

5

simple ways to have

L I V E O N M I S S I O N

M A K E A D I F F E R E N C E

workbook

5

simple ways to have



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DIGGING DEEPER

Starting with Abraham, the Bible describes God as sending his children on a MISSION to IMPACT people. God laid it out to Abraham very clearly:

*All peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.*

- Genesis 12:3b

Jesus has this same mission in mind. His gospel is meant to have IMPACT, to be a blessing to the whole world, so he commissions his disciples very clearly:

*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.*

• Acts 1:8b

- This series asks the question, “WHAT IMPACTS PEOPLE?” As we work through the series over the next weeks, we will dive into understanding the practices that contribute to more effective IMPACT!

BEGIN WITH PRAYER



WEEK 1

DAILY DIGS

As you reflect, invite God into your thoughts. Discover the IMPACT prayer makes .

DAY 1



Luke 10:1-9



Based on what Jesus is saying here, what does would a Person of Peace look like?

DAY 2



2 Corinthians 5:14-21



What does it mean to be God's "ambassador"? How do you think you come across as an ambassador of Jesus? Check out this great video – <https://youtu.be/1o9tskibats>

DAY 3



John 20:11-22



To what person or place is Jesus sending you to carry out His mission?

DAY 4



Luke 6:12-16 & Mark 1:29-39



Jesus spent a night in prayer before choosing the men he would invest his life in. Who is God telling you to pray and invest in? How hard is it for you to stop in the busyness of life and take time to pray? How can prayer become more regular in your life?

DAY 5



James 5:13-20



Do you believe your prayers for others make a difference? Why or why not?

BIG IDEA

BEGINNING with PRAYER IMPACTS people.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER



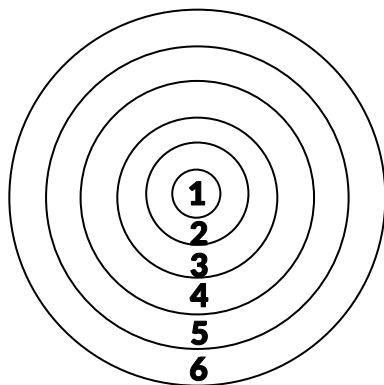
WEEK 1

EXPERIMENT

Having IMPACT with the People of Peace in our lives BEGINS with PRAYER. That may be easy for some of us, but then again maybe we don't even know who the People of Peace are!

The following activity is designed to help you to identify potential People of Peace and plan to regularly pray for them.

1. **Brainstorm** – On a sheet of paper, draw a series of 6 large concentric circles. Label them from the innermost to the outermost by the categories below. Take ten minutes to write people's names in each circle.



- 1) Immediate family
- 2) Extended family
- 3) Friends
- 4) Co-workers
- 5) Neighbours
- 6) Acquaintances

2. **IMPACT List** - Working from the concentric circles, prayerfully write out a list of People of Peace that you would be willing to pray for regularly. (Include at least 5, but some of your lists may be quite a bit longer. Write down anyone that the Lord puts on your mind and heart.)

You may also want to consider these 3 groups:

- People you know
- People you used to know
- People you would like to know

IMPACT List:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

This is the beginning of your awareness of the People of Peace in your life. As you pray for and respond to God's leading, you will find that this list will morph and evolve as you go about your life. People who you thought were open to the gospel might be closed (for a time). You might be surprised by other people who show a new openness to God's activity. This means that this list is dynamic and continually changing.

3. **Prayer** – Determine some system for praying for people on your IMPACT list. If you have only a few people, you may want to pray for them every day. If you have a very long list you may want to divide them up by days of the week. Begin praying every day for at least someone. In light of the work/rest rhythms of your life, consider how you can leverage times in your schedule for these prayer times. Be creative and strategic! For example, I have a dog. So I try to focus on my praying for my neighbourhood while walking with him.

Something that might help you stay on the ball is a mobile app called the Echo Prayer Manager (new.echoprayer.com). It's designed to help you remember all the things you are praying about.

4. **Imagine** – Ask God to show you some ways that you can further develop these relationships. Since I first did this IMPACT List activity, I've been amazed at how many times I've had significant conversations with my neighbours while walking my dog. Since I'm already praying for my neighbours on these walks, I'm a lot more mindful of their spiritual needs when I bump into them. Go figure!
5. **Practice** – Go out of your way this week to bless at least 2 people on your IMPACT list in an intentional way (e.g.—pick up the phone, drive/walk over to their house, etc.) If you call them, bless them with a word of encouragement. If you can stop by their house, take them a treat or a gift with a little written note of encouragement. Make it simple, specific and short.

