



Jesus Followers

Having the Mind of Christ

**Eight Axioms to Cultivate a
Robust Faith**

Ben Sternke and Matt Tebbe



1. God is always present and at work.



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2. God is just like Jesus.



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- 2. God is just like Jesus.**
- 3. God meets us in our messy reality.**



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 - 2. God is just like Jesus.**
 - 3. God meets us in our messy reality.**
 - 4. God cares more about all of this than I do.**
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**5. What He does through you He
first does in you.**



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6. The goal is divine union.



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7. We learn to love through embodied participation.



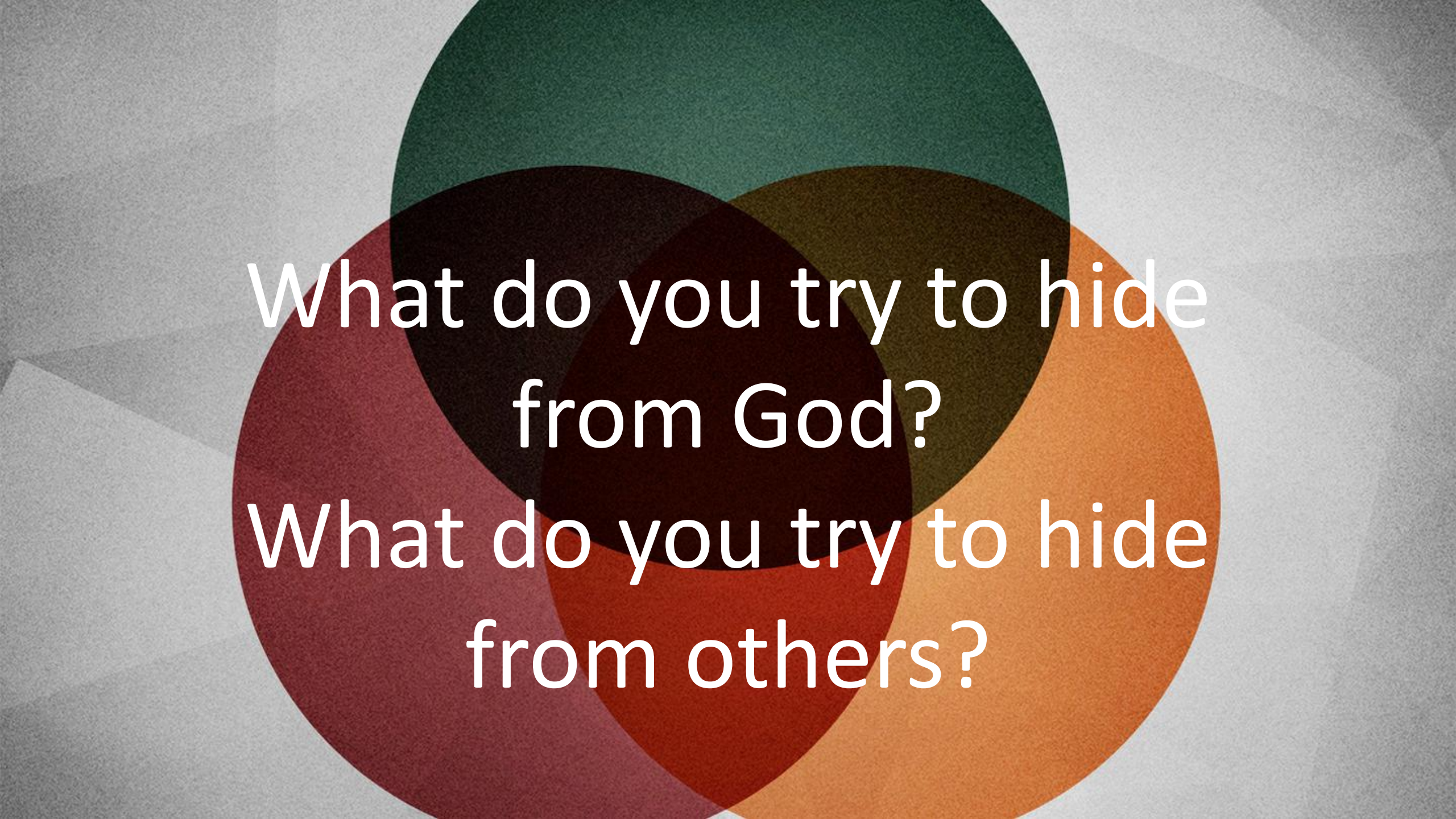
5. What He does through you He first does in you.

6. The goal is divine union.

7. We learn to love through embodied participation.

8. God is love, so it's all about love.





What do you try to hide
from God?

What do you try to hide
from others?

