

Bookmark File PDF Small Church Essentials Field Tested Principles For Leading A Healthy Congregation Of Under 250

Small Church Essentials Field Tested Principles For Leading A Healthy Congregation Of Under 250 | 749839f6ea692b15d66b7be44cee753a

Build Your Dream Team On Pastoring The Church Recovery Guide Christian Mission The Screwtape Letters (Enhanced Special Illustrated Edition) Small Church Essentials Love Honor and Negotiate Good to Great Future Church The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up Leading Small Groups The Freedom to Read Church Administration and Finance Manual Youcat at English The First 100 Days Communities in Action A Spiritual Clinic The Glass Castle Consider Your Calling Small Church Essentials 100 Days to a Healthier Church How Big Is Your God? Atomic Habits Simple Church Dirt Matters Paths to Power Because of Winn-Dixie Every Pastor's First 180 Days Small Church BIG Deal Shepherding the Small Church Welcoming the Future Church Naked Man Running Discipleship Essentials The Grasshopper Myth No Silver Bullets Stalled Scrappy Church How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor Rural Church RESCUES Small Groups with Purpose

[Build Your Dream Team](#)

Churches in America are closing at an alarming rate. Dale Sellers of 95Network believes this trend is largely due to discouragement among small-church pastors. Many church leaders begin ministry with dreams of making an eternal impact. But years of striving, stress, and strain have left them feeling defeated, disillusioned, and stalled. Thankfully, there is hope that ministry can turn around for the discouraged pastor. As a former minister who's been in the trenches, Sellers reveals that ... God is not keeping score, it's impossible for a pastor to let God down, and doing ministry from Jesus, not for Him, is a pastor's key to a thriving church.

[On Pastoring](#)

From one pastor to another No one is ever fully prepared for the ministry. For pastors just starting out, those needing a little rebalancing, or those growing tired in the trenches, a short guide to the basics is a welcome relief. In On Pastoring, H. B. Charles gives 30 instructive reflections on the pastor's heart, leadership, and public ministry, covering topics like: Cultivating personal godliness Prioritizing your family Guarding your ministry effectiveness Planning, preparing, and preaching sermons Balancing pastoral roles and duties Being a pastor means wearing many hats, weathering lots of pressure, and bearing great responsibility. Let H. B. Charles be a trusted advisor as you do the serious work of shepherding a flock of God.

[The Church Recovery Guide](#)

Outlines ways in which couples can effectively renegotiate their marriage contracts, providing case examples of partners who improved their relationships and identifying the stressors that contribute to marital imbalances. Reprint.

[Christian Mission](#)

Do you have a real relationship with God, or do you just have a religion? Do you know God, or do you just know about God? In How Big Is Your God? Paul Coutinho, SJ, challenges us to grow stronger and deeper in our faith and in our relationship with God—a God whose love knows no bounds. To help us on our way, Coutinho introduces us to people in various world religions—from Hindu friends to Buddhist teachers to St. Ignatius of Loyola—who have shaped his spiritual life and made possible his deep, personal relationship with God.

[The Screwtape Letters \(Enhanced Special Illustrated Edition\)](#)

What's Next for Your Church? In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, church leaders are facing challenges they've never encountered. As you scramble to adapt to this fast-changing situation, you must also begin thinking through the months ahead to consider: how will my church recover? The Church Recovery Guide outlines the practical steps you can take to help your church not only survive but also thrive in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis. Pastor Karl Vaters offers insights from his extensive experience in church ministry to help you think through: - Reconnecting with your congregation - Dealing with the financial repercussions - Encouraging and supporting your staff - Clearly communicating a fresh vision for the future - Reworking your church's technology and online strategy - Ministering to people feeling isolated and fearful The Church Recovery Guide will provide the direction you need to help your church bounce back to full health and chart a path forward to even greater vitality.

[Small Church Essentials](#)

These 544 pages of field-tested solutions deliver proven procedures, planning models, and copier-friendly forms for all aspects of local church administration. Packed with excellent guidelines and tools for assessing and improving parish

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management. A we

[Love Honor and Negotiate](#)

Now in paperback, multi-awarded national hit *Simple Church* shares a clear message from case studies of 400 North American congregations: Church is done best when it's kept simple.

