

## TOPIC 4

### Finding Balance

#### Pivotal Circumstances

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

Matthew 14:16

One of the things that consistently unbalanced Jesus' first-century followers, especially his disciples, was his oversized assumption about their capability.

Jesus consistently pushed the 12 apostles into situations they weren't ready for and were in over their heads.

Have you ever left your comfort zone to do something you felt you were being called to do and, like the disciples, found yourself in situations where you were way over your head?

Feeling unprepared and overwhelmed, like the disciples in the Bible, you find yourself in a situation with an uncertain outcome.

These are pivotal circumstances.

And it is during those moments - whether we are religious or not - that we tend to turn to God. When these moments arise, we cast everything aside and start to pray. We get down on our knees and plead with God for help.

With the disciples, Jesus invited them to be part of the solution to the problem. He knew what he was asking was impossible, and he knew they were incapable.

He was trying to teach them to trust him, to step into areas where they are not adequate, and to trust him to do what only he can do.

All we have are 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

"...and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples..." Matthew 14:19

And do you know what they did? They brought what they had, did what they knew how to do, and trusted that Jesus would come through.

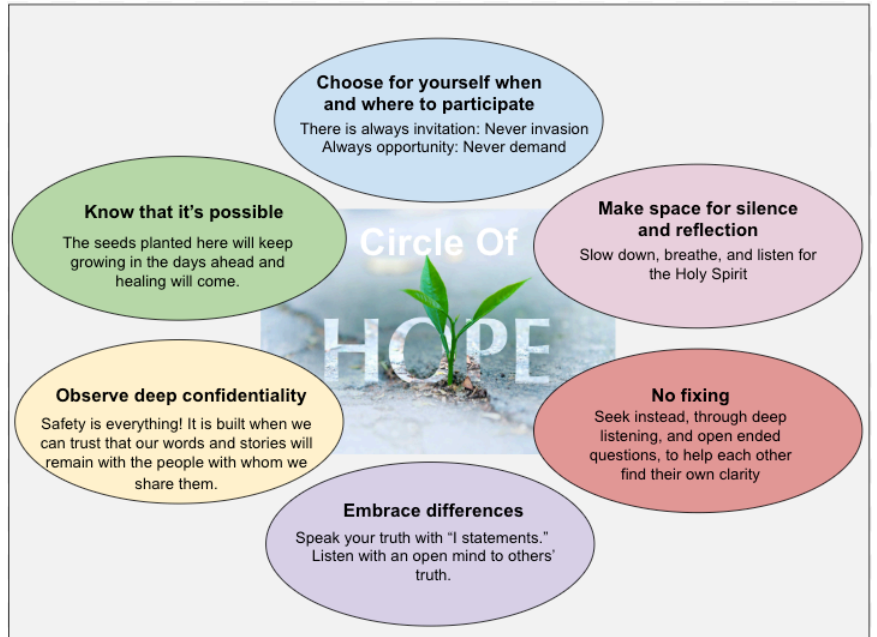
They walked by faith. Their activated faith intersected with God's faithfulness, and something remarkable happened.

## Reinforcing the Boundaries and Guiding Principles

Before we begin our Circles of Hope discussion, it's important for everyone to review the following guiding principles and boundaries. These are essential for creating a safe and restorative space for those dealing with spiritual trauma.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Play the “long game” and trust God with the outcome.
- Use love to build bridges to Jesus; don't lose the relationship.
- You can love well without losing your convictions of faith.



## CIRCLE OF HOPE TOPIC

What can you bring to the table in these pivotal circumstances? What skills do you possess, and what must you trust in Jesus to deliver?