



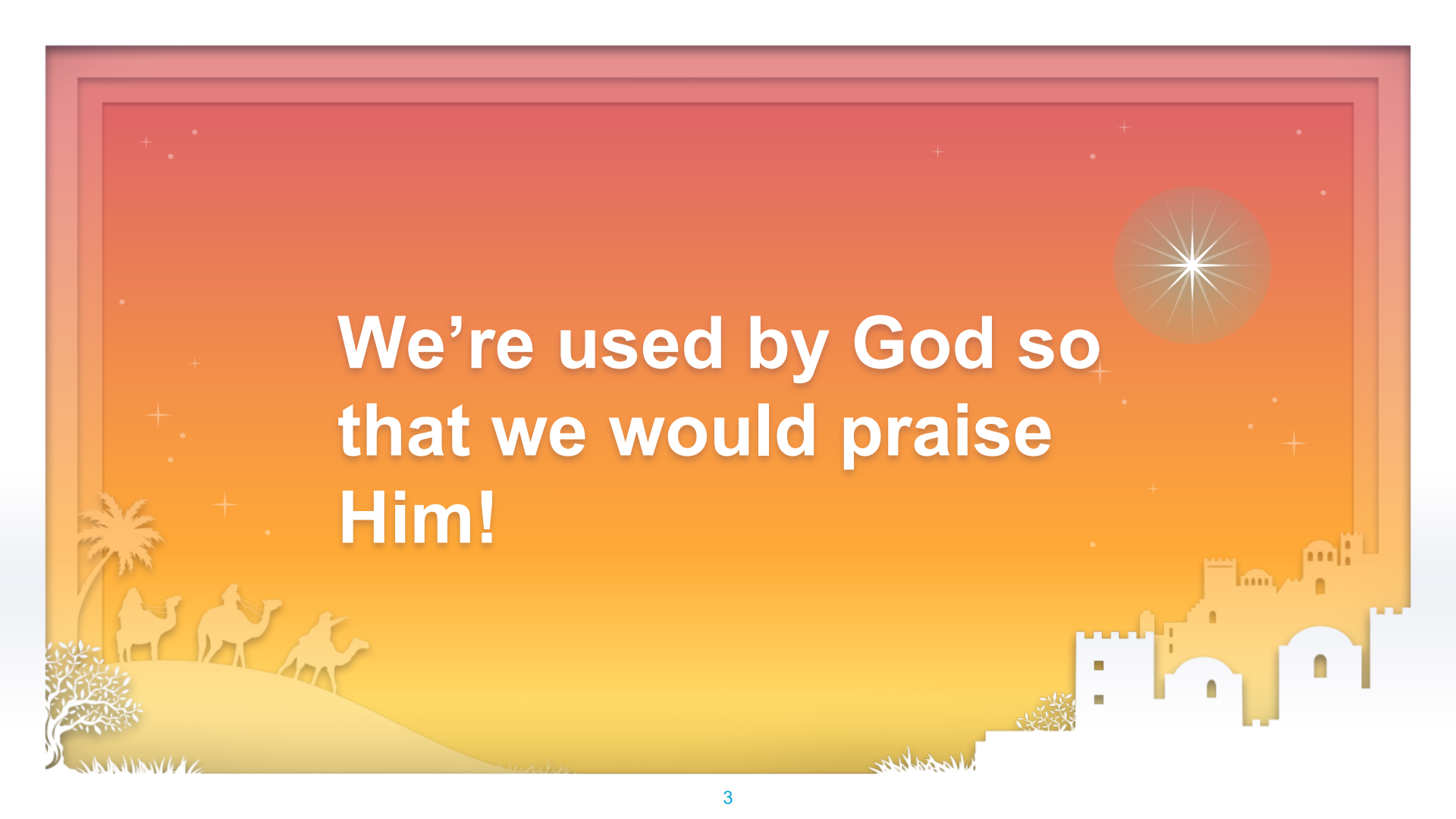
**Praise God That
I Can Serve Him!**

**The Praise of Elizabeth
Luke 1:5-45**

The First Christmas Hymns:

- ◆ Song of **Elizabeth**, Luke 1:39-45
- ◆ Song of **Mary**, Luke 1:46-56
- ◆ Song of the **Angels**, Luke 2:8-14
- ◆ Song of **Zechariah**, Luke 1:67-80
- ◆ Song of **Simeon**, Luke 2:25-35



The background features a vertical gradient from red at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom. A large, multi-pointed starburst is positioned in the upper right. The bottom of the image contains white silhouettes: on the left, a palm tree, a small bush, and three camels with riders; on the right, a cityscape with domes and towers. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**We're used by God so
that we would praise
Him!**



I. We're Used By God ...



We're Used By God ...

**... Because We Keep
Ourselves Usable**

- ◆ **Luke 1:6** Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations.

We're Used By God ...

