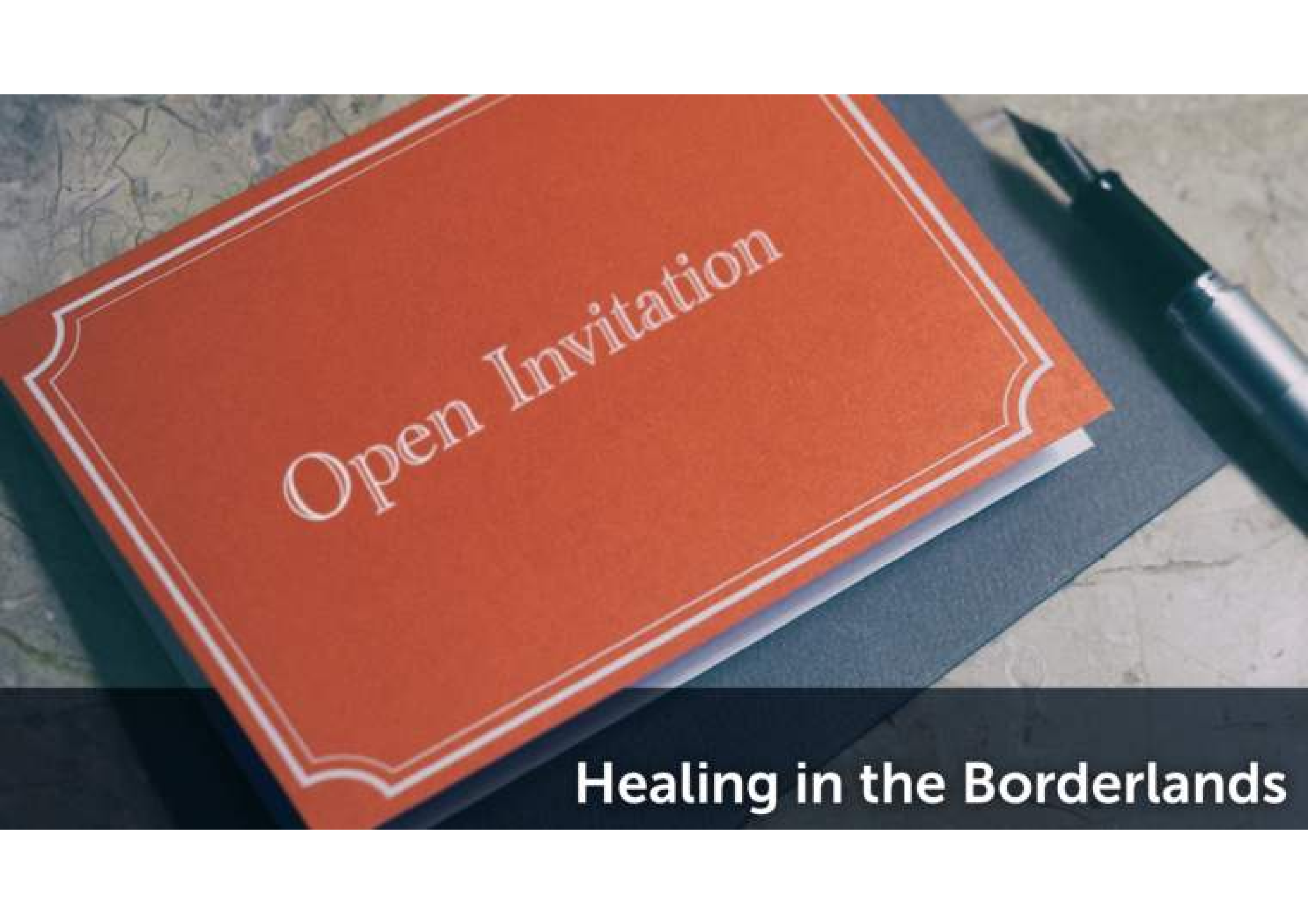


An orange envelope with the words "Open Invitation" written in a white, elegant serif font. The envelope is placed on a dark blue folder. A black fountain pen lies diagonally across the folder to the right of the envelope. The entire scene is set against a light-colored, textured background.

