

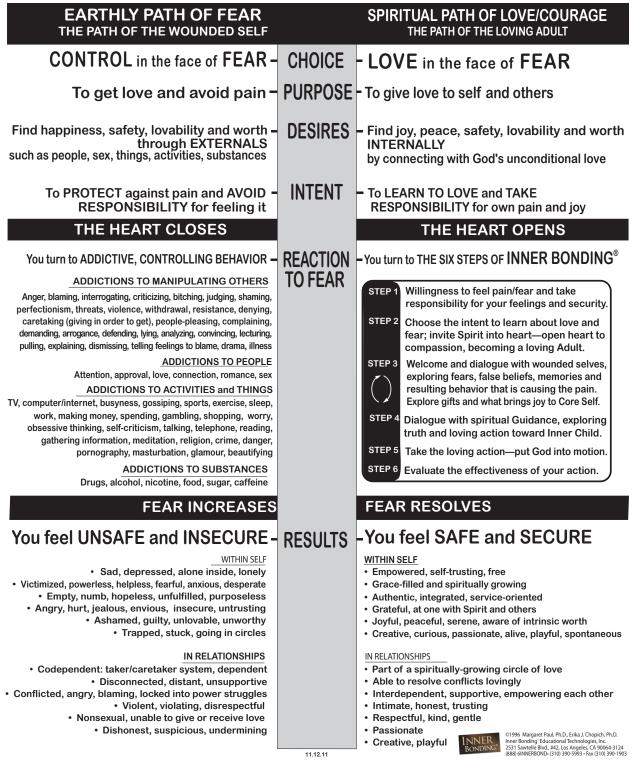
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

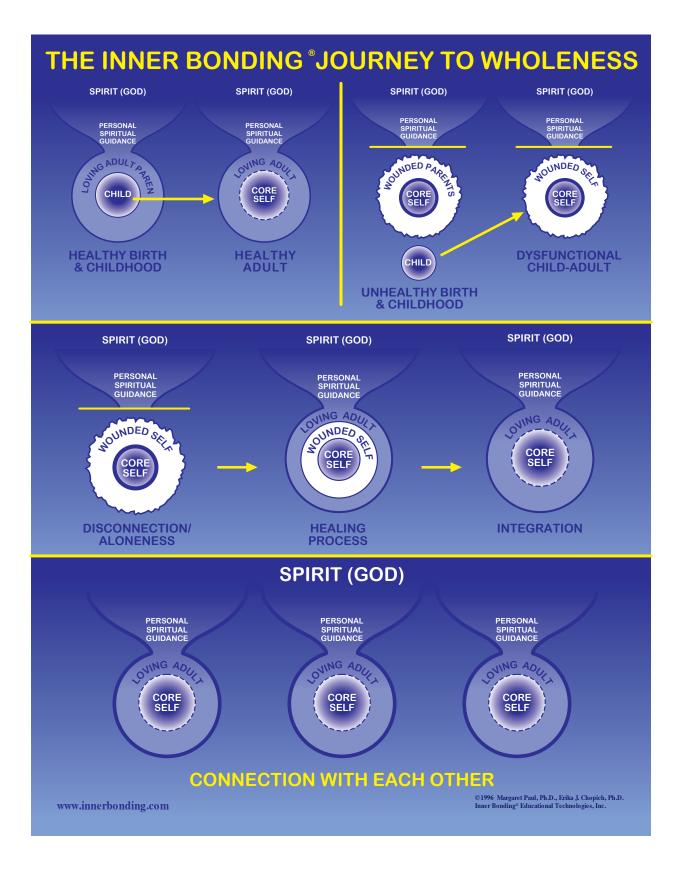
# THE INNER BONDING WORKSHOP

THE POWER TO HEAL YOURSELF

Margaret Paul, Ph.D , Erika J. Chopich, Ph.D. © 1995 Inner Bonding Educational Technologies, Inc. 15332 Antioch St., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 Tel. 310) 459-1700 , -Fax (310) 459-1727

