



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

A movie poster for the film 'A Great Awakening'. The background is a dramatic, dark sky with a bright light source on the right, possibly the sun or moon, creating a lens flare effect. In the foreground, two men are shown in profile, looking towards the right. The man in the foreground is older, with white hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored coat. The man behind him is younger, with dark hair, wearing a dark coat. The title 'A GREAT AWAKENING' is written in large, golden, serif capital letters on the left side. Below the title is a small sunburst icon. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a town with a church steeple on the right.

A GREAT AWAKENING

A cinematic depiction of the spiritual awakening that preceded the American Revolution and the dynamic relationship between

George Whitfield (*a man of faith*)

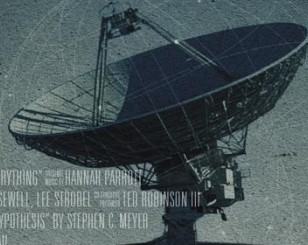
and **Benjamin Franklin** (*a man of reason*).

Marcus Theaters through the middle of this coming week.

FROM THE CREATORS OF
AFTER DEATH AND THE HEART OF MAN

THE SCIENCE THAT REVEALS A MIND BEHIND THE UNIVERSE

THE STORY OF EVERYTHING



Stephen Meyer's book:
Return of the God Hypothesis

The Story of Everything

is a cinematic exploration of the cosmos that reveals the hidden hand behind our universe. From the precise laws that govern the stars to the intricate patterns found in every living cell, the film traces evidence of intentional design throughout nature. Whether examining distant star-forming clouds or the spiral structure of DNA, we discover a consistent signature woven into the fabric of existence.

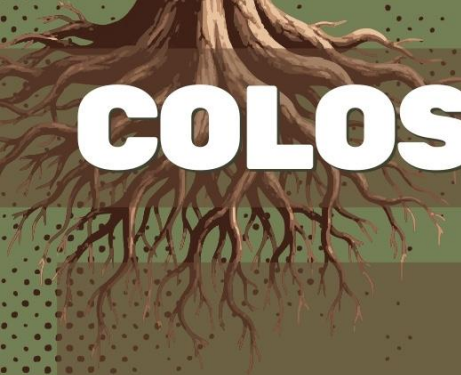
Opens April 30th thru May 6th



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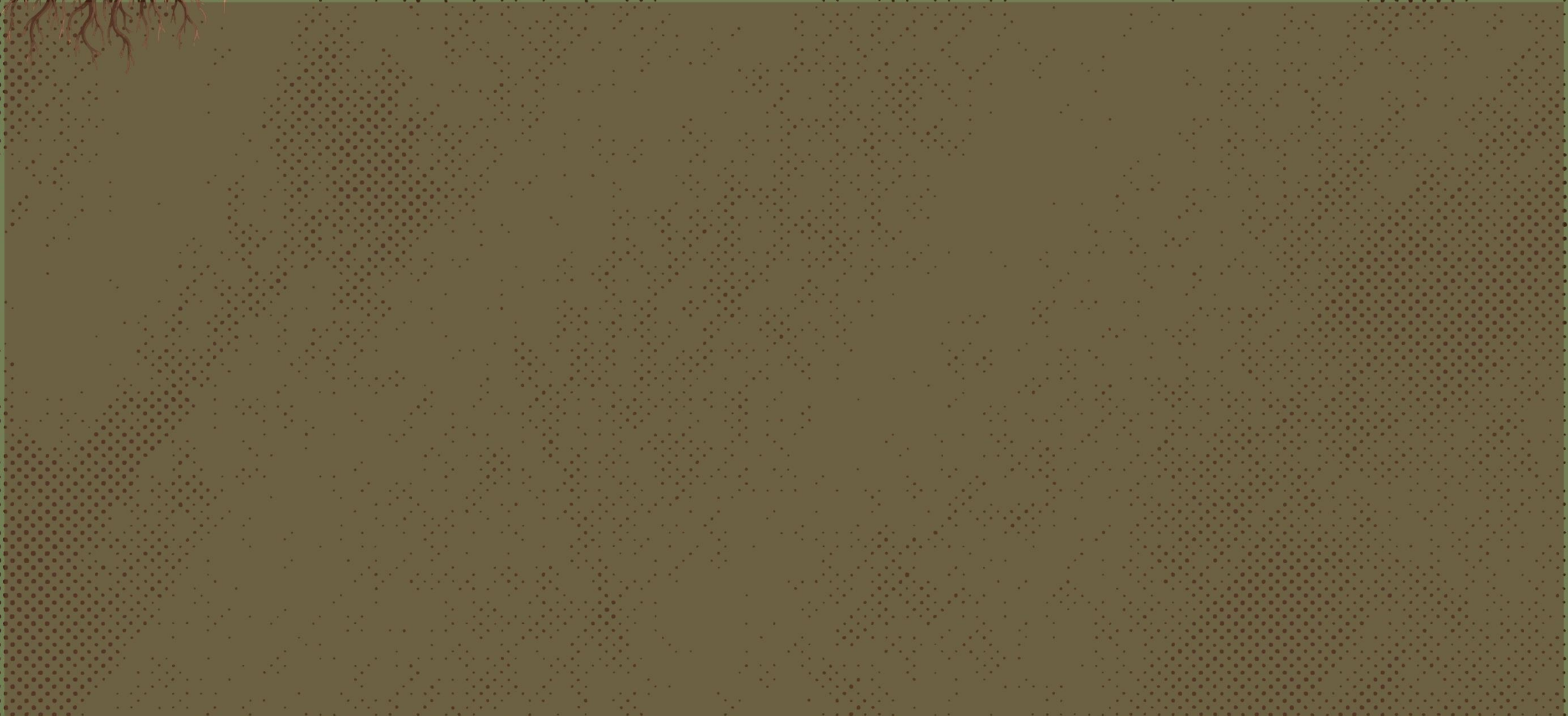
Rooted for Growth

The Supremacy of Christ & the Necessity of Maturity



COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 3:20-21



Context: 3:17-19

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Marriage

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Family



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These two verses reveal the need we have to understand the roles and responsibilities that are to be lived out in the most foundational building block of our society, ***the family.***

AI Overview

(prompt: '*the condition of American parenting*')

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American parenting is currently marked by high levels of stress, anxiety, and burnout, with nearly half of parents reporting overwhelming daily stress, leading the U.S. Surgeon General to declare it a public health issue.

