A miniature model of a traditional Middle Eastern house, likely made of mud-brick or stone, with a prominent domed roof. The house has several small, dark rectangular openings for windows and a central doorway. To the left of the house is a small, simple table with a flat top and thin legs. The entire scene is set on a sandy, textured surface, possibly representing a desert or arid environment. The background is a blurred, natural landscape with some greenery and a clear sky.

“Talk of Them when You Sit in Your House”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

# “Talk of Them when You Sit in Your House”

- The recipe for a healthy family:
  - Deut. 6:4-9 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

# “Talk of Them when You Sit in Your House”

- Common characteristics of healthy families:
  - They are committed to family unity.
  - They spend quality time together as a family.
  - They have good communication skills within the family.
  - They consistently express appreciation to each other.
  - They apply problem-solving skills in times of crisis.
  - They have a commitment to a wholesome spiritual life.

*(Nick Stinnett, PhD., University of Nebraska)*

# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

- We must learn to love God before all others, including family
  - Deut. 6:4-5 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

- Verse 4 is the “Shema,” which comes from the Hebrew command translated “Hear.”
- Literally the Hebrew is, “the Lord, our God, the Lord, one.” God is unique, one in essence and being, and alone is God. There are no other gods.
- The word for God is plural (elohim), implying the Trinity, and “one” declares harmony in the Godhead.

# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

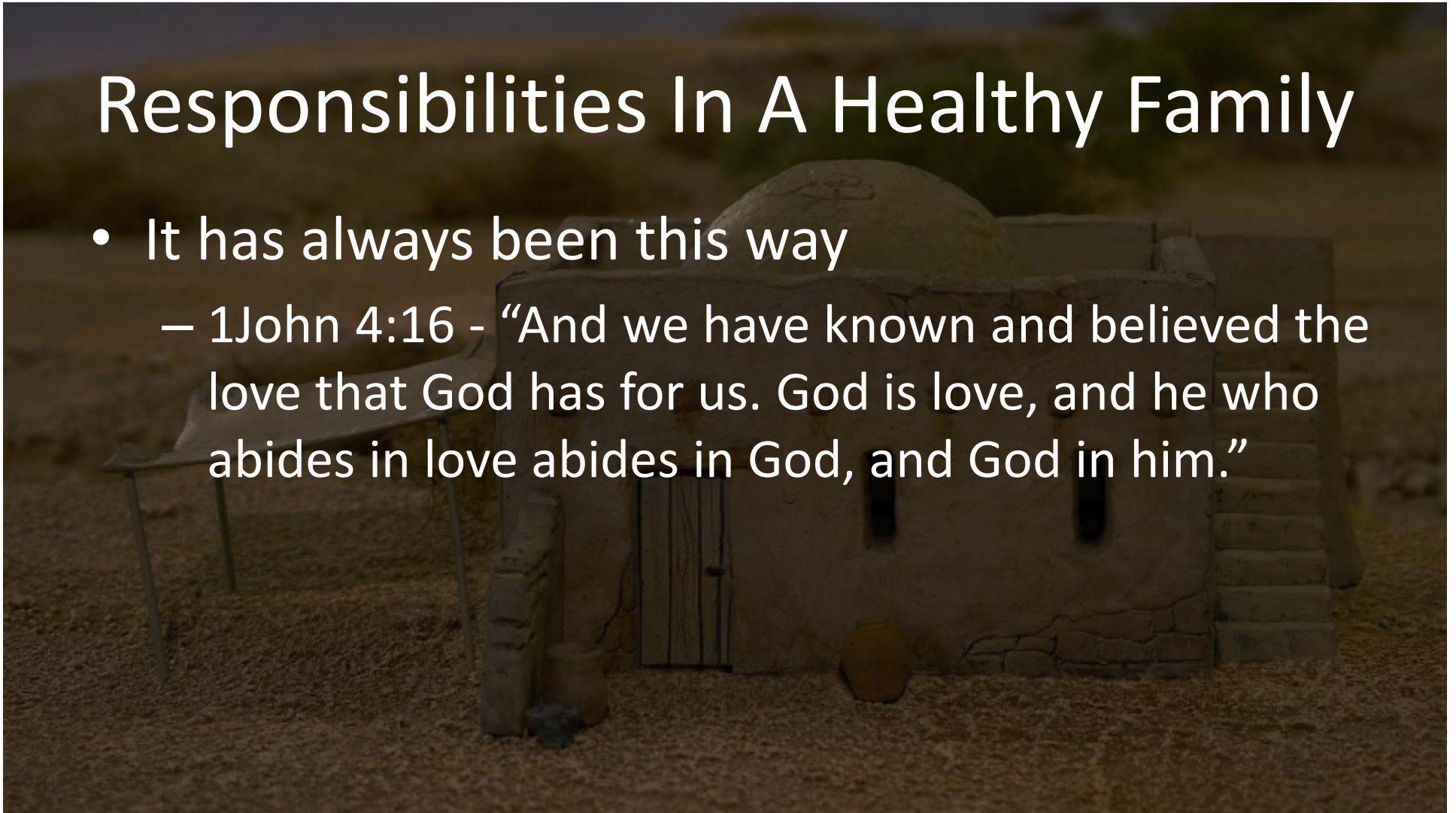
- Our fundamental duty in life is to respond to His love
  - Deut. 6:5 - “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”
  - Deut. 7:9 - “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments”

# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

- Deut. 10:12 - “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him...”
- Deut. 30:19-20 - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

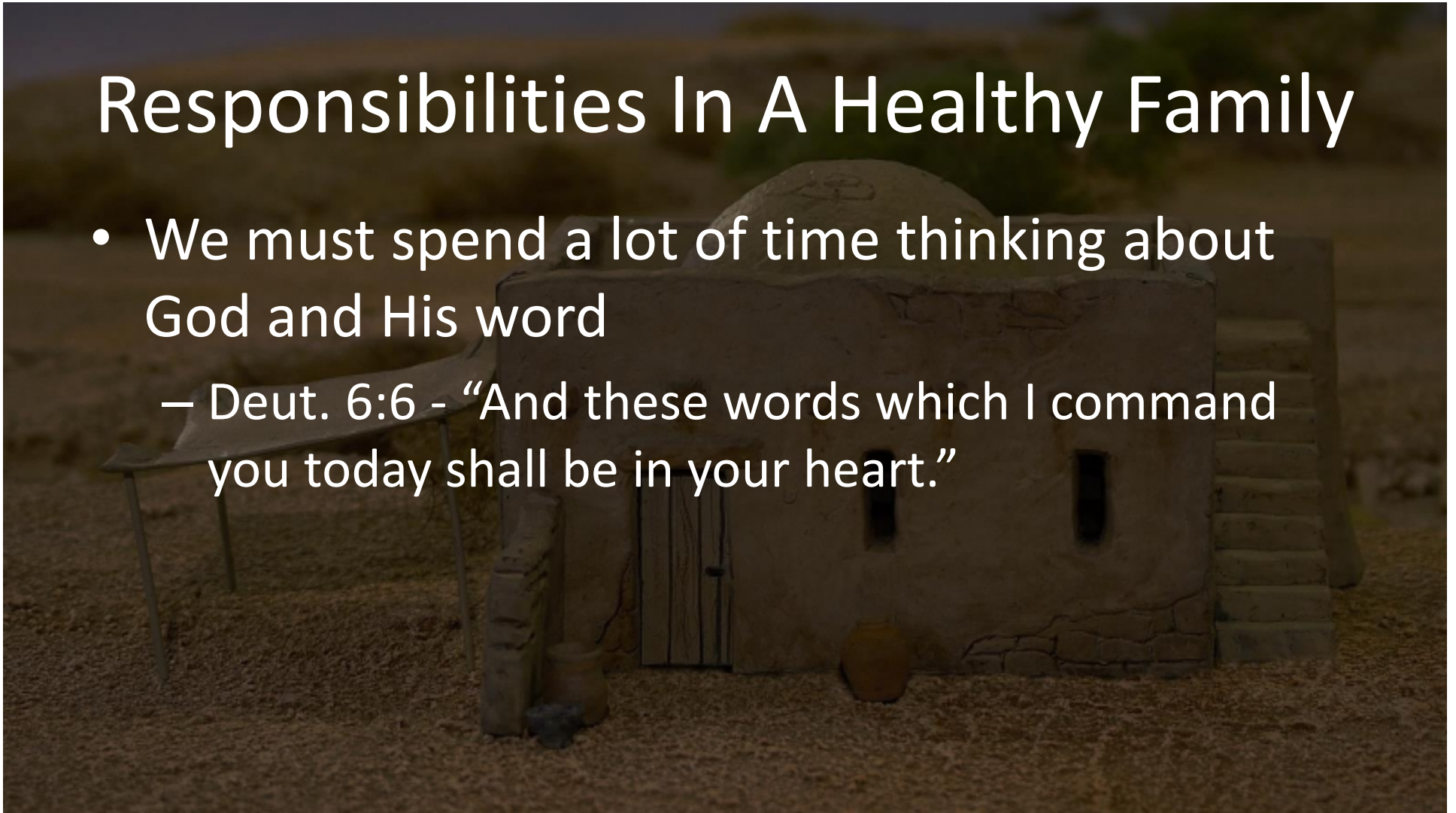
- It has always been this way
  - 1John 4:16 - “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”





# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

- We must spend a lot of time thinking about God and His word
  - Deut. 6:6 - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.”



# Responsibilities In A Healthy Family

- This is our first and facilitating responsibility.
- We cannot give our children what we do not possess.
- Our children are watching us and modeling our attitudes and behaviors about Christ and His church.



# Role Models In A Healthy Family

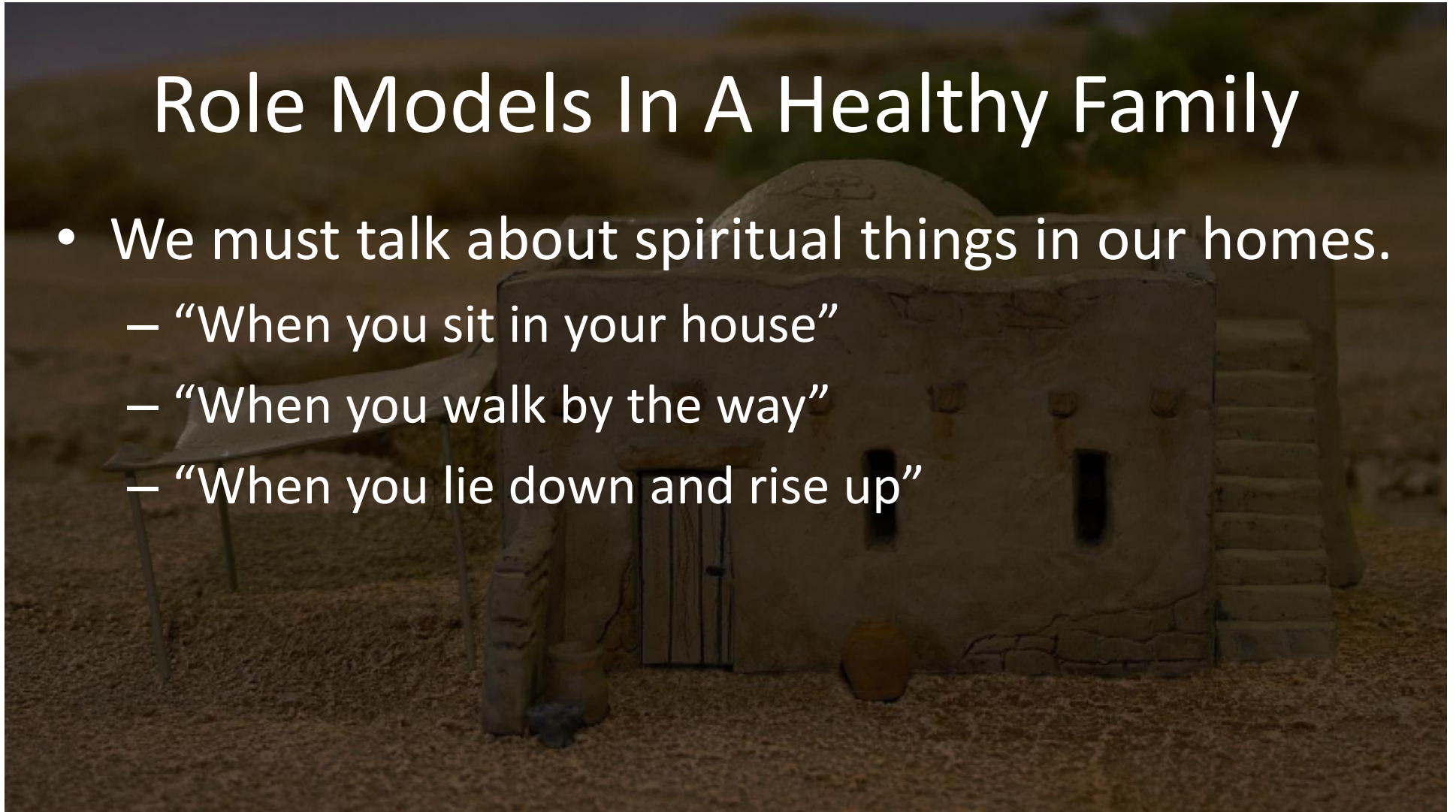
- We must teach by means of our own manner of life
  - Deut. 6:7 - “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”
  - “The commandments were to be the subject of conversation both inside and outside the home, from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. In summary, the commandments were to permeate every sphere of the life of man.” *(P. C. Craig)*

