

Champions for the Suicidal with Jacob Coyne and Nick Vujicic (Part 2)

<https://youtu.be/ncNP7VpWgzM>

56:37

There are things not to say, and there are things you should say. So, if I ever noticed—you know—something different in a friend (and I have), and I've practiced these things that we train people to do many times already. For example, if I saw someone quit the worship team all of a sudden, or they stop, they quit the football team, they quit the baseball team, I would reach out to them right away. "Why did you quit? What is going on in your life? Are you moving? Is there a big transition? Did you get a new job?" I want to hear from you. What's going on? I know that you love being on the worship team, you love playing baseball, you love playing football, you love being a cheerleader, you love art. Why aren't you doing that anymore? Are you okay?

[Champions for the Brokenhearted]

Hi, everyone, I am Nick Vujicic, and I am so excited that you have decided to join us here at Champions for the Brokenhearted.

First and foremost, thank you to every single one of you who support us, who pray for us. It is because of your generous hearts and your financial support that we are able to reach the brokenhearted here at the Nick Vujicic Ministries. And for everyone else, I want to invite you to see maybe what activities of our ministry could pertain to you. Saying, "You know what? I want to support by being a member of The Circle of Champions to help Nick's Ministry continue to reach more people around the globe with the hope in Jesus' name that we have because of His love. Amen?"

Well, this month, Champions for the Brokenhearted is highlighting and discussing a very heavy topic: suicide. It is a topic that is close to my heart, as you know some of the story, perhaps, of me as I had attempted suicide at age 10, believing that there was no hope, being angry at God for the things I didn't understand about His love. "Why didn't he give me arms and legs? Why wouldn't he miraculously give me arms and legs? Why do people who bully me at school have arms and legs? They don't deserve arms and legs."

And for most of us over the last three or four years, obviously, mental health has been quite a topic and issue in maybe your own circle of friendships, work colleagues, and family members where we all know that the circumstances worldwide, many people have gone through different thoughts. Some people have gone to alcohol for the first time, drugs for the first time, maybe upped their intake of different things, whether it's more media that, then, you know, tempted them to go into an addiction of pornography.

Here at the Champions of the Brokenhearted, we try to cover as many topics as possible. But it is so interesting that out of all the topics that we cover throughout a year, you know, we know that the devil, he is not so creative, but he is persistent.

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And the one goal that he has is for all of us to try one day, just get us to give up on God, to just give up in life, to believe that there is no hope, to believe that there is no God, to believe that there cannot be miracles that can be brought for my broken pieces. I want you to know today, no matter who you are, it is not just for you to understand this for your own mental health, for your own heart, for your own spiritual health, but to also understand and be aware that many of the teenagers, I believe, are depressed because there is a lack of purpose. And I think that the lack of purpose is also, especially in the Christian circles, a lack of awareness of actually being able to be the hands and feet, to be aware that many people at school and in our churches are not immune from depression and thoughts of suicide, and to be aware of how we can encourage them to stay, how we can encourage them to believe that God can heal their broken heart, that "God can cause all things together for the good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes."

And I will tell you right now, we know it. We have seen it: Suicide rates, all-time high—Gen Z, the most prevalent suicidal generation that we have ever seen in our nation. It is not just America, it is worldwide. It is not a new thing. And we know that there has been some awareness in our country. We have been so blessed that here at the NickV Ministries, we are able to talk about the topics that pastors do not want to talk about or do not know how to talk about, or youth pastors.

And I just want to encourage you as church leaders to break the silence. If there is silence about this in your church, I hope that this interview with Jacob Coyne, a dear friend of mine and an honor that he is—back in the studio the second time, two years in a row—I encourage that this would be the piece of content that the Holy Spirit speaks to you and awakens your soul, awakens your mind, awakens your heart to seeing the awareness in your own church, in your own community, to be the hands and feet. Amen?

If you are watching this right now and you did not watch last year's Champions for the Brokenhearted on suicidal, Jacob Coyne and I, we had an interview. I interviewed him last year. Incredible! I think it is one of my favorite interviews I have ever had. And we know it gets better as we continue to do these. But please, please, please, if you did not watch last year's suicidal series on Champions for the Brokenhearted in 2022, please go back there.

But right now, we are here for two years in a row with Jacob Coyne, someone who I believe is absolutely pioneering and paving the way in a very viral way as well, but with integrity, with the discernment of the Holy Spirit, and also bringing up the next generation to be aware for the sake of Gen Z, in the prayer to eradicate suicide in this generation. This generation needs a lot of help. In fact, Gen Z today is also the generation that is on an all-time high of self-produced pornography, self-produced pornographic material online.

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It is so sad, with all the topics of abuse as well, as to why people are going through things and feeling like there is no hope or validation of their identity or their value. I just want you to know that when we pray for Gen Z, it is not just praying for them. It is not just praying for revival. It is in practice, being the hands and feet, giving them the revelation for themselves to be hungry for the Word themselves, to hold onto the truth themselves from Monday to Saturday, not just in church being filled up.