Driven by an "intensive parenting" culture, many feel compelled to micromanage children's lives, creating a "parenting paradox" where daily life is stressful despite being deeply rewarding.

Key Aspects of Current American Parenting:

- **High Stress and Mental Health Concerns:** 40% of parents are extremely or very worried their children might struggle with anxiety or depression. Parents report higher levels of loneliness and stress compared to adults without children.
- **The "Intensive" Culture:** Parenting is characterized by intense supervision and immense pressure to optimize children's success, which often leads to exhaustion, guilt, and burnout.
- **Top Concerns:** Parents are concerned about bullying, technology/social media, and, for lower-income families, the physical safety of their children.
- **Parenting Styles:** While "authoritative" parenting (warm but firm) is considered most effective, "helicopter parenting" (high supervision) is a widespread cultural norm.
- **Gender and Demographic Differences:** Mothers are more likely to feel stressed and judged than fathers. Furthermore, lower-income parents and parents of color are more likely to report extreme stress and specific fears, such as their children getting shot or facing violence.

Factors Impacting the Condition:

- **Financial Pressure:** High costs associated with housing, childcare, and education contribute to parental stress.
- **Social Media & Technology:** Managing screen time and the digital lives of children is a major new challenge for parents.
- **Lack of Support:** Many parents report feeling isolated and lacking the community support networks of previous generations.

The current environment emphasizes that parenting is increasingly "hazardous" to adult mental health, prompting calls for better systemic support for families.

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Condition of Family Matters



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14% of American parents report regretting having had children.

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Greek: teknon

Meaning: child, daughter, or son of any age

1. a child (as produced)

2. anyone living in *full dependence* on...

the heavenly *Father*, or an earthly father, or parent;

with a willful reliance on someone else with a glad submission to the proper authority in the child's life.

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Greek: hupakouo

Meaning: to obey, to be obedient, to answer to;
-to heed or to conform to a command or an authority;
-to act under the authority of the one speaking;
-to listen intently and intensely with an intent to act
accordingly.

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Greek: goneus

Meaning: parents.....used 23 times in the New Testament

This command establish obedience as the first lesson in practical righteousness. The grounding “in the Lord” and “to the Lord” elevates parental authority above mere social convention, locating it within divine order. The comprehensive “in everything” is tempered by the higher principle of obedience to God, preventing misuse of authority.

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Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

“Honor your father and mother”

(this is the first commandment with a promise),

”that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Theology of Parenthood

1. Rooted in Creation:

Parenthood involves participation in God's mandate to "be fruitful and multiply," reflecting His life-giving nature.

2. Instrument of Covenant Transmission:

Parents are primary teachers of divine revelation (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; echoed in New Testament assumptions).

3. Symbol of God's Care:

Fatherhood and motherhood supply imagery for God's nurture. (Isaiah 49:15; Matthew 7:11).

4. Training Ground for Discipleship:

Obedience learned at home prepares children for obedience to God and to civil authorities.

Changes That Heal

by Dr. Henry Cloud

***4 Critically important dimensions of personal maturity
that mirror the character of God.***

1. Bonding
2. Boundaries
3. Sorting out the Good / Bad Split
4. Adulthood and dealing with Authority

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Meaning: father, parent

a father; one who imparts life and is committed to it; a progenitor, bringing into being, or to pass on the potential for likeness.

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Hey dad, as the head of the home with all those responsibilities, and as the one who is probably a little less nurturing than mom, you have a greater chance of doing some damage to the heart of your child. So be really careful, okay?



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Greek: erethizó

Meaning: to exasperate,
to provoke,
to unwisely stir 'it' up,
to cause strife,
to stimulate to anger,
to unnecessarily frustrate

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Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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**Rules without
Relationship
produces Rebellion**

**Relationship without
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Greek: athumeo
Meaning: to be disheartened,
to lose heart,
to be discouraged,
to break the spirit

Theology of Fatherhood

1. Reflecting God's character:

Earthly fathers mirror the heavenly Father, who is “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in loving devotion” (Psalm 103:8).

2. Discipline without discouragement:

Discipline is biblical (Proverbs 13:24). Yet, it must aim at training, not humiliation.

3. Building resilient faith: Encouraging words cultivate spiritual stamina, enabling children to “run with endurance the race set out for us” (Hebrews 12:1).

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Proverbs 13:24

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

In Psalm 23:4, "thy rod and thy staff" represent the protective and guiding care of God as a shepherd. The **rod** is a weapon for defending against enemies and ensuring safety, while the **staff** is a tool for gently guiding, correcting, and rescuing sheep. Together, they bring comfort by symbolizing God's active protection and loving direction. Got Questions.com

