



*The
Gospel of Mark*

Mind the Gap

Mark 12:18-27

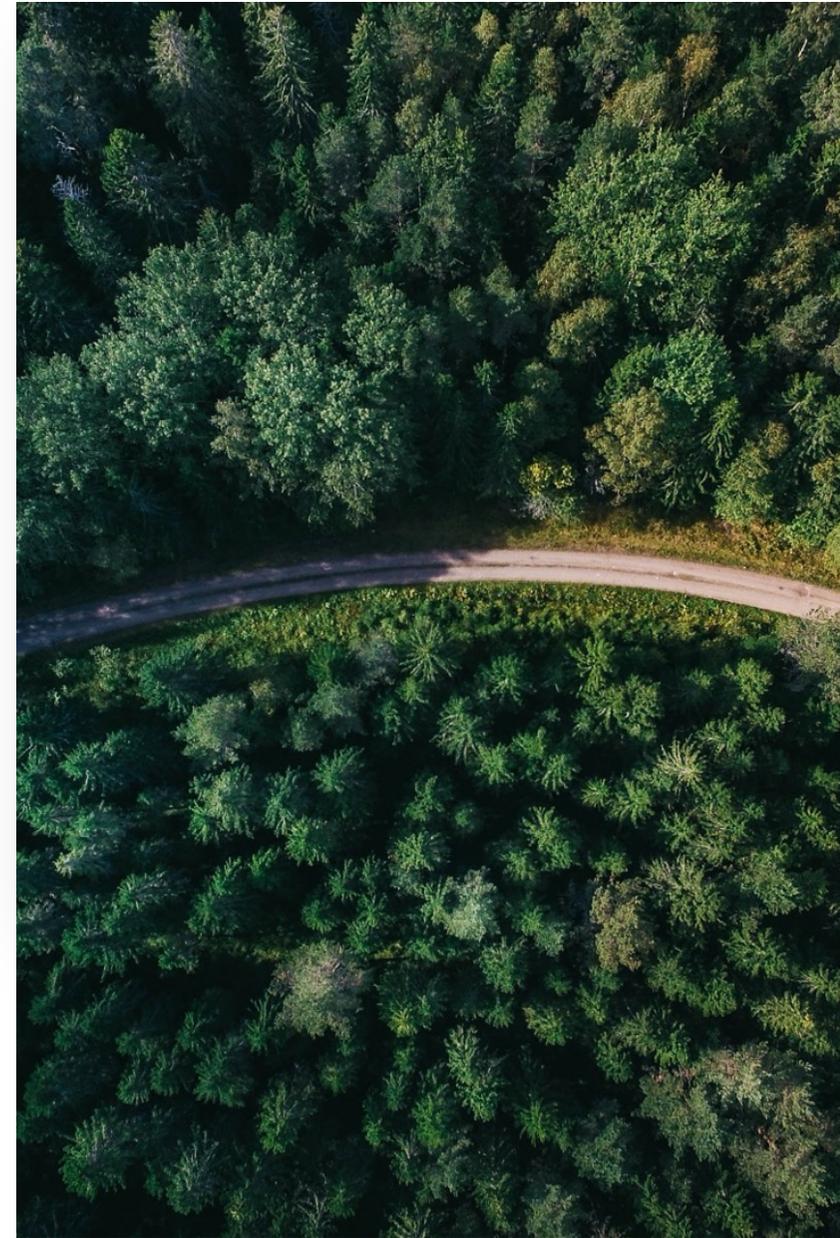
Mark 12:18-19

¹⁸ Then Jesus was approached by some **Sadducees**—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question:

¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother’s name.”^[Deut 25:5-6]

