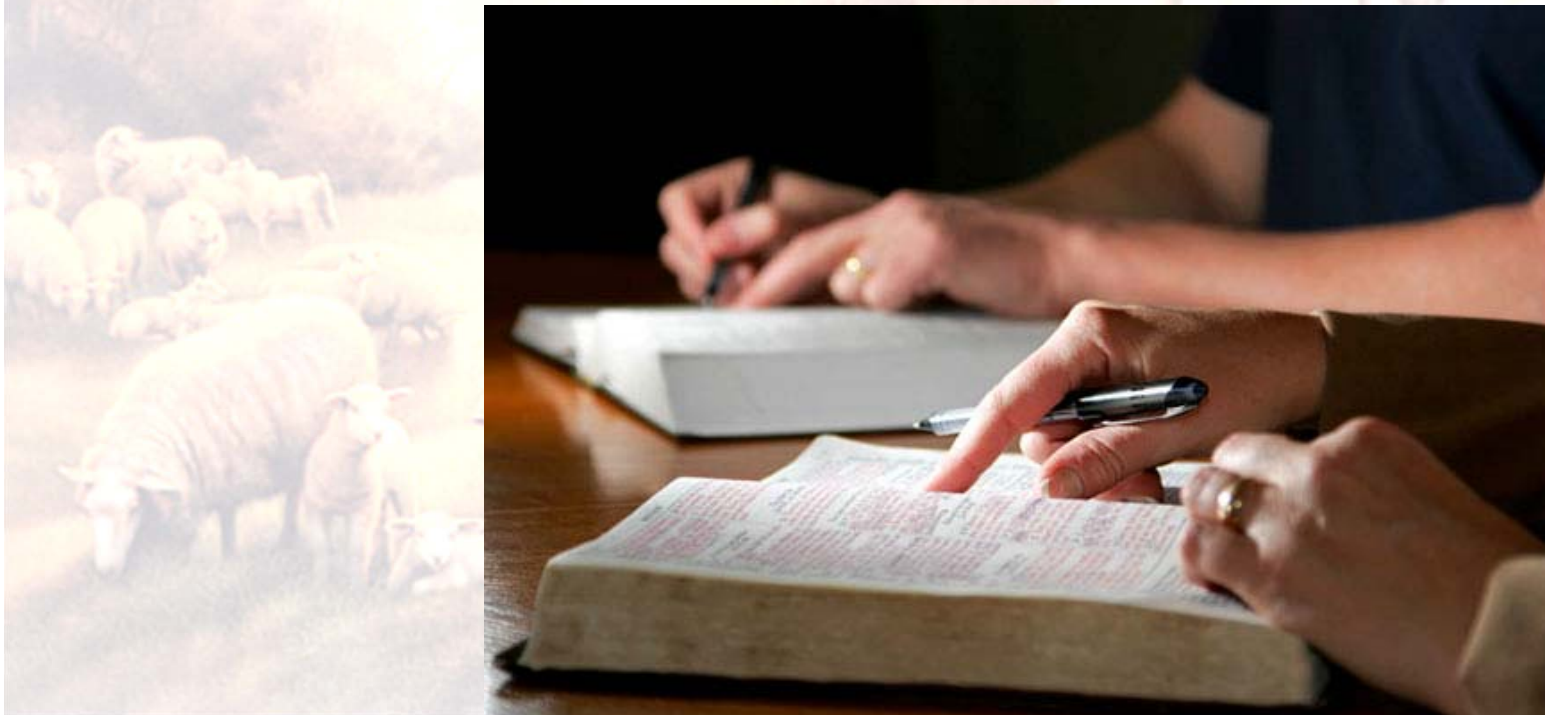


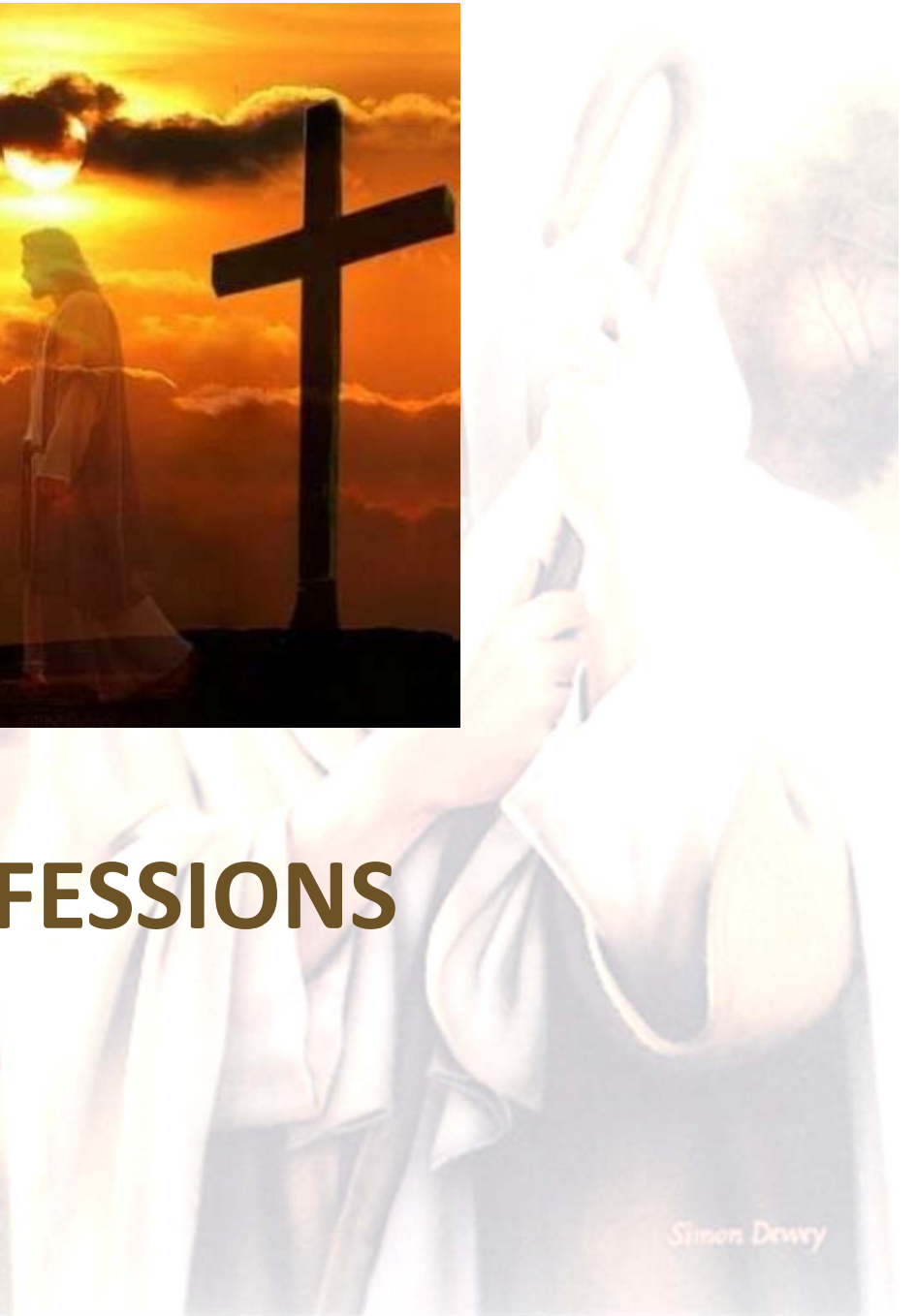
Case Studies in the Service



Simon Drwy



TAKING KIDS' CONFESSIONS



Simon Drwy

Case 4

- George is an experienced and spiritual high school servant. One day during a Sunday School class he noticed that one of his 11th graders, Hany, was sitting by himself in a corner looking very sad and quiet which was totally different than his usual self.
- After Sunday School George approached Hany personally and asked him:

“What’s wrong, Hany?.. You look different today!!”

“Oh.. no...no.. Nothing.. Nothing wrong at all”

“Come on .. Tell me, Hany, maybe I can help!!”

Case 4, cont'd

“Ok.. I’ll tell you maybe I’ll feel better..I ..I.. I committed a horrible sin!!” Hany said and burst into tears.

“Oh my God Hany.. What did you do?”

“I committed adultery!” Hany answered with a loud cry.

“What?” George responded spontaneously.

“Oh my God .. How did that happen Hany, and with whom..?”

