

TOPIC 2

Building Compassion and Community

Providential Relationships

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people.

On day one, Jesus's birth was announced as good news. Not only was it good news, but it was good news for ALL PEOPLE!

Was it?

Is it?

In the first century, at the epicenter of the action, when this whole idea first touched down on planet Earth and intersected with human beings, it was considered such good news for all people that they named it “Good News!”

What is happening in your life right now may have you questioning whether it really is good news for all people.

Maybe you can relate to the story of the Good Samaritan.

It seems like you are going through a tough time in your life, leaving you feeling vulnerable and helpless, just like the man who was attacked by robbers on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

You might feel like people around you are not offering any help or support and are just passing you by.

This is a common aftermath of spiritual trauma.

Just like the man left half dead on the road to Jericho, you need providential relationships in your life.

Maybe the person who will help you through your difficult situation is someone unexpected, like a Samaritan in the biblical story.

Perhaps it will be other parents who have gone through a similar experience as you.

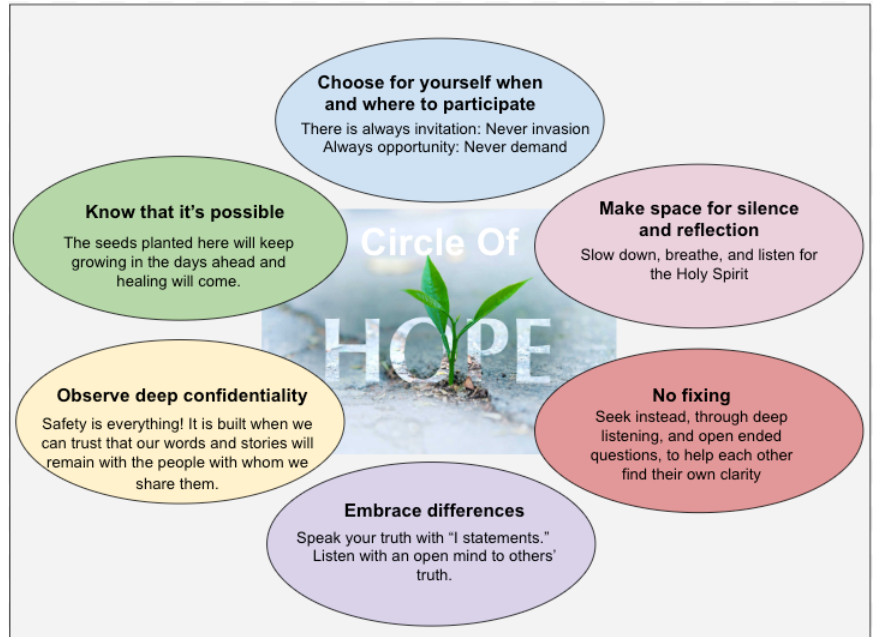
They might be the ones who take you to a place where you can find healing, just like the Samaritan who placed the injured man on his donkey to get him to safety.

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

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

Do you feel alone, struggling to trust others and determine what's best for your child?