We need Gen Z to get ahold of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, their Friend, their Redeemer, their Rescuer, like never before. And I am so glad that Jacob continues to relentlessly move forward, in part of his mission, to break the stigma surrounding mental health and to help bring the end of the suicide epidemic in this generation. The ministry that Jacob founded is called "Stay Here." Jacob, thank you so much for joining me here again. God bless you.

Jacob Coyne: Thanks. Thanks for having me.

Nick: You have your fourth baby along the way in the time of this interview being recorded. Congratulations!

Jacob: Thank you,

Nick: Beautiful family.

Jacob: Thank you.

Nick: You are a young man. How old are you?

Jacob: 31

Nick: 31. Give me a fist bump. I love you. God bless you. There is always a camaraderie of those of us who have to try and balance family and do the mission that God has called us to do, and tirelessly continue to go on planes that get delayed and all those kinds of things, so first and foremost, you are a champion for Jesus Christ. Thank you for your ministry.

Jacob: Thank you.

Nick: Thank you for your "yes." Praise God for your "yes," and may God bless you and your family. We love you, Jacob. I am a massive fan of your book. We will talk about that later. It is called "Stay Here," and the subtitle is "Uncovering God's Plan to Restore Your Mental Health." I was the honored person to foreword your book,

Jacob: Yes, sir!

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Nick: and I am so blessed to know you, and we love you here at the Nick Vujicic Ministries. Thank you for coming again.

Jacob: Love you, too.

Nick: Tell us what is going on in 2023. What are the activities? What is the growth? What's the traction that your ministry, "Stay Here," has had in 2023? Give us an update.

Jacob: It has been incredible. It is like the alarm kind of went off in people's ears this year. Everywhere I go where I talk about what is going on in Gen Z and with people who are battling suicide,

I am finally seeing that harvest, that we have been praying for, come. It feels like the last couple years we are just trying to plow the fields to get people to really understand that this is an epidemic. People are struggling left and right within the church and obviously outside of the church. But this year, when I go places and just share about what God is doing in this generation and some of the statistics behind suicide and how bad Gen Z is struggling, you just see jaws drop, tears fall, and people are getting the chills. People don't just say, "Wow, that's so special what you're doing." People are now saying, "What can I do to help? I have got to help. I have got to be a part of this."

So, one of the coolest things that we have seen this year is I was just sharing here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area where we are right now in April this year, and as I was sharing about "Stay Here" and what we are doing to end suicide, there was a retired NFL quarterback that was hearing about all this. He was so inspired. His name is Jeff Hostetler. He was so inspired by this that he decided to get a bunch of other quarterbacks to get involved. So, what they are doing on World Suicide Prevention Day this year, they have made a "Stay Here" video. So, it is over 50 NFL quarterbacks all on one video.

Nick: Wow! Wow!

Jacob: And they are all saying, "Stay here. Your life matters. Talk to a family member. Talk to a friend. Call 988 right now. We have all these resources available for you right now." And we have had partnerships from organizations like BetterHelp and Faithful Counseling. They are going to provide free counseling to anybody who wants to access it at the website that we are going to bring people to that day.

So, that has been incredible! The video that we have created is going to be playing at a couple NFL stadiums on World Suicide Prevention Day because September 10th is not only World Suicide Prevention Day, but it is also the opening day for the NFL. So, I think it's pretty special

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that these NFL athletes are saying, "Life's not just about this game. People matter. People actually do matter.

It's not just about these trophies and these jerseys we are wearing. We want to reach out and help people." So, that is going to be incredible to see what God does with that. We've got thousands of influencers and sign-ups already from people who have said, "I am going to repost that video on my own social media account." So, the goal is, we want to have organic reach of over 250,000,000 people on September 10th and throughout World Suicide Prevention Week. And we do not have to pay the costs of a Super Bowl commercial.

I think a Super Bowl commercial, the average reach is like 200,000,000 views or 200 million people reached, but you have got to pay millions to do it. But this is all just an organic effort. "Stay Here" has not paid any quarterbacks any money. We do not have the money to do something like that, to even pay one quarterback probably to endorse this. So, it is incredible to just see what God has done and to see how many people really want to step up to the plate and actually save lives.

I think the inspiration behind that comes, you know, maybe if you are watching this and you are like, "It is just a video. What is that going to do?" Well, well, I explain that to some of these quarterbacks. Video content right now is where this generation is. The average Gen Z—I think I said this last year—the average Gen Zer spends 8-9 hours a day on their phone watching video content. So, that is how they are getting disciples. They are getting disciplined online. And we have so many stories within "Stay Here" of young people on TikTok or YouTube or Instagram.

