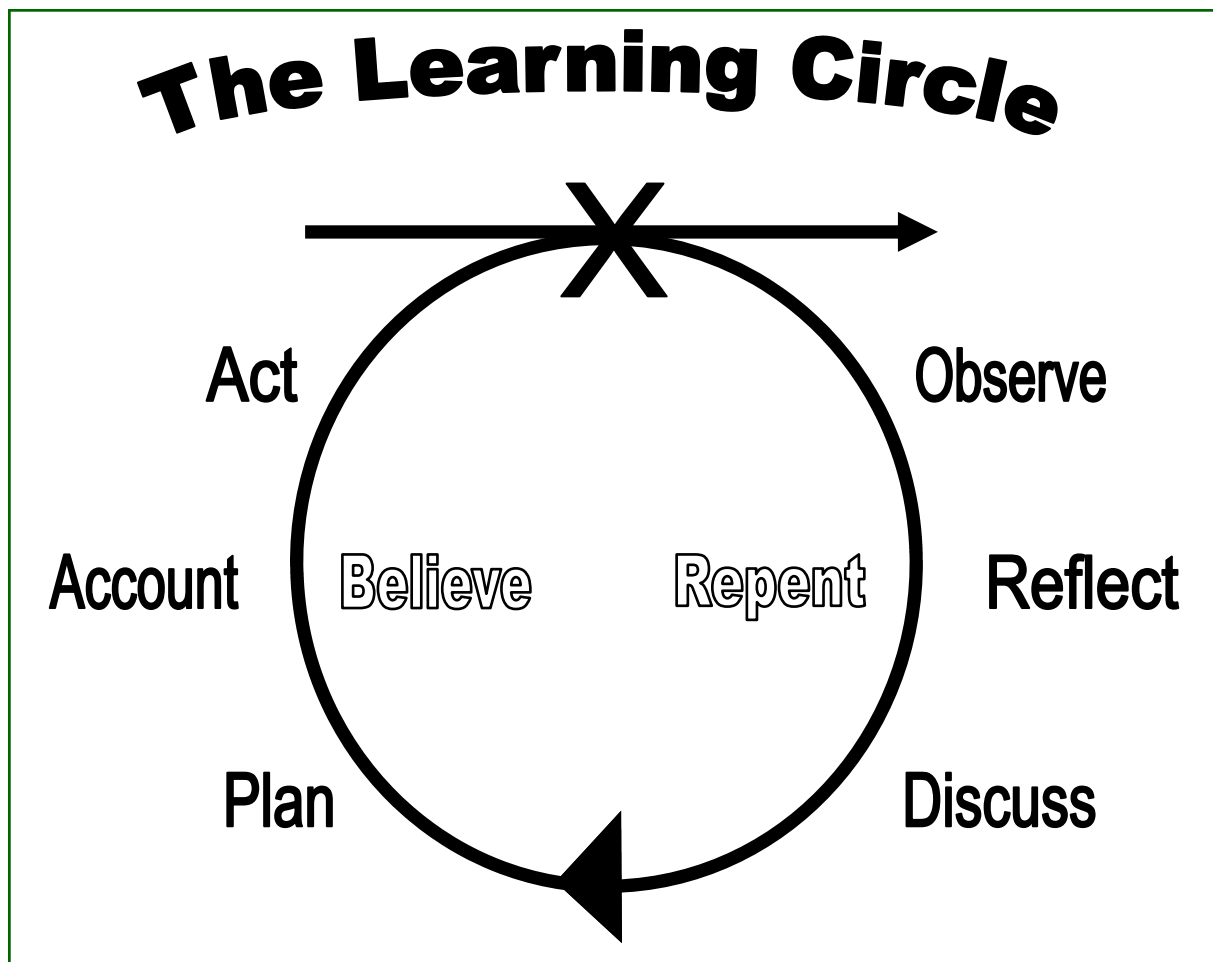


Learning From Life

Who will shape your future? Are you ready to change yourself? How about the world? How will you know if you're making progress? Join us as we step into the New Year considering Lifeshapes: The Circle.

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



Readings

Sunday, December 27 — Mark 1:14-15; Jeremiah 29:11

When have you experienced a *kairos* moment? In what ways can you see God's willingness to teach you in that moment?

Monday, December 28 — Jeremiah 9:23-24; 2 Peter 1:3-11

What kind of things keep you from stopping to look closely when a *kairos* moment happens to you? What circumstances or factors would help you observe a *kairos* event honestly and thoroughly?

Tuesday, December 29 — Matthew 6:26-32

Jesus prods his followers to **Observe**. "Look at the birds." We worry, but the birds don't. God feeds them, and he is going to feed us, too. In observing the birds, the disciples ended up looking at themselves and their own lack of faith. So they look at the birds. Then Jesus says, "Are you not much more _____?" The answer is yes. The disciples **Reflect** and put things in perspective.

The usual teaching method in that day was question-and-answer. We see in this passage that Jesus was inviting the disciples to **Discuss** together. What did Jesus challenge the disciples to think about? What strikes you the most about the Observe-Reflect-Discuss process recorded in this passage?

Wednesday, December 30 — Matthew 6:33-34

So how do we build a life that is not based on worry, but on faith? Jesus wants us to make **Plans** for his kingdom and righteousness. When the rule of God comes into our lives, we let go of our worries. What worries do you need to let go of so that you can learn to live as God has designed you?

Thursday, December 31 — Matthew 7:1-3

Jesus keeps us humble! He reminds us of our own frail and inadequate self-protectiveness. He's not calling us to judge each other, but to look at ourselves and remember we are **Accountable** for the choices and plans we make in a life of discipleship. What strikes you most about the Plan-Account-Act process?

Friday, January 1 — Matthew 7:24-27

What was Jesus getting at? Everybody was listening that day. The ones who listen and **Act** in faith are true followers of Jesus. What extraordinary *kairos* event in your life can you go back and process through the Circle? This process may reveal some change in your life that God wanted by that you overlooked.

Saturday, January 2 — Matthew 9:27-29; Mark 9:14-24

Do you believe that God's grace has already made a way for you to be changed? How will you strengthen your faith in the year ahead?

Resources:

[The Circle: Choosing to Lean from Life](#), by Mike Breen, 2006, Cook Communications.

[A Passionate Life](#), Michael Breen and Walt Kallestad, 2005. NeXgen, Cook Communications.