

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A dirt road winds through the trees, curving from the left towards the right. The text 'The Gospel of Mark' is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font with a soft green glow. 'The' is smaller and positioned above 'Gospel'. 'of' is smaller and positioned between 'Gospel' and 'Mark'.

*The
Gospel of Mark*

Yeast and Numbers

Mark 8:1-21

Mark 8:1-10

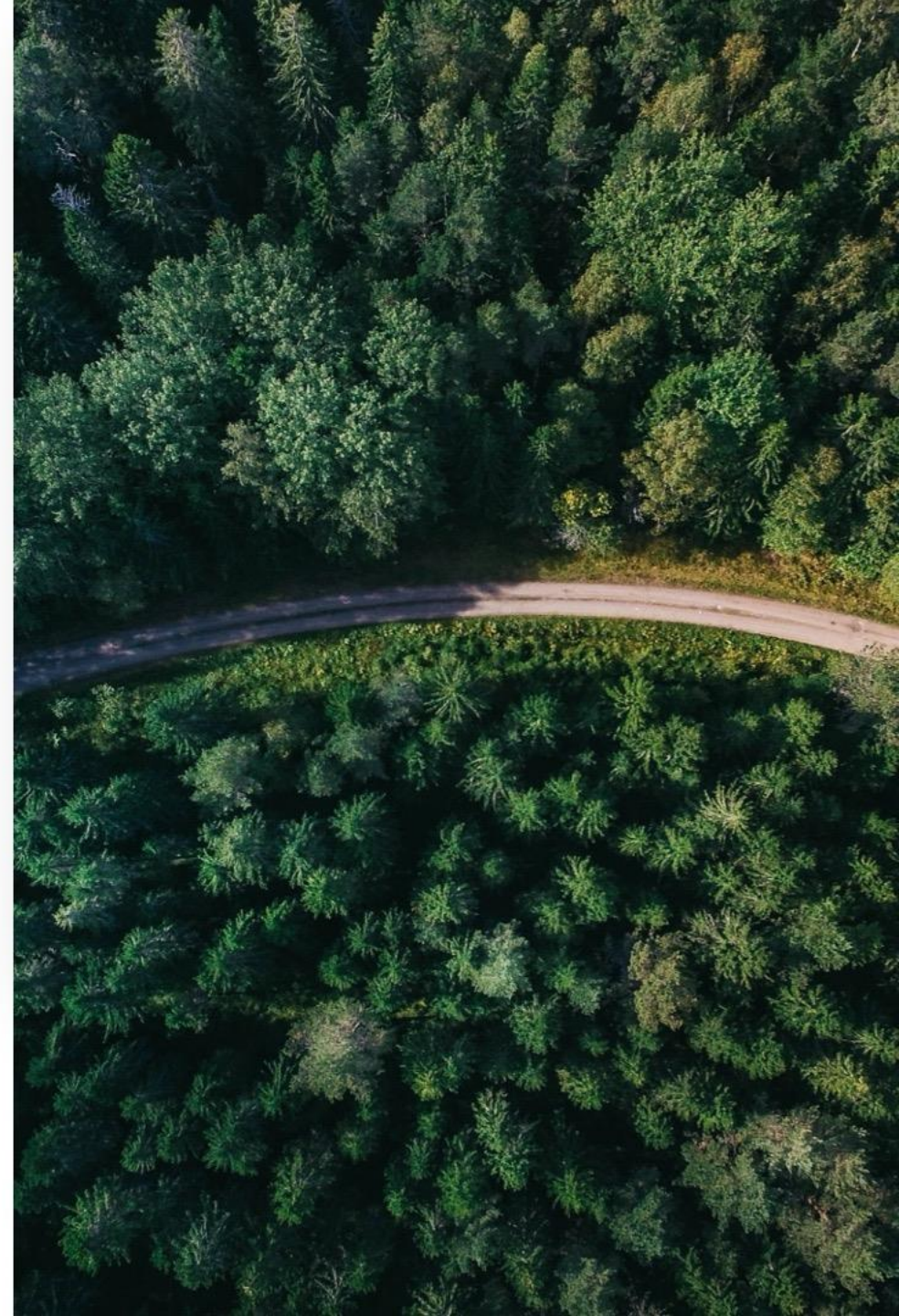
(The Feeding of the Four Thousand)

¹ During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ² “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

⁴ His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

⁵ “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.

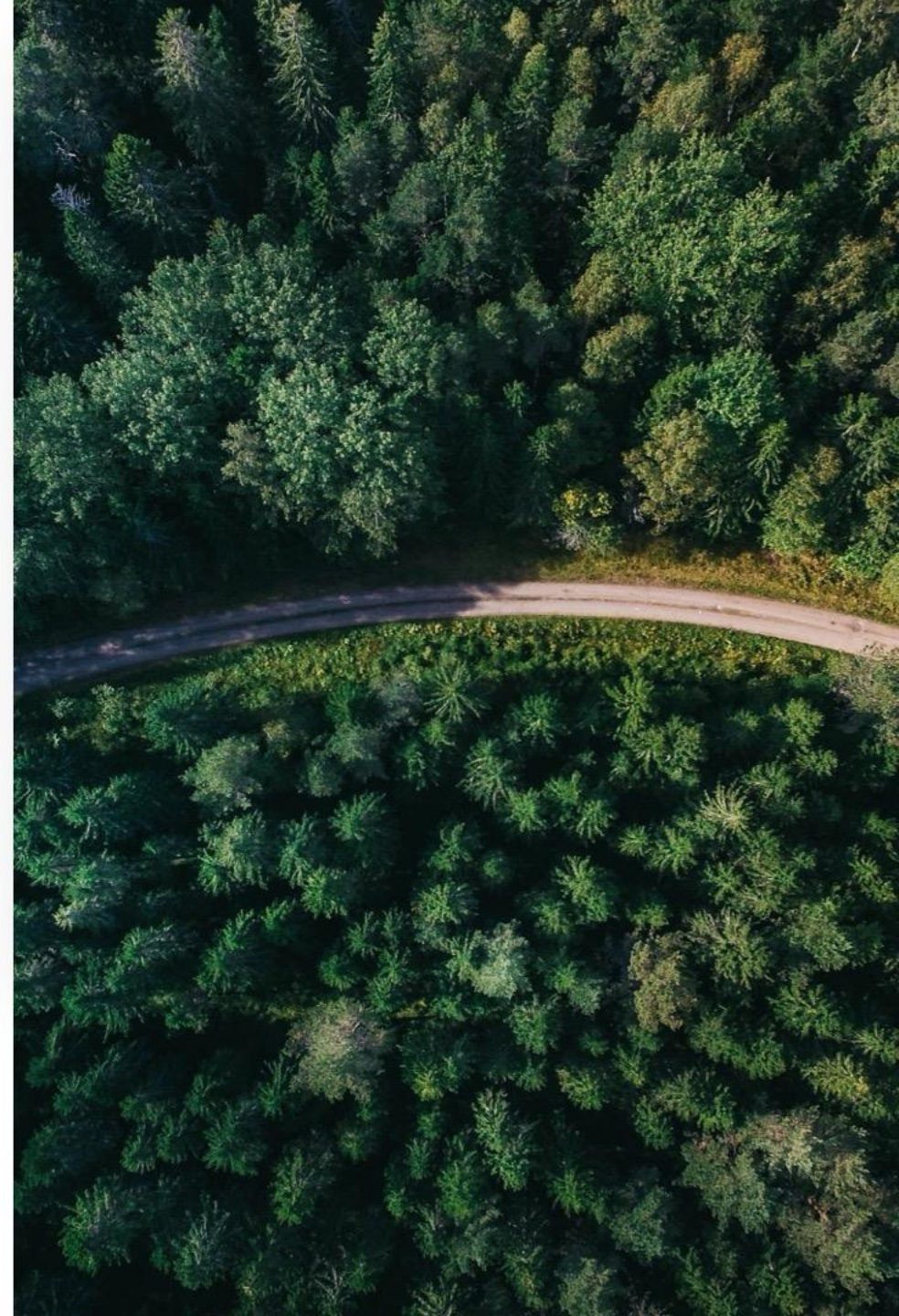


Mark 8:1-10

(The Feeding of the Four Thousand)

⁶ He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. ⁷ They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.