[Good to Great](#)

Every time a pastor goes to a new church, they form hopes, dreams, and expectations - without necessarily realizing it - for the progress and growth of their new ministry. Not only do these pastors have to transition into a new congregation and community, but they also have to think about building strong relationships with other influential people in the area. Almost every day, pastors of new churches face unexpected hardships and challenges. Some of the issues are financial mismanagement from their predecessor, moral or ethical misbehavior, or unresolved conflict that has just been suppressed long enough to find a new pastor. The fact is, pastors of new churches need guidance. The *First 100 Days* is for these pastors who need some guidance and insight to help them lead with godly wisdom and purpose during the first few months.

[Future Church](#)

This second edition is an indispensable source of advice and encouragement for the small church pastor, including how to formulate a mission while understanding the cultures of the community and the church. Chapter-by-chapter suggestions and several appendixes of helpful assessment tools help pastors and lay leadership work through the book together.

[The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up](#)

The #1 New York Times bestseller. Over 3 million copies sold! *Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results* No matter your goals, *Atomic Habits* offers a proven framework for improving—every day. James Clear, one of the world's leading experts on habit formation, reveals practical strategies that will teach you exactly how to form good habits, break bad ones, and master the tiny behaviors that lead to remarkable results. If you're having trouble changing your habits, the problem isn't you. The problem is your system. Bad habits repeat themselves again and again not because you don't want to change, but because you have the wrong system for change. You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems. Here, you'll get a proven system that can take you to new heights. Clear is known for his ability to distill complex topics into simple behaviors that can be easily applied to daily life and work. Here, he draws on the most proven ideas from biology, psychology, and neuroscience to create an easy-to-understand guide for making good habits inevitable and bad habits impossible. Along the way, readers will be inspired and entertained with true stories from Olympic gold medalists, award-winning artists, business leaders, life-saving physicians, and star comedians who have used the science of small habits to master their craft and vault to the top of their field. Learn how to: • make time for new habits (even when life gets crazy); • overcome a lack of motivation and willpower; • design your environment to make success easier; • get back on track when you fall off course; and much more. *Atomic Habits* will reshape the way you think about progress and success, and give you the tools and strategies you need to transform your habits—whether you are a team looking to win a championship, an organization hoping to redefine an industry, or simply an individual who wishes to quit smoking, lose weight, reduce stress, or achieve any other goal.

[Leading Small Groups](#)

Do you lead a small church? Big churches get all the love. Articles, books, conferences—they mostly feature leaders of large congregations. Yet big churches are a small part of the ecclesial landscape. In fact, more than 90 percent of churches have fewer than 200 people. That means small churches play a big part in what God is doing. *Small Church Essentials* is for leaders of these smaller congregations. It encourages them to steward their role well, debunking myths about small churches while offering principles for leading a dynamic, healthy small church. Based on the popular six-hour lecture that Karl Vaters delivers to church leaders across the country, *Small Church Essentials* will affirm small church leaders and show them how to identify what they do well, and how to do it even better. Readers will: Be assured that leading a small congregation does not make them ministry failures Come away inspired to lead with passion, regardless the size of their church Have field-tested principles for leading a church in their context Possess new metrics for biblically measuring vitality in small churches Have a toolkit of resources to use in their everyday ministry Karl Vaters has been a small church pastor for 30 years, is the author of *The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches, and the Small Thinking that Divides Us* (2013), and travels extensively to churches and conferences to speak about leading a small church well. If you are pastoring a small church, this book will be a breath of fresh air. It will affirm your calling while giving you fresh tools to help you lead. It will help you: Stop believing lies about small churches Lead your church to fulfill the role only small churches can Understand your congregation's strengths and weaknesses Turn around a dying or unhealthy church Identify good trends and bad in church and culture

[The Freedom to Read](#)

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Leading a small group can literally change the world. We have been commissioned to make disciples who make disciples, and Jesus showed us that the best way to carry that out is through small groups of believers. Just like the first-century church, small groups form the foundation to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Chris Surratt, Discipleship and Small Groups Specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, and author of *Small Groups for the Rest of Us*, wants to help you get from here to there. Regardless of whether you have never led a small group or have been leading one for years, all of us want to know how to create environments where spiritual growth takes place and communities are changed. *Leading Small Groups* walks the reader through the stages of gathering, launching, leading, and multiplying a gospel-centered small group. There are also follow-up questions for discussion and reflection at the end of each section, and practical resources that can be implemented immediately by the small group leader. Jesus left his followers with a task—the Great Commission. This book will help small group leaders and churches in their obedience to this task.

