

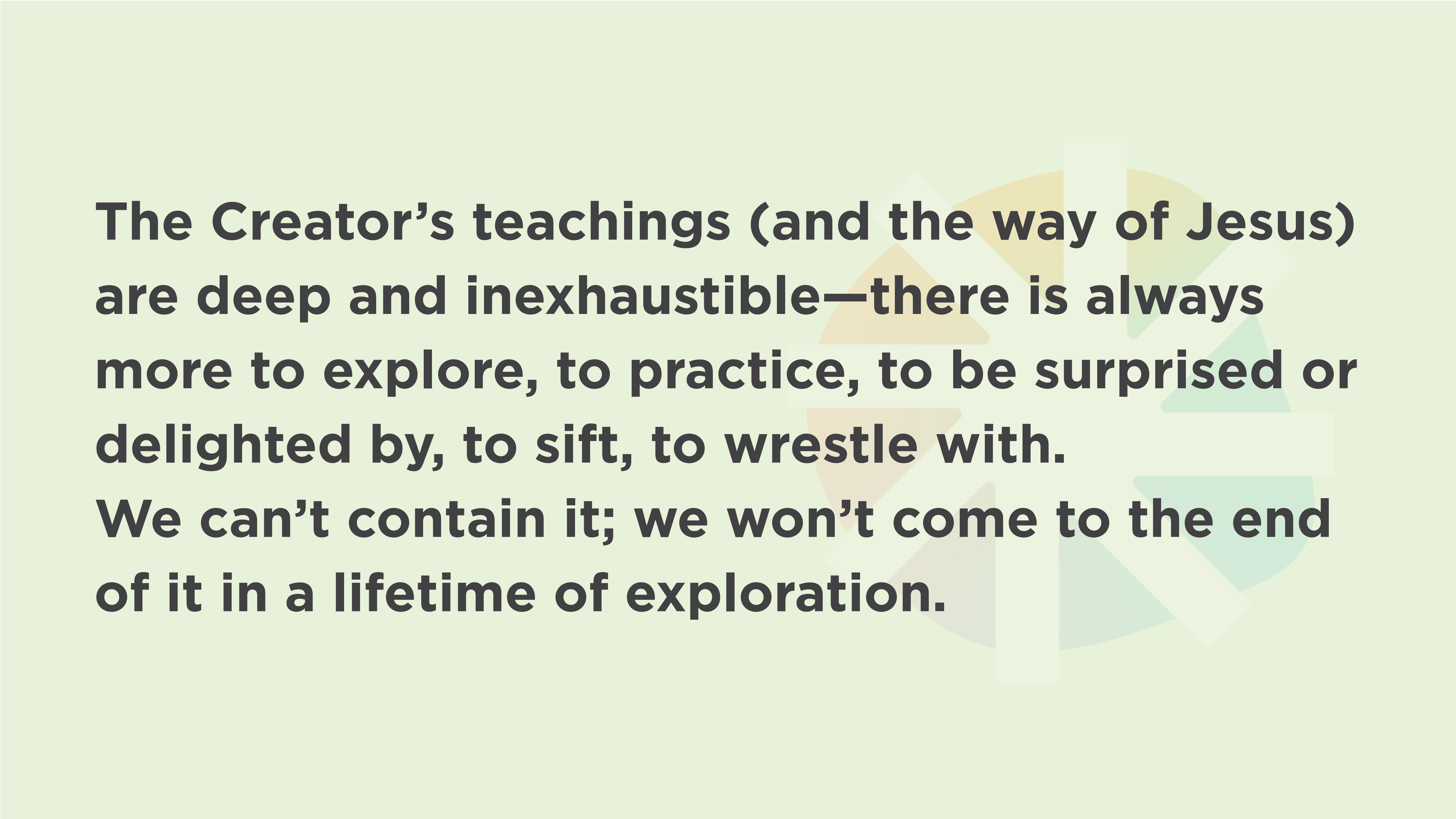
2023



Ordinary Time

Psalm 119:105-112





The Creator's teachings (and the way of Jesus) are deep and inexhaustible—there is always more to explore, to practice, to be surprised or delighted by, to sift, to wrestle with. We can't contain it; we won't come to the end of it in a lifetime of exploration.

