

(introductory music)

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MARYN: Welcome to Indie Birth's series of podcasts here on iTunes, *Taking Back Birth*. Hi, Maryn here and today I'm going to talk about the Indie Birth Network. This is a really exciting new project Margo and I have put together. And like a lot of our projects, it seems like there is a lot of missing pieces for awhile. And then all of a sudden, things click into place. So this has felt like one of those things for us. We've been talking for—I don't know. Maybe a couple of years about how to get more birth knowledge and education in communities. And we've been asked to go here or go there and teach. And while that's fun and perhaps sometimes an option, it's really not that sustainable for either of us. And we really want to have people out in the world who are doing these things and making a difference. And it doesn't always have to be the two of us. So we have been thinking about this for awhile. And then I don't really know what put the puzzle pieces into place.

But it seemed like all of the sudden it made sense that we would set up this program for people to teach and give them everything they need. So we have a handbook in the network that goes literally from A to Z, how to even begin planning a class, setting one up, advertising, getting people there, the whole thing from beginning to end. So that in addition to the concrete teaching materials. So there are essentially two parts to this free three-hour workshop. And we've got them all laid out for you exactly as you need them. The presentations, which are essentially slide shows, and the teaching guide. So everything that somebody needs to bring this workshop to their communities is mostly there. The nuts and bolts are there.

So that's our idea with this network is to give you what you need to begin teaching this free three-hour workshop in your community. Essentially, you are an Indie Birth ambassador. You are representing us and our philosophy and our beliefs along with many other teachings around birth and drawing a community to you perhaps, if you don't already have one in place. And that, I think, is one of the most exciting parts of this is that it's not just about Indie Birth. It's not just about you teaching. It's about creating these networks, this bigger community, and getting together people with the same ideals and philosophy. So it's good for you. It's good for them. It's good for us. We really think it's a win win all around.

So we want to promote this kind of change in communities. We want to talk about important issues in birth. We want to promote transparency. We really want to change the culture of birth as it's happening in most places in the world really. And we really

want to have more people on board with this larger idea of birth freedom. So that's essentially what Indie Birth is about is that we all have the freedom to choose what's best for us. And whether we're the pregnant woman or we're somebody that serves them there needs to be more freedom in these choices.

So if that sounds good to you, keep listening, and you will get your questions answered most likely. We do have a FAQ on the Indie Birth Network page. I'm going to address some of those questions and then kind of build on some of them. There were quite a lot of emails this week from people all over the world. And that's awesome. We're so excited that there are people that inquiring and they're thinking about what this could mean for them. So rather than answer all these emails individually I thought I'd just publically answer some of the questions that have come up the most so far. And there is a fly flying in my face this whole time which is super annoying. I wonder if it's going to get on the microphone.

Okay. Anyway, so back to the network, we are looking for people all over the world. And so far, in just a week of having launched this new program, we have people in Canada and the UK, Australia, Panama, Netherlands, Hungary. I'm probably missing a few more that have come in recently. And, of course, all around the U.S. So when we first launched it, we made a point of saying that we don't want more than one person really in the same exact geographical space. So just elaborating on that since that's been one of the questions we've gotten. There are bigger cities in the world, of course, and towns. I don't happen to live in one. But most of you do. So we've refined our approach to say that roughly every 200,000 people can certainly use more than one Indie Birth Ambassador. And maybe even more than one in that 200,000. I think we're just going to have to see how it goes and learn from each other. And if there is someone really close geographically to you, reach out to them. Get together. Make this a group effort. It's not about competition. It's not about us controlling what people are doing. It's simply making sure that we have the most teachers that we can in the most varied places.

