

A dramatic, dark blue-toned landscape painting. In the center, three crosses stand on a hill, silhouetted against a bright, glowing light source that breaks through a stormy, cloudy sky. The light reflects on a body of water in the foreground, creating a shimmering path. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

Prepare the Way



Getting to know you!

2-minute survey

*Scan the QR code or
visit **bbtc.sg/aboutyou***



BETHESDA BEDOK TAMPINES CHURCH



GOD

OF THIS CITY

WELCOME TO BBTC ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE

f BBTC.SG ▶ MYBBTC @ BBTC.SG 📺 BBTC.SG 🎵 BBTC.SG



BETHESDA BEDOK TAMPINES CHURCH

IT ALL STARTS WITH THE **GOOD NEWS**

WELCOME TO BBTC ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE

f BBTC.SG ▶ MYBBTC @ BBTC.SG 📺 BBTC.SG 📶 BBTC.SG



read4to

WEEK 34 • AUGUST 23 - 29			
☒	DATE	WALK <i>Beginner track</i>	RUN <i>Advanced track</i>
SUNDAY		MALACHI OVERVIEW: PAGE 129	
☐	AUGUST 23	MALACHI 2-3	JEREMIAH 52 LAMENTATIONS 1-2
MONDAY		LAMENTATIONS OVERVIEW: PAGE 122	
☐	AUGUST 24	MATTHEW 1-2	LAMENTATIONS 3-5
TUESDAY		MATTHEW OVERVIEW: PAGE 130	
☐	AUGUST 25	MATTHEW 3-4	EZEKIEL 1-3
WEDNESDAY		EZEKIEL OVERVIEW: PAGE 130	



BETHESDA BEDOK TAMPINES CHURCH

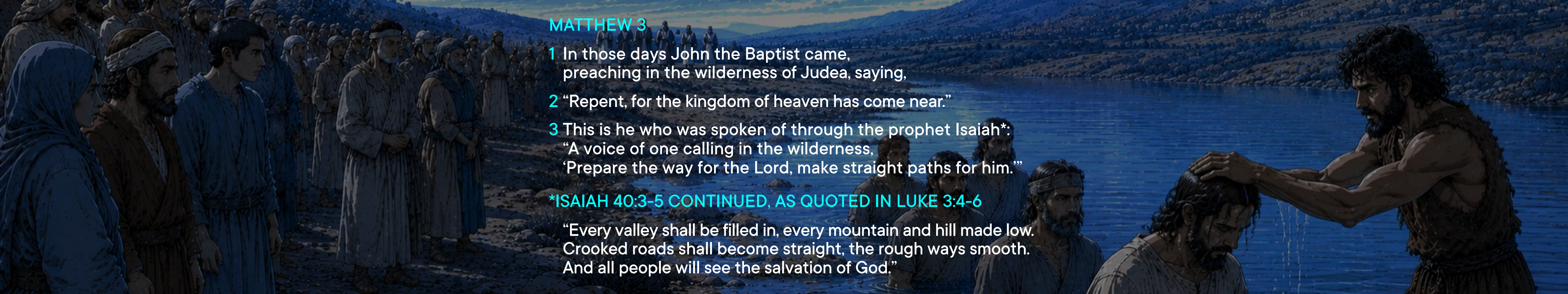
IT ALL STARTS WITH THE
GOOD NEWS

WELCOME TO BBTC ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE

 BBTC.SG  MYBBTC  BBTC.SG  BBTC.SG  BBTC.SG



At the start of all four Gospels,
we find John the Baptist
preaching the Good News.



MATTHEW 3

- 1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,
- 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
- 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah*:
“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

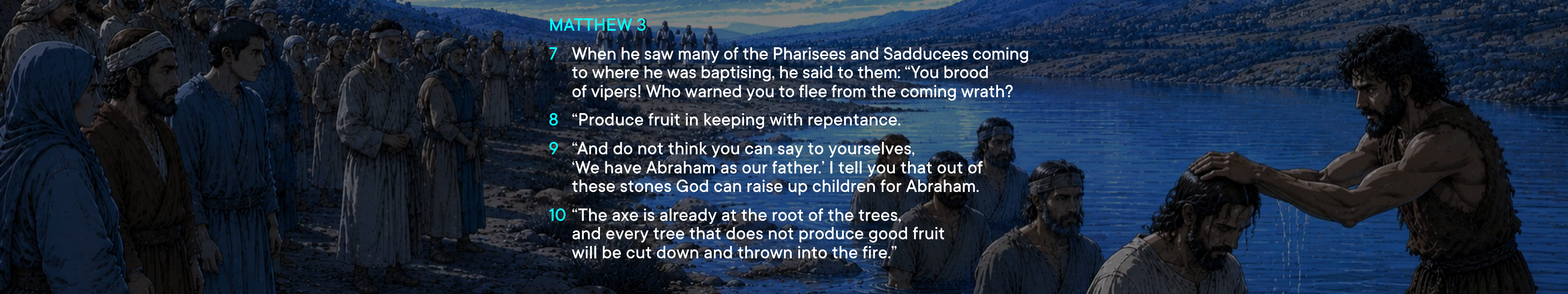
***ISAIAH 40:3-5 CONTINUED, AS QUOTED IN LUKE 3:4-6**

“Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
Crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see the salvation of God.”

MATTHEW 3

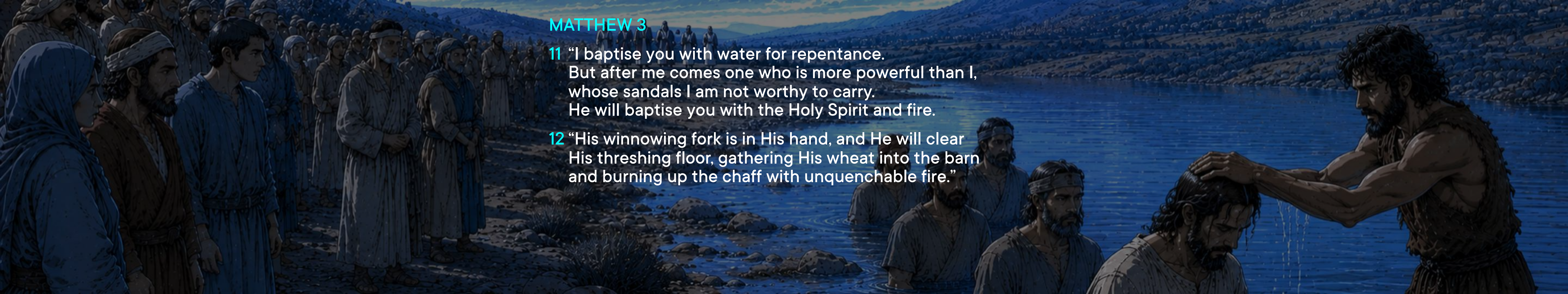
- 4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.
- 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.





MATTHEW 3

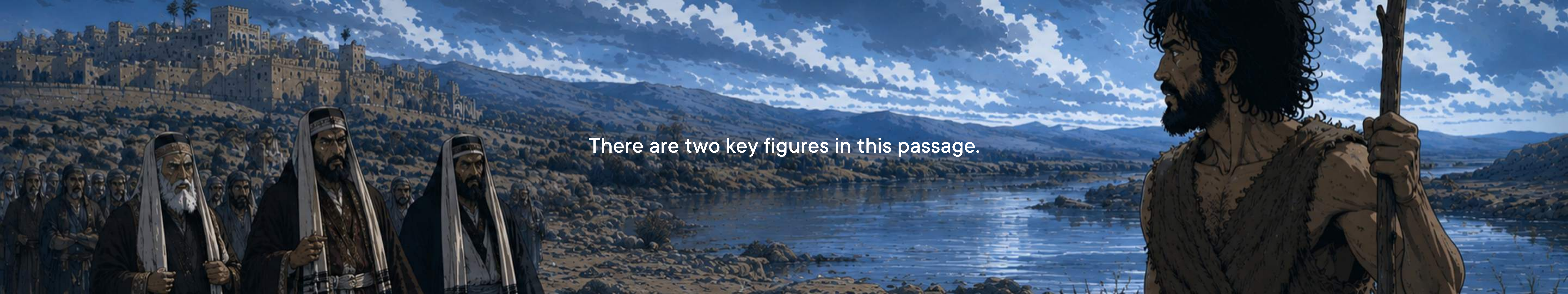
- 7 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”
- 8 “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
- 9 “And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
- 10 “The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”



MATTHEW 3

11 “I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 “His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”



There are two key figures in this passage.

There are two key figures in this passage.

Pharisees & Sadducees

Lay scholars

Wealthy elite

Accept whole Hebrew Bible

Only recognise the Torah

Believed in angels & afterlife

No angels, spirits, resurrection

Resented Roman rule

Cooperated with Romans

Controlled the Synagogues

Controlled Jerusalem Temple



John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Prophetic call.

Isaiah 40:3
A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

John the Baptist



Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Prophetic call.

Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6
I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. ...

Confirmed by Jesus in Luke 7:27

“This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

John the Baptist



Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

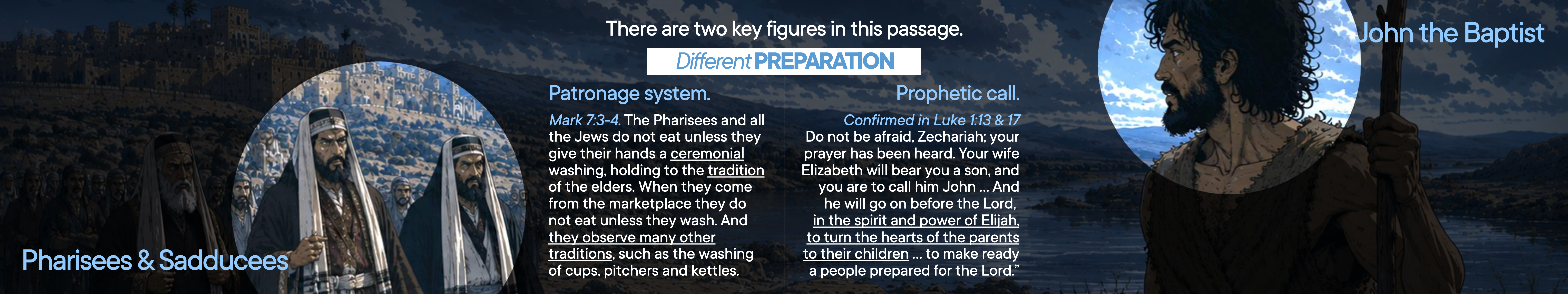
Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Prophetic call.

Malachi 4:5-6
See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents...

John the Baptist





Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Prophetic call.

Confirmed in Luke 1:13 & 17
Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John ... And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."



John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

What is the spirit of Elijah?

- Bows to no other god but God himself
- Bold in the face of persecution
- Calls people to repentance
- Calls for restoration:
Parents to children
Father God to His Creation
- Paves the way (eg Elisha)

Prophetic call.

Confirmed in Luke 1:13 & 17

Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John ... And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

John the Baptist



Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

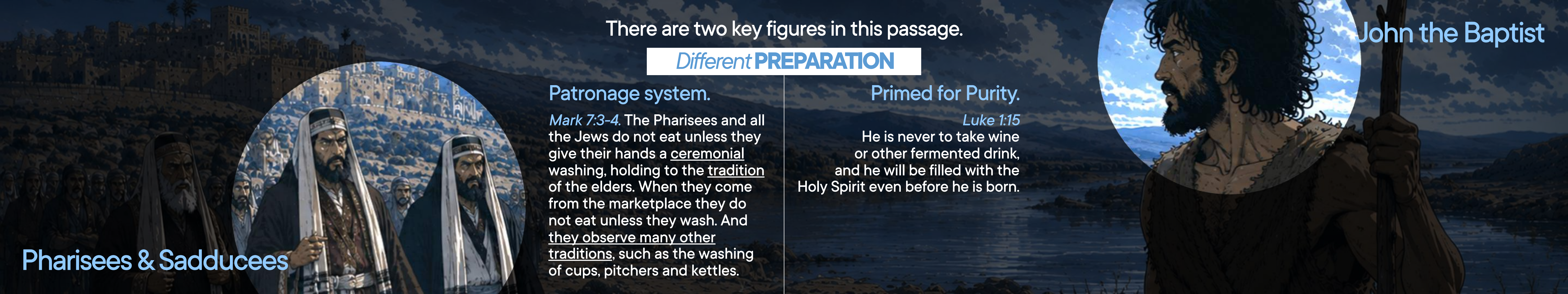
Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Prepared in Private.

