

Summary of the Key Concepts of "Circle of Grace"



God gives each of us a *Circle of Grace* (see below) where He is always 'Present':

Raise your hands above your head, then bring your outstretched arms slowly down. Extend your arms in front of you and then behind you embrace all of the space around you slowly reach down to your feet.

Knowing that God is in this space with you. This is your Circle of Grace; you are in it.

God is "Present" because He desires a relationship with us.

- God is with us when we are happy and sad. God does not cause bad things to happen to us. He loves us very much.
- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- Having faith may not take away all of life's struggles. It is because of these struggles, God promised to always "be present"; providing guidance and comfort in our time of need.

God helps us know what belongs in our *Circle of Grace*

- Our feelings help us know about ourselves and the world around us.
- God helps us know what belongs in our *Circle of Grace* by experiencing peace, love or contentment when something or someone good comes into our *Circle of Grace*.

God helps us know what does not belong in our *Circle of Grace*

- God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused (unsafe).
- The Holy Spirit prompts (alerts) us that something does not belong in our *Circle of Grace* by giving us "a funny or uncomfortable feeling" that something is not safe. This feeling is there because God wants us to be safe.

God helps us know when to ask for help from someone we trust.

- God gives us people in our lives to help us
- God wants us to talk to trusted grownups about our worries, concerns or "funny/ uncomfortable feelings" so they can help us be safe.