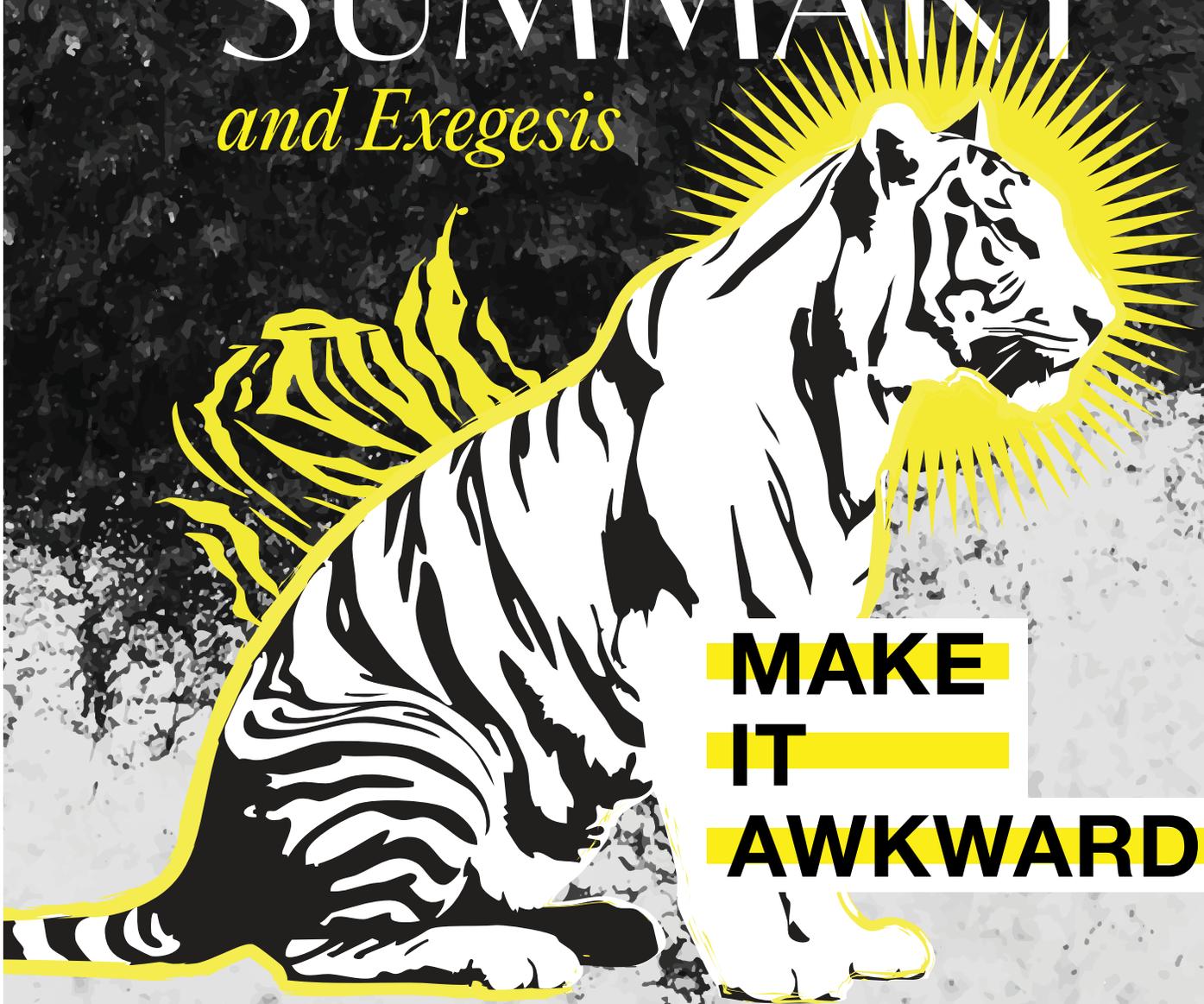


THEME SUMMARY

and Exegesis



**MAKE
IT
AWKWARD**



*When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But **because you say so**, I will let down the nets.” When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*

LUKE 5:4-7, NIV

In a world that values polish over vulnerability, we're reclaiming the power of awkwardness. Why? Because awkward is authentic and charming.

It's a breath of fresh air. Sometimes in our quest to be seen as competent, professional and sophisticated, we forget the value of being real. Isn't it interesting how we love and appreciate awkwardness in others yet fight it off when we feel it in ourselves? Moms self-report loneliness in staggering statistics, probably because they feel no one truly knows the truest version of themselves. And there's one way to make that happen—by getting awkward.