The image features three large, overlapping circles on a light grey background. The top circle is a dark green color. The bottom-left circle is a dark red or maroon color. The bottom-right circle is an orange-brown color. The circles overlap in the center, creating a dark, almost black, triangular area. The text "God meets us in our messy reality" is written in white, sans-serif font, centered within the overlapping area of the circles.

God meets us
in our messy reality

**“Almost all of our faults are
more pardonable than the
methods
we think up to hide them.”**

- François de La Rochefoucauld



**Be present enough in reality
to face the mess and meet God.**



¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

Luke 15:11-20



13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. Luke 15:11-20



15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:11-20



**17 “When he came to his senses, he
said, ‘How many of my father’s
hired servants have food to spare,
and here I am starving to death! 18**

**I will set out and go back to my
father and say to him: Father, I
have sinned against heaven and
against you.**

Luke 15:11-20

**19 I am no longer worthy to be
called your son; make me like one
of your hired servants.’ 20 So he
got up and went to his father.**



Luke 15:11-20

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



Luke 15:11-20



God doesn't love me because
I'm good, He loves me
because He is good!

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’



Luke 15:21-24

**22 “But the father said to his
servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best
robe and put it on him. Put a ring
on his finger and sandals on his
feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and
kill it. Let’s have a feast and
celebrate.**

