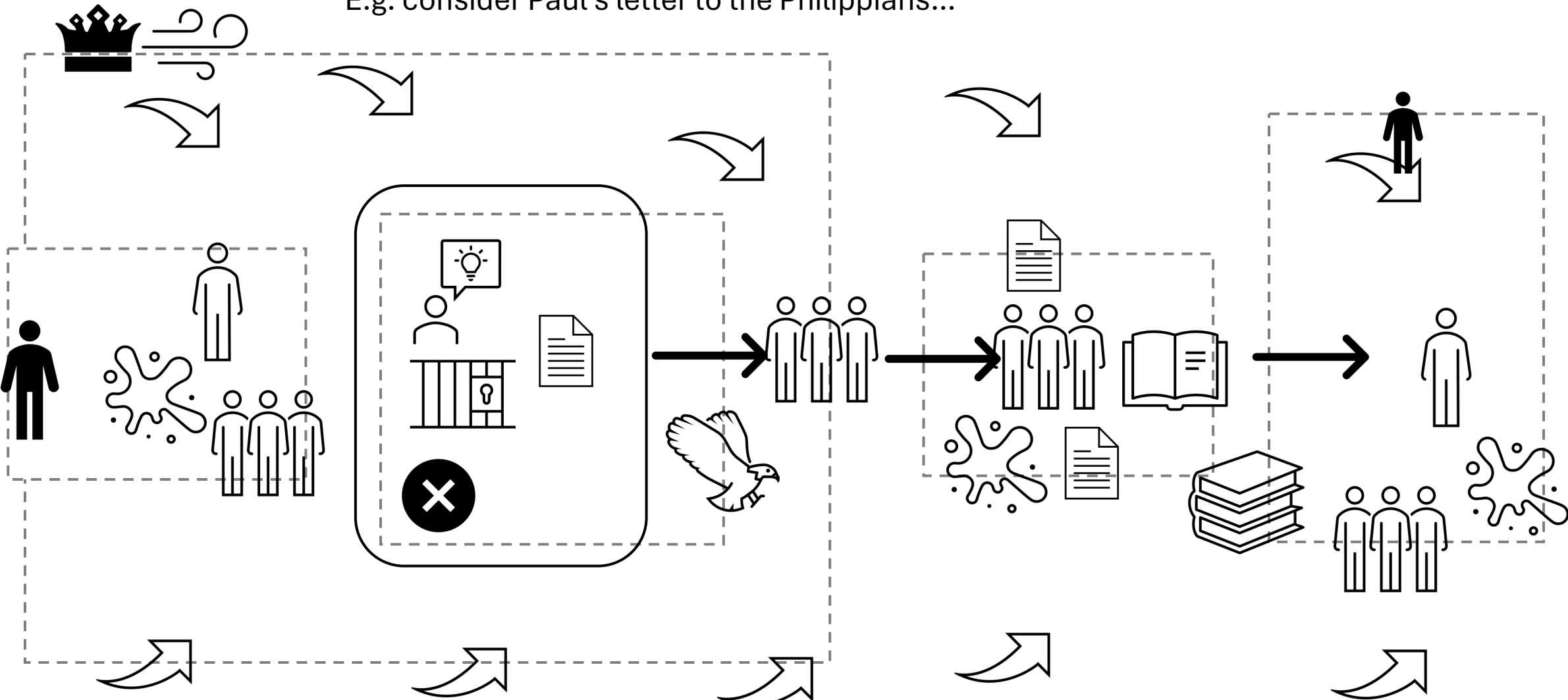


E.g. consider Paul's letter to the Philippians...

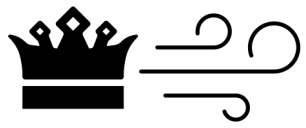


Paul planted a church in Philippi, who supported his ministry

While in a Roman prison, c.60AD, Paul wrote a letter to the church to thank & encourage them (Jesus is Lord!)

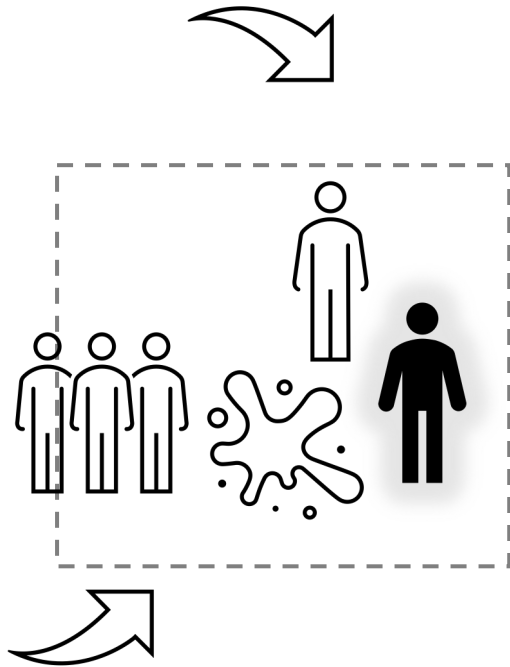
Other Christians found the letter useful and encouraging, were reasonably sure Paul wrote it, kept making copies, including it in the New Testament

