Keeping Your Circles **Straight**

In chapter 4 of *Help! Can I Choose My Own Gender?*, you are encouraged to begin putting on something called "humble submission." This phrase describes the ability to place yourself under the authority of God willingly, knowing He alone is the Author of gender. In order to grow in humble submission to God the Author, you need to reevaluate what is **God's** responsibility and what is **your** responsibility. It's possible that somewhere along the way, you've gotten these two "circles of responsibility" mixed up. This personal growth study aims to help you identify and remember what you are responsible for and what God is responsible for, so you can *keep your circles straight*.[1]

How to do this study:

- Read through the diagram on the following page.
- Is there anything you don't understand? Ask a trusted adult to help you with your questions.
- Next, prayerfully work through the personal application questions that follow.
- Consider creating your own diagram using your answers to the application questions so you can have a visual reminder of what God is teaching you (see page 4).
- Keep your diagram in an easy-to-access place as you work, by God's grace, toward more faithfully keeping your circles straight.

[1] This illustration is adapted from Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2002).

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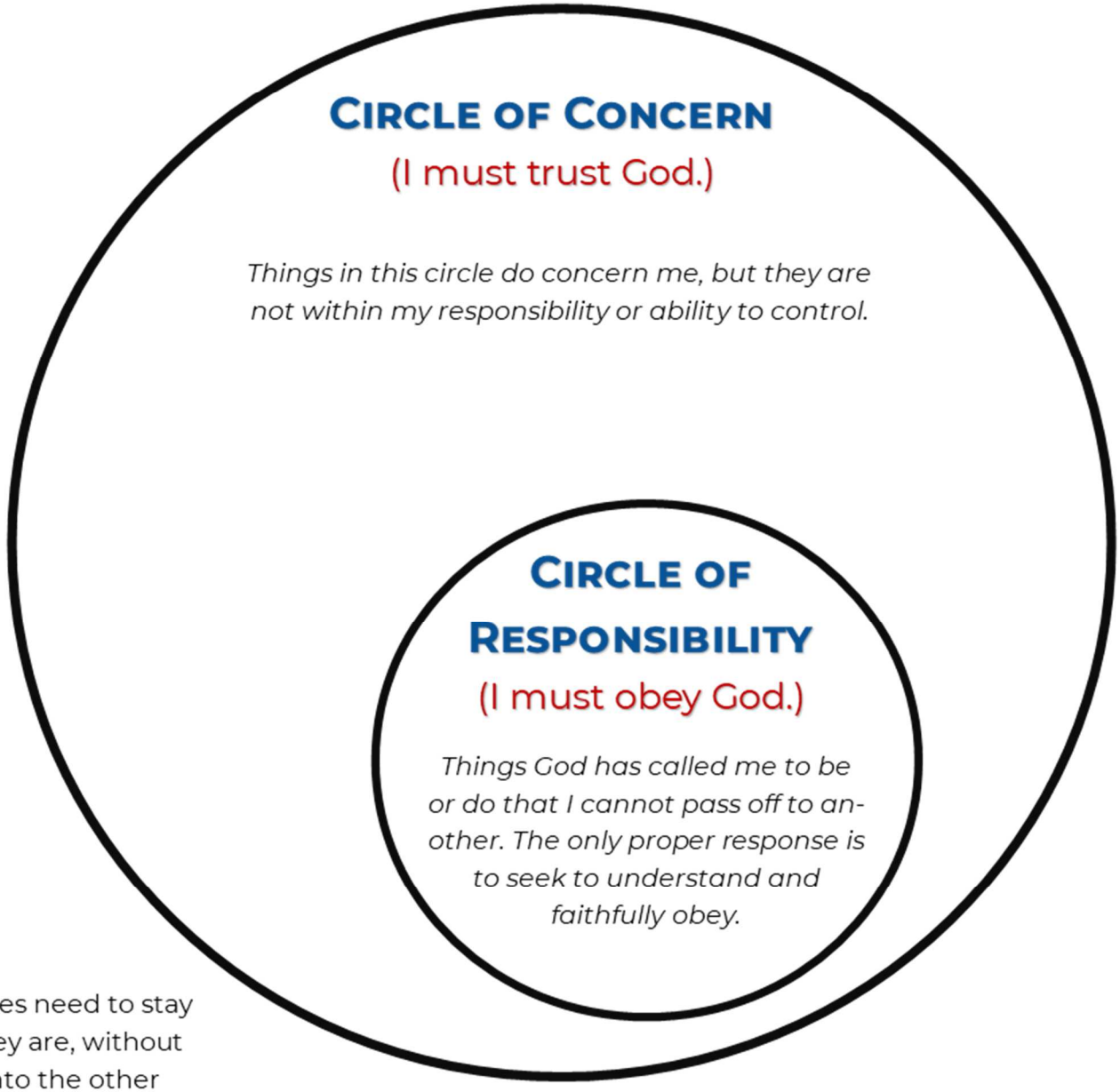

Note:

Both circles need to stay where they are, without moving into the other circle's domain. Doing so leads to anger, anxiety, and disappointment

An Example:

When I try to do God's job by defining my own gender, I'm treating something in my ***circle of concern*** as if it's in my ***circle of responsibility***.