[Church Administration and Finance Manual](#)

What if I told you that you were only one step away from unlocking new levels of maturity and growth in your church? The myth of the silver bullet still exists because we desperately want it to. We all prefer quick fixes and bandage solutions to the long, hard, slow work that produces real change. So the moment we learn about a new ministry or strategy and see its effect in another church, we run to implement it in our own. Unfortunately, this impulse is usually met by opposition, skepticism, and ultimately, rejection. What if the solution isn't a new model or a complicated strategy, but a shift in perspective? What if you could keep your church's current vision, values, and model, and simply make a few micro-shifts leading to macro-changes? This book explores five micro-shifts that have the potential to produce macro-changes in your church. As you read, you will discover how to integrate these micro-shifts into the life of your church, starting with the way you disciple. You will finish by developing a plan to structure, communicate, and evaluate these changes to ensure that they take root and pave the way for lasting change and kingdom impact.

[Youcat English](#)

This book is enhanced with content such as audio or video, resulting in a large file that may take longer to download than expected. The Deluxe Illustrated Edition of a Timeless Classic Now with this enhanced edition, readers can gain additional insight through video interviews, audio excerpts and letters from C. S. Lewis. First published in 1942, *The Screwtape Letters* has sold millions of copies world-wide and is recognized as a milestone in the history of popular theology. A masterpiece of satire, it entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.

[The First 100 Days](#)

For the past ten years I have been coaching pastors of smaller churches. These leaders are always searching for answers and ideas that will relate to the unique challenges of pastoring a small church. Often times frustrated, they return from conferences led by pastors of larger churches telling them how to grow their church or offering them solutions that simply won't work in a small church. A few years ago I realized that I had been accumulating ideas for the everyday problems pastors face. I've gathered all these ideas into one volume and categorized them so that a pastor can easily find answers to their specific problems. Enjoy.

[Communities in Action](#)

Pastoring a small church is no small job. It can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Read this book for a relief . . . And a turning point. Steve R. Bierly offers the seasoned reassurance of one who has been in the trenches of small-church pastoring. He understands your unique needs and problems not just as a pastor, but as a person. And he shows that, by God's grace, you can fulfill your calling and thrive in the face of its challenges. With humor and fatherly wisdom, Bierly helps you reframe your perspectives on - God - Your ministry - Your relationships - Your personal needs . . . And more. Drawing on years of experience, he offers assurance that you're not alone, a fresh outlook on the successes of your ministry, and an upbeat, practical approach to spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. *How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor* will help you face realistically the rigors of your vocation . . . and reclaim your first love of ministry.

[A Spiritual Clinic](#)

How many times have we heard these statements... "We can't compete with the megachurch in our town!" "A new church was started two blocks from us. We've got plenty of churches without them!" "The church brought another one of their campuses near us. It's totally unethical what they are doing." "We can't reach young families. They all go to the big church that has all the children's and student stuff." "We don't have the money or the people the other churches have." Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer (*I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church*) has heard comments like these hundreds, if not thousands, of times. They are statements of hopelessness. They are statements of despair. They are statements of defeat. Church leaders don't want to feel this way. They desire to break out of the

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mediocrity of the same, lame, and tame existence of their churches. They want their churches to make a difference. There is hope. God's hope. God's possibilities. What does a scrappy church look like? Let's take a look together.

[The Glass Castle](#)

Journalist Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary and their four children lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family. When the money ran out, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town Rex had tried to escape. As the dysfunction escalated, the children had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they found the resources and will to leave home. Yet Walls describes her parents with deep affection in this tale of unconditional love in a family that, despite its profound flaws, gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life. -- From publisher description.

