

LIVING *Life2Life*

Re-imagining church through the power of relationships. Volume 1 | Issue 17

I bought a new camera recently and I'm still learning how to adjust the lens. Out-of-focus objects appear fuzzy until the lens is adjusted. With the right twist of the lens' dial, the image jumps into view with clarity and crispness.

Jesus understood the importance of a clear focus: "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of life. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness" (Matthew 6:22).

John Stott writes that the argument Jesus is making goes like this: "Just as our eye affects our whole body, so our ambition (where we fix our eyes and heart) affects our whole life." The clearer our life goals, the clearer the vision. For the insider, living life2life with seeking friends and starting faith conversations is his or her life's ambition. We see the world through the lens of evangelism. This commitment came into focus early in my Christian experience.

When I trusted Christ as a sophomore in college, I began to pray for opportunities to tell my friends about Jesus. One simple idea came to mind. I decided to place my Bible in a prominent position on my dorm room desk. This mundane act opened up numerous faith conversations with men on the floor.

During each season of my life, I've made choices to share Christ. When working construction, I asked Louie to read *The Four Spiritual Laws*. While hanging siding on a second floor scaffold, Jonathan and I debated the existence of God.

My time in apartment management opened up discussions on ethics with the owner. As a graduate student, I made it a goal to connect personally with each professor, seeking to establish a relationship, looking to start faith conversations.

A major regret was how I lost God's heart for my peers when I ministered to undergraduates. While I was proficient at explaining the gospel to nineteen-year olds, I was out of touch with the adults in my life. I've had to rediscover what it means to start faith conversations with my own age group.

Each season of life brings new challenges. If I'm focused on starting faith conversations, I have to learn to adjust to people. The formulas and techniques I used on campus don't connect with the couples in my neighborhood. I've adjusted my sights from crowded campus meeting rooms to living in the quiet in my neighborhood, among its ordinary relationships, routines, and conversations.

How about you? Is the lens of your heart focused clearly on evangelism or is it fuzzy and indistinct? Are you continually learning how to start faith conversations for each new season of life? Being an insider for the sake of the gospel is a conscious choice and a marvelous ambition. May our lives resonate with the passion of the Apostle Paul:

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace (Acts 20:24).

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