⁸ The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹ About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, ¹⁰ he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

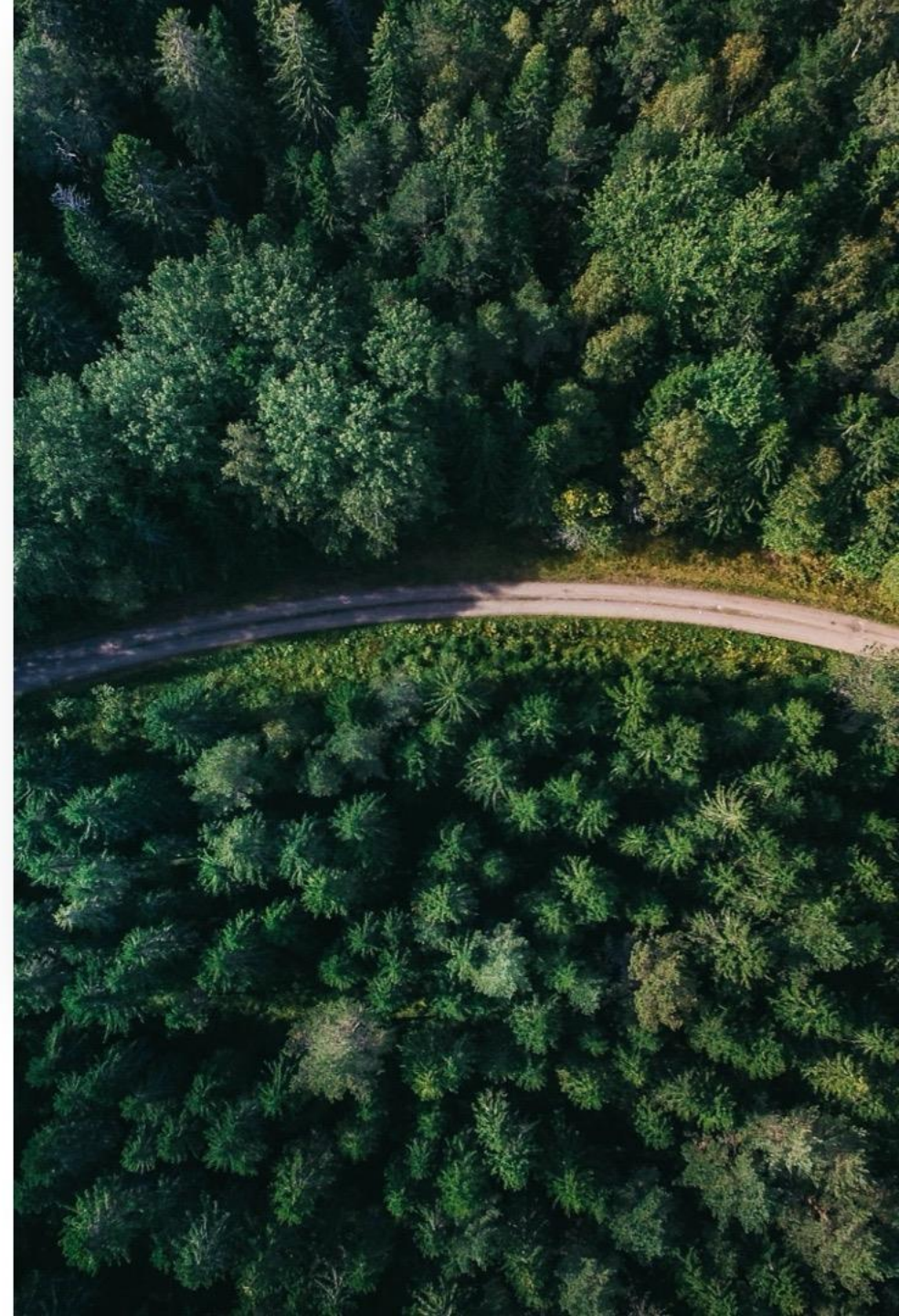


Mark 8:11-13

(The Pharisees Demand a Sign)

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven.

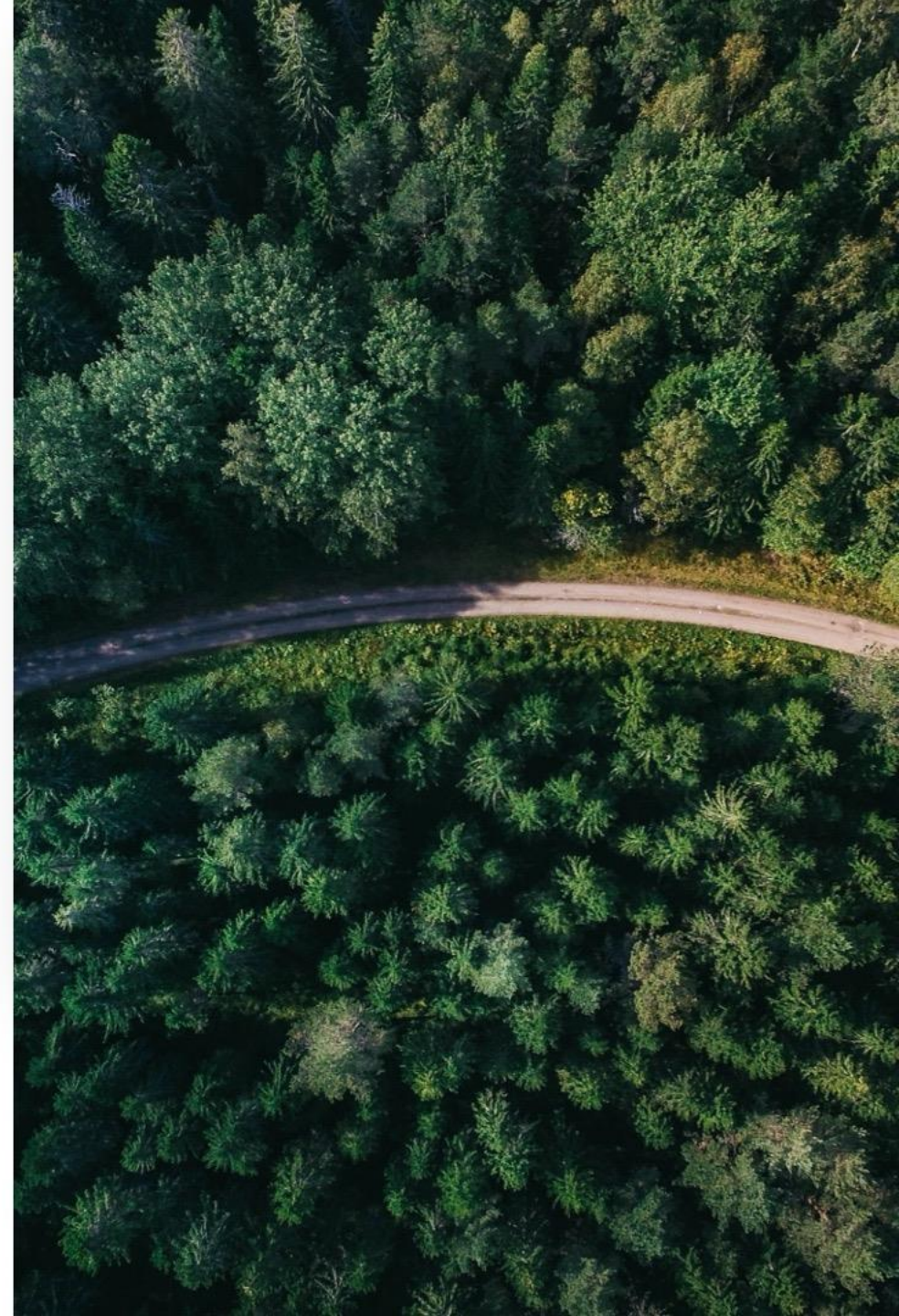
¹² He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” ¹³ Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.



