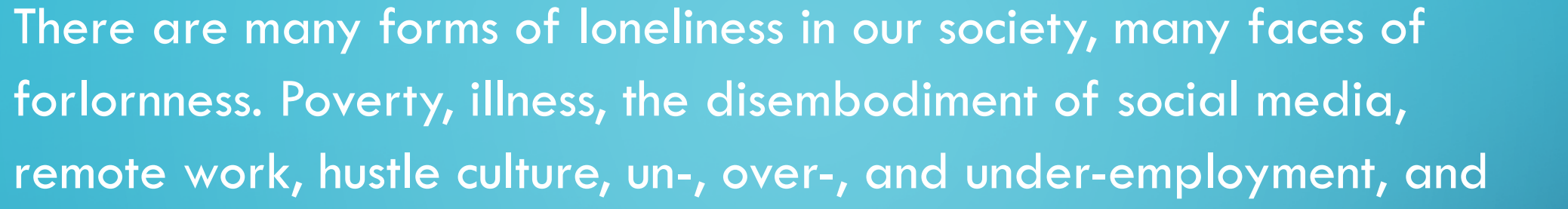


A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of white lines and circles that resemble a circuit board or a neural network. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with some branching out, and the circles are small and white, connected to the lines.

Week 6

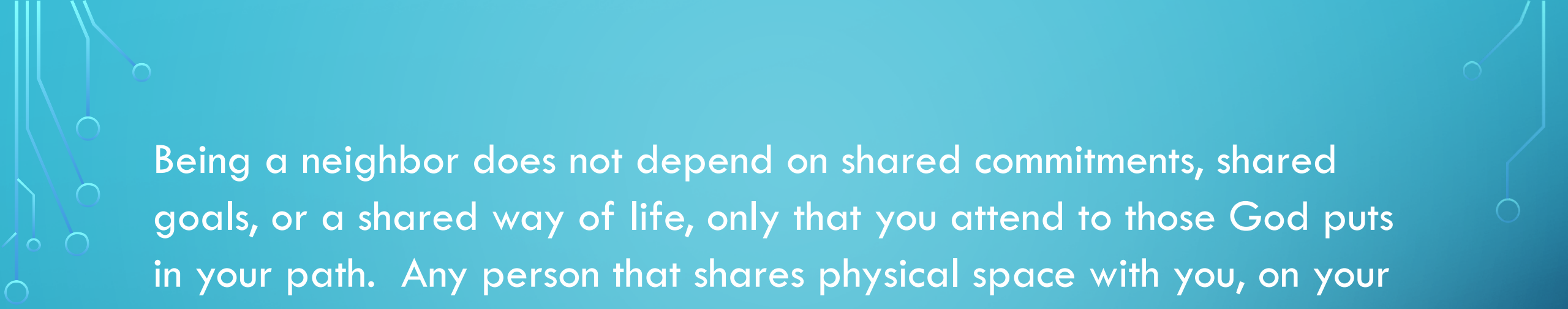
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
AN EMERGENCY DEVOTIONAL
HANNA REICHEL



There are many forms of loneliness in our society, many faces of forlornness. Poverty, illness, the disembodiment of social media, remote work, hustle culture, un-, over-, and under-employment, and many other factors erode belonging, family, and community long before politics do. Polarization, fear, and worry will only exacerbate loneliness.


Love your neighbor. Together with the love of God, this commandment forms the bedrock of Christian ethics. Love of neighbor is not about affection; it is about presence, care, and assistance.

