



WEEK 3

SERIOUS SELF-CARE WORKBOOK

UNDERSTANDING & REGULATING YOUR EMOTIONS



REGULATING YOUR

EMOTIONS

EMOTIONAL REGULATION IS THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY AN EMOTION AND MANAGE OUR INTERNAL RESPONSE TO THAT EMOTION. PEOPLE WHO CAN REGULATE THEIR EMOTIONS ARE MORE CONFIDENT, HAVE HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIPS, AND HAVE HIGHER LEVELS OF SELF-TRUST. THE PRACTICE OF EMOTIONAL REGULATION ALLOWS US TO ACTIVELY CHOOSE HOW WE RESPOND TO OUR EMOTIONS RATHER THAN LETTING OUR EMOTIONS CONTROL OUR BEHAVIOR.

TO START REGULATING YOUR EMOTIONS, TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

LABEL THE SENSATION IN YOUR BODY.

EX: I FEEL HEAT IN MY CHEST, I FEEL TINGLING IN MY BELLY, I FEEL MY HEART RACING RIGHT NOW.

NAME THE EMOTION

EX: I AM FEELING ANXIOUS RIGHT NOW. I AM FEELING REJECTED OR LIKE I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH. I AM FEELING AFRAID. NOTE: THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN "I AM...."

BREATH TO CREATE SPACE

EX: BEGIN TO TAKE SLOW DEEP BREATHS FROM THE BODY (MAKING THE EXHALE LONGER) SLOW BREATHING HELPS STABILIZE THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

SELF SOOTHE

EX: JOURNAL YOUR FEELINGS, CALL SOMEONE TO SUPPORT YOU, SIT WITH OR CUDDLE A PET, SPEAK KINDLY TO YOURSELF, TAKE A WARM BUBBLE BATH, SIT IN THE SUN. MOVE YOUR BODY.

SILENCE YOUR

INNER CRITIC

HOW CAN WE TURN SELF-CRITICISM INTO SELF-UNDERSTANDING?

TO HEAL, WE MUST STOP BEING A CRITICAL ADULT TO OURSELVES. WE NEED TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE MISTAKES, TO "FAIL"- TO NOT BE "PERFECT" AND TO STILL NOT ABANDON OURSELVES. IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU GRANT YOURSELF MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN CRITICISM?

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR

PATTERNS

PATTERNS ARE BEHAVIORS WE REPEAT THROUGHOUT LIFE. BECAUSE PATTERNS CAN BE PASSED DOWN, INHERITED AND LEARNED, IT IS HELPFUL TO FIRST LOOK AT OUR PARENTS, SIBLINGS, UNCLES/AUNTS AND CLOSEST FAMILY MEMBERS AND ASK THE QUESTIONS BELOW. THEN ANSWER THE SAME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF. TRY TO BE HONEST IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND YOURSELF AND NOT TO JUDGE YOURSELF.

CAN THEY REGULATE THEIR ARE YOU ABLE TO REGULATE EMOTIONS? OR DO THEY YOUR EMOTIONS? REGULARLY LASH OUT, GIVE SILENT TREATMENT, ETC. WHAT'S THEIR RELATIONSHIP WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP HISTORY? MOSTLY HEALTHY? HISTORY? MOSTLY DYSFUNCTIONAL? WHAT ARE THEIR COPING WHAT ARE YOUR USUAL MECHANISMS? COPING MECHANISMS? DENIAL/AVOIDANCE? ANGER? DISTRACTING ONESELF? HOW DO THEY SPEAK ABOUT HOW DO YOU SPEAK ABOUT THEMSELVES/OTHERS? YOURSELF? POSITIVE? NEGATIVE? JUDGMENTAL? HOW IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEMSELVES? DO THEY: WITH YOURSELF? PRACTICE SELF-CARE? HAVE **BOUNDARIES? RESPECT BOUNDARIES?**