Shepherdhood

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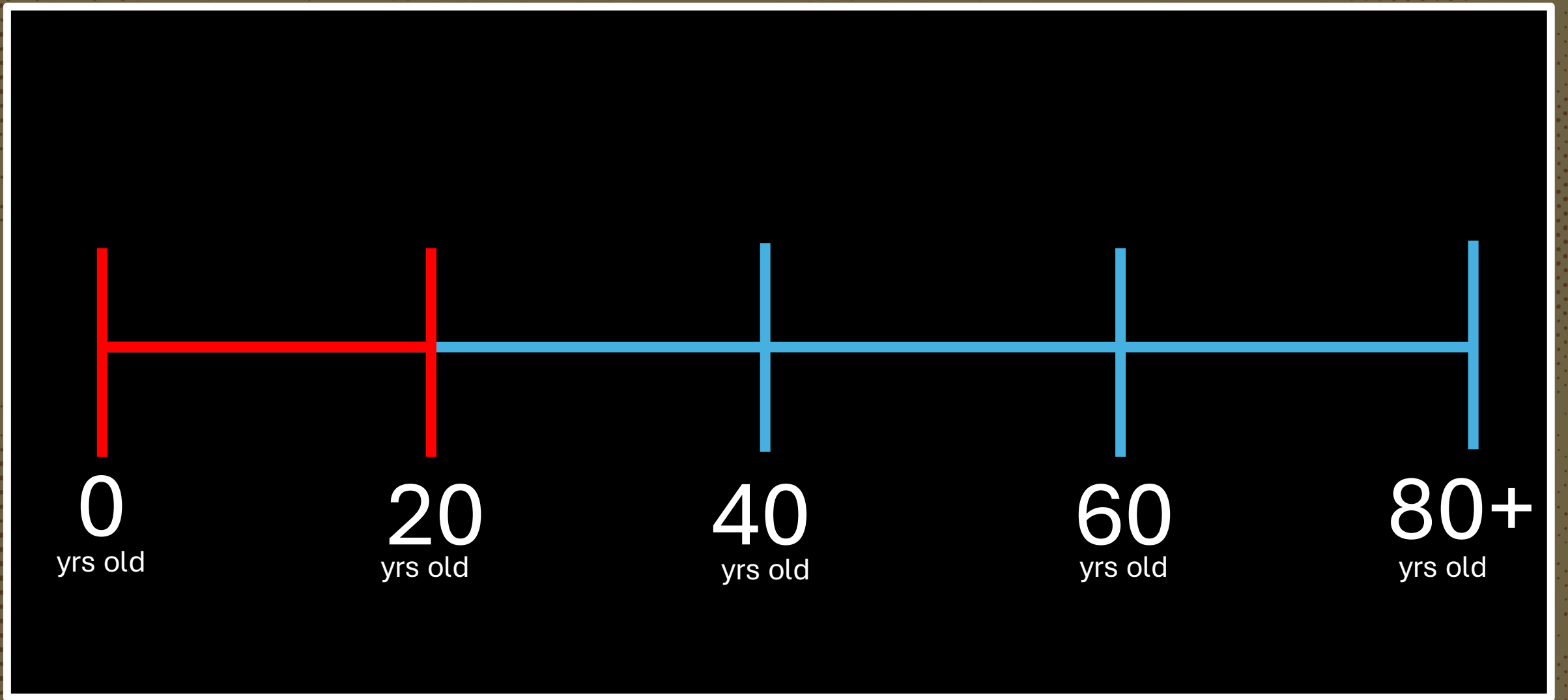
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