# Role Models In A Healthy Family

- The word “diligently” means “to sharpen, to pierce through, to give a sharp edge, like sharpening a knife.” It is an intensely strong command with the idea of an assertive teaching process in a family setting.
- The Amplified Bible: “You shall whet and sharpen them, so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the minds and hearts of your children.”

# Role Models In A Healthy Family

- We must talk about spiritual things in our homes.
  - “When you sit in your house”
  - “When you walk by the way”
  - “When you lie down and rise up”

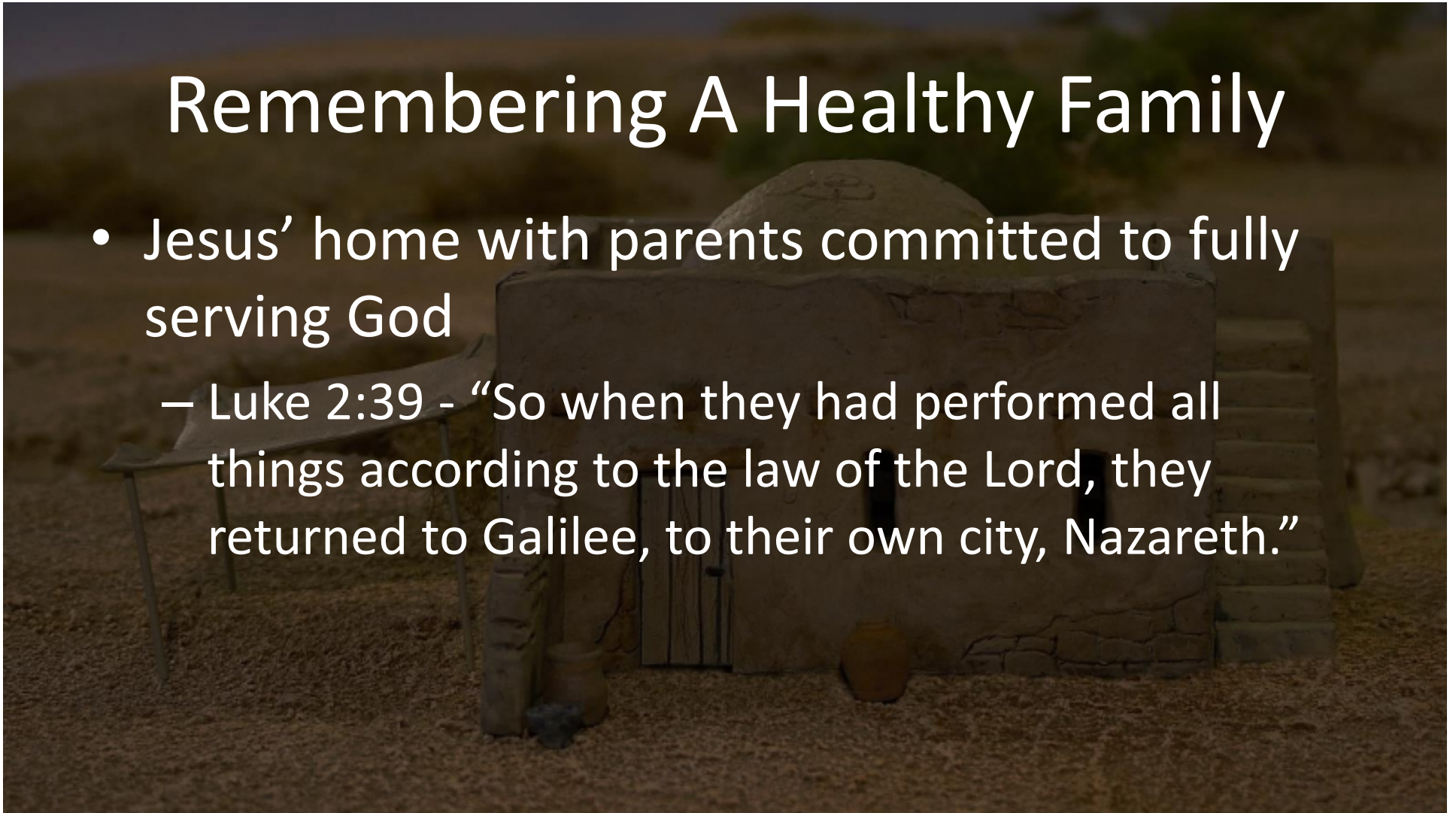


# Role Models In A Healthy Family

- We must make our lives and homes a book read by all
  - Deut. 6:8-9 - “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
  - We don’t need to wear a phylactery
  - We don’t need a mezuzah on our house

# Remembering A Healthy Family

- Jesus' home with parents committed to fully serving God
  - Luke 2:39 - "So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth."



