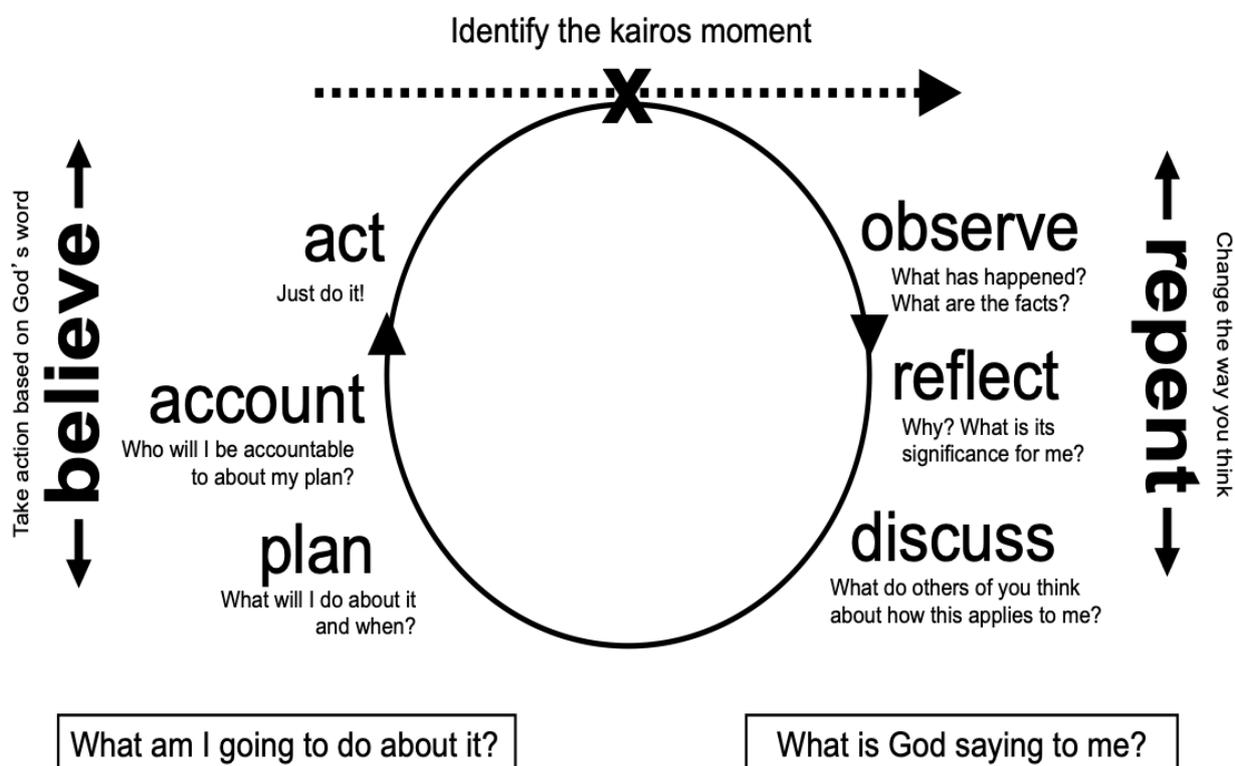


THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP: RECOGNISING WHERE GOD IS AT WORK IN MY LIFE, AND RESPONDING.

The Learning Circle (Mark 1:15)



God is always at work, willing to lead and shape us through the events of our lives if we are willing to allow Him.

Being a disciple is being attentive to those opportunities for growth and responding to God.

Being disciplined is letting others help you respond.

Discipling someone else is helping them to listen to what God is doing and respond.

Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God is near. The effective will of God available to us and the world. He said repent and believe. Disciples are those who repent of their own way of thinking – literally change their minds – and place their trust in God's action through believing.

