

## TOPIC 4

### Finding Balance

#### Pivotal Circumstances

Luke 22:32

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

Jesus was clear that his goal and agenda for his first-century followers and those who follow him in the twenty-first century is that we would be people of great faith.

Our faith is not just a concept confined to our thoughts but a powerful force that comes to life in the real world, within our families, and in our communities.

It's a faith that springs into action when we do, a faith that challenges and transforms our surroundings.

Jesus extends a personal invitation to each of us: "Follow me." It's an invitation to embark on a different path, to live a distinct and purposeful life.

Follow me and observe how I live, guided by my faith in my Father in Heaven.

What fuels or facilitates the development of this active, enduring faith? Especially when one is suffering.

Many people who have a strong and enduring belief in a loving God often cite a particular event in their lives as the reason for their faith.

When reflecting on their faith later in life, they often consider this event a turning point in their spiritual journey.

When we face adversity, our beliefs are truly tested. In these moments of trial, we discover the depth and strength of our faith.

Perhaps your faith is under pressure, collapsing under the weight of your circumstances, or being tested, and you are discovering what you truly believe.

This is not a bad thing if, on the other hand, you come out with your faith intact. A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted.

Luke, in Chapter 22, shares the interaction between Jesus and Peter or Simon. Jesus tells Peter that his faith is going to be tested and that he's going to pray for him.

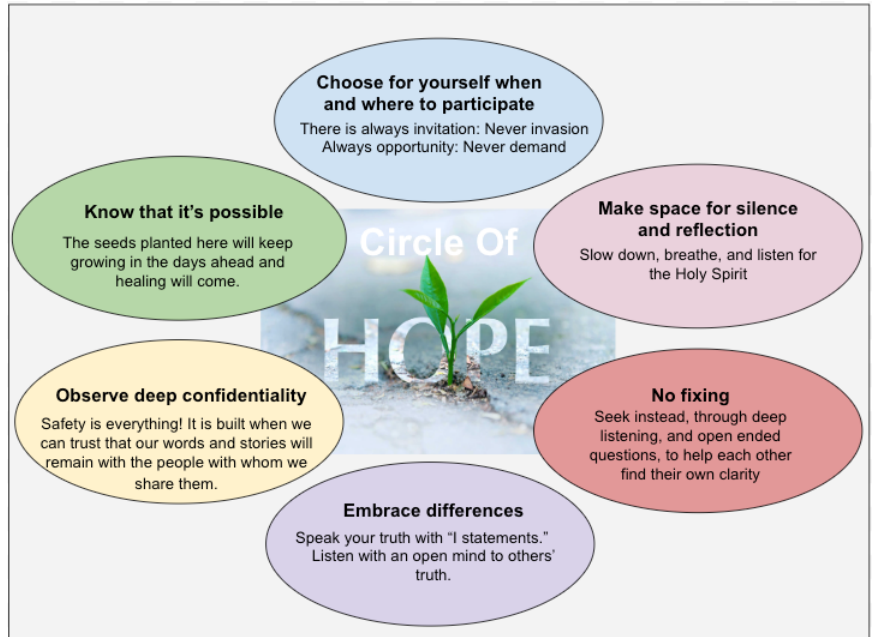
Peter fails the test big time, but we learn in John 21 that after the resurrection, Jesus restores Peter. After restoring him, Jesus says to him, "Follow me." John 21:19.

## 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

Your faith may feel like it is failing under the weight of your circumstances; what is your biggest challenge in following Jesus with your child?