LISTEN

WEEK 2

DIGGING DEEPER

Starting with Abraham, the Bible describes God as sending his children on a MISSION to IMPACT people. This series asks the question, "WHAT IMPACTS PEOPLE?" Listening is vital!

DAILY DIGS

DAY 1



Luke 18:35-43



What can I learn from the way Jesus listened to people? How well do I listen? (Take the short quiz on the next page to examine your listening skills.)

DAY 2



Acts 28:23-31



What are the biggest barriers that keep me from really listening to other people? How can I overcome these?

DAY 3



John 4:1-26



As you look at this story, how does Jesus model good listening?

DAY 4



Matthew 17:4-6



What are two or three of the most urgent needs currently in my neighbourhood, my city, or my school? How could my church, my small group, or I help meet that need? What is one need I know of right now in the life of someone I'm trying to help lead back to God? How can I help meet it?

DAY 5



James 2:14-17



Invite God to give you eyes to see needs around you in the moment. Listen to His prompts and respond obediently. It will likely require you to STOP and ACT in a practical way. Start today to pay closer attention to what God is pointing out to you throughout your day!



LISTEN



WEEK 2

EXPERIMENT

This week your experiment will be to practice really listening to people. Start by evaluating how you are doing as a listener currently. Once you have an idea of what you need to work on, connect with at least one person

1. Evaluate - The quality of your listening skills powerfully affects your potential to increase the quality and the quantity of your spiritual conversations. Complete the following 16 statements as honestly as you can.

When others are talking to me...

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. I find myself finishing their sentences. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 2. I give my opinions before hearing them out. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 3. I get restless and impatient. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 4. I lose track of what is being said. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 5. I fidget with objects. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 6. I mentally rehearse what I'm going to say next. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 7. I take control of the conversation. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 8. I interrupt with frequent comments/questions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 9. I am suspicious of hidden agendas. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 10. I try to immediately diagnose their problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 11. I worry about responding, instead of listening. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 12. I tell them how to fix their problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 13. I listen briefly and then begin talking. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 14. I tend to contradict what is being said. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 15. I misinterpret what is being said. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |
| 16. I answer before gaining real understanding. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Usually |

(If you answered “often” or “usually” to three or more of these questions or if you answered “occasionally” to eight or more, you could benefit from improving your listening skills.) *This Survey is from the book “God Space” by Doug Pollock

2. Practice – Invite a friend, neighbour, acquaintance, etc. to go for a walk. In light of last week it would be a good idea to pray for guidance on who to invite.

The point of this exercise is to **practice listening** while having a meaningful conversation. So the one rule you must obey in this is: GIVE NO ADVICE. Instead, go out of your way to make the person feel heard. Active listeners are good at making follow-up comments that communicate they understand what their friend is really saying. For example, they’ll say “So what you’re saying is....” Or, “If I understand you correctly...”

Below is a sampling of some starter questions you might ask as you practice listening. They are organized under four categories of increasing depth

We Just Met:

What kind of food do you like to eat the most?

Have you ever been mentioned in the newspaper?

Acquaintances:

What was your favourite course in high school? In college?

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Good Friends:

If you only had 24 hours to live, what would you do?

What is one event in the past that has made you who you are?

Big Picture:

What’s the one thing you would like to change the most about the world?

What, if anything, makes you feel close to God?

For more questions like these you can download an awesome (& free) little app called **Questions in a Box** for your mobile device at questionsinabox.com.



DIGGING DEEPER

Starting with Abraham, the Bible describes God as sending his children on a MISSION to IMPACT people. This series asks the question, "WHAT IMPACTS PEOPLE?" Eating together connects us with others.

DAILY DIGS

DAY 1



Matthew 9:9-13



How do you think Matthew felt when Jesus was willing to eat with his friends? What can I learn from Jesus' priority of eating with people?

DAY 2



Luke 7:33-44



Jesus didn't seem to care how eating with people affected His "reputation"—do you ever let the fear or excuses keep you from eating with certain people? (not enough time, I'm an introvert, I don't have the money to eat out, how we can eat together during COVID) How can you overcome that? COVID note: see ideas under PRACTICE for this week.

DAY 3



Luke 19:1-10



Based on Zacchaeus' reaction to Jesus, what do you learn about the transforming power of inclusion around a meal? How does this power compare to your limitations or reasons for not eating with certain people?

