

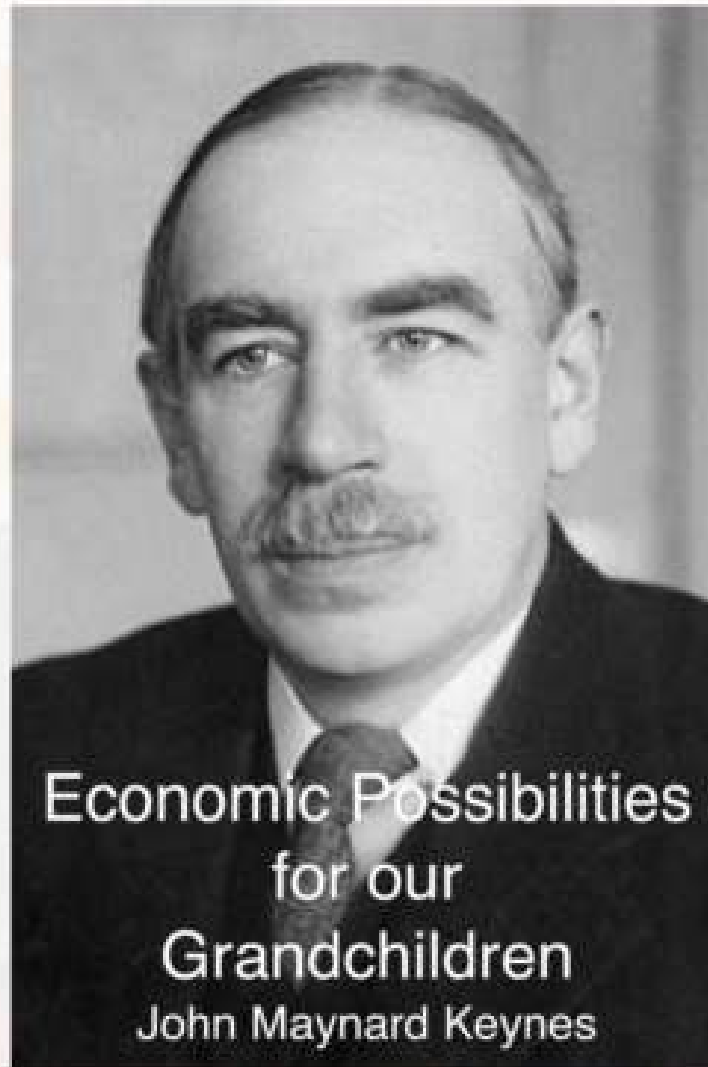


Blessed Limitations

“As a culture, we seem to be discovering this basic human truth: human beings have limitations. We only have so much time, so much energy, and so much capacity. The wisest among us understand we are limited and learn to thrive within those limitations. The most foolish among us keep banging ourselves against the walls of our humanity.”

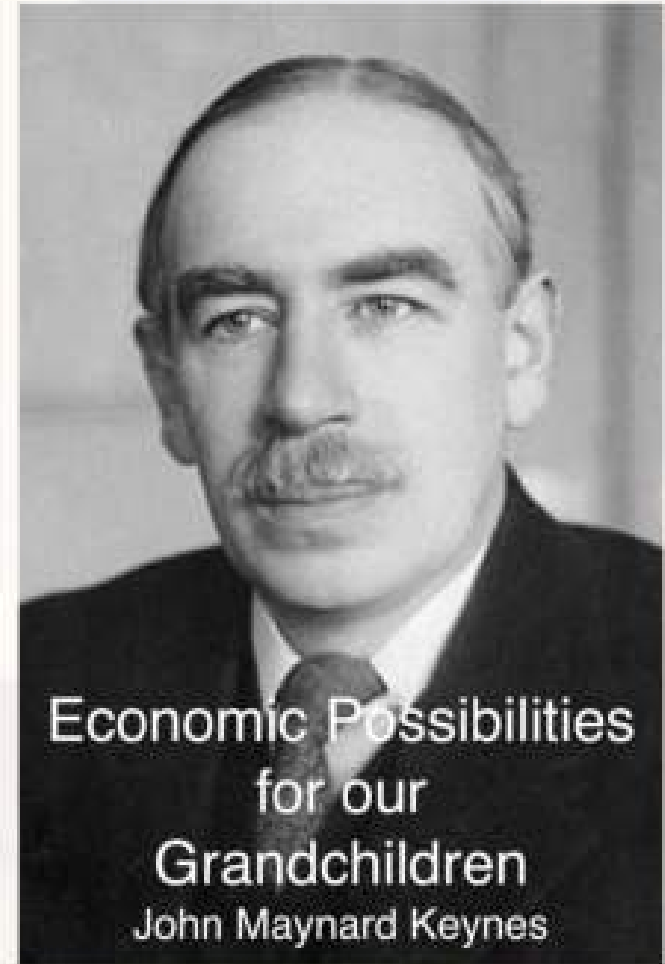
(Mike Glenn)