NOTE

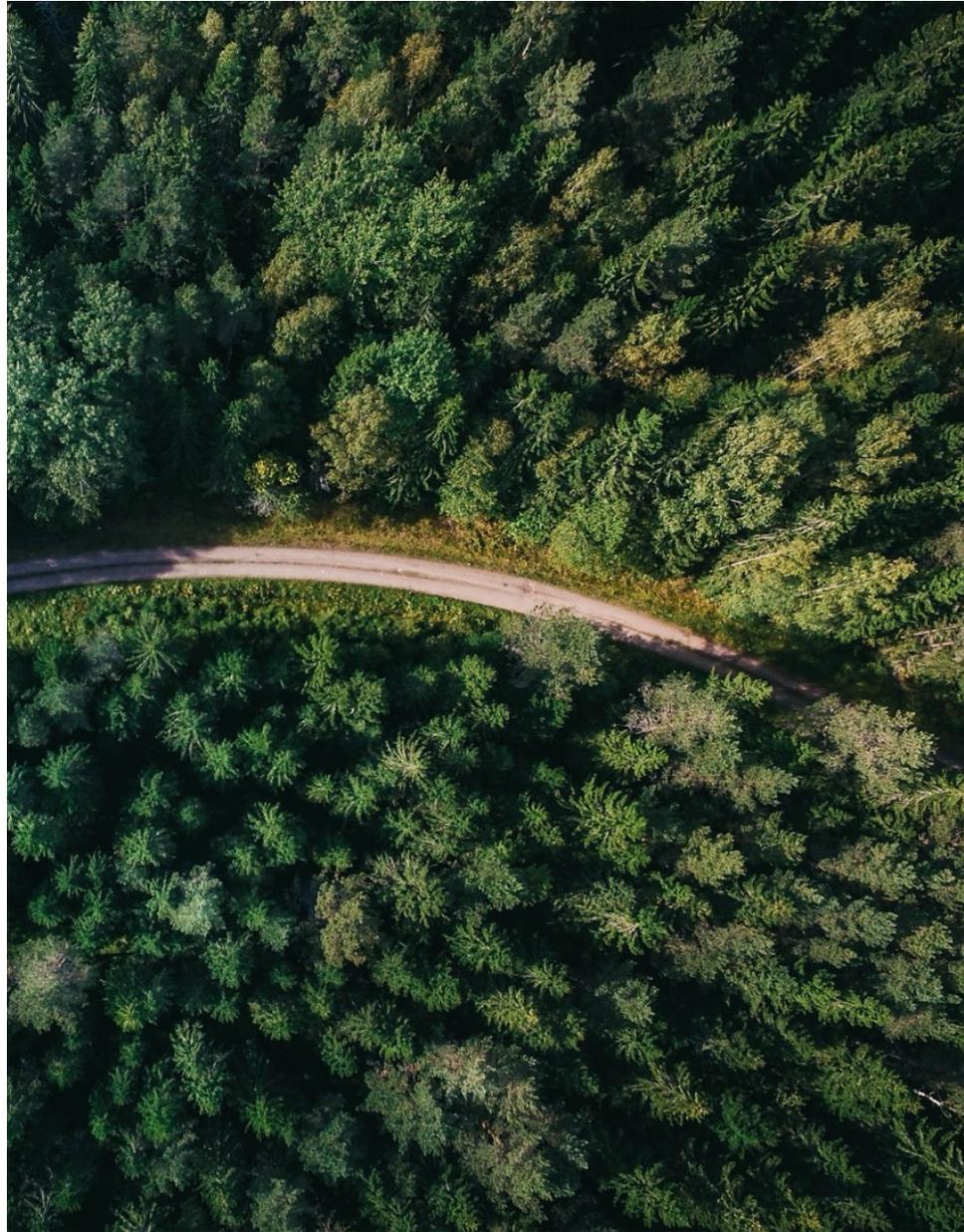
This wasn’t a trap; it was a **test**.





olam haba
“life in the world/age to come”

...Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. (Mark 12:18)