[Consider Your Calling](#)

180 days--that's the critical time every pastor has to establish their role in a new church position. That first six months can make an enormous difference and give them a powerful foundation to impact the Kingdom of God in a positive way, or it can present them with growing challenges that linger for years to come. Pastor Charles Stone draws on 40 years of ministry service to present an easy-to-read guide for new and seasoned pastors alike who want to make the most of those first 180 days.

[Small Church Essentials](#)

Exploring how Christianity became a world religion, this brief history examines Christian missions and their relationship to the current globalization of Christianity. A short and enlightening history of Christian missions: a phenomenon that many say reflects the single most important intercultural movement over a sustained period of human history Offers a thematic overview that takes into account the political, cultural, social, and theological issues Discusses the significance of missions to the globalization of Christianity, and broadens our understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world religion Helps Western audiences understand the meaning of mission as a historical process Contains several new maps that illustrate demographic shifts in world Christianity

[100 Days to a Healthier Church](#)

Every church has a unique culture that serves as the soil where its ministry occurs. A church's culture is the somewhat nebulous and complex blend of norms, beliefs, attitudes, traditions, and practices that define the congregation. The culture establishes the environment that often predetermines the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of God's Word within that body of believers. It influences a congregation's potential impact more than techniques, programs, or pragmatic changes. Dirt Matters explains and illustrates the importance of church culture, connecting it to a simple analogy that anyone can understand. It also shares how it's possible to cultivate and nurture a healthier church environment that can put you and your congregation in a better position to bear fruit for God's glory. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXPTuQjr1R0>

[How Big Is Your God?](#)

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The book that sparked a revolution and inspired the hit Netflix series Tidying Up with Marie Kondo: the original guide to decluttering your home once and for all. ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOKS OF THE DECADE—CNN Despite constant efforts to declutter your home, do papers still accumulate like snowdrifts and clothes pile up like a tangled mess of noodles? Japanese cleaning consultant Marie Kondo takes tidying to a whole new level, promising that if you properly simplify and organize your home once, you'll never have to do it again. Most methods advocate a room-by-room or little-by-little approach, which doom you to pick away at your piles of stuff forever. The KonMari Method, with its revolutionary category-by-category system, leads to lasting results. In fact, none of Kondo's clients have lapsed (and she still has a three-month waiting list). With detailed guidance for determining which items in your house "spark joy" (and which don't), this international bestseller will help you clear your clutter and enjoy the unique magic of a tidy home—and the calm, motivated mindset it can inspire.

[Atomic Habits](#)

Church growth models have often been long on promises and short on disciple-making. We continue to watch consistent church attendance shrink, and our desire to reach the lost is infected with a need for self-validation by growing our numbers at any cost. If we believe that God wants his church to grow, where do we go from here? What is the future of the church? Drawing from his 20 years and 15,000 hours of consulting, author Will Mancini shares with pastors and ministry leaders the single most important insight he has learned about church growth. With plenty of salient stories and based solidly on the disciple-making methods found in Scripture, Future Church exposes the church's greatest challenge today, and offers 7 transforming laws of real church growth so that we can faithfully and

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joyfully fulfill Jesus's Great Commission.

[Simple Church](#)

What on earth is God doing? Who are you? What is your stage of life? What are your circumstances? What is the cross you will have to bear? What are you afraid of? We ask these six critical questions—and then we ask them again—at points of transition in our lives. They all lead us to the one core question: What is the good work to which I am called? Gordon T. Smith, author of *Courage and Calling*, writes: "It is a good question because our work matters to us, to others and, of course, it matters to God. Work itself is good. It is vital to our human identity; and we are most ourselves, most who God calls us to be, living in what it means to know the salvation of God, when we know the grace of work well done." However, Smith acknowledges that this is not a simple question to answer in the midst of our very complicated lives. That's why he has written this brief and accessible book—to offer the support and insight we need as we ponder these six core questions in community with God and others. As a steward of your life, in attentiveness to the calling of God, how is God inviting you to engage the world?

