

## Missional Living Wheel: Your Story

### The Win

Since we are now looking at our earthly relationships from either an Experience Community or an Expand Mission perspective, we should be more intentional about how we invest in each of these groups of people. This means there are people in our lives waiting to hear more about Jesus. How do we get into those relationships or, maybe more importantly, into those conversations? This wheel helps break down relational and conversational barriers that typically stand in the way of people sharing the Good News.

### Celebrate Faith Steps

Share the steps I have taken this week to explore faith or to help others explore faith.

### Read the Passage to Determine What God Is Saying

Read Galatians 1:13-24 (page 633).

<sup>13</sup>For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. <sup>15</sup>But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. <sup>17</sup>I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup>Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

<sup>21</sup>Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They simply kept hearing: "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy." <sup>24</sup>And they glorified God because of me.

### Retell the Passage To Highlight What God Is Saying

**Q1 – According to verses 13 and 14, how did Paul describe his life before he became a Christ-follower?**

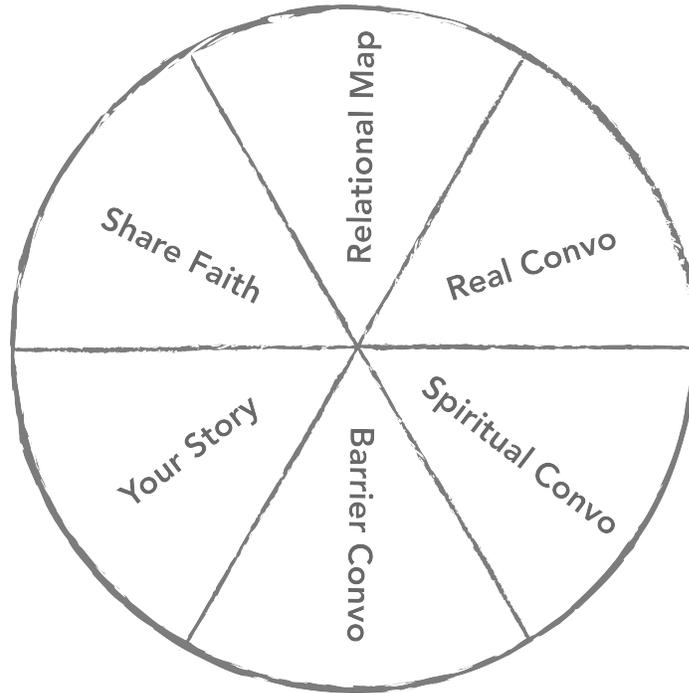
**Q2 – How did God call Paul, and what did God reveal to Paul, according to verses 15 and 16?**

**Q3 – Verses 18 and 19 tell us that, after three years, Paul began to try to get to know whom?**

**Q4 – How did God begin to use the growing knowledge of Paul's changed life in verses 22 through 24?**

## Relate the Passage to Determine What I Should Do about It

### THE MISSIONAL LIVING WHEEL



We use a shape called the **Missional Living Wheel** to help describe the relational process by which we begin to share God's loving message of reconciliation with those whom God has placed in our sphere of influence.

We have worked on building our Relationship Map and have taken steps to engage in intentional conversations with the people on our map. We now move to the section on the Missional Living Wheel where we learn how to share our story of life change in a way similar to Paul's. We will now work through some practical questions that will help you discover three different components to your own personal story of life change.

Q1 – We saw how Paul described his life before Jesus as trusting in religion and actually fighting against Jesus’ followers. What was your life like before you were introduced to Jesus and chose to follow him?

Here are some examples of typical responses that may help you work through this question.

You might begin your answer with a phrase something like “Before I became a Christ-follower, ...”

Then you might add something similar to one of these:

... I had a fear of...

... I had no purpose because...

... I was lonely because...

... I thought that Christ was...

... I trusted in \_\_\_\_\_ to make it through, and \_\_\_\_\_ let me down.

... I wondered why I made bad decisions.

... I struggled with anger.

So, your answer might sound something like this: “Before I became a Christ-follower, I struggled with fear related to what will happen to me when I die. I also struggled with a lack of purpose and meaning in my life. My marriage was pretty bad because I was angry and would lash out verbally.”

Below, begin to write out the “**Before I Became a Christ-follower**” portion of your story.

Q2 – In Galatians 1, we saw Paul briefly describe the encounter with Jesus that led to his becoming a Christ-follower. What was your experience like when you decided to follow Jesus? What happened that caused you to begin exploring faith, who shared the message of Jesus with you, and how did you respond?

