

Hospitality – Greeting People

(1) Learn someone's name who is new to you

Some people have a natural gift to remember people's name, but many of us need to work at learning names.

- Tell yourself: "I can learn some names today."
- Start by introducing yourself, "Hello, my name is ____." If the other person doesn't immediately give their name, ask them.
- Use their name in the conversation at least 3 times before you part. "Nice to meet you, ____."
 "What brings you to Bethel today, ____?"
 "Good to see you, ____."
- Learn at least one interesting fact about the person to help you put their name & fact together in your brain.
- Introduce someone else to the person, so that you are using the new person's name again and someone else knows too!
- After the conversation, write their name down somewhere. Even if it isn't on a piece of paper that you keep, the visual of writing their name may help you picture it the next time you see that person.

(2) What if you forgot their name?

If you are concerned that you have already met, or are sure that you have met, but don't remember their name, don't let embarrassment keep you from learning their name again.

- Simply say something like, "I'm so sorry, I know we've met before, but I've forgotten your name. I'm ____."
 Notice how you aren't assuming they remember your name.
- Another way of saying this is: "Have we met before? I apologize if we have, and I've forgotten. I'm ____."

(3) Change your focus

It's great to know people in the congregation; it's great to have friends and feel comfortable with people. BUT God also calls on us to hospitable and welcome new people into our congregation.

- Change your focus from talking to familiar people to getting to know people you don't already know.
- It may seem rude at times when someone who already knows you comes up and wants to chat like you normally do, but you can find a polite way to exit the conversation: "Hey, it's good seeing you today, _____. I'm trying out what Pastor said about meeting new folks. Want to go meet someone with me? And then let's catch up later."

(4) Practice

- Stand at the back of the gym/sanctuary, and see how many names you can remember. When you come to folks you don't know, ask an Elder, Pastor, Katrina, or someone to help trigger your memory.
- If the person is someone you actually haven't met before, look for an opportunity to introduce yourself.

(5) Remember the bears. . .

Remember the advice when hiking: "Bears and wild animals are more scared of you than you are scared of them." As you take the initiative to meet people, remember that many people are nervous about meeting new people. As much as you're worried about not remembering someone's name, the other person may be thinking the very same thing. They likely won't even imagine that someone would introduce themselves.