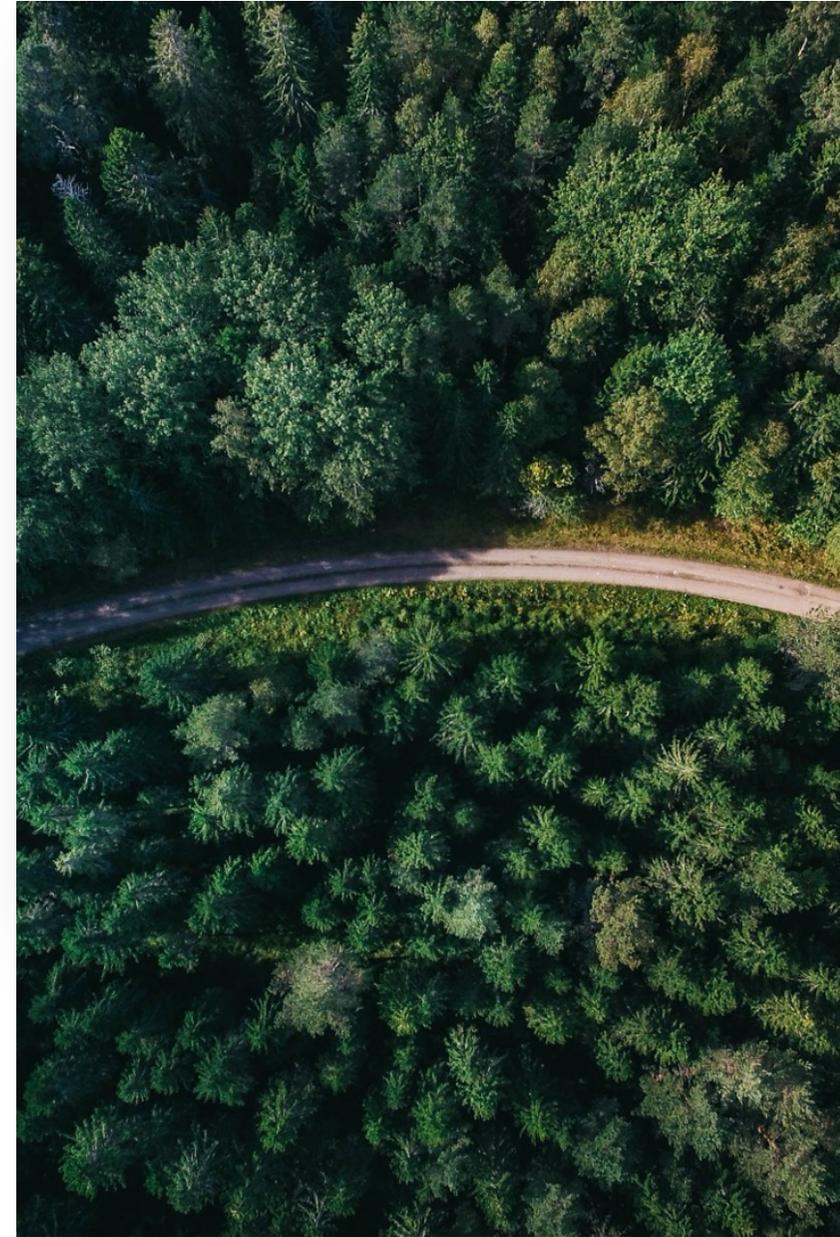
Deuteronomy 25:5-10

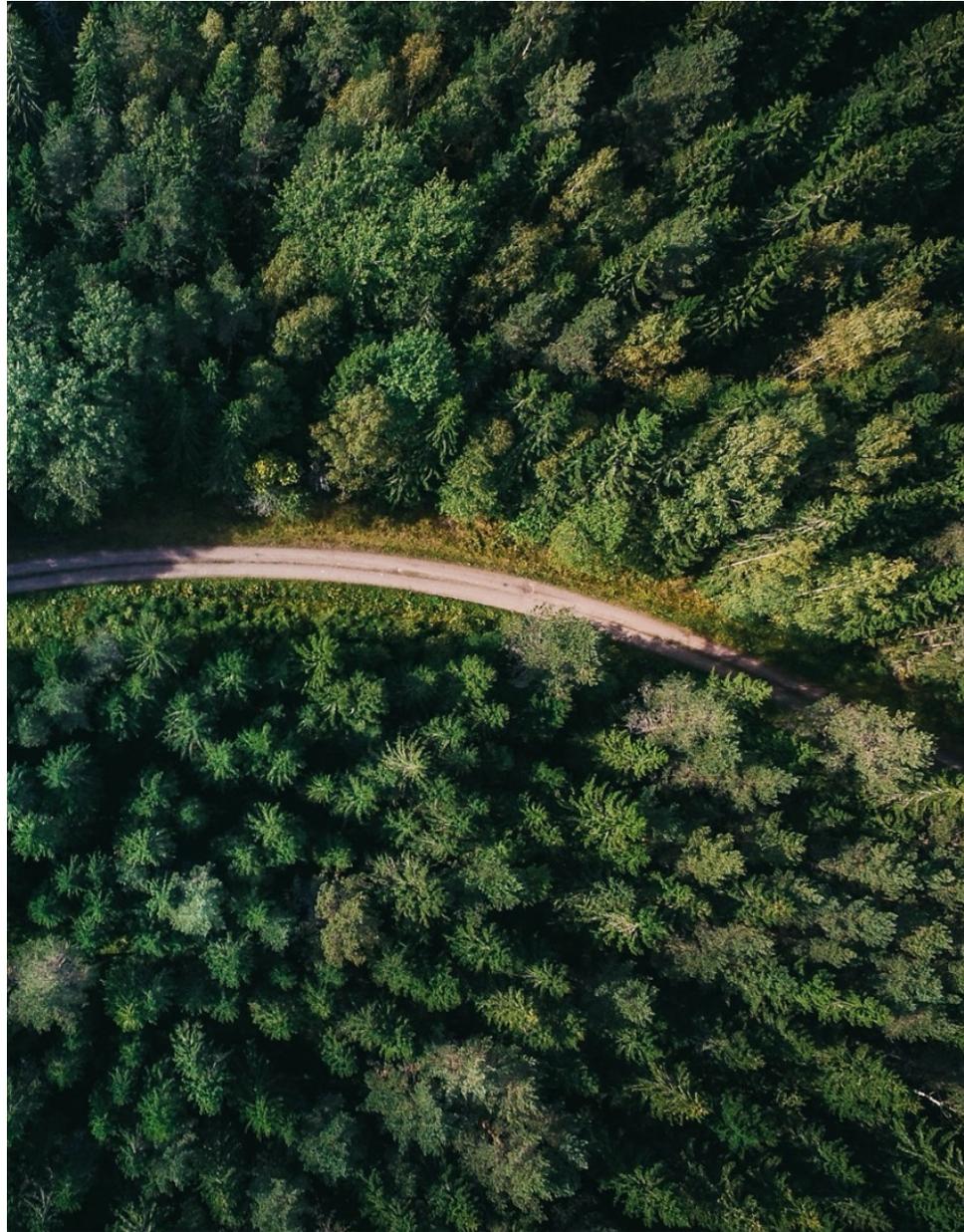
Laws around levirate marriage (*yibbum*).

- Maintain family lineage
- Securing inheritance
- Support for the widow
- Public shame for refusal

Mark 12:20-23

²⁰ Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. ²¹ So the second brother married the widow, but he also died without children. Then the third brother married her. ²² This continued with all seven of them, and still there were no children. Last of all, the woman also died. ²³ So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.”





Acts 23:6-8

⁶ Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.”

