

# Oikos Mapping

Oikos Mapping is a tool that has revolutionized the way many Christians think about evangelism. Simply put, Oikos is a Greek word that means family. In a family in Jesus time would also include servants, extended family and anyone else residing in their home. Basically it's their circle of influence. For us this could include not only our family but our friends, coworkers, and acquaintances. It can even include the guy at the gas station that you see every morning. It is any one that we commonly come in contact on a regular basis giving you the ability to, even in a small way, have a bit of influence in their lives.

So what does this have to do with us and how does it help us to spread the gospel? Well the word oikos is used about 120 times in the New Testament. Often times when Jesus found people that were open to His message He would eventually share the message with the entire family network, their oikos. A great example is when Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). After Jesus revealed His message and who he was, she went and told her oikos, the whole town, and they came to hear Jesus and many were healed. Another great example is in Luke 19, the story of Zacchaeus. Jesus went to eat at Zacchaeus' house and in the end Jesus says that, "Salvation has come to your house today."

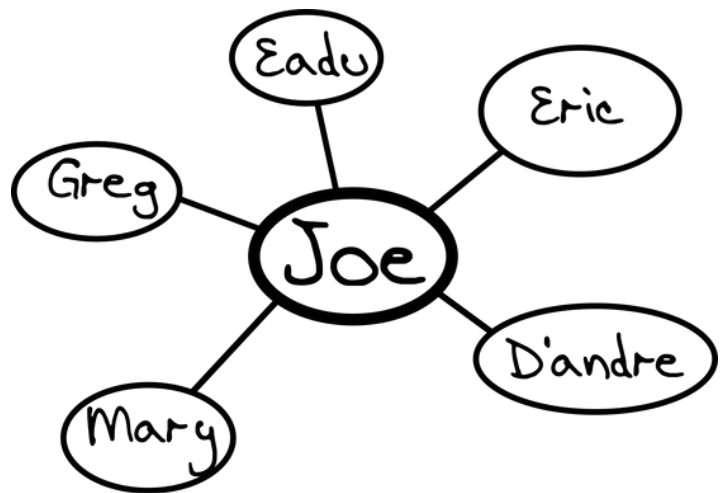
We have an influence in the lives of the people that are in our oikos. We know them, often times we know what is going on in their lives. This, not only gives us an influence but it also gives us insight on what to be in prayer for.

## Mapping

Ok, so that is the oikos, but what is mapping? Mapping is a tool to help us organize our efforts, show us where we need to be working, and is a great way to pray for the people that you know.  
Let's start...

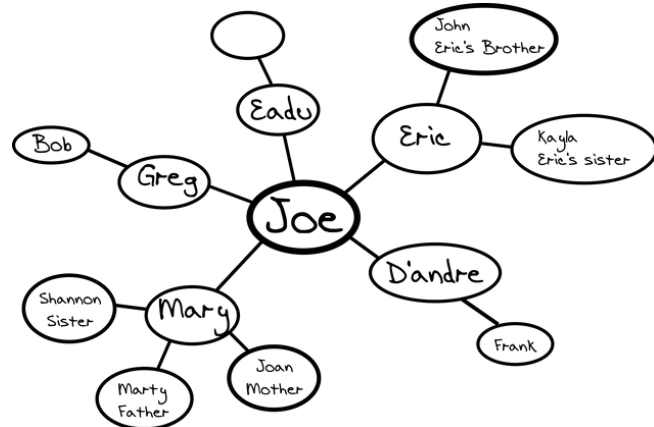


Meet Joe. Joe begins his oikos map with one circle, himself. Joe then starts to draw more circles around himself with connecting lines. We will start with five. You can and I encourage you to do more than this, write in every one you know. Five is just a good starting place. In each circle he writes a name of a person that he knows. It could be a family member, a friend, a coworker etc.