# **LIFE PATHS**



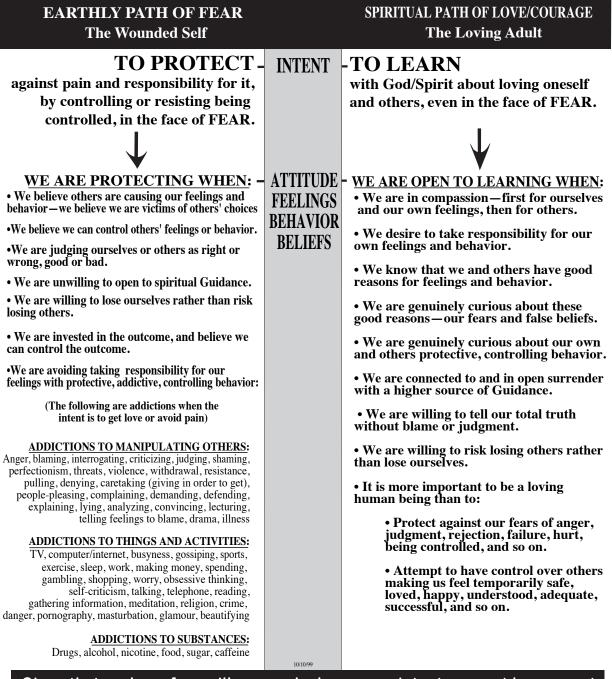


# INNER BONDING®

STEP 1	<ul> <li>Choose to be MINDFUL of your feelings, ATTENDING to your feelings with the WILLINGNESS to feel your core pain, learn about and take responsibility for how you are causing your wounded feelings, and take responsibility for creating your peace and joy.</li> </ul>								
STEP 2	<ul> <li>Choose the INTE heart and create meditative/spiri heart to connect</li> </ul>	es the loving tual practice	Adult. In s or anyth	vite love ar hing else th	nd compassio nat helps you	n into your he to surrender a	eart. Utilize and open	e any the	
STEP 3 -	<ul> <li>Choose to WELCOME and LEARN with the wounded self and the core Self.</li> <li>EMBRACE and DIALOGUE with the many aspects and feelings of the wounded self: Victim, Defender, Fixer, Blamer, Critic, Martyr, Pleaser, Caretaker, Taker, Predator, Avoider, Resister, Obsessor, Perfectionist, Addict Explore with love, compassion and curiosity the feelings, behaviors, false beliefs, and memories of these wounded selves.</li> </ul>								
		ified Trapper	d A tokill Ei	Ibrace and Ione mpty, Numb epressed	explore: Guilty, Shamed Unworthy Unlovable	Inadequate Unimportant Damaged	Hurt Needy Jealous	Disrespected Excluded Disappointed Abandoned	
	-Possible ber With self and/or	naviors to we	lcome, ei	hinking tha mbrace an <sup>Deny Pullir</sup>	d explore: ing Obsessir		g Procra	istinating ned to outcome	
	blaming, violent, expectations	violating, withho	olding, having	9 Lectu Maki	iring Complai ng others responsi	ning Caretakin ble for defining my	g Acting worth and lo	g out addictively vability	
	–Possible false beliefs, underlying the above behavior and resulting pain, to embrace and explore:								
	I am a victim. People and events cause my feelings and behavior.I am alone. God has abandoned me or doesn't exist.I am flawed, bad, inadequate, unimportant, unworthy, unlovable.I am alone. God has abandoned me or doesn't exist.I can and must control outcomes, people, feelings.I'm responsible for others' feelings.I am selfish if I take care of myself.I won't survive if someone I love disconnects from me.Others' approval and disapproval define my worth.I can't handle pain.								
	<ul> <li>EMBRACE, D</li> </ul>	IALOGUE wi	th and LE	EARN ABO	JT the core Se	elf, the essenc	е		
	Intrinsic goodne Intrinsic worth Intrinsic lovabilit Intrinsic competi	Passions y Calling	Gifts Talents Creativity	Sadness Loneliness Sorrow Grief	What brings joy? What fulfills the h What fulfills the s	neart? Linear		Spiritual al Intuitive al Abstract	
STEP 4 -	<ul> <li>Utilizing imager</li> <li>Ask for truth</li> <li>Ask for the log</li> </ul>	about the be	eliefs unc	overed in S	Step 3 and bri	ng it to the w	ounded se	Emotional elf.	
STEP 5 -	<ul> <li>TAKE the LOVING ACTION(S) learned in Step 4. Examples:</li> <li>Set loving boundaries within self and with others. Care for the body, the house of the soul.</li> <li>Pursue the calling of the soul.</li> <li>Create balance between work and play.</li> <li>Spend time holding your wounded self and getting held.</li> <li>Help others, do service, give to others.</li> </ul>								
STEP 6									
	00	•			I release of th				
	Personal power Self-esteem Peace, serenity Joy, laughter Gratitude Freedom	Integration Authenticity Transparency Playfulness Spontaneity Connection	Wisdom Knowing Intuition Vision Oneness v		Compassionate Loving Understanding Gentle, kind Trusting	Aliveness Passion Creativity Manifestation Generosity	-	f self/others	
2/15/99	ITEEUUIII	COLINECTION	UTIELIESS /	MILLI OUTELS	Have integrity	Inner Bondir	garet Paul, Ph.D., Erika g® Educational Techno le Blvd., #42, Los Ange	logies, Inc.	

