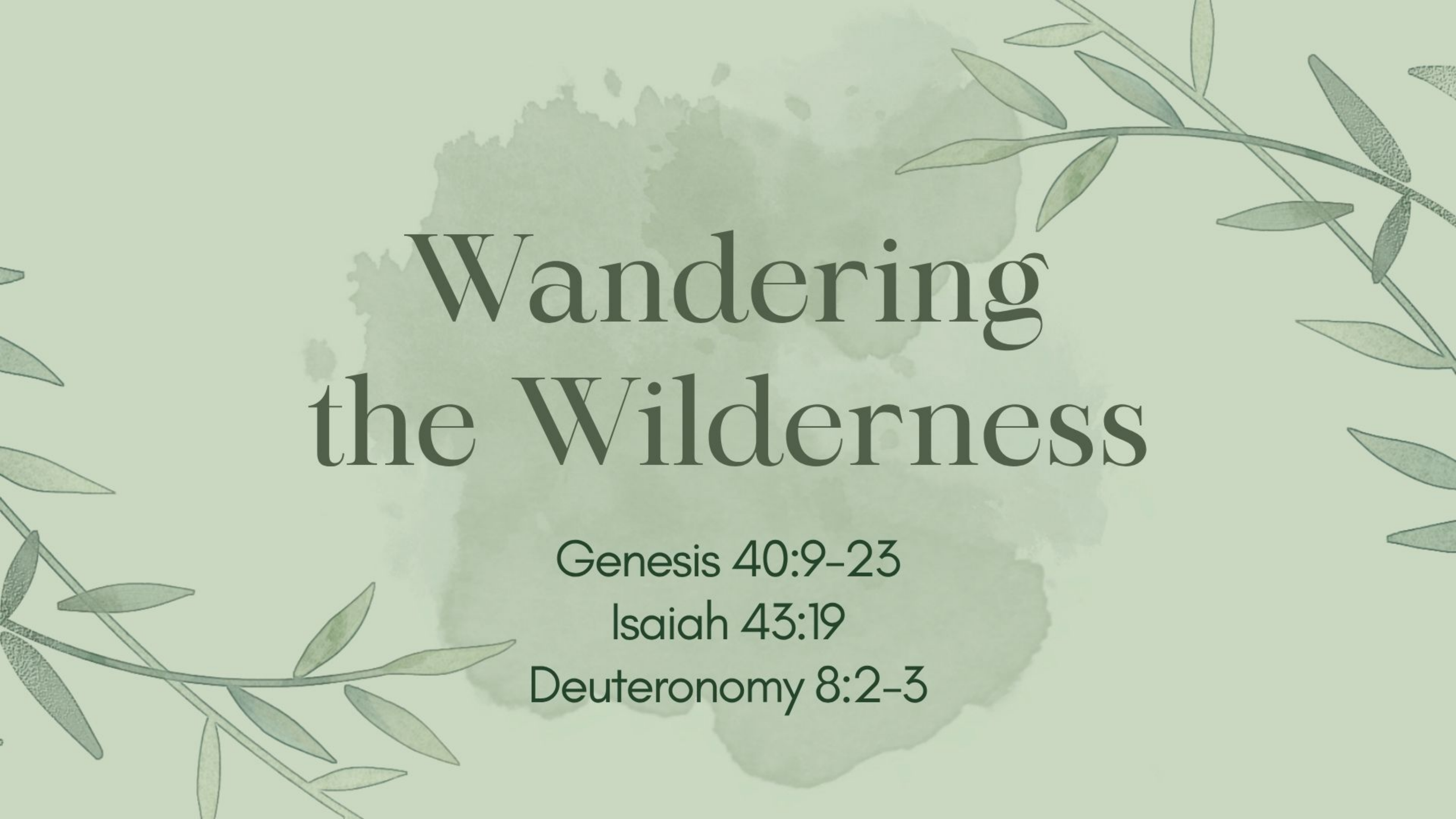




Wandering the Wilderness

Genesis 40:9–23

Isaiah 43:19

Deuteronomy 8:2–3

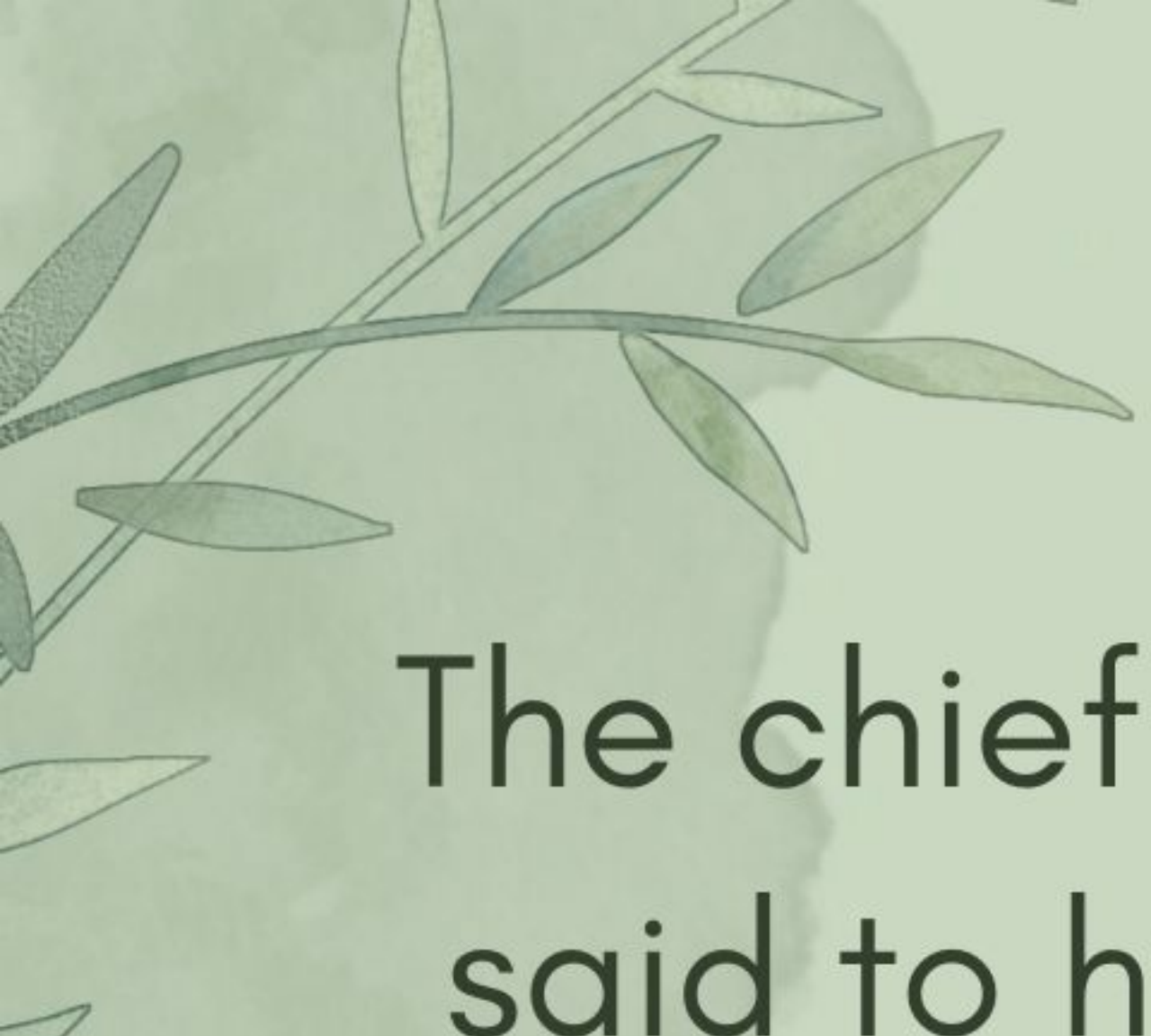


1. Pruning Season
Sold into slavery.

2. Refining Season
Falsely Accused and Imprisoned.

3. Planting Season