Luke 1:13 & 17
And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

John the Baptist





Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREPARATION**

Patronage system.

Mark 7:3-4. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.

Primed for Purity.

Luke 1:15
He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.



John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

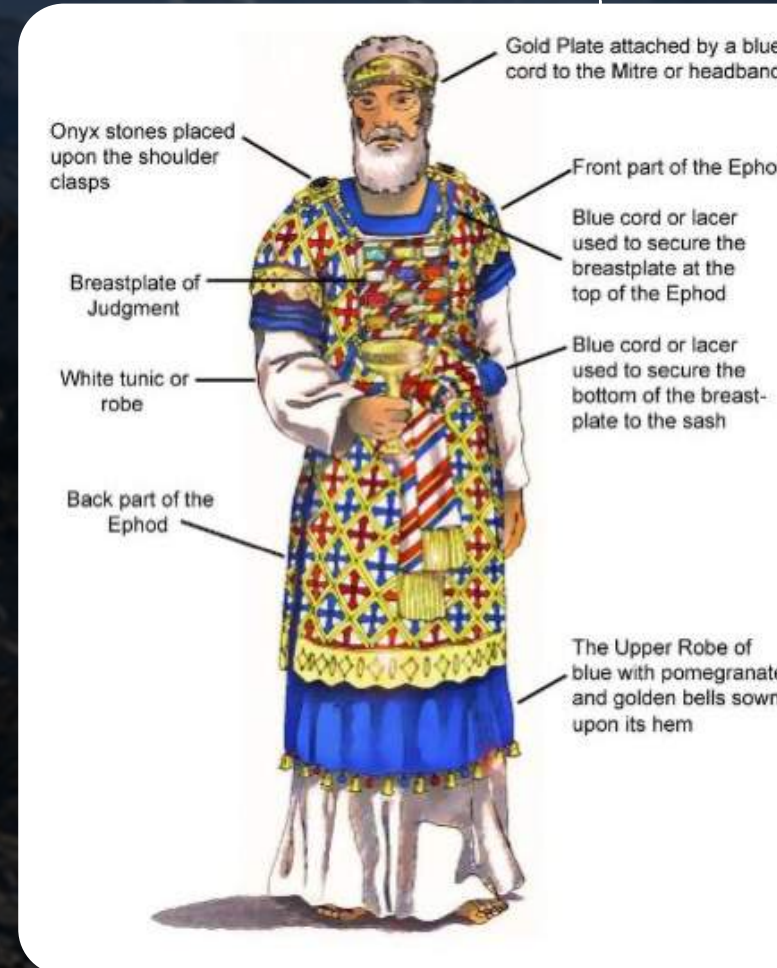


Pompous.

As described in Exodus 28 & 39.

Gold ephod, gold chains, fine linen, precious stones, golden bells – everyone could hear them approach.

Different **PRESENTATION**



John the Baptist

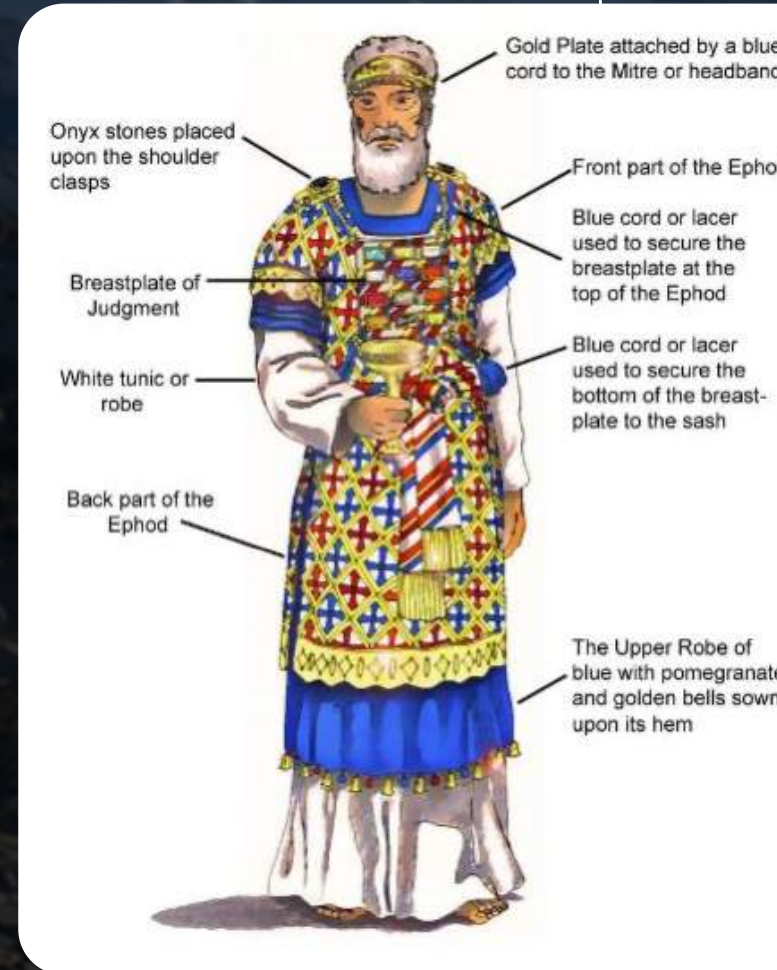


Pharisees & Sadducees



Pompous.

As described in Exodus 28 & 39.
Gold ephod, gold chains, fine linen, precious stones, golden bells – everyone could hear them approach.



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PRESENTATION**

Plain.

Matthew 3:4
“John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.”
Evokes Elijah in 2 Kings 1:8
“He had a garment of hair and ... a leather belt around his waist.”



John the Baptist

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREOCCUPATION**

Prestige.

Matthew 23:2-7

“Everything they do is done for people to see ... they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect ...”

Preparing the Way.

Luke 1:16-17

He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREOCCUPATION**

Prestige.

Matthew 23:2-7

“Everything they do is done for people to see ... they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect ...”