Open Invitation

Healing in the Borderlands

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

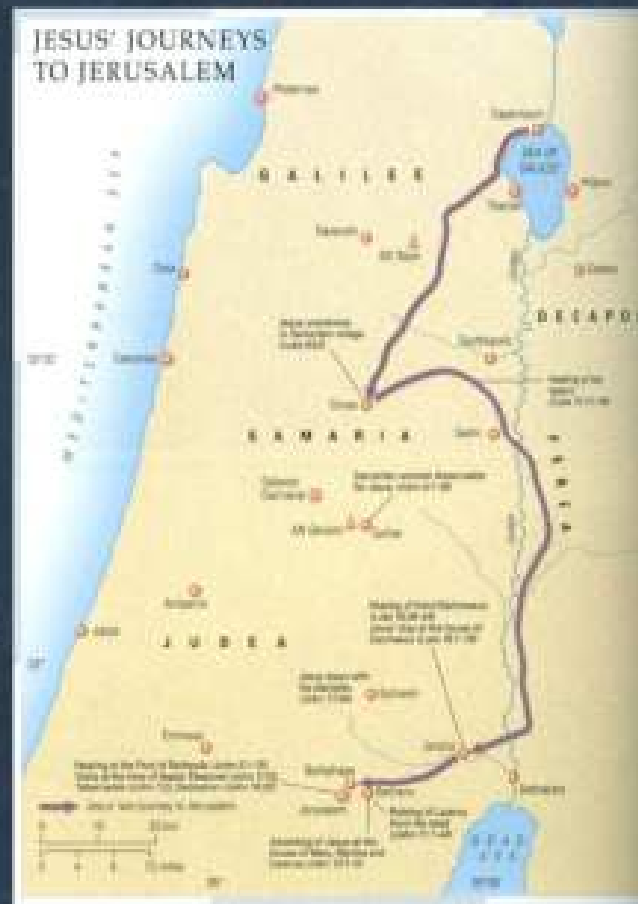
¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

"On his way to Jerusalem..."



“the border between Samaria and Galilee”



ecotone - the transition zone
where two habitats meet



ecotone - the transition zone
where two habitats meet

edge effect - the boundary zone
teems with more life and more
variety



ecotone - the transition zone
where two habitats meet

edge effect - the boundary zone
teems with more life and more
variety

edge species - animals that thrive
at the boundary edge



We not only follow Jesus as he lays down his life as a sacrifice, we also follow him into the borderlands where things aren't safe, easy, or comfortable.

The Samaritan leper Jesus encounters is “doubly unclean” in the eyes of Jewish people.



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“They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice...”



“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

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Which priests are they supposed to go to?

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John 4:20 - “Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

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Which priests are they supposed to go to?

John 4:20 - "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"And as they went, they were cleansed."

Sometimes God tells us to wait...

But, not always...

Sometimes God calls us to keep moving... and trust that he will be at work along the way.

The former leper chose to “praise God in a loud voice” not in a temple standing before the priests, but face-down at the feet of Jesus.

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John 4:21, 23 - “A time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem... a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”

In v. 14, we saw that all the lepers were “cleansed.”

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In v. 15, we saw that the one thankful leper “saw he was healed.”

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In v. 15, we saw that the one thankful leper “saw he was healed.”

In v. 19, we saw Jesus proclaim over the thankful leper, “your faith has made you well.”

Ten were cleansed; but only one was saved.

The difference wasn't in their skin. It was in the return to fully surrender, with gratitude and worship, before Jesus.

