



Godly Response to Abuse
in the Christian Environment

Safeguarding Training - Part 2

Responding to the Impact of Abuse

1



Common Impacts of Abuse



2

At times we don't
respond appropriately to abuse
because we have a shallow
understanding of its impact.



3

Common Emotional Impacts

- Anger
- Confusion
- Betrayal
- Grief
- Guilt
- Shame
- Humiliation
- Fear
- Powerlessness



4

Common Physical Impacts

- Loss of Sleep
- Loss of Appetite
- Loss of Focus
- Increased Stress Levels
- Headaches
- Fatigue



5

Common Mental Health Impacts

- Anxiety (e.g. Panic Attacks)
- Depression
- PTSD
- Substance abuse
- Self-harm
- Loss of Motivation



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Common Spiritual Impacts

- Loss of Safety in Church
- Feeling Betrayal by God, the Church, and Spiritual Leaders
- Feeling Distance from God
- Former spiritual places and practices can be triggering.



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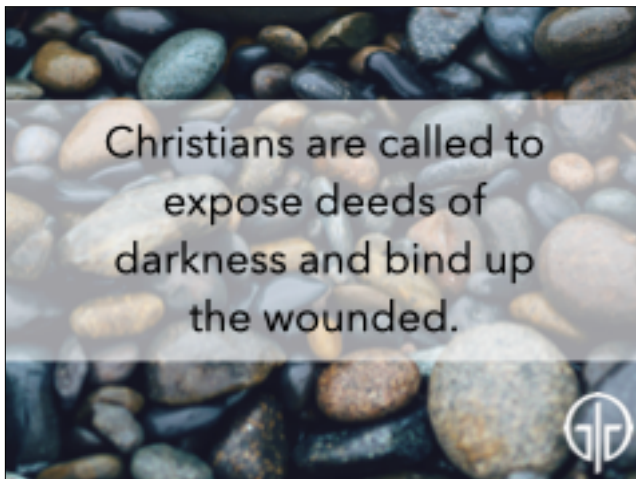

Godly Response to Survivors




GRACE

Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment

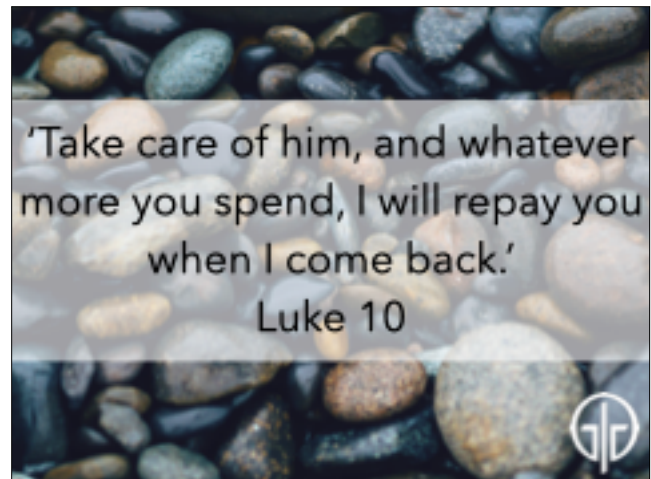
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Christians are called to expose deeds of darkness and bind up the wounded.




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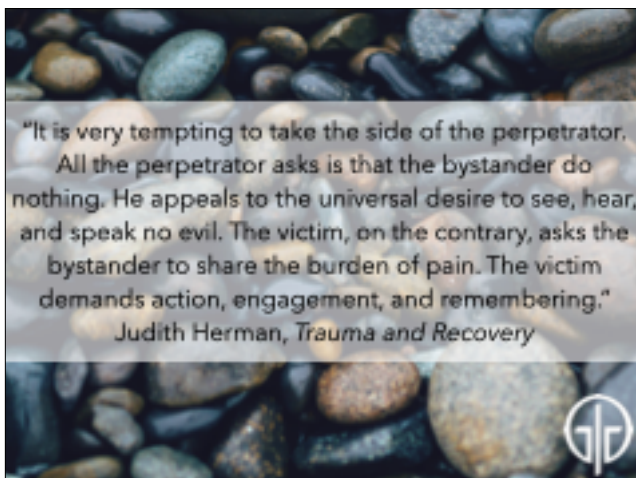


'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Luke 10




10



"It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. He appeals to the universal desire to see, hear, and speak no evil. The victim, on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain. The victim demands action, engagement, and remembering."