Continues to be Faithful
and Serve in Prison.

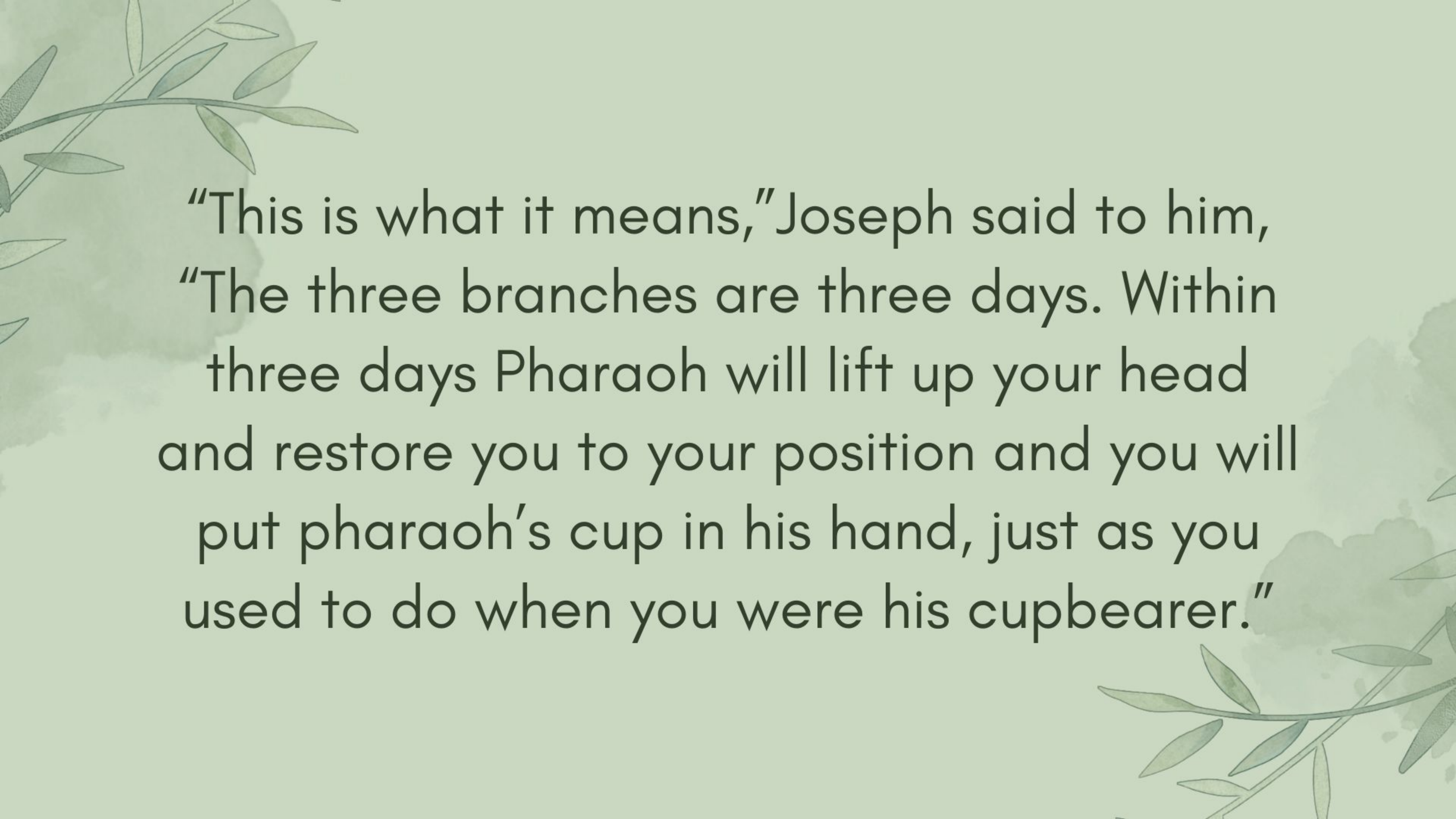




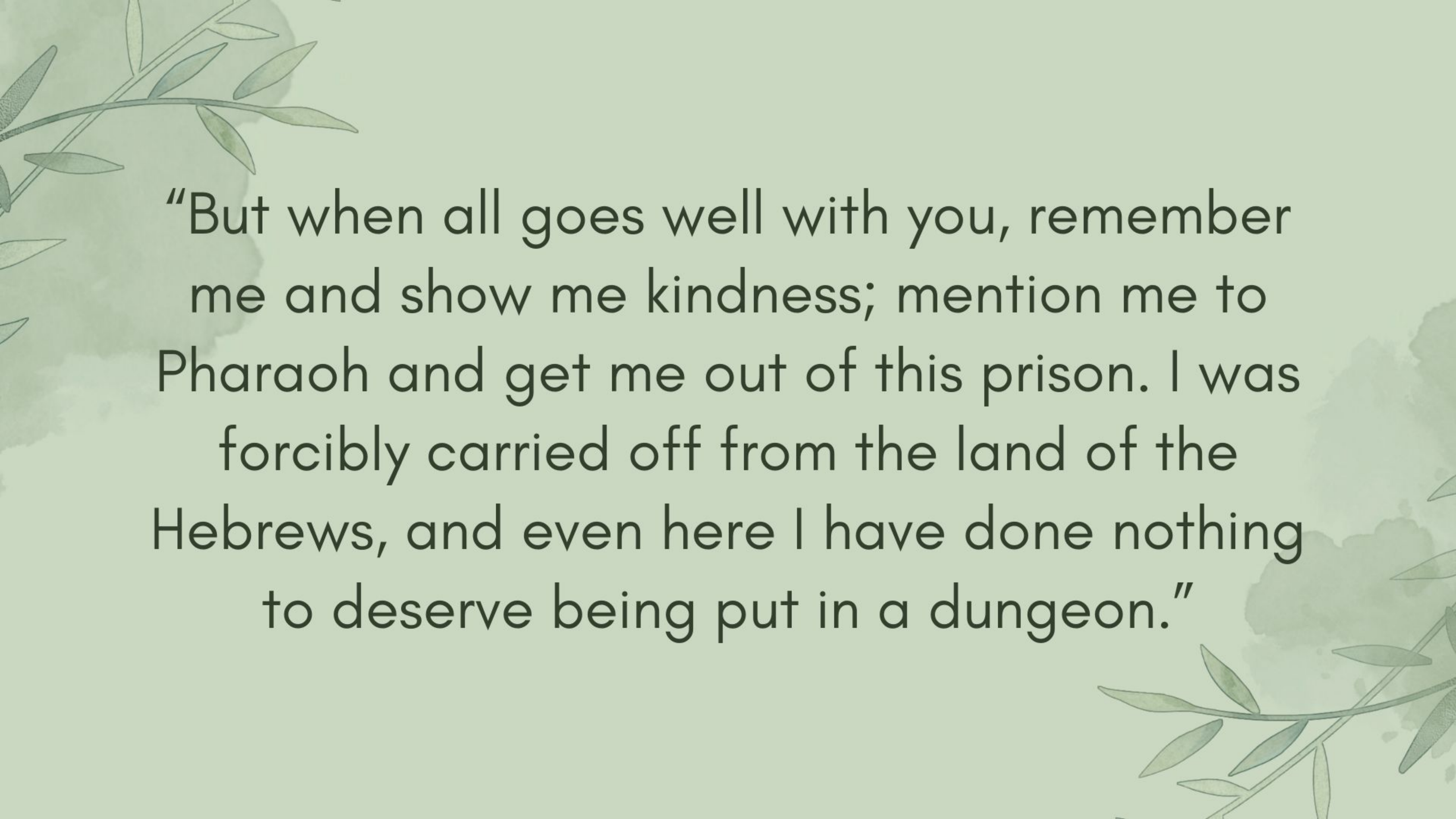
Genesis 40:9-23

The chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed and its clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

