

DON'T STOP REACHING OUT TO YOUR OIKOS: DON'T STOP EXPANDING YOUR OIKOS

By Bob Young

The Bible word that is used to describe family and friendship circles is oikos. **Never stop reaching out to your oikos.** Family and friends are in the best position to help others find and walk with Jesus. Among the first people Christians should seek to convert to Jesus are family and friends. Most new believers come to Jesus because someone close to them spoke to them about Jesus. People are attracted to Jesus when they see Jesus through the lens of the life of a family member or close friend. Begin with, continue, and never give up on your oikos, your family circle, your friendship circle, your circle of influence.

One of the easiest ways to reach out to your oikos is through a small group. Small groups are the primary place where people see Jesus in the lives of others. The harvest that each believer is constantly working toward in his or her oikos is reaped in the combined work of the small groups and the assembled congregation. People attend with a readiness to see firsthand what the Good News of Jesus is all about.

We are accustomed to seeing people respond to the gospel in the assembly, but most of the heavy lifting has been done in personal relationships outside the assembly – in the family, in friendships, in groups. Do not miss this truth. The key element in evangelism is the work each member does in his or her oikos. The harvest is seen as people come to Jesus and are baptized. That most often occurs in the assembly but it also occurs in family circles, friendship circles, informal assemblies, and small groups.

That is why expanding your oikos is an important part of evangelism. Develop new friendship patterns, seek new relationships, personal connections, interactions.

The first steps are always the same: do not stop reaching out to your oikos; do not stop expanding your oikos. Build relationships, model Jesus, talk about Jesus. Let us never tire of encouraging one another as we reach out to those in the intimate circles of our lives.