Here are some examples of typical responses that may help you work through this question. You might begin your answer with a phrase something like “I became a Christ-follower when ...” Then you might add something similar to one of these:

... I realized I needed something more in my life.

... my friend, pastor, co-worker began to share about Jesus with me.

... I understood the simple message that Jesus loves me, died for me, and desires to have a relationship with me.

... I believed that Jesus died to forgive my sin so that I could know God.

... I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sin and I accepted His free gift of forgiveness and asked Him to come into my life.

So, your answer might sound something like this: “I became a Christ-follower when I realized that I needed something different in my life. My friend began to share about his/her relationship with Jesus, and it caused me to want to explore for myself. I began to understand that Jesus loves me, that he died for me, and that he wants a relationship with me. I believed that Jesus died to forgive me so that I could actually know God. So, I asked Jesus to forgive me for my sin, and I accepted his free gift of forgiveness and asked him to come into my life.”

Below, begin to write out the “**How I Became a Christ-follower**” portion of your story.

Q3 – In Galatians 1, we saw Paul briefly describe the changes in his life, the Christ-followers he began to relate to, and how God began to use his life to impact others. How has your life begun to change since becoming a Christ-follower? What might be negative areas in your life that God has helped you overcome? How has God begun to use your life to influence others?

Here are some examples of typical responses that may help you work through this question. You might begin your answer with a phrase something like “Since I decided to follow Jesus, ...” or “Since I became a Christ-follower, ...” Then you might add something similar to these:

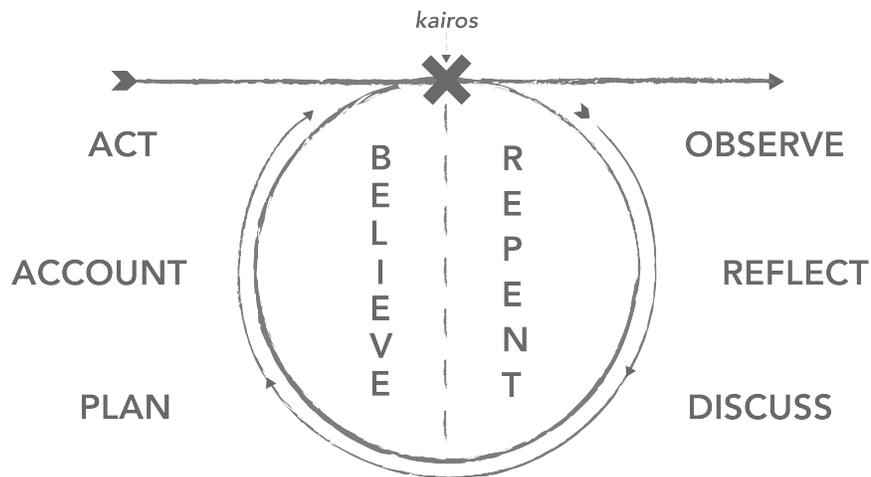
- ... my life has been filled with peace rather than fear.
- ... I have found purpose and meaning in my life.
- ... I now have a new family that cares for me.
- ... I have confidence in my relationship with Jesus and now know where I’ll go when I die.
- ... my relationships are growing, and we are taking steps now involving Jesus.
- ... people have seen changes in my life and are beginning to ask questions as to why I’m different.

So, your answer might sound something like this: “Since I decided to follow Jesus, my life has been filled with peace rather than fear. I don’t worry as much and now know that Jesus hears me when I talk to him. I’m not lonely anymore! I have a whole new family that cares for me. When I’m struggling in my marriage, I have people to turn to who help me take steps, and I know that I can always turn to Jesus for help. It is amazing to see how God is using my life now to influence others. I have been able to invite my friends and family to come to church with me. Because they are seeing changes in my life, they are interested in exploring who Jesus is.”

Below, begin to write out the “**Since I Have Become a Christ-follower**” portion of your story.

## KAIROS MOMENT

- Take a moment and go back over what you learned from Galatians 1, and then review Paul's story and how God has been shaping your story. Write down what stands out to you. How is God beginning to direct your heart?
- Walk through the Kairos Circle with what you are learning about yourself as you think about the above passage and this step on the Missional Living Wheel.
- What is God saying to you, and what steps are you going to take this week to share your story with people around you?



## CHALLENGE and PRAY

### EXPLORE FAITH

Use the EXPLORE THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF guide to help you pinpoint Kairos moments in your life and come willing to share next week.

### EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY

Pray for the people in your Mentoring Group and communicate with them this week.

### EXPAND MISSION

Focus on taking steps with someone from your Relationship Map and begin sharing your story with them.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS: