

# How to Start an Oikos Cell and the Process (For Pastors)

Beginning an Oikos Cell is rather like climbing a ladder; you need to take a series of steps in the right order to get where you want to go. Sometimes you can spend quite a long time on one step, but if you are praying and expect to progress, you will get there in the end. How long it takes to bring an Oikos Cell to reality very much depends on individual circumstances.

- 1. Desire for Growth.** A deep discontentment in the Senior/Lead Pastor's heart regarding his ministry. There's a deep and genuine longing to see MORE results. Oikos will not work with (1) Pastors who are content with where they currently are, (2) Pastors who do not want to disturb the status quo no matter how bad the status quo may look like, (3) Pastors who know it all. One cannot fill an already full cup.
- 2. Pray.** If God has put in your heart the desire to start an Oikos Cell, pray. If He hasn't done so yet, pray about whether He wants you to do this or not. Every work of God must begin with prayer.
- 3. Gather to Pray.** You may want to gather a group of people together and pray. Prayer will open doors that are shut. Prayer will allow the Spirit of God to work. After all, this is God's work, not ours. Jericho March Principle is observed in every cell opening. A new Oikos cell group **MUST** walk around the target location for 7 consecutive days, once for the first six days and 7 times in the 7th day. This to be done to ensure that the location is conquered spiritually (*This is also discuss further in Lesson 7 of JOSHUA: Introductory Lesson.*)
- 4. Gather a team** (usually five to six people—they will become the core group of the new cell group) and go through the study called **JOSHUA: Introductory Lesson** (available in our official website—FREE to download). Following this model is a good way to start; it will lead you through the steps of starting a group/class and prepare you for the task ahead. It will give you time and opportunity to discern the future leadership of the class—Cell Group Leader and Cell Interns—and give you time to invite the cell members. Follow the suggestions given in the Oikos Cell Handbook on conducting a meeting. It will allow time for God to lead you and bless you. If the leadership has already been established, going through a short Bible study also is a good idea.
- 5. Make decisions.** Decide when and where the group will meet. Will you meet at the church, park, coffee shop, etc? Are there rooms where you can talk without interruptions? Will you meet evenings, during the day, or on Sunday? Will it be a women's group, a men's group, or a mixed group?

Where you meet is an important decision that must be made after prayers, just as with every other step. Is the purpose of the Bible study just for the church members? Is it to invite non-church goers? Both? Where you meet will, in a large part, determine who will come. It could be both church based and/or community based.

Decide what will be the cost for each booklet or maybe each lesson printed. Decide what series you have to take:

- a. **Topical Tagalog Series** (30 booklets): Various topics, from womb to tomb in Tagalog Language.
- b. **Topical English Series** (3 Booklets): Various topics, from womb to tomb in English Language.
- c. **Life Recovery Series** (4 Booklets): 12-Steps Program on Answers to Addiction
- d. **By Book Series** (16 Booklets): Expositions of the books of the Bible in New Testament and some books from Old Testament.
- e. **The OCL Series:** (2 Booklets): Designed for Oikos Cell Leaders and will only be used during the Closed Cell Meeting of Cell Leaders.

Set the time for meeting and the amount of time allowed for the opening, the small group time, and the discipleship. The times can vary. Some can last as long as two hours or more. Others can be as short as one hour. Your Servants Team should decide what is best for your group. Here is the pattern of the cell meeting.

- + **Welcome** should be around 15 minutes.  
An Ice Breaker Activity to welcome the visitors
  - + **Worship** should be 10 minutes max.  
Group singing or special music, a testimony, a short prayer time
  - + **Word** will last around 40 minutes  
Bible discussion will take longer than anticipated therefore assign a timer that will limit every speaker 1-2 minutes to answer the questions.
  - + **Works** will be 15 minutes max  
This time you can discuss the roles assignment for the next meeting, evangelism activity and prayer for needs will be done during this time.
  - + **Wow** has to end for 30 minutes  
Eating takes time but it will be longer since this is the time that members have to be disciplined by the Discipler/Mentor while eating.
6. **Gather the people.** Will they be from your church? Great! Announce it. Get people excited about the benefits of personally studying God's Word. Then don't forget the community. Remember this is also a COMMUNITY-based network of Oikos Cell Groups. Reach out. You can go door-to-door inviting people. You can pass out leaflets, send out a mailer, or write something for the newspaper. Let people know about ANOC. But, most of all have the people on your team pray and invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. You can also have small get-togethers (coffees) before the class meets to explain the program and allow time for registrations. You can gather contact information from interested people. This way you know who is coming, and you can make sure that, before the meeting begins, they are contacted.
  7. **Be Trained.** Contact your ANOC Leadership to pray with you and discuss whom God may be calling to specific leadership roles. An ANOC training will be scheduled to equip God's called ANOC leaders. (This could be a full day of training or a half day, or two evenings, etc.)
  8. **Attend Oikos Conference** (there are different levels of conference: Local/Zonal , Area-Wide, Division, National and International). Catch the Vision. Better still, let the Vision catch you! A person who has caught the vision is the one holding the vision. When things get rough he can always put the vision down and move on with something that is less difficult and demanding. A person who has been caught by the vision cannot simply put the vision down since it is the Vision that holds him.

