

## FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Introduction – Research confirms that most people are influenced to follow Christ by close relationships like friends and relatives, rather than church programs or other means of outreach.

A. One of the secrets to the rapid expansion of the early church was that it used natural social connections. *Oikos* is a Greek word translated family, household, etc.

1. Jesus gave interesting directions to the demon-possessed man He healed.

Mark 5:18-20

2. Cornelius' conversion is a good model for the way the church grew.

Acts 10:1-2; 24

3. Lydia appears to be a successful single business woman.

Acts 16:13-15

B. The first step in successfully sharing the good news message is to identify those who are in your sphere of influence (*oikos*).

F - Friends that are of a long standing nature

R - Relatives with whom you are connected

A - Associates at work or any organizations where you are a member

N - Neighbors that live relatively close to you

1. You should start by identifying those in your *oikos* that live close enough to attend this congregation.
2. Next you should select among these people the ones that appear to be the most open to you and spiritual conversations.
3. Then place these people on a prayer list and commit to praying to God to give you an opportunity to better connect with them.
4. You must consciously “intentionalize” this natural process.

Conclusion – Evangelism is a natural process of sowing, cultivating, and harvesting your sphere of influence for Jesus sake.

Mark 4:26-29

1. Unless you have an *oikos* that is full of open people, you need to reach out and expand your existing *oikos*.
2. What are some ways you could expand your sphere of influence in some area of your life?