Preparing the Way.

Matthew 3:11

“I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREOCCUPATION**

Prestige.

Matthew 23:2-7

“Everything they do is done for people to see ... they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect ...”

Preaching Repentance

Luke 3:3

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 21:32

“John came to you to show you the way of righteousness...”

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PREOCCUPATION**

Prestige.

Matthew 23:2-7

“Everything they do is done for people to see ... they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect ...”

Preaching Repentance

Luke 3:11-14

“Anyone who has two shirts (and who has food) should share with the one who has none.”

To tax collectors: “Don’t collect any more than you are required to.”

To soldiers: “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **POWER SOURCE**

Position.

Matthew 23:2-7

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.”

John 11:47-48, about Jesus

“If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”

Power of the Holy Spirit

Luke 1:16-17

He will be filled with the Holy Spirit ... and he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah ...

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

Pharisees & Sadducees



Pride.

Luke 18:11 (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector)

“God, I thank you that I am not like other people... robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.”

Matthew 23:12

“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled...”

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PRODUCT**

Pointed to Jesus.

There is no mention of John the Baptist after the Gospels. His ministry was never about him – always about Jesus.

John 3:28-30

“You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.’ He must increase, I must decrease.”

John the Baptist



There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PRODUCT**

Praise of Man.

Matthew 23:5

“Everything they do
is done for people to see...”

John 12:43

“They loved human praise
more than praise from God.”

Praised by Jesus.

Matthew 11:11

“Truly I tell you, among those
born of women there has not
risen anyone greater than
John the Baptist.”

John 5:35

“John was a lamp that
burned and gave light.”

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

There are two key figures in this passage.

Different **PRODUCT**

Perdition.

Matthew 23:15, 28

“On the outside you appear to people as righteous, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness ... You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”

People saved.

John 10:40-42

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptising in the early days. There He stayed, and many people came to Him. They said, “Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true.” And in that place many believed in Jesus.

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees

There are two key figures in this passage.

Patronage.

Pompous.

Prestige.

Position.

Pride.

Praise of Man.

Perdition.

Prepared in Private.

Primed for Purity.

Preaching Repentance.

Preparing the Way.

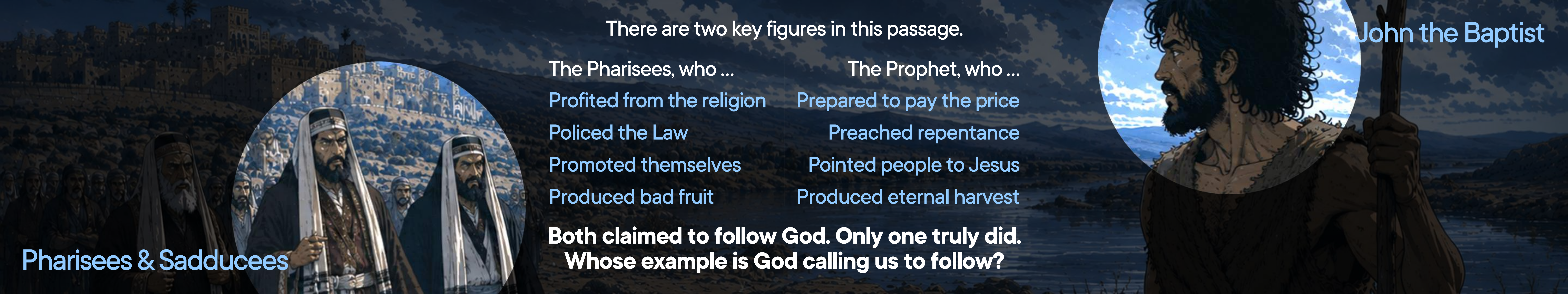
Power of the Holy Spirit.

Pointing to Jesus.

People Saved.

John the Baptist

Pharisees & Sadducees



Pharisees & Sadducees



There are two key figures in this passage.

The Pharisees, who ...

Profited from the religion

Policed the Law

Promoted themselves

Produced bad fruit

The Prophet, who ...

