

## TOPIC 1

### Create a Safe Space for Inquiry

#### Practical Teaching

1 Peter 2:23

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead ...

Instead ... this is where Peter gives us a clue, the peak behind the curtain, the perspective we are invited to embrace as we live our lives in this inconsistent world, where our world can come crashing down one day.

This perspective empowered the disciples after the resurrection. The first-century church, which was persecuted, maintained this perspective, which is partly why Christianity survived the first two centuries.

“Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”

Jesus, in those moments when things were 100% negative, gave himself over to his Heavenly Father and said, you are responsible for outcomes, not me.

Then, the Apostle Paul came along and echoed this same perspective. This is Paul, who has scars; he’s been beaten up, stoned, shipwrecked, bit by a poisonous snake, and will spend his last days in prison.

When this gets from our heads to our hearts, it changes everything!

Most of us have heard these words before.

With all that is going on in your journey with your child, try to hear these words as if you are hearing them for the first time.

“And we know that in all things God works ...”

All things? Even what is happening in my family now.

Paul says yes, in the surprise things, the this can’t be happening things, God works.

“... God works for the good of those who love him,” Romans 8:28

Paul is talking about the person who has done what Jesus did and entrusted their lives to their heavenly Father.

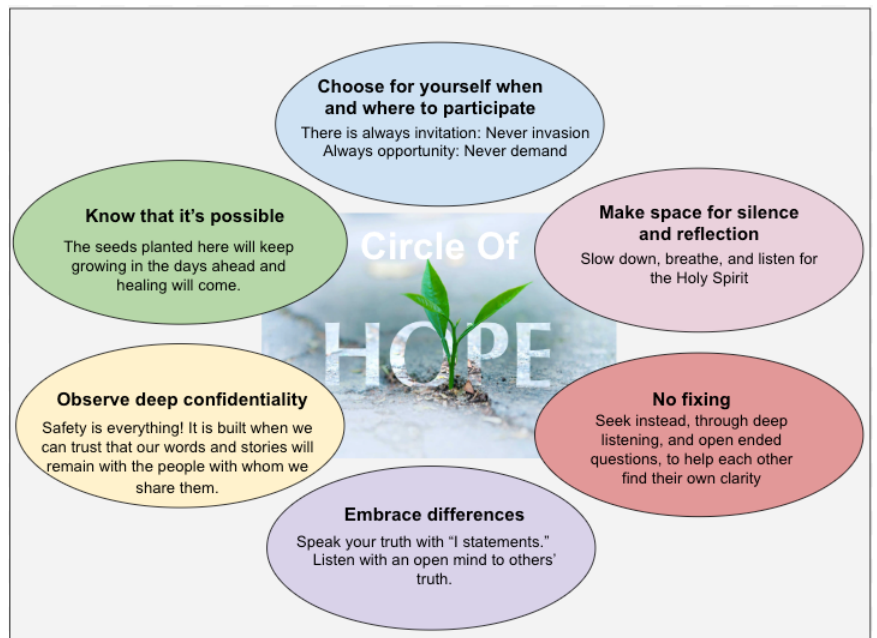
When you step into this realm, embrace this perspective, and decide to stay there, you can stay confident that your Heavenly Father is working through what is happening in your life and your child's life.

### 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

How can we help our child feel confident that God is working through them and in our lives for good?