

# Cultivating Spiritual Friendships

## Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this guide is to assist and encourage you to be intentional about cultivating spiritual friendships. As we build friendships first, God provides opportunities to share the Good News about Jesus.

This guide will help you take your first steps in nurturing authentic friendships with those around you. You may be a conversation away from having an eternal impact on your neighbors.

We believe that through the cultivation of spiritual friendships, particularly through prayer, that God's Kingdom will be expanded (Matthew 28:19 and Acts 2:42-47).

## Who is My Neighbor?

Consistent with our mission of expanding the church through our neighborhoods, the thought is for "neighbors" to mean those who live close to you. Obviously neighbors can also mean anyone in your circle of influence: co-workers, friends and/or family.

## Equipping

the Church is dedicated to equipping you as disciple-makers. Over the next year we will provide you with resources, ideas, tools and suggestions to help you reach out to your neighbors.

Cultivating spiritual friendships is about conversation and relationships. It's about influence, invitation and companionship. Cultivating spiritual friendships is our challenge, our opportunity; it is something we are privileged to do.

You are more ready for this than you realize, and so are your neighbors!

**"In order to be someone's spiritual friend you need to like, approach and serve them."**

*More Ready Than You Realize*  
by Brian D. McLaren



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Guide

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the Church

## First Steps

Below is some space for the names of your neighbors, friends and co-workers with whom you'd like to intentionally cultivate spiritual friendships, we call this your "impact list". By listing their names and coming back to this guide periodically, you will be reminded of the steps you need to take to grow in your relationship with them.

To the right of your impact list check all that apply to your relationship with the person on your list.

Impact List	Do I know my neighbors names?	Do I pray for them?	Do I engage in activities with them?	Do I have heartfelt discussions with them?	Do I care for and serve them?	Do I share the Good News of Christ with them?	Do I encourage them on their walk of faith?
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## Next Steps

The space below is a large area designed to write your goals or "next steps" in cultivating your spiritual friendships. Each box you did not check to the right of your impact list represents a missing step in your relationship to this person. This section is perhaps the most important as it will guide you in taking specific steps and putting good intentions into action.

### Impact List
