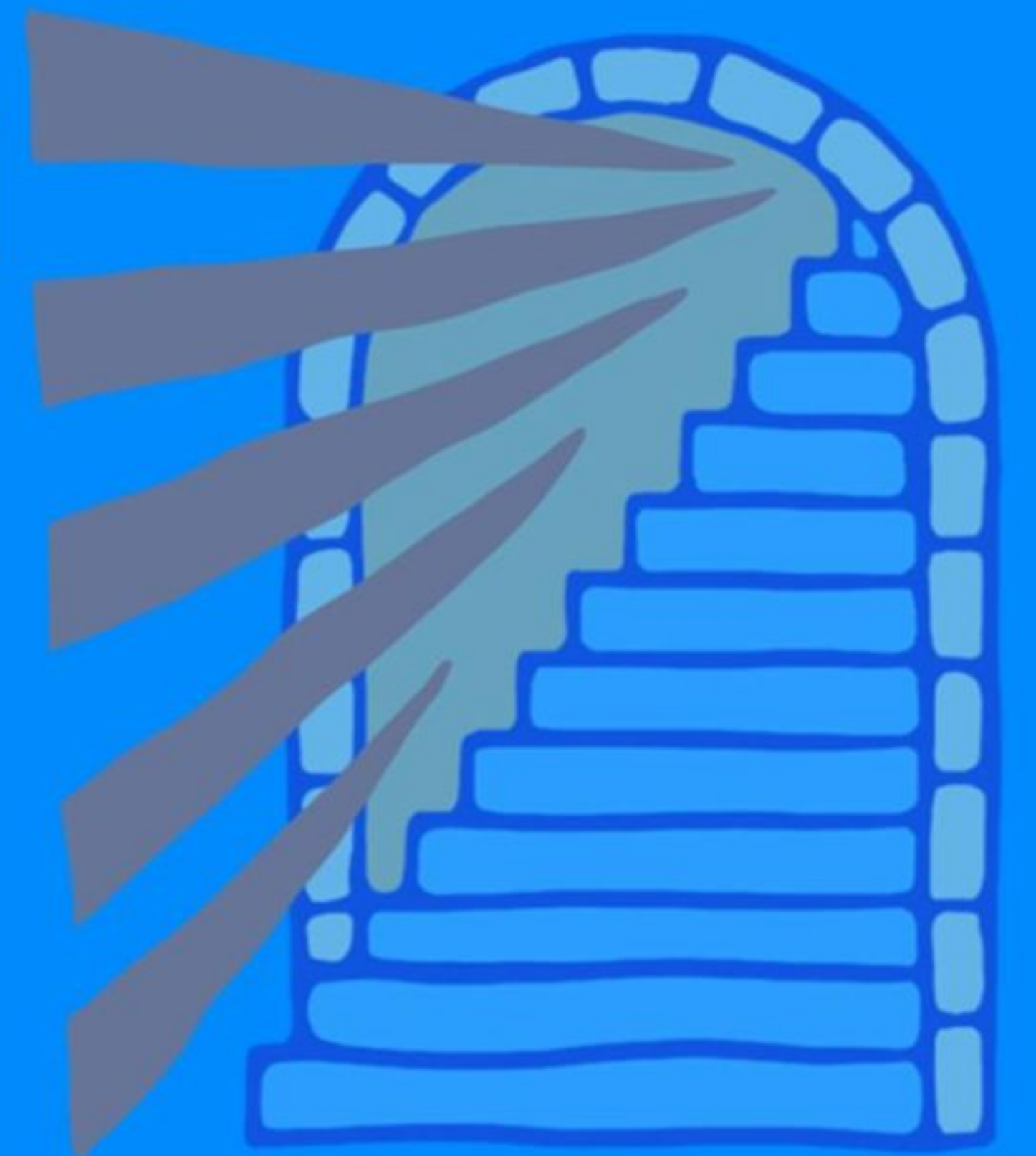
Matthew 5:23 – 24

Go back and apologize for anything you've said if the apology would make them feel loved or give them resolution.