So, again, if you're in a bigger town or city—like in the U.S., Seattle for example, or even Phoenix—we really can accommodate probably many people with all the suburbs and that kind of thing going on. So, again, I would encourage you to apply, and we will let you know if there is just way too much going on in your home town. But, again, reach out to the people around you and see what you can create together. Maybe there is a way to co teach with someone. That might be a great way to take the pressure off some of you that are feeling like new and very fresh with this teaching thing. Go at it with someone that shares the same philosophy, and you can trade off. And you can also come up with other ideas that we'd be interested in hearing. So maybe you'd alternate classes per month or whatever. The other thing to add is I'll talk maybe at the end about how we plan to expand this network. So I guess what I'm alluding to is there will be more than this free three-hour workshop. So there is no point in getting too fixated on

that. Yes. We want you to offer that. Yes. That is the primary offering at this time. But we will be having other offerings that you will be able to teach. So in all likelihood, it's probably pretty rare that two people in exactly the same place will be teaching exactly the same thing at exactly the same time. So just inquire with us. But in the meantime, go ahead and get excited about this wherever you live.

And I didn't say—although if you've visited the page or if you're already a member you know, that we are paying people to promote this class and to promote this message and to teach this class. And you can read more on the Network page. There are some guidelines. So not every single class you may have may bring in this compensation. But many of them will especially as you get good at getting people there and teaching the materials. We also will pay commission on our five-week class, which is part of the offer in this work shop. So, again, you are being paid if you accept the mission to teach this class, to get people there, and to get things rolling in your community. So really I don't think it could be better on either end, at the moment.

So next question topic people are, in general, wondering, and I'm going to get more specific here about if this is for them. So just a little bit about that. As we are really beginning to branch outside of our Indie Birth regulars, which we love all of our regular people that have been around for years and support everything we do, we adore you. And we're so glad you are in this Network. But we are reaching outside of that as well, and we are getting people that maybe don't know that much about Indie Birth. So if that is you, I would say just to take the time, please, and figure out what we're about. Listening to podcasts is a great way. Joining our free communities on Facebook is another way. Going through the website, reading blog posts is yet another way. So really you have to do a little homework, if you've seen this ad or this podcast and you're like, "Oh yeah. I want to get paid to teach birth. That's awesome." Really find out if you resonate with what we're doing first. And if you don't, then that's fine. We really are full and will continue to be very abundant I believe in attracting the right people for this message. And so we don't really need or want people that aren't identifying with what we're up to. There is plenty of things out there. So I'll probably talk more about that.

Let's see. Let's see. What else? Other questions. Another question that has come up a lot this week is, "Oh, I'm really interested. And I know a little bit about you guys. But can I see what the workshop is about? Can I see the material?" No. You may not actually. Not because it's some hidden secret. You'll be able to probably attend a free class in your community pretty darn soon. But we are not distributing that information because we don't really feel like that's important. What is important is you identifying or not with our mission and what we're about and if you want to be a part of this really grand undertaking of spreading a very important message. So that's really blunt and probably will come off maybe not as nice to some people. But no. We don't have time, frankly, to be sending materials around and looking for your approval. We're not really into that.

But we will gladly describe the workshop to you so that you have a sense of what you'll be getting. That's perfectly understandable.

To be brief in explaining the workshop though, it is made up of two parts, as we've said. And like I just said, many people have come to mind here in Arizona, many people have been to Margo, so it's certainly not a secret. Soon enough you'll be able to just attend one and see what you think about the material. So part one is really focused on labor and birth and why our bodies work the way they do. So there's lots of videos incorporated in that part and time for discussion. And science of birth in a, I think, non-threatening way that doesn't go over most people's heads. For most people, male and female, it's really accessible. It makes a lot of sense. And then you're giving them tools to actually watch, kind of participate in what you've learned.

So that, to me, is just as benign as can be. I mean birth is birth. Birth is birth all over the world. Labor is labor all over the world. So to me, there is just nothing threatening about that information. There is nothing judgmental about that information. But again, you would have to feel the same. So part two is more about Indie Birth and our philosophy, politics of birth, and some birth stories. So again, you are representing us in this mission. But I think that is probably a great thing for many people who share the same beliefs because it takes the pressure off of you. You're not really offering this as standing up and being the black sheep and saying, "This is what I think." You are with an entire Network of people across the world that feel the same way. You are being backed up essentially by Indie Birth, which is becoming bigger and bigger every day. So you have the chance to offer this as your truth, if it is, with us behind you which I think is pretty awesome.