⁷ When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

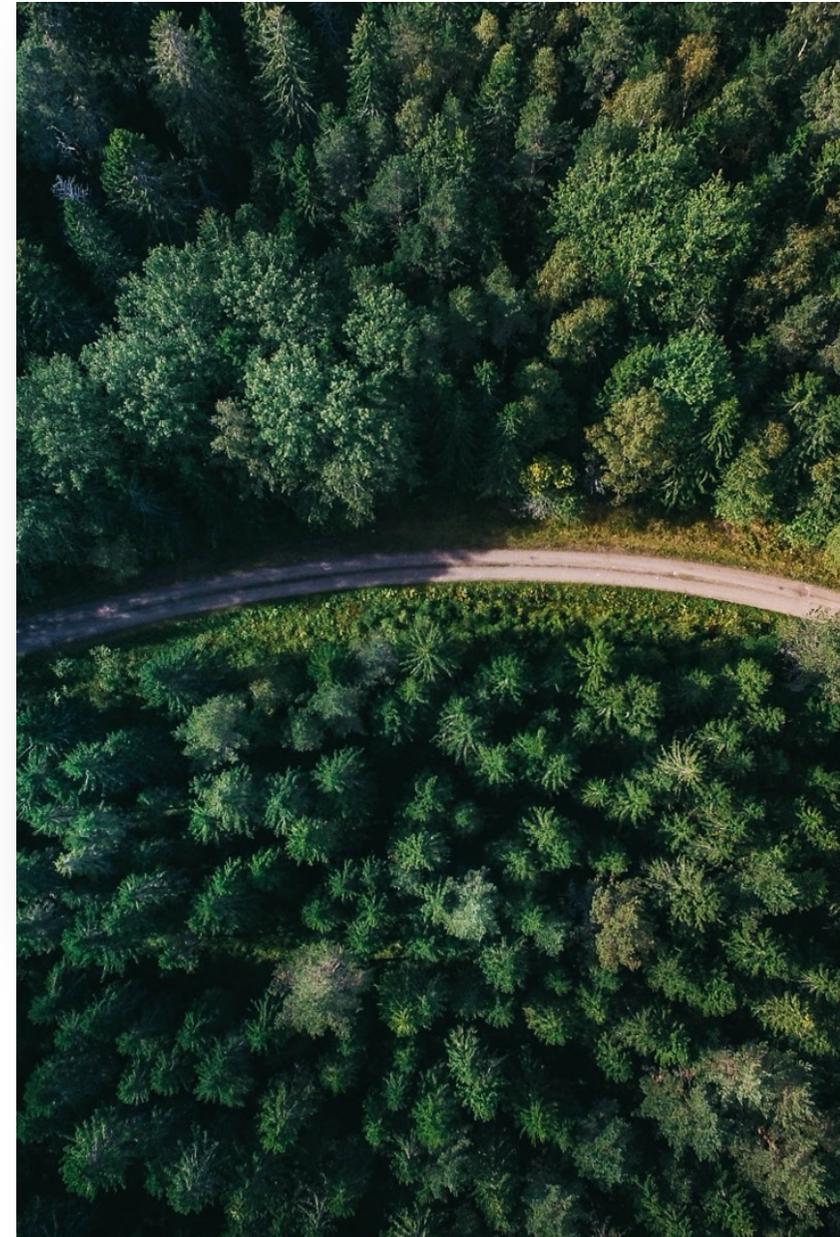
Mark 12:24-25

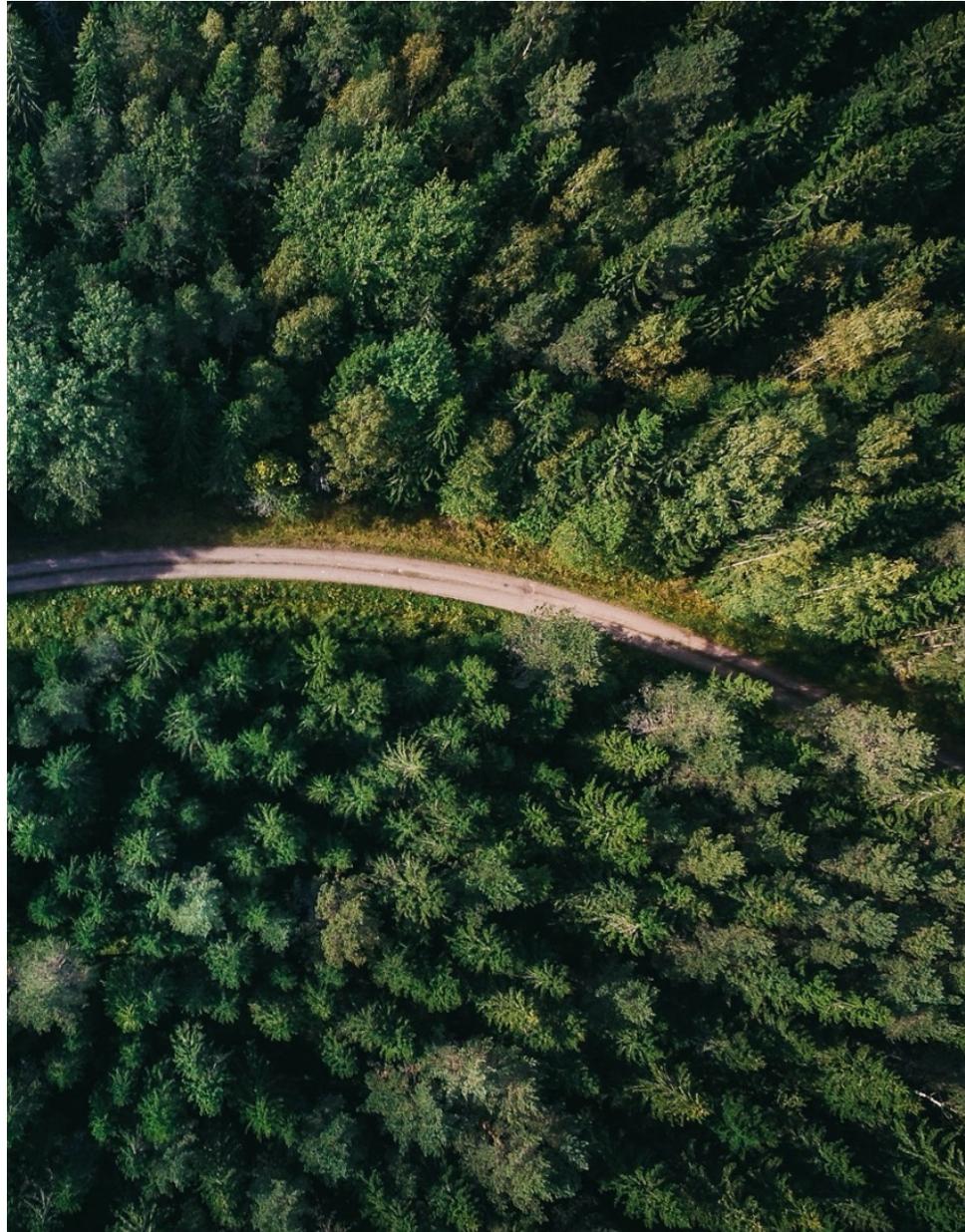
²⁴ Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. ²⁵ For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.”