... Despite Our Liabilities

- ◆ **Luke 1:7** They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.



We're Used By God ...

... Because He Chose To

- ◆ **Luke 1:8-9** ⁸ One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple ... ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, **he was chosen** by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.



We're Used By God ...

**... Because He Answers
Our Prayers**

- ◆ **Luke 1:13** the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

We're Used By God ...

... Even Indirectly

- ◆ **Luke 1:14** You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord.

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. The background is a dark blue night sky with a large, bright star in the upper right and several smaller stars. In the foreground, there are white silhouettes of a city with domes and towers on the right, and a landscape with a palm tree, a tree, and three camels on the left. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

We're Used By God ...

... Despite Our Doubts

- ◆ **Luke 1:18** Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

We're Used By God ...

**... Despite Feeling Socially
Rejected**

- ◆ **Luke 1:25** “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”



II. ... So That We Would Praise Him

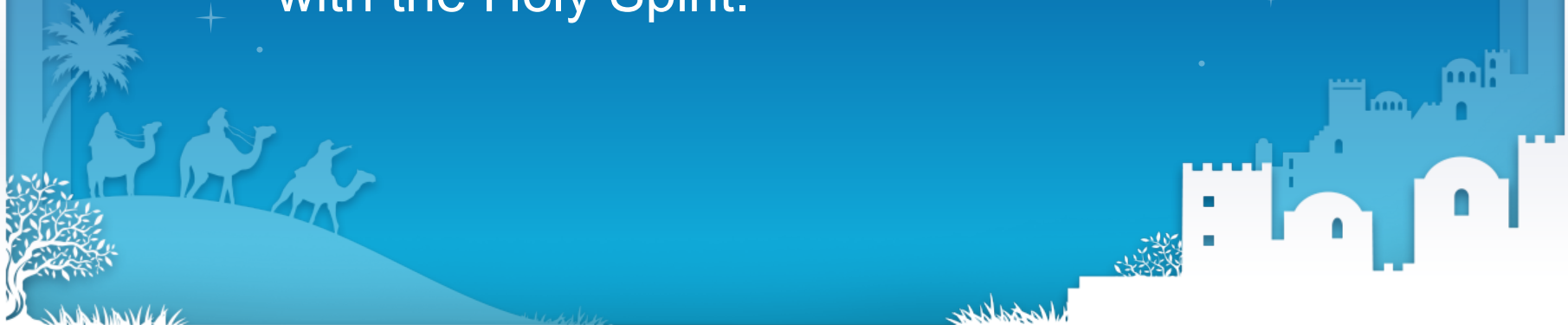
Luke 1:39-45

The Presence Of Christ

- ◆ **Luke 1:39-41** A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her,

The Power Of The Holy Spirit

- ◆ Luke 1:41b and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

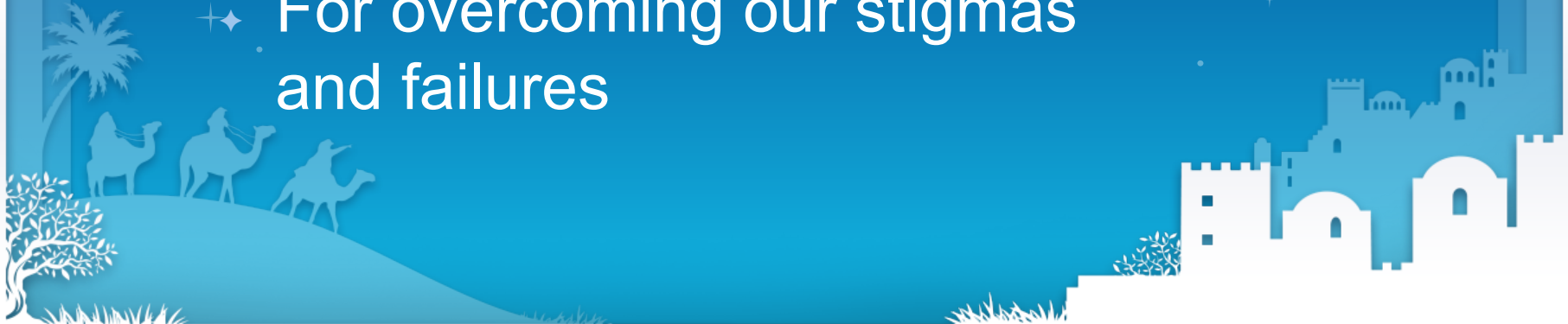


The Purpose Of The Father

- ◆ **Luke 1:42 -45** ⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

Conclusion: Praise Him ...

- ◆ For sending us a Savior
- ◆ For using us as servants
- ◆ For overcoming our stigmas and failures



Discussion:

- ◆ How are we amazed that God wants to use us for a special purpose?
- ◆ What's holding us back from being a usable instrument of God?
- ◆ How is parenting a vital ministry?