So a couple of these questions/concerns are kind of going to meld together. And I'm probably going to be pretty uncompromising with this part. So get ready especially if you're someone that's asked one of these questions. Hopefully, it comes off as helpful and nothing else. So another thing that's come up is people saying a similar type thing as we just discussed which is my community is really conservative or I don't know if I'll have interest. So in other words, people asking us if they think the world is ready for this. And so this is where I'm uncompromising because I think the world is ready for this. And does that mean that it's always comfortable and seamless and there are no objections or no questions? No. But, again, it comes back to you being the kind of person that's ready to offer this information.

So let's take apart the two kinds of concerns that I just addressed. So first, someone says their community is really conservative. Well, I don't even know if I know what that means. Maybe I should have investigated what someone meant by that more clearly. But to me, that means that they are not aware of options perhaps or don't like to think out of the box or haven't been shown anything out of the box or aren't open to new

ideas. I think all of those things might fall under perhaps what that means. But I really am going to just keep saying the same thing here which is this is up to you. If you feel like your community isn't going to be appropriate, I think you have to figure out what that means and where you stand. Do you continue to support that? Do you continue to support a community that doesn't want to know options? And we're talking very broadly here like in a community, there are all types of people. So really for anyone to make that assumption, honestly, no matter how long they've lived in a community, I think, is really bold because we don't know everyone. And I will be the first to admit, humble moment here that I have lived here in Sedona for ten years. And really only in the last couple of years have I felt like the community aspect is starting to be shown.

And I do think it's because I've changed and because I haven't given up. But a bunch of years ago I would have been with you if you're somebody that's saying, "Ugh. My community." So I can only say, from my own experience, that you don't know everyone in your community. And even if there is a general feel to what you think is kind of going on or what they're open to, you really don't know. So putting yourself out there as a result is certainly a big deal, but please. Let's not blame our communities for not being what we want. Let's be who we are and offer that and see how things change.

So the other piece is people being scared, frankly. And that's fine too. We'll talk more about confidence and that kind of thing later. And we do address that in the handbook that we have for the Network people. And I think that's something we provide overall is support and community amongst these teachers. How do we gain confidence? And how do we get up in front of people and teach? So all of that is to be addressed, but saying that you don't think you'll have interest in this kind of class, I think, again you just don't know. And if you offered a class last year about something else or maybe you're a whatever teacher of some method and you don't feel like people want it, it's not necessarily the people. Maybe it's the subject matter. Maybe it's the timing. Maybe it's the lack of advertising. Maybe it's your commitment. There's so many variable. And really, again, I just have to say you won't know until you try.

So really you have to take advantage of our help, if you're choosing to do this. We will help you promote. We will help you advertise. And we will help you get over these really obvious excuses. That's what I think they are. So, again, it comes back to the same thing. If this isn't for you and you have no interest in teaching, you don't want to change your community, whatever, then don't do this. But if you do, you're listening to this or you've submitted an email or whatever, then I think you are curious. And I'm trying to be as transparent as possible.

Really the worst that can happen anyway is that you don't get a big turnout the first time or the first and second and third time or whatever it is. But it takes time to build community. And, again, I would say that from personal experience that it takes time. It

takes years. So this is a commitment, I think, of sorts. This isn't, in my mind, something that in a month you're going to feel on top of the world about necessarily unless you just happen to live in a place that's really already going in that direction, already open and receptive. But most of you around the world are going to learn a lot doing this. You're going to have challenges. And it's going to be a big picture project. So we are not thinking that these things are going to change overnight. But we have to try. We have to get started on this mission.

So another question that has come up, again, they're all along the same lines. But whatever. So this one is, "Okay. So I get what your workshop is about. And I get how Indie Birth is about making sure people know their options and people not being confined to the have tos and the politics of birth. I get all that. And I am behind it. And I support it, but there are no Indie Birth midwives in my community. There are no other options for these women, so aren't I beating a dead horse? Or aren't I being neglectful in a way to offer this and then just not be able to offer any options for people?" So I think that's a legitimate question, but I'm just going to be really bold again and say that's a really close minded way of thinking. And I know that if you're interested in this Network, if you're listening to this podcast, that you're not a close minded person. So open up your mind to what you think this means and what you think people's options are because women always have options. They always do.

