



The Backyard Missionary: Gathered and Scattered Church

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. We are continuing our journey through the *Backyard Missionary* series. This week we look at the gathered and scattered church. Church is more than a Sunday worship gathering. There are times when the church should be gathered for worship, but also scattered as small church throughout the week.

1. Gathered Church

Sunday gatherings are large celebrations of 50+ people where we worship together, sing songs, hear a sermon, and celebrate communion. Sundays are the white-hot center and essential to equip, encourage, and send the church to be scattered Monday through Saturday.

2. Scattered Church

These are smaller gatherings of two, four, 12 or more people that come together midweek to do life and faith together. This is where the deepest discipleship happens. This is where everyone uses their spiritual gifts. Everyone gets to play. Church members shift from being sheep who are fed to being shepherds who feed others. This increases discipleship.

3. Build *Oikos* Community

Oikos are the people in your social network. They would include your friends, family, work colleagues, and acquaintances. Many of these people might be unchurched. Invite these people to your midweek gatherings. Have gatherings that involve both Christians and non-Christians.

It is far easier for them to experience God in a scattered small church than to come to a Sunday service at first.

4. Pray and Invite

Pray for and invite these people to your gatherings. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words to say. Finally, don't be discouraged if people say no. What if 10 out of 50 people you invited said yes? That's amazing.

Questions

1. What are the opportunities for our church to meet midweek? Discuss when, where, and how you could meet.
2. How can our church be creative during COVID-19 at gathering in smaller groups? What technology platforms could we use to meet online?
3. Who are the unchurched people from my social network? Think through and write down their names. Think through the four categories: friends, family, work colleges, acquaintances.