Mark 8:14-16

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”



Mark 8:17-21

¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?”

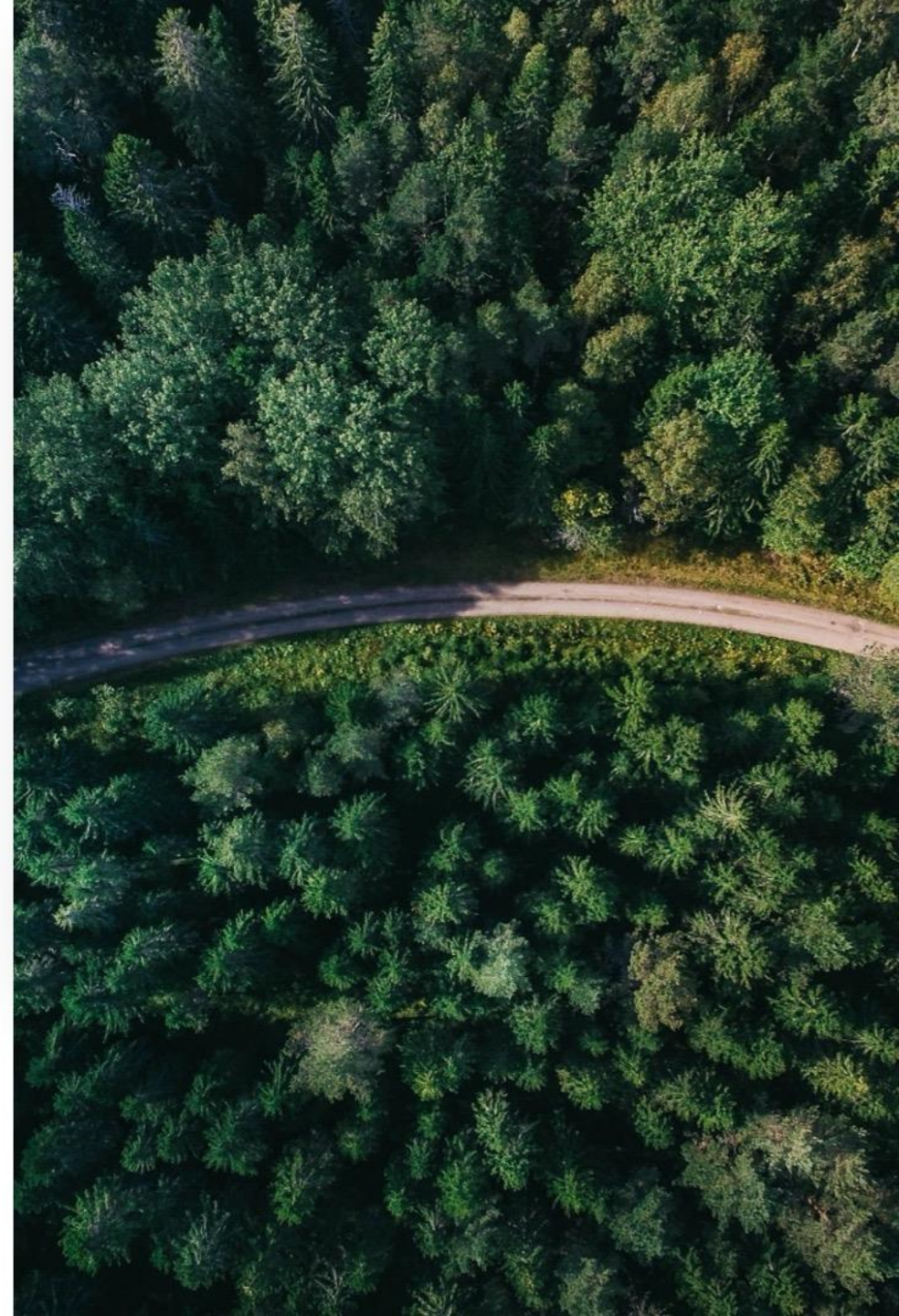
¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

“Twelve,” they replied.

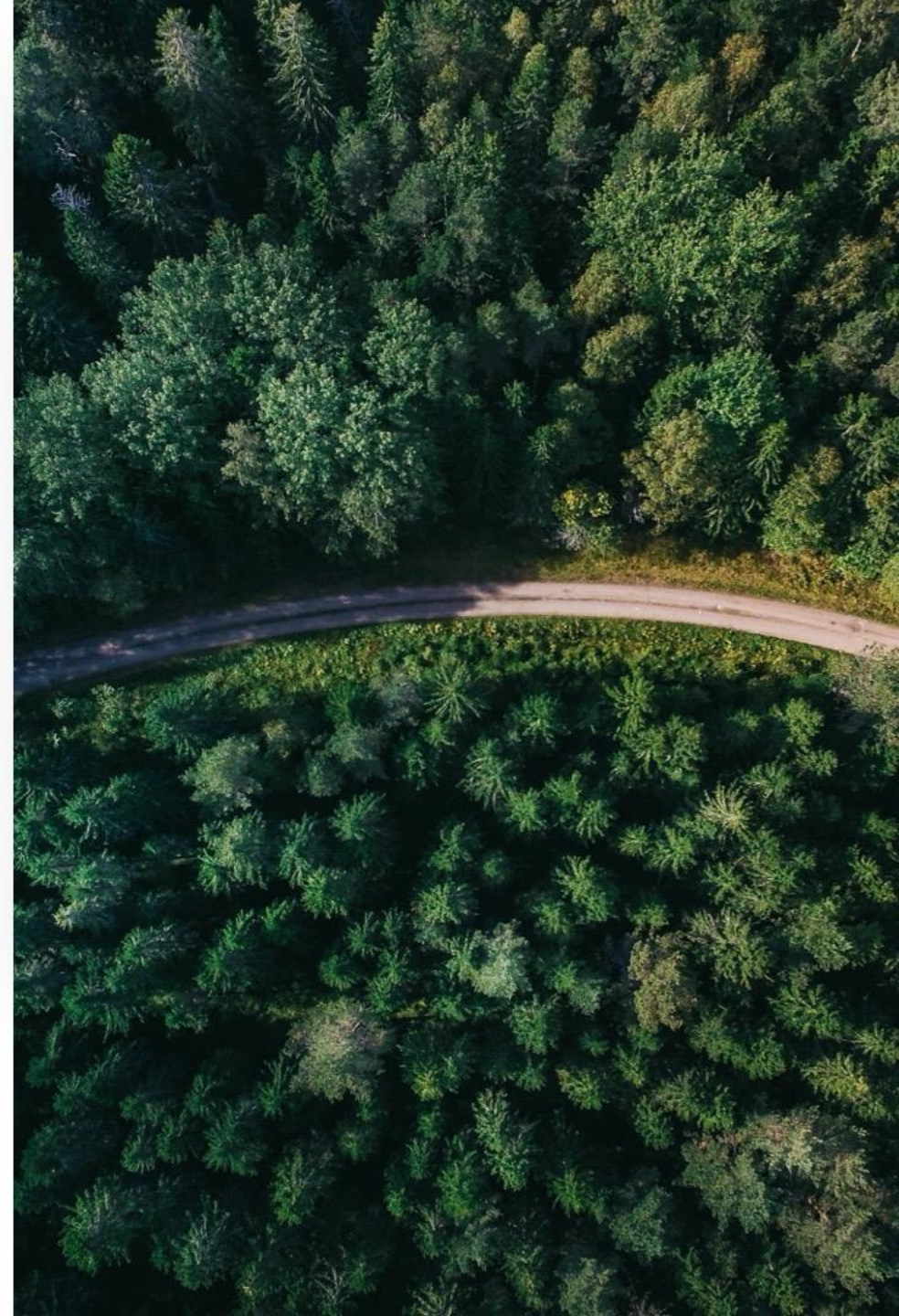
²⁰ “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven.”