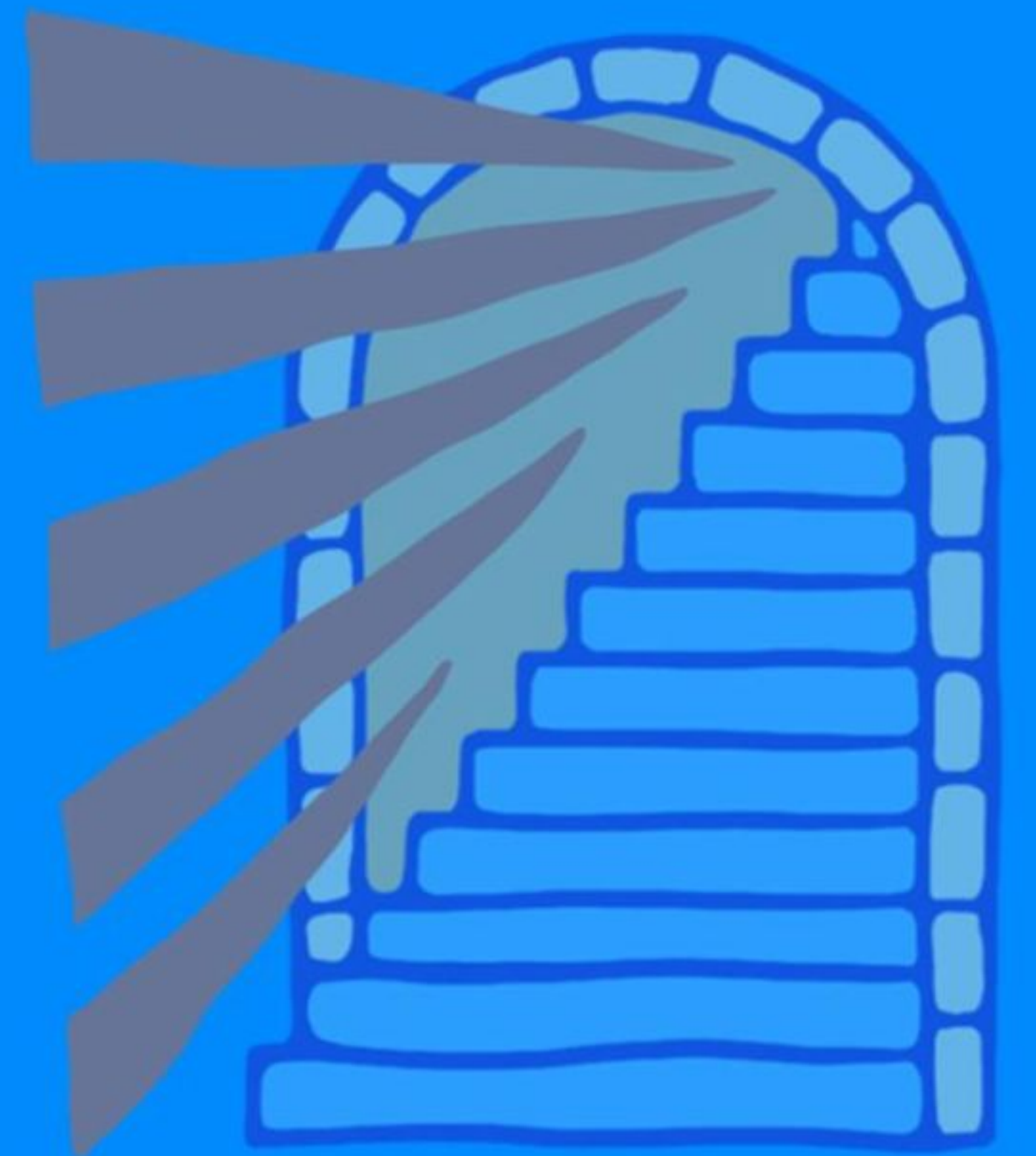
3. Practice affirmation more and more.

People are quitters, filled with fears and wracked with a sense of inferiority—even those that seem to be confident.