We ask God to help us know what God was doing then, **and** what it means for us today

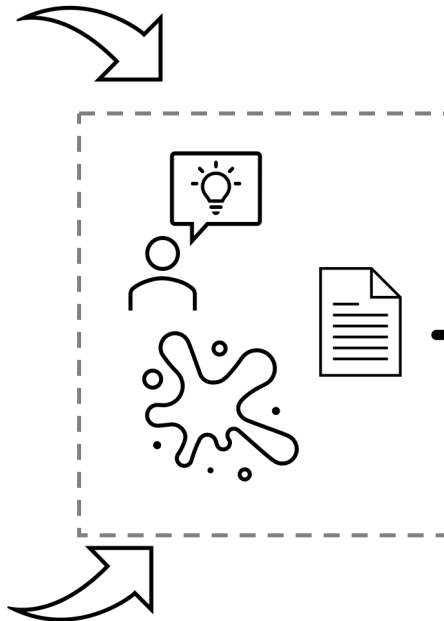


God creates and sustains all things, and
 God in-spires (breaths into) all kinds of people and situations.
 But only Jesus is and was perfectly open to God (and is God)

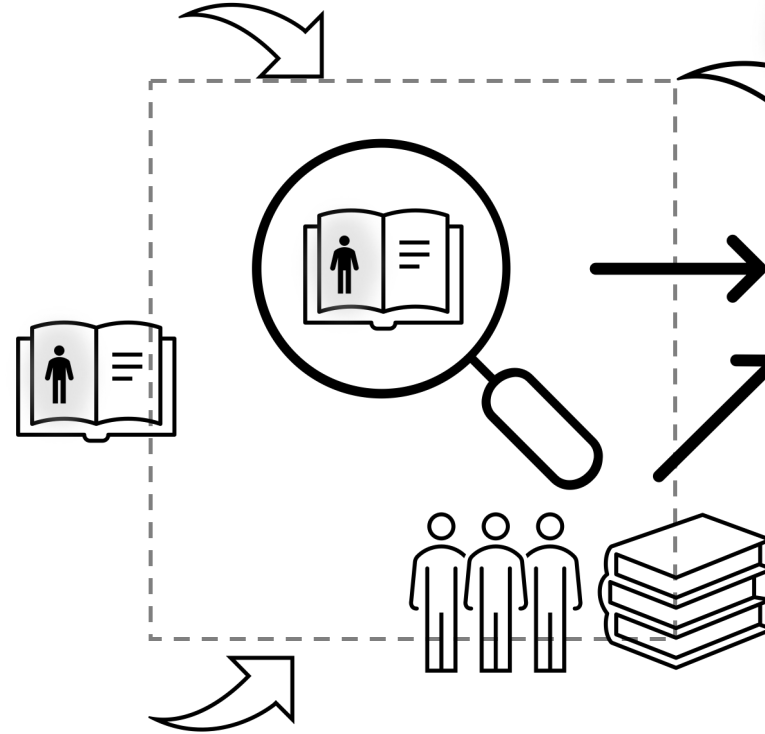
(A rather long summary)



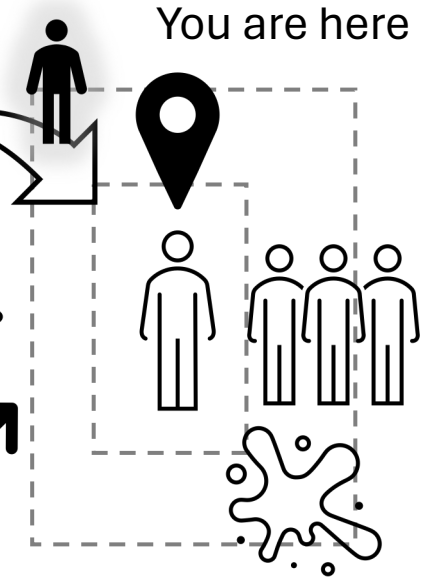
God revealed himself
 through relationship
 with real people
 (Israel) and especially
**by becoming human
 as Jesus**



Lots of real people wrote stuff
 down (e.g. histories, poems,
 letters), at different times and
 places, **with a purpose and
 audience in mind** (and some
 kind of authority)



The way we look at the
 bible is shaped by our
 context, experiences &
 people around us,
 but **Jesus can be our
 reference point**



The Holy Spirit of **Jesus
 is active today**, helping
 us to hear what God is
 saying to us now
 (usually this works
 better together)