Inner Bonding" Educational Technologies, Inc. 2531 Sawtelle Blvd., #42, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124 (888) GINNERBOND • (310) 459-1700 • Fax (310) 459-1727

# **INTENT**

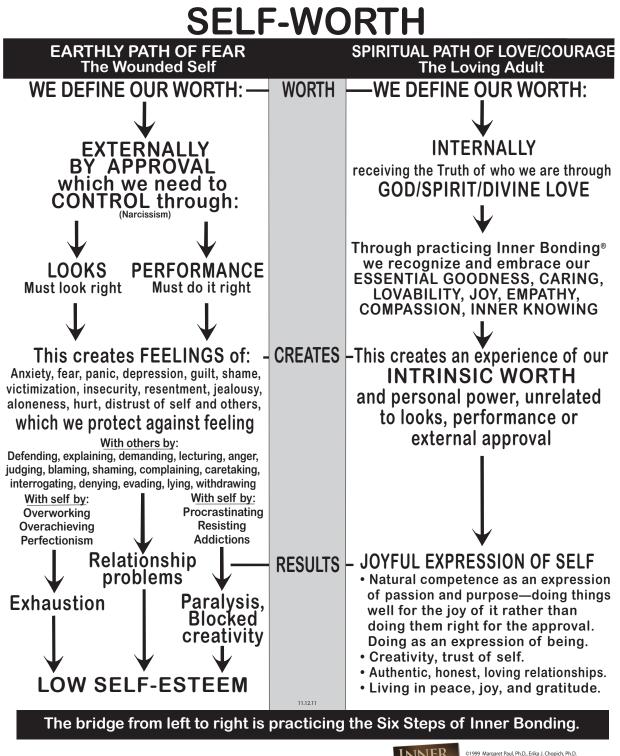


#### Given that we have free will, we each choose our intent moment by moment

#### www.innerbonding.com



ONDING<sup>©</sup> (1999) Margaret Paul, Ph.D., Erika J. Chopich, Ph.D. Imere Bonding<sup>®</sup> Educational Technologies, Inc. PMB #42, 2531 Sawtelle Bivd., Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124 (888) 61NDERBOND (310) 459-1700 Fax (310) 459-1727



www.innerbonding.com



 Inner Bonding' Educational Technologies, Inc.

 2531 Sawtelle Blvd., #42, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124

 (888) 6INNERBOND• (310) 459-1700 • Fax (310) 459-1727

## Sexercises

#### 1. EXPLORING YOUR WOUNDED SELF

- A. Tell mother, father, other caregivers, grandparents, and siblings how they were to you when you were a child, and how you felt.
- B. Tell your wounded self how he or she treats you that is similar to how your parents or other caregivers treated you.

#### 2. ANGER PROCESS

- A. Get angry at someone in the present.
- B. Get angry at someone in the past that reminds you of the present person or situation. May be pre-verbal.
- C. Get angry at your wounded self for your part in creating the present situation that is upsetting you, or for not taking care of you in the present conflict situation, or for how you treat your Child that is similar to how the person you are angry at is treating you.

## WOUNDED SELF INNER DIALOGUE

#### AUTHORITARIAN, CRITICAL WOUNDED SELF

- "You don't count."
- "You don't deserve to do what you want to do."
- "What you want isn't important. What he/she wants is more important."
- "Don't make trouble. Don't rock the boat. Just go along."
- □ "Don't hurt him/her; he/she can't take it."
- "Just give in. It's easier than getting into an argument."
- "Just lie, it's better than having him/her yell at you."
- "You can't have what you want, so just go along."
- "If you don't give in, you'll end up alone."
- "It's okay to lose you, but don't lose him/her."
- "Just do what's expected of you. What you want doesn't really matter."
- "You have to do what he/she wants or there will be trouble."
- "You didn't do it right, again."
- □ "You're bad. You should be ashamed of yourself."
- □ "You're selfish."
- "Who do you think you are?"
- "Work before play."
- "You should..." "You shouldn't..." "You'd better..." "Bad things will happen if..."
- "The trouble with you is..."
- "Don't be so stupid. You're such a jerk."
- "You'll never be good enough. You'll never do it right."
- "You haven't got what it takes."
- "What's the matter with you? I'll give you something to cry about."
- □ "You're ugly."
- "Shut up. You don't know what you're talking about."
- "It's all your fault."
- "You're crazy."
- □ "You can't…" "You're not capable."