They have plans to kill themselves this year, but they stumble upon one of our videos and they watch it, and they decide, "I do not want to take my own life anymore." Or they DM [direct message] us or they comment on one of the videos, and they say, "I have a plan to take my life. What do I do? Maybe I do not want to do that." And we get to follow up with them and help them. So, we have shared this with some of these athletes, and they are inspired. I mean, every 40 seconds, somebody dies by suicide, and

Nick: In America?

Jacob: All across the globe, all across the globe. So, every 40 seconds, someone dies by suicide. And when you tell an athlete that, they are competitive. These guys want to change these statistics, and that has been the goal within "Stay Here" since the moment we started in 2020. We want to change these statistics. I am tired of seeing people die by suicide. It is, for me, it is personal. I've told you before,

Nick: Tell us again because there are people here who did not watch the last year's interview.

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Jacob: Absolutely. You know, it all started for me in 2015 when I lost my Uncle Greg to suicide. He was battling with Parkinson's Disease, and he just, something just snapped in his head after years of battling this disease. He started to have these hallucinations because of the medication he was taking, and he just was not himself. He was such a strong believer. He loved Jesus so much. He was a worship leader at our church and just one of the most loving people you would ever meet, just this larger-than-life dude.

And my brother and I spent so much time with Greg. We would travel to these churches and conferences together. The beginning years of my faith started with Greg and my dad. So, I was so close to him. He is not just like that far-off uncle, like when you hear the word "uncle," you are like the uncle that I never see and the uncle that I do not want to see, that I might see on Christmas or Thanksgiving. But no, this guy Greg was so close to me.

And, you know, I get a phone call in August 2015 that he had shot himself, and in his own home. He had four daughters; I have four daughters. He had four daughters as well, and they are amazing. In his own house, he shoots himself. And we go to the hospital, and I know he is not going to make it. They put him on life support, and he passes. His life is over the next day. That was the beginning of this pain behind suicide for me. And then, as a youth pastor, I lost two students to suicide.

Nick: Oh, wow.

Jacob: That was heartbreaking because you lose students in your own youth ministry to suicide, and then you see the ripple effect within the school. So, the school that two of them took their life at, there were four more suicides that year. That is the issue with suicide. When someone does it, it makes it okay for more people to do it if you are close with them, the pain... people don't know what to do with the pain of losing someone to suicide.

And then for me, kind of the last straw with suicide was in 2019. I had a friend named Jared Wilson. He was a pastor at Greg Laurie's church, Harvest Orange County. And Jared was struggling with anxiety, I knew of that. And I had dreams about Jared that were very vivid dreams, recurring dreams, that in the dream, Jared was struggling. He was struggling, struggling to breathe. In dreams, he was drowning in dreams, even though he was on dry ground. And always in the dream, he was like mentoring me. He was trying to coach me and pastor me as a friend because that is the way I saw him.

So, in real life, I personally, in 2019, I did not know how to reach Jared because I am a mentee of his. I did not know, can I cross that boundary? Can I ask difficult questions? In real life, like, "Jared, are you struggling? Jared, are you drowning? Jared, what is going on?" I did not know that I could do that because I always thought the myth, you know, like if you talk about suicide with somebody who might be suicidal, that is going to push them over the edge and you might

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even plant the idea in their head to self-harm or take their life or medicate in a way that is not safe. So, I thought that, and that is a myth. That is a lie. Now, now I know.

But when that happened, he died on World Suicide Prevention Day. That was the day he chose to take his own life. And he had plenty of warning signs, now that I know, but I did not at the time. Nobody did, really. So, that is what got us to want to start "Stay Here." It has just been three years that we have been doing this organization that I have been leading this. And in the last three years, the reach that we have had has been exponential. I do not even understand God. It just shows me this. God could have used anybody.

I think God just really cares about souls. I am not a professional. I do not have a degree in suicidology. I am not a doctor. I am not a counselor, but I just care, and I know my limits.

I know that I am not a doctor or counselor, but I know how to refer people to get counseling and care. And I just care about people. I hate seeing people die by suicide. I hate seeing people struggle, and it breaks my heart when people think nobody wants to help me.

So that is what "Stay Here" is all about. We want to help people. We want to get people to the place where they believe that people want to help them, and we want to train people to understand suicide. We do not want people to make the same mistake of believing the myth that if someone is suicidal, "Let's not talk about it." So, we created this training in 2021 called the ACT Suicide Prevention Training. And since 2021, in August 2021, when we started this training, we have trained over 20,000 people now.

But we have a big goal. It is much more than 20,000. We want to train 1,000,000 people to take this training and get certified in suicide prevention because we want to outnumber those who take their life every year—800,000 people take their life, and there are millions of attempts. So, we want an army of millions of people who know how to stop that. So, we are serious about this. We do not want to just do PSA or viral campaigns. We want to equip people to actually stop this epidemic.

Nick: No, and I love how you believe what you are saying and you believe what you believe, and you believe in the vision and the mission to end suicide in Gen Z. One of your mottos for the ministry is "Gen Z will be suicide-free." Can I ask you where did that come from and why Gen Z? I mean, I was born in 1982, so in the month that I was in, apparently I'm a Millennial, whatever.