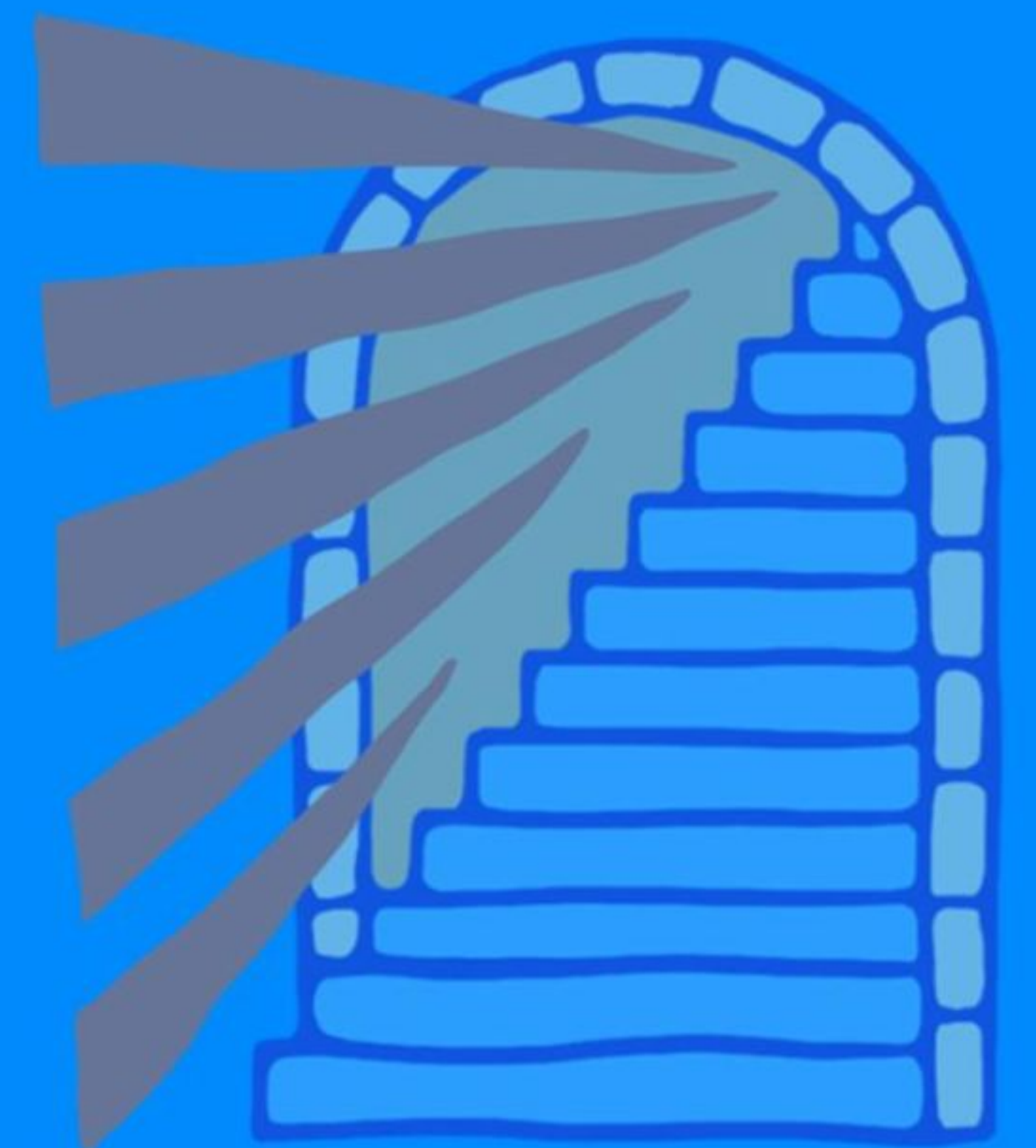
4. Recognize your temperament
and balance it as needed.

Temperament is a reality, but not
