



This workshop was created by Rev. Marbuen Diaz (Team Leader – Church Witness & Intercultural Lead).

It is designed to challenge and inspire our thinking and practice both in our ministry context and our personal walk with Jesus. It is devotional at times exploring Scripture and is designed to present key big ideas for us to wrestle with and apply. This is not designed as a detailed and practical workshop but as one to stir our hearts and minds toward some big concepts about our ministry and discipleship.

You may want to begin this workshop by explaining this to those present as well as using some of the following to introduce the concept of power that Marbz will be unpacking for us.

As adults we have power in interactions with children and young people. Often in our contexts that power is greater if we hold a leadership position in our church, ministry area or as the SRE teacher. In our context and more broadly we have more power and voice if we speak English as our first language, have stable accommodation and regular income to cover basic living costs.

In this workshop Marbz explores 3 different perspectives on our circle of power. Helping us become more aware of our power and challenging us how we might use our power, not as the world uses power but how Jesus has shown us.

Marbz does this by inviting us into a powerful personal story of immigrating to Australia from the Philippines as a 10 year old boy. Marbz interweaves this personal story while exploring 3 questions from Luke's gospel.

Local facilitator leads discussion activities. You will need to be prepared to do some work to apply the discussion to the relevant contexts. In your preparation it might be helpful to prepare some examples for each discussion time to help lead the discussion.

It is a video presentation with 3 opportunities throughout to pause and discuss together as a group. At the end of the video there will also be time to discuss further anything else and to pray together.

Resources:

- Download video from website
- Provide blank paper for people to make notes

Workshop Outline (1 hour)

- **Your intro:** let people know this video includes a lot of big picture and abstract thinking. It might take a bit of work on our part to apply it to our specific contexts in ministry amongst children and young people. Perhaps taking notes will help. There will be spots where we pause and chat during the video. Everyone will receive a link to the video to watch it again and share with their team. **(max 2minutes)**

1st question “why do you welcome?”

- Marbz introduces himself and the personal story he will weave throughout the workshop.
- The first of 3 questions Marbz introduces us to is a question from the religious leaders to Jesus in Luke chapters 5 & 15. They ask Jesus why he welcomes and spends time with those they see as being on the outside of their circle of power.



- Jesus welcomes as a mirror of God who like a shepherd who goes out and searches for the 1 lost sheep. Like the resilient woman who searches all night to find the lost coin. Like the father who earnestly waits for his lost son to return home.
- [Pause & chat 10:10](#) *Give people time to personally reflect and to draw their circles with those who are in and those who are out reminding them that unless we identify our circle of power we cannot intentionally welcome those on the outside because we wouldn't know who they are.*

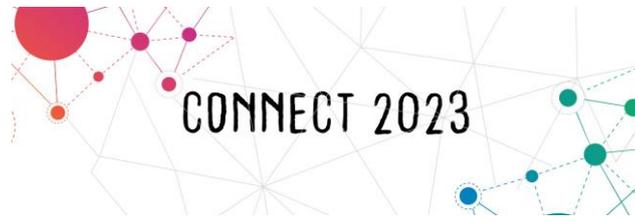
After a minute or two invite people to discuss: in what ways could your team or church extend your circle of power to welcome and include others. **(8 minutes)**

2nd Question – “Who is my neighbour?”

- The second question is also from the religious leaders to Jesus from Luke 10. They ask Jesus about how wide does our definition of neighbour go?
- Jesus responds with a parable which goes beyond anyone's expectation of where Jesus would draw the line on who is my neighbour.
- Marbz explores the challenge of leaving our circle of power and entering someone else's. to share power through empathising.
- [Pause & chat 14:38](#)
 - get people thinking about a particular context and ask what does it look like for someone in your context to empathise with a student, young person or kid who is participating in your program? What might it look like for you to enter into their life and their story to try and understand what is going on for them? One particular scenario to explore might be if a child seems disengaged or withdrawn – instead of just pushing them to get involved or calling them out in the group, what might a strategy be to empathise with them **(8 minutes)**

3rd Question Who loves more?

- This 3rd question is a question from Jesus to Simon the Pharisee and by implication other people in powerful positions. It is found in Luke 7
- Marbz unpacks the story of Jesus at Simon the Pharisee's dinner party when a woman who had experienced grace and forgiveness and washes Jesus feet with her tears and anoint his head with expensive perfume.
- As Jesus is challenged about allowing this to happen Jesus steps in and protects this woman and gives her voice and agency by telling a parable.
- [Pause & Chat 21:38](#) In what ways can we use our circle or our position in the circle of power to shield those experiencing injustice, and how can we also give them a platform to be heard and to gain agency for themselves?
 - Perhaps it is talking about how to advocate for children in young people generally in our churches and wider communities or perhaps there are specific injustices we can identify that we can intervene like Jesus has shown us how to do? **(8minutes)**
- At the end of the video you might want to use the remaining time to discuss further about applying the different perspectives on circles of power into the contexts of those attending the workshop.



- What circles of power do we operate in when serving in our ministry?
- How can we apply these 3 perspectives of circles of power in that context?
 - Please take a couple of minutes to pray for each other and those you are seeking to serve.

Thank you for leading this workshop for your region!