

Small Groups Sessions

Each week we'll take what we heard on Sunday and consider what that means for our lives through reading scripture, questions and prayer.

A helpful framework for good discussion that we've been using in some of our leadership development training involves 3 key questions:

1. What is?

This question helps us to consider two main things:

a) What does the Bible say?

The Bible is God's true and authoritative word, and so we should begin by looking at what the Bible says is true about us for each topic.

b) What is the reality in our lives right now?

As we read God's word, we begin to realise that our experience doesn't tend to match up with it. It's important to consider what those things are that stop us in walking in the fullness of our identity in Christ.

2. What could be?

Using our holy imagination, what impact would we see in our lives, homes, church and communities if we were to grow in the area in question?

If this way of life became truly embedded into us, what would we see in one month, one year or even in one lifetime?

3. What will be?

We are told not to be hearers of the word only, but doers. (James 1:22)

Each week we want to implement God's way into the coming week, and to do this we give time to consider two questions:

a) What is God saying?

The Sunday sermon and the small group discussion so far will have brought up many things.

The key here is to try and boil it down to one key, memorable thing that God is saying to us. This could be an unshakeable thought, realisation of a sin, wrong-thinking or a specific action you sense God is calling you to.

b) What am I going to do about it?

This is where we get practical: if God is speaking to me about this, what can I do in the next week about it?

Encourage one another to make this as specific and actionable as possible, and to avoid vague or fluffy answers. Build an expectation that we are going to walk in truth each week.

Small Group Session Cheat Sheet

<p>1. What is?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think this scripture tells you about the biblical vision for <i>*insert topic (discipleship, wisdom etc)*</i>? • What do you feel hinders you from living in the fullness of it? 						
<p>2. What could be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What difference would you see in your life if you stepped fully into your identity as the disciple? <table border="1" data-bbox="634 396 1082 485"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="634 396 773 439">Home</th> <th data-bbox="773 396 925 439">Work</th> <th data-bbox="925 396 1082 439">Church</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="634 439 773 485"></td> <td data-bbox="773 439 925 485"></td> <td data-bbox="925 439 1082 485"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Home	Work	Church			
Home	Work	Church					
<p>3. What will be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is God saying? • What am I going to do about it? 						

There will be space in this booklet for you to make notes each week, and as mentioned before, feel free to use your imagination in how you facilitate this discussion.

The Kairos Circle - A Tool for Transformation

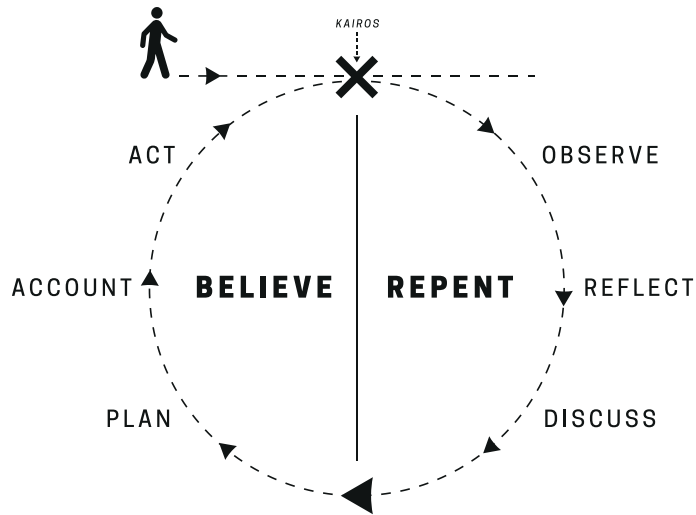
These questions are based off a helpful tool that underpins our understanding of godly transformation from Mike Breen's book "Building a Discipling Culture" - something he calls a *kairos* moment.*

A *kairos* moment is a point or experience in life, either positive or negative, in which the Lord is speaking to us. At that moment we have two options: we can choose to ignore Him and carry on, or stop and allow the Holy Spirit to take us on a journey of transformation and belief.

In order to experience this transformation, we need to do what Jesus explains as "repent and believe". (Mark 1:15)

In the *kairos* circle, repent and believe are divided into three parts. A disciple who is being transformed walks around the circle, repenting first and then believing.

*Mike Breen says "A *kairos* moment is when the eternal God breaks into your circumstances with an event that gathers some loose ends of your life and knots them together in his hands."



Step 1: Repent

Observe

In order to change you need to observe where you are. During a *kairos* moment, observe your reactions, emotions and thoughts.

Reflect

Why did you react the way you did? Why do you feel the way you do? Why did that emotion get brought to the surface?

Discuss

Inviting others into the process is a vital part of transformation, and Small Groups are an excellent place for this. A place where people can share and confess openly and honestly with trustworthy friends who will pray and stand with them is vital.

Step 2: Believe

Plan

Get practical. Make a plan for how you are going to lead inner change in your life.

Account

It's important to have at least one person holding us accountable to our plan. This process externalises the plan instead of letting it remain internal.

Act

Once a plan is established and shared with someone else, the natural reaction is for action to take place.

10. The **Generous** Disciple

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. And in this matter, I give my judgement: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased, and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

Overview

The Corinthians saw and many disciples today see money as something we have earned, and so we can use it as we desire.

Money has become a taboo subject within the church, and the idea that it is an important part to our discipleship of Jesus is often neglected. Paul addresses this by showing that giving is part of the disciple's journey in following Jesus.

The motivation for our giving is not duty or guilt but rather grace. He points to the saints in Macedonia as an example

of how the disciple should interact with money. He calls the church to excel in the grace of giving.

To be a generous disciple we must recognise that it is from a foundation of grace and nowhere else. The disciple should not be one who gives reluctantly but joyfully, not begrudgingly but joyfully and not sparingly but generously, because the one we follow has given us everything; He has lavished us with every spiritual blessing in Christ for this life and eternity.

Planning your small group session

1. What is

2. What could be

3. What will be

Notes