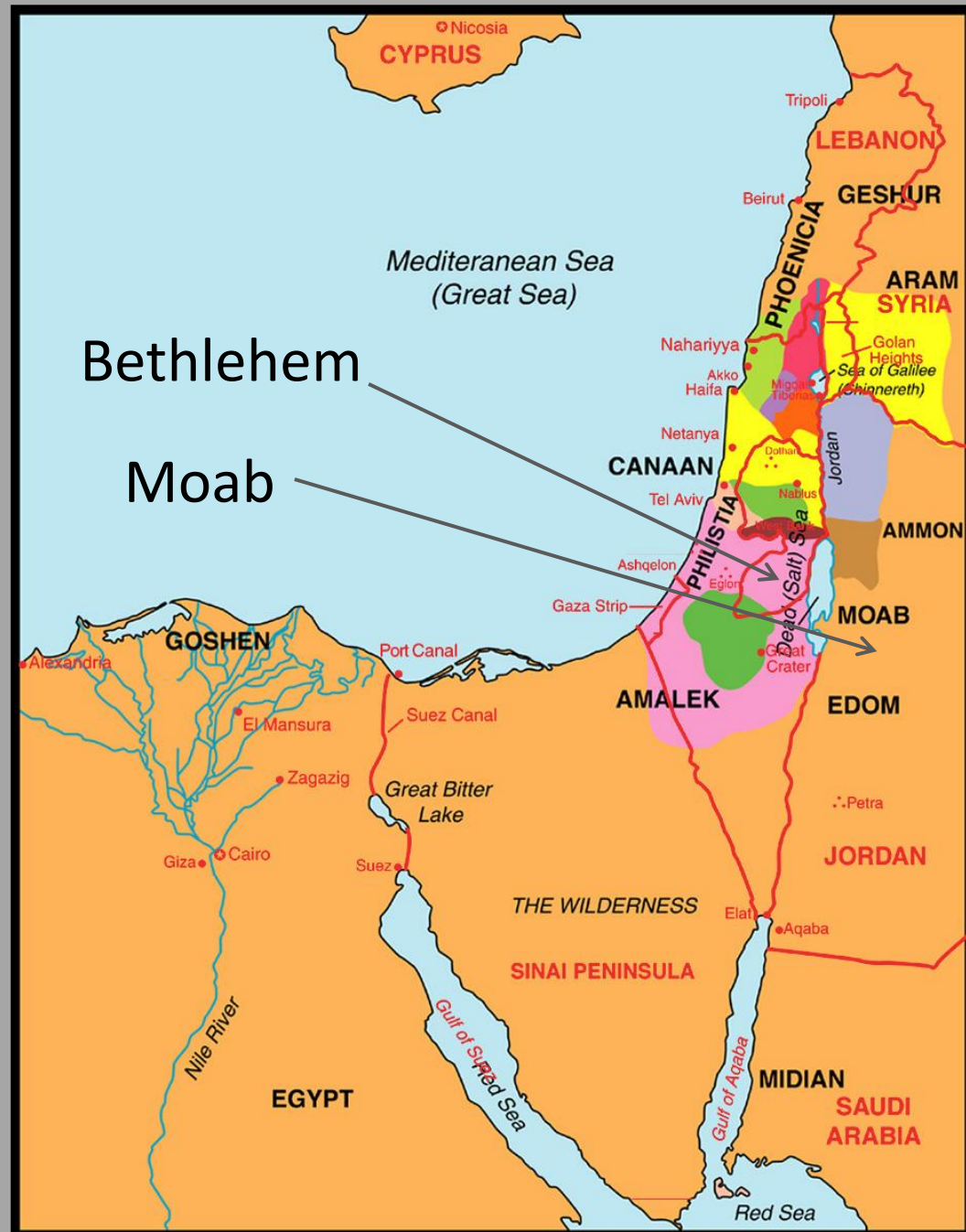


HOPE *in* FAMILY MATTERS

Learning “Family” from Two Widows

Ruth 2:23 - 3:6

Middle East,
1250 BC (with
red letters for
modern countries).
Dead Sea separated
the two places.