And I think the biggest disservice we can do is act like they don't and participate in this patriarchal system that says they have to be approved options of A, B, and C because women always have the option of taking charge of their birth however that looks for them. And I'm not promoting or not promoting certain types of births, right? Unassisted birth is an option. Whatever you want to call it. And I don't love that women have that as maybe their only choice, but it is a choice. So the other way that can go is there are often women that will support other women in the community and aren't calling themselves midwives. So in other words, I feel like if you're saying that then you really already have in your head what you think is appropriate for people to choose. And I'm asking you especially in presenting this material to open your mind and to not draw lines in the sand because our options are as big as we are.

So that said, of course, we are starting a midwifery school next month. And our other huge project and goal and hope for the world is that we do have more midwives serving in the Indie Birth model all around the world. So that yes. As you're teaching this workshop and women come to you and they say, "But, but, but, but I can't because I'm a VBAC. Or but I can't because I have a breech baby," that you do have resources. You do have concrete names even across state lines that you would be able to recommend. But we're not at that point quite yet. And, again, I don't really think that's the issue. I think that it's a close minded perspective that allows anyone to believe that certain things aren't possible for certain people. So you can do what that what you will. But,

again, I want to frame this project and Indie Birth and your work in our network as the big picture. This is the big picture new paradigm. This is possible. It is. It's possible. It's possible for women to birth on their own terms. And it is possible to take back birth, right? The hundred and plus podcasts with this name. So you have to believe me that I 500% believe this or I wouldn't be talking about it all the time, and I wouldn't be doing these things and creating these resources. I honestly believe that none of it matters. The location doesn't matter. The doctor doesn't matter. The midwife doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is what happens inside a person, the shift that comes about in their soul, their being, whatever you want to call it as a result of being connected with deep knowledge. And that is what we're promoting.

And, of course, it's not our deep knowledge. This is the knowledge of women. This is the knowledge of humanity. And all we're doing is framing it in a way, hopefully, that makes it really accessible and makes people say, "Aha. I get it. I'm ready. Where are my people? How do I do this?" So I'm just going to kind of say that again in different words because I think it's that important. If you are feeling constricted in your community around choices, around teaching this, there's lots of levels to that, as I've discussed. But mostly, you have to believe that the shift comes from inside of people. That you are not there to provide a solution to people that come to these classes. You are not there to make their lives easier or better. You are simply there to share the truth. And if that is resonant with what's inside of them, they will have a shift. And they will get what they need. You are not integral really to that process. No more than I am. No more than I am doing what I do or even attending births. We just hold the space when people are ready.

But holding that space is a huge commitment, and it takes bravery and all of these things. So I'm not saying it's a non job. It's not the most important job. The most important job is the shift that comes from inside of people. So if you are ready to start seeing that in yourself and in the people around you, in your community, then this would be a great program for you to be a part of. And I think if you really find those places inside of you these questions are obsolete. They're really just me blabbing at you because you already know. I will say one more thing about that because I think it's this important. As these fears and things come up, again, what box are you putting yourself in. If you're already feeling like there are constraints, then this may not be the material for you until you break out of that. But I would add you really are playing into the model that we are trying to release ourselves from or trying to recreate really that the constraint may be you. And that's really hard to hear sometimes. But I think it's an essential step in joining this Network and putting yourself out there and being a part of this huge change. We have to recognize when we're holding ourselves back and when we're trying to hold other people back. So these are, I think, legitimate thoughts. You may not agree with them. But as we are creating this Network around the world, I think

you really want to be again in resonance with what we are thinking if you want to be part of it.

