

TOPIC 2

Building Compassion and Community

Providential Relationships

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Everybody should want Jesus' irresistible version of Christianity to be true.

There's a difference between I don't believe it's true and I don't want it to be true.

Christianity, in its earliest and original form, was incredibly appealing.

People were naturally drawn to Jesus and his teachings.

The original version of Christianity's attractiveness stems from a single word.

It's the word that makes us all want it to be true.

The word is GRACE.

Grace is simply an undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor.

Grace can only be experienced within the context of a relationship.

Grace is purely relational and always tied to a relationship.

This is why Jesus had to show up.

Grace is unsettling.

We can never fully experience grace without the presence of God and the presence of others in our lives.

It is crucial to have relationships with people outside of our immediate circumstances. We often find ourselves uncertain about whether grace applies to us and our children.

Moreover, extending grace to others, particularly those who have caused harm to us or our children, can be challenging.

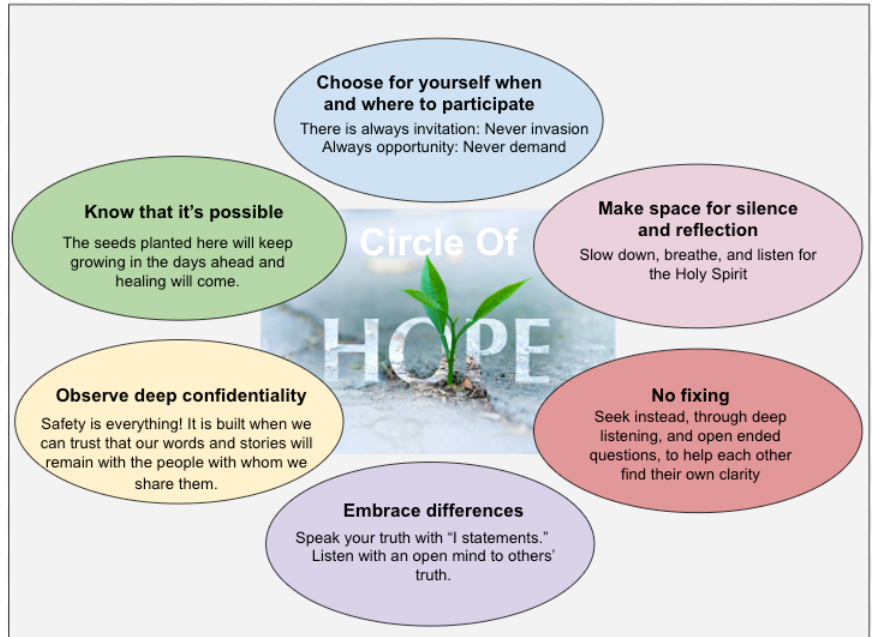
Here in lies the tension.

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 I determine whom to trust, what to believe, and how to cultivate the best relationship with my child when experiencing grace fully requires the presence of God and others in our lives?