But we see these kids that are on so much online content and with so much being bombarded on them, and then even the last three years where the world has had a unique situation where people are isolated and people were at home and even debilitating the bridges where you could at least

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see your friends, you know, and graduate in a unique mode. Why Gen Z, Jacob? Why Gen Z? Tell me where that came from and why you believe so strongly that suicide will end in Gen Z?

Jacob: First of all, it has always just been something on my heart. I feel like, you know, some people graduate from being a youth pastor if they were a youth pastor. I was a youth pastor years and years ago. I mean, it has probably been like seven years since I was a youth pastor, maybe eight years since I was a youth pastor. But I care for this young generation, and also as a father, a dad of a seven-year-old, four-year-old, almost a two-year-old, and then a baby on the way. You know, how can you not care for the up-and-coming generation of Gen Z and Gen Alpha?

You know, I don't want to see my daughters grow up in a generation where all their friends are battling suicidal ideation and self-harm. I want to see that eradicated. So that is first and foremost. I'm fighting for this generation because I have kids. I want them to grow up in a different world than what we are seeing currently. And secondly, it was a vision that I had. I was in Kona, Hawaii, at a retreat. My wife was there with me, and it was like a pastors and leaders retreat at YWAM Kona. And at one of the breakout sessions, it was Andy Byrd. He is one of the leaders of YWAM Kona and this event called "The Send."

He said, "Let's all just pray for each other. Let's have all these pastors pray for each other." And one of the pastors said, "Actually, I feel strongly on my heart that we should spend a little bit of time praying for Mariah and Jacob Coyne and 'Stay Here.'" And I just kind of actually, I actually chuckled when she said that because I was like, "There are a lot greater ministries in the room right here." And this was in like the beginning of 2020, 2021, I mean, where we had not, we did not make a training yet. It was not—none of this stuff was out yet. We were still trying to figure out how do we navigate in this new world? We wanted to speak in assemblies all across America, but that changed because of the pandemic. So now we are like, "What do we do?" How do we reach this generation? Because now it is harder to get through all these legal things to get into a school because of COVID. "So what do we do?" So they pray and prophesy over us. It was incredible. We are both just crying our eyes out.

They are saying things that only God could have known. And at the end of it, I have this vision of this really loud guy who loves to pray. His name is Lou Engle, and he is in this vision I have. He is in a stadium, and he is screaming on the microphone with his raspy voice, "Gen Z will be suicide-free!" And the whole stadium is just shouting it back to him, "Gen Z will be suicide-free!" Then he says it even louder, and he is on his knees, and he is praying, and the whole stadium shouts it again. But then they march, and they leave the stadium, and they start walking into campuses, and they are shouting this and marching in campuses, saying this, and they are finding anybody who is battling depression, anxiety, and suicide, and they are bringing them in to join the march with them.

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So when I had that vision, I just knew this is going to be the vision of "Stay Here" moving forward. Let's just make this our vision. Let's go crazy with this, and let's see if people will catch this vision because we have the tools to see something like that happen. We have the tools to see suicide rates drop. But if God is on this, we know that millions of people can get behind this. He can wake up people to do this. And one of the first things we did actually is we made t-shirts that just say "Gen Z will be suicide-free." They sold out right away.

And one of the coolest stories was a couple weeks after we came out with these shirts, there was a girl named Jocelyn. She's a teenager and she wore one of those shirts to a Seattle Mariners baseball game. She's at the game with her dad, and she is going down to get some food during the sixth or seventh inning. She did not know this, but there was a 19-year-old girl who also went to the game. She went alone and she went to the game solely looking for a sign to not kill herself that night. So she was looking all around, "Is there anything here that's going to tell me, "Do not kill yourself?"

And she did not find anything yet until she sees Jocelyn wearing this white shirt with big red font that says "Gen Z will be suicide-free." She goes right up to Jocelyn, and she is just shocked. So she asks Jocelyn, "What is your shirt all about? Can you tell me about it?" And Jocelyn tells her about "Stay Here" and the shirt because we explained, we had like cards within, when you order the shirt, there was a card that told you, "This shirt will spark a conversation. Be ready. Take our training. Understand what you're doing here because this is your responsibility. If you wear this shirt. You might find somebody who is suicidal. They might come up to you."

That was the hope, that was the goal. It happened two weeks into us coming out with these shirts. So Jocelyn is ready to roll. She is expecting, maybe someone's going to come up to me and ask me about this. So she tells her this, then she preaches the gospel of Jesus to her. She gets to tell her all about the love of Jesus. This girl breaks down. Jocelyn gets to pray for her, and this girl says, "This was the sign that I needed to live." And she did not kill herself. So that is how "Gen Z will be suicide-free" came about.

