



Love Like Jesus



Ministry Update

Isaiah 61:1-2a

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus quotes Isaiah 61

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:16-21

Jesus goes to and serves the Marginalized

Jesus spends time with:

- tax collectors
- women in prostitution
- fishermen
- day laborers
- the sick
- lepers
- Samaritans

Jesus tells us to do as He did

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father” John 14:12
- Jesus knew how to love perfectly, but sometimes we can miss the mark...

- To do this we need to understand that “our fight is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Eph. 6:12
- Learn to meet people where they are in their pain and be informed how walk with them through their trauma.

What is Trauma?



Trauma occurs when a person experiences something so distressing or overwhelming that the body and brain can't fully process it in the moment. This can lead to ongoing feelings of fear, anxiety, anger, or numbness.



It's not just the event itself — it's how our body, mind, and spirit carry the weight of that experience afterward.



But Jesus meets us in those wounded places. He doesn't rush our healing or shame our pain; He enters it with compassion and brings restoration.

Being a trauma-informed Christian community means...

Embodying

embodying Christ's compassion

Understanding

understanding the effects of trauma on individuals' bodies, minds, and spirits.

Cultivating

cultivating spaces where safety, dignity, and hope can flourish.

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- + . 5 principles for becoming a
safe, trauma-informed
community



Transformation Begins Within Ourselves

Being a safe community begins with transformed hearts. We cannot lead others toward healing if we resist God's healing in ourselves.

Scripture

- *Romans 12:2* — “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”
- *2 Corinthians 3:18* — “We... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.”
- *John 15:5* — “Apart from me you can do nothing.”



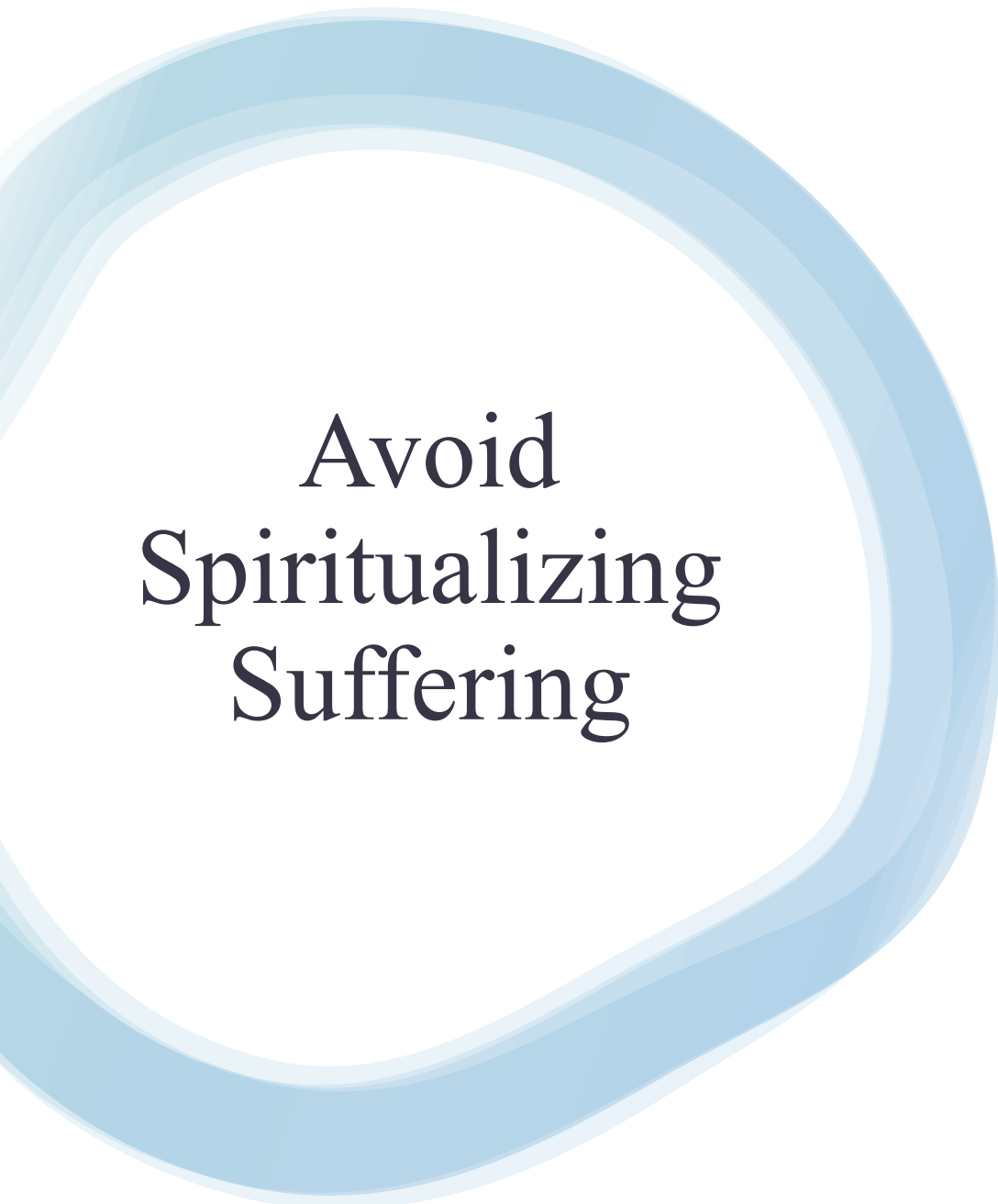
Prioritize Safety

Physical, Emotional,
Relational, Spiritual

People cannot heal where they do not feel safe. Safety is essential to trauma-informed ministry.