We have to remember too that many of these beliefs and things we have everyone, all of us, in our cells, in our brain, in our cells, in our soul, everywhere have been put upon us just by the world that we live in. So, again, it's not a small job to separate what's me. And what's not me? And what are my actual beliefs? What is in my heart versus what is in the world that I've taken on? So if you ask questions like, "Well, there are no midwives to recommend, so why would I do this workshop," you're really playing into the matrix of this whole crazy world that's been creating to keep people without power. So to get outside of that, you have to think bigger. And you have to delve into your own stuff. So what does come first anyway? The chicken or the egg, right? If your community isn't ready, are you just going to not do anything because they're not ready? Or do you have to be ready first and then your community somehow is ready and open for you? I don't have the answer. And I don't have the answer for each individual person in their individual locations. But I think a lot of the time our readiness comes first. We have to be ready first. We have to be ready to speak the truth, and then you would be amazed at the change that you are able to create.

So really I'm trying to be encouraging and be a cheerleader kind of. Like you can create change, so that movie *Field of Dreams* from a million years ago, right? The saying was if you build it, they will come. And that's exactly what I'm saying. So don't wait for your community to be all Indie Birth ready because they're probably not. And you have to be the one to bring it, and that takes a lot. So, again, we talk a lot in the Network book, and I'm happy to talk personally with people as we're able to have group discussions in our Facebook group for this Network community. We're allowed to talk about how we do this and how we deal with our own insecurities and how we deal with our own personal bias and our own birth experiences in order to teach this material. Now that's a really huge topic. And perhaps that needs a podcast of its own. But for now, I'll just say that there are some exercises in the guidebook.

And some questions to pose in addition just for you here now are what reservations do you have about speaking the truth. What personal circumstances make it hard for you to speak the truth? And that is really relevant already with the group of people we've had sign up because many of them are already doing birth work. And I think that's great. You don't have to have been doing birth work to teach this material, but many of you have. So perhaps you're apprenticing as a midwife or you're a doula or you're whatever. Birth educator. Look more closely at what your own issues are around your own path. So if you're apprenticing for a licensed midwife, for example, then it might be hard to speak what we consider the truth about some of these politics. So I don't have the perfect answer for that. We are requesting, of course, that you teach our material and only our material when you're doing it. You're not really going to be able to incorporate

your own teachings. And really if you have different views on these things, my suggestion is just to not do this. Just to not teach it. We don't want to muddle the message.

So I don't know how each and every one of you will handle that. Again, now do I desire to micromanage that although I'm certainly interested and happy to help. If you are, again, in more of a licensed position, I don't know exactly what wording you'll choose except that we really have designed this material to be not personal. It isn't personal. These are factual pieces of information. How midwifery works in the licensed setting with rules and regulations. This is fact. This is not opinion. This is hard fact. So I'm just throwing that out there as people are deciding to sign up that perhaps there's work to be done inside of ourselves before we take this one just so that our message is really clear. So if you're not ready, you're not comfortable, this all sounds crazy, you couldn't put yourself out there, you have fears about what people will think of you, then perhaps you shouldn't do this. I think there are many ways to work through that. Again, we're hoping to provide some resources to help people. But essentially, you have to be ready. And just like labor, this isn't about forcing the river. This isn't about pushing the river. This isn't about making you something you're not. It's simply getting the right people that want to teach this, and then you will have, in turn, just the right people that come to your classes which is really exciting.

I did want to say a great thank you thought, at least briefly, to the people that are already involved in this Network and the people that stand by our mission and our philosophy 100% all the time. I just want to say that you are doing amazing work. That there is a need for this. That we are here to support you. That we all will be learning from this experience and that really you're going to shift things where you are. And that can be scary and powerful and all of the good and bad. And a lot of us just even fear success in the way that we've been taught especially as women, right? That we would speak too loudly. that we would be too much. And I know I've felt like that as well in teaching this material. I think there, again, is a lot of personal work that goes around this kind of stuff when you feel like you're really putting yourself out there. But we will providing much encouragement to those of you that are involved. And we're all in a similar pickle. Maybe at varying degrees, but we're all constantly shutting old beliefs, moving on to the new, and let's create this thing that we see. So we are here for you to do that. You don't have to know exactly at the moment how you're going to do it, where you're going to do this class, if you'll get people there, maybe you've never taught before, and that's all fine. We have it all worked out from step one to the very end. And we are here for support.

