



### **13. The Backyard Missionary: Jesus Moved into the Neighborhood**

#### **Episode Notes**

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. Over the next four episodes, we will discover how you can be a backyard missionary for Jesus. We will learn how to reach people in your neighborhood! These teachings are transferable to any context. In this episode I interviewed Andy Bacon, and we looked at how Jesus came and lived among the people. Jesus moved into the neighborhood.

#### **1. Relationships**

Effective mission relies on deep relationships as you live amongst the people. By building relationships with your neighbors, you are building trust. If you live where you are reaching people, it shows that you care about the neighborhood. You aren't just trying to fix it from another neighborhood.

#### **2. Go where people gather.**

Look for parks, coffee shops, gyms, bars, and anywhere else people like to meet. Gathering places are where you can meet people outside the church and enter life with them.

#### **3. Going means staying.**

Missionaries are sent to somewhere specific. However, when they arrive, they should be there for a number of years. Make a time commitment. Jesus took on flesh and blood, stayed 33 years, and died with His people. Effective mission takes perseverance and time.

#### **4. Big Church**

Big Church is a worship service and still important for teaching, singing, and sharing God stories (testimonies). This is important for equipping and sending trained disciples.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What would it look like if Jesus moved into your neighborhood?
2. Where do people gather in your neighborhood?
3. Do you and your church actually live in the neighborhood where your church is? Why or why not?
4. How can you be more present and live among the people in your community?