Scripture

- *Proverbs 3:21–23* — “Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.”
- *Isaiah 32:18* — “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”
- *Psalms 91:2* — “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”



Avoid Spiritualizing Suffering

Don't minimize pain with theology. Faith invites us to see God's presence *in* suffering, not explanations *for* suffering. This includes honoring lament as worship.

Scripture

- *John 11:35* — “Jesus wept.”
- *Psalms 34:18* — “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.”
- *Psalms 13:1–2* — “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”
- *Lamentations 3:19–24* — “Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope... great is your faithfulness.”

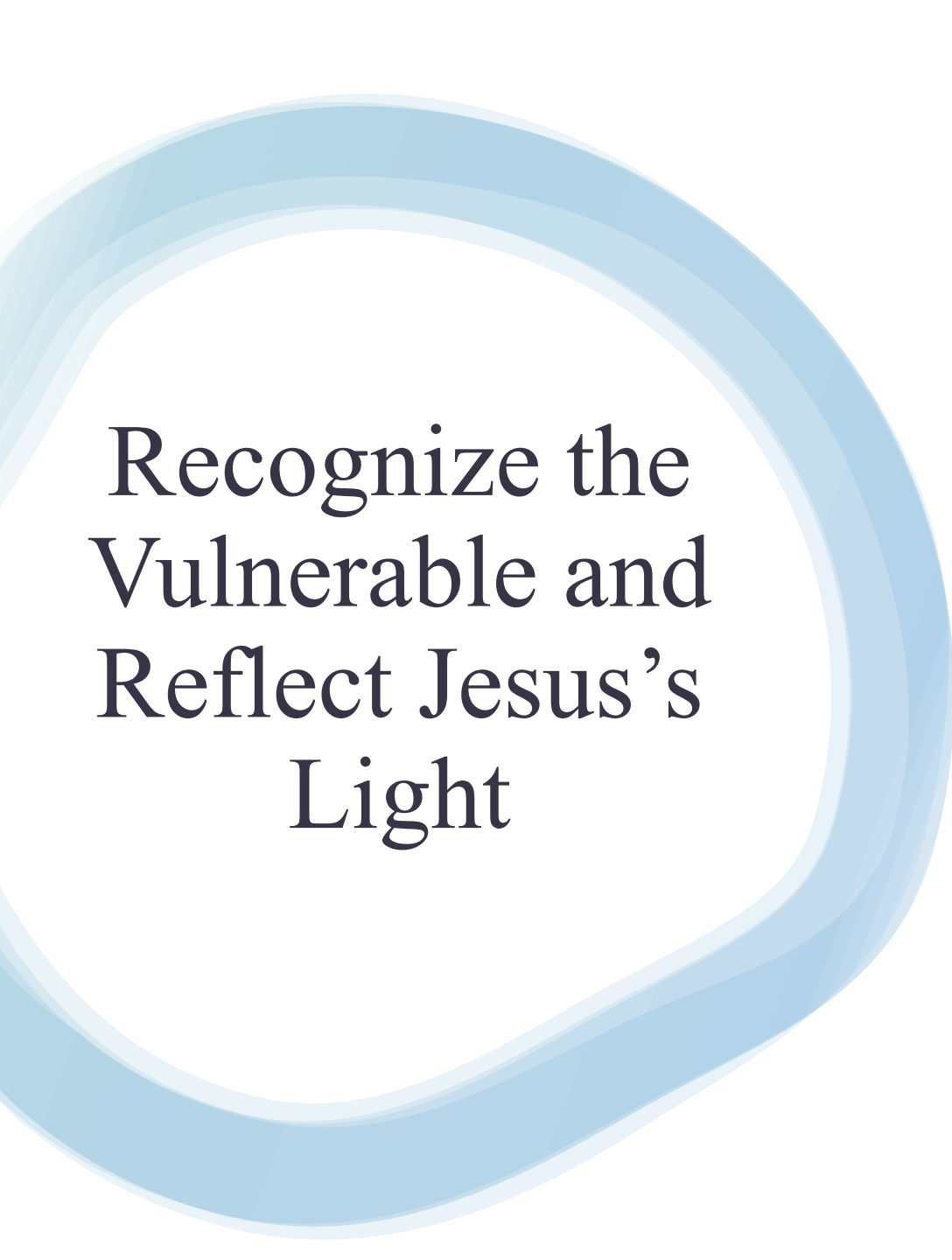


Cultivate Predictability and Consent

Predictability and choice restore a sense of control that trauma often takes away. Ask permission before prayer, physical touch, or sharing stories.