Another idea that hasn't been placed yet just because this is brand new is we may have some people mentoring as well. Like I said, we have the people that have been supporting Indie Birth for years and years. Some of them are students in our school, et

cetera. And these are people that know us and know our mission as well as we do. So my next thought is to perhaps have some of them offering mentorships to those of you that need it and want it and want someone to literally hold your hand through these steps, so that you can reach your goal of teaching this workshop and really effecting a much bigger change.

So another question, what else do you need to do? Well, as I said, we're not looking for people that are certified this or that. That does not matter to us at all. We do not care. We simply want people that are engaged and smart and willing to do the homework to learn this class and, again, on the same page. So some key points do come up in the lectures. And I would just invited you to kind of study some of these things as much as you would like and ask us questions. So one is the wise woman model. We talk a lot about that here at Indie Birth. There is at least a couple podcasts that I could point you in the direction of. There's Susun Weed's book, *Healing Wise*, which talks about these models. So an understanding—a deeper understanding would be a great tool in helping you teach this class. I do think this class can be taught, of course, at varying levels of knowledge. So by that, I mean if you've been a midwife for years you're just naturally going to know more about this process. And you're going to be able to answer more questions in detail about the birth process for example. But I don't think this means this class can't be taught by someone that doesn't have that knowledge. The class would just be slightly different and great in another kind of way.

So I guess what I'm saying is you can go as deep as you want with some of these resources and with the knowledge. And then if you're speaking from your heart, teaching from your heart, when you open your mouth in front of people, the right words really will come out. And you will just get better as we all do. So the wise woman model is one thing. And then I couldn't stress enough that you need to learn the politics of birth in your area. And, again, maybe that's yucky. Maybe that's uncomfortable. Maybe that's taboo. And that's not something we can help with, per se. Just for obvious reasons. Everybody lives in a different place, and we're not on top of the politics everywhere. I can help in a general way. And, of course, there's many podcasts on the politics of birth. And there's blog posts and all kinds of things. So a general understanding of midwifery being really co-opted by the medical system is a huge key point. Of women not really having rights in birth in the current model. It being a human rights issues, not really a birth issue.

So these are topics that are huge. But investigate them especially, like I said, in your geographical area. What are the politics of birth? Maybe you're really aware. Maybe you just couldn't miss it. But maybe you're really not, and you need to brush up on that and be able to explain to people in really clear terms what the situation is. Now, again, as you go through the workshop and the teaching guide, you'll see that we try to make it as non personal as possible meaning it's not about Cathy Midwife in your town or

whatever. It's not about that at all. We don't mention names. It's simply that when people are serving one kind of system then women that are looking for something else generally won't be served in that system. So it's a kind of a two-fold thing in the Manifesto, which is the part two of this workshop. The Indie Birth Manifesto. It's a two-phased idea. I don't know.

The first is what is the current culture of birth where you live. What are the politics? What are the restrictions? What are women being told? What are their options? And then the second phase kind of alongside of that is at the same time we're creating this new paradigm of a different way of doing things. So, again, that's not something you have to come up with. That's all there in the Manifesto presentation. But, again, you have to understand the politics well enough to explain them in your area and be able to tell these stories, which are all written out. Of course, I have my own story of going through the system and coming out in a different place. And you're welcome to ask me questions about that. You're welcome to ask questions about Indie Birth or history or anything at all that would help you be able to talk about what we do. There is a handout in the Network folder about Indie Birth. It's really brief. It's just a paragraph, and that is intended to be handed out before you start the Manifesto. You may even just quickly read through it for everybody before you hand it out. So we are trying to get more clear for those people that haven't been around what we're doing.

