



The Backyard Missionary: Socials, the Secret Weapon of Mission

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. We are continuing our journey through the *Backyard Missionary* series. This week we look at how socials are the secret weapon of mission. Having mixed gatherings of people in your social network is a great way to build relationships and create a space of belonging. It is easy, fun, and an effective mission strategy.

1. Socials

Socials can be any celebration that you like to do as a community. It is not a Bible study or a worship service. It is simply a way to celebrate life and to find common ground with the people in your community. Effective mission starts with authentic friendship. It is best to do these events outside of the church walls. Invite people to your home or go out to a public gathering place in your community like a restaurant, coffee shop, etc. Keep the events lightweight and low-maintenance. It shouldn't be a burden to organize.

2. Don't bait and switch.

Be open and honest to people that you are inviting. Don't lure people in with crafty words and then hit them with the Bible. Tell the guests what they are to expect at the social gathering.

3. Pray for, look for, and then act on opportunities.

Before the event, pray for opportunities to talk about faith with someone. During the social event, look for the person of peace. Finally, have a God conversation with the person. Maybe it is an opportunity to pray for the person or share your God story. Follow the Holy Spirit's promptings.

4. Follow-up events

A social is like scattering a ton of seeds. Have future events that go deeper into discipleship. Advertise these to the guests as opportunities to connect further into the church. Again, be honest and open about what you are inviting them to. Think about sowing, reaping, and keeping.