Judith Herman, *Trauma and Recovery*



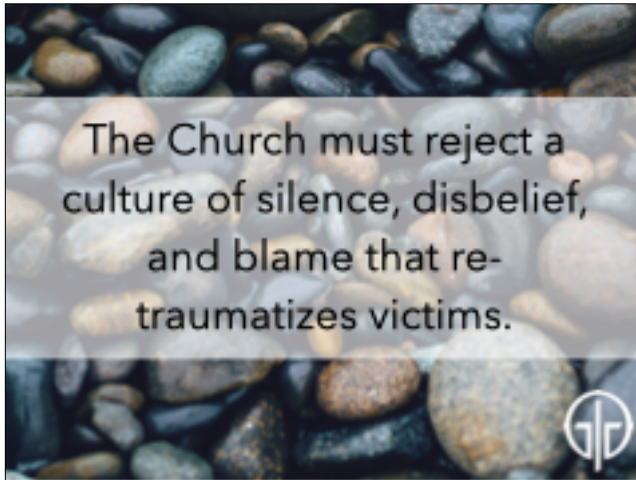
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We have to get over our discomfort so we can understand and help victims.



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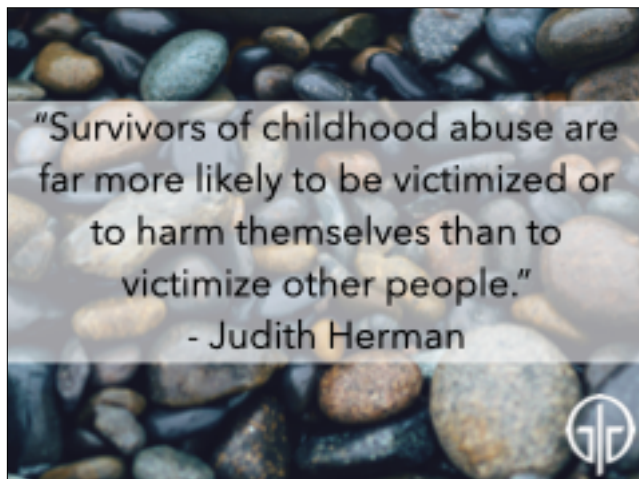
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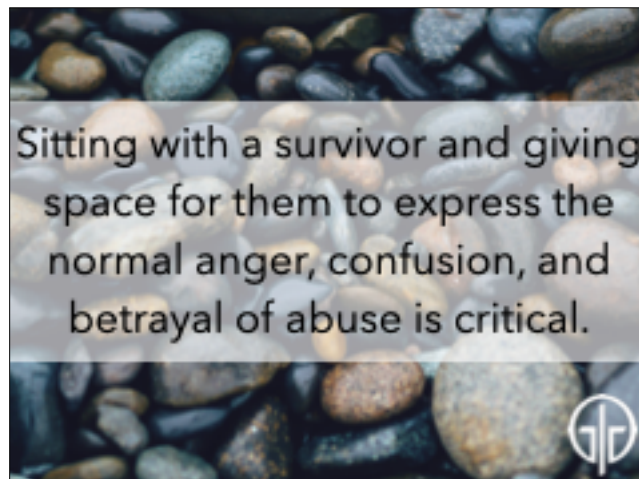
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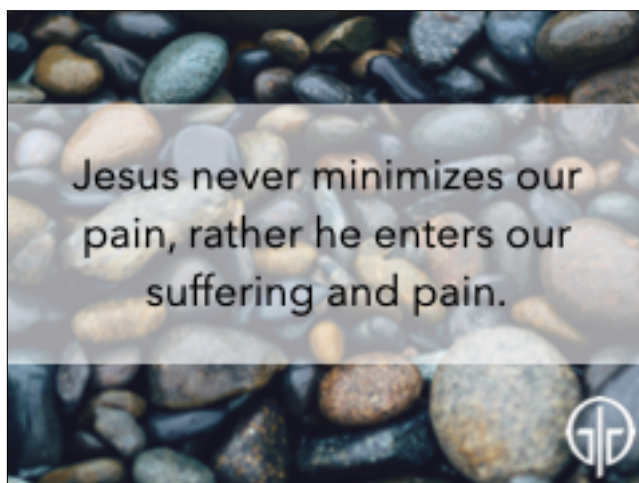