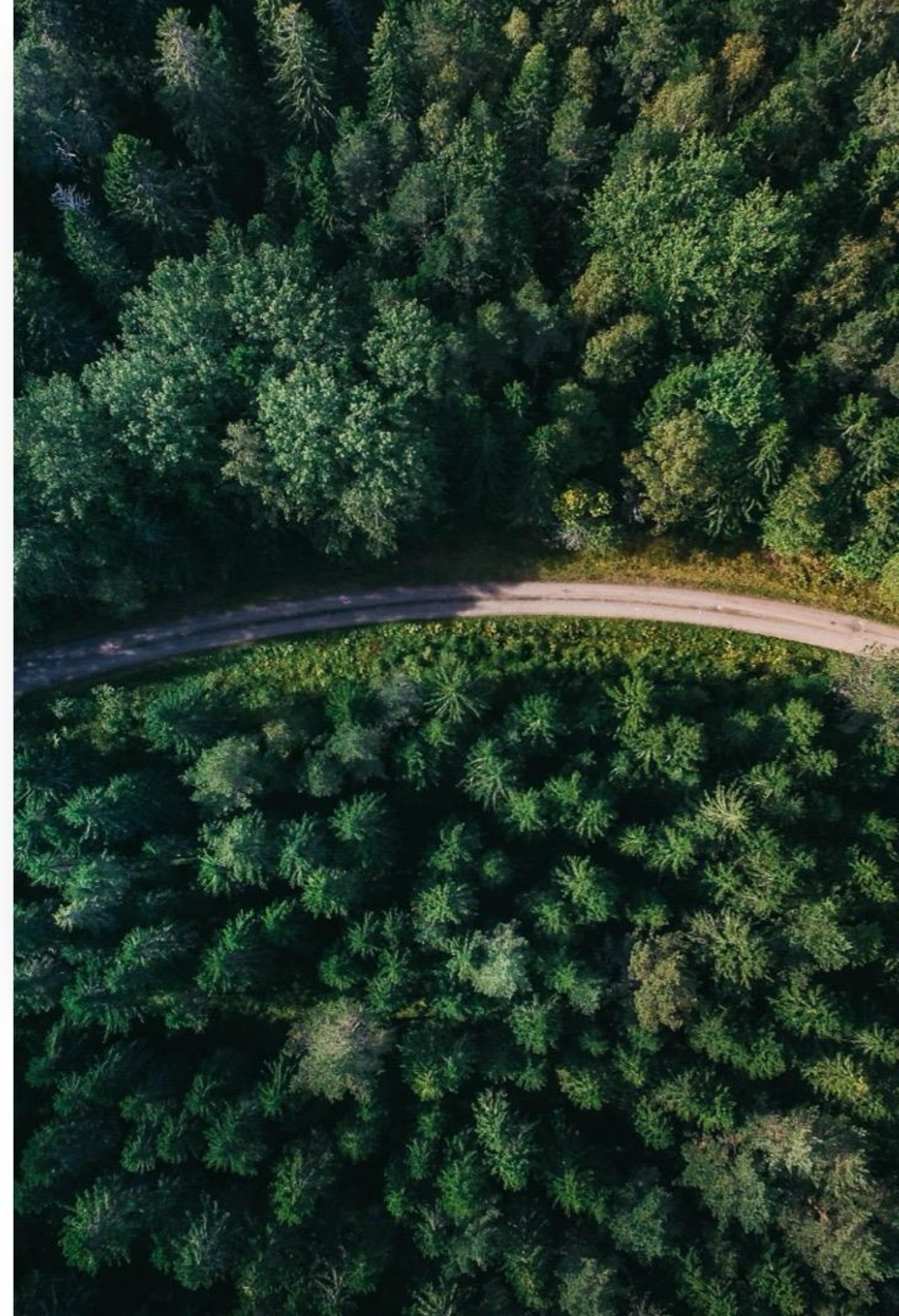
²¹ He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”



To which we answer:

