



THE BLESSING OF
DOUBT

John 20: 19-29

- ¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."
- ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

John 20: 19-29, ctd.

- ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Growth – a Journey

Intellectual and ethical development – William Perry

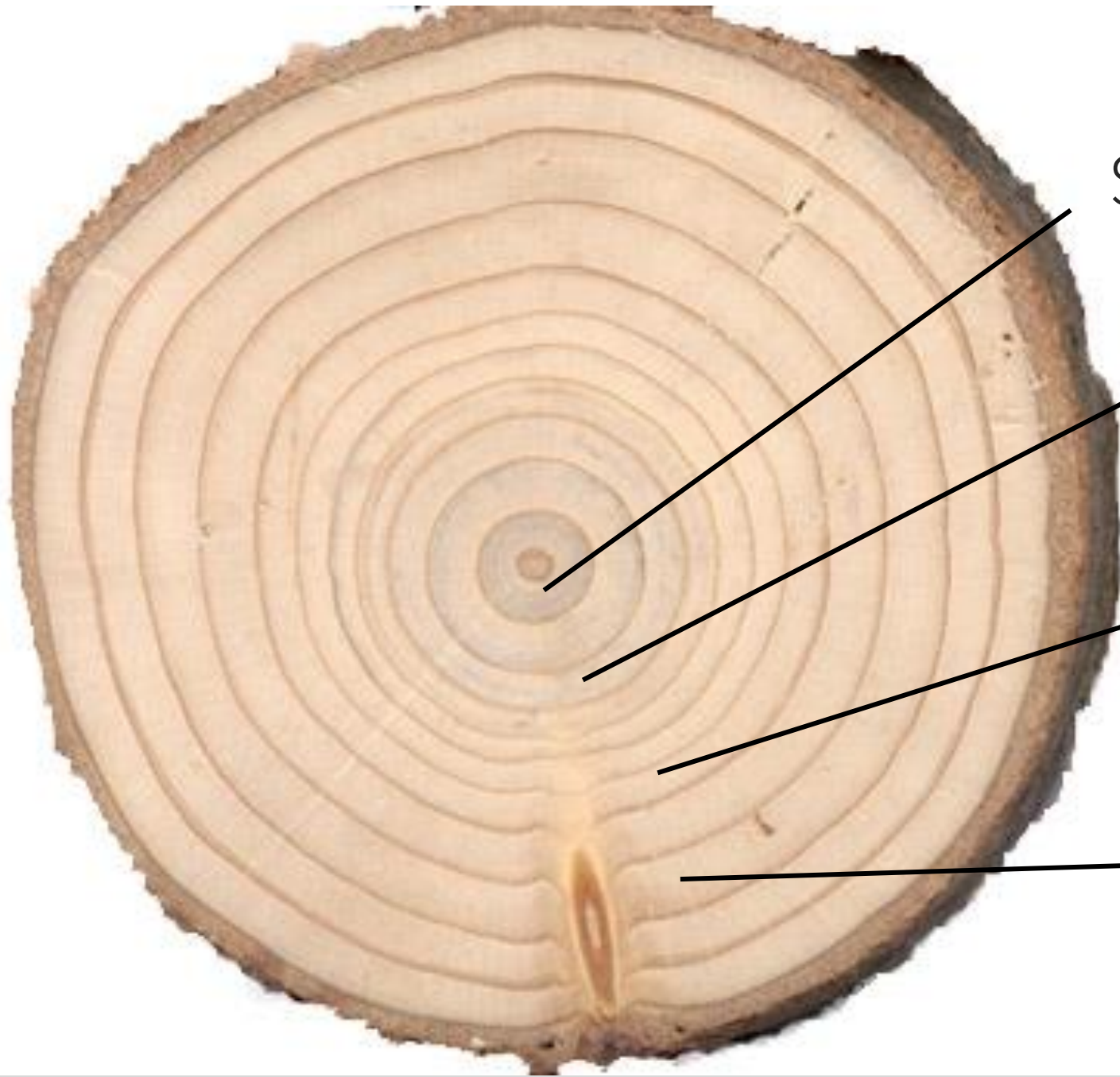
Moral development – Lawrence Kohlberg

Faith development – James Fowler

Two halves of life – Richard Rohr

Stages of Faith Development – Brian McLaren





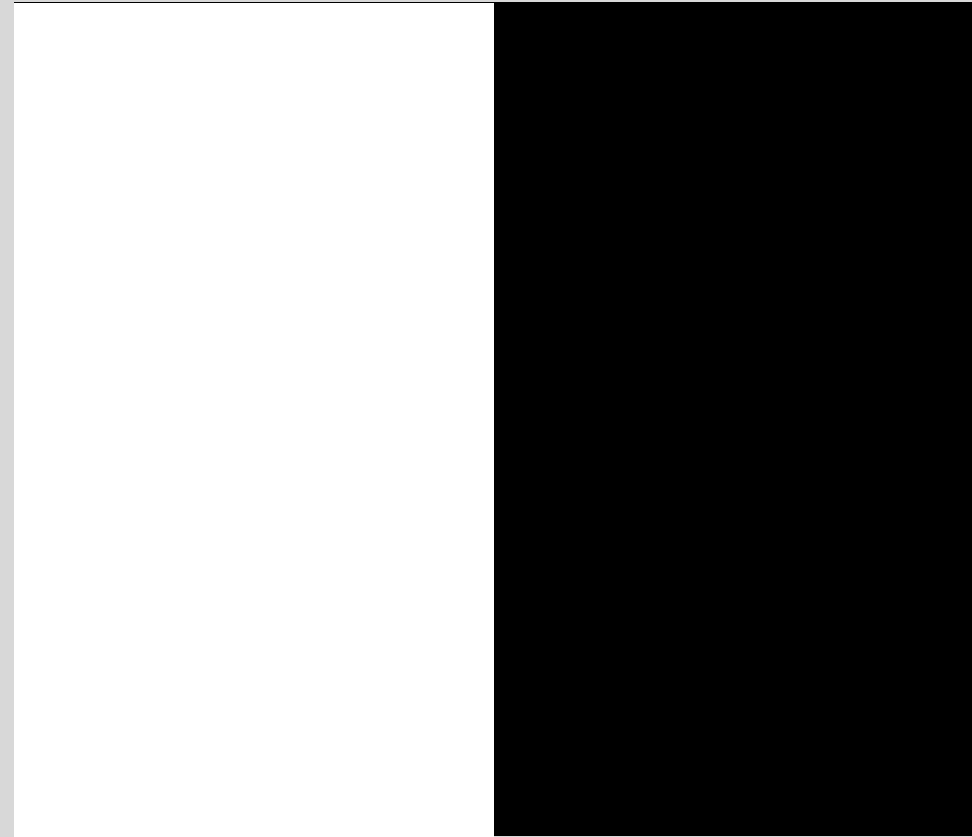
STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

