



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!

THE MOST MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS

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

TAKE THE MASK OFF – MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS

I Peter 1:7,8

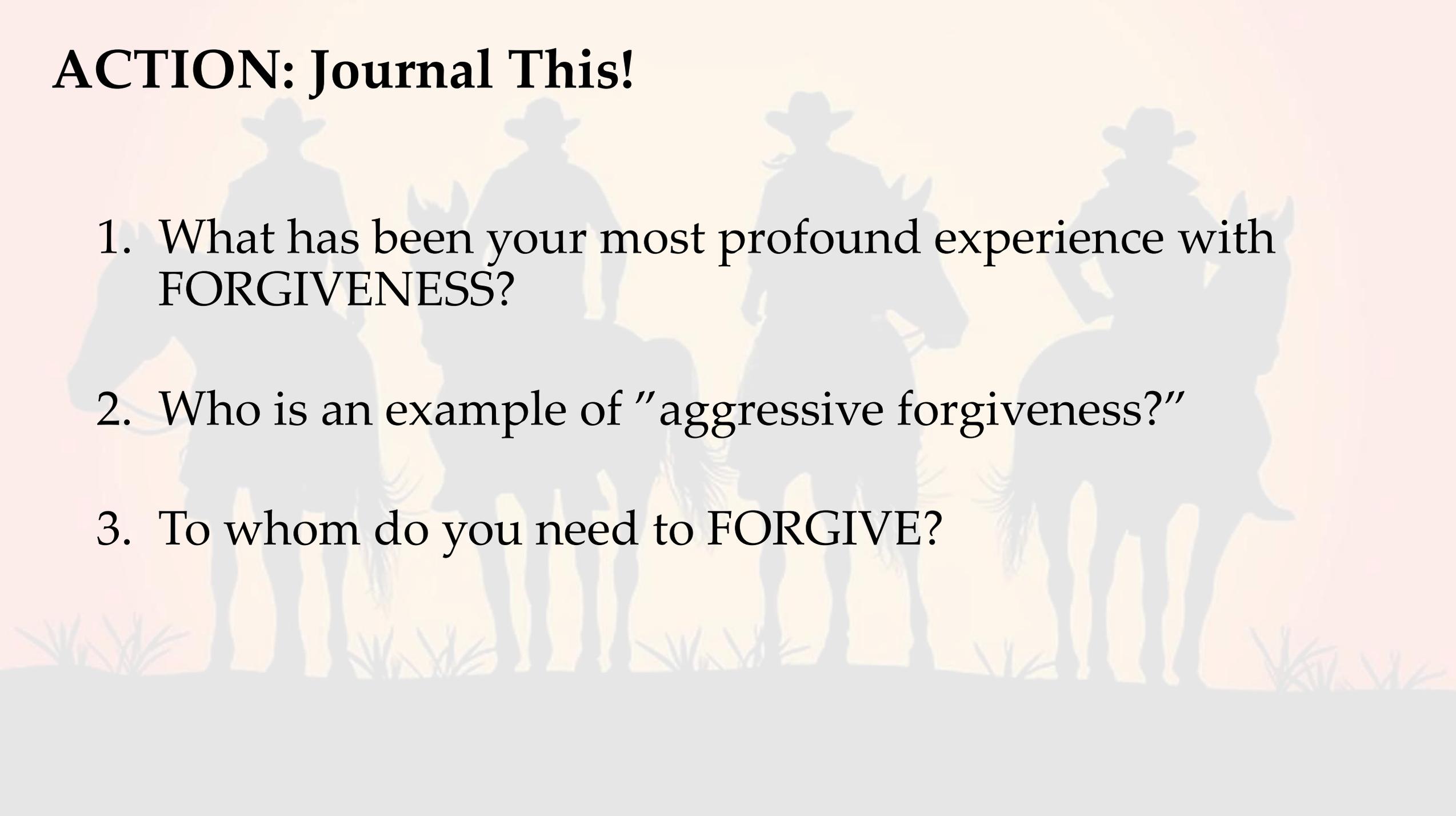
1. PROTECTION FROM HURT → The powerful gift of forgiveness has one main purpose: to protect us from the insidious harm that comes from *sin done against us*.
2. ACKNOWLEDGE THE HURT → God's provision for our healing always begins with our recognition that someone has sinned against us.
3. RESTORED FROM THE HURT → When we forgive that offender for his sake, it prepares the way for the relationship to be restored.
4. RESTORED TRUST ??? → Forgiveness carries the hope of renewed trust in the relationship, but it does not mandate or guarantee it. Forgiving and trusting are not the same thing.
5. WELCOME – INVITATION → Grace always invites rather than demands reconciliation.

TAKE THE MASK OFF – MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS

KEYS TO FORGIVENESS:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE HURT → Admit something happened.
2. AWARENESS OF CONSEQUENCES → Forgive the consequences of the act done against you.
3. COURAGEOUS HONESTY → Tell God what happened to you.
4. VALUE YOU → Forgive the Offender for your benefit (Eph. 4:32; Matthew 6:12-15).
5. EXTEND GRACE → Forgive the Offender when they repent, for their sake.
6. RESTORED TRUST ??? → Distinguish between forgiving and trusting your offender.
7. REPAIR RELATIONSHIP → Seek Reconciliation, not just conflict resolution.

ACTION: Journal This!

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky in shades of orange and yellow. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of four cowboys riding horses. The cowboys are wearing wide-brimmed hats and are positioned in a line, moving from left to right. The silhouettes are dark against the lighter background, creating a classic Western scene.

1. What has been your most profound experience with FORGIVENESS?
2. Who is an example of "aggressive forgiveness?"
3. To whom do you need to FORGIVE?