[Dirt Matters](#)

A classic tale by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, America's beloved storyteller. One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries - and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie. Featuring a new cover illustration by E. B. Lewis and an excerpt of Kate DiCamillo's newest novel, *Raymie Nightingale*.

[Paths to Power](#)

Introduces young readers to Catholic beliefs as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

[Because of Winn-Dixie](#)

Small Church BIG Deal aims to change our approach to church. It challenges leaders to see the church as God sees it - in terms of fruitfulness and discipleship - not according to size. Church ministry is not a marketing or consumer challenge but a spiritual one. Contentment, obedience and faithfulness must be the benchmarks of fruitful ministry.

[Every Pastor's First 180 Days](#)

A Lost Book from J. Oswald Sanders Now Re-Released with a Beautiful New Cover "The complex strains and problems which the Christian encounters in the contemporary world find their answer, not in tranquilizers or stimulants, but in a correct understanding and application of scriptural principles." -J. Oswald Sanders, from the introduction J. Oswald Sanders (best known for his book *Spiritual Leadership*, which has sold over a million copies), touched hundreds of thousands of lives in his lifetime and continues to inspire Christians today. His books *Spiritual Leadership*, *Spiritual Maturity*, and *The Incomparable Christ* are beloved and well-read to this day. But there are two of his books that readers haven't had access to in over 30 years. *A Spiritual Clinic* is one of them. Life wears on us, we go through seasons of fatigue, strain and tension that take their toll, and we can easily fall into apathy. Sanders prescribes a powerful tonic of scriptural principles that lead to recovery and growth. For anyone who feels worn out from their Christian life and could use a little spiritual doctoring, *A Spiritual Clinic* is for you.

[Small Church BIG Deal](#)

If you're not reaching the future of the church, your church has no future. As much sting as that statement has, it's hard to argue with. Yet many churches have no idea how to attract and retain younger generations. If you want to understand how to reach, teach, and empower young adults in your church, Jonathan "JP" Pokluda is ready to show you how. Sharing stories of successes and failures during his years of ministering to Millennials, JP offers you transferable principles that will help you mobilize the next generation toward Jesus. He encourages and equips you to - be real - teach the whole truth - hold traditions loosely - find young leaders - give the ministry away - and so much more. Tomorrow's church is out there, waiting for you to care, to reach out, to understand their struggles, and to show them why today's church needs, wants, and cherishes them.

[Shepherding the Small Church](#)

It's Monday morning and you have a knot in your stomach as you think of going to work. You recently started a new job as a team leader. You were very excited in the beginning, but it has been a tough week. Your team members don't seem too happy with you, people have been skipping meetings, you've been drowning in emails and requests, two of your team members are not even talking to each other and your new boss wants you to present your team's plans for the year when you have barely a plan for next week. You are realizing you actually have no clue how to be a team

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leader. Sure, you're great at what you do, and you've been a great team player. But nothing in your professional training taught you how to do this. "This" being putting together a team. Actually, putting together an amazing team. How do you bring together disparate characters and create something bigger and better than the sum of the parts? How do you achieve the goals you've promised to the organization and to yourself, goals which can only be accomplished through teamwork? What do you do when conflict explodes? How do you ensure that managing your team's request doesn't eat up all your time? Unless you actually studied for a career in management or business administration, chances are you were never taught anything about team leadership and managing people. This book is for you if: a.You have just started as a team leader (at work, in a sport or a hobby, or when volunteering) but have never learned about leadership and management in your career. b.You have been a leader for a while but are currently facing a crisis period and feel you don't have the tools to resolve it or if you want to learn new ways to strengthen your team, get better results, and build a better work environment. This book is a practical guide to accompany you through the process of becoming a great leader and putting together a dream team. It will show you how to: -Identify the leadership skills you already possess and build on them. -Successfully transition from team member to team leader. -Get rid of overwhelm and learn to manage your time. -Achieve your team goals through smart planning and follow-up strategies. -Manage the team formation process to create a strong, cohesive team. -Maintain smooth communication by establishing solid systems. -Help your team members avoid or overcome demotivation and burnout. -Resolve conflict constructively. This book focuses both on developing the mindset that can help you become a great team leader, and on building the strategies that will help you reach your goals, maintain team spirit and communication, and prevent conflict. This is the book I wish I had when I started as a team leader years ago. I've put together all the best strategies I researched and tested through my own journey as a leader. After reading this book and testing the practical ideas in it, within weeks you'll see positive changes in how your team relates to you and to each other. You'll feel empowered. You'll have a clear vision of who you want to be as a leader and what you want your dream team to look like, and most importantly, the tools and the plan that will make that vision a reality. My goal with this book is that you will find simple, easily-implementable solutions to the problems that now seem insurmountable. That tomorrow, instead of dreading your team meetings, you'll start looking forward to interacting with your team. That in a few weeks from now, the grey cloud of dread, boredom, and stress hanging over you every Monday morning when you have to hit the office will disappear and the sky will look bright blue as you go re-join that dream team of yours for another week of astounding successes. The journey starts here. It's a fun one.

