



Recalibrating Our Discipleship as Extended Family Acts 10

In the Oikos Principle, we have been given a strategy for relational connection, evangelism, deep discipleship, and formation.

Introduction:Recalibration of Discipleship

Concept of Oikos

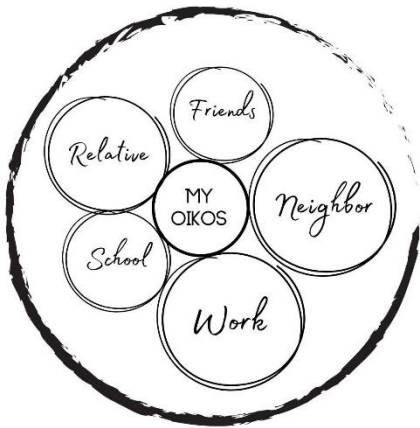
Definition of *Oikos*: "a house" (an inhabited house, home, any building, any dwelling place), "descendants," (extended family and genealogy) or one household.

“The Greeks used one word to describe this personal world: *oikos*, or ‘extended household.’ This is the world God wants to use each of us to change, our individual world! God has always utilized the family unit as the primary arena for effective evangelism.” – Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think* (p. 16)

“A household usually contained four generations, including men, married women, unmarried daughters, slaves of both sexes, persons without citizenship and ‘sojourners,’ or resident foreign workers.” – Tom Mercer, *8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think* (p. 16)

What is the oikos principle?

MY OIKOS



Who is your *oikos*?

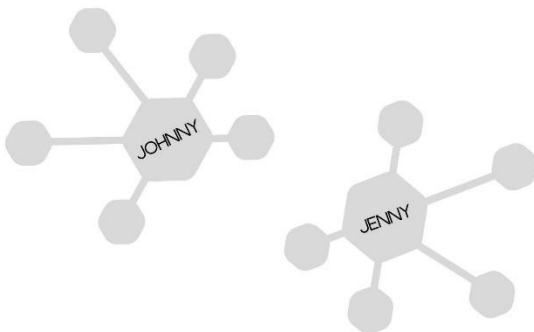
Takeaways from Acts 10 Story:

1. Both Cornelius and Peter are engaging in cross-cultural hospitality. It's their faith and pursuit of Jesus that causes them to step out of their cultural comfort zones.
2. Neither Peter nor Cornelius engage in this work alone. They are doing this entire exchange with their circles of relationship (*oikos*) participating along with them.
3. God uses their willingness to risk by showing up in a supernatural way.

Greenwood's Vision Statement: *New generations seeking the Kingdom on Earth as in Heaven.*

Our response with the 5:1 Ratio

5:1 RATIO FOR KID AND
TEEN SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Who is in your 5:1?

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your experience having the whole church worship together this past Sunday? What did you notice about having all ages worship together?
2. What was your big takeaway from the sermon this week?
3. Have you ever thought about the concept of *oikos* previously? Is this a concept that is new to you? If so, what are your first impressions of the concept?
4. In Acts 10, we see Cornelius' entire household come to faith in Jesus and become baptized. How might that have impacted their local community? Do you think others in their circle may have noticed?
5. How might organizing your life through the lens of *oikos* shift your current way of organizing relationships with family, friends and beyond?
6. Have you ever heard of the 5:1 faith formation strategy? What is your reaction to this concept?
7. How would you like to participate in the faith formation of the young people of Greenwood in this next season?
8. What's a step you can take this week to move towards *oikos* and 5:1 in your life?

Bibliography

Bock, Darrell L. *Acts*. Edition Unstated. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2007.

Fernando, Ajith. *Acts*. Annotated edition. Zondervan Academic, 2010.

Mercer, Tom. *8 to 15, The World Is Smaller Than You Think*. Oikos Books, 2013.

Mercer, Tom. *Not My Church*. Oikos Books, 2021.

Pinter, Dean. *Acts*. Edited by Scot McKnight. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

Powell, Kara, and Steven Argue. *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2019.

Powell, Kara, Chap Clark, John Ortberg and Jim Candy. *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids*. Zondervan, 2011.

Schnabel, Eckhard J. *Acts*. Edited by Clinton E. Arnold. Zondervan Academic, 2016.