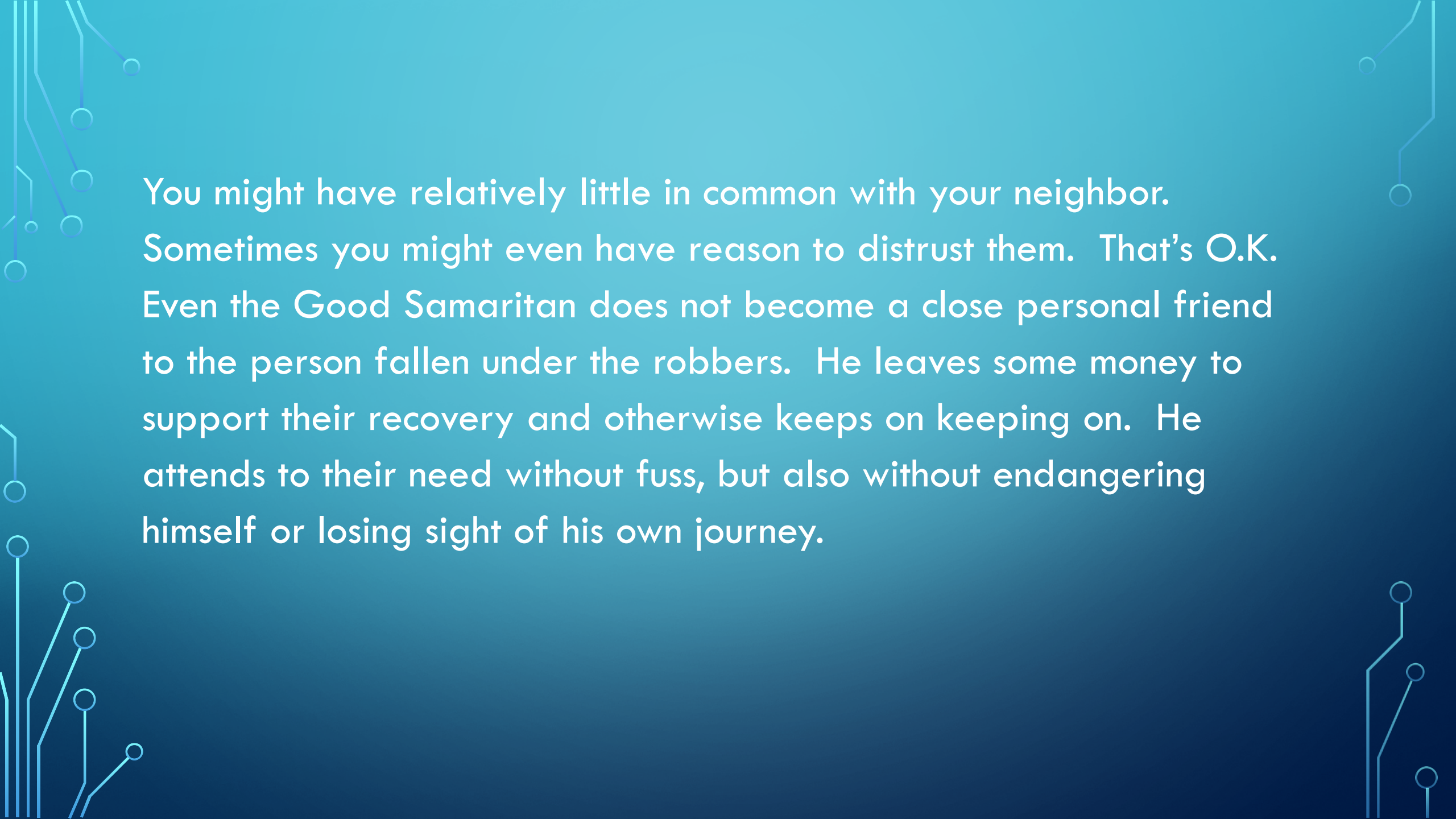




Being a neighbor does not depend on shared commitments, shared goals, or a shared way of life, only that you attend to those God puts in your path. Any person that shares physical space with you, on your street, at your job, at the grocery store is your neighbor – if you become a neighbor to them.

You don't have to look for neighbors. You have to be one to find them.
You don't have to like your neighbors. You have to be there for them.



The background is a dark teal color with decorative white circuit-like lines in the corners. These lines consist of straight lines and small circles, resembling a stylized electronic board or network diagram.

You might have relatively little in common with your neighbor. Sometimes you might even have reason to distrust them. That's O.K. Even the Good Samaritan does not become a close personal friend to the person fallen under the robbers. He leaves some money to support their recovery and otherwise keeps on keeping on. He attends to their need without fuss, but also without endangering himself or losing sight of his own journey.



Make it a standard practice to recognize and acknowledge your neighbor's humanity. It only takes a greeting and a kind word to build connections. Cultivate connections and belonging with people around you, everyday connections independent of political or ideological alignment...

Be attentive.

Be present.

Be kind.

Listen.

Extend assistance in mundane and everyday matters.

Share some of their burdens even when you cannot take them away.

Build networks of mutual aid and support that you want to be in place before they become necessary.