Scripture

- *1 Corinthians 14:40* — “All things should be done decently and in order.”
- *Matthew 20:32–34* — Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” before healing.
- *Philippians 2:3–4* — “In humility count others more significant than yourselves.”



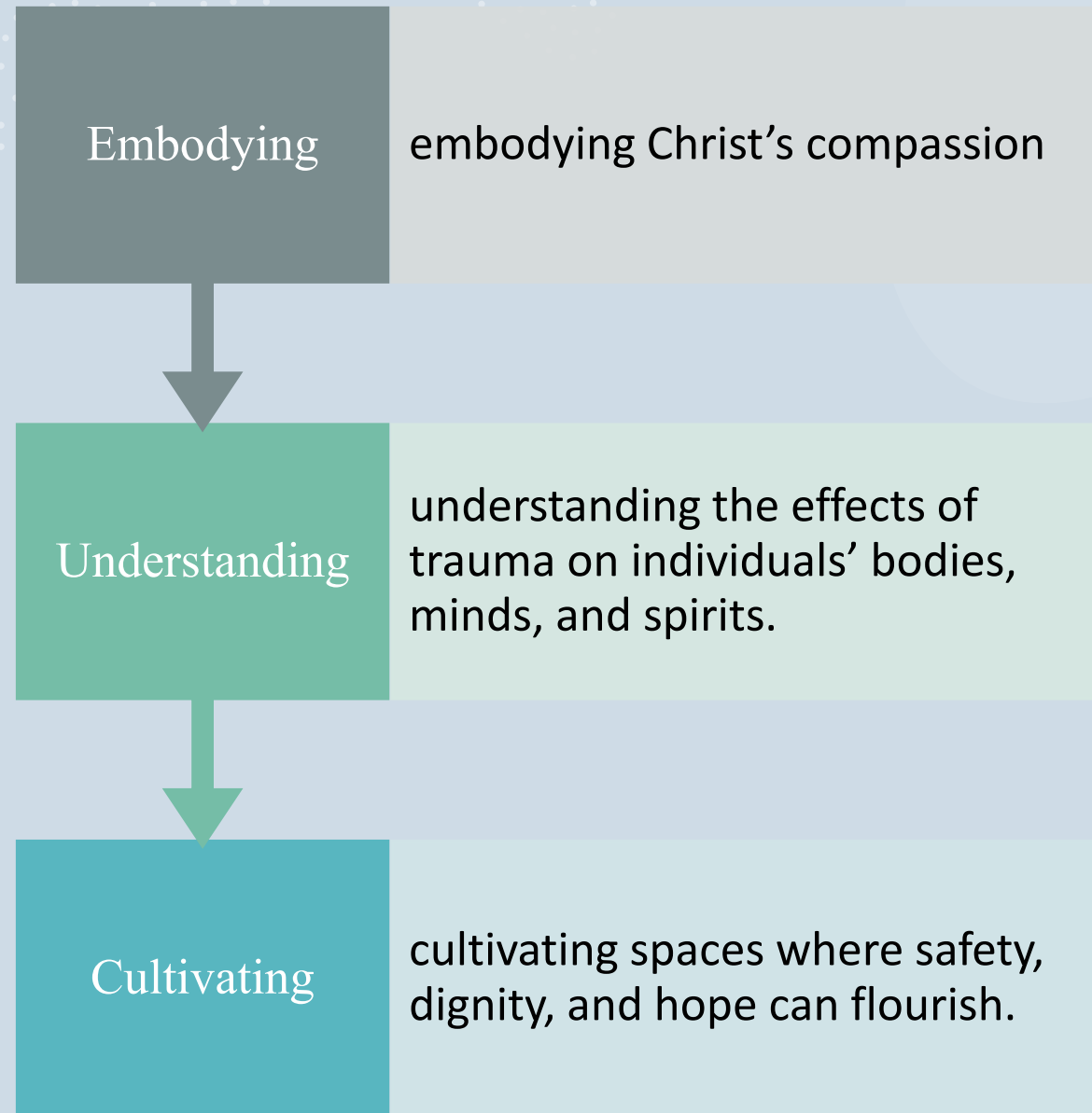
Recognize the Vulnerable and Reflect Jesus's Light

A trauma-informed community not only cares for those within the community but also notices those outside the community who are unseen, unheard, or marginalized—and they become a living expression of Christ's compassion.

Scripture

- *Matthew 25:40* — “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
- *Isaiah 58:10* — “If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.”
- *Philippians 2:15* — “...that you may shine among them like stars in the sky.”

Being a trauma-informed Christian community means...



Building a safe community

- Acknowledge that everyone (even you) has sins and struggles to invite the Lord into
- Create safety by listening well, practicing compassion, and having confidential spaces for people to share without fear or shame
- Meet people in their suffering
- Practice asking permission and restoring a sense of control through choice
- Recognize who the vulnerable are around you. The community's love should be a signpost pointing back to Jesus (John 13:35)