Sadducees
used Yibbum !



It's not very
effective...





Deuteronomy 25:4

⁴ “You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.”

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Laws around levirate marriage (*yibbum*).

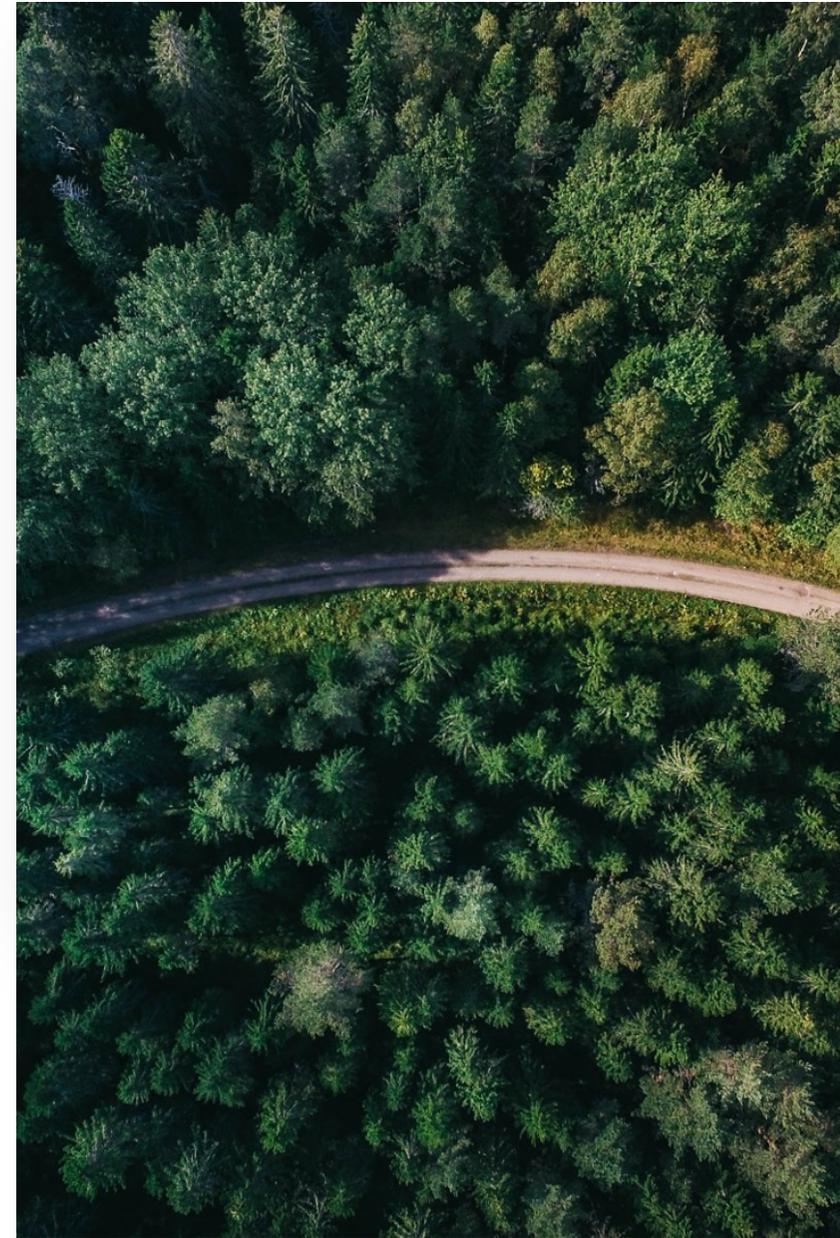
- Maintain family lineage
- Securing inheritance
- Support for the widow
- Public shame for refusal

Deuteronomy 25:11-12

¹¹ “If two Israelite men get into a fight and the wife of one tries to rescue her husband by grabbing the testicles of the other man, ¹² you must cut off her hand. Show her no pity.”

Mark 12:24-25

²⁴ Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. ²⁵ For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.”





