

Small Group Discussion Guide for Episode 2: The Backyard Gang

Objective:

*This guide is designed to help your small group explore Episode 2 by focusing on the **Essentials of Reach the Lost and Connect the Unconnected**. The guide integrates the **Head, Heart, and Hands** model, encouraging thoughtful discussion and practical application in personal and group life.*

Opening Prayer:

Start with a prayer, asking God for wisdom to better understand how to reach those who are lost and unconnected, and for guidance in applying these lessons.

[Watch the Video:](#)

Watch Episode 2 together, paying attention to moments in the testimony that highlight reaching the lost and connecting the unconnected within the church and the community.

Discussion Questions:

Head (Understanding and Knowledge)

Reach the Lost ([Luke 19:10](#) | World Sphere):

In Episode 2, we see the impact of persistent love and truth on those who are far from God. The video highlights intentional efforts to reach people who may have never encountered the gospel before.

- How does the testimony in this episode demonstrate reaching out to those who are spiritually lost? What methods or attitudes stood out to you as effective in sharing the gospel?
- What challenges have you faced when trying to share your faith with others, and how does this testimony encourage you to persist?

Read: [Luke 19:10](#)

- What does it mean that Jesus came to “seek and save the lost”?
- How does this verse shape our mission as believers in reaching those who don’t know Christ?

Connect the Unconnected ([Acts 2:42-47](#) | Church Sphere):

This episode emphasizes the need to bring people into the body of Christ, ensuring they feel welcomed and supported as part of a relational environment.

- How did the individuals in the testimony move from being unconnected to fully integrated into a church community?
- What steps can we take to ensure that those who visit our church or small group feel connected and cared for?

Read: [Acts 2:42-47](#)

- What elements of the early church's community life contributed to people feeling connected and cared for?
- How can we incorporate these elements into our small group and church life today?

Heart (Personal Transformation and Growth)

Reach the Lost ([Romans 10:14-15](#) | **Spiritual Realm Sphere):**

The testimony in Episode 2 highlights personal transformation when someone encounters Christ for the first time. This heart change often begins with someone being reached by a person who cares deeply for their soul.

- How does your heart break for the lost? What actions can you take to cultivate more compassion and urgency for those who don't yet know Jesus?
- How does understanding the spiritual battle for the souls of the lost (within the **Spiritual Realm Sphere**) motivate us to be more intentional about sharing the gospel?

Read: [Romans 10:14-15](#)

- Why is it crucial for someone to hear the message of Christ in order to believe?
- What steps can you take to be one of those who "bring good news" to people in your life?

Connect the Unconnected ([Ephesians 4:16](#) | **Home and Church Spheres):**

The testimony also touches on the importance of making connections within the church family. People often come to faith through relationships built in both home and church environments.

- How has being part of a connected church or small group helped you grow spiritually? How can you help others experience the same sense of belonging?
- Reflecting on both the **Home Sphere** and the **Church Sphere**, how can you create environments in your home or church where people feel welcomed and part of a spiritual family?

Read: [Ephesians 4:16](#)

- What role does each part of the body (the church) play in helping people feel connected and grow spiritually?
- How can we, as a small group, help each other stay connected and grow as part of the larger body of Christ?

Hands (Action and Application)

Reach the Lost ([Matthew 5:14-16](#) | **World Sphere):**

In the video, people reached out to others in various ways to share the light of Christ. This section challenges the group to think about how they can be intentional about letting their light shine in the world.

- What are some practical ways you can let your light shine in your workplace, school, or community this week? Who in your life needs to experience the love and truth of Christ?
- Reflecting on the **World Sphere**, where can you bring the gospel into the everyday environments where you live, work, and play?

Read: [Matthew 5:14-16](#)

- What does it mean to be the “light of the world”?
- How can you practically live this out in your personal mission to reach the lost?

Connect the Unconnected ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#) | Church and Home Spheres):

In Episode 2, the focus on bringing people into connection emphasizes the importance of creating relational environments that foster growth.

- How can you help someone in your church or small group who might feel unconnected or left out? How can you create more opportunities for connection both in the group and in everyday life?
- What role does intentional encouragement and gathering play in keeping people connected to the church community?

Read: [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

- Why is it important to not “give up meeting together” as believers?
- How can you be more intentional about encouraging others to stay connected to the church and to relationships that build their faith?

Practical Application:

Reach the Lost ([Luke 19:10](#)):

Jim Putman emphasizes that our mission as believers is to seek and save the lost, just as Jesus did. This week, challenge group members to identify one person in their lives who is far from God and take one intentional step toward sharing Christ with them.

- What can you do this week to reach someone in your life who is disconnected from God or has never heard the gospel?

Connect the Unconnected ([Acts 2:42-47](#)):

Building community is critical in helping people grow as disciples of Jesus. Challenge group members to make a point of welcoming someone new or unconnected into their church or small group.

- What specific steps can you take to ensure that those visiting your small group or church feel seen, valued, and invited into deeper connection?

Closing Prayer:

Close with a group prayer, asking God for boldness in reaching the lost and wisdom in connecting those who feel unconnected. Pray specifically for those individuals the group is seeking to reach and invite into the community.