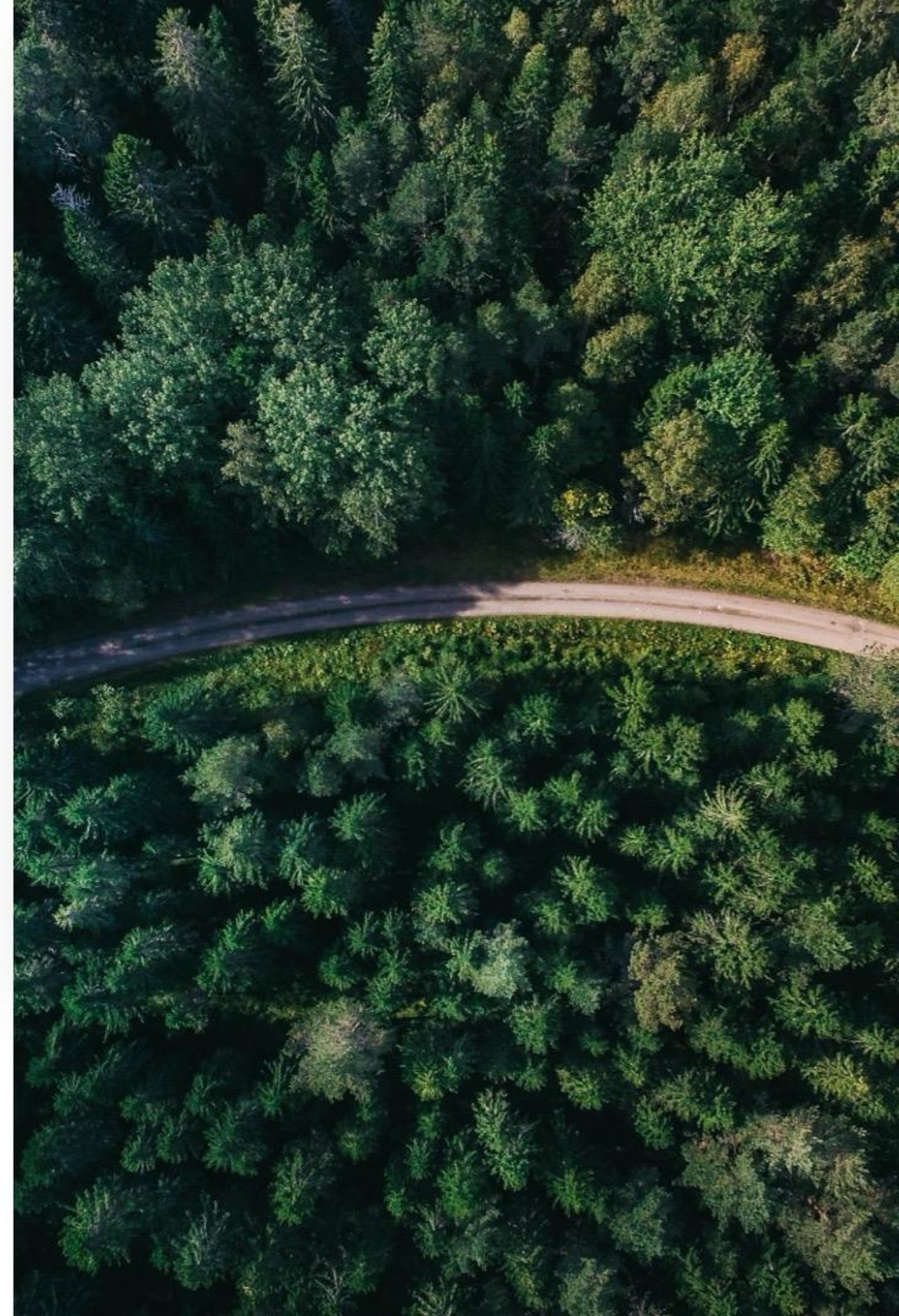


To which we answer: **No.**



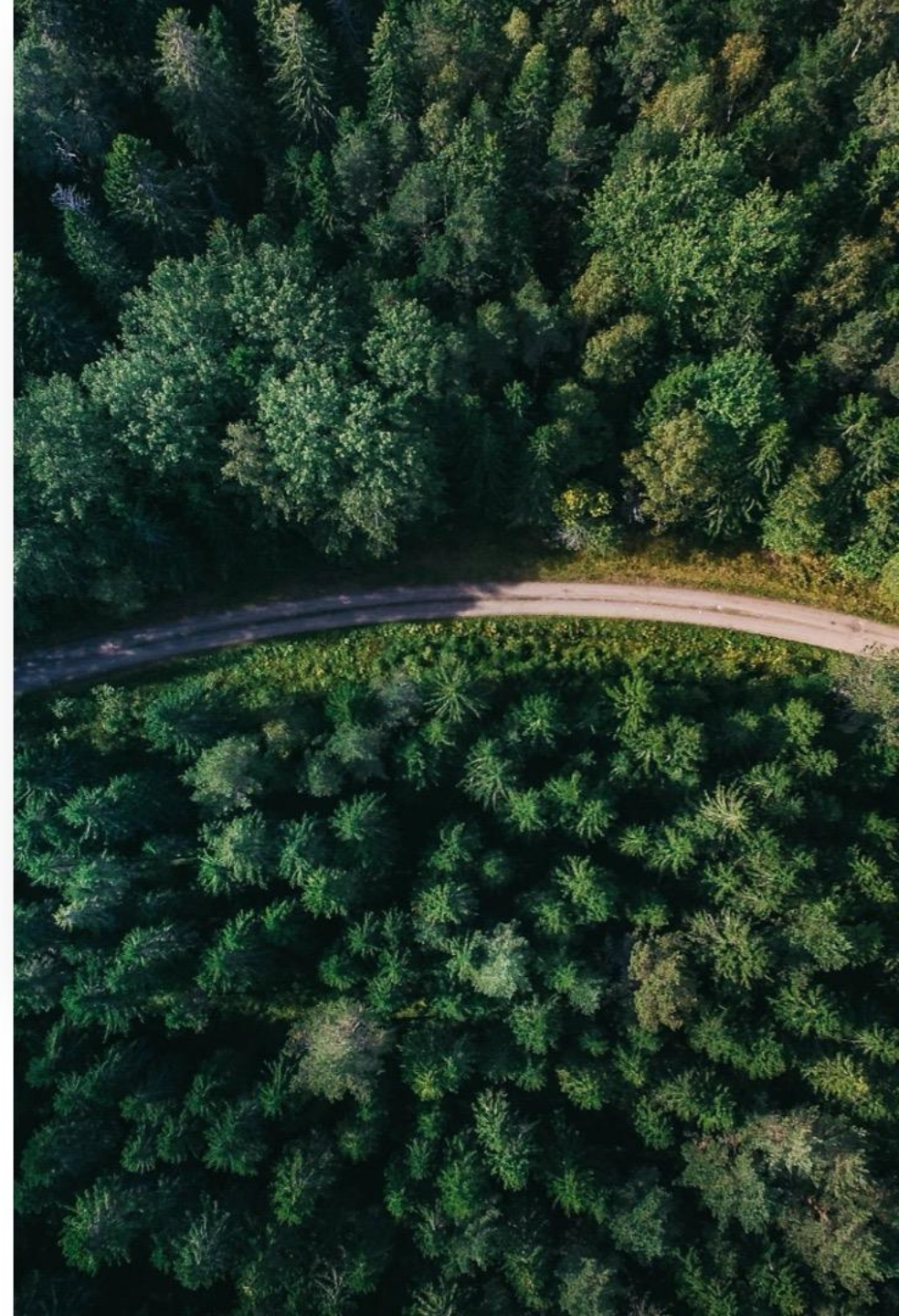
To which we answer: **No.**

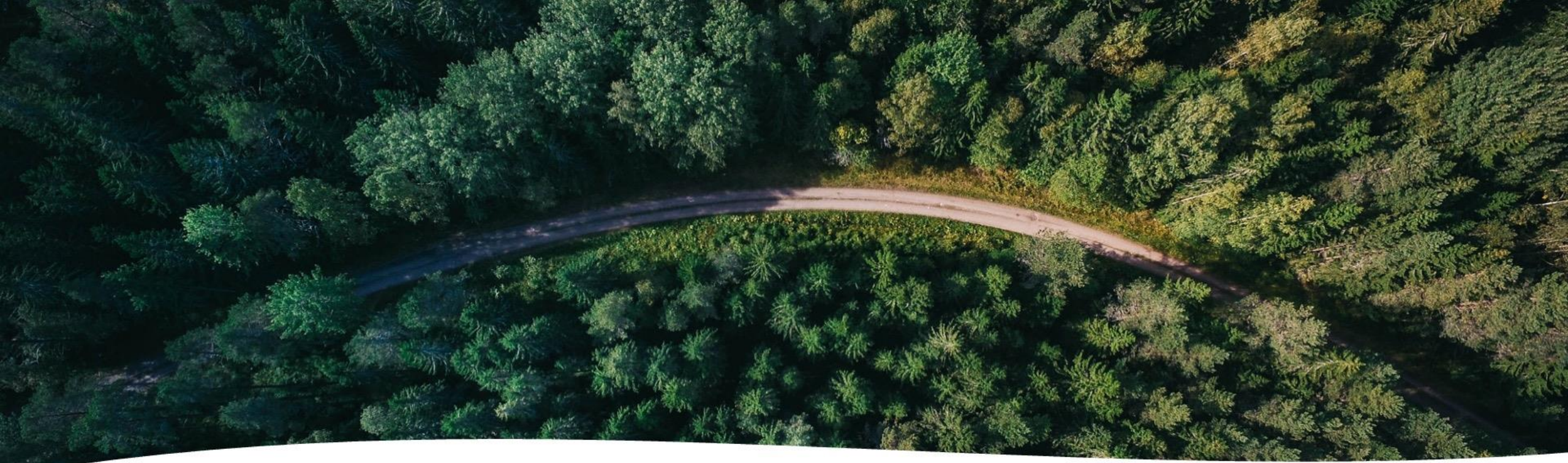
We do not understand.



Mark 8:14-15

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”