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Personal Application:

1. Talk together with your adult discipler about how this diagram demonstrates the concept of humble submission.
2. Think of two examples where Jesus humbly submitted to the Father. Explain those two examples in the space below.
   Example 1:

   Example 2:

3. List as many things as possible that you can think of that belong in the **Circle of Concern** about which you must **trust God**. (*Hint: These include all things that only God is qualified to deal with.*) Write your answers in the space below or on the diagram on page 4.

   1) _____ 5) _____
   2) _____ 6) _____
   3) _____ 7) _____
   4) _____ 8) _____

4. List as many things as possible that are your responsibility and belong in the **Circle of Responsibility** and in which you must **obey God**. (*Hint: These include all things only you can do and cannot pass off to another.*) Write your answers in the space below or on the diagram on page 4.

   1) _____ 5) _____
   2) _____ 6) _____
   3) _____ 7) _____
   4) _____ 8) _____

5. Now go back to your lists and highlight 1-2 things in each list that you tend to treat as if it's in the other circle.
6. Pray daily for God to help you "keep your circles straight."
7. Review your lists regularly (2-5 times per week), and actively **trust** and **obey**.
8. Ask your adult discipler to help you stay accountable to keep your circles straight.

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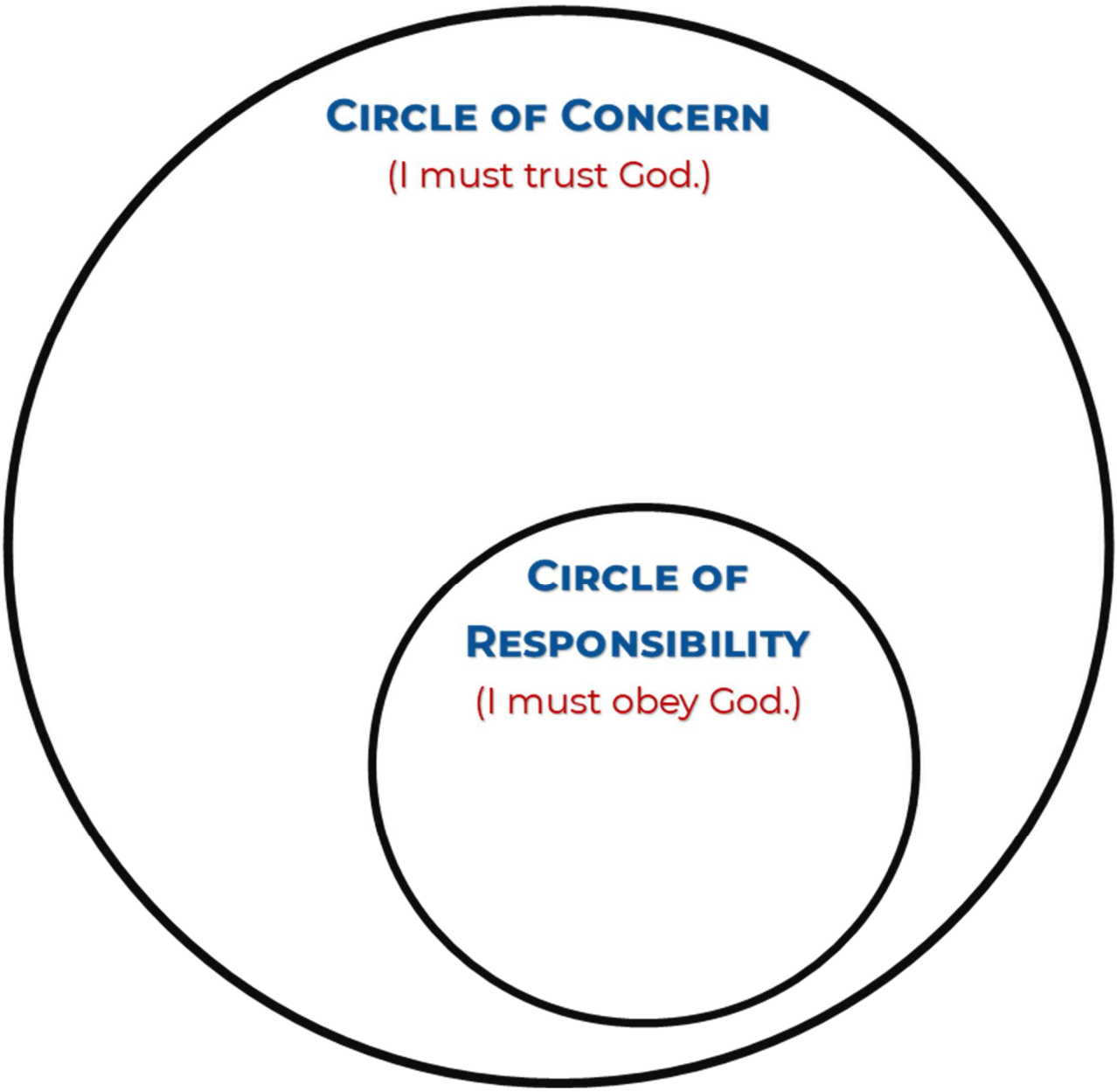

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