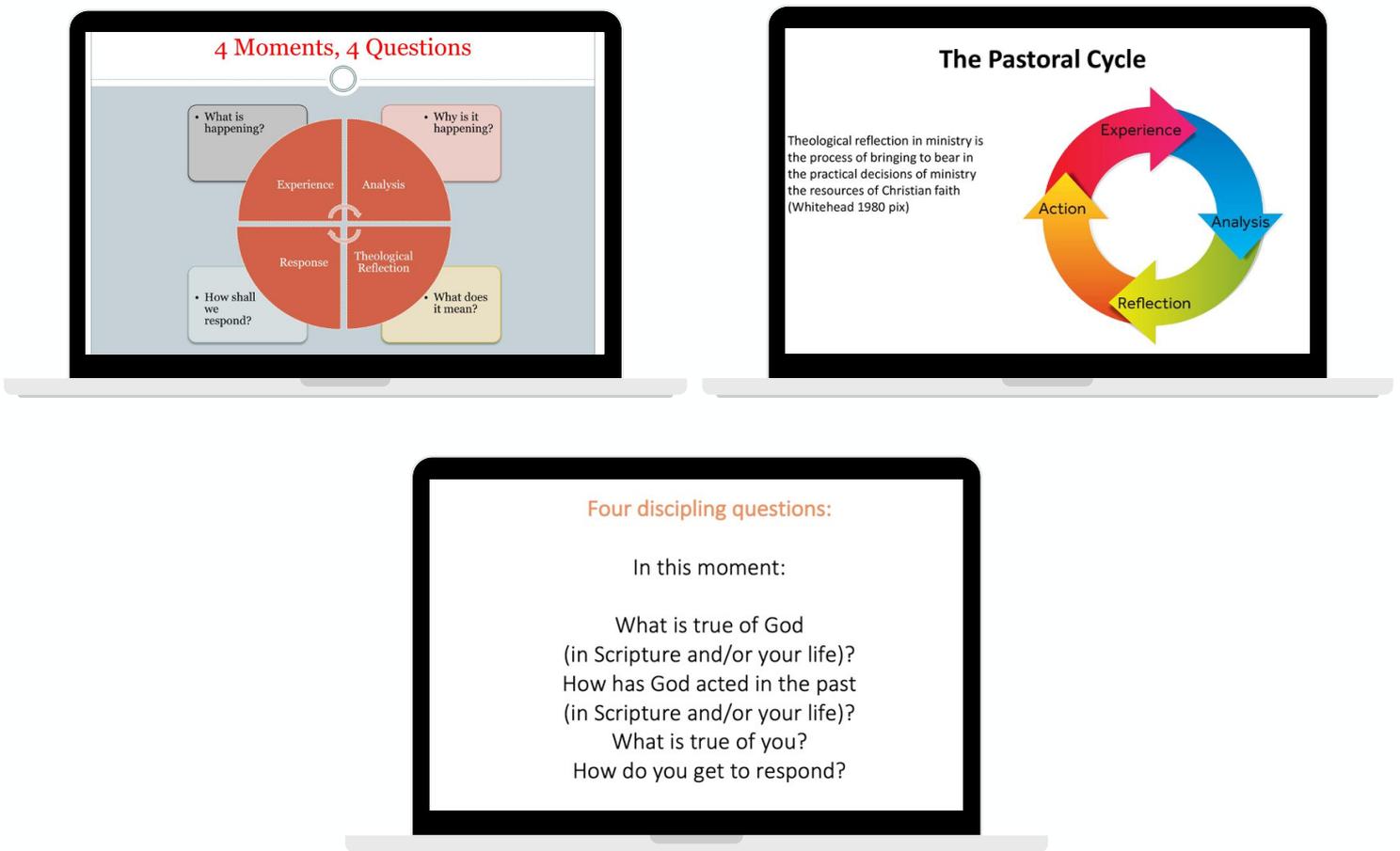
In every situation they seek to move from a life shaped by unbelief – where God might be at the edge – to belief – where God and His rule are at the centre.

These moments of discipleship come to us in many, every day ways. Some people talk about “critical incidents” or “kairos moments” in which good or bad circumstances make an impact on us which give us a chance to grow.

When we come together to be intentionally disciplined, the main focus is to spend time listening to the Spirit about where God might be “breaking in” and then to move from “unbelief to belief” with some simple questions. This is the heart of various terms like spiritual direction, theological reflection, attentiveness, mentoring for discipleship.

Because we want to grow, we help each other with steps forward. That’s why having a relationship in which we can support AND challenge each other is important.

On this sheet are four common processes to help us listen to God as disciples. Some talk about learning circle, or pastoral cycle – essentially the same thing. We always start by trying to recognise these moments – sometimes they are obvious, sometimes we need time to reflect, sometimes a set of questions can help us focus.



So...

When mentoring someone for intentional discipleship, the aim is always to help them discern where God is at work and respond. These three questions are therefore always at the heart of good discipleship:

**What is God saying to me?
What am I going to do about it?
What would be helpful for you to ask me the next time we meet?**

A final thought...this is great in groups, but we can all disciple each other at the sink, in the pub...whenever we meet. God is at work in us all the time!