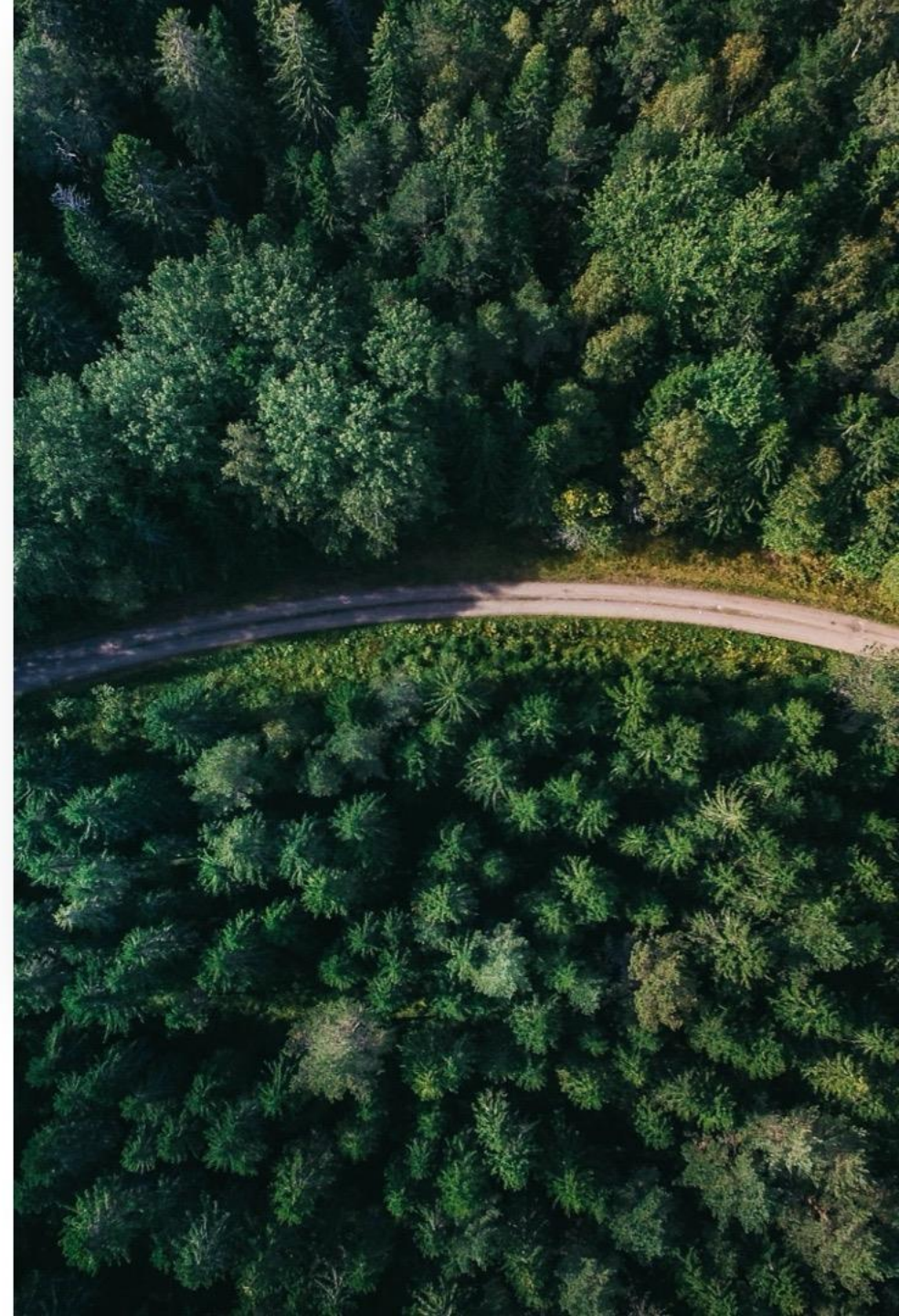


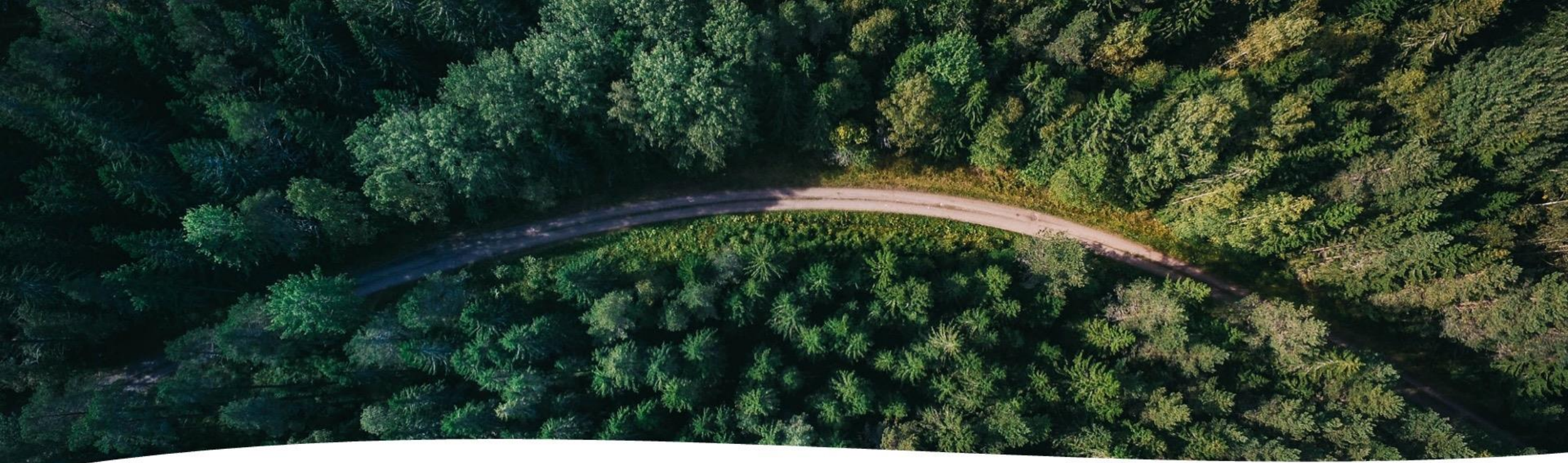
When we are hungry we are **susceptible**.

(easily influenced or likely to
be hurt by something)

Mark 8:14-15

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”





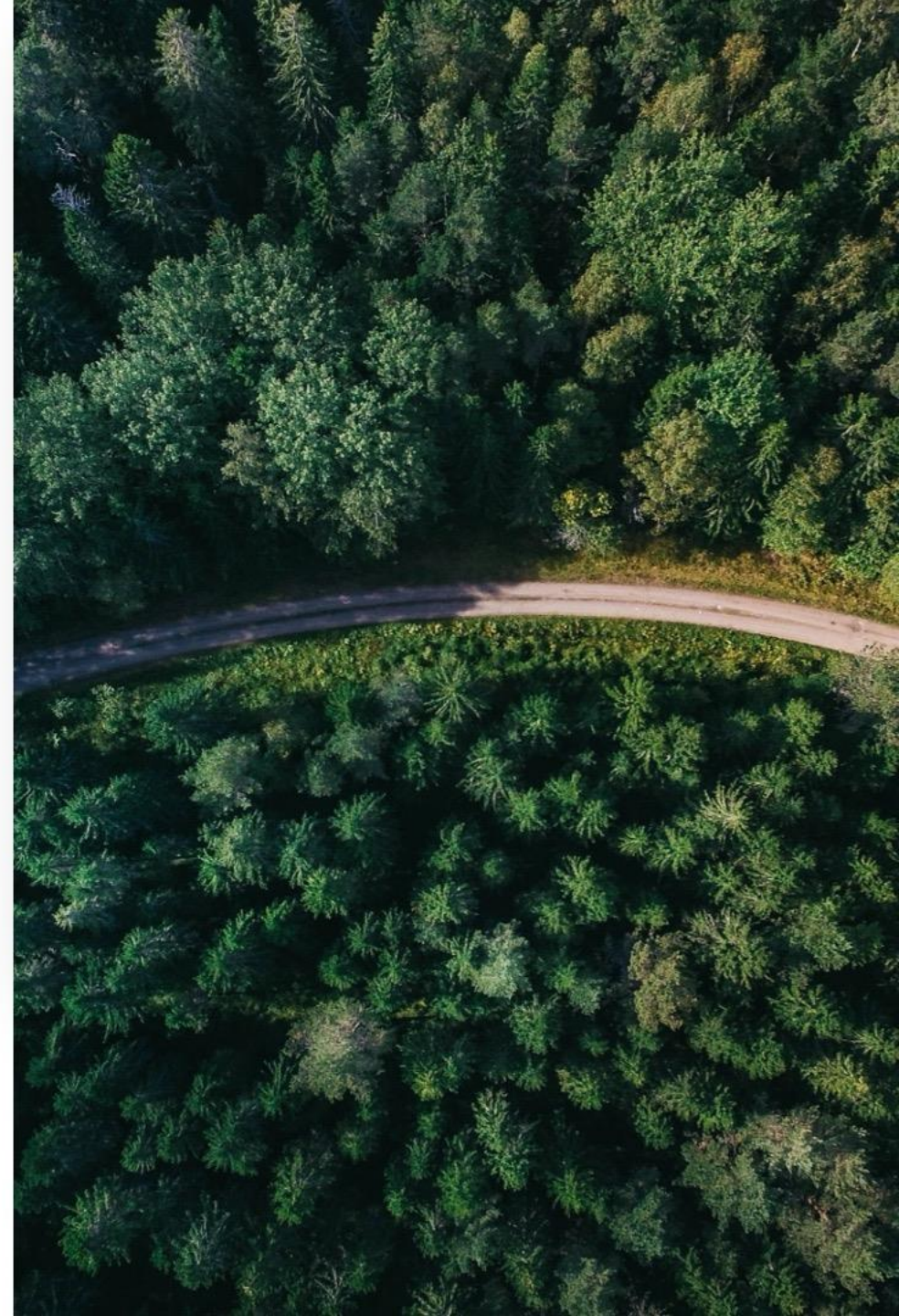
In our spiritual hunger, we must be
careful of what we consume.