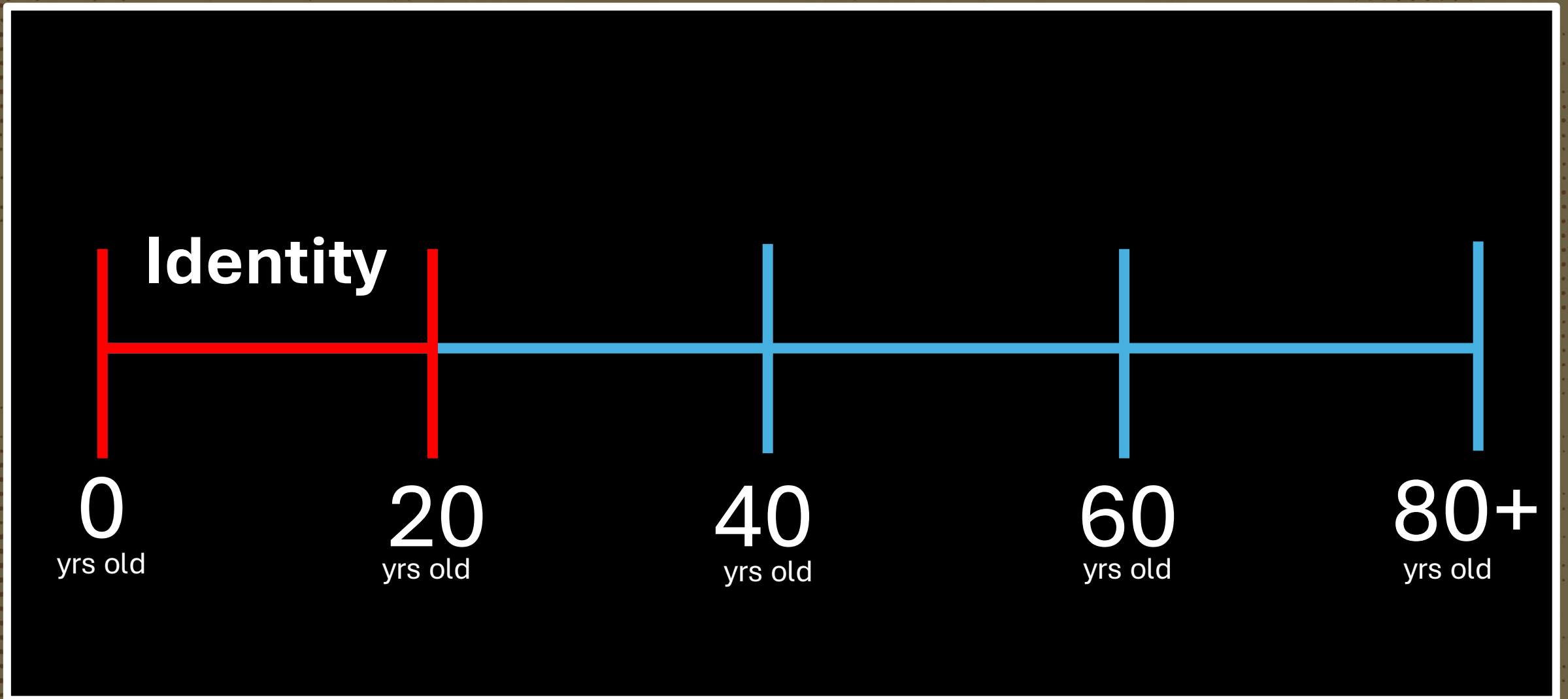
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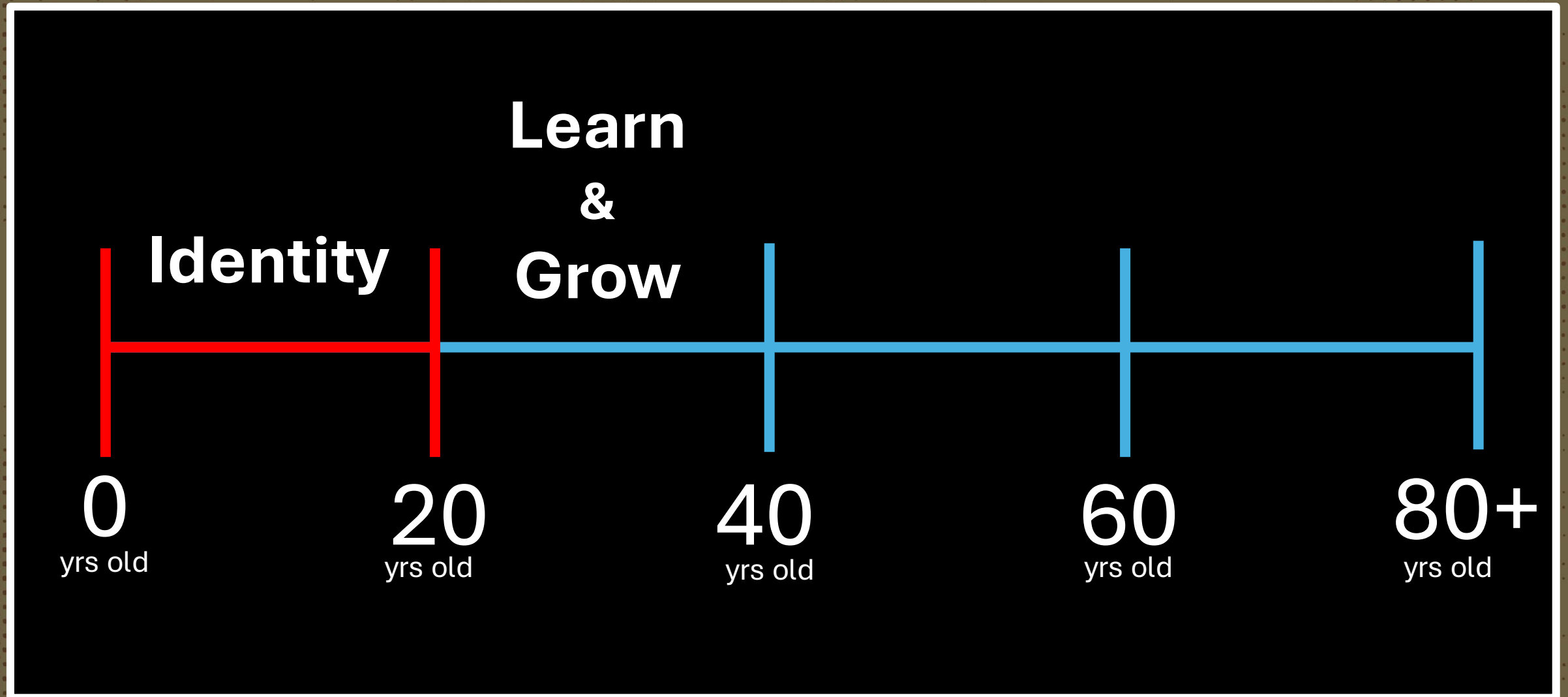
Framework for Staging Life