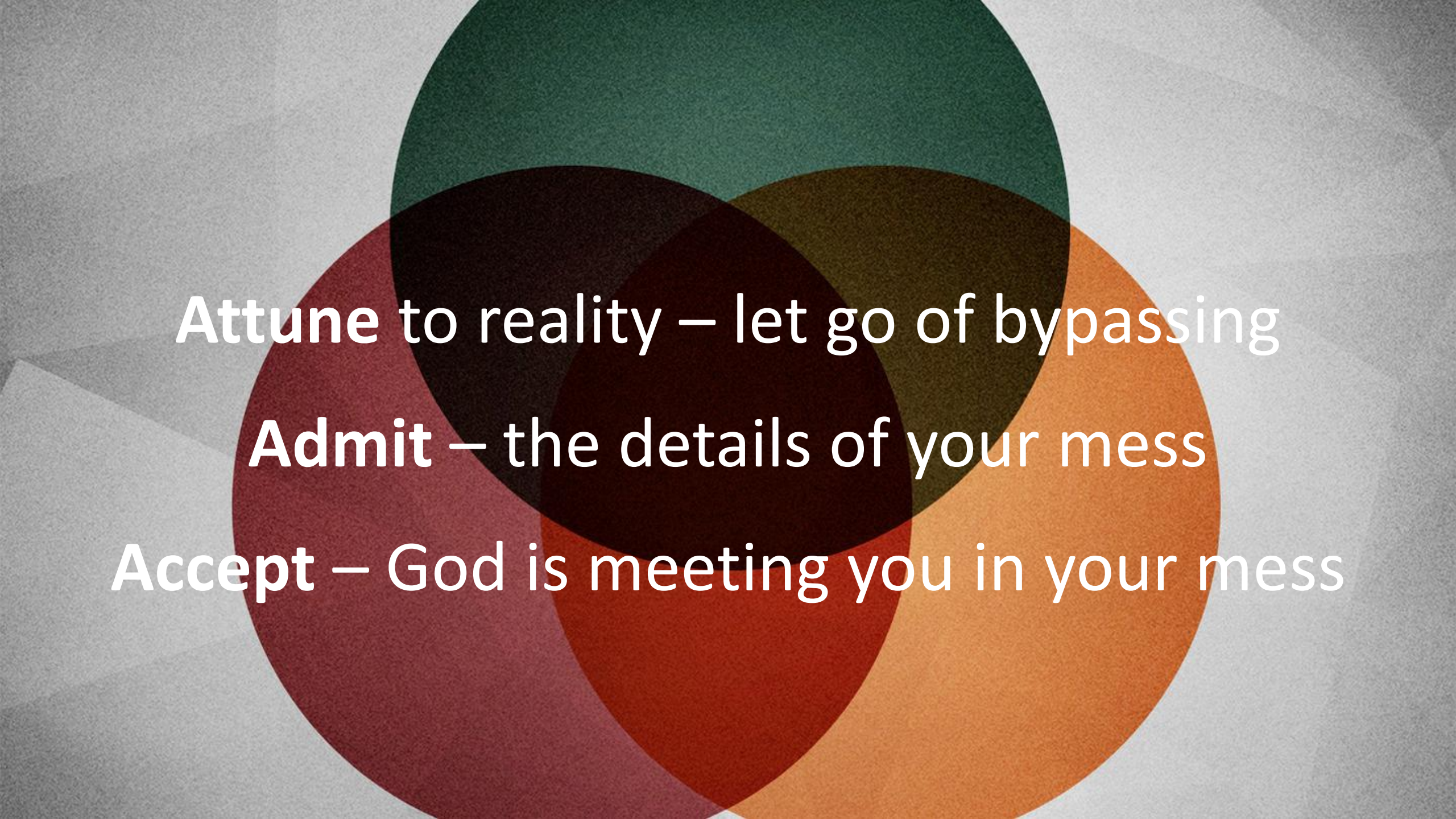
Luke 15:21-24



**24 For this son of mine was dead
and is alive again; he was lost and
is found.' So they began to
celebrate.**



Luke 15:21-24



Attune to reality – let go of bypassing

Admit – the details of your mess

Accept – God is meeting you in your mess

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

Luke 15:25-32



**27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he
replied, ‘and your father has killed
the fattened calf because he has
him back safe and sound.’**

**28 “The older brother became angry
and refused to go in. So his father
went out and pleaded with him”**
Luke 15:25-32



**29 But he answered his father,
'Look! All these years I've been
slaving for you and never
disobeyed your orders. Yet you
never gave me even a young goat
so I could celebrate with my
friends.**

Luke 15:25-32



**30 But when this son of yours who
has squandered your property with
prostitutes comes home, you kill
the fattened calf for him!’**

