Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church

with Karl Vaters

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KarlVaters.com/BCYD26



Three Ways a Small Church Can Be an Effective Church

1. Realize a small church can be an effective church
2. Discover how small churches function differently from big churches
3. Understand and use the unique DNA of your small church for God's glory

1. Realize a small church can be an effective church

Define success in ministry
without numbers attached to it

Don’t fall for IKEA Envy

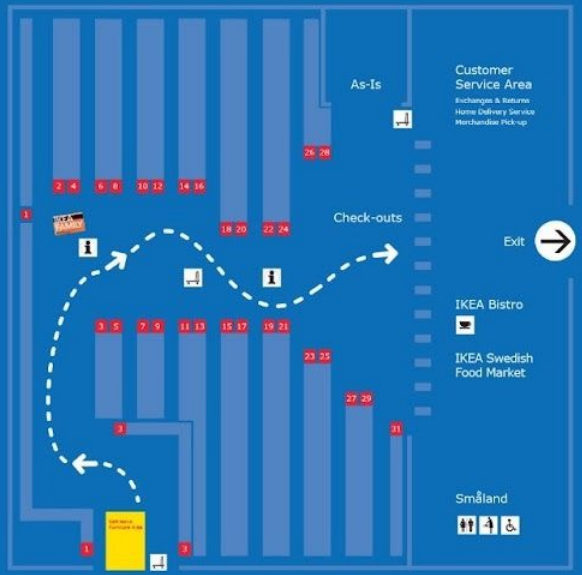
Find your way in the
Showroom
First Floor



Find your way in the
Markethall
Ground Floor



Find your way in the
Self-serve Furniture Area
Ground Floor



Don’t fall for IKEA Envy





Rethink small church as a strategy to use, not a problem to fix

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Even if you didn't *get* small strategically, you can *move forward* strategically

“Over 90% of our churches are under 200, over 80% are under 100”

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- First Reaction: “Oh no!”

“Over 90% of our churches are under 200, over 80% are under 100”

- First Reaction: “Oh no!”
- Second Reaction: “So what?”

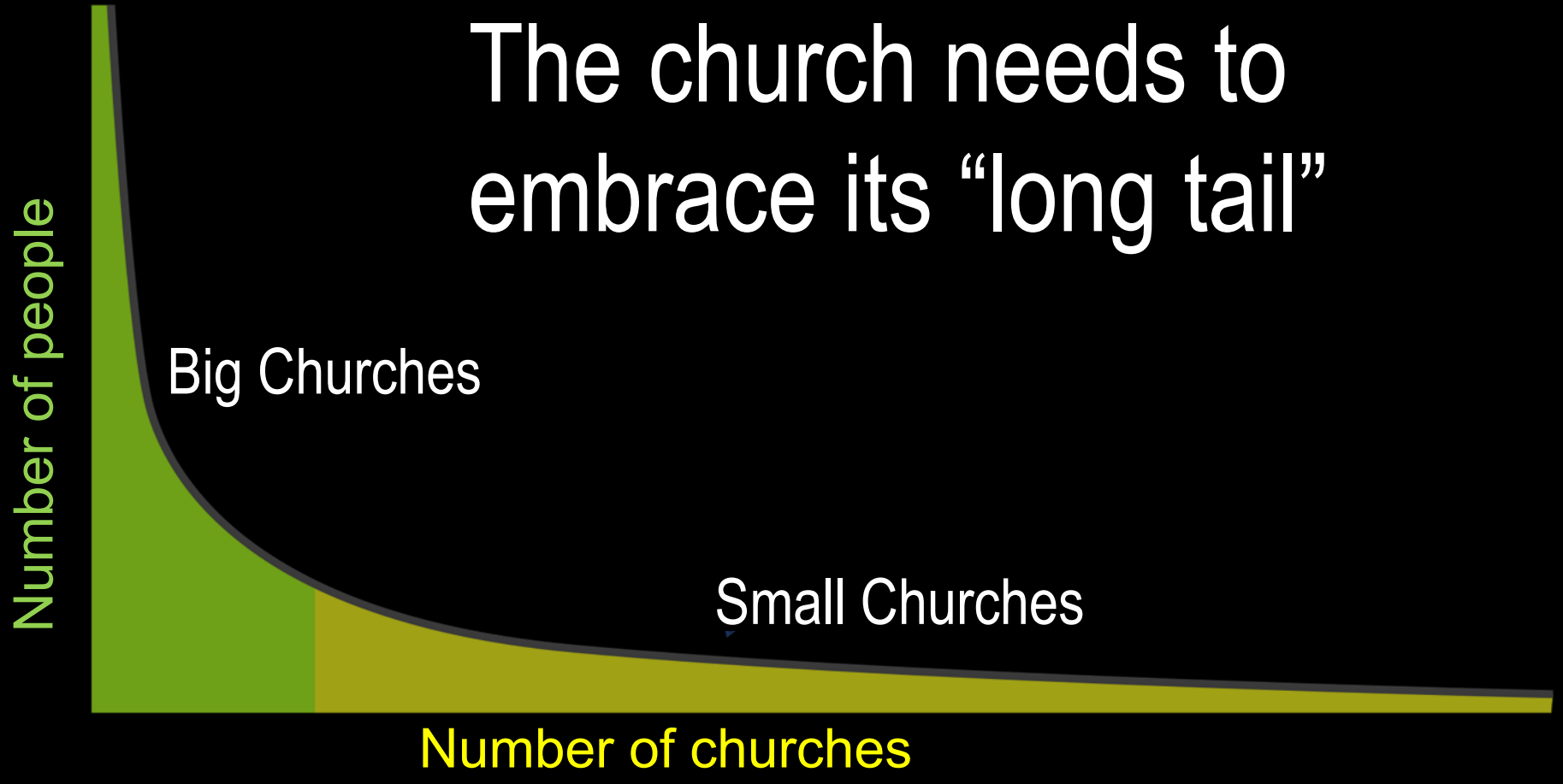
"Over 90% of our churches are under 200, over 80% are under 100"

