



Oikios

Luke 10: 5-7

The homes and families accepting the message of the Kingdom of God became home centers and bases for the early evangelists. They were given food and clothing in these houses, but they also became places from which to travel to the following cities.

Being a community at home was very common in the NT

We often see Jesus in families or groups. He is talking about forming spiritual families.

Matt 3:31-35

Jesus is speaking here about those who do God's will. They are brothers and sisters and mother.

Mark 10:29,30

Jesus calls us to give up everything for the gospel. He is talking here about a spiritual family of which God is the Father, with spiritual brothers and sisters.

Paul Follows Jesus' Footsteps

1Ti 5:1,2

Paul here calls the members of the congregation family members.

1Ti 3:15

The house of God is the Ekklesia.

John

1 John 2:12-14

John also speaks of fathers and children.

Oikios

The temple was very important in the rituals of worship, but just as important was the celebration together in the houses.

Oikios is a person's sphere of influence in the network of social relationships.

Jesus uses this principle a lot in His assignments to people who are healed or set free.

Mark 2:14

Jesus goes to Levi's house and meets many there.

Mark 5:19

Go to your house and tell what happened.

Luke 10:38-40

Martha has invited Jesus, and there are many other guests here.

John 4:49-53

The courtier's son is healed, then his whole house (family).

Acts of the Apostles

We see the apostles going into the world. They often find themselves in situations where the whole household comes to faith.

- Cornelius (*Acts 10:24*)
- Lydia (*Acts 16:15*)
- The jailer (*Acts 16:30-34*)





Oikios is very effective because:

- The natural network of relationships is used.
- Oikos members are more receptive when they hear the message of a family member or friend who has been radically changed by the preaching of the gospel. Their testimony works wonders!
- Oikios relationships are long-term and therefore give the opportunity to show the testimony of a changed life in a casual way. Words may not be as convincing, but a change in lifestyle can.
- Oikios relationships quickly take on the care of newborn relatives. Integration in an Ekklesia is therefore easier in their new "community".
- Oikios relationships always provide opportunities to win new relationships for Christ. The gospel is really a mustard seed. It starts small but will grow strongly. Each new community member has an oikios.

The Good News and the Blessing

Ex 20:5-7

The curse runs in families up to the third and fourth generations, but the blessing is much greater and more powerful. Everyone who loves God and does His will is blessed. This blessing continues into the thousandth generation.

When you come to faith, the blessing is going to come not only to you. It will go to your family. The curse has been broken by your confession to recognize Jesus as your King. The blessing starts with you and will continue to your family.

EXERCISE



As we have learned, pray for an open heart first. Work the "soil" of your family in prayer. They see the changes in your life and will certainly start to get and ask questions.



Be wise in what and how you tell your story. Don't talk condemnation. For example: what I have now discovered is much better. Don't say, "What you believe now is all wrong." Jesus showed the good Kingdom and almost never drew attention to the bad. He actually only did that to hypocritical people.