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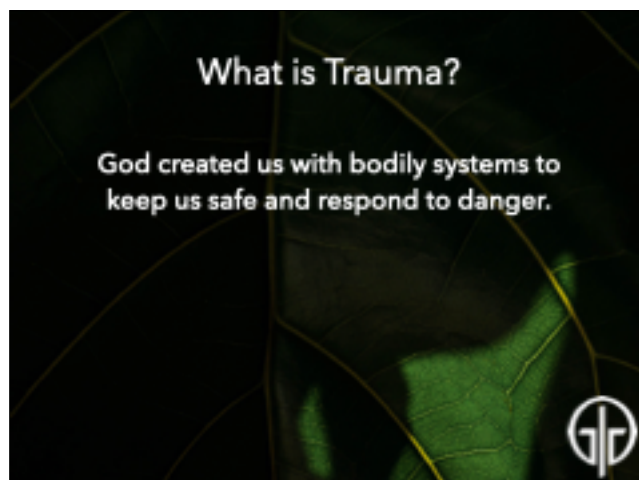
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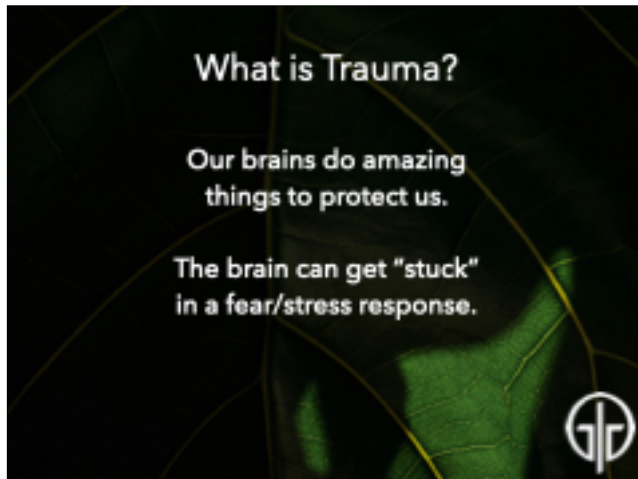
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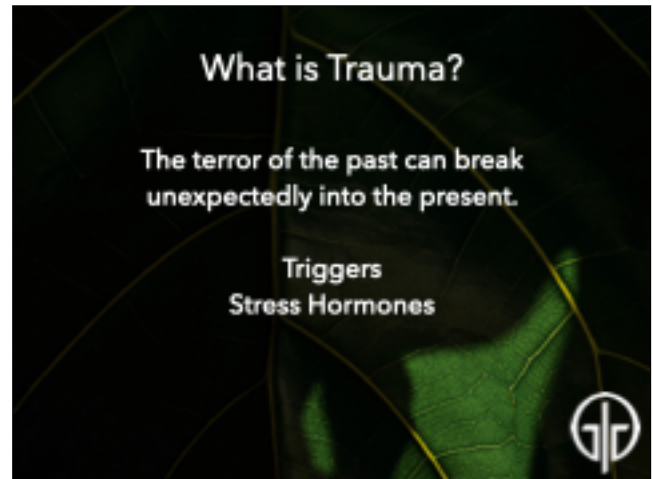
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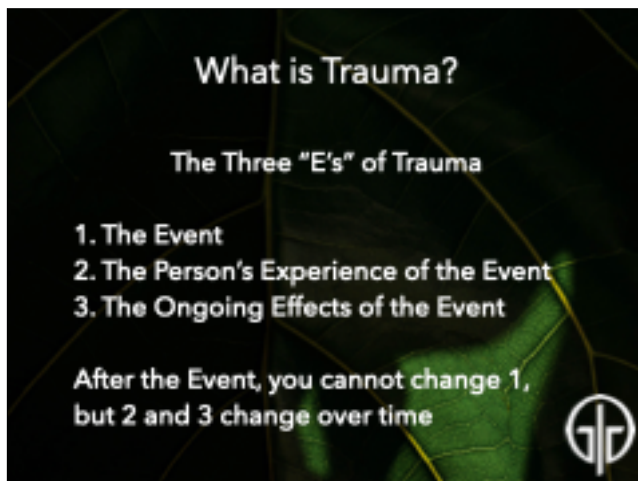
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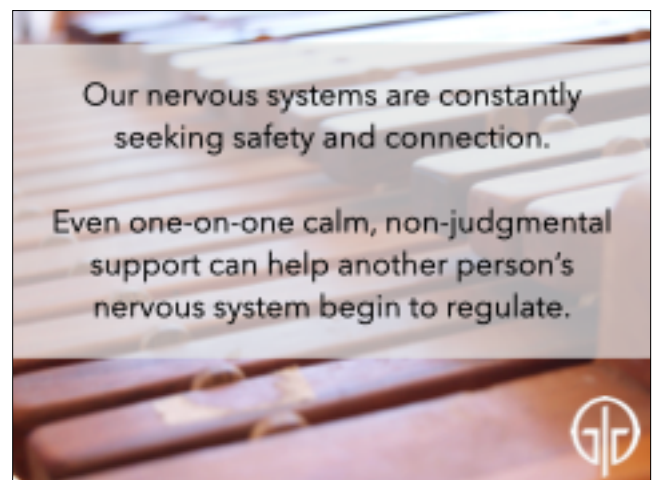
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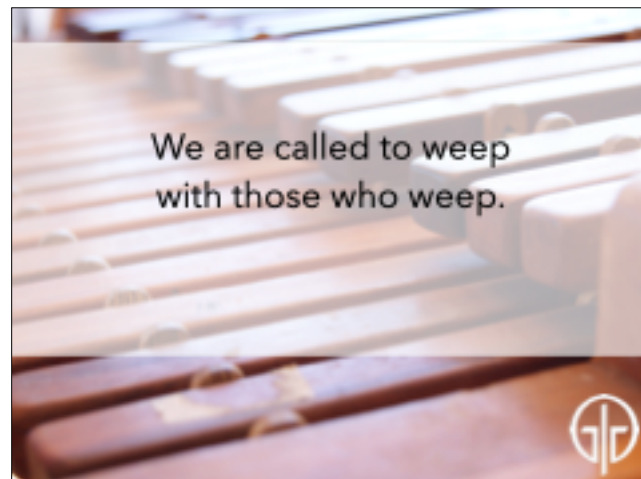