Blessed Limitations



Economic Possibilities
for our
Grandchildren
John Maynard Keynes

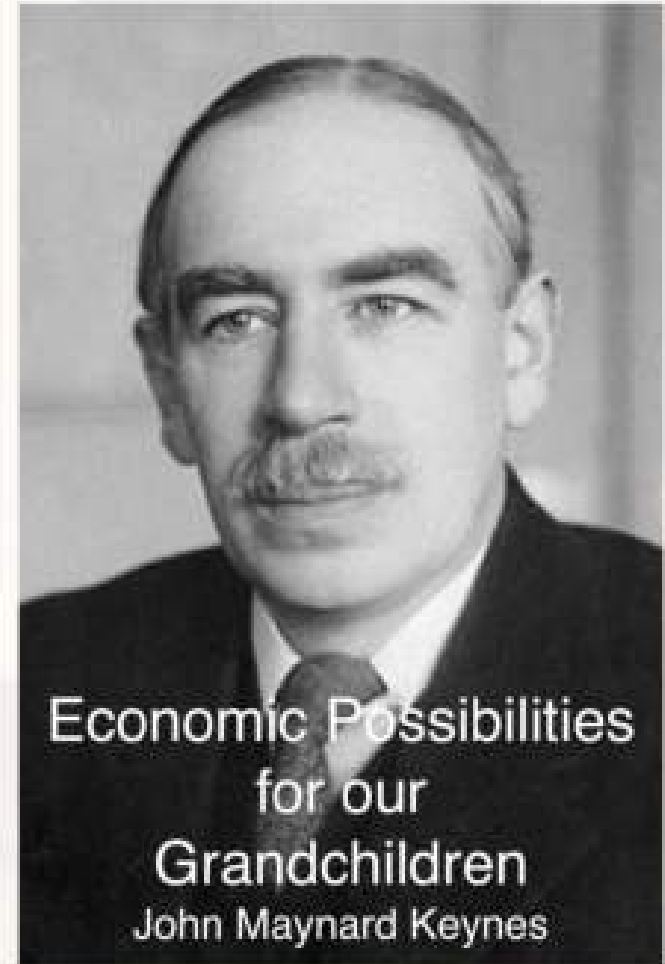
Keynes projected that the standard of living in America would increase to 4x or even 8x what was known in 1930.



Economic Possibilities
for our
Grandchildren
John Maynard Keynes

Blessed Limitations

Keynes projected that by the year 2030, people would only need to work 15 hours per week (3 hours per day x5) to make a living!