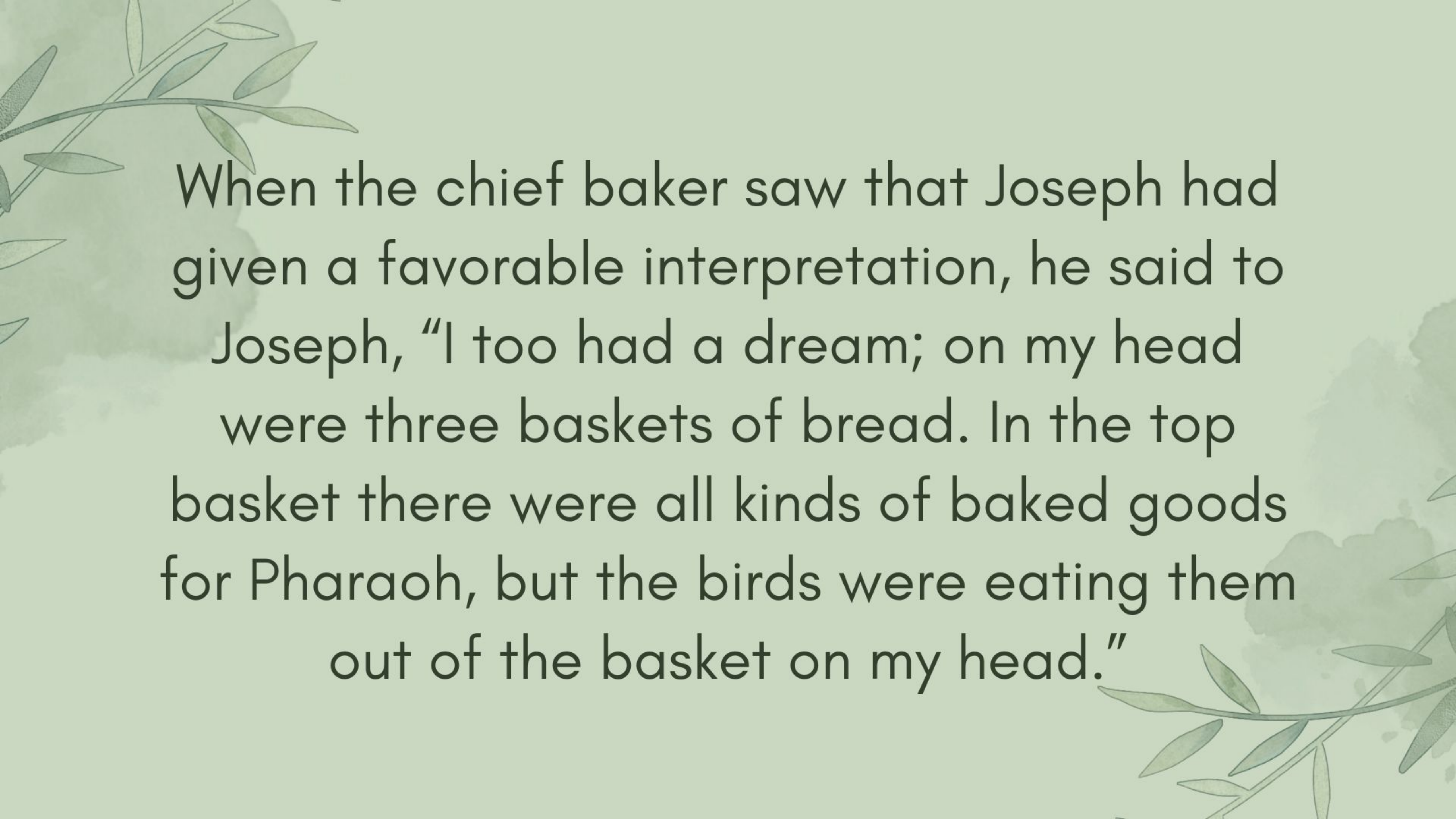




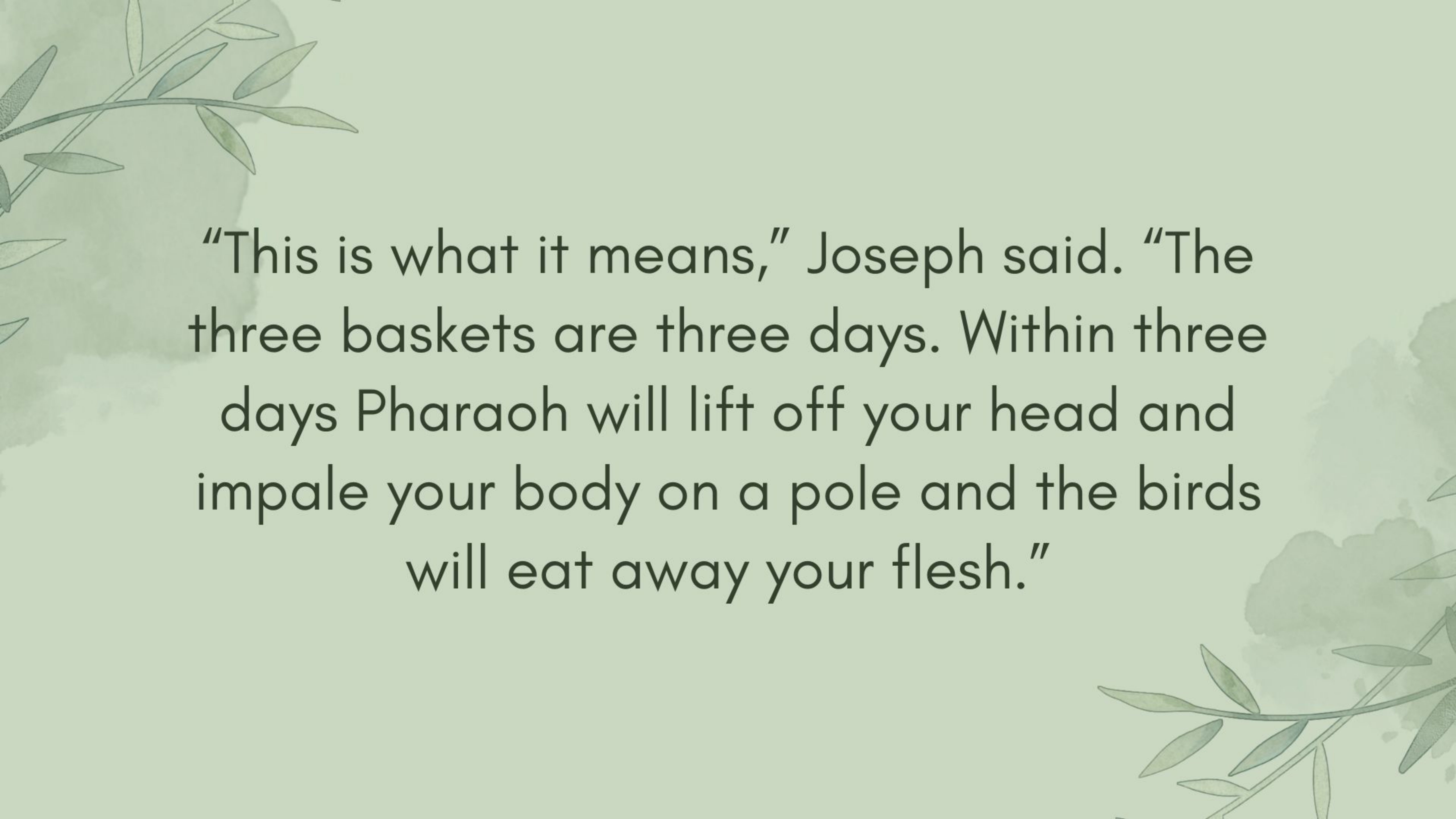
"This is what it means," Joseph said to him,
"The three branches are three days. Within
three days Pharaoh will lift up your head
and restore you to your position and you will
put pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you
used to do when you were his cupbearer."



