

Friend Day 5

Lesson 5

Household Salvation 2

I. Intro. In today's lesson I want to continue developing the concept of relational evangelism by teaching you about Household Salvation.

A. Relational evangelism focuses on people that know us; our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.

B. For this reason relational evangelism is sometimes called "Frangelism".

C. It can be a fun way to reach out to people, and the great thing is that we can do it as a team.

D. The Greek word oikos, which appears in some form in most of the scripture passages we are about to look at, is translated **house or household** in English.

E. The word *oikos* refers to a wider group of persons than we mean today by the word household.

F. It includes immediate family, extended family, friends, people we work with, our neighbors, and other people we frequently associate with.

G. The church in the first century grew because early Christians shared the Good News with people that belonged to their "*oikos*".

H. The church has always grown best when Christians share with family, friends, and associates, and neighbors.

II. The Main Method of Evangelism.

A. In the Gospels and the book of Acts, especially in chapters 10 and following, the "main method" of evangelism of the early church emerges.

B. It is not a program or a well-oiled scheme—it is what we will call "*oikos evangelism*".

C. "Oikos" is the Greek word for "household", but we must be careful not to read into this term our own concept of the nuclear family.

D. A Greco-Roman household contained not only several generations of the same family, but also included servants, the families of servants, friends, and even business associates.

E. Essentially, new believers shared their faith with other members of their "oikos", and thus people came to faith through networks of relationships.

F. Not only church history, but also modern research has shown that the vast majority of persons come to faith through the witness of a friend.

G. WHY PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH (*Research by the Institute for American church Growth*)

1. Special Need 1-2 %
2. Walk-in 2-3%
3. Pastor 5-6%
4. Visitation 1-2%
5. Sunday School 4-5%
6. Crusade $\frac{1}{2}$ %
7. Church Program 2-3%
8. Friend/relative 75-90%

III. Examples of household evangelism cont.

A. After Jesus healed the son of a royal official, "he and all his household [Gk: oikia] believed." (John 4:46-53 NKJV) ⁴⁶ *So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no*

means believe.⁴⁹ The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"⁵² Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."⁵³ So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.

B. (Acts 28:1-10 NKJV) Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta.² And the natives^[a] showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.⁴ So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live."⁵ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.⁶ However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.⁷ In that region there was an estate of the ^[b]leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days.⁸ And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.⁹ So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.¹⁰ They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

IV. Conclusion

A. Be conscious of the fact that every person you minister to has a household. You are not just ministering to one person, you are ministering to his or her household.

B. Let's be aware that this was the primary pattern of New Testament evangelism and let's use this pattern intentionally to minister to the households of the people in our church.

V. Friend Day Lesson 3 Homework

A. Pray over these four points daily.

1. Look to Jesus
2. Look Up. Jesus is coming soon.
3. Look to Yourself.
4. Look at the Harvest.

B. Ask God to build confidence and assurance in your life that you are qualified to minister to your friends.

C. Continue to pray for your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors. Ask God to show you what characteristics of scattered sheep they have.

D. Ask God to show you how to begin to encourage them and how to meet some of their 7 heartfelt needs.

E. Keep working on memorizing these four verses. The Romans Road of Salvation

1. Rom. 3:23 NKJV Man's Need

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Rom. 6:23 NKJV Sin's Penalty

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Rom. 5:8 NKJV God's Provision

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Rom. 10:9 NKJV Man's Response

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

F. Continue to write down names of people that God brings to your mind to invite to Friendship Sunday. Ask the Lord, "Who are the friends that you want me to minister to?" Write down 5 names and begin to pray for them. Write those 5 names down and bring the list to church next week. Make two copies. One for yourself to keep and one for the Pastor's Prayer Circle to begin to pray for.

G. If you cannot think of a friend, then ask the Lord to open your eyes to people around you who are demonstrated the signs of a scattered sheep. Ask God to show you how to minister to that person.

Cut along this line and bring the bottom half back to church with you next week.

Focus on your unsaved friends and relatives or some believer who is out of fellowship and needs to be restored.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____