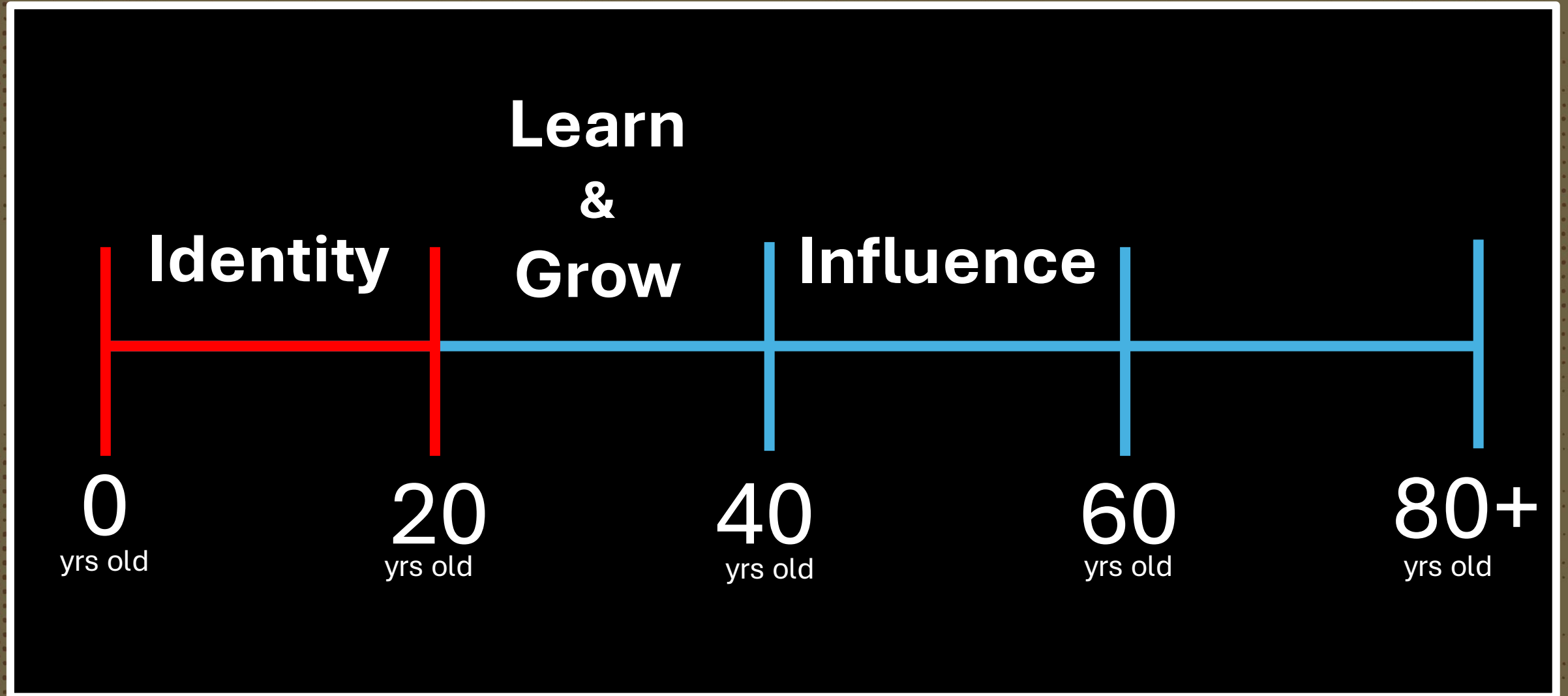
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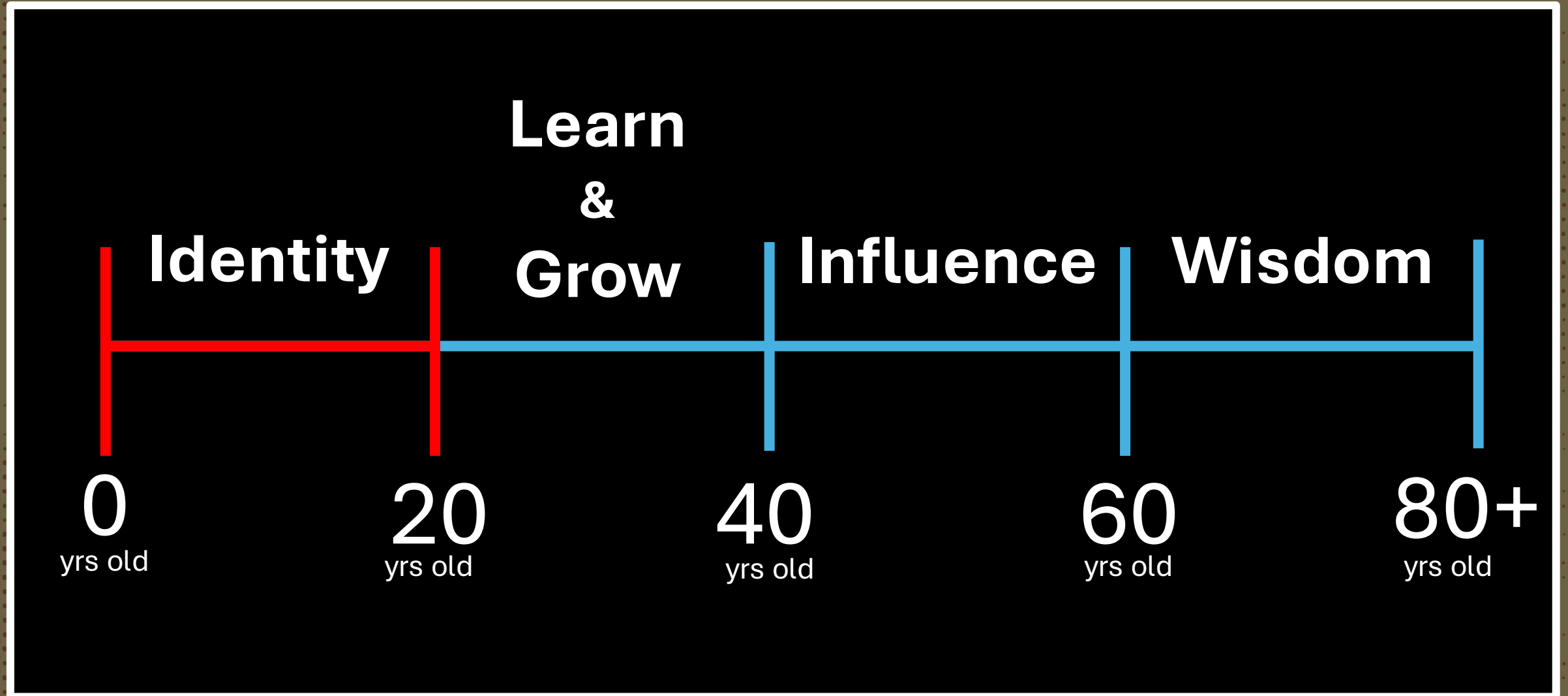
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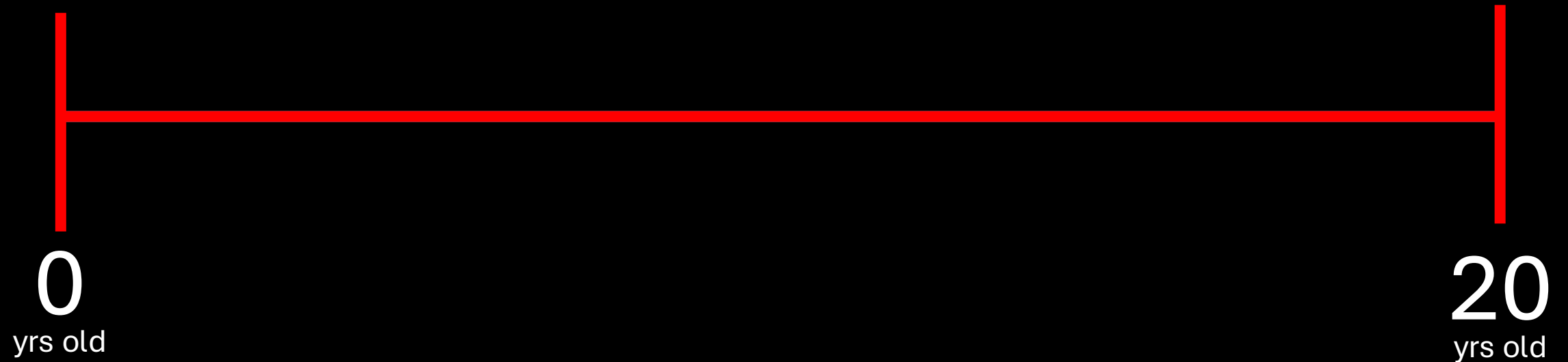