It's simple but powerful: Once you give yourself permission to be awkward, fear loses its edge. This is when growth happens, relationships deepen, and obedience moves us from frustration to abundance. Perhaps, awkwardness isn't a weakness but your greatest asset. What a liberation!

We're entering a new era of earnestness. It's about showing up as awkward as necessary to express real kindness to other moms. We will be wild, weird, fun, authentic and a little freer. We will become comfortable embracing our unique spark because denying it leaves everyone around us starving for warmth and light.

This year is about to get **awkward**... in a good way.

Here's how we'll do it.

**MAKE
IT
AWKWARD**

01

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

REVELATION 12:11, NIV

own your story

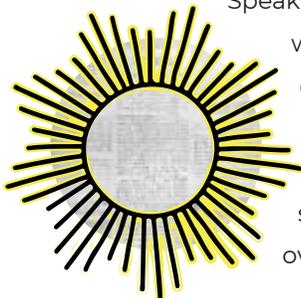


This is the year to share your story. The compassionate witness of brave women is life-changing. Our stories find healing in community, and we help others heal when we are honest about what we have experienced. The moments of failure, frustration and imperfection are often where God's grace shows up most profoundly. It means forgiving others who have hurt us and also forgiving ourselves for the mistakes we've made. Vulnerability may feel awkward, but it's how we heal and invite others into their own journey of freedom. Your story matters. This year, we will resist insecurity, choose to forgive and share our stories boldly in community.

SPEAK KINDNESS

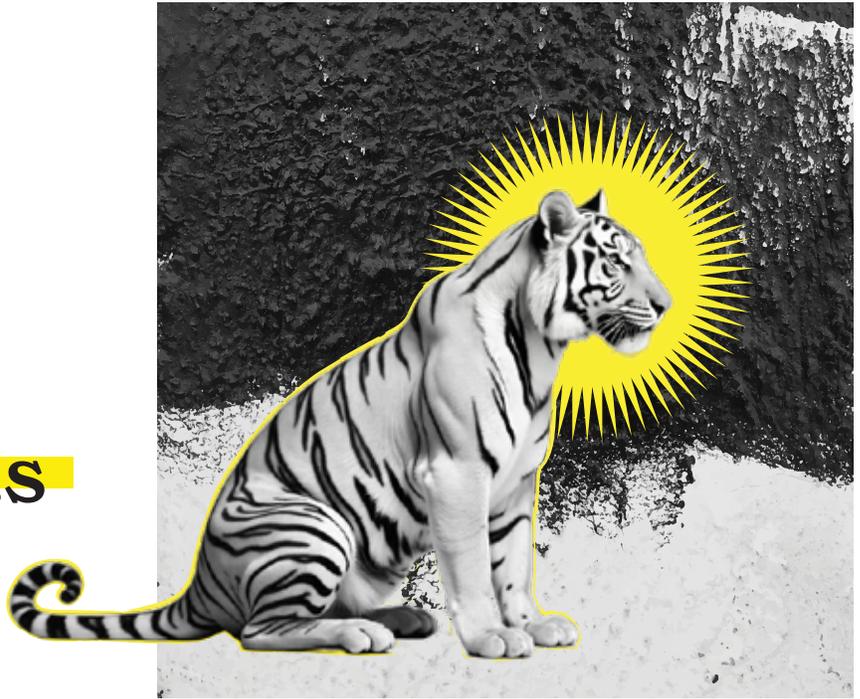
02
*She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*
PROVERBS 31:26, ESV

We live in a time where we are constantly bombarded with words, which cheapens them and makes us forget just how powerful they truly are. A kind word spoken at the right moment is life-altering. A home filled with encouragement instead of yelling and criticism is medicine to the soul. Our kids are listening, and the words we speak over them will shape who they are becoming. Words change the atmosphere; they impact our biology, and they can bless and curse. This year let's reclaim the power of our words by choosing kindness.



Speaking kindly isn't only about how we communicate with others but also how we talk to ourselves. The voice inside our heads can often be the harshest critic, saying things far crueler than any enemy ever could. True kindness must extend both outward and inward in equal measure. Let's release ourselves from harsh self-criticism and step into the truth of who God says we are: beloved and worthy. When we accept God's kindness, it overflows, enabling us to extend the same gentleness to those around us.

audacious faith



03

Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

JOHN 14:12-17, NIV

Jesus often called people to defy logic—to stretch out a withered hand, dip in the water seven times or cast nets on the other side—which shows us that our effort matters. Take a risk, learn a new skill and dare to grow. Our action speaks louder than frustration. This year, posture your life around expectation and allow God to stretch your faith. Trust him with the wildest dreams of your heart. As Christine Caine says, “Don’t be afraid to ask your Father for anything.” Dare to do something new. Remember God’s pattern of providing more than we could have hoped for.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results. So mom? Wife? Friend? If there’s something in your life you deeply, desperately want to change, something you feel in your soul that God has for you, it’s time to try something different.