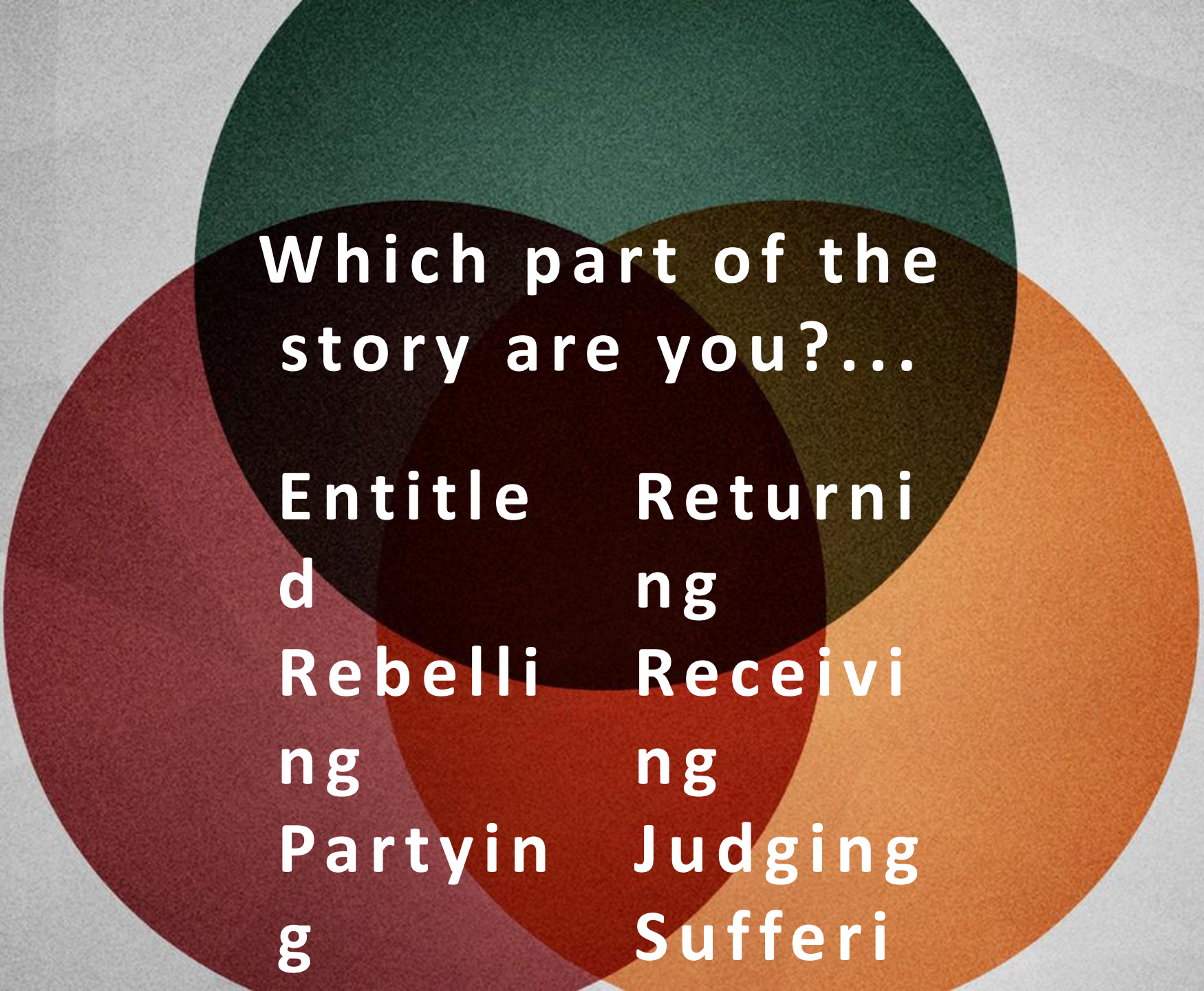


Luke 15:25-32

31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Luke 15:25-32



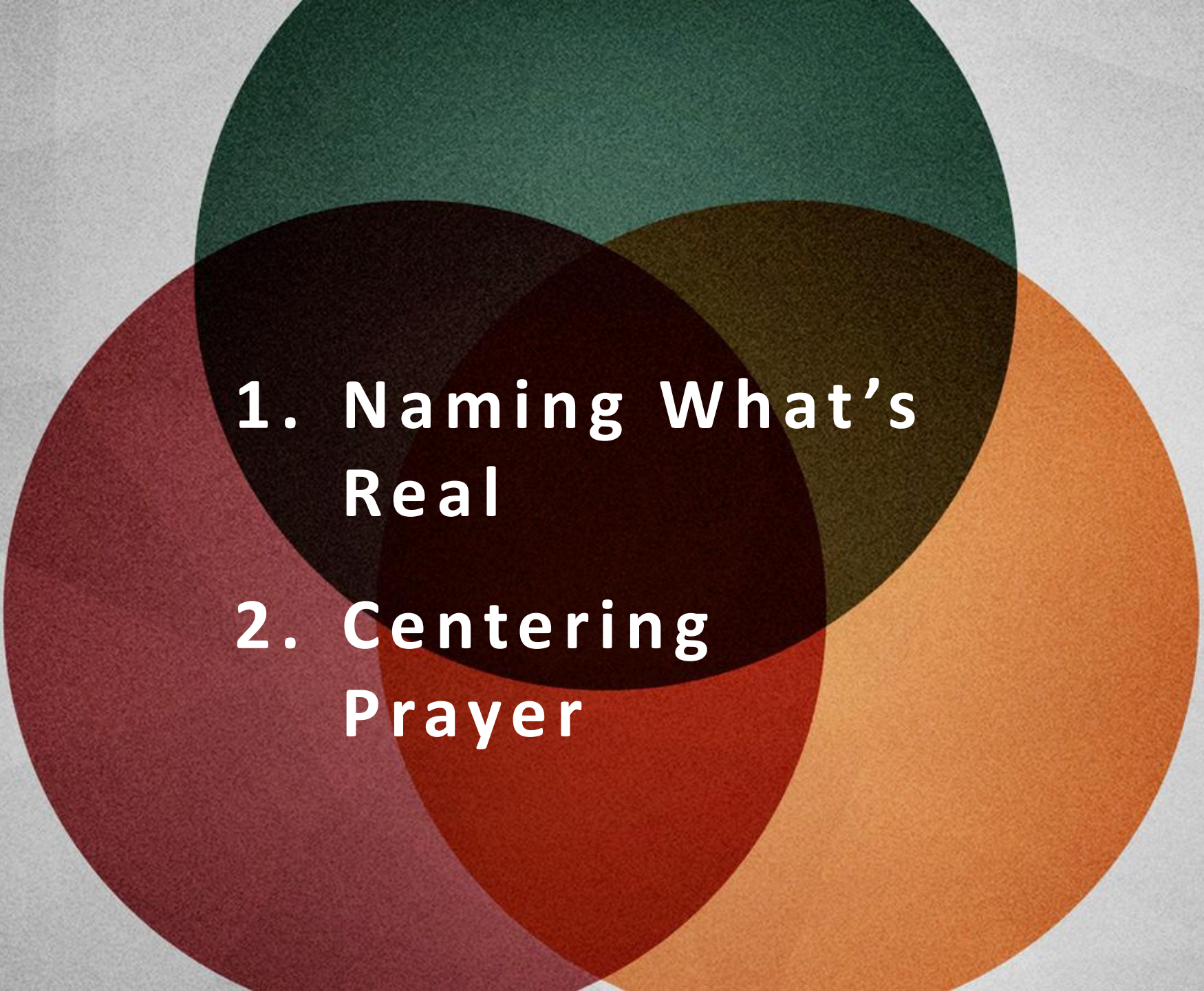


Which part of the
story are you?...

Entitled Returning

Rebelling Receiving

Partying Judging
Suffering



**1. Naming What's
Real**

**2. Centering
Prayer**

**Is believing that God is always
present and at work – good news
for you?**



**Is believing that God is always
present and at work – good news
for you?**

**What do you try to hide from
others and from God?**



**Is believing that God is always
present and at work – good news
for you?**

**What do you try to hide from
others and from God?**

**How is God meeting you right now
in your messy reality?**