Framework for Staging Life



Framework for Parenting

Identity



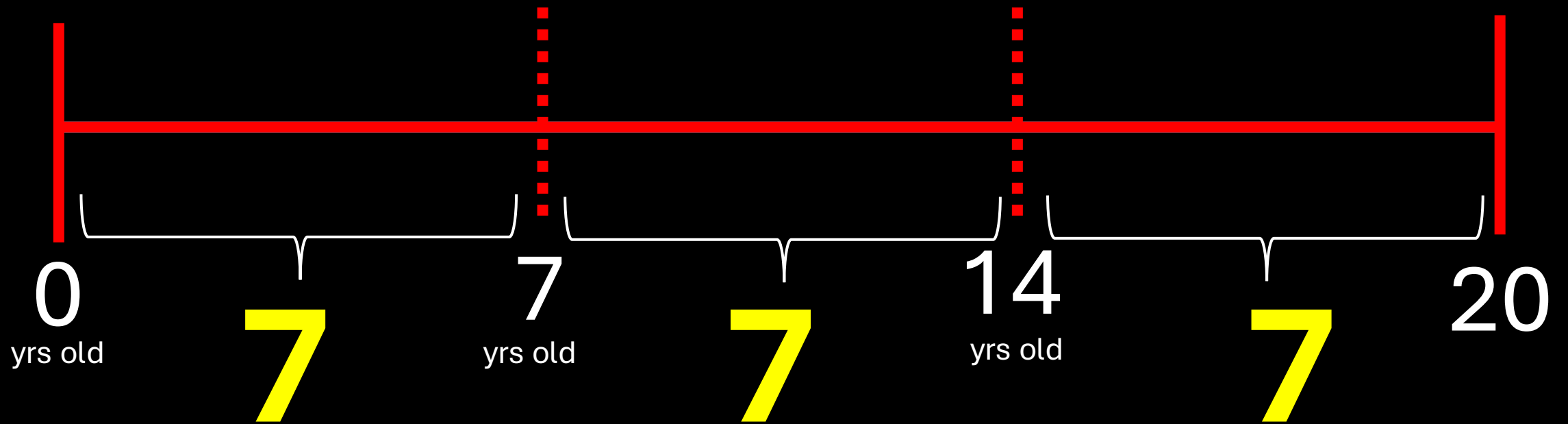
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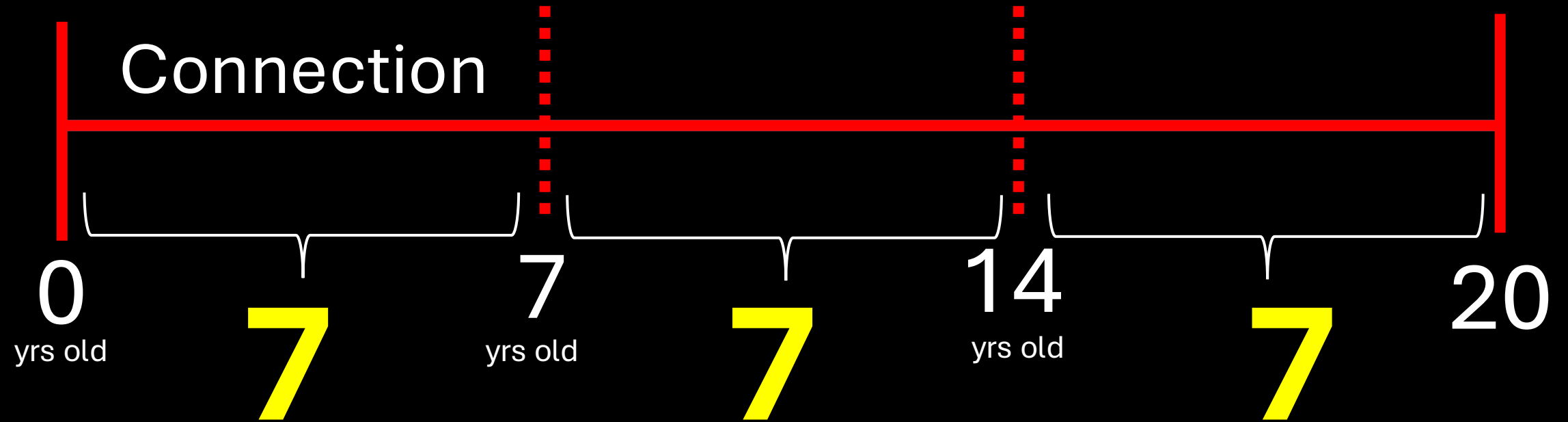
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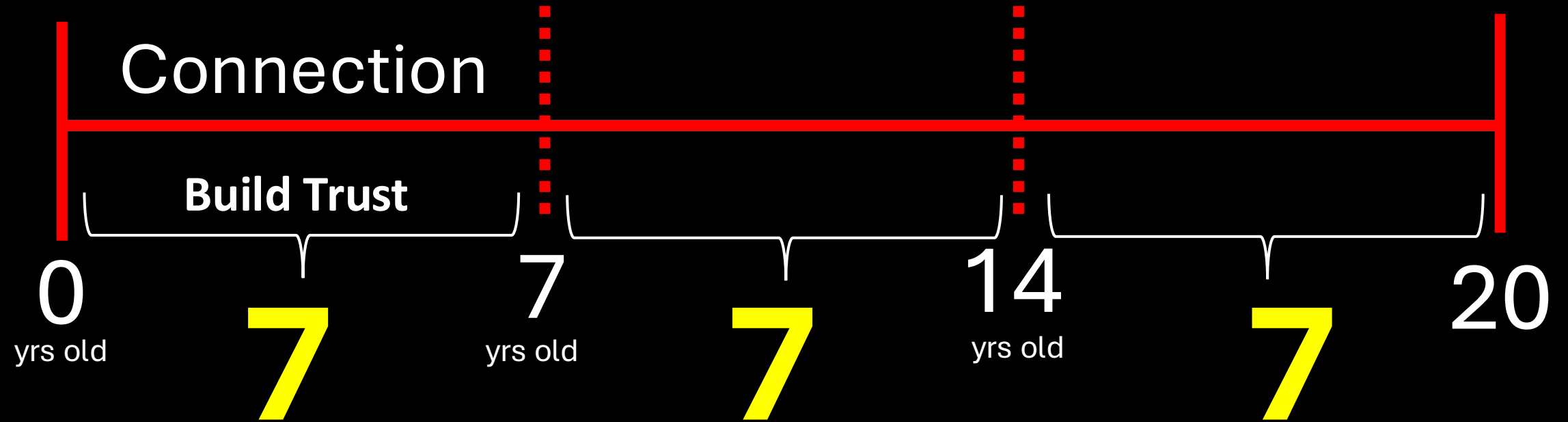
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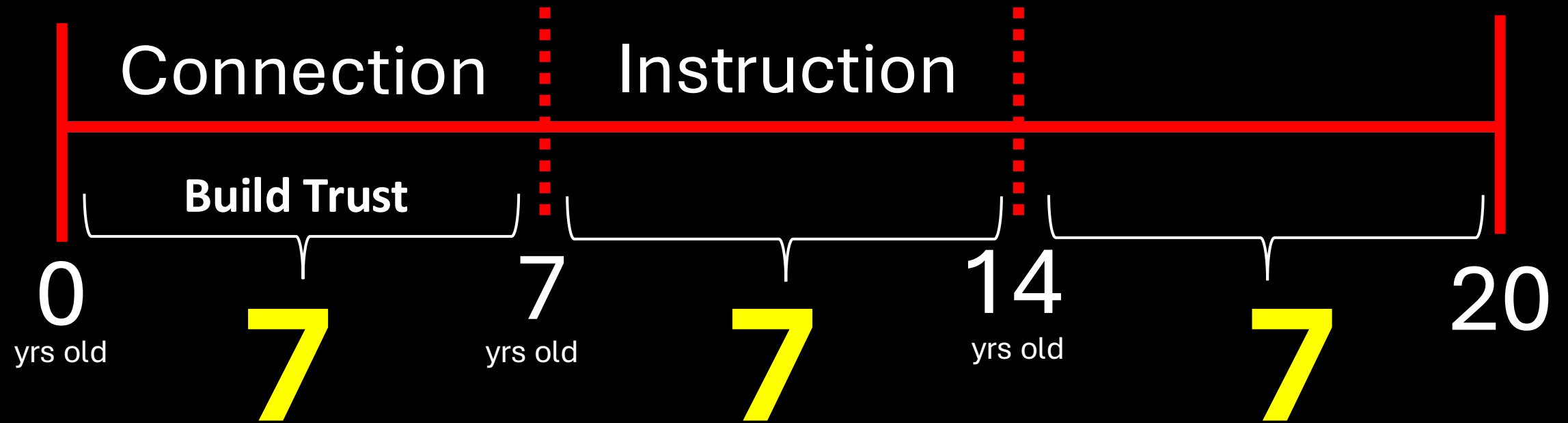