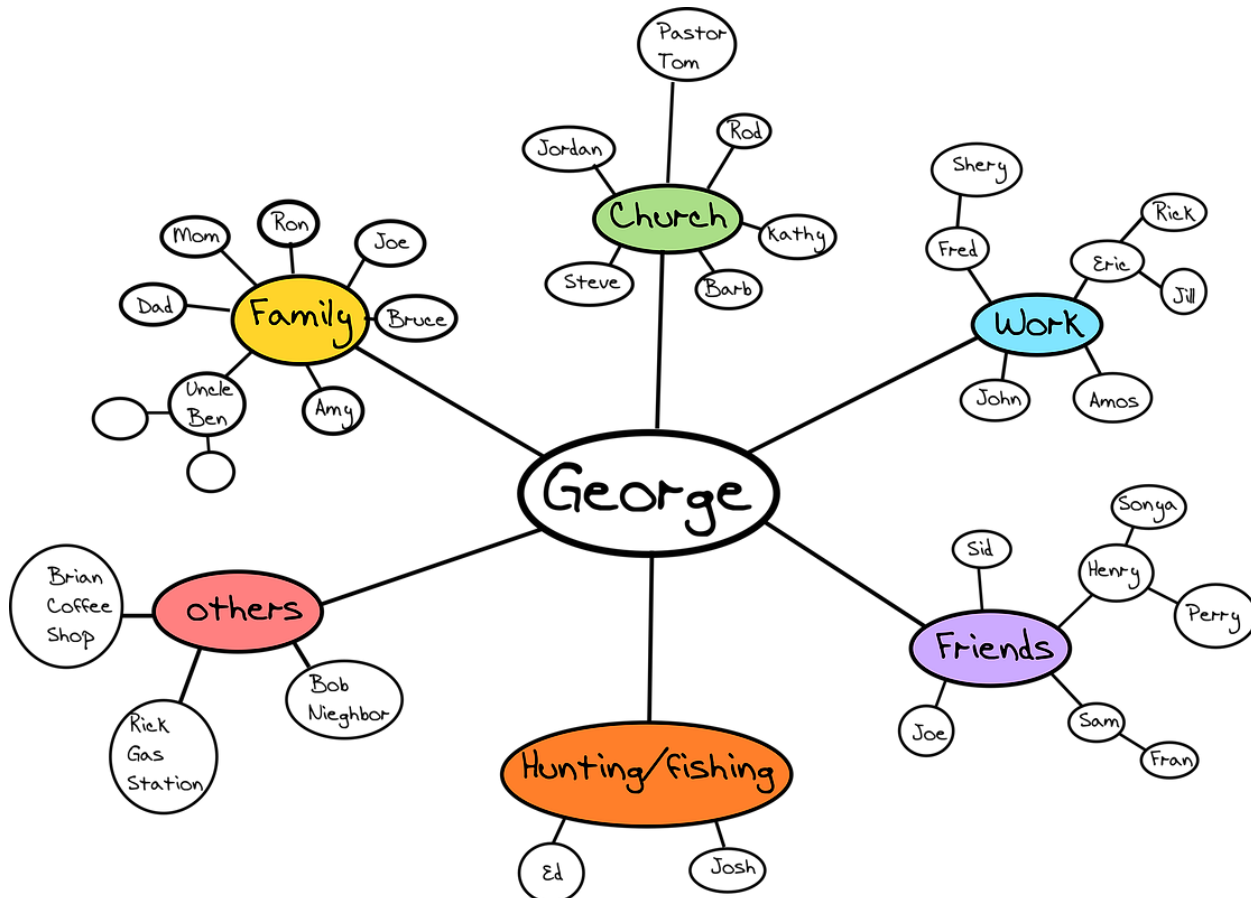


This is his immediate oikos. But it doesn't stop there. Who do these people know? How are they connected? Continue drawing circles and names and how they are connected. These are called generations. He keeps drawing circles until he has mapped everyone he knows.

Now he has a handy tool that he can use to pray over each person of his oikos and he can visualize where they are in relationship to himself. As he talks to each person he is able to make notes where they are on their walk with Jesus and what the next steps might be.



## An Advanced Method



Here is a little more advanced method. This time George starts with himself as before, but this time he picks 6 different colors and make circles with longer connecting lines. In each of these circles he writes a different area or aspect of his life. He starts with family in one circle. He writes work in another circle, he puts church in another. Then adds friends to the group and finally his hobbies, hunting and fishing groups. Then he adds one more final circle, people he meets in passing like at the gas station or coffee shop.

Each of these circles represents an area of his life. Next, he branches them out with names of people in each circle. So his sister and brother connect to the family circle, his church friends connect to the church circle and so on.

This is a great way to organize it and have a visual representation as to where they are relationally. You can also use this as a diagnostics tool.

Let's say you are like many Christians and have a lot of friends at church, but not so many non-Christian friends. You might need to find a way to get out into the community and meet new people.

Oikos Mapping is a great tool to help you organize, pray and connect with people with the Gospel of Christ.