9. **Attend an Encounter** (preferably an Encounter for Pastors). There are regular encounters in Oikos Churches here and abroad.
10. **Immerse yourself in the Oikos System.** That is, study everything you can about Oikos, including the Discipleship Level (DL), Cuarenta, Leadership Level (LL), Outstanding Cell Program, Engkwentro Retreats, and CLT. You have to be convinced that Oikos has very strong Biblical basis and that it is what you want to implement in your church. Study the Great Commission with NEW SET OF EYES: The Great Commission is NOT EVANGELISM, but DISCIPLESHIP!
11. **Slowly introduce the Discipleship Idea to your church leadership** and, eventually, to the different sections of your church (men, women, young professionals, young adults, youth). Preach a series on DISCIPLESHIP (its requirements, its necessity in the Church of Jesus, that going to church once a week is NOT discipleship, etc.). Note: Do not use the term G12 or Cell Group since this could prove to be a stumbling block for some. Just use the more Biblical term: Discipleship.

Things to avoid:

- (a) Too much too soon
- (b) Too less too late

12. **Continue to pray and select 5-12 men from your congregation.** Meet with them once a week. Discuss the idea of having the Discipleship of Jesus in your church. You must have a clear understanding and covenant between you and the men you have chosen.
13. **Start the BASICS** with the men you have chosen. Without the BASIC Christians will BE SICK. And that's exactly why a lot of churches are Unhealthy.

**The Basics in Oikos are as follows:**

- a. Reading of the Bible daily
- b. Praying daily
- c. Journaling of Daily Devotions
- d. Church Attendance weekly
- e. Cell Meeting Attendance weekly
- f. Inviting people to church weekly

These are to be monitored regularly UNTIL they become a true habit among the team you have chosen.

14. **Share the vision with your wife.** Oikos will not work without the pastor's wife. Remember: the wife will handle all the women in the church (while you will handle all the men). Let your wife pray for and select her team (Servants team) from the congregation also.
15. **Start with Discipleship Level 1** with the disciples you have chosen.
16. After they have finished the Discipleship Level 1 let them go through the **ENGKWENTRO Retreat** (Spiritual Foundation). The ENGKWENTRO Retreat is a

powerful weekend Retreat that begins on Friday night and continues the whole day the following day, Saturday.

There are Four (4) ENKWENTRO that a believer has to go through.

- a. Spiritual Foundations Encounter: for DL 1 Completers
- b. Spiritual Foundation Encounter: for DL 2 Completers
- c. Evangelism Encounter: for DL 3 Completers
- d. Champions Encounter: for DL 4 Completers

17. After the ENKWENTRO Retreat (Spiritual Foundation Encounter), **follow-up** with Cuarenta (if he is just recently baptized during the Engkwentro) or Discipleship Level 2 if he is baptized already. This could be the process of his development.

This is the process of the spiritual training of the believer:

**DL1** → Spiritual Foundation Encounter → Cuarenta → **DL2** → Spiritual Victory Encounter → **DL3** → Evangelism Encounter → CLT → **DL4** → Champions Encounter → CLT → **DL5** → Advanced Servants Training

18. After all the ENKWENTRO a leader must **enroll to Advanced Servants Training Institute**, which is equivalent to Diploma degree in Bible School Training Program. This Advanced Servants Training is designed only for Cell Group Leaders.

The impact of Oikos Discipleship IS NOT in the Teaching Manuals but in the TRANSFORMATION that happens in the lives of the disciples because of the following factors:

- a. Weekly mentoring (guiding) and monitoring (checking) with disciple/ mentor.
- b. The Daily Devotional. This is one of oikos' strongest points. All disciples are required to Journal their Daily Devotions. Members' spirituality is raised to a whole new level.
- c. DL/LL Program and Cuarenta, a training track that does not only inform the mind but also provides opportunities to practice what was learned. You cannot graduate DL/LL Program unless you have opened and maintained your own cell group. So, in an Oikos church it's about growing cells.
- d. Soul-winning. Oikos is very strong in soul-winning. The vision of Oikos is WIN SOULS and MAKE DISCIPLES. Every disciple is challenged to bring people to church or to win them to Christ themselves. That's one of the reasons why oikos church grow – evangelism is back!

19. When your disciples reach DL5, have them **start their own cell groups** of 5-12 members per group. They either (a) choose from the rest of the congregation or (b) win them from outside the church.

Letter (a) should happen if all the people in your church is to be disciplined.

Letter (b) is what happens when all the people inside the church his already in a cell group.



Discipleship is NOT optional. “Go and make disciples” is NOT an option. Discipleship is the ONLY WAY to build the Church of Christ.

**20.** The DL/LL Program can be finished in 15 months. In other words, every 15 months you produce cell group leaders. What you are actually doing is PROMOTING the people in your church up the ladder of fruitfulness. You move people from one level to the next in a seamless process.

We must understand that it was not only PASTORS who are called to be fruitful but ALL BELIEVERS. All of us will face God and give an accounting of our life INDIVIDUALLY. Remember the Parable of the Talents.

You help your disciples help *their* disciples go through the same process.

The Oikos Discipleship Strategy:

WIN → Connect them to Christ  
CONSOLIDATE → Connect them to the Church  
TRAIN → Connect them to the Cell  
SEND → Connect them to the Christless

## **ENGKWENTRO PROGRAM (Spiritual Foundation)**

### **FRIDAY**

8AM-12Noon: Arrival  
1PM: Orientation  
3PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Lecture: Sin List and Genuine Repentance  
7PM: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lecture: Inner Healing

### **SATURDAY**

8AM: 3<sup>rd</sup> Lecture: Demons and Deliverance  
10AM: 4<sup>th</sup> Lecture: Immersed in His Spirit  
1PM: 5<sup>th</sup> Lecture: Purification  
3PM: 6<sup>th</sup> Lecture: Prosperity  
7PM: 7<sup>th</sup> Lecture: Vision for Success

### **SUNDAY**

9AM: Worship Celebration  
1PM: Baptism  
3PM: Departure