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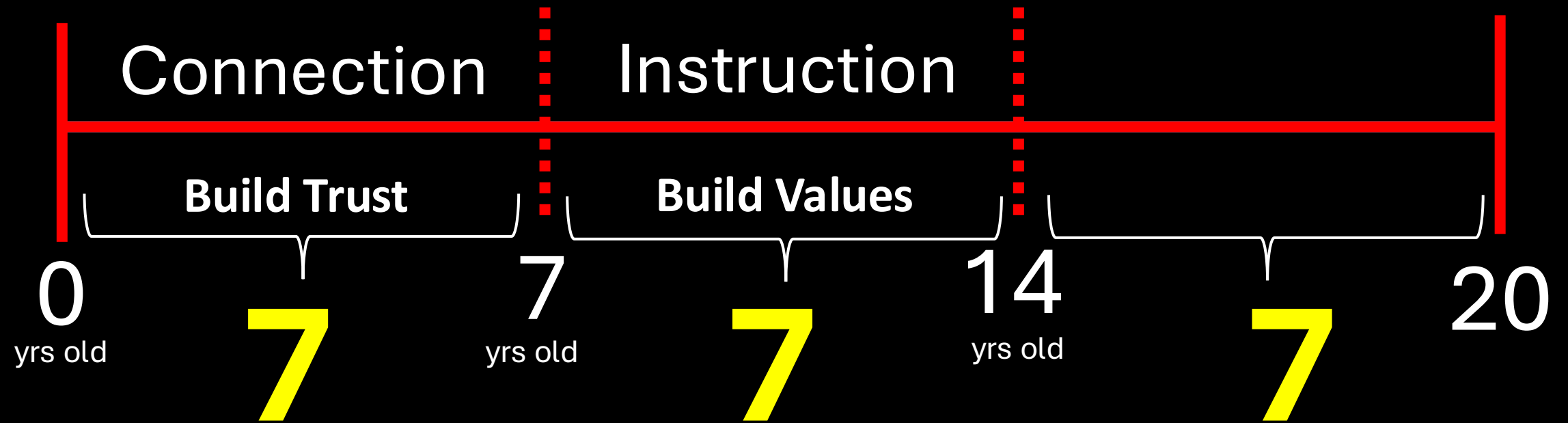
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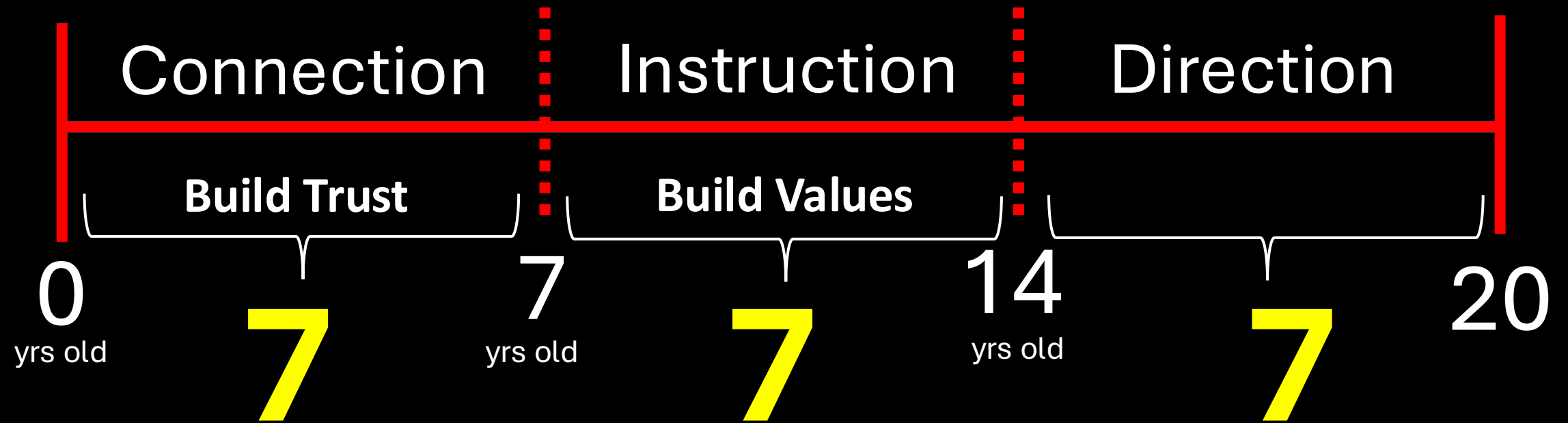
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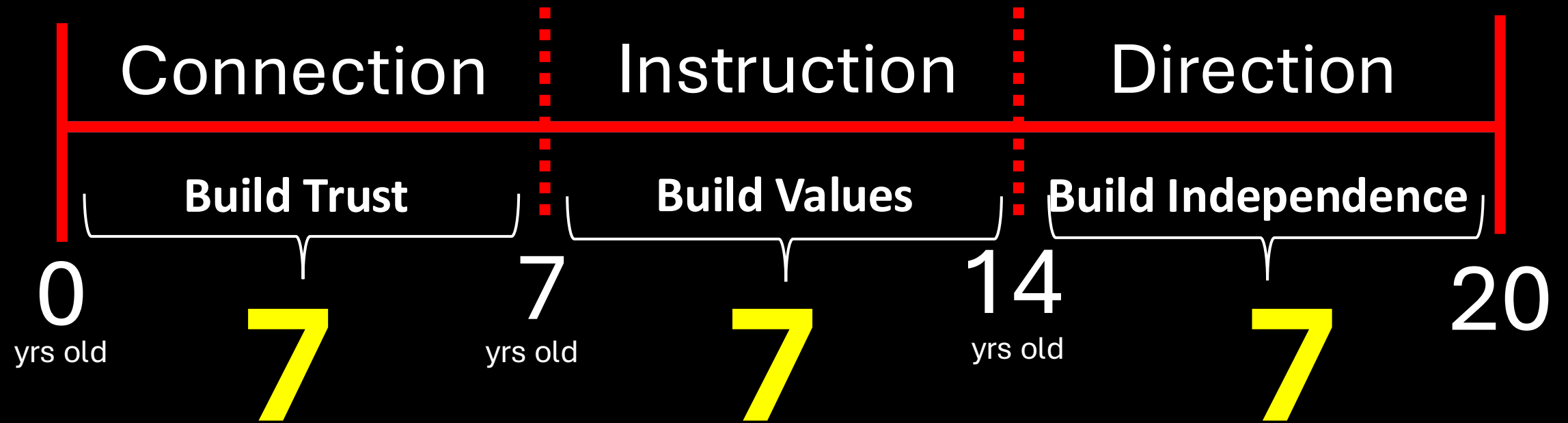
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So.....Therefore.....What Now