Nick: So powerful. Praise God! That's amazing. Look, if millions of us had that shirt on, that is what it is all about. Now Jacob, you have written a book called "Stay Here." The subtitle is "Uncovering God's Plan to Restore Your Mental Health." Tell everyone what led you to writing a book, and what you hope the readers will get out of your book, and where can we get the book?

Jacob: Yeah, so I wrote this book because I just could not, I cannot change the subject, you know? When something is so close to you, you know that you cannot run from it. And, to be honest with you, Nick, this is such a hard subject to talk about. I have tried to run from this. There have been days where I am with my wife in our house, and I am crying to her, and I am like, "Why did God? Why am I doing this? This is so hard to talk about suicide all the time and self-harm and depression and anxiety."

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But then I think of a day where I quit doing this. How many people would not have been reached? I see all the faces of people that are alive today. I know their names. I know them personally. They had plans to kill themselves, and they said no to suicide. They canceled their plans to kill themselves because of a message that I preached at a church. And I actually brought up the topic of suicide. I called it out. I asked people to stand up if you have plans to take your own life, like, let's just be bold about it. We are here for you. So, you know, I... That is what is kept me going, and I cannot run from this call. So, I wanted to write about it. In the book "Stay Here" I write about how we started this organization, what God has done so far, and then there are chapters on how to overcome trauma, how to overcome grief, how to talk to a friend who is suicidal, how to deal with battling anxiety.

Is that something you can ever overcome, and if so, how? What about depression? And then, even as a Christian, what is it like being a Christian struggling with this stuff? Because a lot of people might say, you know, if you are a Christian and you have anxiety or suicidal thoughts or depression, that is your fault. You do not have enough faith in God. You didn't fast enough. You did not pray enough. That is on you. Maybe you are not attending church enough. You need to get your act together and start believing God. And I am like, that is terrible! There is so much more. So, that is what I write about in "Stay Here." The is so much more than just telling someone, "You figure it out, man. Pray harder."

No, we need to be there for people. We need to walk with people through the valley of the shadow of death.

That is what Jesus does. That is who Jesus is. So, that is what "Stay Here" is all about.

I really believe it is going to change a lot of lives. The last chapter is called "Gen Z will be suicide-free."

It is my favorite chapter. It is just stories from Gen Zers. I only wrote the beginning and end of that chapter, the intro and the end. The rest of it is testimonies and stories from Gen Zers who have said no to suicide, or they have been set free from heavy depression and mental illness, and now they are missionaries or they are young leaders, 18-19-year-old young leaders who their life has completely changed because of an encounter they had with God or this organization. So, it is incredible. I am so grateful for you writing the foreword. I could not have. That was, like, you were at the top of the list. If he doesn't do it, no one is doing it. I love your story. It is so powerful. So, I am so grateful that that is the first impression, the first thing people get to read when they open the book.

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Nick: I am going to say, listen, I don't do many forewords whatsoever, but if you have ever felt or had a thought of suicide, please get this book. This one book might actually save your whole life. And go visit Jacob Coyne's ministry, "Stay Here." The website?

Jacob: stayhere.live. And then it is also available anywhere books are sold. It is on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, anywhere you could just search "Stay Here Jacob Coyne," and it will show up.

Nick: And look, you know what? Maybe it is for you. Maybe you get a couple of these books just to have, to give out.

Hey, you know, you are seeing your friend at school. Listen, you know, they might insinuate, you know, that, "I think I am depressed." Hey, check out this book. This helped me, right? At least give it. Sometimes we feel like we are inadequately equipped to, "What do I say? How do I approach them?" Great questions. But also go to the website of Jacob Coyne's ministry, "Stay Here" because there is actually training on that, into how we can be more aware of those suffering around us.

Jacob, give us, like one or two tips for those of us who, let's say someone you know, I am noticing a different pattern in someone's life. They are not showing up on time where they should be, or they are not texting me, or they are not looking at me in the eye anymore, or their sleeves are over their wrists all of a sudden. Give us a couple of tips on how we can be a little bit more aware of these people who are silently suffering.

Jacob: Yeah, I would say you take any of those things seriously and reach out as soon as possible. So, ways to reach out, there's things not to say and there's things you should say. So, if I ever noticed, you know, something different in a friend, and I have, and I've practiced these things that we train people to do many times already, if I, for example, if I saw someone quit the worship team all of a sudden or they stopped, they quit the football team, they quit the baseball team, I would reach out to them right away. "Why did you quit? What is going on in your life? Are you moving? Is there a big transition? Did you get a new job? I want to hear from you. What is going on? I know that you love being on the worship team. You love playing baseball. You love playing football. You love being a cheerleader. You love art. Why are you not doing that anymore? Are you okay?"

And then, this is when you ask the big question. "Don't just tell me a yes or no answer when I ask, 'Are you okay?' I want to really hear. Are you sad? Are you sad to the point where you're thinking about harming yourself?"

Have you harmed yourself? Are you sad to the point where you have had thoughts about suicide? Do you have a plan? Do you have a date? Do you have anything in your house? Do you have anything in your possession that might help you take your life?"

