# *Oikos* Sermon Outline Week 2

## Title: Making Missional Households

### Bible Verses: Acts 16:11-15

### Key Take-Away: Our household is the starting point of mission.

### 30-Second Summary: Mission doesn’t have to be big. It’s often better when it starts small. The household is the basic unit of mission. Our households and families are the place where mission begins.

### Introduction:

We are often conditioned to think that mission is something that is done by professionals, or that something is only missional when you are completing some kind of project or programme. The Bible shows us something different - that the household is the foundation of all mission.

These short verses show us how Lydia used her household as a missional unit. Her hospitality and welcome into the household became the starting point of Paul’s work in Philippi.

Her household was not only a place where she lived, or the group of people she lived with, it also became a place where the Spirit of God dwelled and moved.

### Context:

* Philippi was a Roman colony. This meant that men leaving the military legions or auxiliaries were given land and a stipend to live in cities and communities around the world. They made foreign cities into little Romes, and they provided a force of military veterans as local citizens to help defend against uprisings or attacks. Philippi was also main cross-roads between Rome, Greece and the Middle East – it was a major trading centre.
* Having a Christian household in such an important and connected city was key to the expansion of Christianity around the Mediterranean.
* Lydia was already a worshipper of God – which meant she was probably someone who was part of the Jewish community and who worshipped God with them, but was not Jewish herself.
* Acts tells us that she was a dealer in purple cloth. Purple dye was very rare. It could only be made by crushing up a particular kind of shellfish, and the process tended to poison the people making the dye. Only a select group of people – those who had been magistrates – were allowed to wear purple. It was also the colour of the emperor.
* Lydia was likely a widow who had taken over her husband’s business and was running it herself. She would have been wealthy. Her household included her workshops, factories and trading business.

### Main Thought:

* Our first mission is to our household. It operates by the way we live, talk or parent, by how we interact with our siblings, roommates, guests or landlords. We are demonstrating what it means to follow Jesus.
* The conversion of an entire household or community group can happen through just one person. Our lives are a testimony to the transforming power of Jesus, which then is witnessed by those closest to us. Lydia’s conversion led to the conversion of her household. Through her, many came to salvation! Who is in your closest social group? Who do you spend most time with? Consider what your life reveals to those people and the impact that you, though just one person, can make.
* Our household then has a mission to the world. The Church of God is made up primarily not of churches but of people, people gathered in households. The way these people choose to live and act together creates a locus of God’s activity in the world, which forms the basic unit of God’s Church on earth.
* The mission of the household is primarily hospitality and generosity – qualities which can be carried out anywhere, by anyone.
* The transformation of space into a place where people can find belonging and support is achieved relationally and is a powerful form of mission. This is modelled by Jesus as he ate in people’s homes and spent quality time with his disciples.
* A home does not have to be somewhere we just live. Rather a home is the place where our identity and sense of self is shaped.
* For the early Christians, the household of family and paternal dominance was replaced by the extended household of God. This was reflected in Lydia’s willingness to bring Paul into her household, and then after Paul had left, the transformation of her household into a church community!
* Each household is a worshipping community, and each household generously demonstrates the hospitality of God’s Kingdom where everyone can be welcomed and in which everyone can be given a place.
* This doesn’t mean having to invite people into our personal family life. But it does mean thinking about how we use our resources, how we cultivate and expand our communities and friendships, and what kind of culture we try to develop and support in the workplace.
* The purpose of our household within the mission of God is to provide an image of what the Kingdom of God will look like. The way we treat each other demonstrates what the Kingdom of God is like.
* Through showing respect and compassion, in being kind and generous, in loving and forgiving and building each other up, we are showing what being part of the family of God looks like. We can create a household rooted in the principles of the gospel.

### Challenge:

* What households do we belong to?
How do our families, communities and workplaces demonstrate the Kingdom of God?
What can you do to transform your household into the place where the Kingdom of God can be recognised?
In what ways could your household show generous and abundant hospitality?
How can you use your resources, time or gifts to share the gospel with others, in both word and deed?
* Remember that serving the mission of God doesn’t have to be big; and it doesn’t have to rely on specialists or professionals. You can demonstrate these principles whether you’re single or married, live alone, or live with lots of people. The mission of God starts in the household, and every household is an expression of church-community.