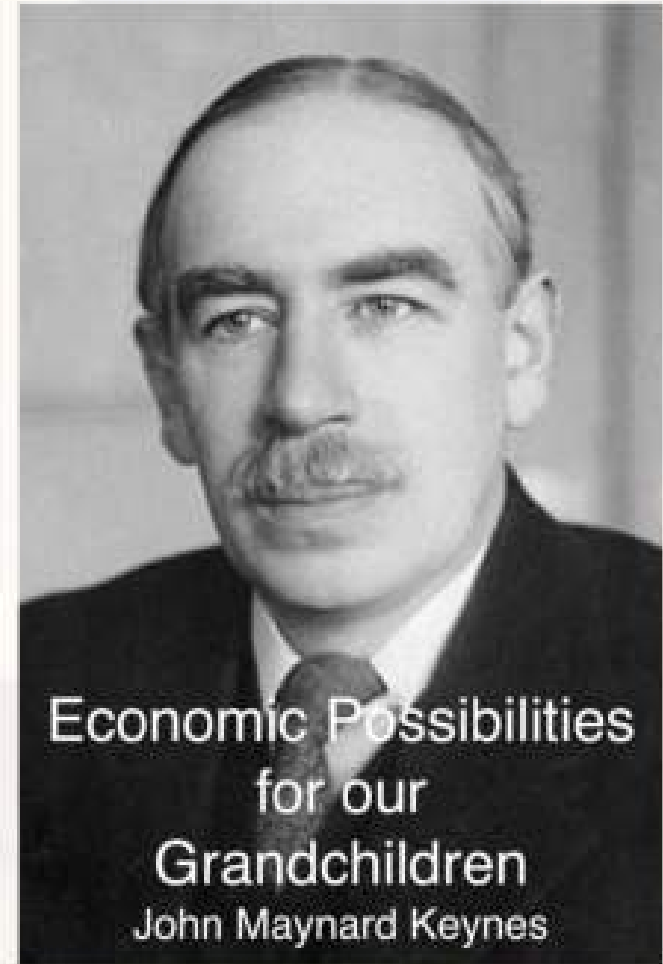


Economic Possibilities
for our
Grandchildren
John Maynard Keynes

Blessed Limitations

Keynes projected that by the year 2030, people would only need to work 15 hours per week (3 hours per day x5) to make a living!

Today, in general, many households have two people in the workforce each working 40+ hours per week. That's an *increase* of about 50%-60% more work hours per household!



We are plagued with an ongoing and insatiable desire for more. We don't like limits.

Genesis 1:24-31

Blessed Limitations

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:24-31

Blessed Limitations

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:24-31

Blessed Limitations

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Human beings don't even get their own day to themselves in the Creation narrative! We share it with "the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals."



Human limitation is not a defect to be overcome. It is a divine design to embrace.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was ***very good***."

Blessed Limitations

While limited to a creaturely existence, we humans are also given a unique status as “image bearers” of God.



Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17

Blessed Limitations

⁷ The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17

Blessed Limitations

⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17

Blessed Limitations

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Blessed Limitations

God made “all kinds” of trees grow from the ground. -
abundance

God made “all kinds” of trees grow from the ground. - *abundance*

God made trees that were “pleasing to the eye and good for food.” - *beauty*

God made “all kinds” of trees grow from the ground. - *abundance*

God made trees that were “pleasing to the eye and good for food.” - *beauty*

“You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” - *limitation*

Often, this is what sin looks like—rebellion against our proper, creaturely boundaries and borders.



“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (v. 15)

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (v. 15)

“work” and “care for/keep” = *avad* and *shamar*

“Humanity is slow to catch on to a basic reality that was clear from the beginning. We were created to live within certain limits. In Genesis, humanity is introduced as stewards of the garden. God never gave the garden to Adam and Eve. They were told to work and tend to the garden, but they never owned it.

God, in His mercy, also didn't give them the whole world. He made them responsible for the garden only. Ironically, the garden alone proved to be too much for them."

(Mike Glenn)