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Those are questions that are okay and necessary to ask people, and that is what we teach in our training, how to do that. There are ways not to do that. You wouldn't say to someone, "Hey, you would not be thinking about killing yourself, are you? Like, that would be really dumb. Suicide's really dumb. You should not do that. Yeah, like, that is stupid. Yeah, your whole family is going to miss you, and that's really selfish." That is not how you talk to someone who is suicidal.

Well, suicide is always wrong. It is never the right answer. You do not come to someone and say, "You know, do not fail by taking your own life," right? Because what you are essentially saying is, "I really hope you are not going to tell me you are thinking of taking your life because I do not know how to handle that." But if you come to someone with love and patience and it is in a safe setting, you say, "Tell me how sad you really are. I want to hear it all. I can handle it. I want to help you." And then, if you are in that situation, it is not all on you. You can help someone get to a pastor who might be more equipped or a Christian therapist or a therapist or a doctor. I have done all those things for one person. The pastor is going to know.

"Let's get you into counseling. Let's go to the doctor. Let's just check off all these boxes and let's make sure you're healthy from the inside out. Let's make sure your mind is healthy and your body's healthy because I want you to be a whole person. I want you to live a long life. You're a dad. You have got to fight for your kid's life, man. You need to be there for your kid, too." So, that is what we do with our training and it is effective. It has really worked.

Nick: Now, praise God. You know, this is something that is very prevalent, I think like never before, and it is permeating throughout our culture, this term of identity crisis, you know, who am I? I think so many people, even people who say they go to church every single week or go on Easter and Christmas, you know, we tend to forget that there is no one better to tell us our purpose and our identity other than the One who created us. When we do not know the truth of who we are and our value, we will start to be open to other things that are not true.

And I do not know if many of you know this, but I have been to 78 countries, and in Asia, in that culture, there is a pressure to perform and bringing shame to the family. It is the highest per capita region of the world of suicide in Asian culture. And we are praying for China, we are praying for Korea, we are praying for Japan. Those are the three highest rates of suicides as a nation in the world. And I really want the parents to be very, very cautious as well in how they put their epicenter of their value, not based on their academics, not based on what job they are going to get, not based on if they can give you children, grandchildren, not based on if they get married or not. Be very, very careful with how you put them balanced in Christ.

Yes, some people can do this, some people will not do this, but no matter what you do, no matter how you look, no matter what you have in the world, you have Jesus, and He is the center point of all that you are, all your value. And do not worry about when the world says you are not good

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enough, get a second opinion. I remember Reggie Dabbs saying that when I was a teenager, and he was one of the really prominent speakers across public schools across the nation of Australia. He would fly down to Florida every single year and do tons of schools. So, make sure, parents, that you are sharing something like this, this conversation.

You know, we all have those kids that eventually, if they have not done it yet, put a "do not disturb" sign on their door and kind of feel like, "I did not even... I am looking at my child, and I do not even know who they are anymore. I do not know who they are anymore. I do not know how to connect." Having these types of conversations are difficult. You know, talk to us as far as parents or people looking at this Gen Z generation with the identity crisis and all that they are struggling with. I mean, anxiety is through the roof and depression through the roof and all these things. Tell us, Jacob, I guess what I am asking you is, do you believe that one of the leading causes for suicidal thoughts is identity and that crisis there?

Jacob: Yeah, it is all like a mixed-up cocktail of the identity crisis and shame like you are talking about, and then isolation. We are the most isolated generation there ever has been. It is even though we are now allowed to hang out, we do not have all these COVID restrictions and stuff. So many people have just stayed indoors and they have lost the community that they once had. We are a massive social media generation, and we sit behind screens all day long. That is not real. It is not real like what we are having right here.

Like, I just gave you a fist bump, gave you a hug right when I walked in. There is no such thing as a virtual hug. That is not real, right? It is not tangible, right? I think it is those three, those three things are the biggest things. It is the identity crisis, it is shame, so it is who am I, what is my purpose, and because you don't know that, maybe you feel shame because you don't know who you are. And then because of shame, you isolate yourself. So it is just a nasty cycle.

Nick: Look, I know when I was going to many schools and presenting in front of public schools all around the world and even live-streaming into many public school students' lives in America. We have done over three million about bullying on Bully Awareness Month. And what I do in some schools is I have everyone bow their head, close their eyes, put their hand up in the air. The hand is open and I ask them, "Put your hand in a fist if you have actually ever thought of suicide."

And they close their hand, and then I am extrapolating the room and estimating the percentage. So, it was four questions. The first one is if you have ever thought of committing suicide, and that was 6 to 12 percent of all teenagers had thought of committing suicide, middle school, high school.

The second question is, "Put your hand in a fist if you have actually physically attempted suicide." Three to six percent of those students in 300 schools we did this qualitative anonymous

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survey, and 3-6% had already attempted suicide. Then, I asked them, "Put your hand in a fist if you have actually attempted suicide because of brokenness at home."