1. God chose to reveal His will and plan through a “community” of two. What can we learn from this choice?

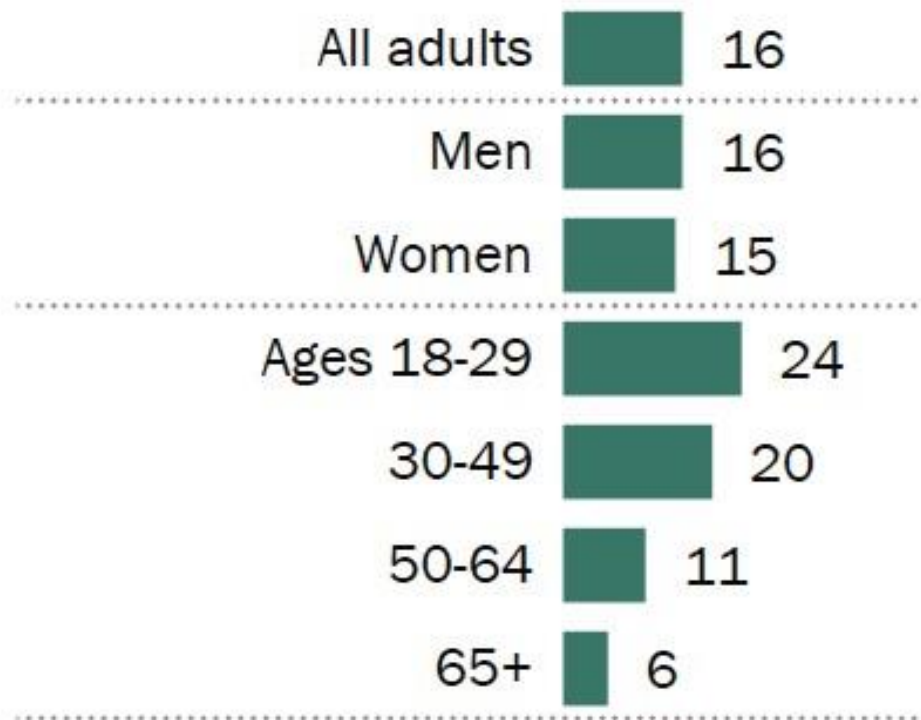
A. Two – rather than one.

- Ruth 1:16
- Gen 2:18
- Eccl 4:9
- Why 12 disciples?
- Prayer revival – Matt 18:19-20