- First Reaction: "Oh no!"
- Second Reaction: "So what?"
- Final Reaction: "*Now* what?"

The church needs to embrace its “long tail”



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People will come to small churches,
but they won’t give up quality to do so

People will come to small churches, but they won't give up quality to do so

- Quality looks different in a small church than a big church

2. Discover how small churches function differently from big churches

What is a small church?

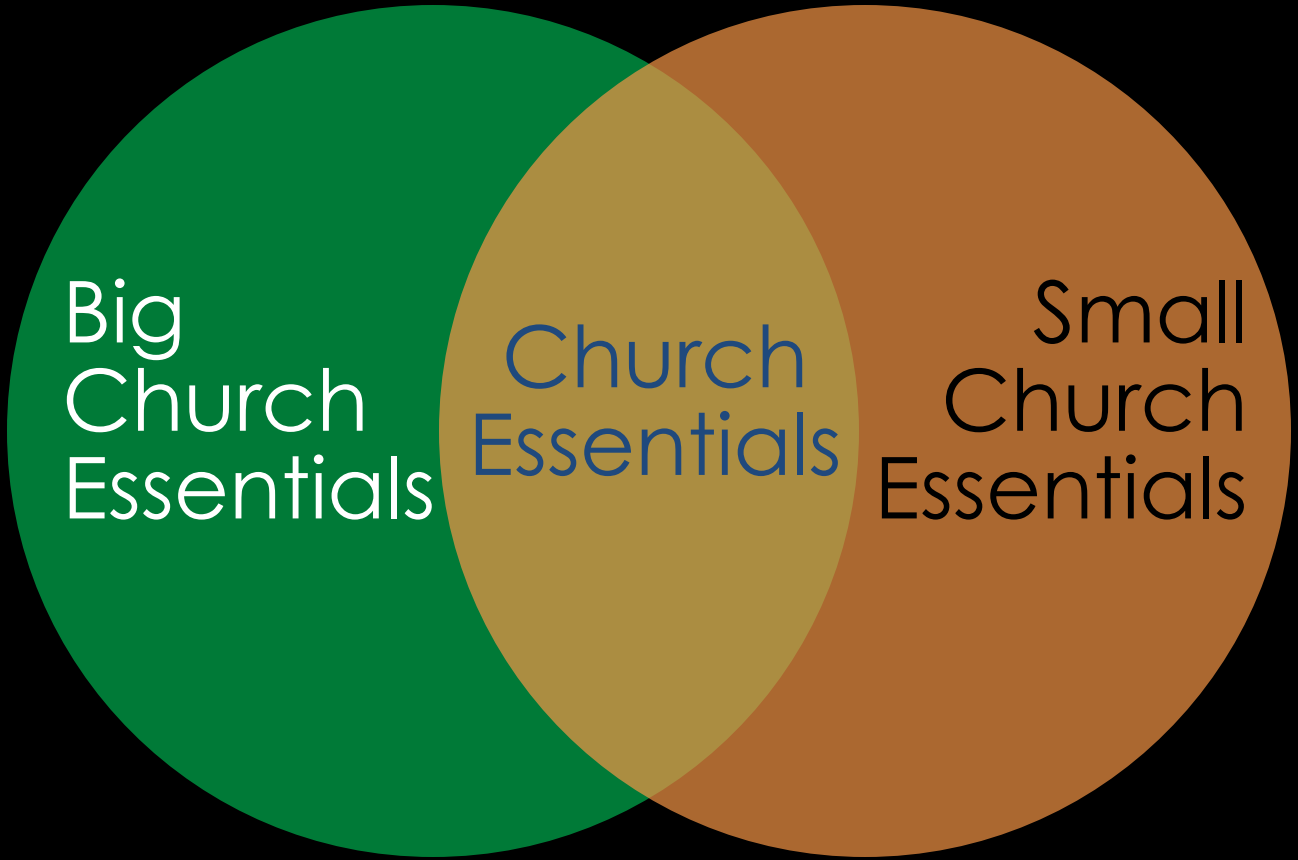
What is a small church?