And then lastly, "Put your hand in a fist if you have attempted suicide because of bullying in this school. So, it's 40 percent because of brokenness at home, and 40 percent of the reason for attempted suicide in America, middle school, and high school is because of bullying at school.

And then we further defined that speech like, "Okay, what is bullying? What's worse? Starting gossip, spreading gossip? Are any good?" No. So, what if we could actually stand in that gap and say that our school is going to be bully-free? And so, these are things that are very close to my heart. Do you see social media as an accent? So many people say, "Well, it is just social media and stuff.

I am like, "No, bullying has been around for quite a bit." Tell us in your pulse, American youth bullying, and how that has factored or a story, maybe that you have about how someone was bullied or how that factor plays in this tragedy.

Jacob: Yeah, that is honestly, I mean, if you look at the headlines this year in 2023 of suicides that are taking place within high schoolers, it almost feels like it's a hundred percent bullying. like those are all the stories that I'm reading. A girl was bullied. She got beat up. This happened in New Jersey, I think, this year. This girl—it was on camera—a bunch of, two girls started punching her in the face throwing water bottles on her. She killed herself that night because the video went viral. Someone took a video of this girl getting beat up in her own school, and it went viral like crazy. it is on Twitter. It is on Snapchat. It is everywhere, and people are making fun of this girl for how she got beat up and she killed herself.

So, the school—I watched the school board meeting that happened—and so many parents saying the same things, "My daughter, my son has attempted suicide because of this school's policy. No one is fighting for anyone who is being bullied. What are we doing? We have no choice. I cannot homeschool my kids. There is no other school I can bring my kids to. We are forced to have our kids in this school. What are you going to do about it?" And they were speechless. "We do not know what to do." There are so many stories like that and there are dark stories of kids getting caught up—and you were talking about this—making their own pornographic images of themselves—teenagers doing this, uploading them to make some money, and then it gets back to them.

Obviously, if you are going to post a picture of yourself, someone is going to find it. It gets back to them and it starts going around their school campus or maybe some students are sexting. Maybe they are not trying to make money off their own videos or images of themselves but they are sexting They are sending it to one person, but that person they sent it to, they start sending it to more people and then they go to school the next day and everyone....

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Nick: It is crazy. I mean these footballers and some of those people who who are basically asking each other how many you had, meaning how many girls have you slept with, right? And then the sexting trophies, as well, and then using that to then manipulate her, "If you say anything to anybody." I mean this is, look, if you're not a Christian yet, all you need to do is look at the demonic side. It is not a lack of parenting, it is not a lack of this. It is not...there are demons out there! Powers and principalities of darkness who are trying to destroy Gen Z. We must make them well aware of what is really going on. It is very hard to trust people not because of just them, but because you do not trust the devil in them. That just a saying, right, but it is war every single day, and we know that the government alone cannot really address this.

We need the church to step up to be the hands and feet wherever we can, and being aware that when you go to school, if you ever if you are a teenager, listen to me. If you tell me that one day you want to help one day, in Jesus name, to save a life, you can do that now. And if you are not really focused in on that now and that God mission now, I do not think you are going to do it later on in life.

And so, if you are really real about wanting to make a difference, do not wait for your youth pastor to do something. Do not wait for the government to do something. You do something and get trained. I want you to know what to do when someone comes up to you and asks those harder questions, and you know exactly what to do.

You know, I know of another nonprofit organization called Hope Squad. It is a great suicide prevention program. I love them. I met the founder, and they are incredible. In fact, corporate America, now listen to this, corporate America is now going to them because a lot of people in corporations are just dropping off in suicide, and so, they need an answer. They need a program.

You know what it all comes down to? That question: "Are you okay?" And to know that if you can tell—not just yes or no. "Are you sad?" even to the point where some schools get the students to write down when you are feeling depressed, when you are feeling anxious, if have ever been thinking about giving up, throughout this year, these are the 3 people that you have written that you are going to go and tell them,

"Hey, I am not doing so good." And it is already said that safe environment right there, even Christian schools, Jacob! We haven't seen anything yet!

Jacob: I was a teacher at a Christian school.

Nick: Yeah! Whether you are at a Christian school or not, if you do not know those right questions and be on guard, the enemy will continue to seek and devour and destroy and kill.

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Listen, I know this is a heavy topic. I know that we have gone for quite some time. This is the last part.

Jacob, I want you to look into that camera, and I want you to speak to the person looking at us right now. in their bedroom or somewhere on a bus, or in a car. It is no luck, chance, or coincidence that you are watching this for such a time as this right now for you. God is stretching out His hand to you, and He wants you to know that He loves you. Stay here. listen to Jacob Coyne.

Jacob: Yeah. I have been to quite a few funerals now with people who have taken their own lives. I am telling you right now, none of us are happy at that funeral. Usually at a funeral you are celebrating the life of someone. You are celebrating all the things they did, and the way they made you feel. But anytime someone takes their life, and I am sitting in a pew or a seat at that funeral, everyone is heartbroken.

