

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR PART 3

Materials for the 8 to 15 Series:

Oikos cards

Change the World booklet: Get printed copies from Pastor Joe

Oikos book: "not my church" Tom Mercer - available at Info booth \$ 15

- This book is not a requirement for anyone, just a resource for those who like to read.

A very dramatic example of the power of Oikos is recorded in Acts 10 & 11

Read the passage aloud –Acts10:1 through 11:18

- Describe Cornelius

(Gentile, Centurion/Roman officer who commanded 100 soldiers, God fearing, praying man, respected by the Jews)

- Describe Peter

(Jewish, a fisherman then a follower of Jesus, preacher)

- Cornelius was in Caesarea at the time of this event, but would likely be returning to Rome soon.

- What was Cornelius' vision? (Acts 10:3-6)

- How did Cornelius respond? (Acts 10:7-8)

- At Cornelius' men were arriving in Joppa, Peter had a vision.

What did Peter see? (Act 10:11-16)

Why was this vision so shocking to Peter?

How does Peter respond to the request to go to Cornelius?

- When Peter and Cornelius' men arrive back in Caesarea, what happens?

- When Peter is later explaining his actions to believers in Jerusalem, how does he justify salvation of the Gentiles? (Acts 11:12-18)

Is there someone in your Oikos like a Cornelius?

- Are you praying for someone that you think is the most unlikely of all to believe?

- If there is, describe them and your connection to them.

- If not, why not?

There are at least a few possibilities:

1) God has not yet placed someone like that on your list,

2) You don't know them well enough or

3) You don't yet recognize that they are part of your Oikos.

Is it possible you have "declined" the addition of someone to your Oikos?

God's plan to reach the Gentiles (and you and me) included Peter.

- What if God's plan to reach your friend or co-worker includes you?

As you **PRAY** for, **INVEST** in, and **INVITE** those in your Oikos, you also need to be ready to share your story and the gospel with them.

- Read 1 Peter 3:15 aloud

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

One way you can prepare for this opportunity is to be ready with your own story

[THE POWER IN A STORY](#) Link to "must as" video

MY STORY WORKSHEET

My attention-getting opening sentence:

Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

When and how I received Christ:

After I received Jesus into my life, my life has changed in these ways:

A verse that means a lot to me:

- Walk through the parts together.

Attention getting opening sentence (I would do this part last.)

Before (what was missing in life that drew you to God)

When (your actual conversion)

After (life now and how it is better)

A meaningful verse

- Ask your group to write out their story this week and come back next week ready to share it.

The second way to prepare is to know you're **A-B-C's** so that you can share the gospel message

- **Admit** – admit that you are a sinner and need a Savior

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

- **Believe** – believe that Jesus is the only and exact Savior you need

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- **Commit** – commit to love and follow Jesus Christ

John 1:12 “Yet to all who did receive Him to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

CLOSE IN PRAYER

End your time together by asking everyone to close their eyes, then read this:

We are the ekklesia, the called -out, sent into the world to share the precious gift we have.

God gave His on Son for our salvation

We each need to wrestle with that fact until we can recognize the gift it is, connect deeply with God and then be prepared to share his gift with others.

Hear again how He loves you...

Romans 8:38–39 (TPT): So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God’s love. I’m convinced that his love will triumph over death, life’s troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. 39 There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God’s passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!

RESOURCES

[**OIKOS - INVITE**](#)

[**OIKOS WORKSHOP 2014 PART 3**](#)

Some Southern Preaching

[**OIKOS 1**](#)

[**OIKOS 2**](#)