Welcoming the Future Church

At first glance it may appear that the church in rural North America is thriving. Nestled just below any average small town skyline of water towers and grain elevators one will find the steeples and stained glass windows of various church buildings. From a distance it would seem that rural communities are being sufficiently served by the mere number of churches present. But a closer look within the walls of the average rural church paints a much different and disturbing picture. Many rural churches find themselves stuck in a current of decline that is ultimately leading to their death. They lack a clear understanding of their purpose. They are floundering in an absence of leadership. They possess little to no vision for how a BIG God longs to impact their small community for His eternal kingdom. And instead of embracing the changes necessary to propel them into the future, they are clinging to worn out traditions of the past. Rural Church RESCUE speaks directly to churches struggling with these issues. Speaking from his experience as both a rural church pastor and firefighter, Jon Sanders presents a unique perspective on these common problems facing the rural church. Using a metaphor drawn from the world of the fire service, Sanders outlines six principles necessary for rural churches to be healthy and reclaim the vital role God has called them to in their communities.

Naked Man Running

Do you lead a small church? Big churches get all the love. Articles, books, conferences—they mostly feature leaders of large congregations. Yet big churches are a small part of the ecclesial landscape. In fact, more than 90 percent of churches have fewer than 200 people. That means small churches play a big part in what God is doing. Small Church Essentials is for leaders of these smaller congregations. It encourages them to steward their role well, debunking myths about small churches while offering principles for leading a dynamic, healthy small church. Based on the popular six-hour lecture that Karl Vaters delivers to church leaders across the country, Small Church Essentials will affirm small church leaders and show them how to identify what they do well, and how to do it even better. Readers will: Be assured that leading a small congregation does not make them ministry failures Come away inspired to lead with passion, regardless of the size of their church Have field-tested principles for leading a church in their context Possess new metrics for biblically measuring vitality in small churches Have a toolkit of resources to use in their everyday ministry Karl Vaters has been a small church pastor for 30 years, is the author of *The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches, and the Small Thinking that Divides Us* (2013), and travels extensively to churches and conferences to speak about leading a small church well. If you are pastoring a small church, this book will be a breath of fresh air. It will affirm your calling while giving you fresh tools to help you lead. It will help you: Stop believing lies about small churches Lead your church to fulfill the role only small churches can Understand your congregation's strengths and weaknesses Turn around a dying or unhealthy church Identify good trends and bad in church and culture

Discipleship Essentials

The Challenge Built to Last, the defining management study of the nineties, showed how great companies triumph over

