

Austin Mustard Seed | Summer Story Nights

Why We Tell Stories

The word “disciple” simply means “learner.” A disciple of Jesus is a person who is actively learning to do the things he said to do.

Learning begins with listening. We aren’t natural listeners. Story Nights are a chance to learn to listen to our lives, to God and to each other.

Listening for Life Change

In Jesus first sermon, found in Mark 1:15, he provides a three step process for identifying God’s work in our lives.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Step 1: Identify a Kairos Moment

Identify a “kairos moment”, a specific instance where you we a glimpse of how our lives could and should be.

Step 2: Repent

Take time, on your own and in community to observe, reflect and discuss how you should be thinking differently in light of the kairos moment.

Step 3: Believe

Create a plan of action to change how you live in light of your new way of thinking.

Directions for Story Night

1. Tell a Kairos Story

A storyteller will have 10 minutes to share a Kairos story. The story should be a recent experience they are trying to understand, or a past experience that you are still processing.

2. Change Your Mind

For five minutes, group members can ask open-ended questions to help the storyteller “repent.” Good questions will cause more careful observation of the story and thoughtful reflection. This goal is to help the storyteller better understand the story, not for the listener to make a point.

After five minutes, the facilitator will ask the storyteller to sum up their experience with the question “what is God telling you in this story?” The storyteller can also give a listener the opportunity to sum things up.

3. Make a Plan

The he Facilitator will ask the question “What are you going to do about it and how can we support you?” The storyteller should state a specific goal or way they are going to respond, and give the group permission to follow up with them.

Key Words

Time

Greek *Kairos*

A notable moment

Kingdom of God

The world as it should be under God’s just and loving reign

Repent

Greek *Metanoia*

to change one’s mind

Believe

Greek *Pistis*

To live out of what one thinks