

DAY FOUR

OIKOS MAP

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. A family in Jesus' time would also include servants, extended family, and anyone else residing in their home. Basically, it was their circle of influence. For us this could include not only our family but our friends, coworkers, and acquaintances. It is anyone that we come in contact with on a regular basis that gives us the ability to, even in a small way, have influence in their lives.

The word Oikos is used about 120 times in the New Testament. Oftentimes when Jesus found people who 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 believed in Him. God has given us influence in the lives of the people that are in our Oikos. We know them and oftentimes we know what is going on in their lives. This not only gives us influence, but it provides insight into how we can pray for them.

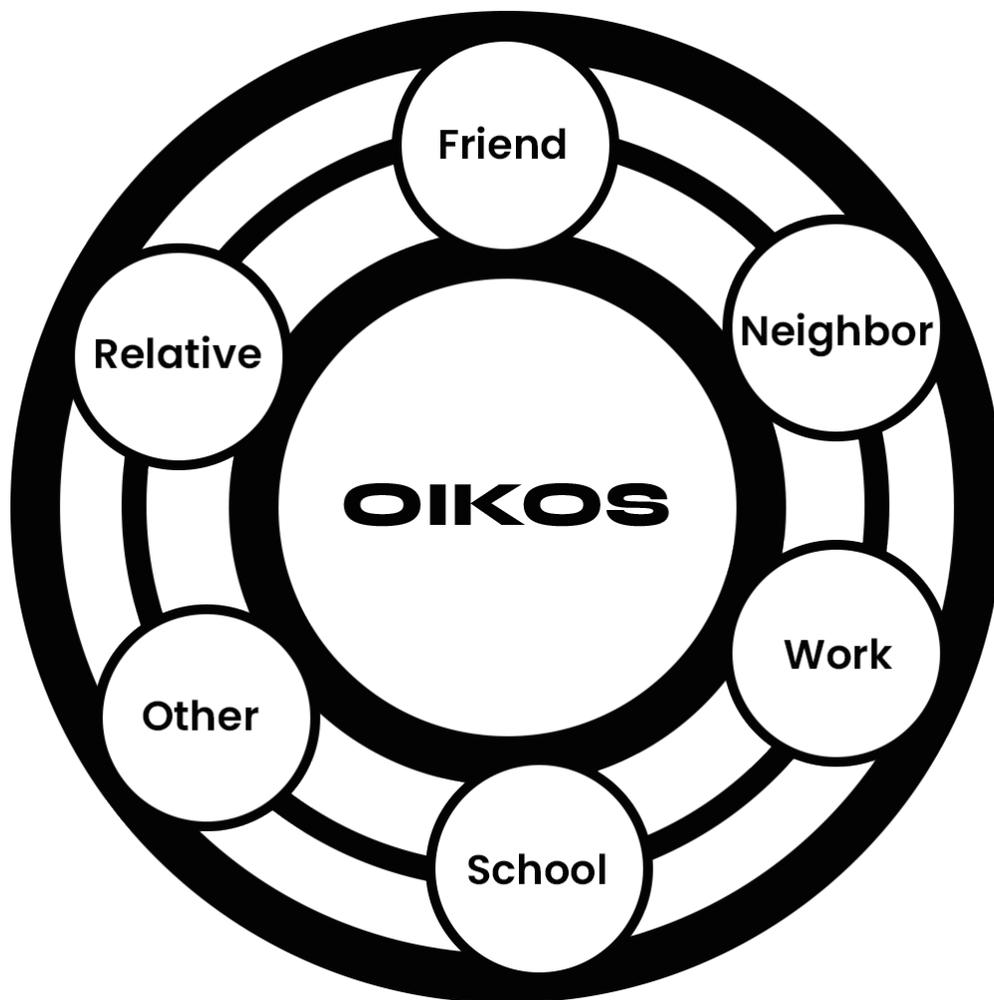
WHY "MAPPING"?

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 we 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 asking God for five or more names. Write these names in the primary category they belong. 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. You can keep drawing circles until you have mapped everyone you influence. Now you have specific names that you can commit to praying over.

Reference the Oikos circle on the next page for inspiration.



ROMANS 10:14-17

Grab your Bible and open to today's reading. Use the PRAY and HEAR tools as you spend time in the Word.

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R

Take a moment and use the PRAY tool to respond in prayer.