Prepared to pay the price

Preached repentance

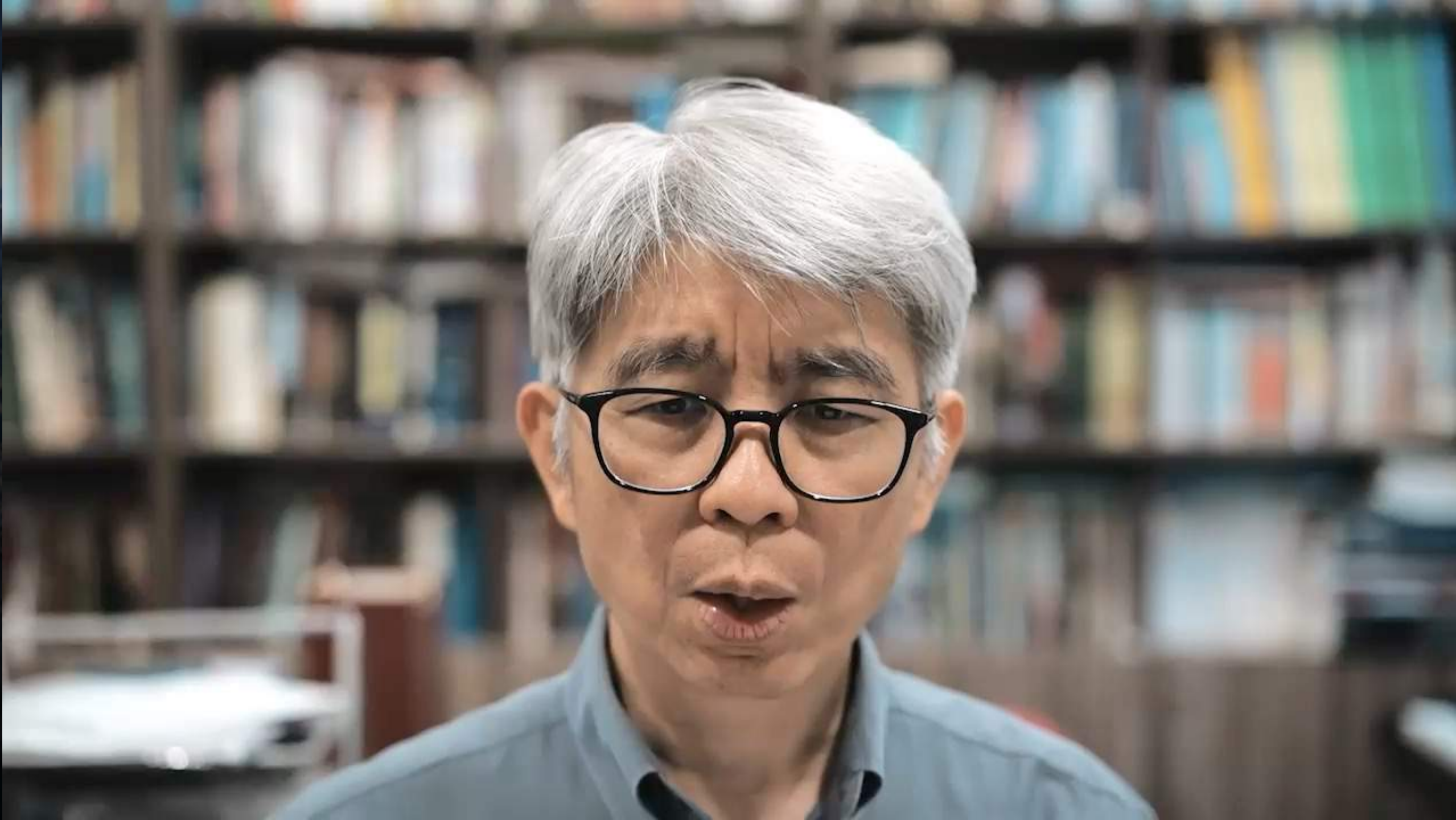
Pointed people to Jesus

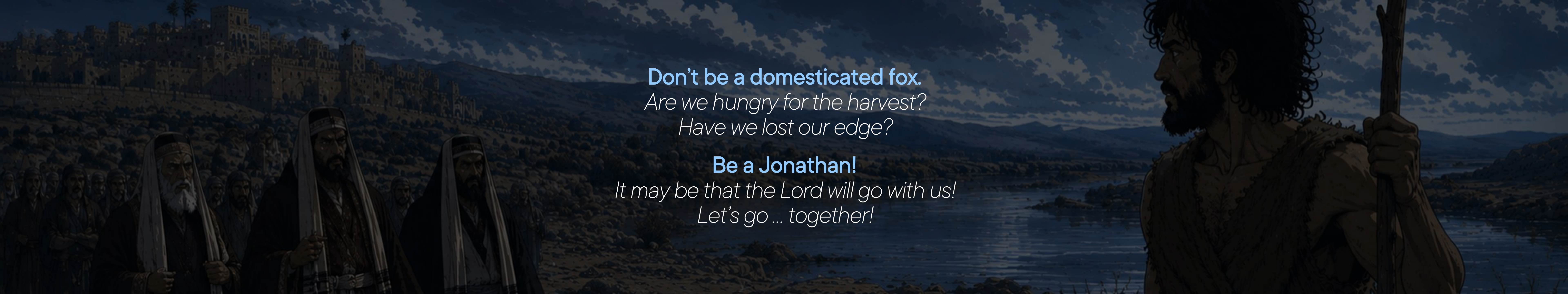
Produced eternal harvest

**Both claimed to follow God. Only one truly did.
Whose example is God calling us to follow?**

John the Baptist

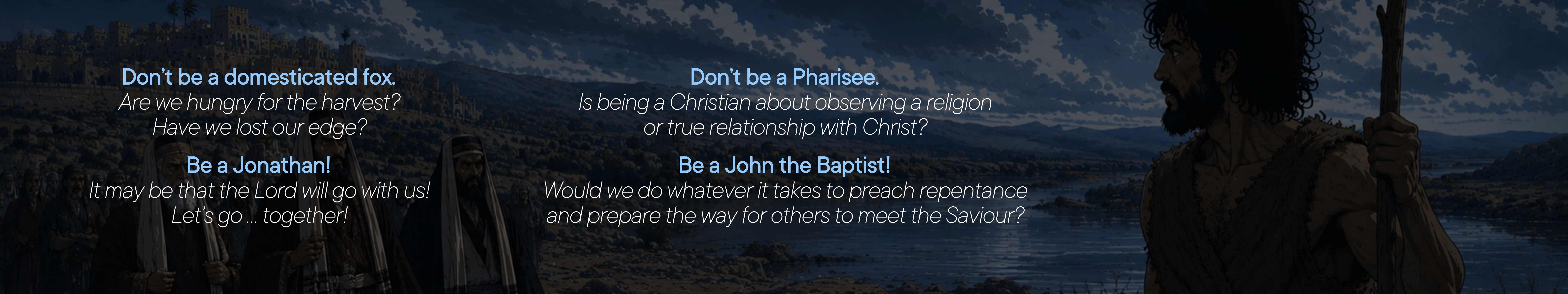






Don't be a domesticated fox.
*Are we hungry for the harvest?
Have we lost our edge?*

Be a Jonathan!
*It may be that the Lord will go with us!
Let's go ... together!*



Don't be a domesticated fox.

*Are we hungry for the harvest?
Have we lost our edge?*

Be a Jonathan!

*It may be that the Lord will go with us!
Let's go ... together!*

Don't be a Pharisee.

*Is being a Christian about observing a religion
or true relationship with Christ?*

Be a John the Baptist!

*Would we do whatever it takes to preach repentance
and prepare the way for others to meet the Saviour?*



Don't be a domesticated fox.

Are we hungry for the harvest?

Have we lost our edge?

Be a Jonathan!

It may be that the Lord will go with us!

Let's go ... together!

And one way every BBTCian can start is ...

Don't be a Pharisee.

*Is being a Christian about observing a religion
or true relationship with Christ?*

Be a John the Baptist!

*Would we do whatever it takes to preach repentance
and prepare the way for others to meet the Saviour?*



CHRISTMAS in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

CHRISTMAS
in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

Serving Opportunities: Pre-Event

Flyer Distribution
to 150 blocks in the Bedok area
(Nov to Mid-Dec 2026)

Prayer-walking
Interested?

