

TOPIC 1

Practical Teaching

Create a Safe Space for Inquiry

Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ gave himself up for us...

The more intimate our relationship, the weightier our words become. The greater their capacity to leave a mark, for good or for bad, build or destroy, encourage or discourage.

The unspoken words we choose not to say can profoundly alter the course of a life, especially in intimate relationships such as family and parent-child relationships.

Nothing underscores the significance of the words we choose to say or not say more than their influence on the trajectory of a life.

The point is when it comes to those relationships that are most important to us and the relationships where we are important to somebody else, we will always be tempted to underestimate the power and weight of our words.

No matter the circumstances we don't get to define this; we get to define ourselves by this.

We are to love just as Christ loved us and gave himself. Love is always sacrificial, not soft, but intentional.

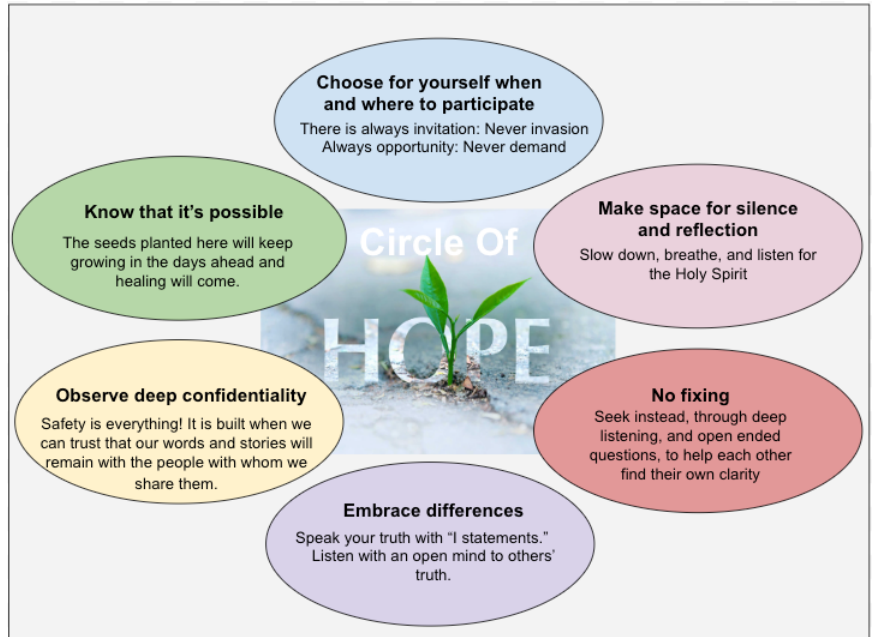
This is what the way of love sounds like, the way of Jesus sounds like, and the way of Jesus talks like.

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

In navigating this spiritual crisis with our child, how can we create a safe space for open inquiry and communication through both spoken and unspoken words?