This year, when God calls us to do or say something, we will respond with confidence: *“Because you say so, I will” (Luke 5:5, NIV).*

ENJOY THE JOY

04

*I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

PSALM 16:8-11, NIV



For too long, we've lived afraid, fending for ourselves and letting fear dictate our lives. But anxiety was never meant to be our guide. It may have protected us in moments, but it has also built walls that kept joy out. To be absorbed by joy means releasing the constant need to control, defend and strive.

We've bought the lie that if certain things in our life were different, then we could relax and enjoy ourselves. But you don't actually need to buy that red-light mask, to upgrade your kitchen, or for your kid to "make good choices" to be filled with joy. Joy is a relief. It is enjoying the small things, and it is a defiant resistance to darkness. It's time to enjoy the joy.



One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

LUKE 5:1-11, NIV

This passage describes Jesus teaching by the Lake of Gennesaret (also known as the Sea of Galilee). The Lake of Gennesaret was a hub of economic activity, primarily fishing. The image of Jesus teaching here is significant—it's a space of work and routine and is not the synagogue or temple. This underscores the accessibility of Jesus' ministry. The Word of God meets people where they are and moves seamlessly between the ordinary and the miraculous.



The Platform

Being seen can feel vulnerable. Simon's lack of success was witnessed by Jesus—a reminder that life is often messy and humbling. Even Jesus, during his time on earth, faced the complexities of being seen. The creator of life took the same risk we do every day: to be seen and known for who we truly are. As a reflection of his image, you have the power to do the same.

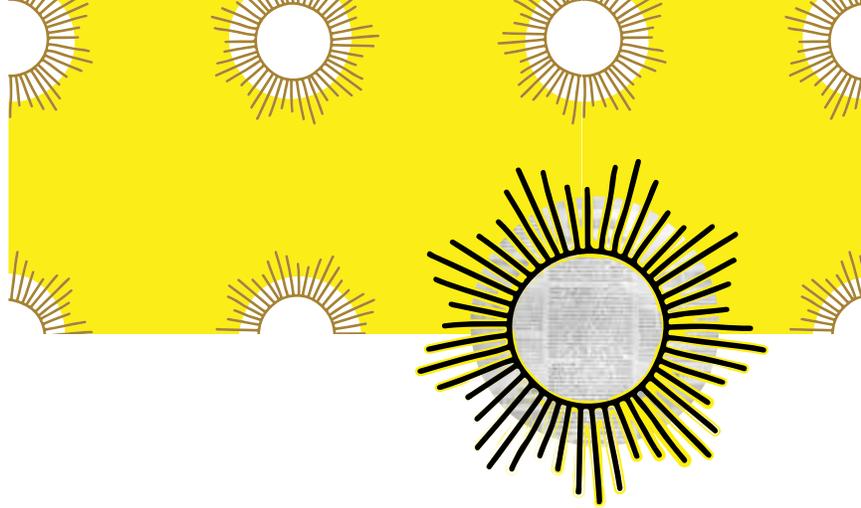
As the crowd around Jesus swells, he steps onto Simon Peter's boat to teach. This small act carries profound symbolism: Peter's boat, the tool of his trade, becomes a platform for a bigger calling. Jesus often begins his work in the ordinary aspects of our lives, inviting us to discover new purpose and meaning in our routines.

The Miracle

When Jesus instructs Peter to *“Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch”* (Luke 5:4, NIV), Peter's initial response reflects exhaustion, frustration and skepticism: *“Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything”* (Luke 5:5, NIV). A seasoned fisherman, Peter knows the futility of fishing during this time of day. Yet, his willingness to give it a try demonstrates curious faith—*“because you say so, I will let down the nets”* (Luke 5:5, NIV). His trust in Jesus outweighs his instinctive fear of looking foolish and gives him courage to reject that fear.

The result is astonishing: a catch so massive that the nets begin to break, and the boats start to sink. This miracle reveals Jesus' authority over creation and foreshadows the abundance that comes from obedience to his Word. But the miracle isn't just about fish—it's about the kingdom of God breaking into the mundane, showing us how his power transforms even our frustrations into fruitfulness.