an ethic.



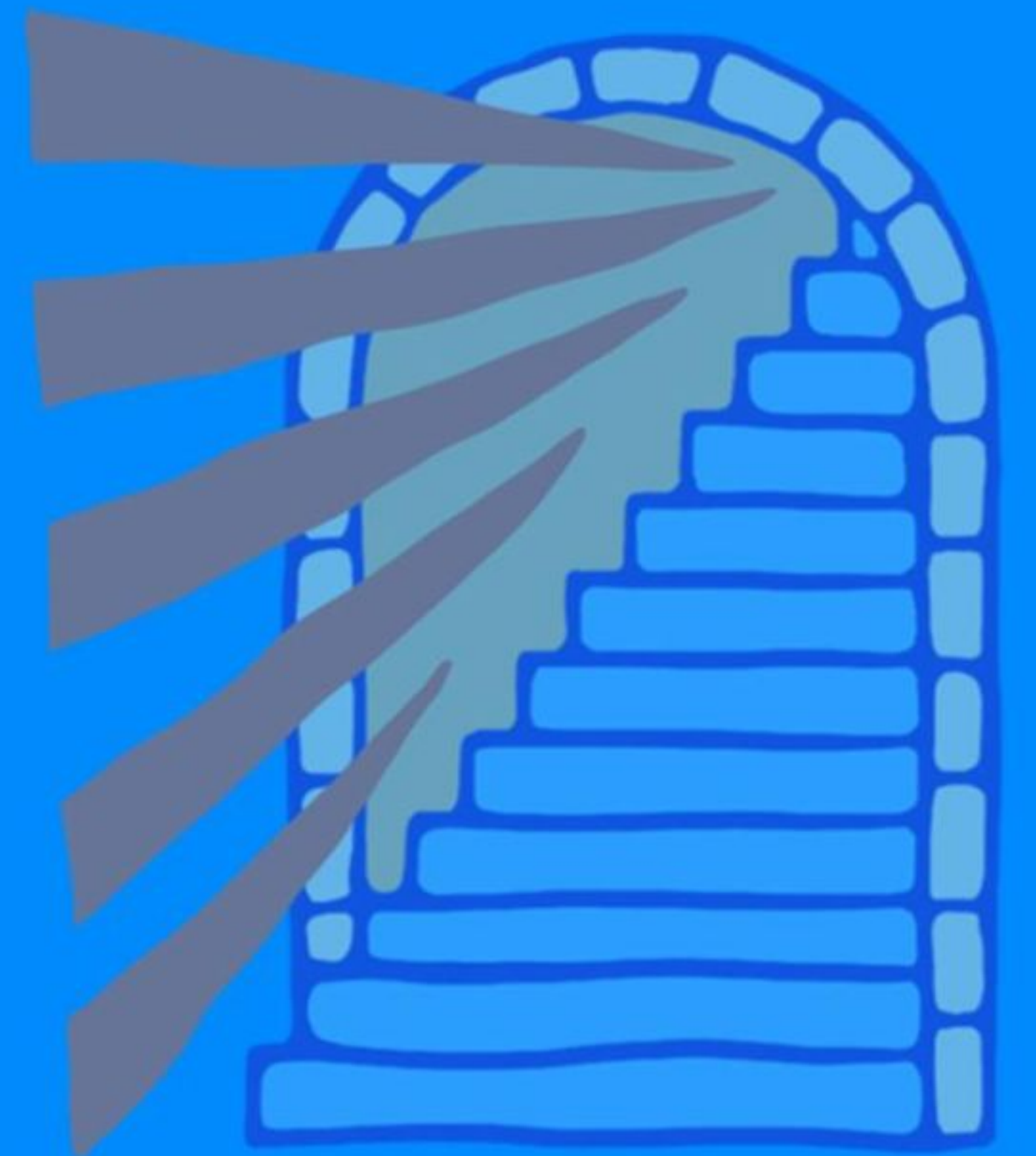
5. Decide you will always
tell the truth...graciously.

