

## **TOPIC 4**

### **Finding Balance**

#### **Pivotal Circumstances**

James 1:19-20

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Your relationship with others is rarely the same one they have with you.

The relationship between a parent and their child is unequal due to the differences in their roles and responsibilities.

This dynamic is at play in most of our relationships. However, we rarely consider it when communicating.

There is equal value but unequal power, influence, and authority.

This baked-in relational reality should govern how we communicate with each other, specifically influencing the words we choose.

Words carry weight.

They can leave a mark for good or bad.

Words can build, and words can destroy.

Words can undermine somebody's confidence, or words can instill confidence.

Words can inspire, and they can wound.

Our lives have been shaped by the words spoken to us, over us, about us, and sometimes, we feel like words have been spoken at us.

The source of a word determines the weight, the who said behind what was said.

Weight determines impact.

Impact determines the outcome.

In any unique role, you have the extraordinary opportunity to inspire, instill confidence, and change someone's perception of themselves.

As a follower of Jesus, it's important to remember that you are representing Him to the person on the other side of you.

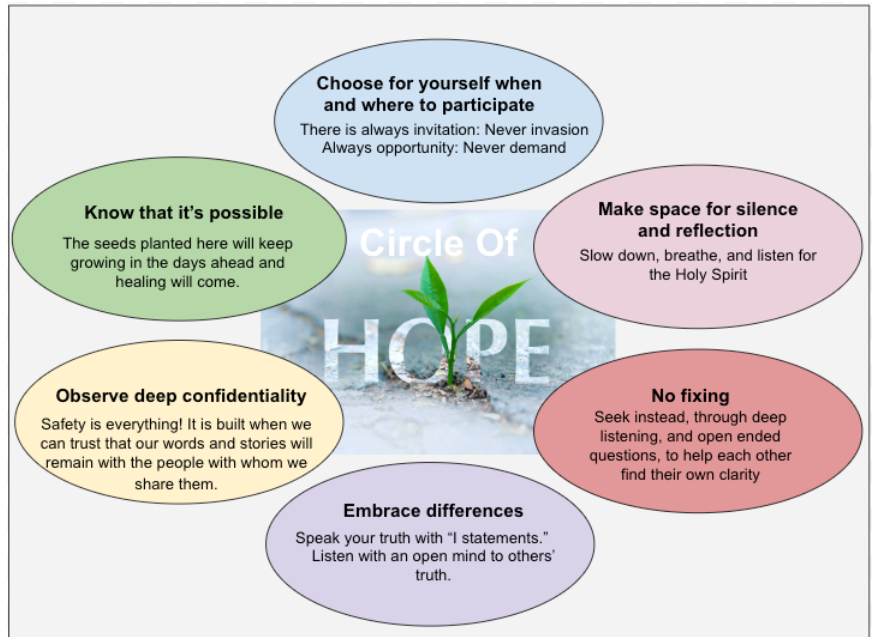
This is a precious opportunity that God has given you with your child.

### 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

As parents, we recognize our crucial role in guiding our child's faith, but we struggle to know what we should believe and what is best for our child; how do we find the right words to represent Jesus and keep our child from losing their faith?