DAY 4



Luke 22:7-20



What can sharing a meal with those you are reaching out to mean to them? How can you be more intentional? Who is someone you believe God wants to reach and build a relationship? What's your first step?

DAY 5



1 John 2:6-11



The challenge in these verses is to reach out to someone that is hard to love. Take steps to make a connect with this person in your life. Perhaps praying for them is a start. Then contacting them in a simple way...maybe a text of encouragement. With God's help, work up to sharing a coffee with them, not to rehash the hard experiences, but to genuinely love and care. Don't rush this ...this will take longer than a day.

BIG IDEA

EATING together IMPACTS others through connection and conversation.

EXPERIMENT

Practice: Try the same Listening exercise from last week, only this time try to do it over a meal. Consider the following:

- If the listening experiment went well last week, think about inviting the same person to eat with you. In our COVID world these days, think of a creative way to eat with people. Perhaps you could plan a virtual coffee or meal together. Even better, could you deliver a meal or coffee/muffin to someone and then meet them on zoom. Or maybe a walk and coffee would work.
- Lunch at work or school could be an excellent place to eat together with a friend or co-worker...even in COVID days in a socially distanced way.
- Weather permitting and as some restrictions are lifted, plan an outdoor get together around the fire pit or at the park. Picnic together or roast hotdogs with friends from your small group. Consider expanding the guest list to include some of your People of Peace.
- If you feel stuck on things to talk about, remember there are wealth of good conversation starters available from *Questions in a Box* questionsinabox.com.

SERVE


WEEK 4

DIGGING DEEPER


Starting with Abraham, the Bible describes God as sending his children on a MISSION to IMPACT people. This series asks the question, "WHAT IMPACTS PEOPLE?" Serving people at their point of need speaks volumes.

DAILY DIGS

DAY 1  Mark 10:42-45 & Philippians 2:1-11

 What was the attitude of Christ when he came into the world? What is your response to his attitude toward you?


DAY 2  John 8:1-11

 What needs of the woman did Jesus meet through how He served her? What can you learn from Jesus in this?


DAY 3  John 13:1-17

 Who are some of the best "servants" you've met in your life? What can you learn from them?

DAY 4  Joshua 24:14-15

 How are serving God and serving others in my life connected to each other? What does serving have to do with my spiritual growth?

DAY 5  1 Peter 4:9-11

 What is one way you can serve someone who is trying to find their way back to God? How can you serve them this week? (Remember to listen to them first.)

BIG IDEA

SERVING individuals and communities
at their point of need IMPACTS people.

EXPERIMENT

Practice: While you've been listening to others, what needs have you been hearing? How is God prompting you to tangibly meet these needs through service?

Your experiment is to pick a need and serve to meet it. Remember the following points:

- Start small. Tiny acts of service can go a long way in making the world a better place. Imagine the hundreds of good things that can result if every person in our church family served through simple acts of kindness this week.
- Think about teaming-up with your Person of Peace. As you've been listening, maybe they've shared a need they see in the world which needs to be addressed. For example, maybe your friend supports a cause that is new to you. Maybe you have a friend in common who needs help. Consider how you can work and serve together.
- If you choose to directly serve your Person of Peace, be careful to respect them. They should not be made to feel like a pet project, or that the service comes with strings attached. Service comes from a heart of love and respect for all God's children.
- If you are totally stumped on what to do maybe it's a sign that you need to go back and listen and pray some more. Check out "[10 Ways to Serve Others](#)" or "[10 Ways to Relationally Connect](#)" or "[Seek Faith Based Conversations](#)"...all documents in the Anchor Initiative Toolbox. Revisit the experiments from the last three weeks.

STORY



WEEK 5

DIGGING DEEPER

Starting with Abraham, the Bible describes God as sending his children on a MISSION to IMPACT people. This series asks the question, "WHAT IMPACTS PEOPLE?" Sharing the Story of Jesus has transforming power.

DAILY DIGS

DAY 1



John 3:1-17



What strikes you about Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus? What can you learn from his response?

DAY 2



John 9:1-34



The man told the Pharisees about his experience with Jesus and unfortunately they wouldn't listen. What has been your experience with Jesus— and have you told others about it? Why or why not?

DAY 3



Acts 8:26-40



Philip recognized an opportunity to tell the story of Jesus. Where are the opportunities in your own life to share your story of Jesus with others?

DAY 4



1 Peter 3:8-16 & Colossians 3-6



How prepared do you feel to "give the reason for the hope that you have?" What would you do to better prepare? What should the tone and content of your answer be toward those who don't believe in Jesus?

