

FORWARD

Centering Ourselves

Personal Ministry

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

Think back to the time your child first came out. Perhaps you prayed or are praying some version of, “Heavenly Father, please hear my prayer and remove this.”

Remember the questions that flooded your mind?

How did this happen? Is this my fault? What will my church think? And the really crushing question, can my child have a relationship with God? Can I?

In the midst of all these questions might not have been a good time for someone to remind you of James’ “Consider it pure joy...” scripture.

Hopefully, now you understand that you were trying to pray away something God is using for a purpose.

Trauma in our lives has the potential to become the focal point of God's work.

It might be a stretch to consider it pure joy but as we struggle to persevere, the Holy Spirit comes alongside us, helping us to reaffirm our confidence in God's faithfulness.

In our journey, God brings others into our lives whose faith has been tested and who have persevered.

They inspire us because they help us understand that there is a kind of faith and confidence in God that can endure even the most challenging circumstances.

Part of God's finishing his work in us is for us to become individuals who inspire faith in someone else's journey.

To take care of yourself and your child in a sustainable way, you need something greater than yourself.

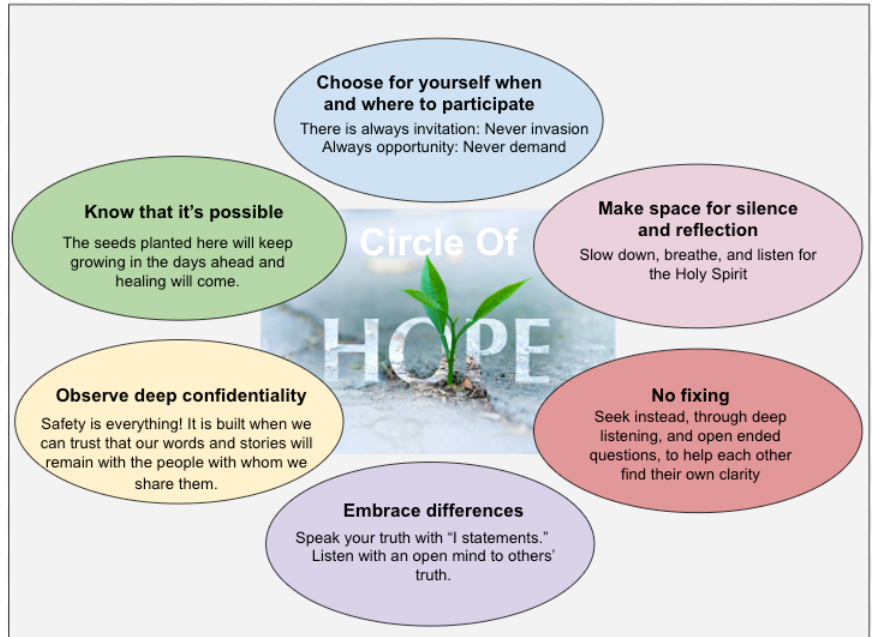
Perhaps being mature and complete, not lacking anything, is a faith that urges you to move forward with an awakened heart.

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 an awakened heart, faith, and confidence in God help us use love to build bridges to Jesus and inspire faith in our relationship with our child?