

ATHENS *Prayer Network* USA

Praying for Your World

For God so loved your world that He gave you! Before you get the stones out to throw my way, let me explain myself! I am not trying to dilute the fact that God loved us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die for us. Nevertheless, His great love goes through His Son to us and then through us to our world. Your world knows you are a follower of Jesus because of your love. And those closest to you experience His love through you the most.

What is Oikos?

The Greek word oikos means extended household. It is the most natural and common environment for evangelism to occur. Your oikos consists of eight to fifteen people with whom you share life most closely with. It's your greatest sphere of influence. These are the people for whom God wants you to become an instrument of grace in their lives.

Why pray for your Oikos?

Does prayer make a difference in the lives of those closest to you? It makes ALL the difference in their lives! God is waiting to move in people's lives. What can keep the all-powerful, all wise, ever-present, sovereign God from doing anything? Our lack of prayer does! By God's own wisdom, He withholds many things until we pray. Jesus instructed us to ask the Father for His kingdom to come and His will to be done here on this earth. Would Jesus instruct us to ask for something that the Father was going to do whether we asked or not? Seeing God's kingdom come and His will done is directly in proportion to our asking for it in Jesus name! So, God has put people in our world, who unless we pray God will not (can not?) move in their lives. Think of it this way, if we don't pray they are left on their own. But what if you began to intentionally, strategically and daily pray for them? I guarantee, you will see God begin to do things in their lives. Now imagine with me, what if all followers of Christ prayed for their oikos in such a way? We would see the greatest movement of God this world has ever experienced!

Identifying your Oikos

Take a few moments and list the folks whom you think are in your oikos. These 8-15 people are those closest to you. Your oikos consists of people from your family, school, work, etc.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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Begin praying for each of these folks daily, intentionally and strategically. Pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done in their lives. If they don't know Jesus yet, cry out that God would draw their hearts to Him. If they already know Him be asking that they would grow in their "knowledge of Him" that they might love Him more. Be audacious in your asking.

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