Blessed Limitations

The Creative Power of Limitations



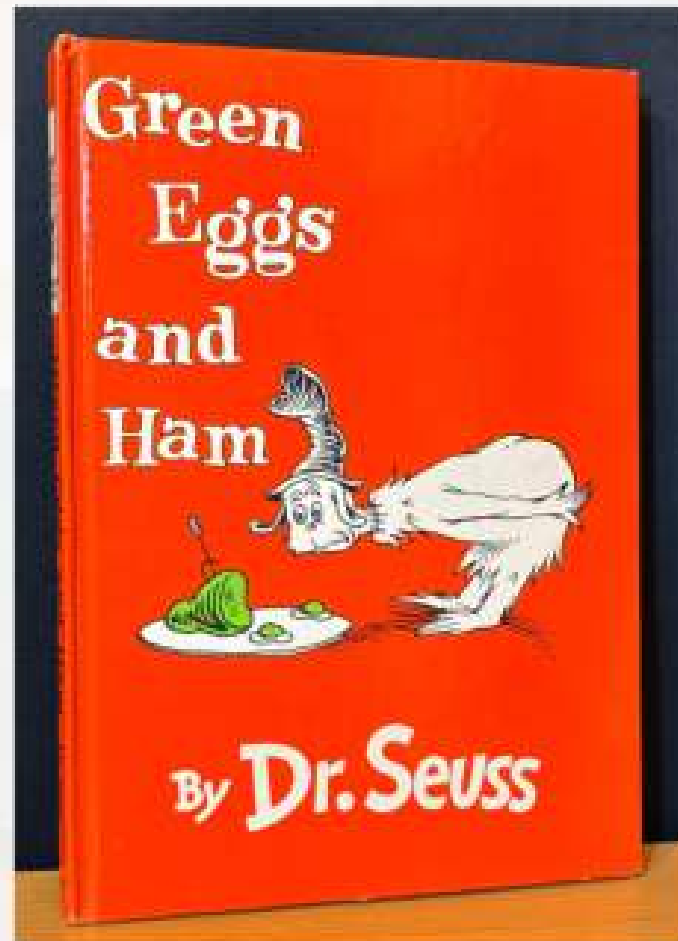
Blessed Limitations

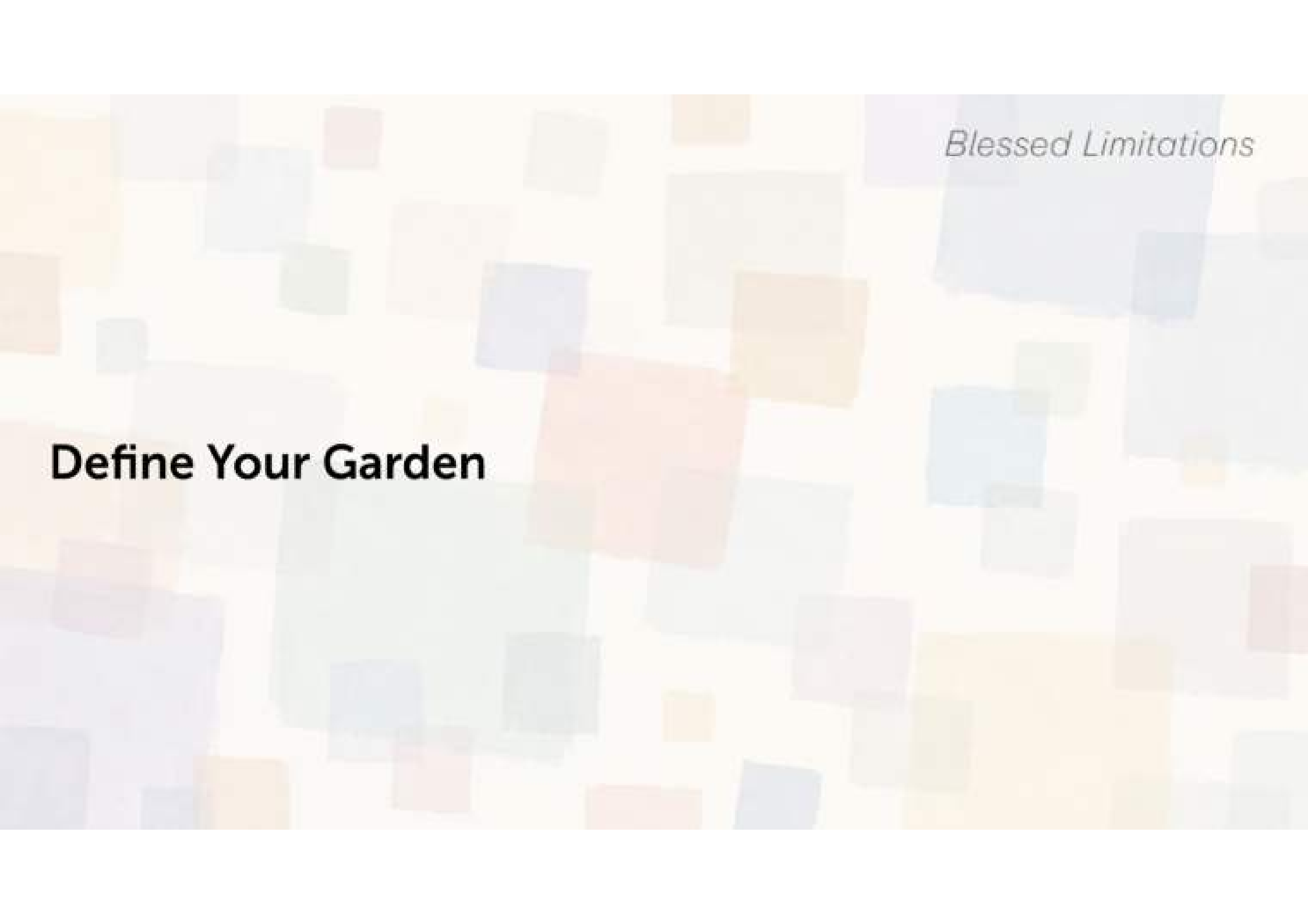
The Creative Power of Limitations



Blessed Limitations

The Creative Power of Limitations





Blessed Limitations

Define Your Garden

“Who are those people whom you are responsible for and responsible to? When you really consider it, it’s not as many as you think. There are our spouses, our children, our parents, our extended family and a few close friends. That’s it.

Not that we're unaware of others and we certainly help and encourage others as God gives us the opportunity. But most of our energy and focus will be on a small, tight circle. This isn't bad, it's just the way it is."

(Mike Glenn)