Email Ps Evelyn | evelyn@bbtc.com.sg

bbtc

CHRISTMAS in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

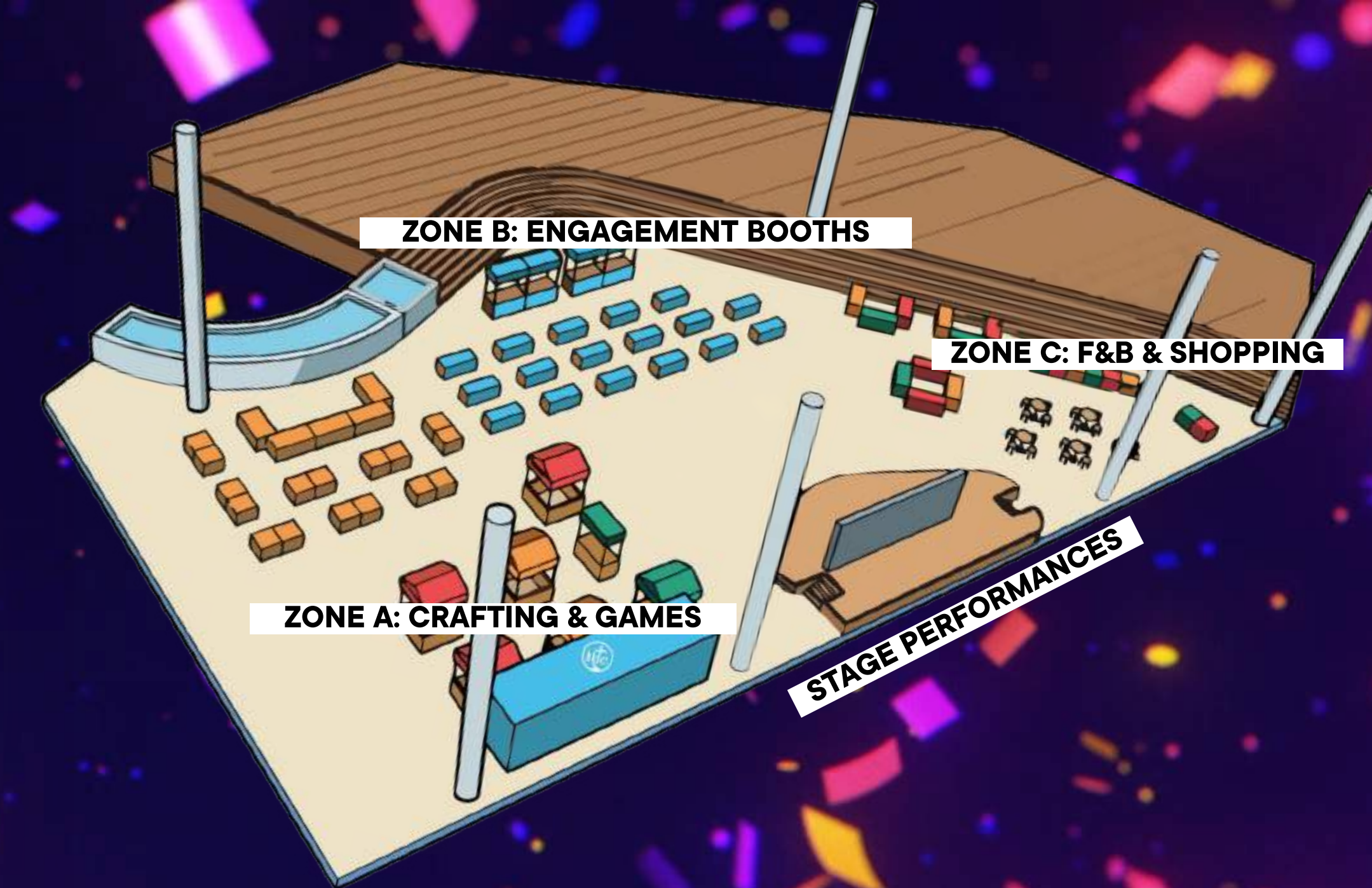
Serving Opportunities: At the Carnival (Dec 18-20)

Zone A: Crafting & Games

Oversee Craft Activities & Game Booths

Zone B: BBTC, BBTK & BCS Booths

Help the community get to know our
charity services, programmes for children, etc



bbs

CHRISTMAS in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

Serving Opportunities: At the Carnival (Dec 18-20)