Aim for 'faithful speech", since
speech is service.



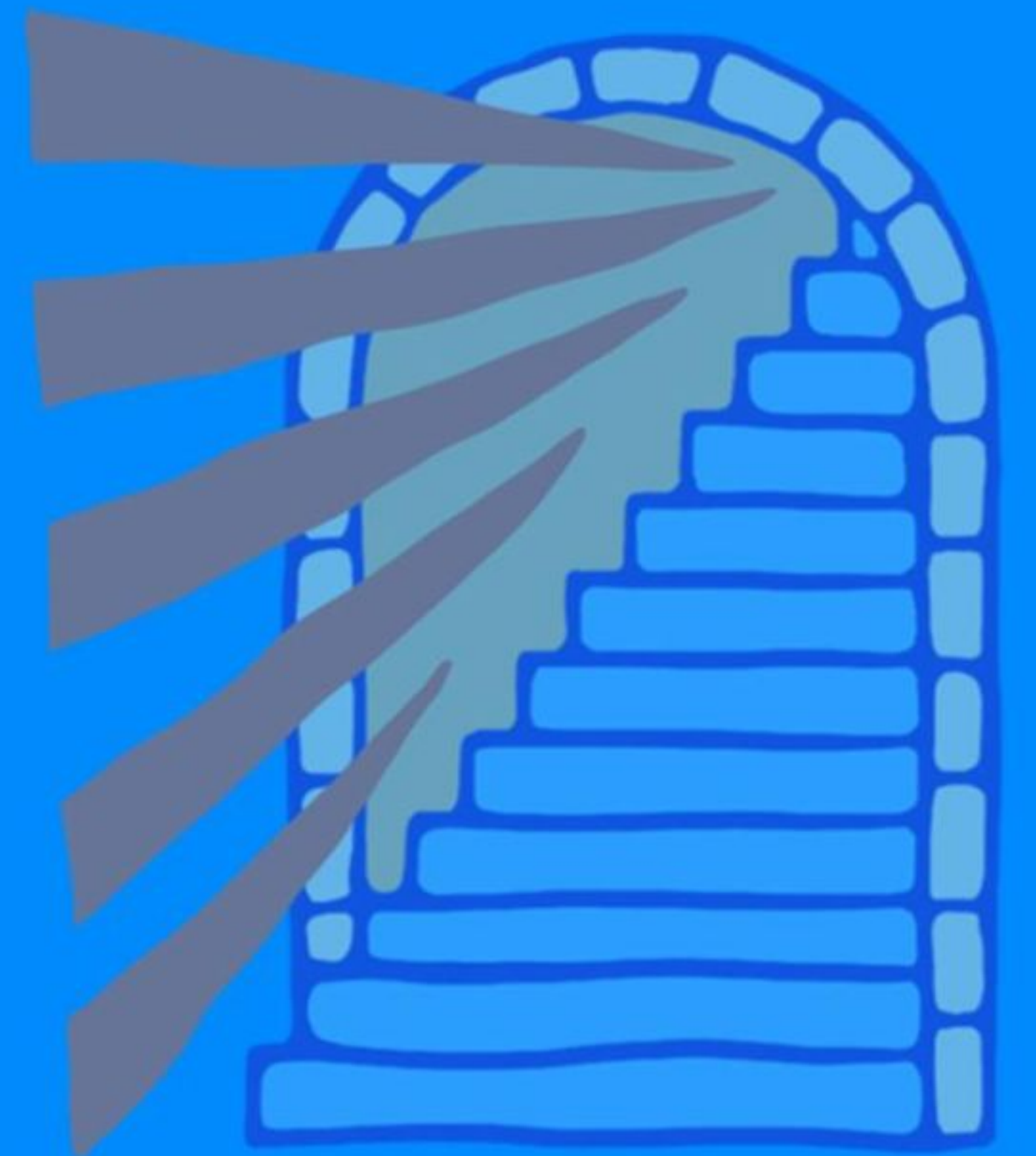
6. Regard speech and silence
as a sacrifice to be fragrant.