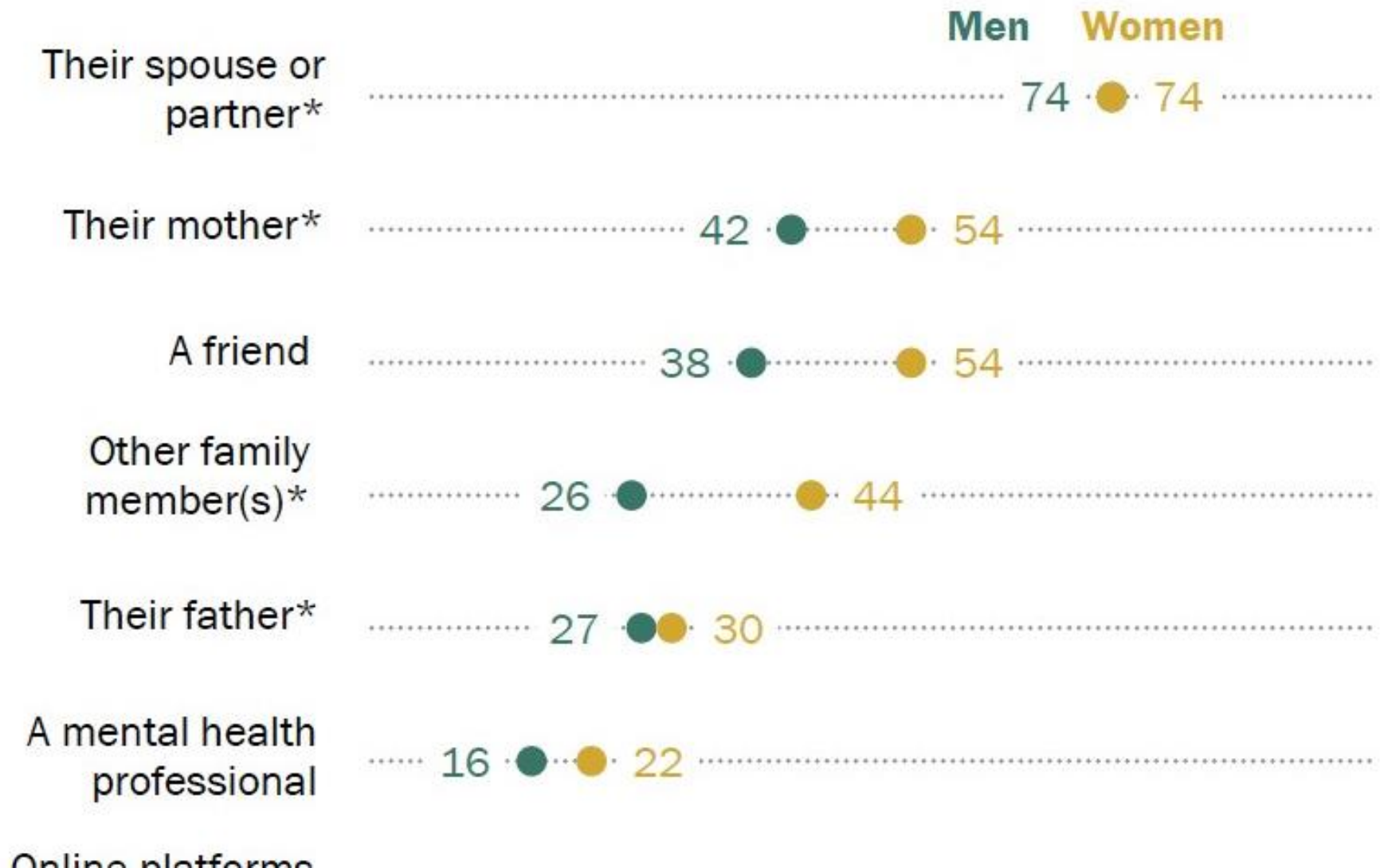
B. Home or work environment?