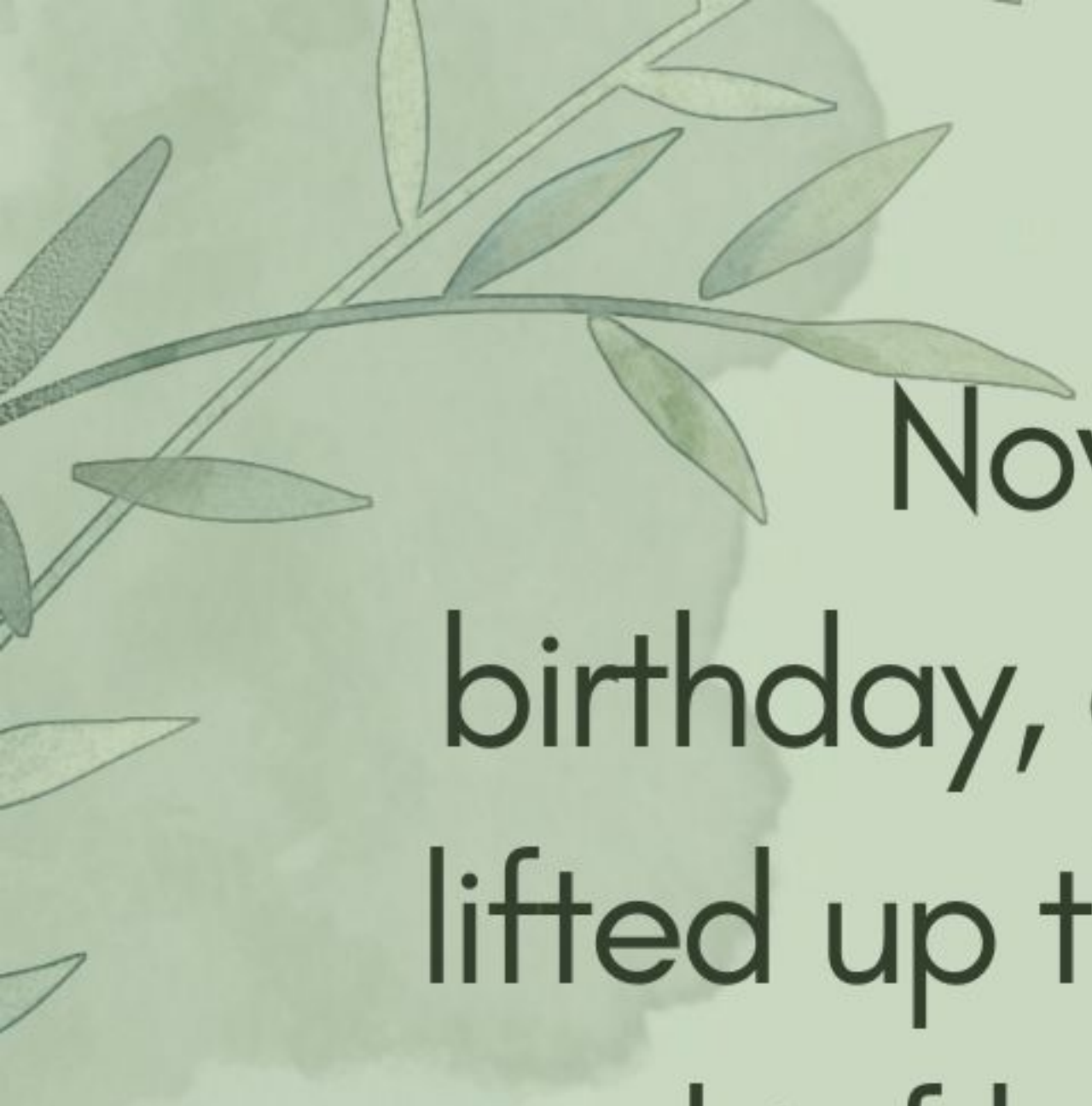
"But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."



When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream; on my head were three baskets of bread. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