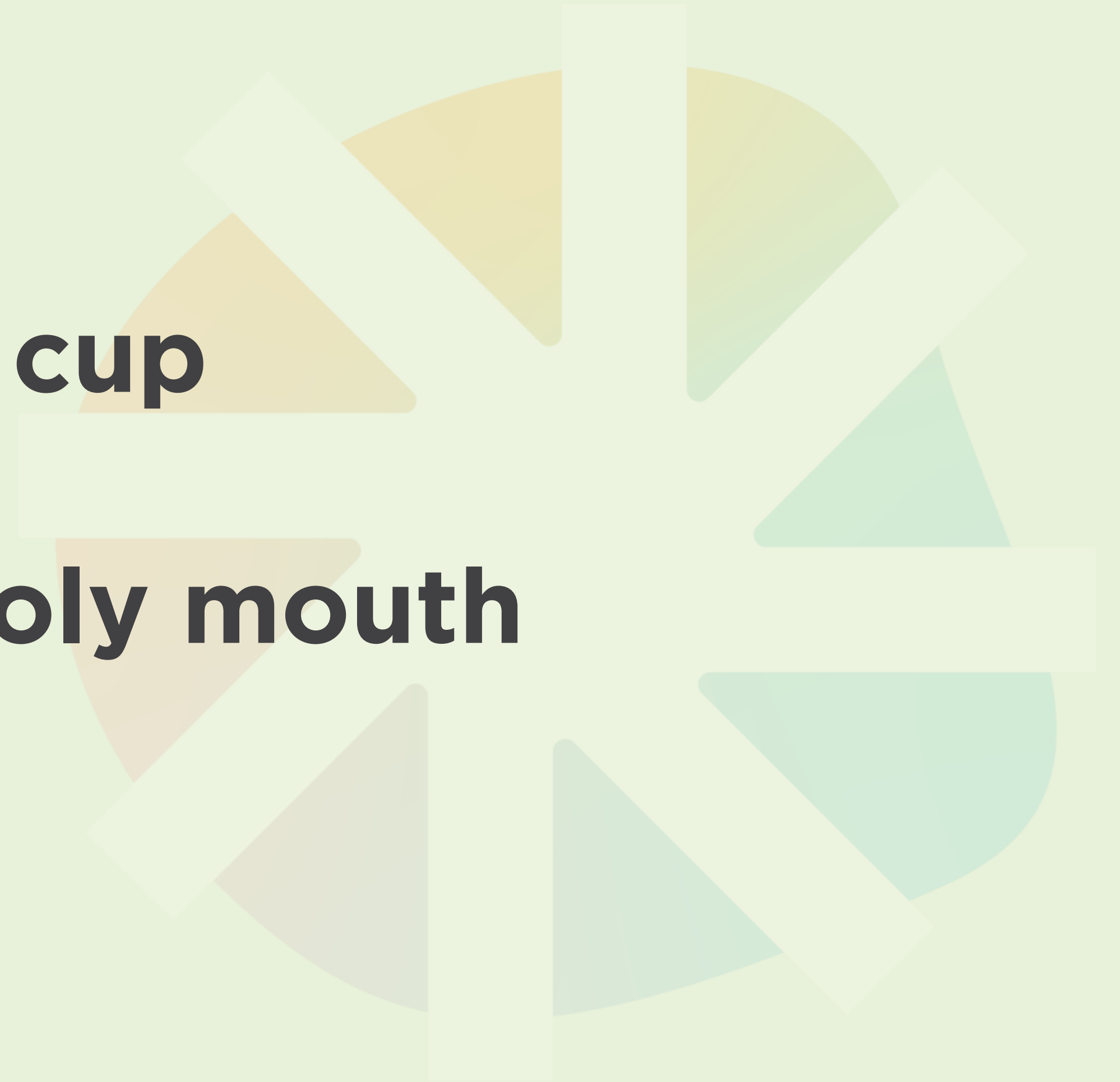


What do we know about Psalm 119?