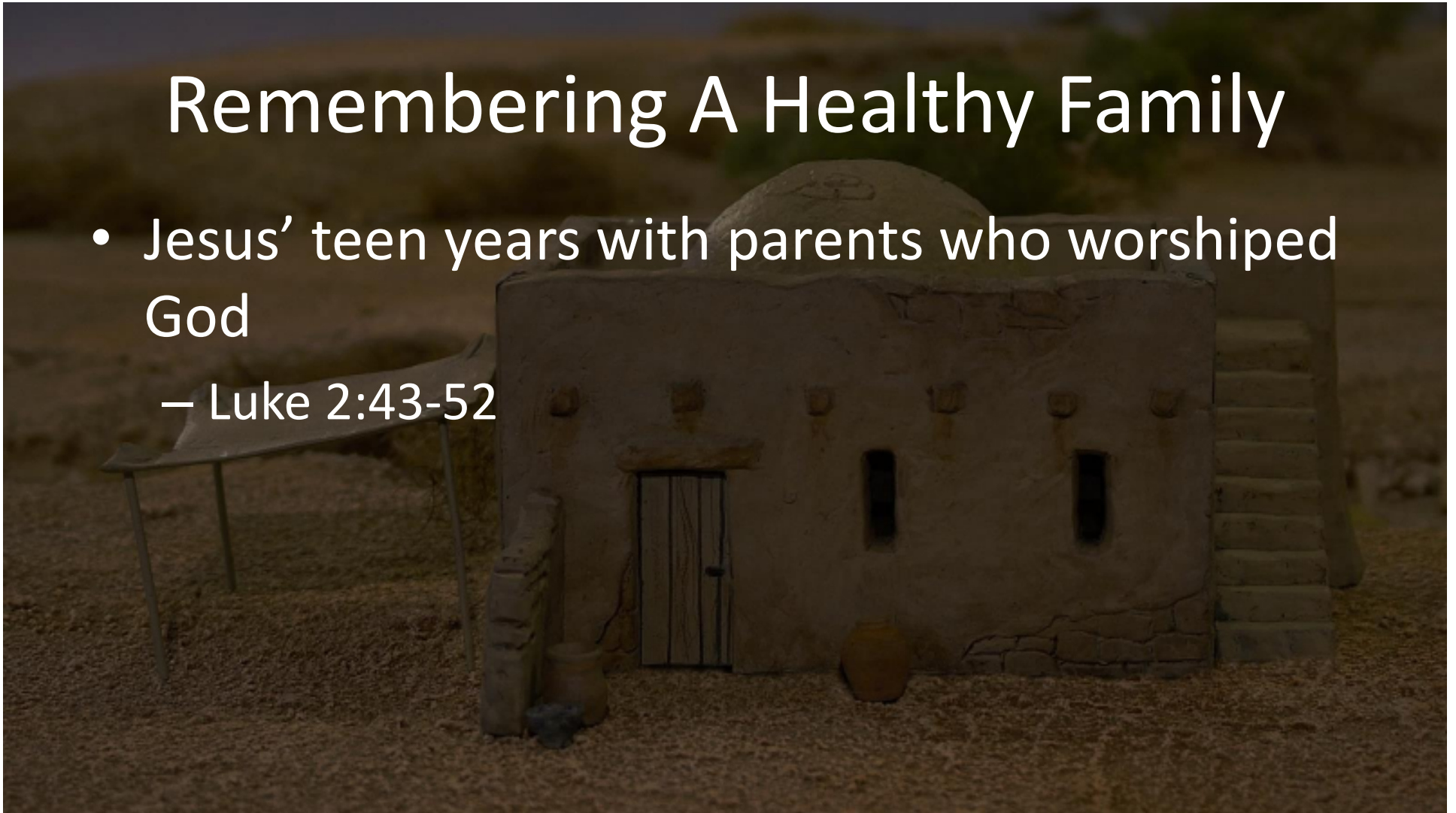
# Remembering A Healthy Family

- Jesus' growing years following his parents' godly example
  - Luke 2:40-42 - "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. 41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast."



# Remembering A Healthy Family

- Jesus' teen years with parents who worshiped God
  - Luke 2:43-52



# Restoring Health To Our Families

- What do you want for your child spiritually?  
Three common approaches:
  - The naive approach
  - The limited emphasis approach to spiritual influence
  - The spiritual foundation approach



# Restoring Health To Our Families

- What do you teach them by your example?
- If the choice is between school work and worship or Bible study, which is the priority?
- If the choice is between fun and spirituality, what choice is made?
- Do you show them the joy of worship or the duty of assembly?
- Do you prepare to worship, or do you just get it out of the way?

# Restoring Health To Our Families

- Do you speak of Christian works as an opportunity and privilege or as an irritating drudgery?
- Do you show them Christian work is a part of our nature, or do you teach them to do just enough to avoid criticism?
- Do you encourage them to get Bible lessons?
- Do you see them read the Bible and pray, as a result of them having seen you read the Bible and pray?

# Restoring Health To Our Families

- What will be the result?
  - 2Tim. 1:5 - “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”
  - 2Tim. 3:15 - “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”