Seek to speak beautifully.

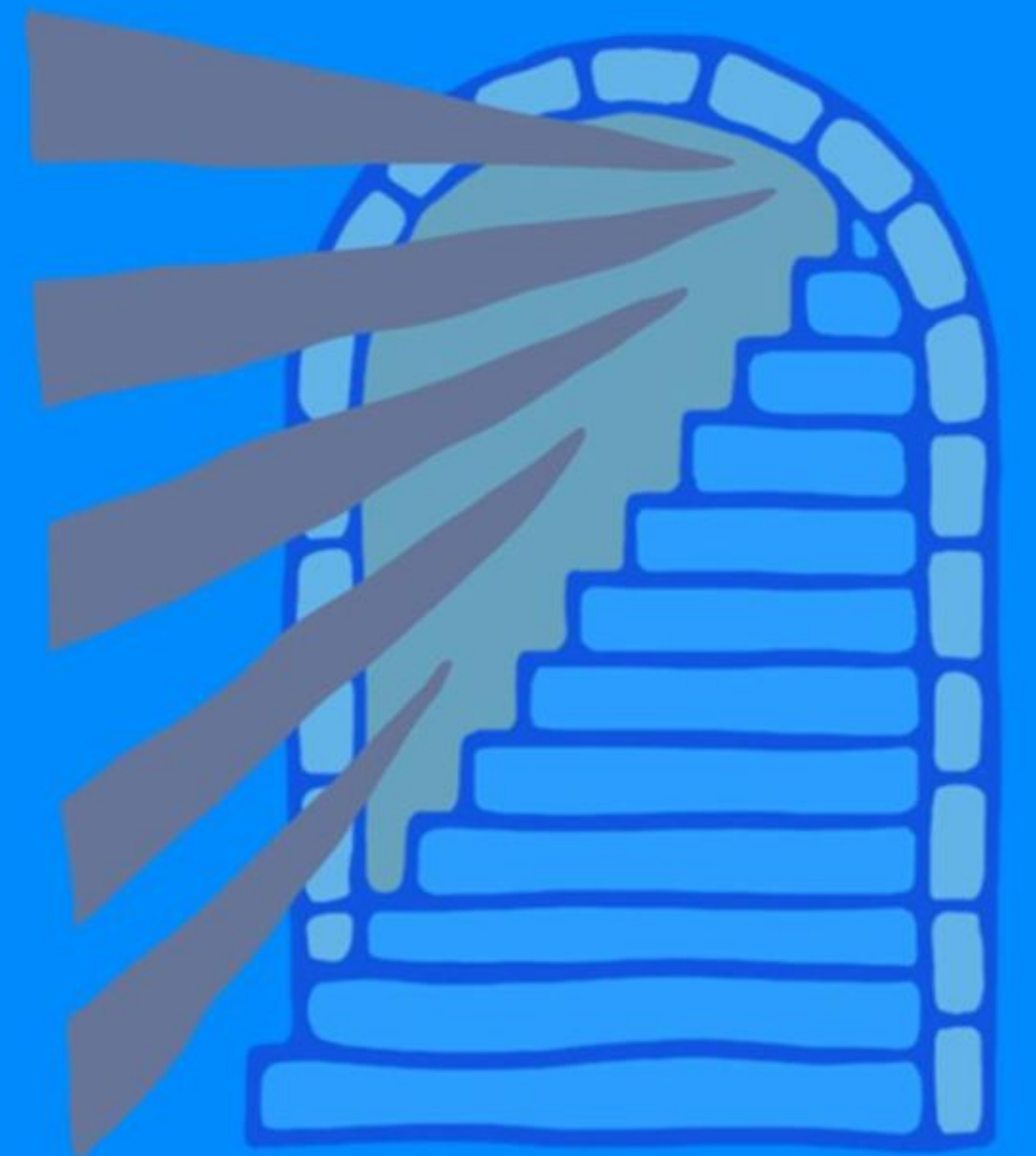


7. You should count self-talk as speech.

Don't aim for positive,
aim for faithful.