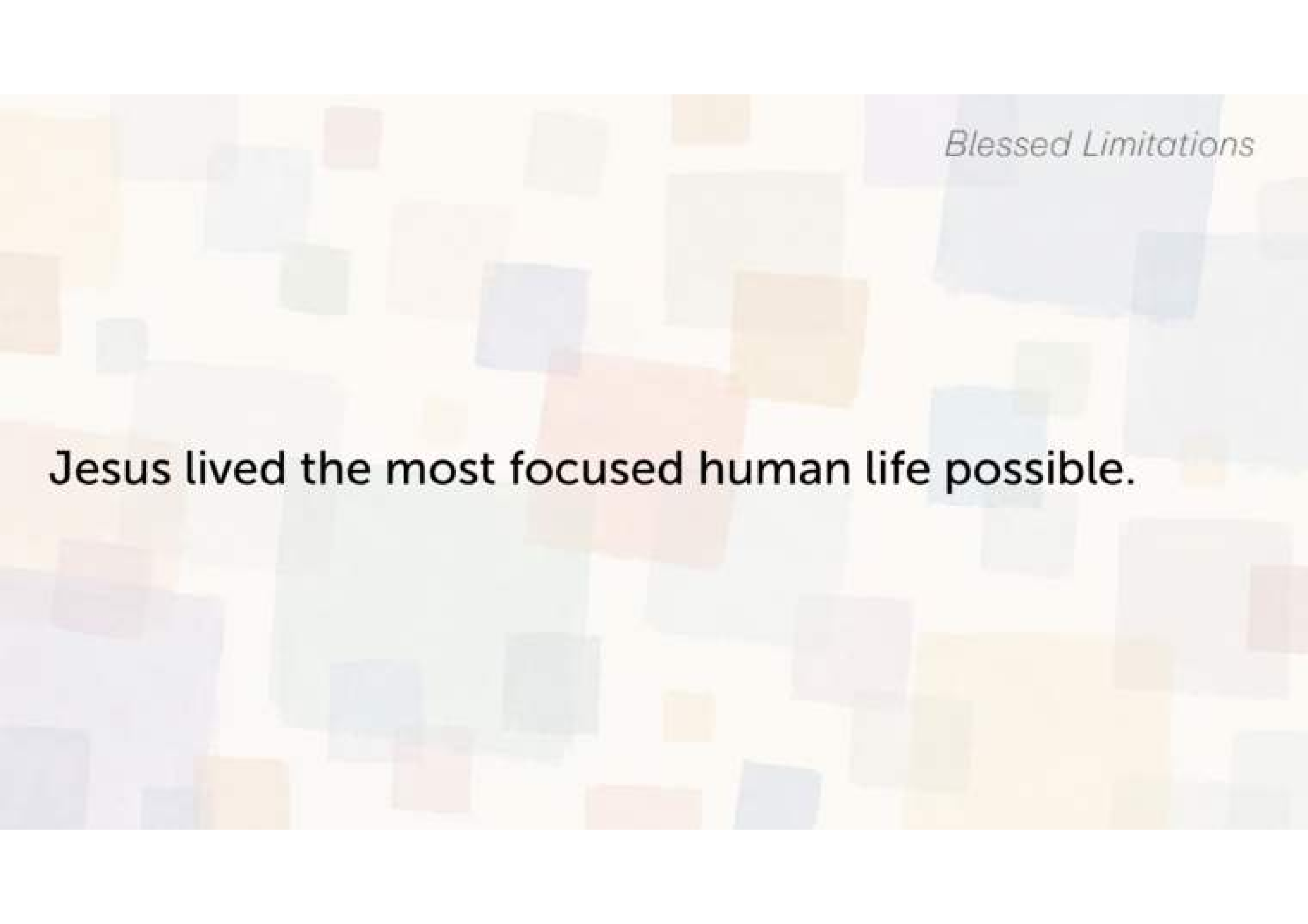
Blessed Limitations

Define Your Garden

Learn to Say "No"

“Once you have defined the limits of your garden, say ‘no’ to almost everything else. Most of us, whenever we are asked to do something, give a half-hearted agreement to the request. I say ‘agreement’ because most of us never give a full ‘yes.’ That is, we never fully commit to the project. We just sort of agree. Here’s the hard truth. Anything less than our full ‘yes’ is actually a ‘no.’”

(Mike Glenn)

The background of the slide is a light cream color, decorated with numerous overlapping squares of various sizes and colors. The colors include soft pastels like lavender, pale yellow, mint green, and light blue, as well as slightly more