

## Why N2N?

Jesus said that the greatest command was to love the Lord your God with all your heart and then, secondly, to love your neighbour as yourself. With this in mind, our Neighbour to Neighbour (N2N) concept is about encouraging and resourcing those of us who love the Lord to love our neighbours in genuine and practical ways. If our primary love is for the Lord our God this will also mean that our greatest prayer for the people we know is that they discover reconciliation with the Lord through Jesus the Saviour.

N2N is less about evangelism in the traditional sense and more about building meaningful relationships with a Gospel centred heart. In this way we will reflect Jesus to people who might never otherwise be exposed to him. Our lives may be their first introduction to Jesus.

N2N is about followers of Jesus being a godly presence in their communities. There is a limitless variety of conversations we all have within our different communities and the idea behind N2N is to help you keep these conversations going with the prayer they will progress to the point where talking about Jesus can be a comfortable part of your relationships.

## Where to Start?

Take some time to consider the different areas of your life where you come across people who are not yet Christians. Let's all make this a step towards being more deliberate in following Jesus' command to be a 'light on the hill.'

They might be family, they might be neighbours, they might be fellow workers, university students or members of mothers' groups. Wherever these people are, God has put you in contact with them and has given you the joy and privilege to be a living witness for Jesus, through the things you say and do. Each one of us has something to say and each one of us ought to show something of Christ in our lives (1 Peter 1:15-16, Col 4:5-6).



## Define your Relationships

Using the above diagram, consider where the people you know might be in their spiritual journey and what level of friendship you currently have with them. This is to help you understand your friends better. It will also help you consider what might be the most appropriate way to relate to them so you can connect with them at the level they are at. Of course, some people will be off the scale and hostile to all things spiritual!

It is also good to be realistic about the depth of friendship you have with people. It is not so much about how long you have known someone but about how open you are with them and they with you. Real friendship is about increasing our level of openness with one another.



Levels of Friendship	
5. Transparency	Sharing who you are
4. Emotion	Sharing what you feel
3. Opinion	Sharing what you think
2. Facts	Sharing what you know
1. Cliche	Non-sharing

Adapted from John Powell's, Why am I afraid to tell you who I am?

Some studies show that most people who come to faith in Christ do so over a three to four-year spiritual journey rather than through a dramatic conversion. This means that we should place importance on long term relationships. Remember that a hundred of us living in a Christ-like way will always be a more powerful influence for the good of the community and the Kingdom of God than just one person doing so, no matter how charismatic and powerful that one person may be. Let's think of EPC as a big team working together to *Spread Hope through Jesus to Eltham and Beyond*.

Thinking about your friends and their level of spiritual awareness helps you understand better areas where you can help them along their journey. Make a list like this as long as you need it to be.

Your Connections	Current Gospel Awareness	Level of friendship

## Let's Get Started

Here are four steps to getting started with N2N.

1. Live in step with the Holy Spirit.
2. Move towards your God given connections.
3. Be wise in your conversations.
4. Be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have.

Begin praying for the people. Start praying that you would have many opportunities to stand out as a Christian and talk about your faith. You could share this list with others in the congregation, talk about it in Growth Groups and so on. Use each other to think of creative and helpful ways to be a Christ-like blessing to the world around us.



## NEIGHBOUR TO NEIGHBOUR



## GETTING STARTED

*Continuing conversations  
with your God given  
connections*