“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” (Mark 8:15)

Mark 8:16

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”



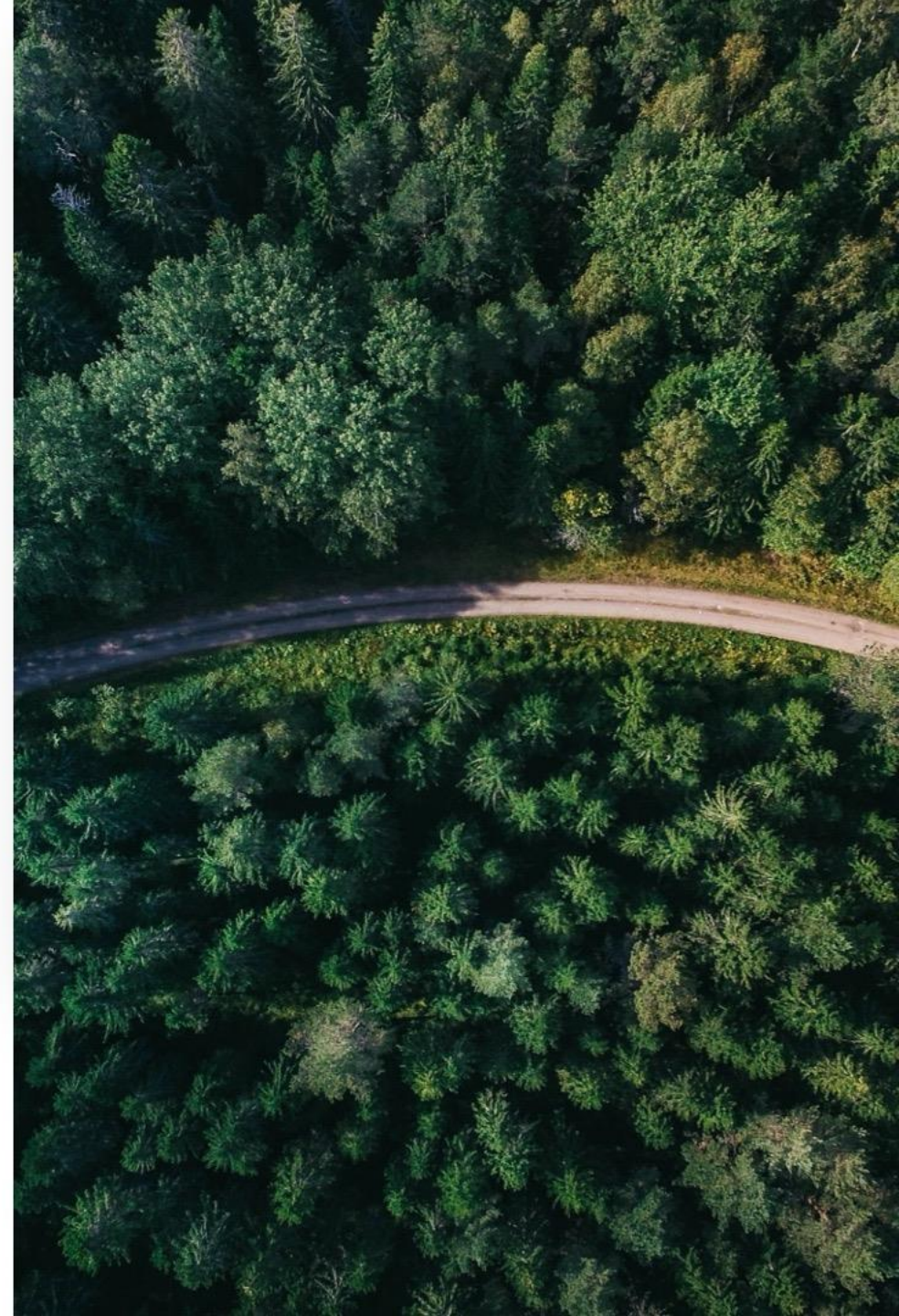
Mark 8:16-18a

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?

¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?...



Mark 8:18b-21

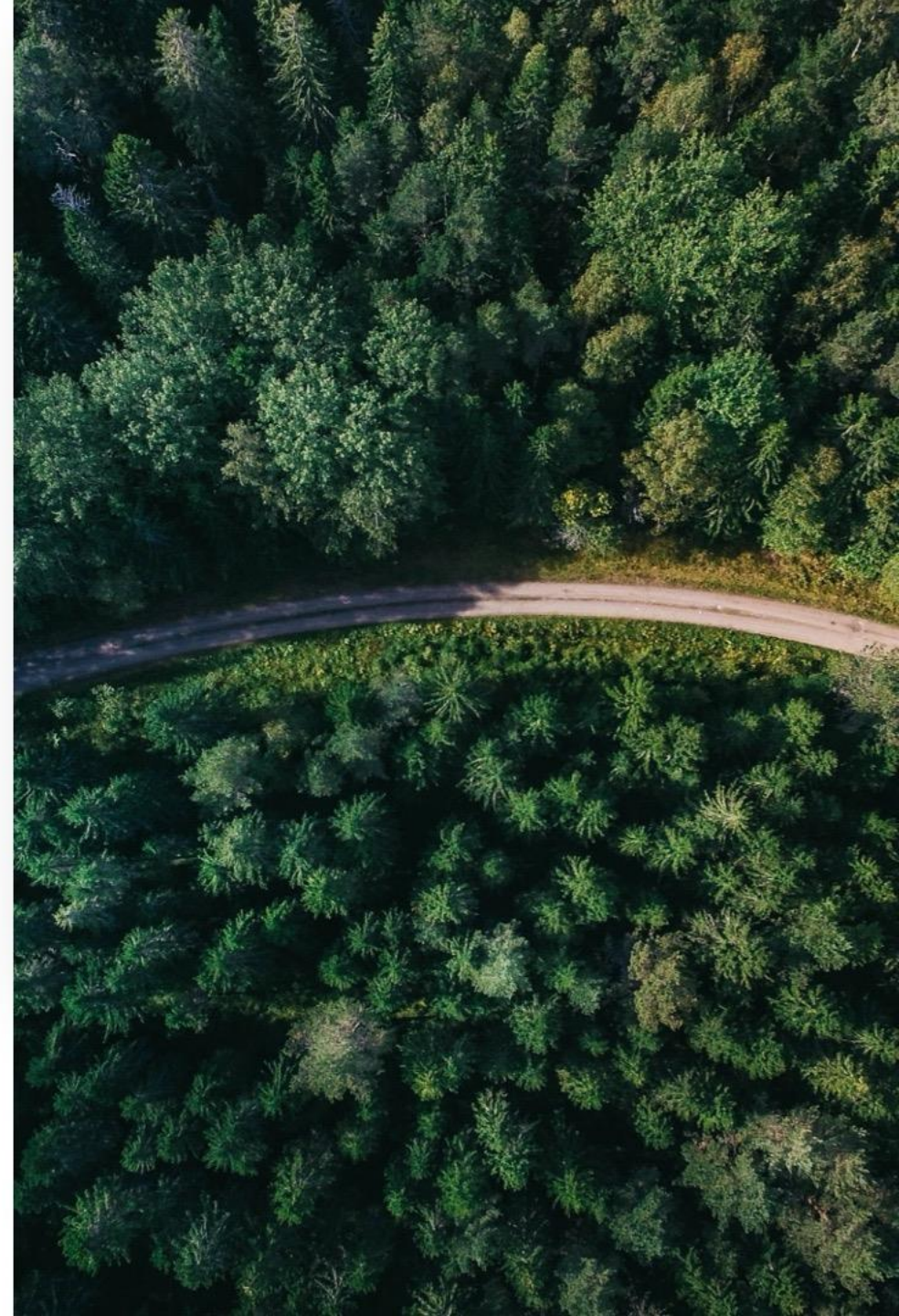
^{18b} ... **And don't you remember?** ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve," they replied.