WE ARE INVITED TO ASK

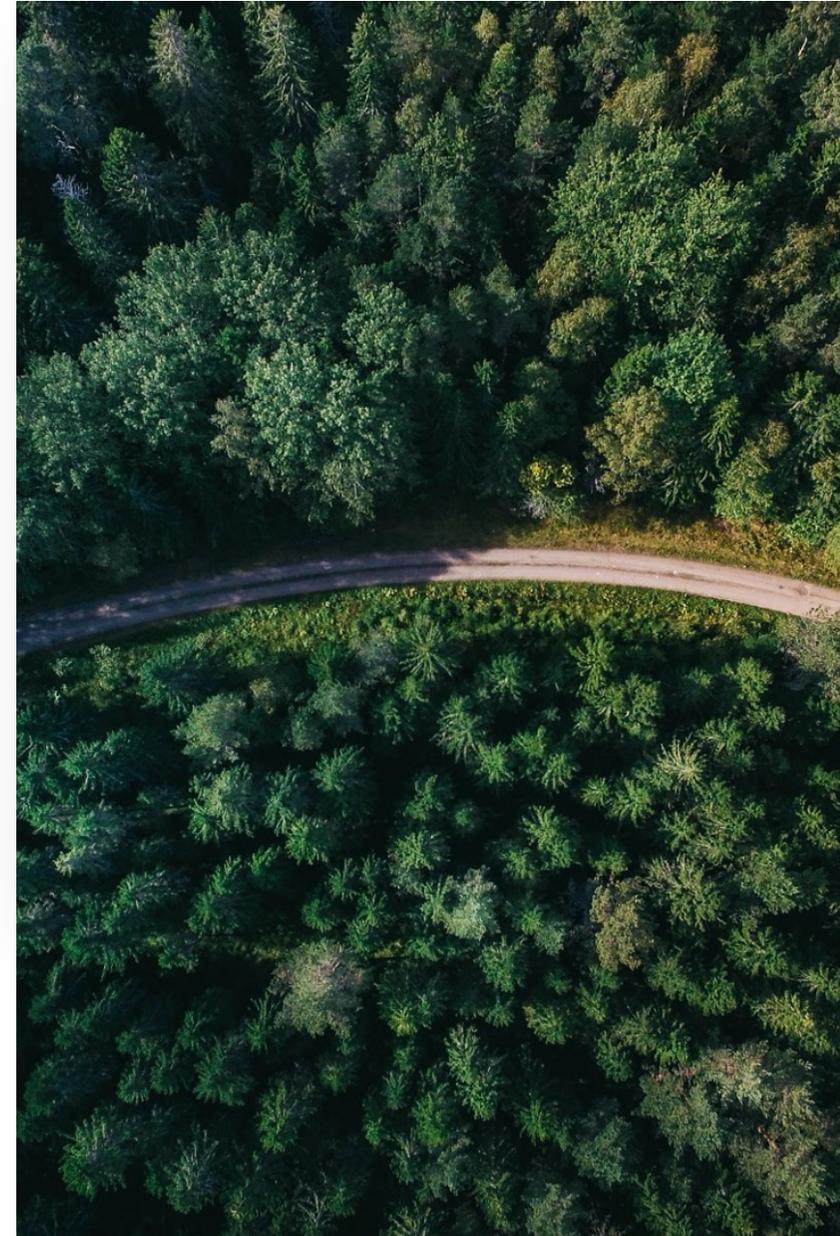
Do we know the **Scriptures** and the
power of God?