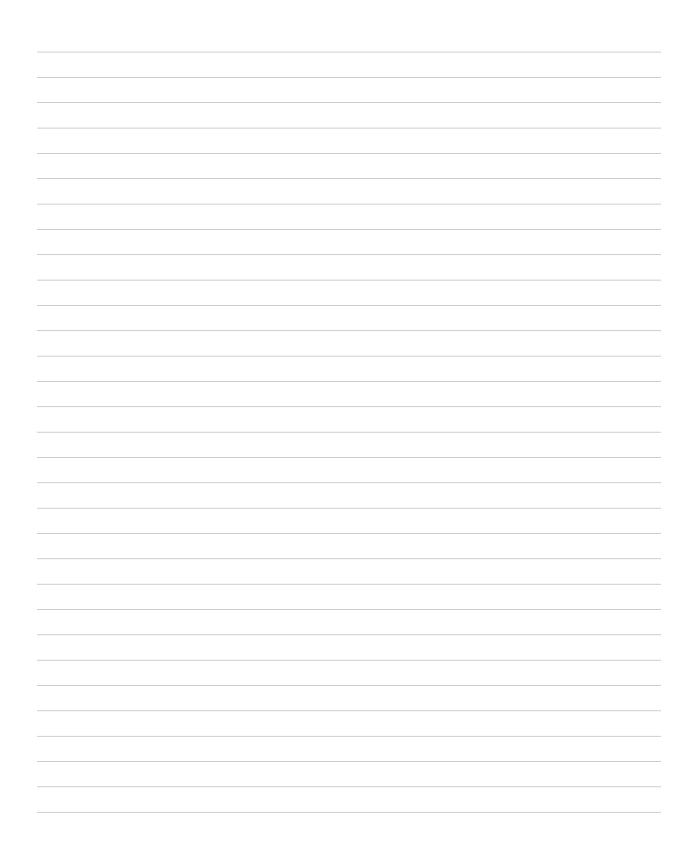
#### **RESISTANT/PERMISSIVE WOUNDED SELF**

- "I don't have to. You can't make me."
- "I worked hard I deserve donuts."

□ "I can't."

- □ "Why bother? Who cares?"
- □ "I have the right to hit that person because he/she " disrespected me."
- "If I wait long enough, someone else will do it for me."
- "I don't want to go to work. Let's just go back to sleep."

### **LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK FOR YOUR PERSONAL NOTES**



### Show do you protect against feeling your pain?

#### SUBSTANCE ADDICTIONS

- □ Food
- □ Sugar
- □ Caffeine
- □ Alcohol

Drugs, prescription

□ Withdrawal

**Getting sick** 

**D** Being a packrat

□ Anger or irritation

□ Shopping

□ Meditation

BeautifyingBusywork

□ Masturbation

**D** Pornography

□ Adrenaline and other stress hormones

□ Religion

 $\Box$  Crime

□ Worry

**D**rama

**D** Denial

**C**igarettes

□ Bingeing, purging

**D**rugs, recreational

**Compulsive thinking, ruminating** 

**D** Being critical of self or others

**D** Smiling, laughing, or joking

□ Accumulating information

□ Fantasizing, daydreaming

**Compliance** with others' demands

#### PROCESS ADDICTIONS: THINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- **T** TV
- □ Work
- **D** Reading
- □ Sports
- Anorexia
- **D** Exercise
- □ Power over others
- **G**ambling
- □ Accumulating money
- □ Spending
- □ Sleep
- □ Shoplifting
- **D** Fighting
- □ Misery/depression
- **Talking on the telephone**
- **T**alking with endless details
- **D** Danger
- **C**omputer
- □ Internet
- Pushing to accomplish things
- **T**ime urgency
- **G**ossiping
- Self-Mutilation: cutting, nail-biting, picking on skin, hair pulling

#### **PROCESS ADDICTIONS: People**

 $\Box$  Sex

□ Romance

□ Love □ Approval

□ Attention □ Connection □

## FALSE/SELF-LIMITING BELIEFS OF THE WOUNDED SELF

#### • False Beliefs About Happiness and Self-WORTH

- My adequacy, lovability, and feelings of self-worth and come from others liking me and approving of me.
- □ My sense of happiness and well-being comes from another loving me.
- Others disapproval or rejection mean that I'm not good enough.
- □ I can't make myself happy.
- □ I can't make myself as happy as someone or something else can.
- □ My best feelings come from outside myself, from how others, or a particular other sees me and treats me.

#### • False Beliefs About Responsibility For Feelings

The Caretaker Position

- □ I'm responsible for other's feelings. Therefore, I should never do anything, even if it's something that makes me happy and is not intended to hurt anyone, that hurts or upsets another.
- $\Box$  It's up to me to make the people I care about happy.
- □ When others around me are unhappy, it's my fault and/or my responsibility to do something about it.
- □ If I don't take responsibility for other's happiness and unhappiness, I'm not a caring person.
- □ If I take responsibility for my own happiness instead of putting others first, I'm being selfish.
- □ If other people are angry at me, I make them feel that way and I'm responsible for fixing their feelings.
- □ It is my responsibility to heal wounded people.

The Taker Position

- □ Others are responsible for my feelings. Therefore, if someone cares about me, he or she will never do anything that hurts or upsets me.
- □ I can't take care of myself. I need someone to take care of me.
- □ I can't be alone. I feel like I'll die if I'm alone.
- □ When I'm hurt or upset, it's someone else's fault.
- □ It's up to other people to make me feel good about myself by approving of me.
- □ I'm not responsible for my feelings. Other people make me feel happy, sad, angry, frustrated, shut down, or depressed. When I'm angry, someone makes me feel that way and is responsible for fixing my feelings.

□ I'm not responsible for my behavior. Other people make me vell, act crazy, get sick,

laugh, cry, get violent, leave, or fail.