vibrant shades like peach and dusty rose. The squares are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, collage-like effect.

Blessed Limitations

Jesus lived the most focused human life possible.

Jesus lived the most focused human life possible.

"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38)

Blessed Limitations

Define Your Garden

Learn to Say “No”

Go from FOMO to JOMO

"If we limit our time and focus to work within our limitations, won't we miss out on things? The simple answer is 'yes.' The question isn't whether or not we will miss out on things. The question is what will we choose to miss?"

(Mike Glenn)

Blessed Limitations

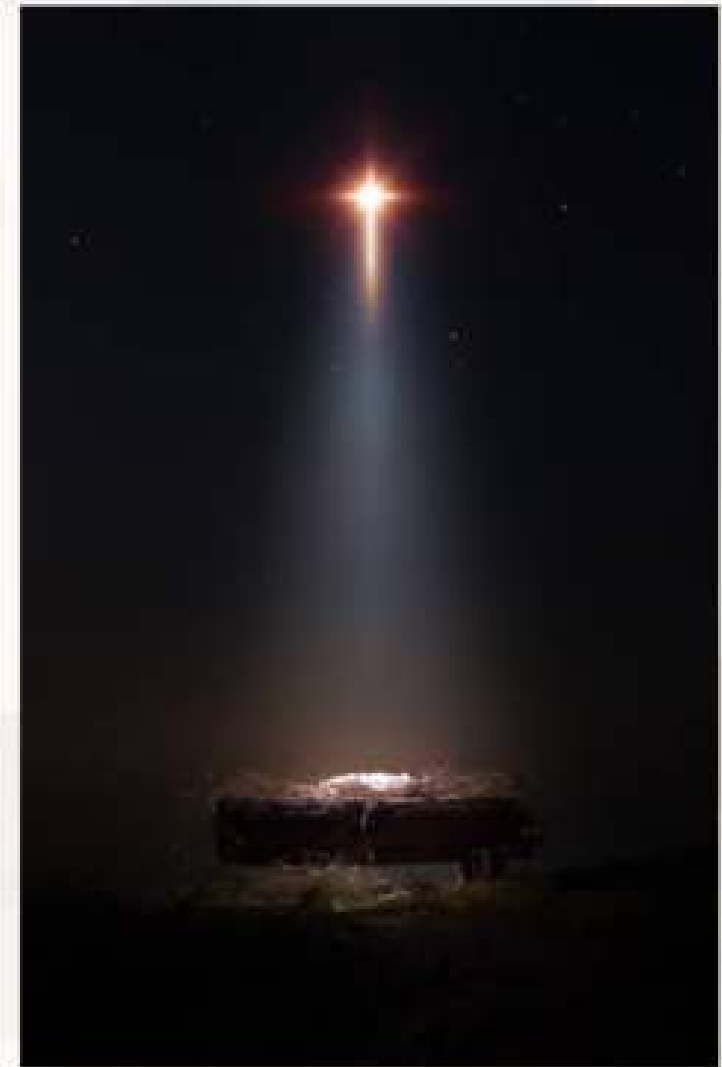
Define Your Garden

Learn to Say “No”