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**A poet is someone
who can pour light into a cup
then raise it to nourish
your beautiful parched, holy mouth**

-Hafiz



vs. 105

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path**



Synonyms for “God’s teachings” in vs 105-112:

word

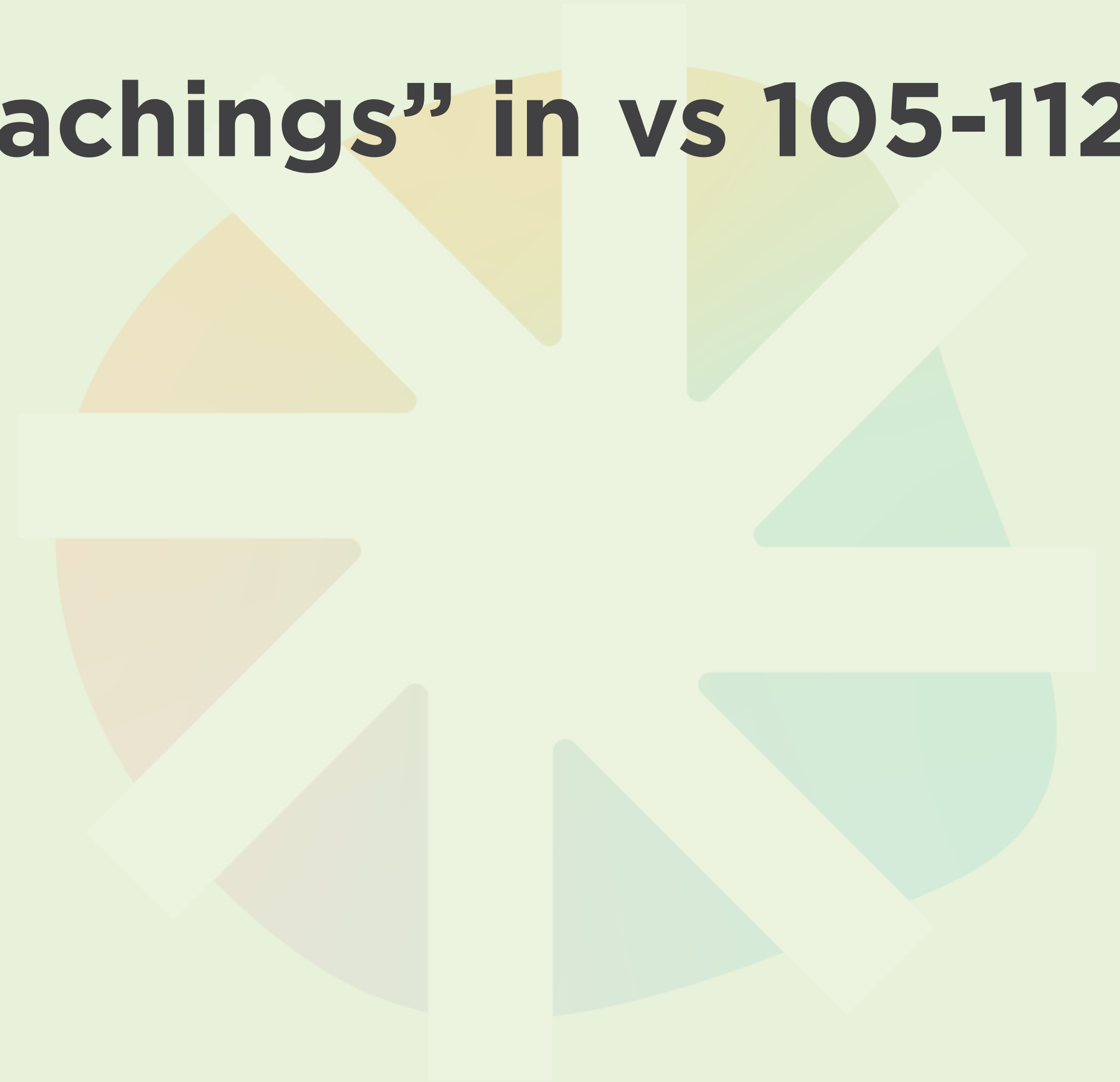
ordinances

law

precepts

decrees

statutes





“God’s teachings” or “God’s laws”?