Others are selfish if they do what they want instead of what I want or need.

□ If I'm not connected to someone, I will die.

#### FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT PAIN

□ I can't handle my pain, especially the pain of disapproval, rejection, abandonment,

the pain of being shut out-the pain of isolation and aloneness.

□ If I open to my pain, I will fall apart. I will go crazy or die.

□ If I open to my pain, it will be unending.

• Once I start to cry, I'll never stop.

Showing pain is a sign of weakness. 

People will think less of me if they see me cry. If I cry I will be rejected,

or people will think I'm crazy.

- □ No one really wants to hear about my pain.
- □ No one can handle the depth of my pain.

□ My problems are so trivial compared to other people's that I have no right to be in pain.

□ Why should I have to feel this pain? I don't deserve it.

There's no point in opening to pain. It doesn't make anything better.

"Why cry over spilt milk?"

#### FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT INNER CHILD/ **CORE SELF**

Check the things you may have heard or absorbed  $\Box$  I'm boring. from your parents, siblings, teachers,

friends, TV, or society and that your Child-Adult may still believe. These are the things you

feel shame about

- □ I'm too intelligent, too smart for my own good.
- □ I don't have a good sense of humor.
- **I**'m immature.
- □ I'm not a professional.
- □ I never went to college.
- □ I didn't graduate from high school.
- □ I have a small vocabulary.
- **I** can't do math.
- □ I don't read well.
- **I** have no imagination.
- □ I'm not spiritual enough.
- □ I'm too spiritual.
- □ I can't do anything right.
- $\Box$  I was abused as a child.
- □ When bad things happen, it's always my fault.
- **D** Bad things always happen to me.
- □ I have an eating disorder.
- **I**'m an alcoholic.
- **I**'m a drug addict.
- $\Box$  I'm too sexual.
- $\square$  I'm a sex addict.
- $\square$  I'm not sexual enough.
- $\square$  I'm crazy.
- **I**'m a phony.
- □ I'm righteous and arrogant.
- □ I'm depressed.
- □ I'm superficial.
- $\Box$  I'm screwed up.
- □ I have no personality.
- □ I'm a goody-goody.
- $\Box$  I'm a man.
- **I**'m a woman.

<sup>□</sup> I'm basically a bad, wrong, defective, or

unworthy person.

- $\Box$  I'm not good enough.
- $\Box$  I'm not lovable.
- □ I'm not adequate.
- □ I don't count, don't matter, am unimportant.
- $\Box$  I'm in the way, a bother, too much trouble.
- □ I'm bad, wrong, unworthy, defective, inadequate, unlovable, a bother, unimportant, or not good enough because:
  - $\Box$  I'm too tall.
  - $\Box$  I'm too short.
  - $\Box$  I'm too skinny.
  - $\Box$  I don't make enough money.
  - $\Box$  I don't drive a nice car.
  - □ I'm a geek, a dork.
  - □ Nobody likes me.
  - $\Box$  I'm shy.
  - □ I'm too aggressive.
  - □ I'm too fat.
  - □ I'm ugly, homely, or unattractive.
  - □ I'm not intelligent enough, not smart enough.
  - □ I'm stupid.
  - $\Box$  I'm not creative enough.
  - $\Box$  I'm too selfish.
  - □ I'm too intense.
  - □ I'm too much, but I'm not sure what I'm too much of.
  - I'm too different.
  - □ I'm weird.
  - □ I'm scattered
  - □ I make mistakes.
  - □ I have physical defects or imperfections.
  - $\Box$  I have problems.
  - $\Box$  I cry too easily.
  - $\Box$  I'm too emotional.
  - □ I'm not perfect.

- □ I'm gay or bi-sexual.
- I'm black, Hispanic, Asian, Indian, Jewish, or some other minority.
- $\square$  I'm a loner.
- $\Box$  I don't have a partner.
- $\Box$  I'm afraid to be alone.
- $\Box$  I have fears.
- $\Box$  I have phobias.

- □ Suffering, playing the martyr
- **D** Being right about everything
- □ Scowling
- □ Hitting, spanking
- **Changing the subject**
- **Using sarcasm**
- □ Raising my eyebrows
- **D** Whining
- □ Shrugging my shoulders
- □ Making comparisons
- **Throwing things**
- □ Interrupting
- **T**elling my feelings
- □ Silent angry withdrawal
- □ Acting like a know-it-all
- □ Interpreting
- **D** Pushing others into therapy
- $\Box$  The silent treatment
- Disapproving looks
- **D**isapproving sighs
- **D** Exaggerating, Catastrophizing

- □ I'm not very talkative.
- □ I don't think quickly enough.
- $\Box$  I'm just like my father.
- $\Box$  I'm just like my mother.
- $\Box$  I can't take care of myself.
- $\Box$  I need a man to take care of me.
- $\Box$  I need a woman to take care of me.
- □ I can't make decisions.
- □ I'll never amount to anything.
- □ I can't tell jokes well.
- $\Box$  I'm too sensitive.
- $\Box$  I'm too insensitive.
- $\Box$  I'm too serious.
- $\Box$  I'm not serious enough.
- □ I think differently from other people.

#### • FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT CONTROL

- $\Box$  I can control how others feel and behave.
  - □ I can control others liking/loving me, caring about me, respecting me, doing what I want.
  - □ I can have control over whether people reject me.
  - □ I can have control over someone desiring me sexually.

I can have control over how others feel and behave by:

- □ Yelling
- **G**etting angry
- **C**riticizing, judging, shaming
- □ Saying "Tsk, tsk" and shaking my head
- Getting annoyed, irritated, short, curt
- □ Accusing
- **D** Blaming
- **D** Pouting, sulking
- □ Becoming ill
- □ Being sneaky/deceptive
- **D** Lying or withholding the truth
- **T**herapizing, analyzing
- □ Moralizing

- □ Nagging
- **D** Lecturing, giving advice
- □ Arguing
- **D** Explaining, convincing, selling
- **D** Becoming self-righteous
- **Talking incessently**
- □ "Poor me" tears, blaming tears
- **T** Temper tantrums
- Put-downs
- $\Box$  A superior attitude
- □ Half-truths
- □ Being a "nice guy"
- **D** Being financially successful
- □ Achieving, being perfect
- Giving gifts with strings attached
- **D** Being emotionally or financially indispensable
- **C** Complaining
- **D** Justifying
- □ Interrogating
- **D** Denying
- **T**alking others out of their feelings by telling them they are wrong
- $\Box$  Asking leading questions to which only one answer is acceptable
- **D** Bribery
- **T**eaching, point things out without being asked
- □ Flattery or giving false compliments
- Giving in, giving myself up, going along
- □ Not asking for what I want, putting aside what I want
- □ Agreeing with others points of view
- **D** People pleasing
- **D** Pulling energetically for attention or approval
- □ Rescuing
- Censoring what I say about what I want and feel
- □ Second-guessing and anticipating what others want
- Putting myself down

Using threats of:

- **T** Financial withdrawal
- **D** Emotional withdrawal
- □ Sexual withdrawal
- $\square$  Exposure to others
- □ Abandonment/leaving
- □ Illness
- □ Violence
- □ Suicide
- $\hfill\square$  Alcohol or drug abuse

#### FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT RESISTANCE

S

- **C** Resisting control is essential to my integrity and individuality.
- **C** Resisting control establishes my independent identity.
- □ My only choices when another person is attempting to control me is to comply or resist.
- □ I am really being my own person when I resist.
- □ It's the controlling person's fault that I resist.
- □ I can avoid being controlled by resisting.
- □ If I didn't resist, I would be swallowed up.
- □ I resist other's control by:
  - **D** Doing nothing.
  - □ Saying I'd do what he/she wants and then I don't do it.
  - $\Box$  Doing the opposite of what he/she wants.
  - D Explaining, defending, or getting mad about why I shouldn't do it.
  - Getting critical and making the other person wrong for asking.
  - □ Saying I'll do it and then doing something else.
  - □ Saying I'd do it and then forgetting or failing to show up.
  - **D** Procrastinating.
  - □ Acting helpless or incompetent
  - Getting apathetic, having no enthusiasm.
  - Getting sick.
  - **D** Being late.
  - □ Misunderstanding.
  - Doing what the other person wants, but doing it halfway—doing a poor job.
  - **D** Doing it wrong on purpose.
  - □ Finding some way to sabotage the situation.
  - **D** Pretending not to hear.
  - **D** Being uninterested.
  - **D** Being closed to learning.
  - **D** Refusing to make a commitment.

□ Sometimes I resist other's control by shutting them out. I shut people out with:

- □ Work
- Drugs/alcohol
- □ Hobbies
- □ Illness
- □ Meditation
- □ Reporting/storytelling
- □ Worrying
- **D** Reading
- □ Sports
- **Friends**
- □ Spending money
- 🗖 TV
- **C**hildren
- **Food**
- **D** Depression
- □ Sleep
- □ Fantasizing/daydreaming
- □ Silent angry withdrawal
- □ Headphones

#### • FALSE BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

- □ I have been abandoned by God because I am unworthy, bad, flawed, unlovable, or unimportant.
- God doesn't exist. I am ultimately alone so I have to maintain control. There is nothing spiritual to turn to.
- □ If there is a God, then he/she/it would have done something about bad things happening. Therefore, God either doesn't exist or doesn't care.
- **God** is judgmental.
- $\Box$  God is too busy for me.
- $\Box$  God is there for some special people but not for me.

# BELIEFS THAT MAY BE IN THE WAY OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MYSELF

Mark the beliefs that may be in the way of your willingness. Try to mark the beliefs that you feel in your wounded self. Your conscious mind might say, "I know this isn't true," but you may be operating from them nevertheless.