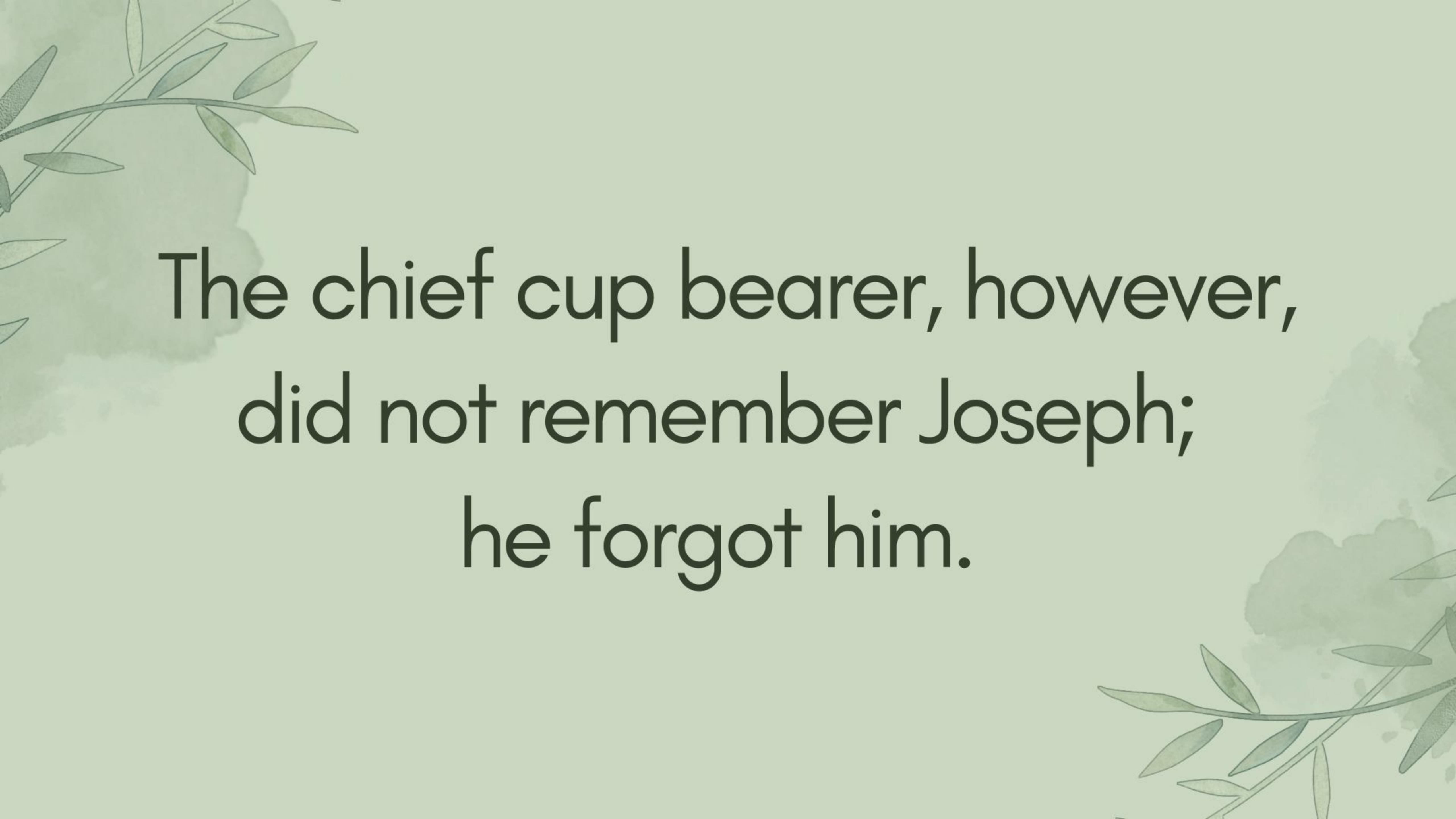


“This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole and the birds will eat away your flesh.”

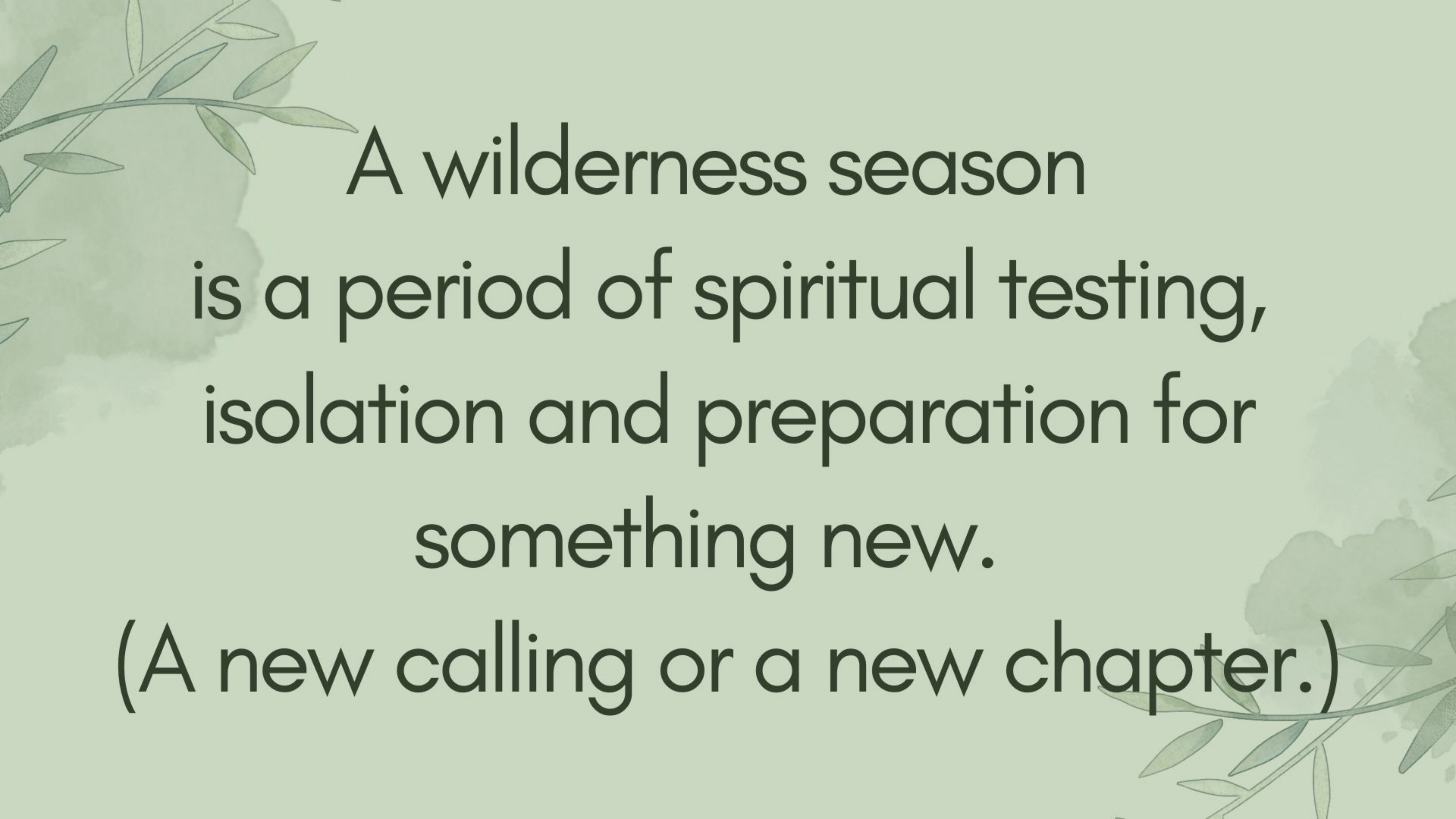


Now the third day was the Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a fest for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials; He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand – but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.





The chief cup bearer, however,
did not remember Joseph;
he forgot him.



A wilderness season
is a period of spiritual testing,
isolation and preparation for
something new.

(A new calling or a new chapter.)



Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

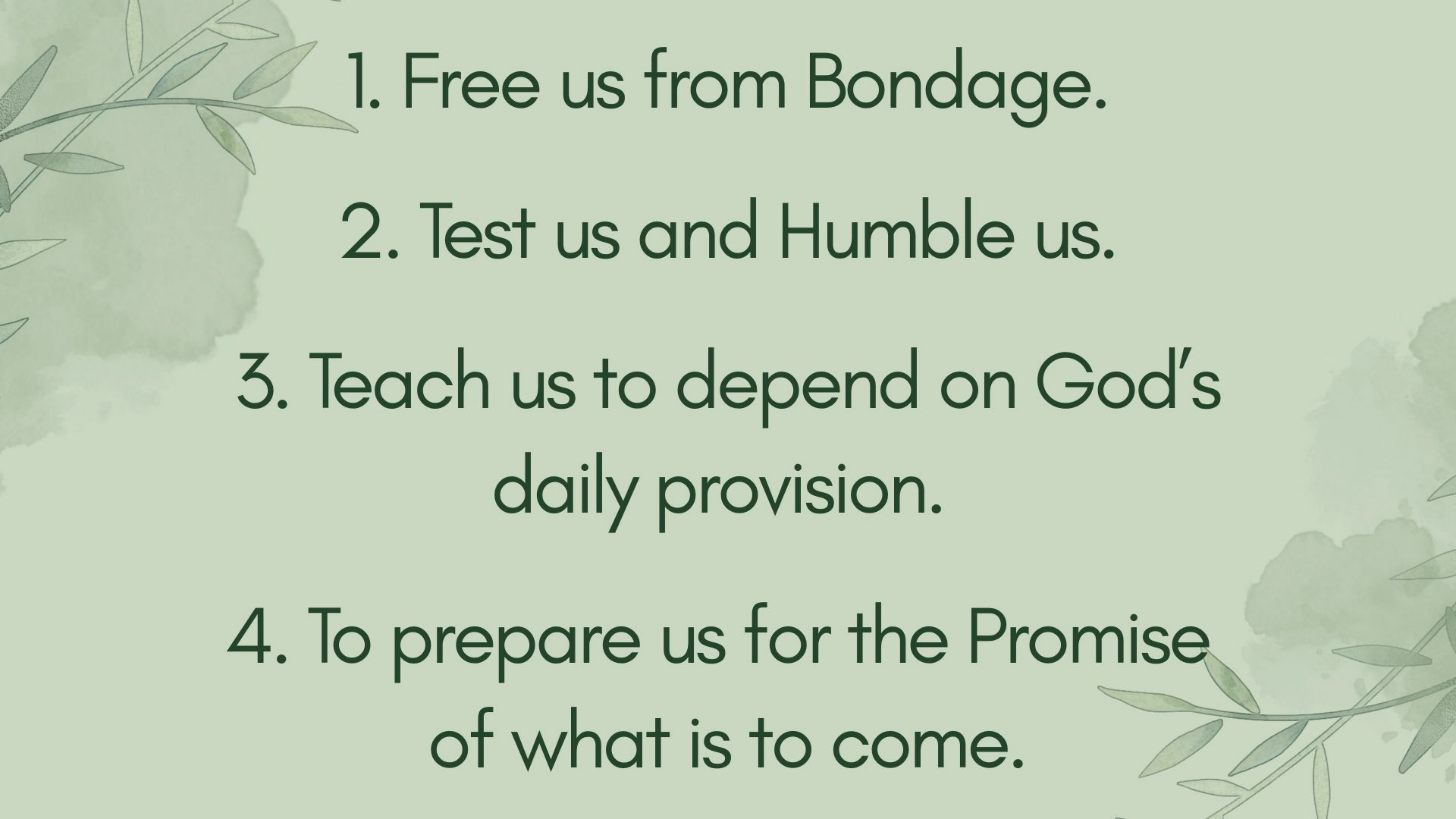


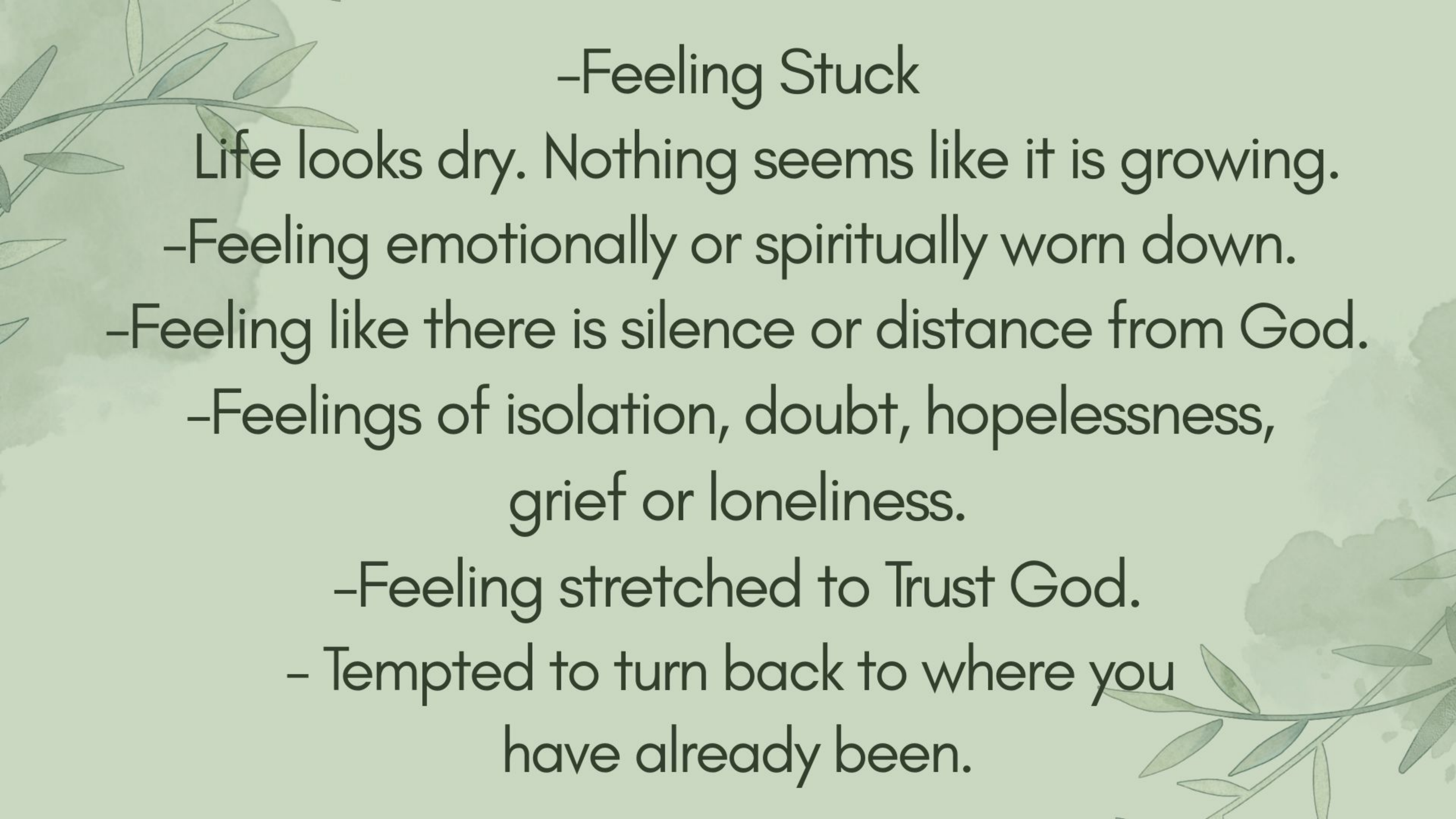


Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.



- 
1. Free us from Bondage.
 2. Test us and Humble us.
 3. Teach us to depend on God's daily provision.
 4. To prepare us for the Promise of what is to come.



-Feeling Stuck

Life looks dry. Nothing seems like it is growing.