Booth Management

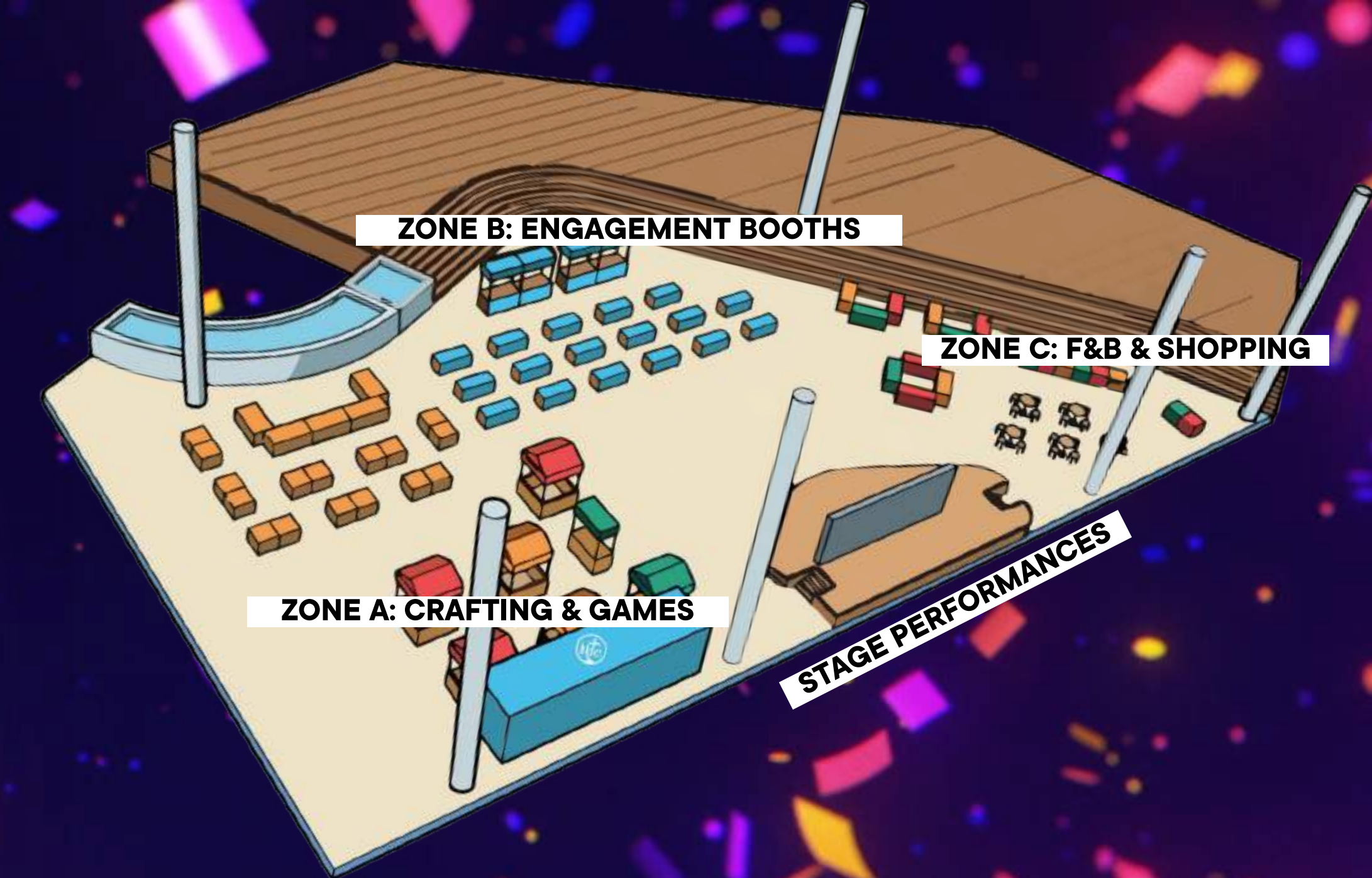
Popcorn Booth | Photo Booth

People Management

Befrienders | Ambassadors | Crowd Management

Logistics | Technical Crew

Assist setup/teardown



bbsc

CHRISTMAS in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

Serving Opportunities: Some Guidelines

Specify your preferred roles, dates, and time shifts

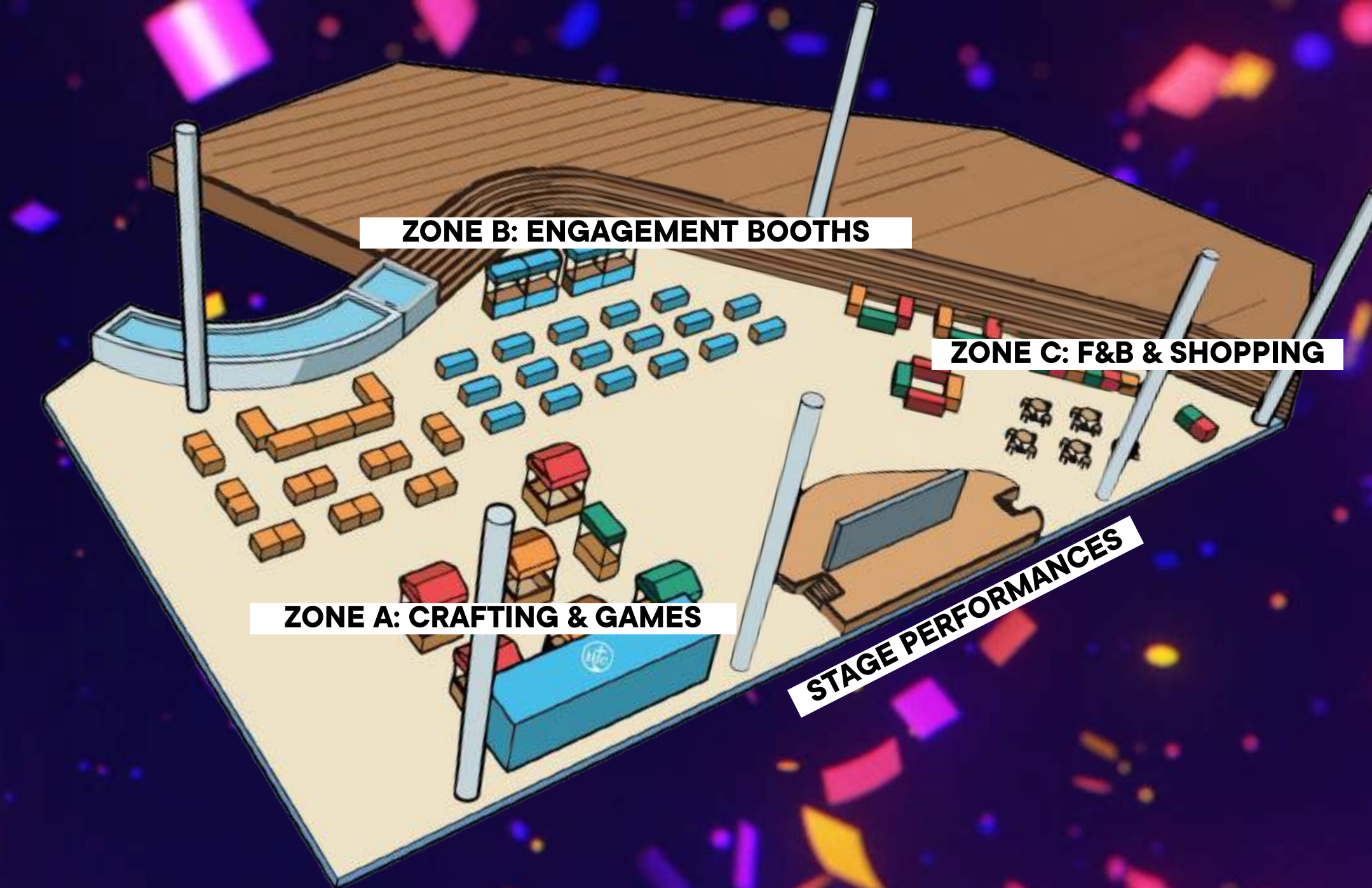
We will do our best to accommodate!