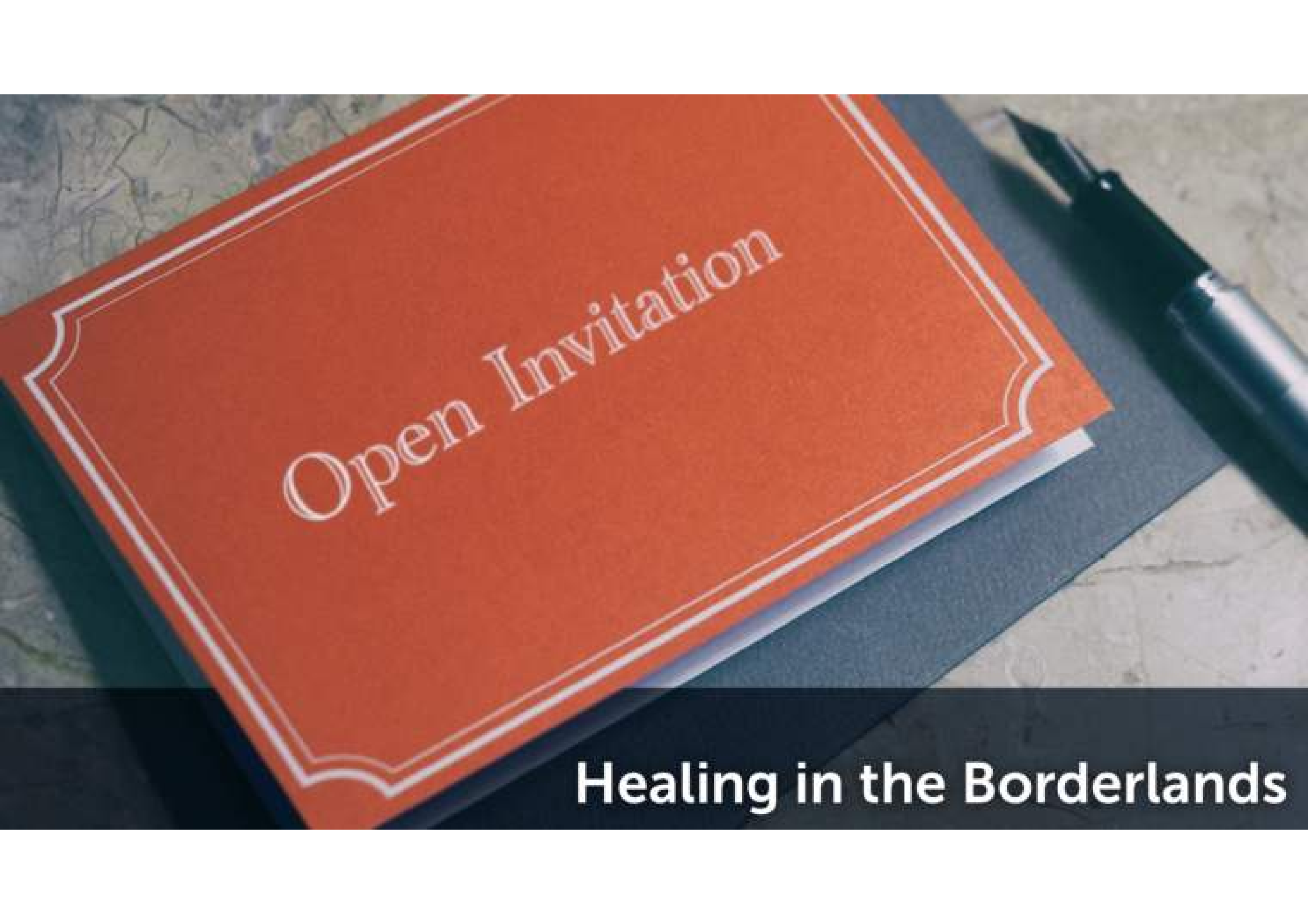


What is your response to following Jesus into the borderlands? In what ways do you need to grow in being comfortable with discomfort and adapting to different surroundings?

Who do you think are today's Samaritan lepers—the people whom the religious establishment believes to be unclean and theologically confused?

Ask the Spirit to grow your faith toward becoming a person who can walk in confidence of what God can do before you even see it.

What is one thing you can thank Jesus for today with an attitude of surrender and worship?

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