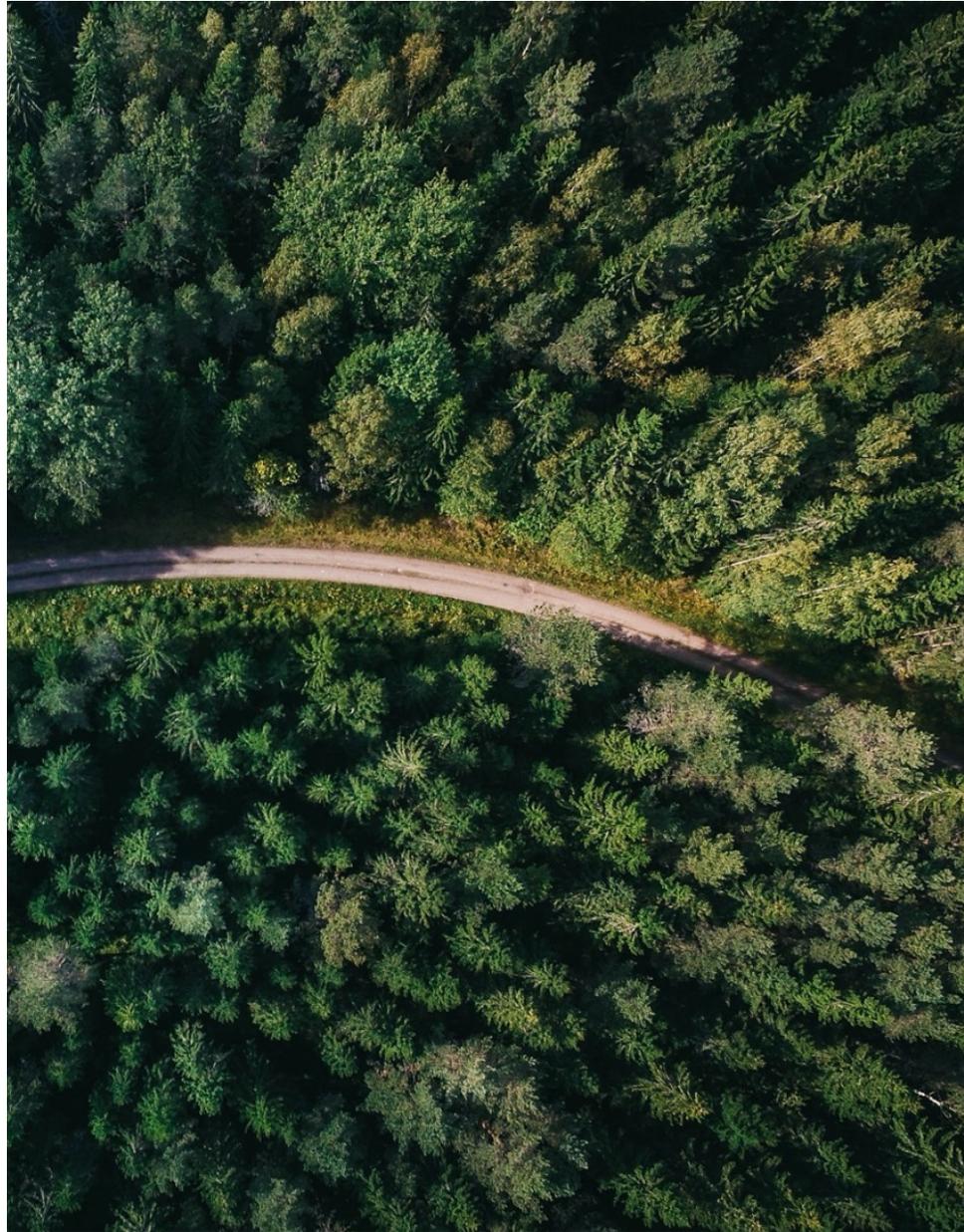
Mark 12:26-27

²⁶ “But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—haven’t you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’^[Exodus 3:6]

²⁷ So he is the God of the living, not the dead. You have made a serious error.”

This wasn’t a semantic use of tense.
This was an invitation to repentance.