DAY 5



John 4:25-42



Who do you need to tell your story to sooner rather than later?

BIG IDEA

Sharing the STORY of Jesus IMPACTS people.



EXPERIMENT

1. **Write**—For you to IMPACT others you need a clear way of communicating the story of how you came to know God, your journey with him, and the difference he has made and is making in your life. This experiment is designed to help you pull together the key events in your journey with Christ that make up your story. Use the following questions to identify those events—don't feel like you have to answer all the questions. They are merely a way of prompting thoughts that you may use as you develop your story. This experiment will help you prepare to tell your story to anyone.

BEFORE

(NOTE: Not everyone will have a clear 'before' time. Everyone has a different journey, and some have been blessed to have Jesus in their life for as long as they can remember. Either way, take time and think about how accepting Christ has been transformative.)

- What was missing in your life?
- What in your life was not whole?
- List 3 adjectives that described your life before Christ? Which ones most describe you before Christ?
- What was your life like that will relate most to the non-Christian?
- What did your life revolve around the most? What did you get your security or happiness from? (Most people are relying on something external to give him happiness)
- How did those areas begin to let you down?
- What caused you to see that you had a need for Jesus Christ or to turn your life over to Him?
- What was going on at the time? Was it an event, a crisis, or a Christ follower's life example? What were the unique circumstances?

NOW

- Now describe the circumstances that caused you to submit your life to Jesus Christ.
- What stage of life were you in?
- What triggered you desire to make this decision?
- What was most significant about this decision?

- When was the first time you heard the gospel? (or exposed to dynamic Christianity)
- What were your initial reactions?
- When did your attitude begin to turn around? Why?
- What were the final struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ?
- Why did you go ahead and accept Christ?
- What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs?
- What finally motivated you to actually come to God for forgiveness and to accept Christ as Lord?
- Specifically, how did you receive Christ?
- What is the gospel? (Read the Appendix of this booklet for help with this question.)

AFTER

- Complete the sentences below— note the primary difference that Christ has made in your life.
 - Since inviting Christ into my life, I've become
 - Specific changes and illustrations about the changes Christ has made:
- Why are you motivated differently?
- What difference does Jesus make in your life?
- What are one or two critical ways that Jesus has changed your life since you first trusted Him?
- If you became a Christian as a child and are sharing about a subsequent commitment, consider: How have things changed since you gave your life to Christ? How has it affected the way you live?

2. Read and Practice—Now read your story out loud. Time yourself. If it is more than 5 minutes you need to shorten it by editing out things that are repetitive or extra. Practice telling your story to a friend or family member to get their honest insight as you refine your story. When you're feeling ready, go for it and share your story with a Person of Peace. (Wendy...fix font...sorry)

Perhaps you are wondering about that word "Gospel." "What is the Gospel? What are the key points of the story? How do I know I'm covering the key point?" Check out the life shape *The Crux* in the Appendix at the end of this booklet. You might find it really helpful.

Here's why your story is really important...

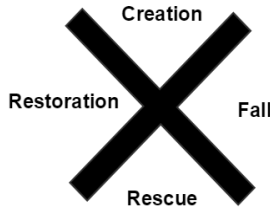
1. Your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers are interested in you and your life,
2. Others can relate to your story,
3. People cannot argue with the fact that your life has been changed
4. Your story is a witness of the power of God at work today

L I V E O N M I S S I O N I M P A C T M A K E A D I F F E R E N C E

APPENDIX

The Cruc

The Cruc is a life shape that helps us remember the key points of the gospel story when sharing it with People of Peace.



The gospel story has four acts, followed by a call to a response: the crux of the matter.

1. Act I - Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

- Life as we know it began as a creative act by a loving, relational God.
- Originally, all creation was in harmony with God and itself.
- From humanity's point of view, this harmony was reflected in three different relationships:
 - Between people and God
 - Between people and the rest of creation
 - Between each other
- People were created in God's image, and as such we enjoyed a special place in creation which gives us identity (as God's beloved children) and purpose (care for the rest of creation).

2. Act II - Fall

No one is righteous—not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

- Life as we know it became broken when people rebelled against God. We have collectively decided to take control of our lives and disobey Him.
- From humanity's point of view, this disobedience impacts those three relationships very destructively:
 - People become alienated from God.
 - People exploit the rest of Creation for their own selfish appetites.
 - People are at odds with each other.
- The ultimate consequences of this disobedience and alienation are the death and destruction of all creation. However God isn't willing to let the story end there.
- Starting with Abraham and his family (the Israelites), God made a plan to bring harmony back to his beloved creation.