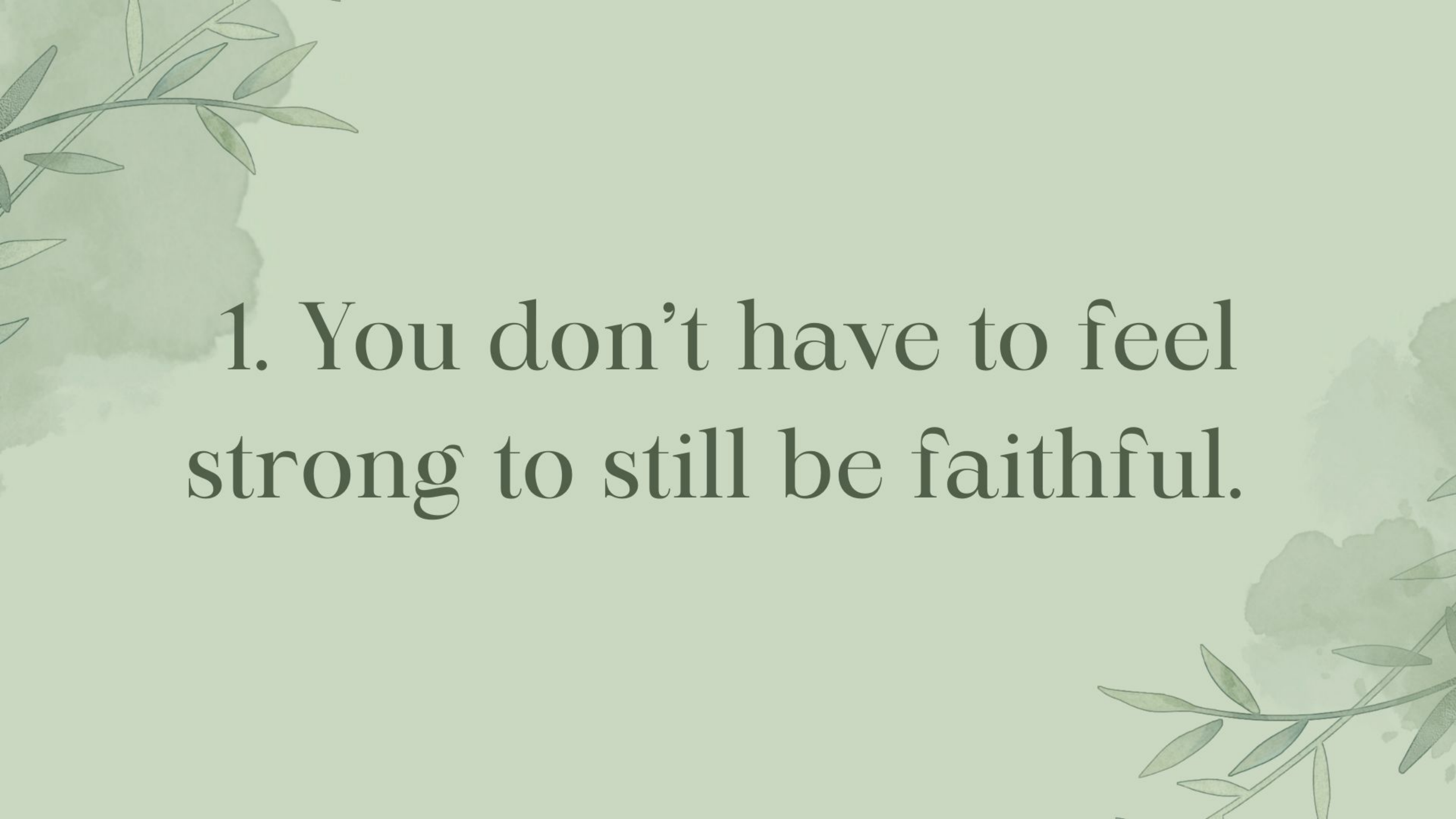
-Feeling emotionally or spiritually worn down.

-Feeling like there is silence or distance from God.

-Feelings of isolation, doubt, hopelessness,
grief or loneliness.

-Feeling stretched to Trust God.

- Tempted to turn back to where you
have already been.

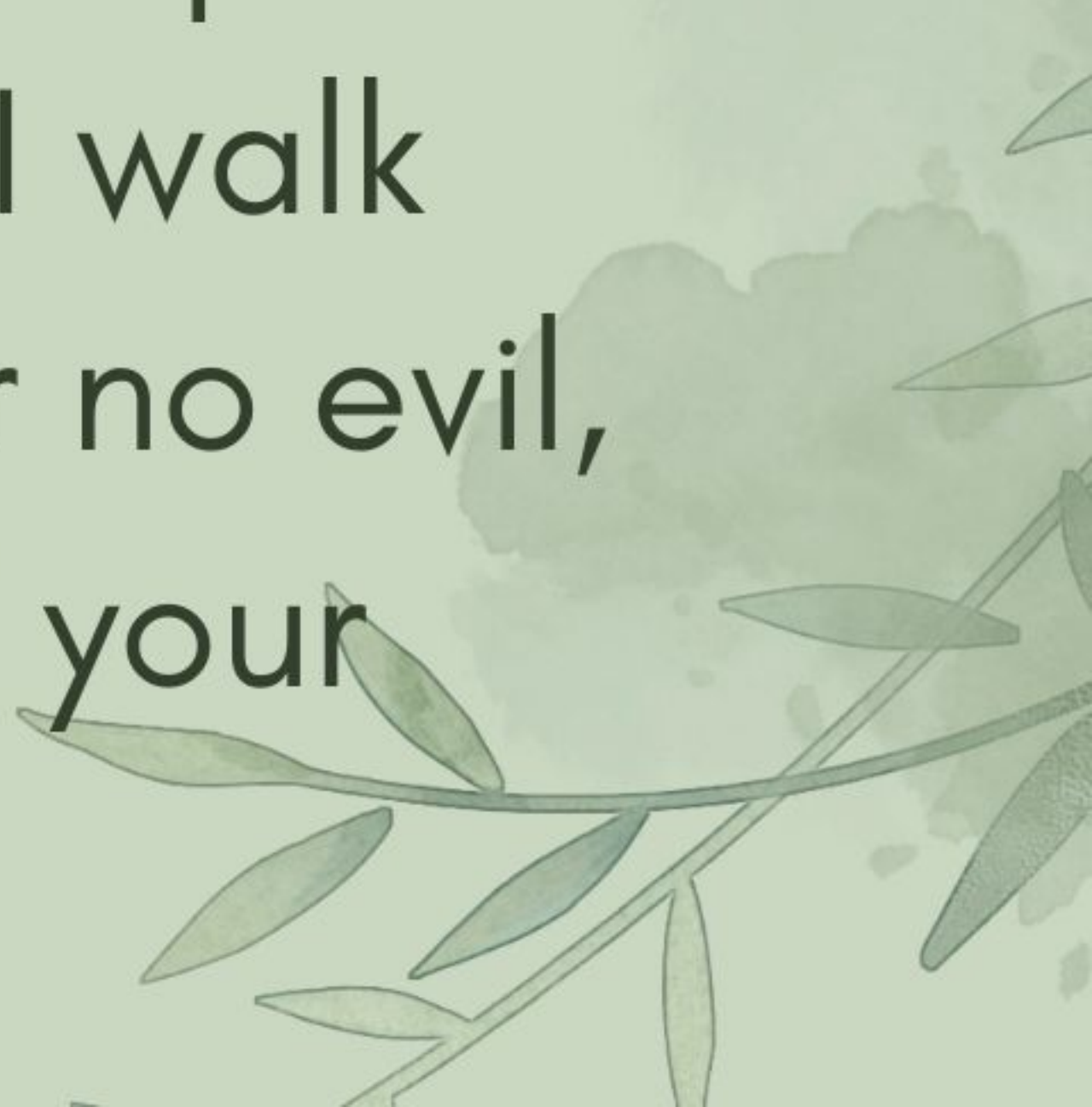


1. You don't have to feel
strong to still be faithful.



Psalm 23:1-4

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me besides quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.





2. Don't Forget the Manna



Numbers 11:4-6

Again the Israelites started wailing and said,
“If only we had meat to eat! We remember the
fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the
cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.
But now we have lost our appetite; we never
see anything but this manna!”





Hebrews 13:15

Therefore, let us continually offer to God a
sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that
openly profess His name.