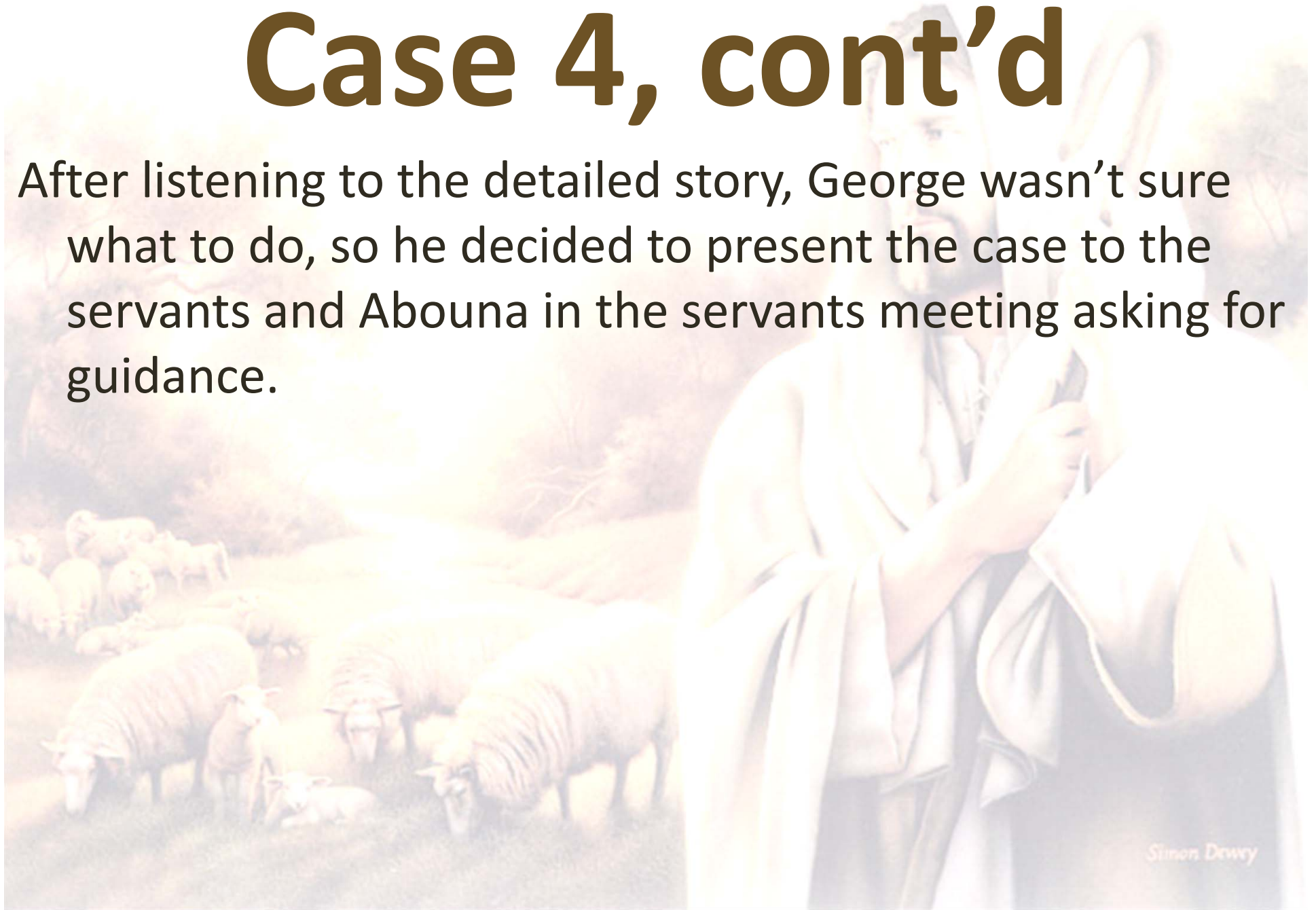
“A girl I met at a party,” Hany said.

“But please don’t tell anyone”

“Of course not,” George said. “Just tell me more about it so I can advise you how to deal with this horrible sin”

Case 4, cont'd

After listening to the detailed story, George wasn't sure what to do, so he decided to present the case to the servants and Abouna in the servants meeting asking for guidance.



Case 4 Questions

- What is right about George's approach?
- What is wrong about George's approach?
- What would you do differently?
- What should be done after the servants meeting?

Lessons from Case 4

- I. **DO NOT take your kids' confessions!**
 - Strongly encourage them to go to Abouna for confession.
- Take this opportunity to talk about God's mercy and love
- Explain the confession sacrament that the Lord entrusted to His disciples, giving them the authority for forgiveness.
- ***“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20: 22-23)***

Lessons from Case 4

- II. Offer Hope!

- Abouna will not: judge you, or think of you in bad way.
- Abouna has heard all types of sins before, don't worry, he will not be upset at you.
- This is not the end! God will forgive you!
- *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8)*
- *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9)*
- *Not only does he forgive our sins; but forgets them as well*
- *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Hebrews 8:12)*



Lessons from Case 4

III. If you were told about your student's sin, do not dwell on it, trying to know the details "for teaching"!!!

Be careful from stumbling yourself



***"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things."
(James 3:1-2)***

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Lessons from Case 4

IV. Keep your kids' secrets confidential

- *“He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.” (proverbs 10:8-10)*
- *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:7-9)*
- **Story of St. Macarius**



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Lessons from Case 4

- IV. Do not judge or contempt your kids

“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way”(Romans 14:10-11 & 13-14)



Taking Kids' Confessions

1. **DO NOT take your kids' confession!**
2. Offer **Hope!**
3. Do not **dwell** on it
4. Keep your kids' secrets **confidential**
5. Do not **judge** your kids