- □ I believe that I am not causing my feelings. I believe my feelings are being caused by some one or something else, so there is no reason for me to explore them.
- □ I believe that I am right. Others need to change, not me.
- I believe that if I take responsibility for myself, I have to give up hoping that someone else will do it for me and believing that someone else taking care of me is what will make me happy and safe. I would rather keep hoping that someone will give me what I never got as I was growing up, and believing that this is the answer to healing my misery, even if I have to stay in pain
- I believe that if I discover that I am responsible for my own feelings, I will feel like destroying myself.
- I believe I am incapable of taking care of my own feelings. I'm afraid of failing at taking care of myself.
- I believe that if I look within, I will discover that my core is bad, wrong, or unworthy.
- □ I believe that if I look within, I will discover that there is nothing there.
- I believe this process is too much work. It takes up too much energy. I don't have the time.
- I am in crisis now so there is no time to take care of myself.
- Others are in crisis now so there is no time to take care of myself.
- I believe that if I open there will be too much anger for me to handle—at myself or at others.
- □ I believe that I cannot handle my pain, especially of rejection, abandonment, aloneness and loneliness. I will explode, die or go crazy if I feel my pain.
- □ I believe that if I open I will be vulnerable to being controlled by my inner child, by others or by God.
- □ I believe my inner child is too demanding and needy.
- □ I believe that resisting being controlled by my own desires or anyone else's, is more important than loving myself or others.
- □ I believe if I open I will lose control over the people and events that can cause my pain of aloneness and engulfment.

I believe that it's not my job to make myself happy—others can and should make up for what I lacked as a child.

The job belongs to my:

- **D** Parents
- □ Siblings or other family members
- □ Mate
- Boss
- **D** Therapist
- **Children**
- **D** Future mate
- **T** Friends
- □ Minister, priest, rabbi
- □ I believe that my best feelings come from outside myself, so there is no point in trying to make myself happy.
  - □ I believe that other's love and approval is what makes me happiest.
  - I believe that getting love from others feels better than giving it to myself and others.
  - □ I believe that my lovability and worth come from others attention, love, and approval so there is no point in giving it to myself.
- □ I believe that I will have to confront an inner conflict between my core Self and my wounded self about where I live, the work I do, the relationship I am in, or whether or not

I want to have a family and that I will have to make changes that will make me more unhappy than I am now.

- □ I believe that if I open to learning and growing I will outgrow my relationship and I will be more unhappy than I am now.
- □ I believe that if I take care of myself I will end up alone.
  - $\Box$  I believe I have to be needy for someone to want to be with me.
  - □ I believe I'd be too powerful and no one would want me.
- □ I believe that I don't have the right to take care of myself.
- □ I believe that taking care of myself is selfish.
- □ I believe that I don't deserve to be happy.

- I believe that if I take care of myself and make myself happy others will:
  - $\Box$  be angry at me
  - disapprove of me
  - $\Box$  withdraw and disconnect from me
  - $\Box$  withhold something from me
  - □ reject me
  - $\Box$  leave me
  - get violent with me or even kill me
  - judge me as stupid or as a failure
  - $\Box$  attempt to take advantage of me in some way,

and I will be more miserable than I am now.

□ I believe that if others I love disconnect from me and take their love away, I cannot survive, so I have to give myself up to be loved by them.

□ I believe that God/Higher Power has abandoned me or God doesn't exist so I have to stay in control. I believe I am ultimately alone, that there is nothing spiritual to turn to, nothing to open to and surrender to, no one to help me—I have to do everything myself. Therefore, I believe there is no point in opening—I will just feel more alone.

#### **DIALOGUE QUESTIONS**

Dialogue for wounded feelings of anxiety, depression, guilt, shame, anger, hurt feelings, jealousy and so on:

#### The loving Adult asks the inner child:

- "What are you feeling right now?"
- "What am I telling you and/or how am I treating you that is causing these feelings?"
- "How am I abandoning you?"
  - "Have I been ignoring you by staying in my mind not attending to your feeling?"
  - "Am I judging you?"
  - "Am I scaring you with lies/false beliefs?"
  - "Am I turning to addictions to numb out your feelings?"
  - "Am I giving you away to others making others responsible for you?"
- "Are you angry with me? It's okay to be angry with me. I'd like to hear your anger."
- "It's okay to cry. I'm here for you."

#### The loving Adult asks the wounded self:

- "What are you trying to control or avoid by judging, staying in your mind, turning to addictions, focusing on false beliefs, and/or making others responsible for your feelings?"
- "What is your belief about your ability to handle pain (or about your lovability, your ability to control others, your feeling responsible for others, others' responsibility for you, your right to make yourself happy, your ability to make yourself happy, and so on)?"
- "Where did you get this belief? What childhood experiences created this belief?"
- "What do you gain by acting as if this belief were true?"
- "What are you afraid of in letting go of this belief? What are you afraid would happen if you stopped acting as if this belief were true?"