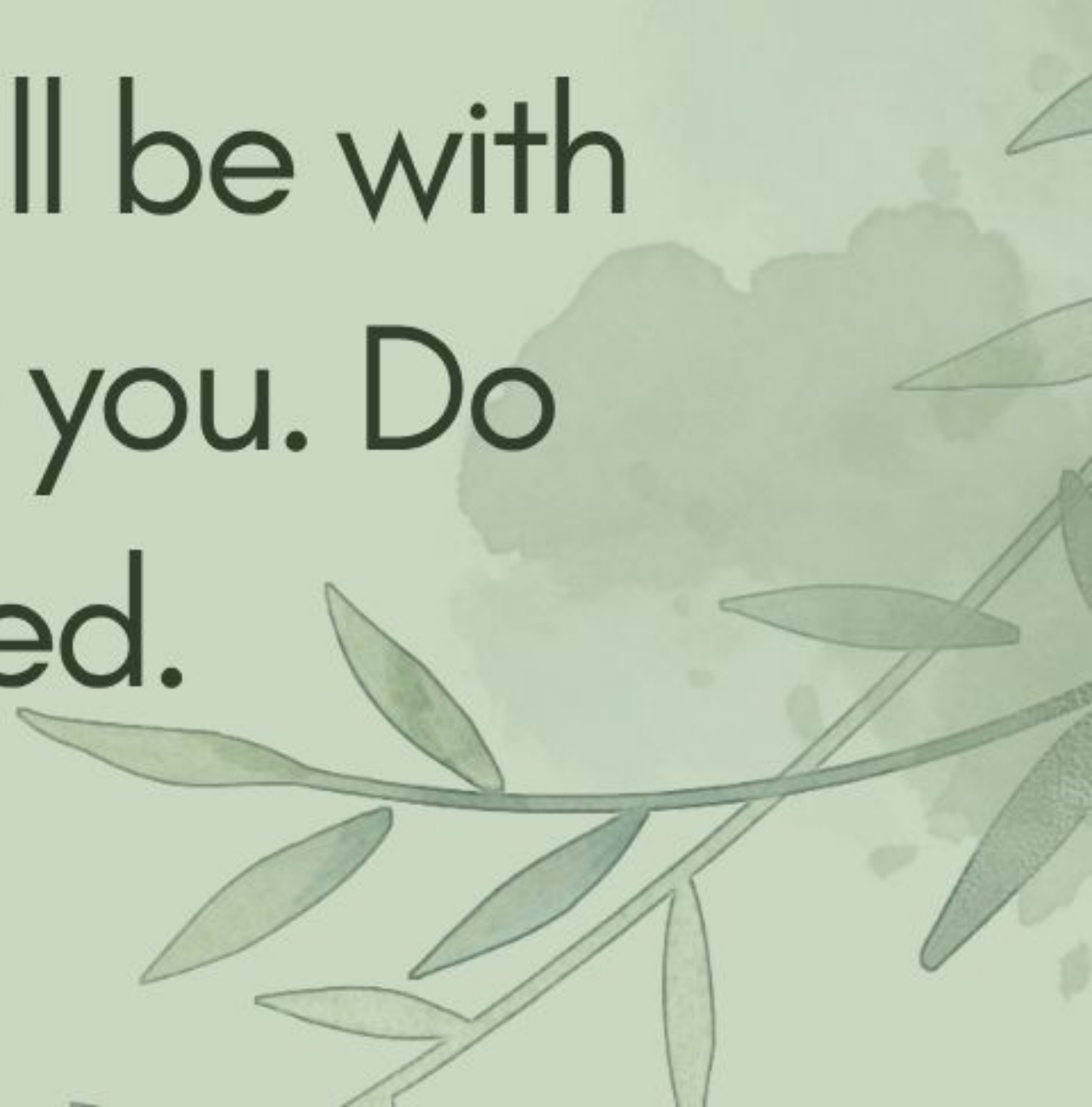


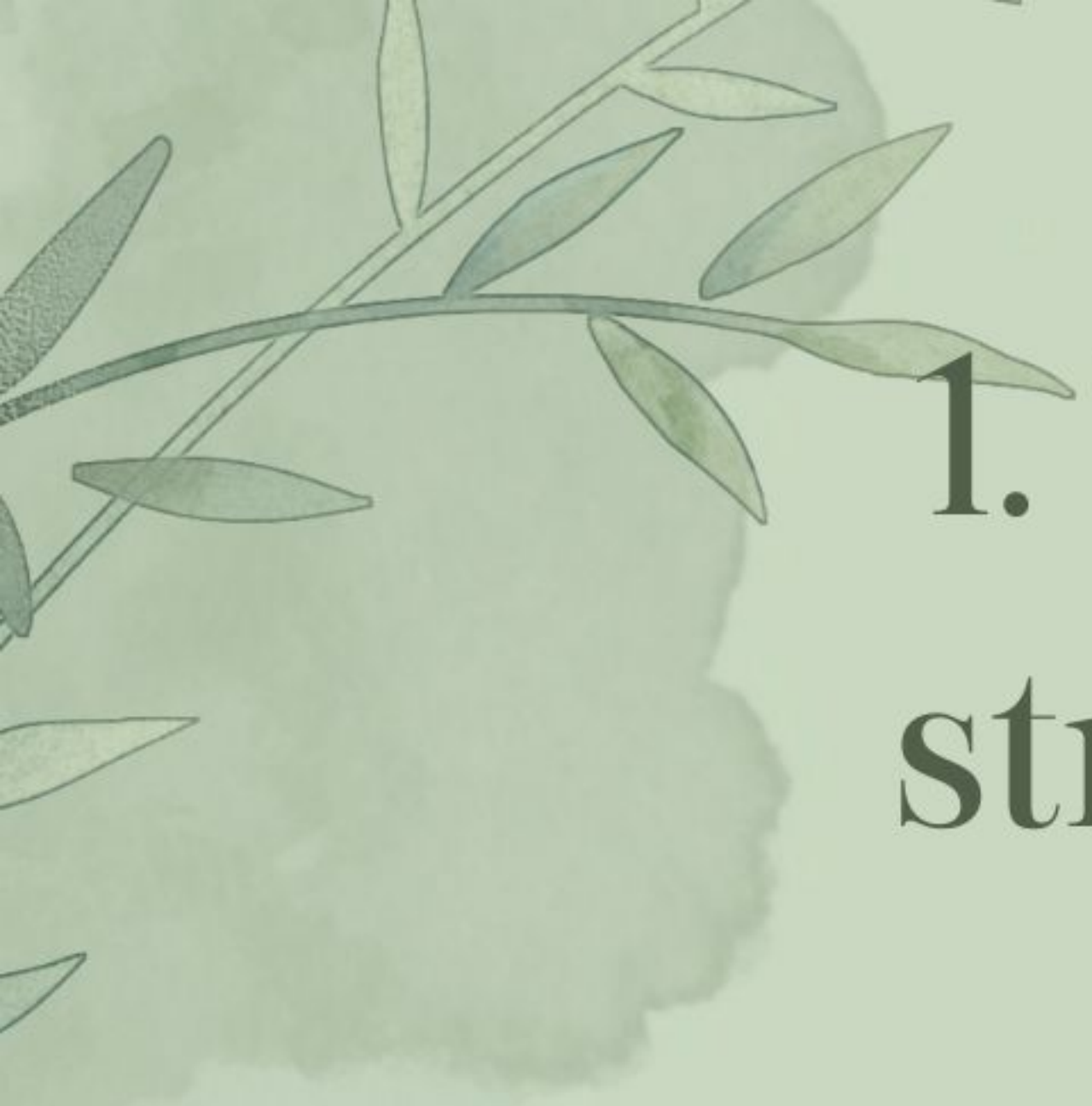


3. God doesn't leave us in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with
you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do
not be afraid; do not be discouraged.





1. You don't have to feel strong to still be faithful.

2. Don't forget the Manna.

3. God doesn't leave us in the wilderness.

