

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply into a U-shape, surrounded by a dense forest with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting an autumn setting. The road has white lane markings and a dashed white line on the outer edge.

I SAMUEL Turnarounds

a *Central* series
ASSEMBLY

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves in a U-shape through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall image has a dark, muted color palette.

Cheering for a Generation

I SAMUEL 8

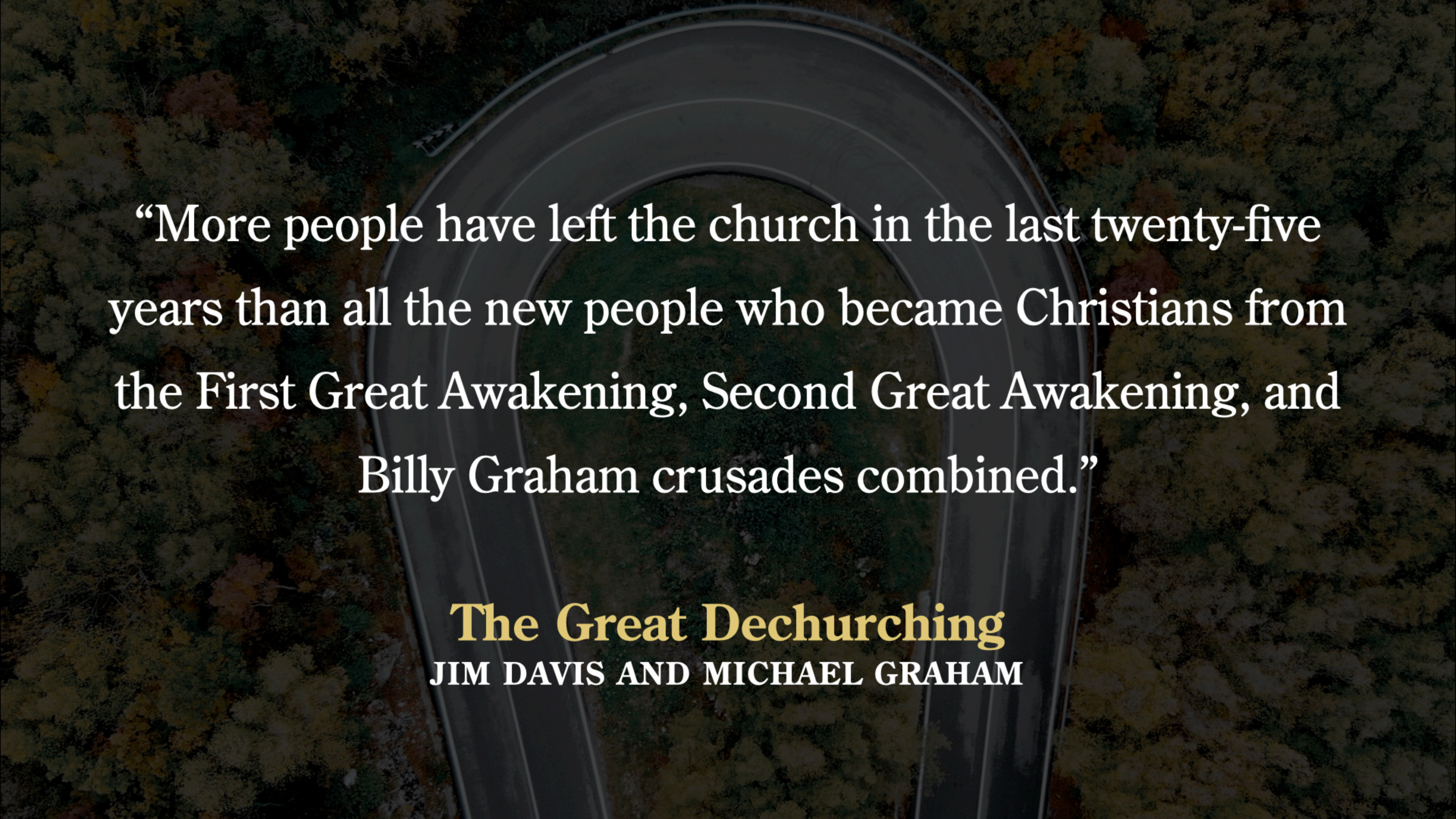
I SAMUEL 7:15-17

¹⁵ Samuel continued as Israel's leader all the days of his life. ¹⁶ From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.

¹⁷ But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the Lord.

I SAMUEL 8:1-3

¹ When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. ² The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. ³ But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.



“More people have left the church in the last twenty-five years than all the new people who became Christians from the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening, and Billy Graham crusades combined.”

The Great Dechurching
JIM DAVIS AND MICHAEL GRAHAM

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is flanked by dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The road surface is dark and appears slightly wet or reflective. The text "TO PARENTS:" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, yellow, serif font.

TO PARENTS:

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¹ When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders... ³ But his sons did not follow his ways.

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The overly passive problem

TO PARENTS:

¹ When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders... ³ But his sons did not follow his ways.

The overly passive problem

The overly protective problem

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right, then back to the left, forming a U-shape. The road is surrounded by a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The overall image has a dark, moody tone with a semi-transparent black overlay.

TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road is dark and appears to be empty. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding woods.

TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

**Don't cave in to the world's way
and settle for second best.**

I SAMUEL 8:4-5

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

I SAMUEL 8:6-7

⁶ But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but **they have rejected me as their king.**”

I SAMUEL 8:21-22a

²¹ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. ²² The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

**Don't cave in to the world's way
and settle for second best.**

**Balance the intellectual and
the experiential in your faith.**

I SAMUEL 9:2,17


² Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else... ¹⁷ When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.”

I SAMUEL 10:5-6

⁵ “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.

I SAMUEL 10:5-6

⁶ The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you,
and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed
into a different person.

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown visible. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road as it disappears into the woods.

What factors help Christian youth maintain their faith into adulthood? A major research project called the National Study of Youth and Religion found the following three factors:

Adapted from Seraphim Danckaert

“LOSING OUR RELIGION”

1. The young person's parents practiced the faith **in the home and in daily life**, not just in public-church settings.
2. The young person had at least one significant adult mentor or friend, other than parents, who practiced the faith seriously.
3. The young person had at least one significant spiritual experience before the age of 17.

Adapted from Seraphim Danckaert

“LOSING OUR RELIGION”

TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

**Don't cave in to the world's way
and settle for second best.**

**Balance the intellectual and
the experiential in your faith.**

**Keep your insecurities from
dictating your obedience to Jesus.**

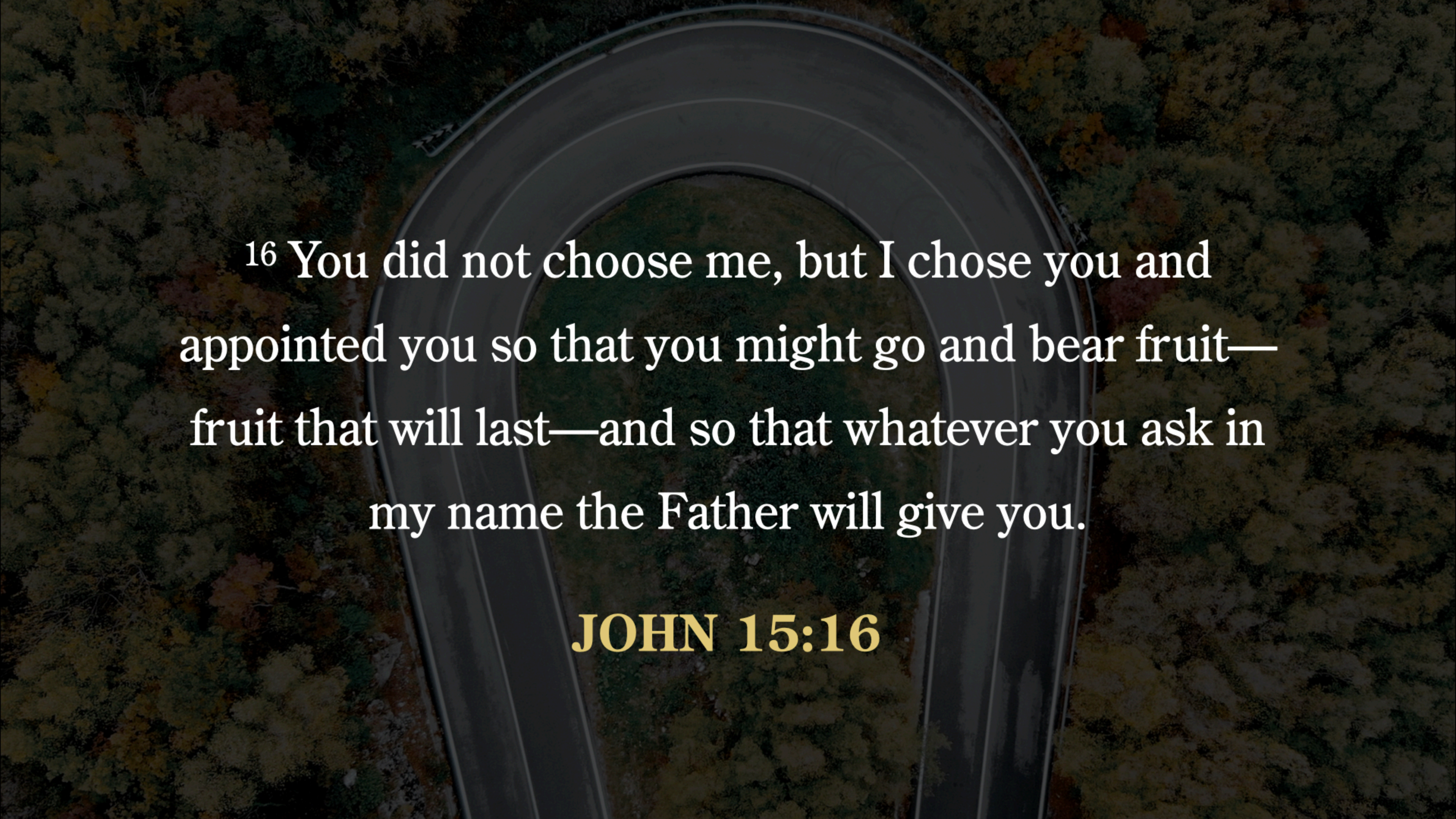
I SAMUEL 10:21b-22

²¹ ...But when they looked for him [Saul], he was not to be found. ²² So they inquired further of the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?” And the Lord said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the supplies.”

I SAMUEL 10:23-24

²³ They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others.

²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.” Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown visible. The road is dark and appears to be a two-lane highway. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road as it curves through the woods.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

JOHN 15:16



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