#### Other questions you can ask your inner child:

- "How do you feel about\_\_\_\_\_?" (Name a person)
- "How do you feel about the work we do?"
- "I'd like to understand why you feel scared of \_\_\_\_\_."
- "I'd like to understand why you don't like\_\_\_\_\_."
- "Tell me more about that."

Sometimes present situations—people and events—can touch off past experiences and create feelings of anxiety, anger, pain and fear. When you become aware of feeling these feelings, you can ask:

- "Is something happening now that reminds you of something that happened when we were little?"
- "Does this person remind you of mom, dad, a brother or sister, a grandparent?"
- "Does this situation remind you of a traumatic experience that we had when we were little?"
- "I really want to know about everything you remember from the past. Your memories are very important to me and I want to help you heal old fears and pain."
- "Do you need me to provide us with someone to help with this? Do you need to be held while you go through this pain?"

#### At times during the dialogue the loving Adult may need to affirm how he or she feels about the child:

- "I'm here for you. I'm not going away again."
- "I love you and your happiness is the most important thing in the world to me."
- "You are so smart. Thank you for all this wonderful wisdom."
- "Your creativity amazes me."

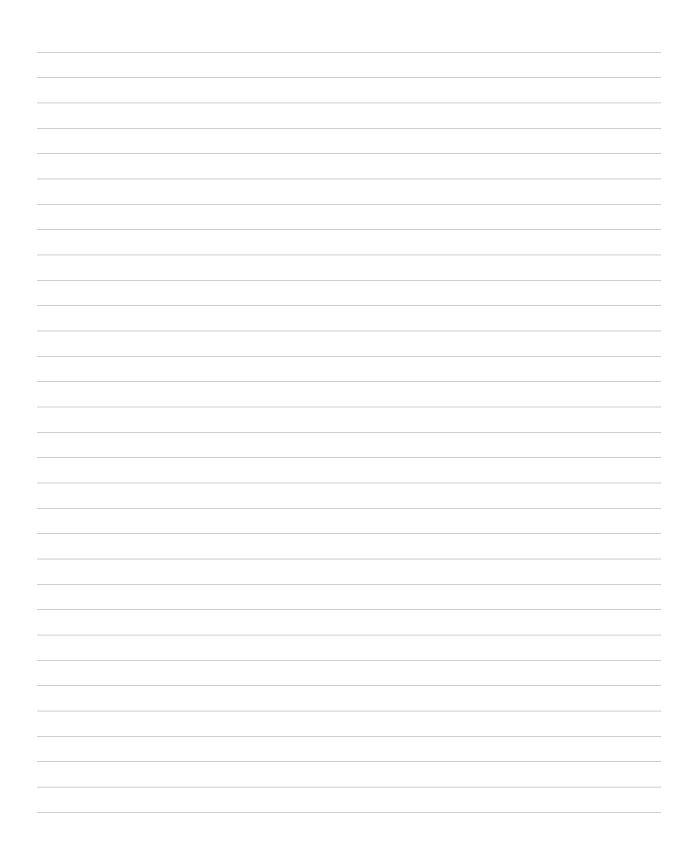
• "It's truly okay for you to feel this anger, even if it's at me. I won't stop loving you no matter how angry you feel."

- "You can keep crying as long as you need to. You are not alone. I'm here for you."
- "It's okay to make mistakes. You are lovable even if you make mistakes."
- "You don't have to do it 'right.' I will continue to love you no matter what you say or do, even if you say or do nothing at all."

## The dialogue process can also help you become aware of what you want in everyday situations. You can facilitate this by asking your inner child questions such as:

- "What are your favorite foods?"
- "What would you like for dinner tonight?"
- "What do you feel like wearing today?"
- "What are your favorite colors?"
- "Who do you like to spend time with?"
- "What would you like to do this Sunday?"
- "What were your favorite activities when you were little?
- "What kind of books do you like to read?"
- "What kind of music do you like?"
- "What kind of movies do you like?"
- "What kinds of vacations do you like?"
- "What kind of exercise do you like?"

#### **LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK FOR YOUR PERSONAL NOTES**





**STEP 1** Willingness to feel pain and take responsibility for your feelings.

**STEP 2** Consciously move into the Intent to Learn, inviting Spirit/compassion into your heart.

**STEP 3** Dialogue with core Self and wounded self, exploring feelings, memories, false beliefs, and what you want to control and/or avoid. Release pain and anger. Discover what brings you joy.

**STEP 4** Dialogue with higher Guidance to discover the truth and the loving actions toward the wounded self and the core Self.

**STEP 5** Take the loving action(s), based on the truth, learned in Step 4.

**STEP 6** Evaluate the action(s). If you are feeling a deeper sense of worth, you are behaving lovingly. If not, back to STEP 3.

©1998, 2011 Margaret Paul, Ph.D., Erika J. Chopich, Ph.D Inner Bonding® Educational Technologies, Inc.