Go from FOMO to JOMO (Joy Of Missing Out)

Blessed Limitations

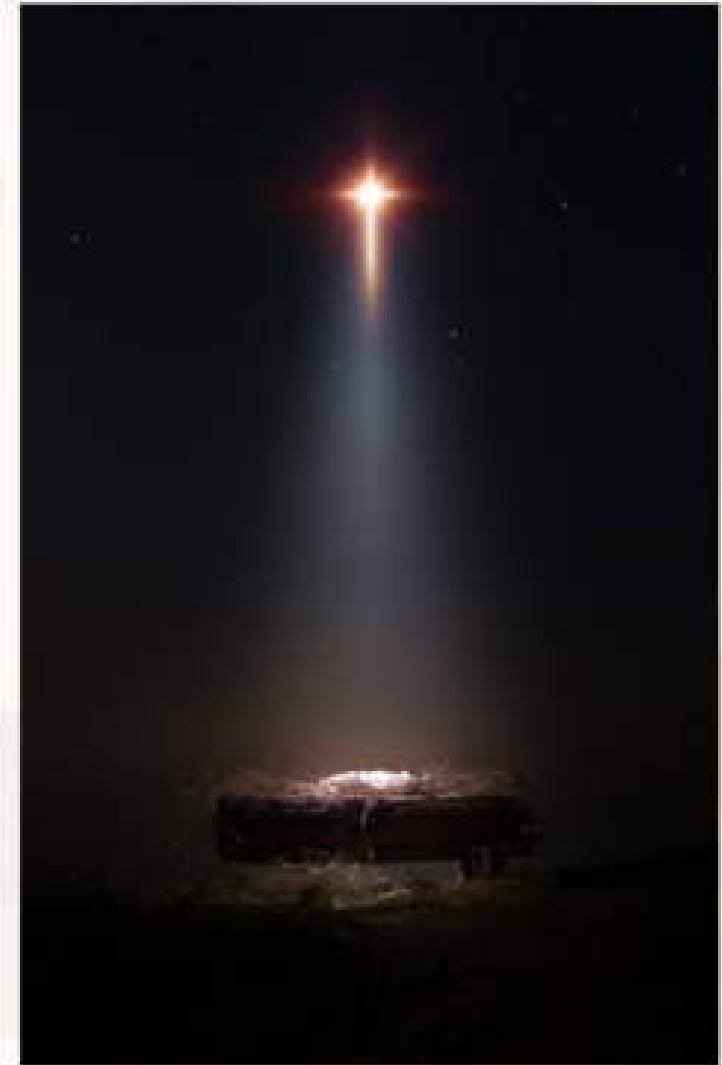
The Incarnation of Christ is the ultimate validation of limitation. The Word became flesh. The Infinite got wrapped up in the finite.



Blessed Limitations

The Incarnation of Christ is the ultimate validation of limitation. The Word became flesh. The Infinite got wrapped up in the finite.

Jesus did not hide or disguise his human limitations. He sanctified them.



Closing Reflections

Blessed Limitations

Are you tempted toward limitlessness? Do you tend to push against the (designed) limited nature of being human?

Closing Reflections

Blessed Limitations

In what ways are you “working and caring” outside of the garden God has given you, perhaps allowing weeds to choke out what God wants to grow?

Closing Reflections

Blessed Limitations

Invite the Spirit to teach you this week about your garden. Who and what are most worthy of your time, energy, and attention?

Closing Reflections

Blessed Limitations

What is one thing—perhaps a peripheral thing of little value, or even a “good” thing—that you can say “no” to in order to open up space to say a larger “yes” to God’s will and the joy that comes with it?



Blessed Limitations