vs. 105

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path**



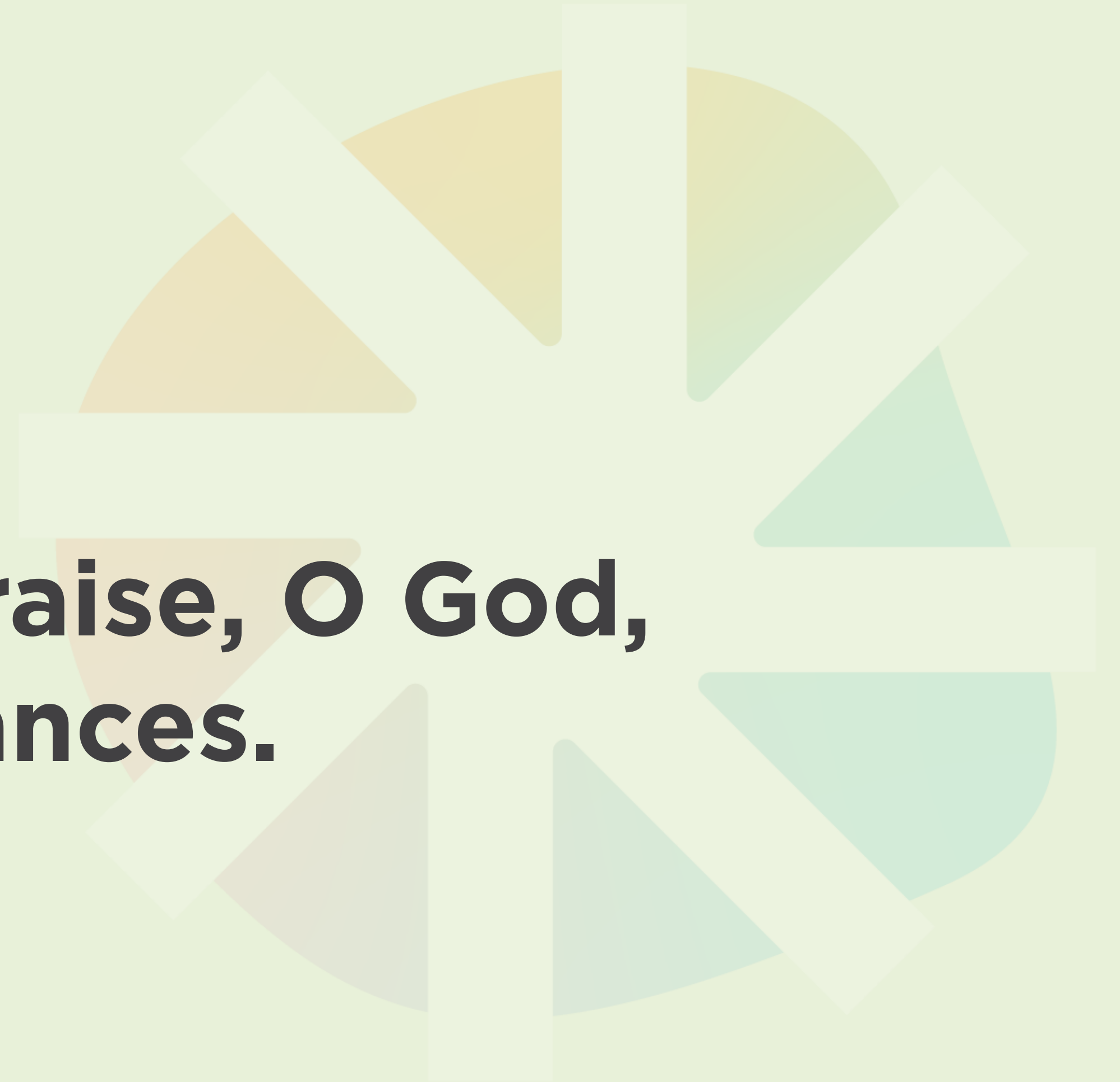
vs. 107

**I am severely afflicted;
give me life, God, according to your word.**



vs. 108

**Accept my offerings of praise, O God,
and teach me your ordinances.**



vs. 109

**I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.**



A contemporary rewriting of Psalm 119:105-112

Creator, your teachings are good; they illuminate a just way to live in this world. You know that I'm committed to living in a good way. I've experienced violence and suffering, though, so as I continue on this path, I need your word that you'll care for me. And stay in conversation with me, as I figure out what it looks like to live well.

If I mess up, believe me, it doesn't mean I've given up. In fact, a lot in my life tries to get me off track—all the time—but I'm not dropping my responsibilities. What I do know is there's enough goodness here for a lifetime of exploration, And I'm here for it. I'm here to draw on the depths of your teachings, because it's the best way I know.



What does “God’s teachings” refer to?

The story of Zelophohad's daughters: an example of narrative law

Numbers 27