²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

They answered, "Seven."

²¹ He said to them, **"Do you still not understand?"**



Jewish Numerology

NUMBER	MEANING/PICTURE REFERENCE
1	God
2	Two Tablets of Moses / the <i>Way</i> (10 Commandments/Covenant)
3	Community
4	The Gentiles (Four Corners of the Compass)
5	Five Books of Moses (Torah / "Kingdom of God" fulfilled)
6	Sin
7	Completion / Creation (Seven Days)
10	Complete Community (7 + 3 also multiples 100, 1000 = 10x10x10)
12	Twelve Tribes of Israel
40	A Period of Trial, Judgement or Penitence

Mark 8:19-21 [with references]

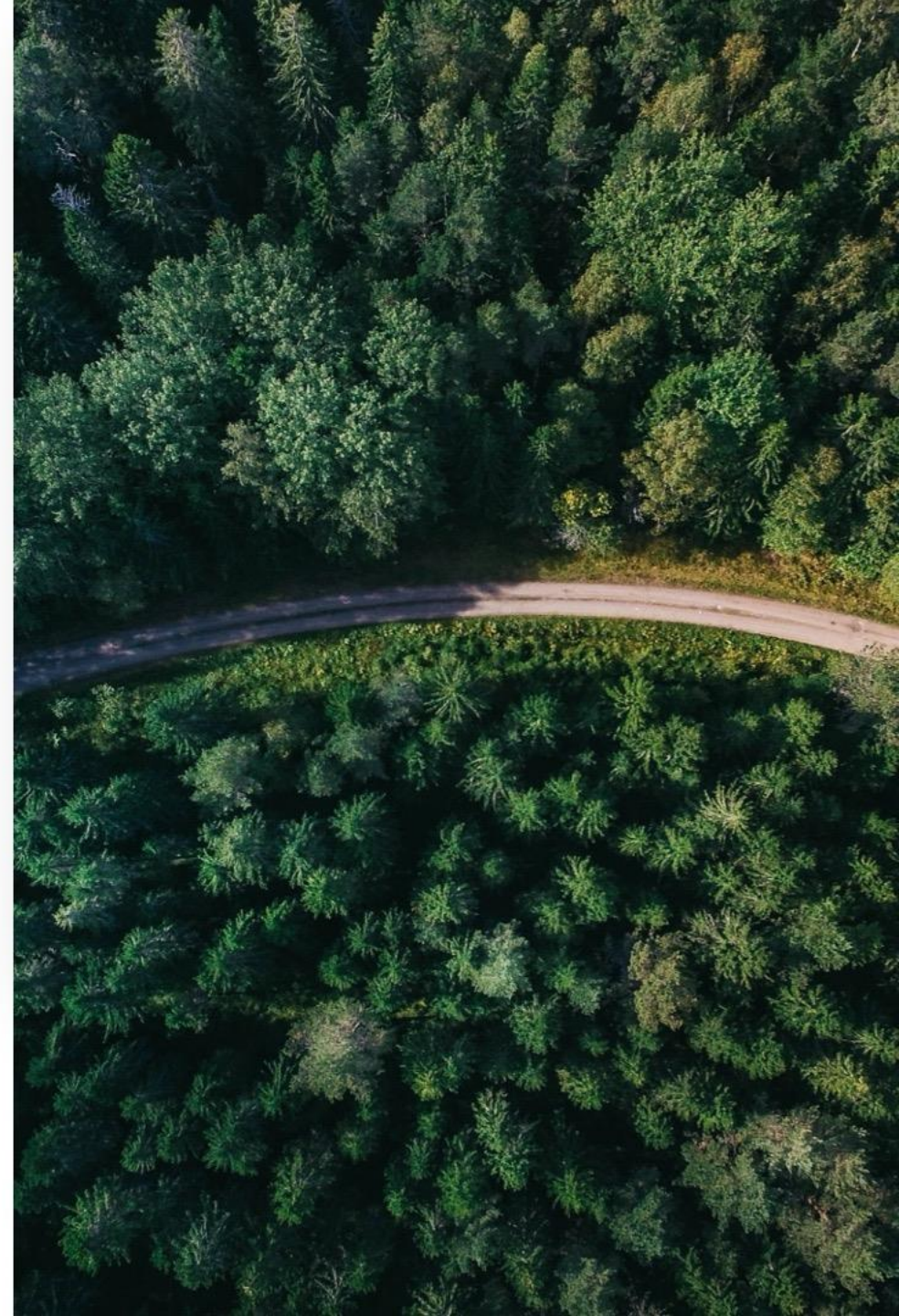
¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves [interpreted correctly/fulfilled Torah] for the five thousand [total community who had already received the five books of Moses], how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

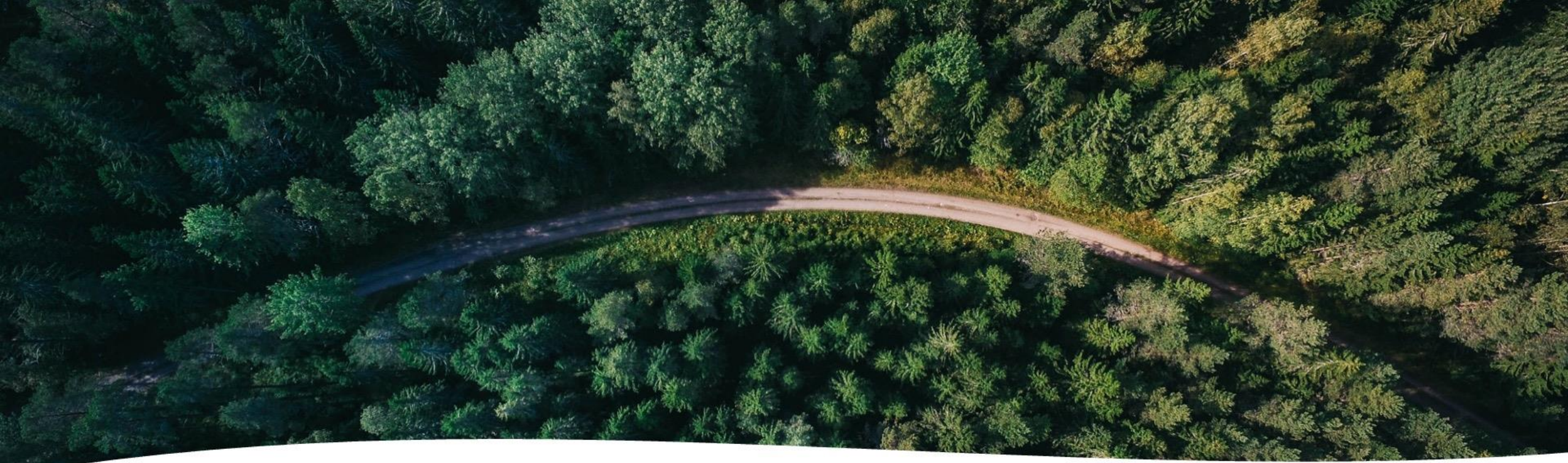
“Twelve [enough for all the Tribes of Israel],” they replied.

²⁰ “And when I broke the seven loaves [2+5, the covenant + interpreted/fulfilled Torah] for the four thousand [total community of the Gentiles], how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven. [completion]”

²¹ He said to them, “**Do you still not understand?**”





Jesus invites **all people** (Jewish and Gentile) to share
in His spiritual bread – for it will **fully satisfy**.

He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”
(Mark 8:21)

Mark 8:14

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