STAGE 4

STAGE 1 - SIMPLICITY





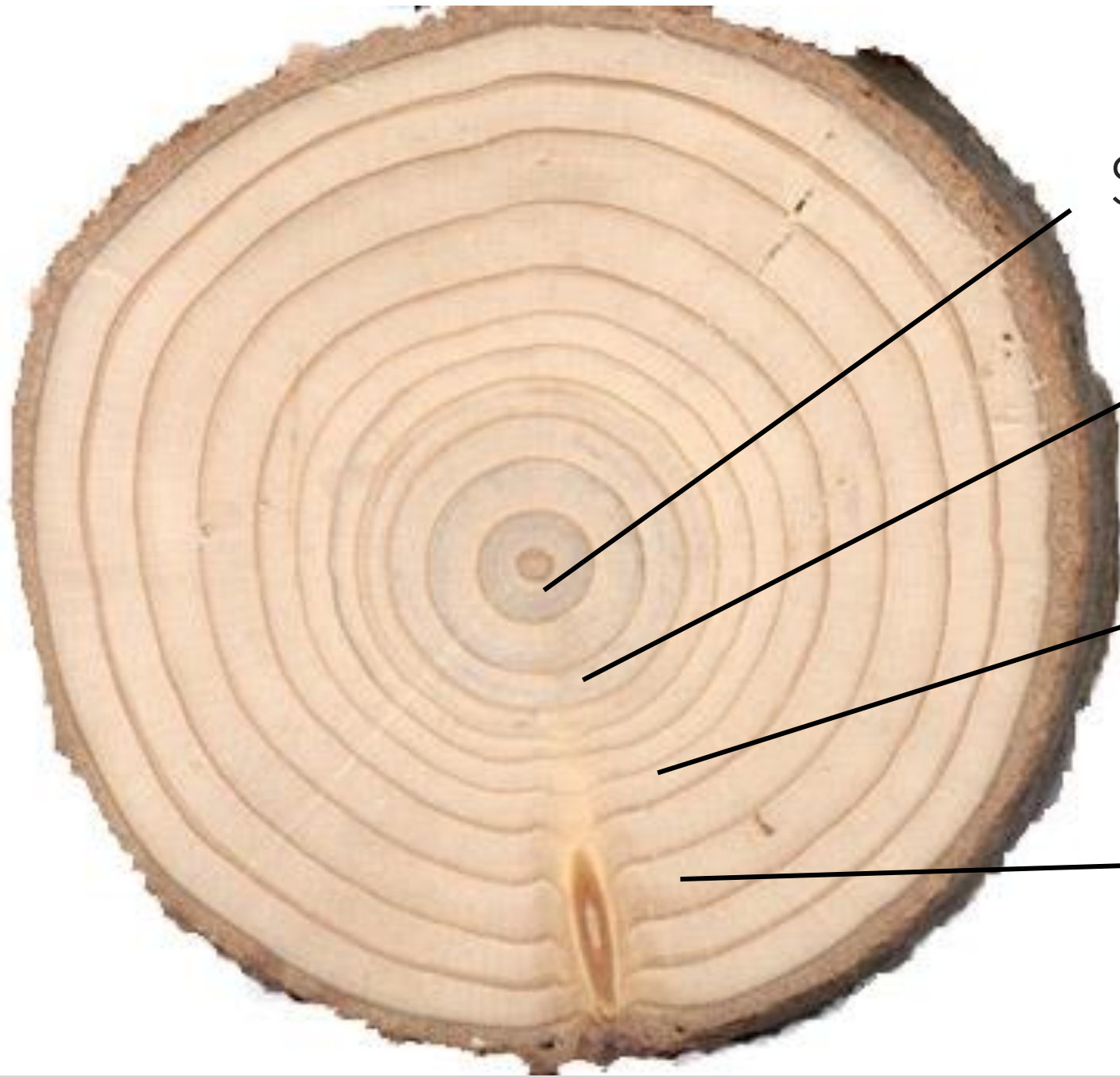
STAGE 2 - COMPLEXITY



STAGE 3 - PERPLEXITY



STAGE 4 - HARMONY



SIMPLICITY

COMPLEXITY

PERPLEXITY

HARMONY

HOW can doubt become a blessing?

- Nudges us forward in the faith stages
- Shifts from certitude in beliefs to trust in a person
- Makes us turn to Jesus' kindness
- Stirs wonder and worship



WHAT do I do when I doubt?

- Don't suppress doubt
- Bring doubt to Jesus
- Share doubt with friends
- Embrace doubt as integral to mature faith
- Turn doubt into blessing



Questions for Reflection



- What has spoken to you this morning?
- How have you dealt with doubts in your faith journey?
- How can you turn doubts into a blessing in your life more?