The family—they are crying because they wish that person was still here. We would all rather to listen to that that person's story than sit and cry at their funeral, and I am saying that to you, "I would rather hear your story."

Your life matters. You are not a burden. You are not too broken beyond repair. Please stay here! There is so much help out there for you. You are not useless. You are not just damaged goods. God has an incredible plan for your life, and nobody wants to sit at your funeral, right now. There is so much more life for you. So, please stay! Stay for you. Stay your family! Stay for your friends, and stay your future.

Stay because God has a plan for you, and it is so good. You might be so hurt right now, you might hate yourself, but God loves you. He forgives you and so many things that have happened to you are not your fault. So, I want to encourage you right now to choose to stay another day and stay again tomorrow. God will show you that there is so much more for you in this life. So, please stay. I love you, and many people love you, and there are so many resources out there to get you help.

Nick: Amen. Listen, I want you to know that I tried to drown myself in my own bathtub at age 10 in six inches of water, convinced that God was either unfair, not real, and also for my life, I felt like there was no hope. I want you to know that out of broken pieces, beautiful things can come when you seek God and give your broken pieces to Him.

No, I will never understand what you have gone through. I do not know how it is to not have a father, or to have a father you wish was not your father, or being sexually abused, or whatever you have been through in your life. I want you to know that God loves you right here, right now. There is nothing you can do nor say that will make Him love you more or less.

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Right now, He loves you, and I love that verse in Jeremiah 29:12. It says, "Then you will call upon Me, come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD."

I want you to know that many of us have not found hope because we have not found the Lord, and we stop looking for God because He did not make sense, He did not show up the way we thought He should, and especially not allowing us to go through suffering. That is what He should have done!

I should not be suffering if God loves me. I just want you to know that whatever the enemy tried to use for bad, God can turn into good! Hold onto Him, and He will hold onto you, and He will carry you when you cannot walk.

I want to pray for you, my friend. Lord Jesus, I pray right now—we pray—for someone watching right now, You know exactly who they are. You know the tears they cry even on the inside, and we ask in Jesus' name for a miracle. We speak against every power and principality of darkness that be against them, to destroy them, to torment them in their dreams, in their depression, in their anxiety, in their addiction, in their shame, in their condemning thoughts, feeling like we are nothing, that they will never be anybody, that we are unreachable, that no one can ever reach us.

God, only You can, and You can reach us, and You can touch our hearts in a way to give us, once again, a feeling of knowing, "I am ok. I am going to be okay. I do not know what to do with my broken pieces, but I am going to hold onto God. I am going to be okay. One day, somehow, sometime, I will feel joy again." God, I pray that You would open up their hearts and their mindset, have boldness and courage to tell someone, to say,

"Hey, I am not okay. I need to talk to someone today." Father, maybe there are people in our life that are not okay, and we know something is not quite right. Give us the courage and boldness to ask them, "Hey, are you okay, for real? Are you kind of sad? Talk to me. What is going on?" Father, we pray that You would bless these conversations, and we thank You, God, for Stay Here Ministries. May You bless them, and thank You for our time here together, to plant seeds of hope and change in the world. In Jesus' name, I pray, amen.

Listen, I really want you...your website again?

Jacob: stayhere.live. StayHere.L-I-V-E

Nick: Go check out StayHere.live. And please go check out the resources, get trained as God leads you, and start talking about this topic in your church. My brothers and sisters, if we don't start talking about what we need to talk about, we will even lose what we have, and so, today,

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ask God to give you the boldness and the strength, the humility, and the confidence though, hand in hand, to go and ask those harder questions, to even to those who are of higher authority, and say, "Can we start talking about this topic?" Also, check out the caregiver training that is coming up shortly through the "Champions of the Brokenhearted" series, where we can also train you can start a group to start talking about this in your local church as well.

Jacob, we are going to be friends for life. It is an honor and a privilege to war with you as we link arms. I think this is just the beginning of what God is going to do between Nick Vujicic and Jacob Coyne. Amen. Love you, man! Fist bump. Love you. God bless your book. I love you all so much.

Thank you for watching. And before I say goodbye, please make sure, that not only do you go to stayhere.live, where you can see the book and apparel that makes a difference and saves lives, like the shirt that he was talking about, but also get a free hope-filled brochure on our "Champion for the Brokenhearted" webpage as well. On behalf of myself, my family, and the Nick Vujicic Ministry team, we love you, and thank you again for your prayers and your financial support, and if you would like to prayerfully consider partnering with us, simply join The Circle of Champions, where you can take part in our mission as we continue to go to the ends of the earth, preach the gospel, as Jesus being Lord, the Lord of lords and King of kings. He loves you, and He has a plan for you. Help send us further as we continue to see more brokenhearted healed in Jesus' name. Take care, God bless. Bye-bye.