So.....Therefore.....What Now

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Shema: listen

- ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
- ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
- ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
- ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
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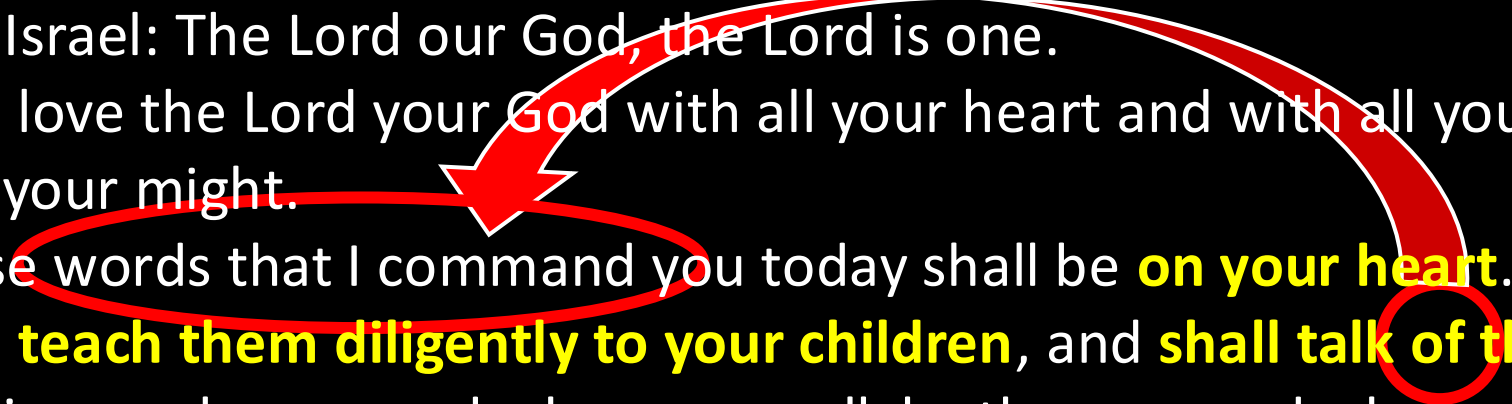
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- 

So.....Therefore.....What Now



Closing Benediction

Galatians 2:20

**I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.**