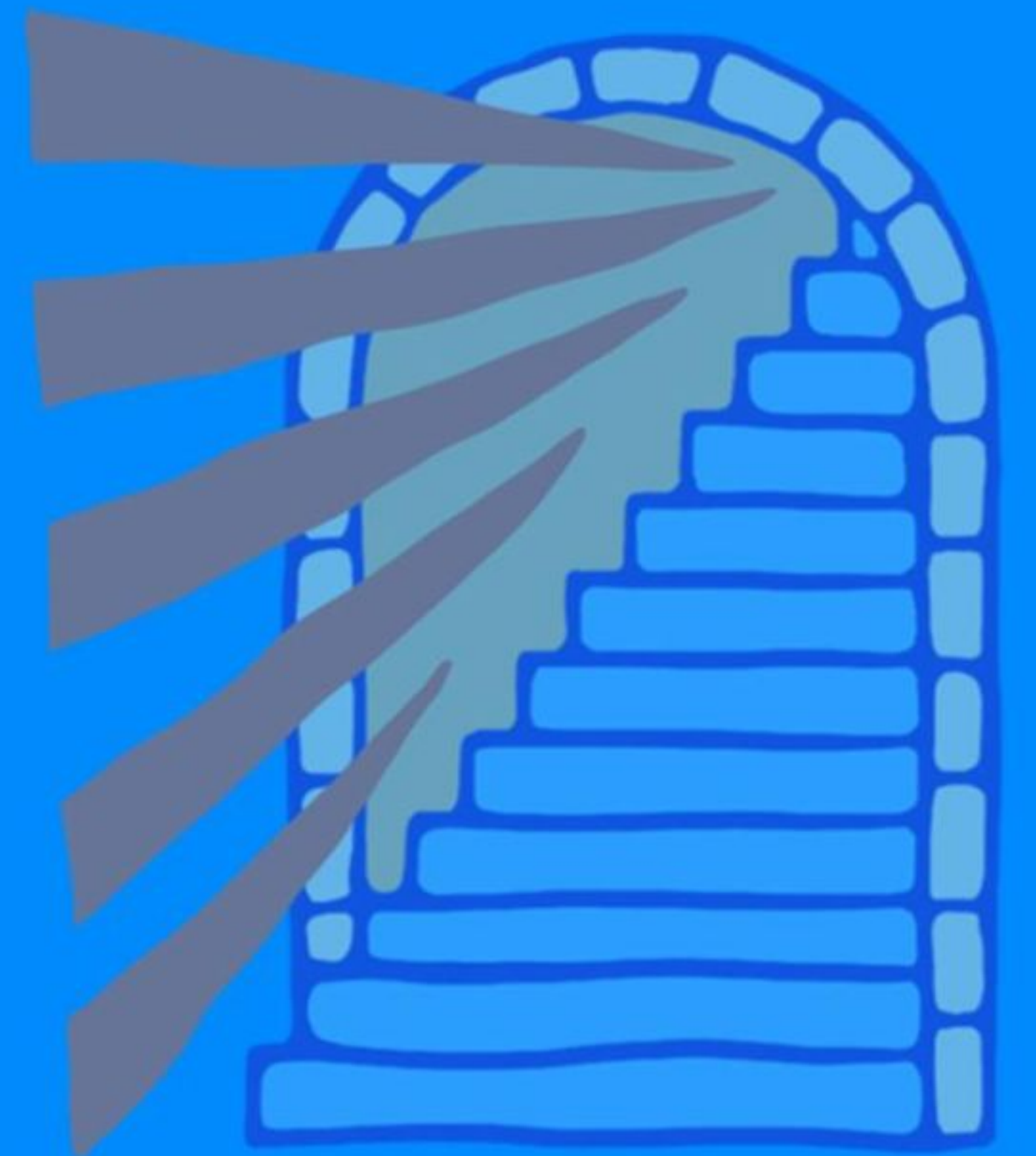


8. Fighting isn't the same thing as obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking.



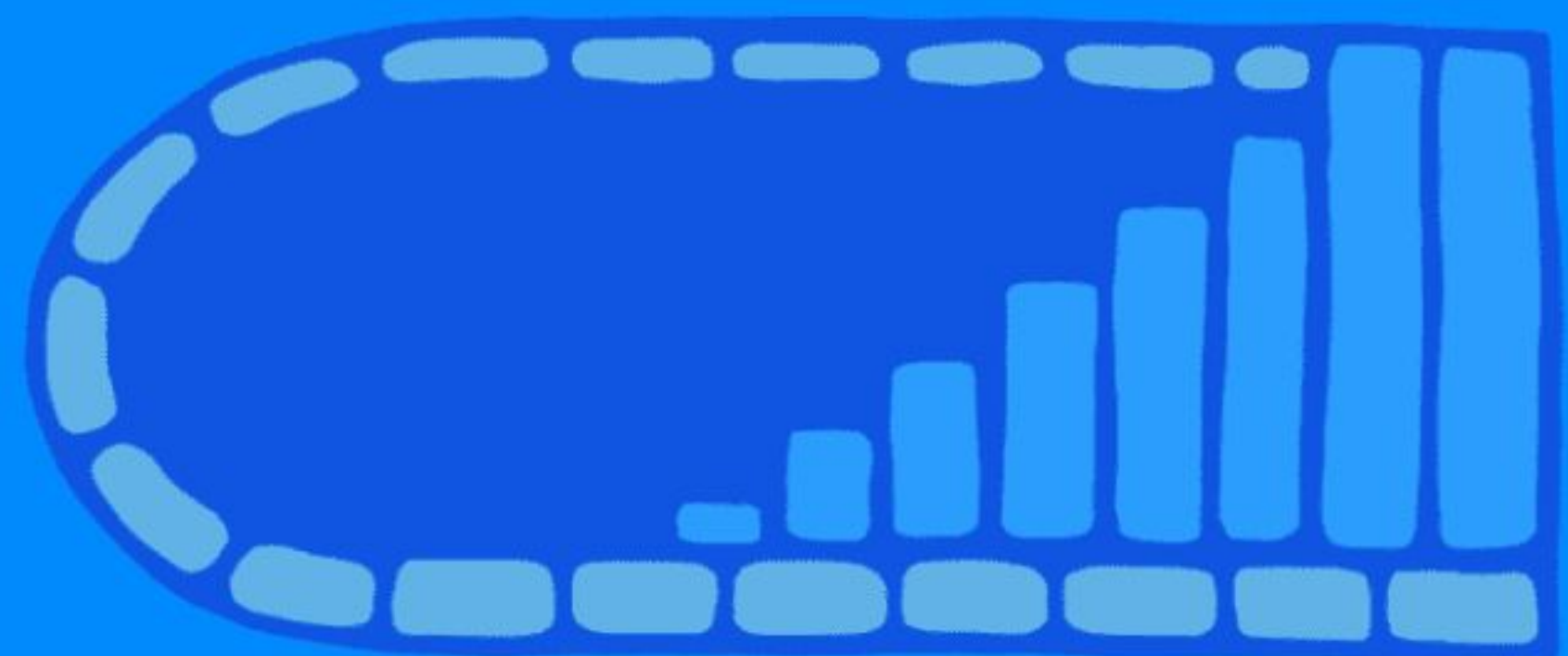
9. Overcome unfaithful speech by becoming a student of faithful speech.

It will make you more godly as it makes you more articulate and smarter.

