

## Obstacles to Wholeness Journal

(50 points / Homework and Class work)

This journal will be the basis of reflection in class over the next several weeks. If you complete the journal conscientiously you will earn full homework and class work credit. It will be checked for effort and thoughtfulness, not the correctness of content or grammar.

Wholeness is a virtue that is essential to human happiness and is defined in Growing in Christian Morality as “the balancing of all the parts of the self to create a dynamic and harmonious order” (Ahlers, 156). To be “whole” is to feel well in every dimension of the self – physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual. When any one or more of these dimensions is neglected, conflicted, or over-emphasized, we become distorted and out of balance, less than the whole human being God calls us to be (156). Throughout his life, Jesus modeled and called people to wholeness through his teaching. And in a special way through his healing ministry, he restored people to wholeness. With God’s help, we too can discover the obstacles to wholeness in our lives and the path to restore balance and order.

The goal of this journal is to have you reflect on an obstacle to wholeness in your life. It is important for the meaningfulness of this journal and for your own spiritual growth that you choose an obstacle that you genuinely struggle with and sincerely want to work to find balance. It will not do you much good to fabricate (make up) an obstacle for this journal. The teacher will not share this information with anyone unless the issue involves you hurting yourself or hurting others.

### Sample Obstacles

- Academic pressure
- Parental expectations
- Being an overachiever
- Perfectionism
- Living for recognition
- Living with an unhealthy relationship
- Obsession with popularity
- Gossiping
- Being critical or sarcastic
- Manipulating others
- Peer pressure/Social acceptance
- Being inauthentic/fake
- Living with a chronic sense of inadequacy
- Living in fear
- Living with divorce
- Anger
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Sex
- Drugs Abuse
- Alcohol Abuse
- Pornography
- Cheating
- Coveting material items
- Financial stress
- Bullying
- Risk Taking/Recklessness
- Stealing
- Gambling
- Overeating or extreme dieting
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Sexism

### Entry #1

Write a paragraph about your obstacle. The paragraph explaining what the obstacle is, how does it affect your ability to find wholeness, why it is a struggle for you to overcome it, and why you want to overcome it.

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## Entry #2

Watch [Billy Corgan's Interview](#) on his struggle with wholeness. Take some time to reflect on any of the insights he makes about struggling with wholeness. Do any of the feelings or thoughts he brings up connect to how you have felt?

[illegible]

### Entry #3

Take some time to pray, meditate, or reflect on your chosen obstacle to wholeness for at least ten minutes. It's encouraged for you to go for a walk, find a quiet place, or journal. Use the space below to give a few sentences on anything from your current struggles, some hopes/ fears for this obstacle, or an update on how it's currently affecting your life in the last few days- anything that would be helpful to process.

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### Entry #4

Read the Gospel passage below, then watch as [Tiffany shares](#) what happens when academic stress causes her to lose control. Do you see any connections between Martha in the Gospel and Tiffany? Do you see any connections between either of Martha/Tiffany and you?

Luke 10: 38-42 Martha and Mary Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

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## Entry #5

Find a friend, mentor, or parent and ask them to listen to you as you take about your obstacle to wholeness. Try if possible to make this a face-to-face experience rather than electronically. What insights did you gain from talking it out.

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## Entry #6

Read the Gospel Passage from Matthew. What do you think Jesus is teaching us about the role of faith and wholeness? What can you take from Jesus' words that might help you in your own temptation. Be specific.

Matthew 6: "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

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### Entry #7

Take some time to pray, meditate, or reflect on your chosen obstacle to wholeness for at least ten minutes. It's encouraged for you to go for a walk, find a quiet place, or journal. Use the space below to give a few sentences on anything from your current struggles, some hopes/ fears for this obstacle, or an update on how it's currently affecting your life in the last few days-anything that would be helpful to process.

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### Entry #8

Watch Half of Us piece "[Technology](#)" and reflect on how connect with information in the video. Does technology keep you from feeling balance in your life? Does it contribute to other problems for you?

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## Entry #9

Find a friend, mentor, or parent and ask them to listen to you as you take about your obstacle to wholeness. Try if possible to make this a face-to-face experience rather than electronically. What insights did you gain from talking it out.

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## Entry #10

In the space below, reflect on how one of the miracles of Jesus addresses obstacle and weakness. Examine how the character(s) are both physically changed, but also emotionally and spiritually healed. Finally, reflect on how this miracle connects with you and your obstacle. What do you need to be “healed” of this obstacle? Are there ways in which God can provide healing for you that you can’t do on your own?

Calming the Storm at Sea	Matthew 8: 23-27
Healing of the Paralytic	Mark 2: 1-12
Cleansing of the Ten Lepers	Luke 17: 11-19
Feeding the 5,000	John 6:1-15
Walking on Water	Matthew 14: 22-33
The Man Born Blind	John 9:1-12
Raising of Lazarus	John 11:1-44

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