

## #8: Miracle Grow: Sharing Your New Life

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*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

*From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. Acts 17:24–27, NIV*

*For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:13–15, NLT*

*For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost. Luke 19:10, NLT*

*Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." John 20:21, NLT*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8, NLT*

*A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. Acts 8:1, NLT*

*But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Acts 8:4, NLT*

Oikos is the Greek word for household. However its meaning is much broader than what we typical give to the definition of household. For us, "household" means those who live under one roof. However, for those living in the Middle East during the time of Christ it came to mean that group of people with whom you have contact. It is a group that could be classified into three categories of relationships.

- 1) Family --those related to you,
- 2). Friendship-- those you like to hang out with, and
- 3) Associates--those with whom you have a working relationship.

**OIKOS** = *the people that God has placed within my relational influence.*

## Examples of Oikos Outreach

*Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, "Your son will live." And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. John 4:53, NLT*

*Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." Mark 5:19, NIV*

*At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly...The following day he(Peter) arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends...While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." Acts 10:1-2, 24, 44, NIV*

*When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. Acts 16:15, NIV*

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ...The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family." Acts 16:31, 34, NIV*

*Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach. And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen. 2 Timothy 2:8–10, NLT*

*"OIKOS evangelism is the God-given and God-ordained means for naturally sharing our supernatural message. The early church spread through oikos evangelism—evangelizing family members who saw the old sinner become the new saint; sharing with the neighbor who questioned how such a difference had come over his old friend, and reaching the guys in the local trade union or the oikos that played tennis together....It is here, also, that we catch an eye-burning hint of the key to oikos evangelism: Life transformation. If oikos evangelism is God's key to the natural and rapid spread of the Good News, the life transformation is the key to oikos penetration and persuasion. Life transformation."-- Dr. Tom Wolf*

*So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. Mark 5:20, NIV*

*The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, "No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him." Luke 8:38–39, NLT*

*"Who knows if perhaps you were made queen(at this time and in this place in history) for just such a time as this—to open your mouth?" Esther 4:14, NLT*

## Your response this week:

1. Make a list of 5 people with whom you could share the good news.
2. Begin praying daily for boldness and opportunity to talk with them.
3. Consider using tools and helps that you can find under the section, "Just Sow It" at [evergreenbloomington.com](http://evergreenbloomington.com).
4. If you face any questions you do not know how to answer, go to [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)
5. Share this lesson with someone who needs to hear it. Let God use you in someone else's life!