



FREE TO BE A MAN

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TAKE THE MASK OFF AND RIDE THE OPEN ROAD OF GRACE!

Many men try to hide and pretend they are not broken. But this only leads to more hiding, pretending, and despair—and nothing ever changes. We fear that God is almost never pleased.

This study will lead us into the light between two very different underlying motives: our determination to please God or to trust him. One results in a striving that never feels it has done enough to please him. The other results in a trust that experiences his full pleasure.

Our motives as Jesus followers will either keep us enslaved in our hiding or free us into God's Adventure for our lives. Let's discover the Open Road of Grace together!

Ride ON!

TO PLEASE OR TO TRUST?

Galatians 5:1 Romans 5:20, 21 Ephesians 2:8-10

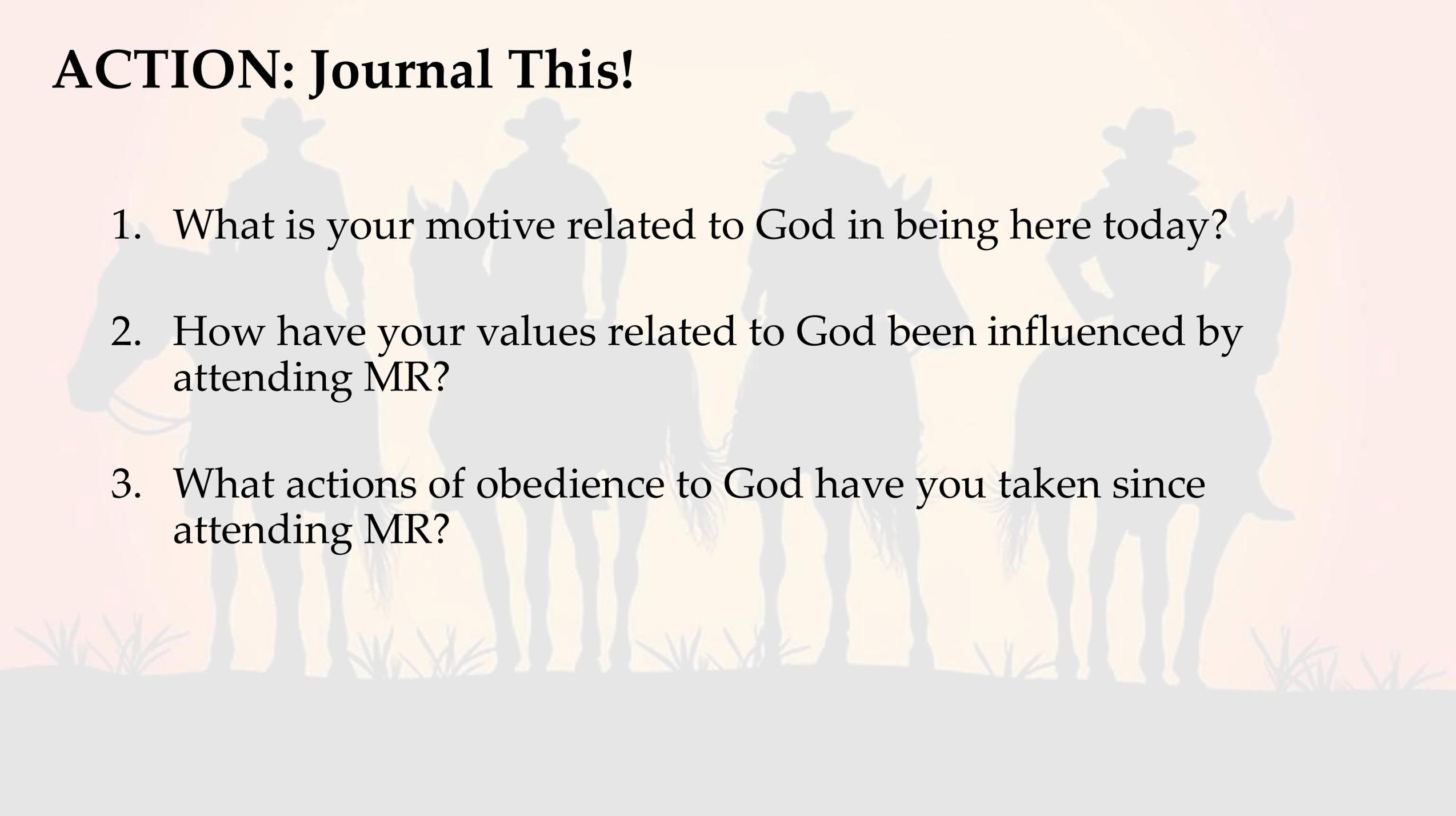
TAKE THE MASK OFF – TO PLEASE OR TO TRUST?

1. **MOTIVE** → *Pleasing God* and *Trusting God* represent the ultimate motives of our hearts. See Gal. 3:1-3; Proverbs 3:5, 6; Heb. 11:6.
2. **SIN MANAGEMENT** → If my *motive* is an unwavering determination to Please God, then by **VALUE** will be *striving to be all God wants me to be* and my **ACTION** will be *working on my sin to achieve an intimate relationship with God*. See Gal. 6:15.
3. **MISERABLE** → When we strive to sin less, we don't sin less.
4. **ENSLAVED** → Pleasing God is an incredibly good longing. It always will be. It just can't be our primary motivation, or it will imprison our hearts.
5. **FREEDOM** → If my *motive* is Trusting God, then my **VALUE** will be living out of who God says I AM and my **ACTION** will be standing with God, with my sin in front of us, working on it together.

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6. **SELF DECEPTION** → Many people say they have taken the path of **Trusting God** but have ended up in *The Room of Good Intentions*. This is called The Great Disconnect. See Rev. 3:15-22.
7. **UNAWARE** → God is not interested in changing the Christian. He already has!
8. **MATURITY** → **Trust** opens the way for God to bring us to maturity. If we do not trust, we do not mature.
9. **WHO AM I?** → If we do not start with trusting who God says we are, we will end up with trusting in our own resources to try to please God. Eph. 3:20, 21
10. **EXPERIENCE** → Citizens in *The Room of Grace* experience the pleasure of God, because they have pleased him by trusting him. Col. 1:10-12; Rom. 12:1,2; Phil. 4:18; I Thess. 4:1.

ACTION: Journal This!

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset gradient. Overlaid on this background are the silhouettes of four cowboys riding horses. The cowboys are wearing wide-brimmed hats and are positioned in a line across the middle of the frame. The horses are also silhouetted, and the overall scene is peaceful and evocative of a Western landscape.

1. What is your motive related to God in being here today?
2. How have your values related to God been influenced by attending MR?
3. What actions of obedience to God have you taken since attending MR?