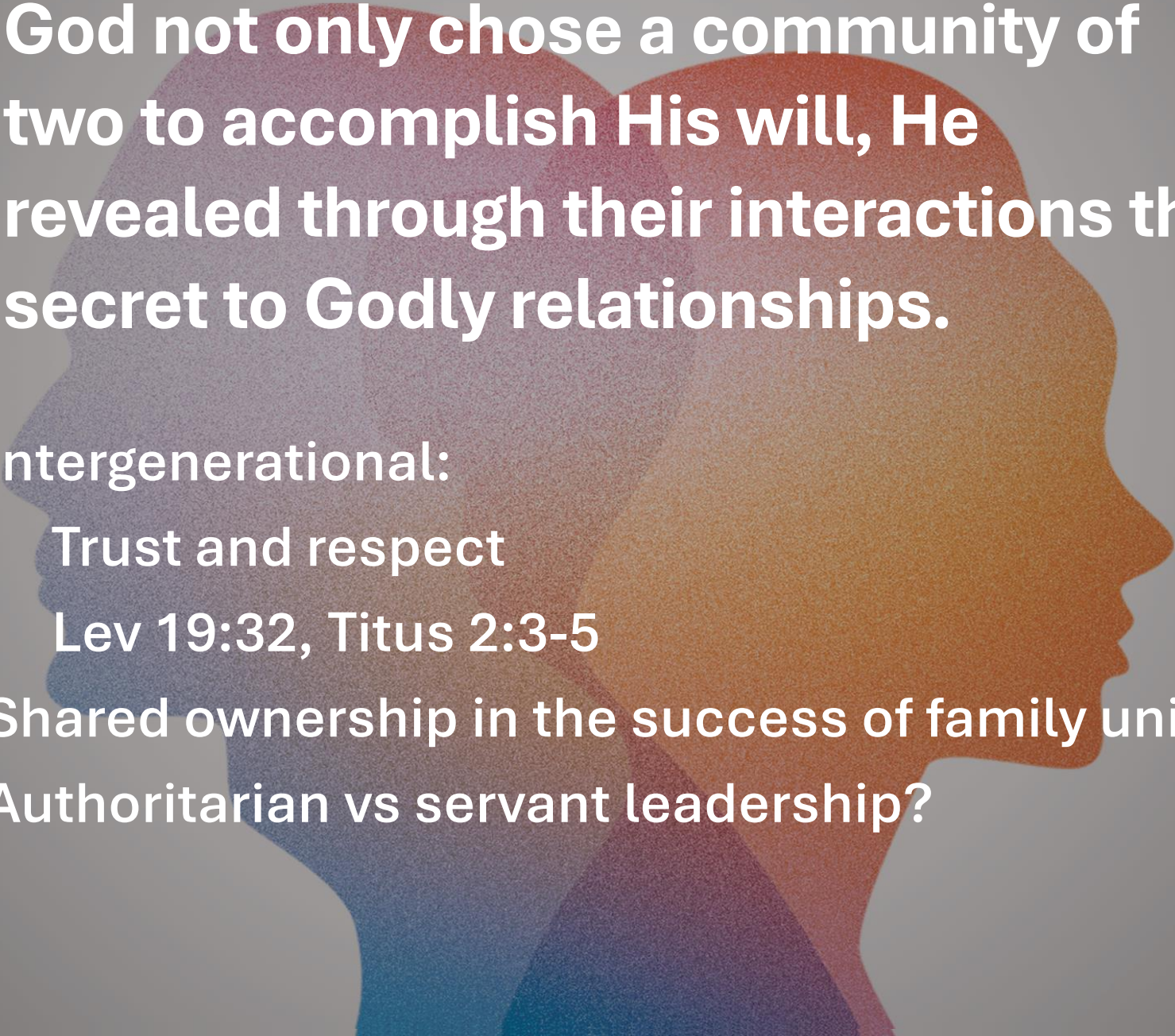
Adults under 50 are more likely than older adults to feel lonely

*% saying they feel lonely or isolated from those around them **all or most of the time***



Women more likely than men to tap into a broader array of sources when they need emotional support.





2. God not only chose a community of two to accomplish His will, He revealed through their interactions the secret to Godly relationships.

A. Intergenerational:

- Trust and respect
- Lev 19:32, Titus 2:3-5

B. Shared ownership in the success of family unit.

C. Authoritarian vs servant leadership?

3. Do you see the transforming work of the Holy Spirit of Jesus previewed in the transformation of Mara to Naomi?

A. Naomi – “... its time I found a permanent home for you.”

- Ruth’s daily blessing brought home
- The “aha” moment when Naomi sees.
- From losses to hope

B. Mara – God is punishing me.

- Her identity defined by her losses. Ruth 1:20.

C. How can we be “Ruth” to those around us

A. Pain, sorrow is a stewardship.

Call to Action.

- A. Has the Holy Spirit revealed an area in your life, in your home, work, or school, that you are more like Mara than Naomi? What can you do about that?
- B. Pay attention to people's tears – in your home and around you, and bring Jesus into those tears by some act of kindness or prayer blessing.
- C. Pray for a prayer revival at Bethany.