Trauma-Informed Communities Promote:


1. Safety
2. Dignity
3. Agency
4. Trust



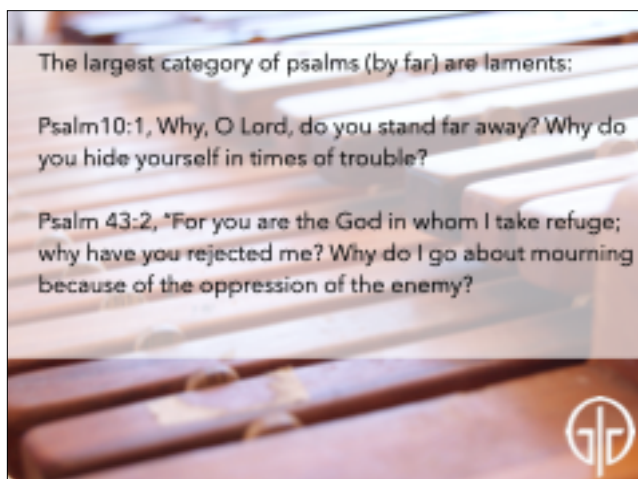
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We are called to weep
with those who weep.




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The largest category of psalms (by far) are laments:

Psalm 10:1, Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Psalm 43:2, "For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"



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Listen well and offer support
by attending to any practical
needs.



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Supportive People:

- Believe victims and take practical steps to establish safety
- Never blame survivors or minimize abuse
- Never give platitudes to survivors
- Never press for details about the abuse
- Never urge the survivor to meet the abuser, "reconcile," or push forgiveness



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