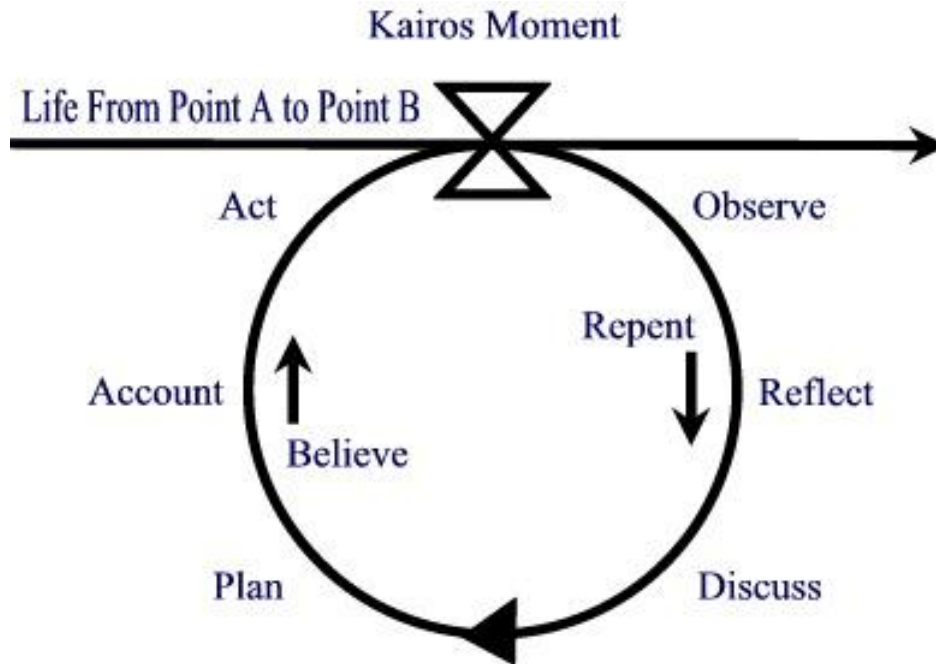


The Circle: Kairos



The Kairos Circle

Our lives are made up of many moments – some big, some small, some good, some bad. These events can become opportunities for significant growth and development in our walk with Christ. The question is whether we will recognize these events as opportunities for growth or just let them pass by. When these events happen, we have an opportunity to listen for the leading of God, and then to respond in the way we believe He is leading. The Circle is a tool to help remind and guide us in the process

The key thing is to look for a “Kairos moment”: a significant event (positive or negative, never neutral, that leaves an impact on you, signaling an opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally) and then (prayerfully) enter into the circle of learning (3 steps of repentance (=changing one’s mind) and 3 steps of faith (=doing something about it).

In other words in a Kairos moment, we are being called up to take a step for the Kingdom:

- What is God saying to me? (repent, change mind, change thinking)
- What am I going to do about it? (faith, acting in faith, stepping out in faith)

Let's walk around the circle:

- Observe – what happened, and how did you react/feel?
- Reflect – on your observations. Why did you feel the way you did? What does that say about you? Is there a pattern?
- Discuss – seek the wisdom of others. Do your observations and reflections make sense? Do you discern an opportunity for growth?
- Plan – figure out a practical way to grow.
- Account – tell somebody about your plan and ask them to follow up with you on it. How successful will a diet be if you tell no-one? Or a new regime at the gym if you don't tell people close to you?
- Act – do it!

Here's an example: A mounting credit card bill. Then the circle might go (O) what I am buying each month? Do I need all this stuff? Has this been going on long? (R) What does this say about my sense of identity? Why do I feel the need to buy this stuff? (D) "Hi Joe, I'm feeling that money has a bit of a hold over me – can I get your thoughts?" (P) Need to cancel all but one card and limit myself to my budget. (A) "Hey Joe, can you ask me whether I am under my limit every month?" (A) Cut up the credit cards!

Kairos moments can be subtle or dramatic. They can occur as things happen to us, or as we think new thoughts. A Kairos moment can be triggered by a Scripture passage we are reading, a sermon we're hearing, or a comment made by a passing stranger. Foundational to identifying a Kairos moment is believing that God is at work in the events of our lives, and through these events, He seeks to teach us, guide us, and transform us as His disciples.

Repentance and Faith

Repentance: We're using this word more broadly than we normally do. The word translated "repentance" literally means to change our thinking. When we observe, reflect, and discuss what God is doing in our lives, or how God intends to use an event or encounter in our lives, we seek to let God change our thinking, to lead us to repentance, to change our direction as His kingdom breaks into our lives.

Faith: James 2:17 says that faith without deeds is dead. If we believe that God is leading us (what is God saying to me?), then that changed thinking should lead to changed actions (what am I going to do about it?) Faith leads to actions.

Slinky Faith

God intends for us to be on a journey of continuous ongoing growth. In other words, He intends for us to be continually going around the Circle as new events and opportunities are placed in our lives. Think of your life looking kind of like a Slinky, a series of loops held together by moments in time. The goal is that each time around the circle, we are growing a little closer to the kingdom and are taking on more and more of the character of Christ.

(Some of the above is adapted from the "Building a Discipling Culture Huddle Guide" by Mike Breen and Steve Cockram, and from the [Passion Fruit Blog](#).)