

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Week # 2

LOVE YOUR 8 to 15 - **INVEST**

INTRODUCTION

Discuss as a group how the Oikos process is going for each person:

Do each of you have some names on your card?

- Remind everyone that the number of people on your card is not important. You can add names at any time.
- Keep praying and ask God who should be on your list.

Have you been praying for them?

- When are you praying for your oikos? What has worked for you to make it a normal habit?
- You might try copying your list onto a post-it note and stick it to your bathroom mirror, your car dashboard, a kitchen cabinet or wherever you will see it at a time that it fits into your daily routine to pray. The bottom line is to make it work for you.
- As you pray for your oikos daily, have you noticed anything? How are you feeling? Do these people come to mind more often through the day?

We need to invest in people relationally.

In general terms, what does invest mean?

What does invest look like?

What keeps you from investing in others (answers from a survey)

- 1) lack of time
- 2) feeling like it's not worth the investment (not going to bear fruit)
- 3) I don't know how to invest in someone
- 4) I don't feel it's important to invest in others for the sake of the gospel
- 5) I don't feel spiritually prepared to invest in another person.
- 6) Other

How would you answer?

- 60% of the people who answered said lack of time.

It's important to remember that when Jesus told us to "go and make disciples", the word translated "go" is more accurately "as you go". Don't think of OIKOS as a new item on your to-do list, but a mindset.

As we practice the OIKOS Principle, we need to expect some transformation in ourselves

Remember that the people in our OIKOS were placed there by God

- He wants to reach them through us. We may be how they first see Jesus.
- Our role is **to pray for them, then invest in them.**

Who has invested in you in a way that had significant impact on you?

What if God changes you because of your prayers and investment into a friend?
As a community group you also have an opportunity to invest as a group and have a big impact. **Have someone read Mark 2:1-12 aloud.**

- How did they invest in the paralytic man?
- It appears that they were meeting two needs. What were his needs?
- What motivated them? What do you think their relationship was with the man?
- Whatever their relationship, they had great compassion for him, great enough to carry him through the crowd, dig through the roof and lower him into the room!
- What does Jesus say in verse 5 about faith?
- The four men were compassionate, showed initiative, were persistent and used teamwork to help the paralyzed man.

We need to be on the lookout, as a community group, for times when we might invest together and help meet a need.

Brainstorm some specific ways a person could invest in someone in their OIKOS.

• **Have a conversation.**

Perhaps you have probably heard of the **FORM** method, which gives you four areas to ask about when you are trying to get to know someone:

Family/Friends, Occupation, Recreation and Motivation.

Remember to share about yourself too!

• **Meet a need.**

Think of those in your oikos? What might they need?

The conversations above might lead to discovery of a need.

• **Celebrate with them.**

What could this include?

Basically, just look for ways to celebrate with people in our Oikos.

Try to **B.L.E.S.S.** them

B. Begin with prayer.

Ask God, how do you want me to bless the people You places in my Oikos?

L. Listen.

Don't talk, but listen to people. Their struggles, their pains, their story.

E stands for eat.

You have to have a meal with people or a cup of coffee. It builds relationships.

S stands for serve.

If you listen to people, and you eat with people, they will tell you how to love them and you'll know how to serve them.

The last S stands for story.

When the time is right, now we talk and we share the story of how Jesus changed our life.

[Prayers for Your Oikos](#)

[Sermon - INVEST](#)

[OIKOS WORKSHOP 2014 PART 2](#)