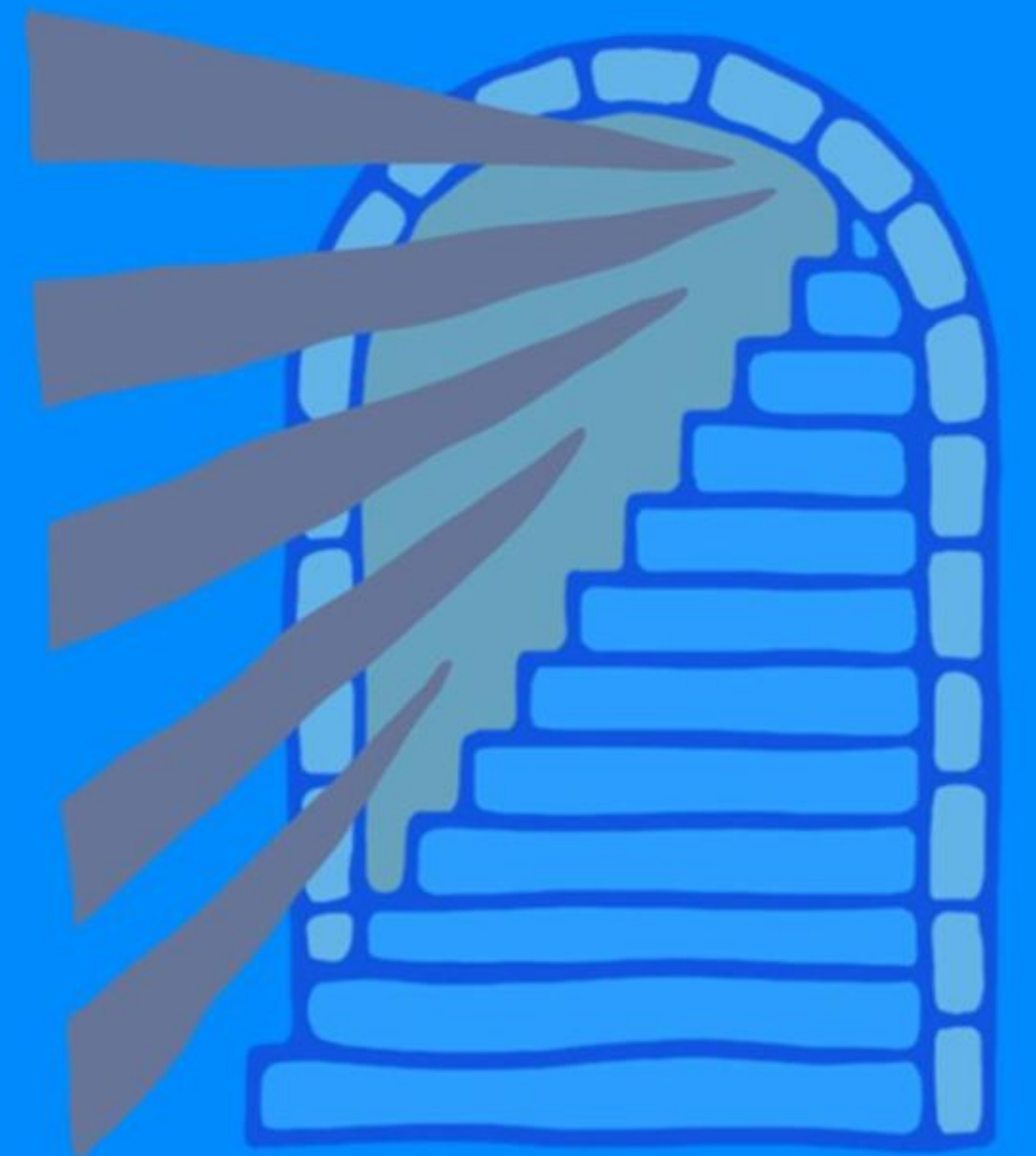


10. Most of our sarcasm
would count as 'foolish'
and 'unwholesome' talk.

God only uses sarcasm in the
most extreme cases.



11. The first step is
repentance and faith
in Jesus.

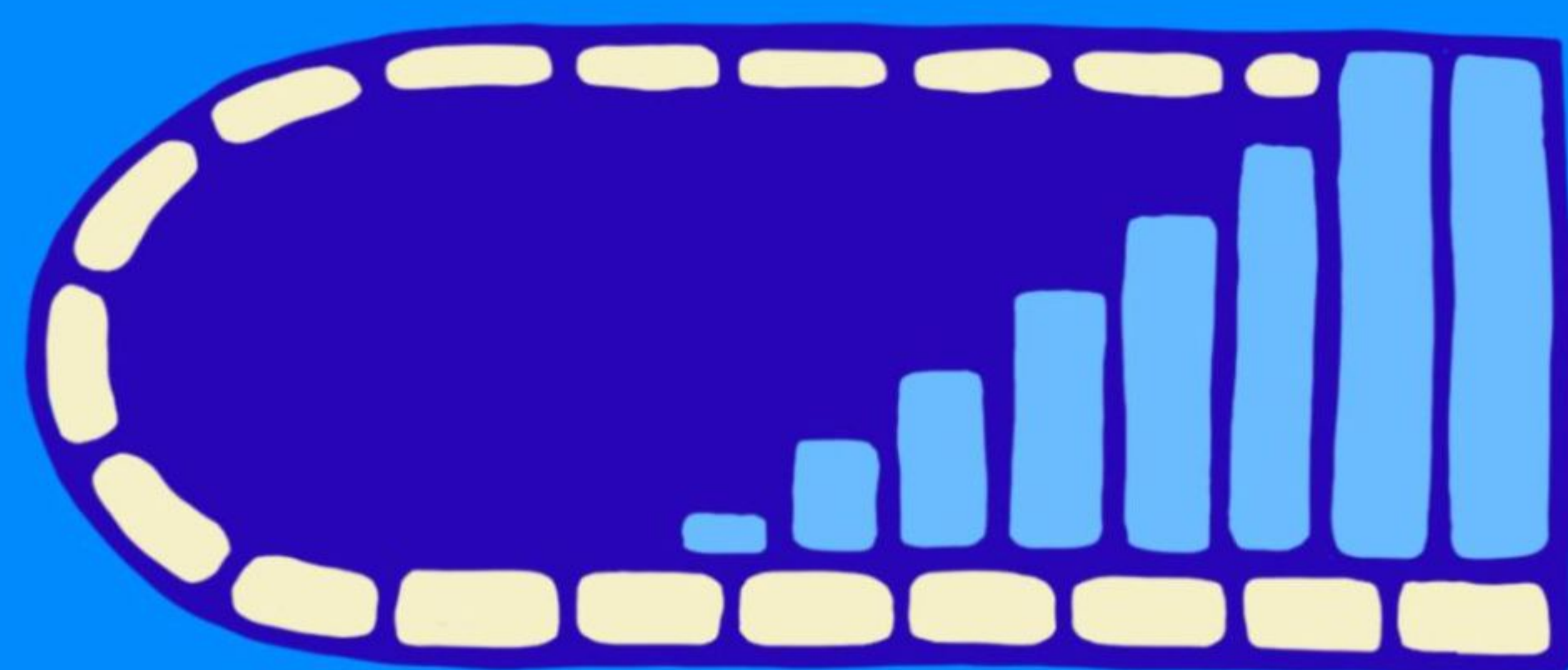


Matthew 5:22 – 24

But I tell you...anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.



BE MADE



NEW