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time and how long-term sustained performance can be engineered into the DNA of an enterprise from the very beginning. But what about the company that is not born with great DNA? How can good companies, mediocre companies, even bad companies achieve enduring greatness? The Study For years, this question preyed on the mind of Jim Collins. Are there companies that defy gravity and convert long-term mediocrity or worse into long-term superiority? And if so, what are the universal distinguishing characteristics that cause a company to go from good to great? The Standards Using tough benchmarks, Collins and his research team identified a set of elite companies that made the leap to great results and sustained those results for at least fifteen years. How great? After the leap, the good-to-great companies generated cumulative stock returns that beat the general stock market by an average of seven times in fifteen years, better than twice the results delivered by a composite index of the world's greatest companies, including Coca-Cola, Intel, General Electric, and Merck. The Comparisons The research team contrasted the good-to-great companies with a carefully selected set of comparison companies that failed to make the leap from good to great. What was different? Why did one set of companies become truly great performers while the other set remained only good? Over five years, the team analyzed the histories of all twenty-eight companies in the study. After sifting through mountains of data and thousands of pages of interviews, Collins and his crew discovered the key determinants of greatness – why some companies make the leap and others don't. The Findings The findings of the Good to Great study will surprise many readers and shed light on virtually every area of management strategy and practice. The findings include: Level 5 Leaders: The research team was shocked to discover the type of leadership required to achieve greatness. The Hedgehog Concept (Simplicity within the Three Circles): To go from good to great requires transcending the curse of competence. A Culture of Discipline: When you combine a culture of discipline with an ethic of entrepreneurship, you get the magical alchemy of great results. Technology Accelerators: Good-to-great companies think differently about the role of technology. The Flywheel and the Doom Loop: Those who launch radical change programs and wrenching restructurings will almost certainly fail to make the leap. "Some of the key concepts discerned in the study," comments Jim Collins, "fly in the face of our modern business culture and will, quite frankly, upset some people." Perhaps, but who can afford to ignore these findings?

[The Grasshopper Myth](#)

90% of the churches in the world have less than 200 people. What if that's not a bad thing? What if smallness is an advantage God wants us to use, not a problem to fix?

[No Silver Bullets](#)

Over the past fifteen years, small groups have become a vital way to build community in large churches. Nowhere has this been more apparent than at Saddleback Church. Now Steve Gladen, pastor of small groups at Saddleback, shares the secrets of that ministry's incredible success in creating small groups with purpose. This practical book walks church leaders through the questions they need to answer to develop their own intentional small group strategy. Built around the most commonly asked questions, Small Groups with Purpose outlines the step-by-step process of creating a successful small group ministry. Because it is built upon principles and not methods, this plan can be implemented in any size church. Each chapter ends with a list of questions for readers to answer to help them assess their current situation and their desires for the future. Personal stories, Scripture, and examples ground the discussion and show the system in action. Pastors and small group leaders will find this book instrumental in making small groups work in their churches.

[Stalled](#)

[Scrappy Church](#)

True religion confronts earth with heaven and brings eternity to bear upon time. The messenger of Christ, though he speaks from God, must also, as the Quakers used to say, "speak to the condition" of his hearers; otherwise he will speak a language known only to himself. His message must be not only timeless but timely. He must speak to his own generation. This book is packed with truth, giving the insight on how the Holy Spirit is the power behind the Church, the Christian life, and the sustainability needed to follow Jesus.

[How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor](#)

We grow in Christ as we seek him together. Jesus' own pattern of disciple-making was to be intimately involved with others. This expanded 25-session workbook by Greg Ogden, perfect for small groups or individuals, helps us influence others as Jesus did—by investing in a few. Working through it will deepen your knowledge of essential Christian teaching and strengthen your faith.

[Rural Church RESCUE](#)

A 100-Day Plan That's Practical, Realistic, and Actually Works You see the problems in your church, and you truly believe it could be better. Not perfect, but healthier. If you want more for your church but aren't quite sure how to get there, 100 Days to a Healthier Church was written for you. It teaches you how to: Identify your church's current level

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of health using the 'Church Health Continuum' Make big changes through small nudges rather than giant leaps Grow your strengths and tackle your weaknesses one at a time After years of trial and error, pastor and author Karl Vaters developed a tested and proven 15-week process that's manageable, adaptable, and effective. It won't fix everything overnight, but it will help you figure out what to do next. Great for individual pastors, perfect for church leadership teams!

[Small Groups with Purpose](#)

In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health status, so-called determinants of health. Only part of an individual's health status depends on his or her behavior and choice; community-wide problems like poverty, unemployment, poor education, inadequate housing, poor public transportation, interpersonal violence, and decaying neighborhoods also contribute to health inequities, as well as the historic and ongoing interplay of structures, policies, and norms that shape lives. When these factors are not optimal in a community, it does not mean they are intractable: such inequities can be mitigated by social policies that can shape health in powerful ways. Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome.

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