The sheer magnitude of the catch necessitates Simon Peter calling for help from his friends. God's blessings are never meant to be hoarded—they are meant to overflow, drawing others in so they can be experienced together.



The Power of Words

This is an utterly unprecedented catch of fish in a location that seemed hopelessly unproductive the night before. And it was caught at the powerful and authoritative word of Jesus. This power is in the Word of Christ. Romans tells us that *“faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ”* (Romans 10:17, NIV). At your word, *“I will let down the nets.”* God pursues the frustrated, and shows that he is able to do in seconds what Simon Peter was not able to accomplish all night.

Owning His Story

Overwhelmed by the miracle, Peter falls at Jesus' feet and declares, *“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”* (Luke 5:8, NIV). This moment echoes the experiences of Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5) and others who, when confronted with God's holiness, become acutely aware of their own sinfulness. Peter's humility, however, doesn't push Jesus away. Instead, Jesus elevates his calling: *“Do not be afraid; from now on you will fish for people”* (Luke 5:10, NIV). In this moment, Jesus calls his first disciples, and Simon Peter moves from shame to purpose. We get to witness how Jesus cares for us when we are frustrated, disappointed or embarrassed. Grief has an exposing, humiliating quality to it, but Jesus is not shaken by the indignities of disappointment. Instead, he offers dignifying grace that provides and redeems.

Have Faith

They *“left everything and followed him”* (Luke 5:11, NIV). This decisive moment marks a radical shift for Peter and his companions. The metaphor of “catching men” signifies a new mission: to draw others into the kingdom of God. It's a shift from material provision to eternal impact, from striving to surrender.

This miracle is not just a display of power but a didactic moment—a teaching miracle. It reveals that Jesus' commands often defy logic, yet obedience to his Word yields profound results.

ENJOY THE JOY



The Joy of Obedience

Throughout the Bible, God asks people to do unusual things. Moses was led to extend his staff over the sea. Gideon was instructed to dismiss all but 300 of his army. Joshua was told to march around Jericho seven times, then blow the trumpets and shout. Naman was commanded to dip in the water not just once but seven times. Noah was asked to build an ark before any rain was in the forecast.

And Jesus, especially in Luke 5 and 6, repeatedly asks people to take actions that seem unusual. After healing a leper, Jesus instructed the man not to tell anyone, but to “*go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them*” (Luke 5:14, NIV). Later, in verse 24, Jesus tells a paralyzed man to “*get up, take your mat and go home*” (NIV)—the very thing the man was unable to do. Yet, when he attempted to stand, he was completely healed. In Luke 6:10, another man with a withered hand was told by Jesus to “*Stretch out your hand*” (NIV), and when he did so, his hand was fully restored. The result of obedience is relief, healing and joy.

Even today, many of God’s commands challenge our logic: Forgive those who offend you. Pray for your enemies. Turn the other cheek when wronged. Be generous with our resources instead of thinking only about ourselves. God’s instructions frequently challenge human reasoning. May we be people who know the power of obedience and making moves in faith, even when it’s awkward.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Obedience leads to abundance. Small faithful steps lead to miraculous breakthroughs.

- **Following Jesus is not just about belief but action.** Following Jesus requires leaving behind the familiar, doing the unusual when God asks and embracing a new identity and mission.
- **Authenticity heals.** Sharing our unfiltered stories creates space for others to heal, too.
- **God's Word transforms.** Jesus' Word brings purpose, meaning and a new perspective, even to the most ordinary aspects of our lives.
- **Awkwardness invites growth.** Avoiding awkwardness prevents progress; embracing it builds resilience.
- **We can trust Jesus with situations that seem frustrating, futile or that don't make sense.** Jesus meets us in our moments of frustration and shows that he can accomplish in seconds what we can't achieve in a lifetime.
- **Weakness isn't a liability and doesn't disqualify us from being called by God.** Peter's confession of sinfulness reminds us that Jesus calls imperfect people.
- **We're never alone.** Jesus meets us in our frustration, redeems our mess and invites us into purpose.

As we step into this year, what are the "nets" God is asking you to cast? How is Jesus transforming your daily work and relationships into opportunities?

May we joyfully embrace awkwardness because we know it's the vehicle for more powerful connection in our lives. May our faith give us the strength needed to overcome our deepest doubts, disappointments and frustrations. And finally, may we stretch out our arms in faithful expectation of the abundance of God, and discover a bounty of goodness too big to hold—so big, in fact, that we can't help but share it everywhere we go.