3. Act III - Rescue

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. (Col. 1:13)

- Most of the OT is the story of how God worked with Abraham's family to return his creation back into a relationship of harmony.
- As one of Abraham's descendants, Jesus is the climax of God's plan to rescue us from sin and death, and restore harmony to our relationships.
 - Through his life and teaching Jesus shows us how to live again in harmony with God, creation and each other.
 - Through his death on a cross, he bore the full consequences of our sin and rebellion on our behalf.
 - Through his resurrection, he conquered death and makes a fresh start with God possible for us.
- The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ started a new era of harmony between God, humanity and creation.

4. Act IV - Restoration

Look, I am making everything new! (Rev. 21:5)

- Restoration is actually possible through Jesus. His followers are called to participate with him in bringing harmony between themselves and God, and creation and others.
- We can't fix the consequences of the fall on our own (this is bad news). We call it good news because, God would takes the initiative and sends his son to rescue us from the Fall. This is very good news indeed!

- While this restoration is now possible, it's not fully realized yet. Followers of Jesus look forward to complete restoration of God's creation when Christ returns. Until then, they live out and share this story of good news to all who will listen.

5. The Crux of the Matter: How Do You Respond to Jesus?

The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News! (Mark 1:15)

- The Fall is something that touches us all. When we're honest with ourselves, we admit that we all have disobeyed and rebelled against God.
- As a result, all of us experience broken relationships with God, other people and creation. The good news is that Jesus provides a way to put those relationships back together.
- If this resonates with you and you want to start putting these relationships back together, you can embrace Jesus as your rescuer now.
- You can do this by simply opening up your life to him in prayer--acknowledging your need for God's forgiveness and direction. As you do this, he will welcome you with forgiveness, freedom and peace.

The Crux in Context

The main context for the Crux is in living out B.L.E.S.S. with people of peace.

Begin with prayer

Listen

Eat

Serve

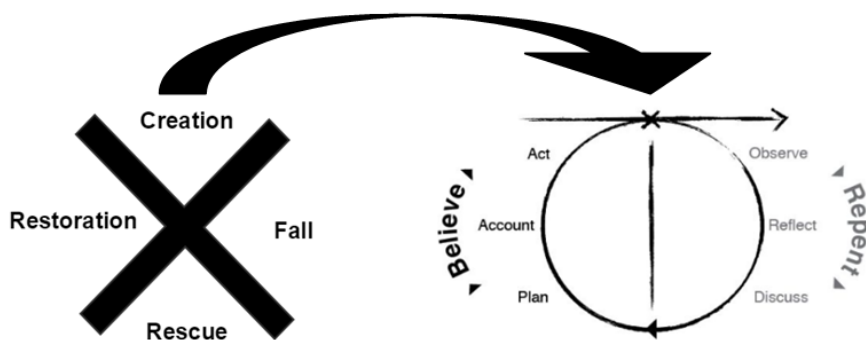
Share

- *Share* is the last letter in B.L.E.S.S. This implies that sharing the gospel story is not normally the first thing we do in a relationship. The privilege of sharing the story is earned by investing in relationships first. Begin with prayer; then Listen, Eat, Serve together--all this usually comes before you Share the gospel story. When the time comes, The Crux is designed to help you to remember the key parts of the gospel story.
- As we do life together with our people of peace, we will find that we don't always share the whole story at once. As God gives opportunities, you will be able to share parts of the story along the way as you live into B.L.E.S.S.
- That said, God will eventually open up opportunities to share the whole story of The Crux. We need to be able to tell the whole story at once in few minutes.

What Comes Next?

Another context of the Crux shape is the rest of the life shapes. When a person is ready to follow Jesus, the next natural step of discipleship is to begin to mentor that person in some of the basic life shapes (e.g. The Triangle, The Circle, The Semicircle).

The Crux is intentionally crafted in such a way to mesh with The Learning Circle. On the Circle, our Kairos moments are represented by an X on the timeline of our lives. Perhaps the primary Kairos moment of our lives is when we come to understand the gospel and claim that story for ourselves.



So, if the gospel is explained to someone using the Crux, and later the Learning Circle is introduced to a disciples, there is a readymade connection point for how one discerns the Kairos moments as they come. The Crux (meeting and following Jesus) is an easy first example of a Kairos that a person can reflect on.



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