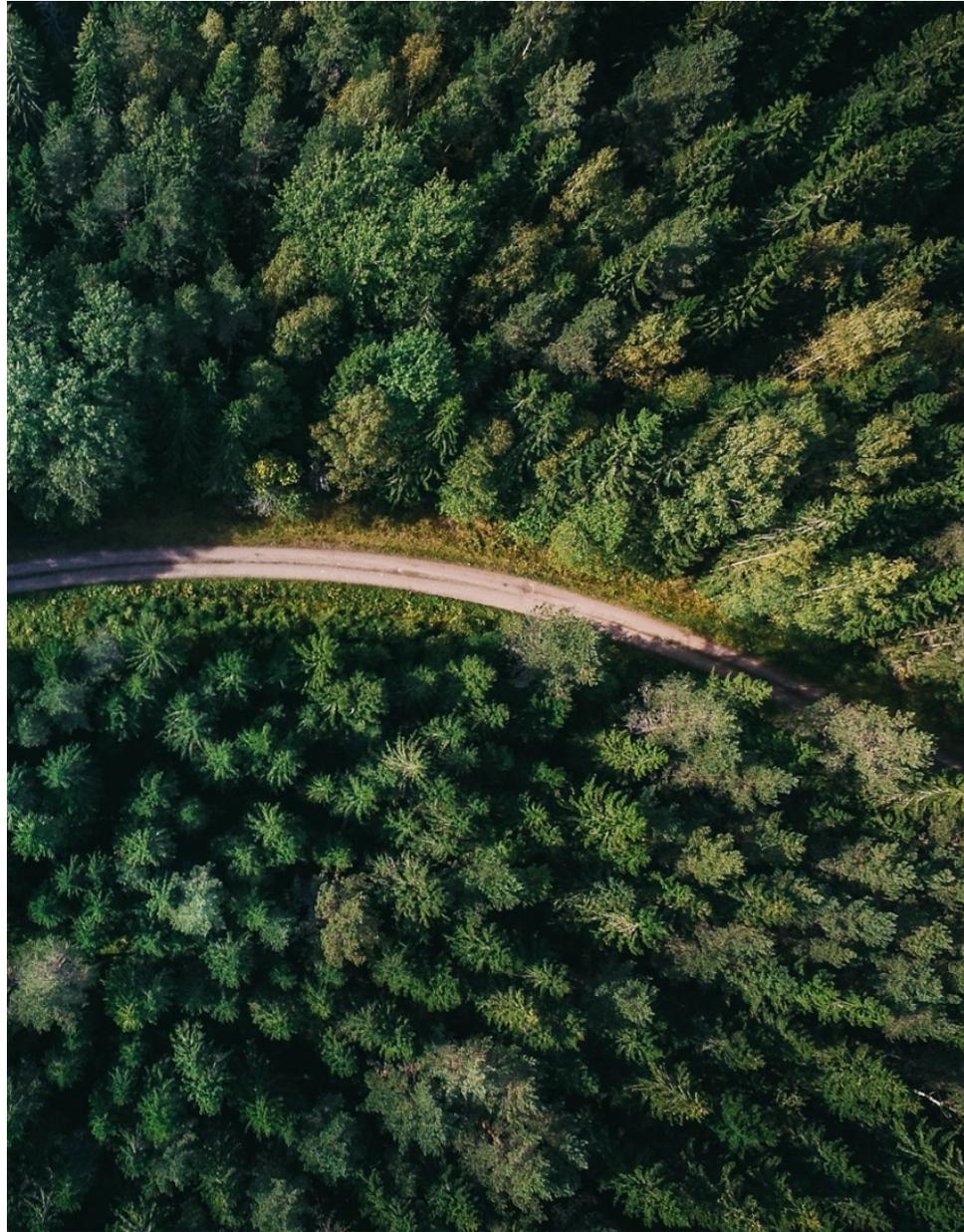


Exodus 3:1-3

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

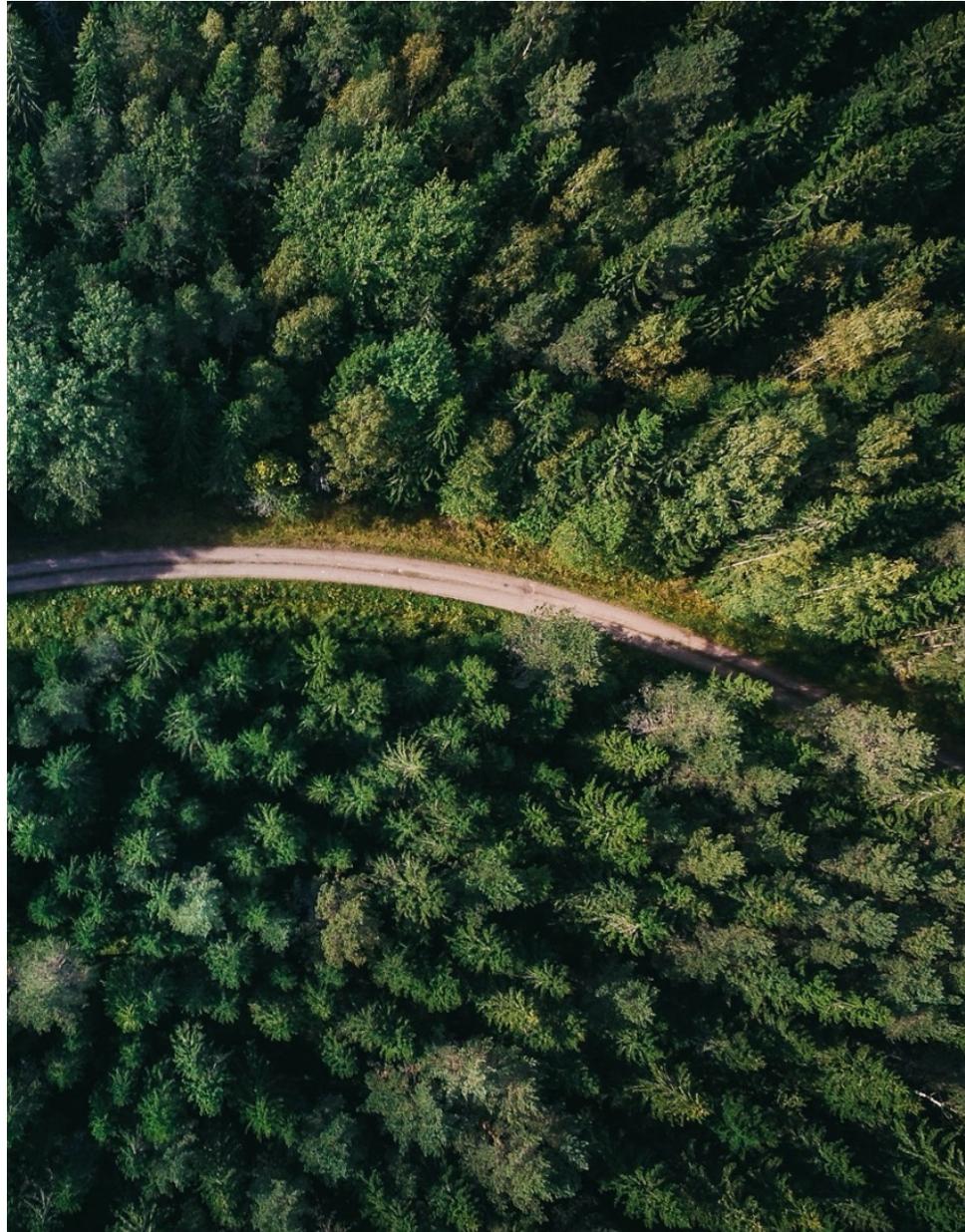


Exodus 3:4-6

⁴ When the Lord saw Moses **coming to take a closer look**, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

“Here I am!” Moses replied.

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶ **I am** the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.



24 Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.

But now, Sadducees as you too tend the sheep with your gaps, misappropriated truths, and limited perspective...

Learn what Moses learnt...

- Be **attentive** to unexpected/illogical power
- Be willing to **take a closer look**.



Jesus points out the weakness of their **premise**, while sharing the strength of God's **promise**.

“So he is the God of the **living**, not the dead. You have made a serious error.” (Mark 12:27)