

Side 10 - JONAS

JONAS. It's not fair!

GIVER. Explain.

JONAS. It's not fair that nothing has color. If everything's the same, then there aren't any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and decide things! A blue tunic or a red one? I mean, I know it's not important what you wear, but..

GIVER. It's the choosing that's important. Isn't it?

JONAS (*nods*). My little brother—no, that's inaccurate--- the newchild that my family takes care of.

GIVER. Gabriel

JONAS. He's grabbing toys and he's really cute and wouldn't it be great if we could hold up things that were bright red or bright yellow and he could choose?

GIVER. He might make wrong choices.

JONAS. Oh. (*Pause.*) That would matter later, wouldn't it?

GIVER. Not safe?

JONAS. Definitely not safe. What if people were allowed to choose their own mate? And chose wrong? Or what if... *(Laughs.)* What if they chose their own jobs?

GIVER. Frightening, isn't it?

JONAS. I can't even imagine it. We really have to protect people from wrong choices.

GIVER. It's safer.

JONAS. Much safer.

GIVER. Come. I'm going to show you something unsafe. It's called an "elephant."