

# What is Oikos Mapping?

Oikos Mapping is a tool that has revolutionized the way many Christians think about evangelism. Simply put, **Oikos** is a Greek word that means **family**. In a family in Jesus' time would also include servants, extended family and anyone else residing in their home. Basically, **it's their circle of influence**. For us this could include not only our family but our friends, coworkers, and acquaintances. It can even include the guy at the gas station that you see in your everyday rhythm. It is anyone that we come in contact with on a regular basis giving you the ability to, even in a small way, have influence in their lives.

So what does this have to do with us and how does it help us to spread the gospel? Well the word Oikos is used about 120 times in the New Testament. Often times when Jesus found people that were open to his message he would eventually share the message with their entire family network, their Oikos. A great example is when Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). After Jesus revealed his message and who he was, she went and told her Oikos, the whole town, and they came to hear Jesus and many were healed.

God has given us influence in the lives of the people that are in our Oikos. We know them and often times we know what is going on in their lives. This not only gives us influence, but it provides insight into what needs to be prayed for.

## Why "mapping?"

Mapping is a tool to help us organize our efforts, show us where we need to be working, and is a great way to pray for the people that you know.

We've identified 5 Oikos circles that we find in most of our lives; friends, family, neighbors, work, and rhythms. Rhythms are those areas or businesses that you are routinely connected to. It could be the server at your favorite restaurant, your hair stylist, the gas station attendant, etc.

## How do I begin?

Begin by writing names in each category and then circles those names and connect them back to their respective Oikos circles. This is your immediate Oikos. But it doesn't stop there. Who do these people know? How are they connected? Continue drawing circles and names and how they are connected. These are called generations. He keeps drawing circles until you have mapped everyone you influence.

Now you have a handy tool that you can pray over. This also serves as a visual reference of where they are in relationship to you and the scope of your influence. As you talk to each person on your map, make notes on where they are in their knowledge of the gospel and what their next steps might be!