Be committed yet flexible

Set aside your dates, understand organisers' needs

Volunteer signup with/through your Cell Group

For accountability and better communication



bbtc

CHRISTMAS in BEDOK

Bedok Town Square
18-20 December

VISIT THE CHRISTMAS IN BEDOK BOOTH!

Come by the **Hallelujah Quadrant (L1)** as a Cell Group to find out where you can serve and sign up together!



bbtc.sg/serveatcarnival

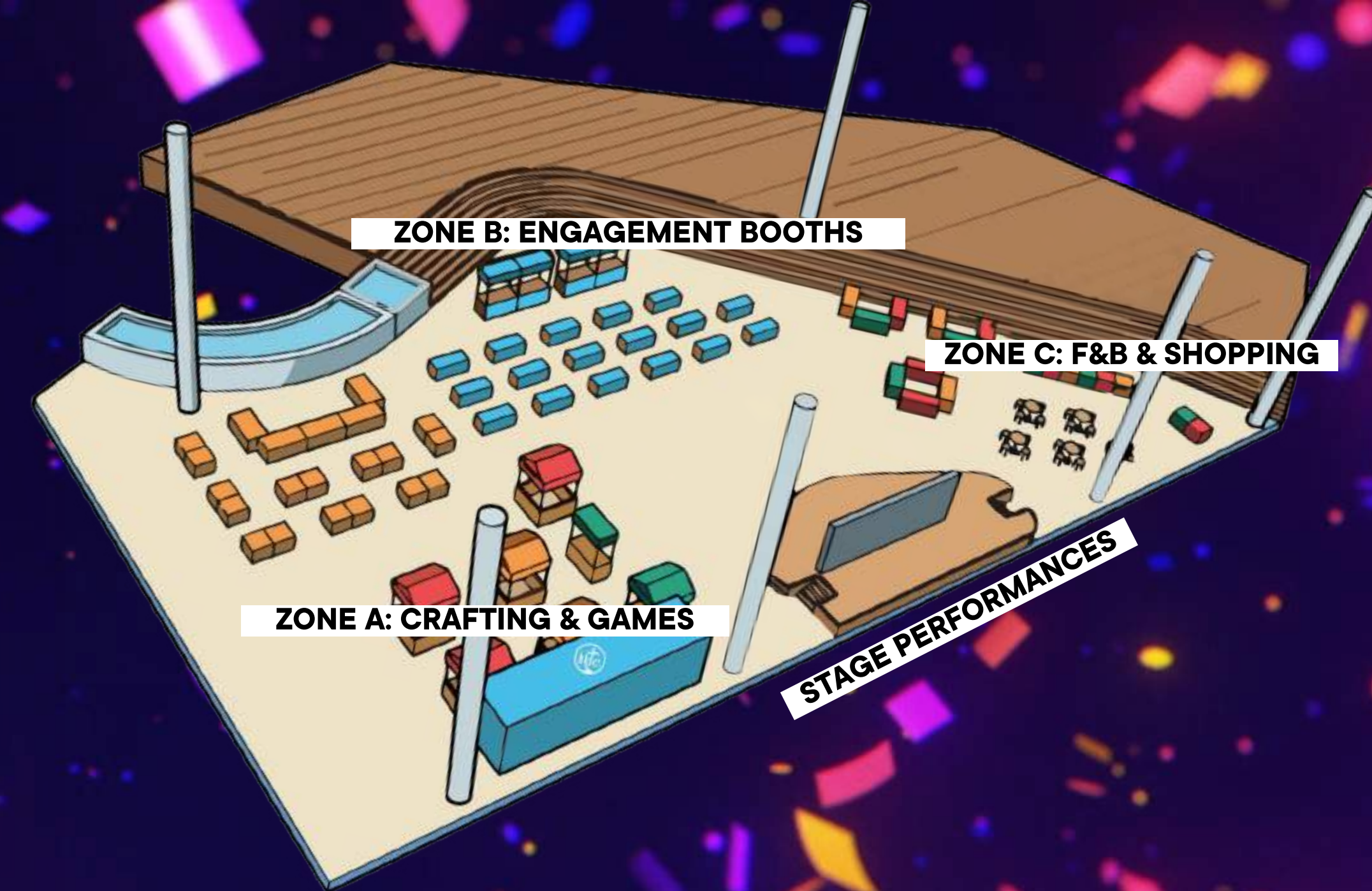
SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

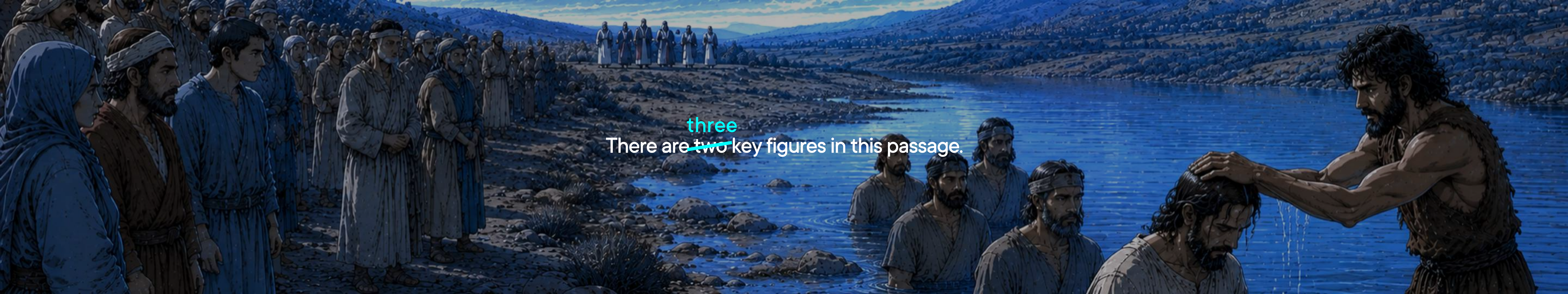
4-5pm | 6.45-7.30pm

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

10-11am | 12.45-1.30pm

CHRISTMAS
in BEDOK





three

There are ~~two~~ key figures in this passage.



Prophet.
Pharisees.
And the People.