We hope and we know that this workshop is going to hit places that have never, ever heard of Indie Birth. So we want you to, again, ask questions. We want to know if there are other resources or other ways of doing this that would help you be more clear because people will be asking. And, again, clarity is really, I think, one of the greatest teachers. You don't expect, or I don't expect people, to come away from this workshop with a lot of scientific facts in their head. I expect them to come away with clarity about the current situation. And if they're pregnant, the natural impulse is to see how they fit into that and then questions get asked and then options get discovered. And really it's been a pretty brilliant workshop to put out there for all those reasons. It's promoting discussion. And it's making clear what is actually going on without pinning it on anyway. It's no one's fault. It's just what's going on. So we have the power to create something else.

So those are some things to do and understand. Extra resources, there are probably a lot more than this. And I should probably make a list and put it in the Network folder. But just books on birth that we reference during the presentations. *Gentle Birth, Gentle Mothering*, as always, by Sarah Buckley. Michel Odent has many books, and we talk about some of them in the class. There is different books on research around prenatal care and politics. There's a couple books on midwifery regulation. So perhaps I will make a list of those things or—I don't know. I should probably make a list of those things if I'm suggesting them. But in other words, there's all kinds of books and

resources that you can be reading in your free time should you choose to really get you up to speed on all aspects of this workshop. Again, I'm not saying that's 100% necessary. I think this workshop can be done in a really nice, simple, basic way. But if you're looking to improve your own knowledge around these topics and really be ready for questions then these would be some good resources.

People will ask you questions. And so I think being as honest with those as you can even if it includes, "I really don't know. I don't know the answer to that question." Or maybe you're a midwife in training or a doula or a mom. And if there is something that feels really technical about birth, you can certainly defer it to us and email us or let us know or have that person email us so that people feel like they're getting answers. But none of us have to be the experts on absolutely everything. So for sure, if something comes up that I don't know, I will just the same say, "I really don't know. I'll have to get back to you about that." So you don't need to know everything to teach. You just need to have an open heart and a similar philosophy and a desire to see powerful women. I think that's what it comes back to. If that scares you, then, again, perhaps there's some work to do. But if not, then I think this is an amazing tool to help us all do that.

So how will this Network grow? Well, to be brief, we will expand this Network with other classes and probably an increase in price. Right now it's just \$50 to join and get all the materials you need for the free workshop. But we will be adding postpartum classes and all kinds of things that you will have the ability to access. So you could decide to do any of those in your community at any given month and just kind of change it up. If you feel like the workshop, you've done enough with that for a couple of months then maybe you'll move on and do another kind of workshop. So we will be increasing the price, adding stuff, adding people, adding resources, and just waiting to see how that grows.

We will also be offering other classes about private membership associations, about private societies, about the way we are doing things here at Indie Birth. We are excited to spread that information to the right people whether it's just because you desire that in your life. You don't want to be in the government for anything that you do in your life. Or you're a midwife or a birth keeper or whatever, and you are really curious how to be outside of this medical system that most of the world has become a slave to. We are very intent and in love, honestly, with the idea of spreading that information. We are working with a much larger private association, who essentially is coaching us. And they want to be a part of this. They want to offer trainings about their extensive amount of knowledge through Indie Birth for our Indie Birth people. So you definitely want to be a part of the Network, if nothing else to access that knowledge.

Again, our school is growing. We are creating midwives all over the world. Our big picture goal with this Network is eventually to just create an unseen, as of yet, version of birth freedom. So to me, that means, again, midwives all over the world and centers.

Not a birth center, per se. But kind of. Like locations where Indie Birth is. People are able to come and birth outside of the system. They are able to learn. And this will all be outside of the jurisdiction of anything that restricts our freedoms. So that's a little vague, but I think for the right people that's probably really exciting hearing that. We want to provide this education. We want to be on the cutting edge of creating this because it's the only way as of not. Again, in this current system, it is the only way that we've seen to opt out but to create something really, really firmly based in love and knowledge and freedom. So if you're curious about that, you'll want to join our Network as well.

So thanks for listening. I hope this has helped clear up your questions. And if you're a Network member already, thank you so much. I hope this has given you more clarity and check out, again, indiebirth.com/network. Have a great day.

(closing music)