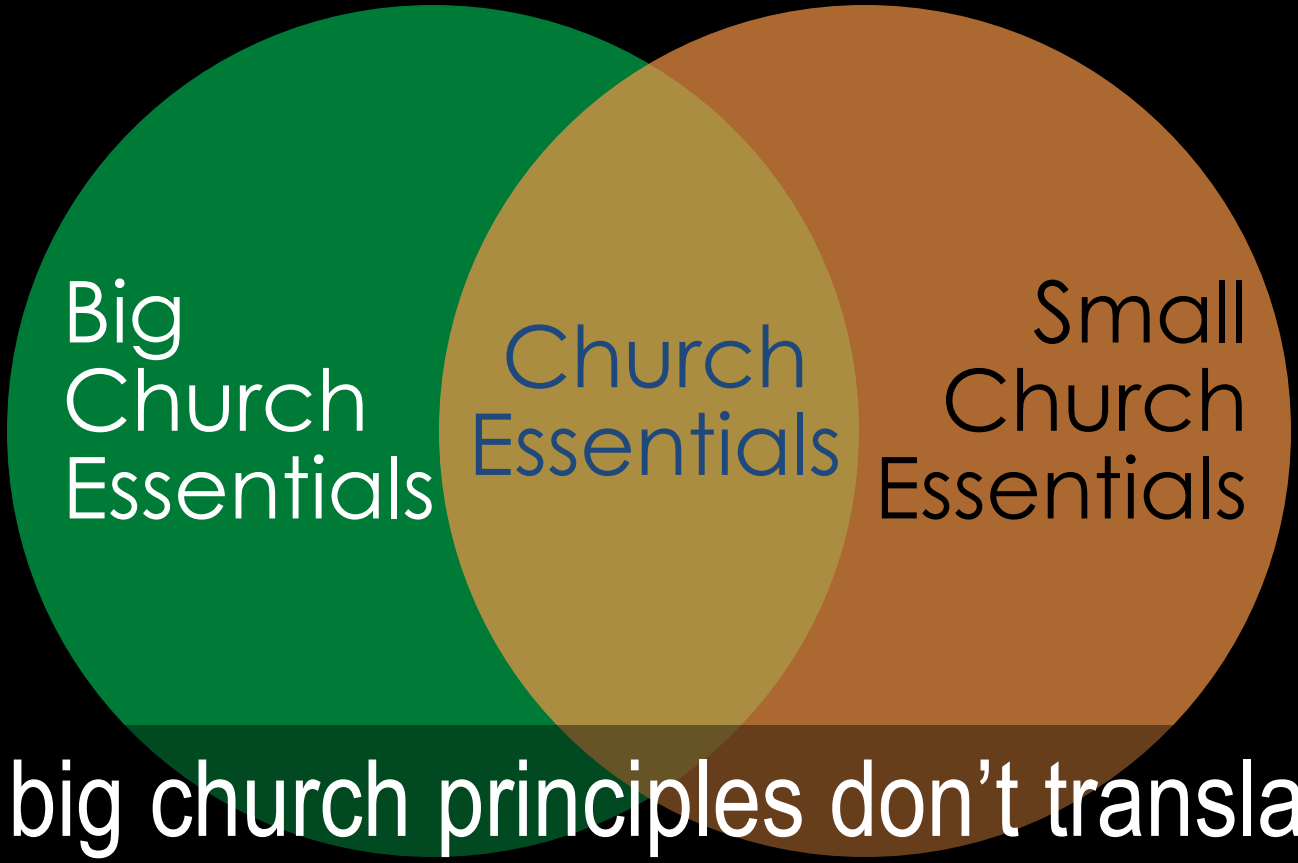
Small church leadership relies on the pastor's presence

What is a small church?

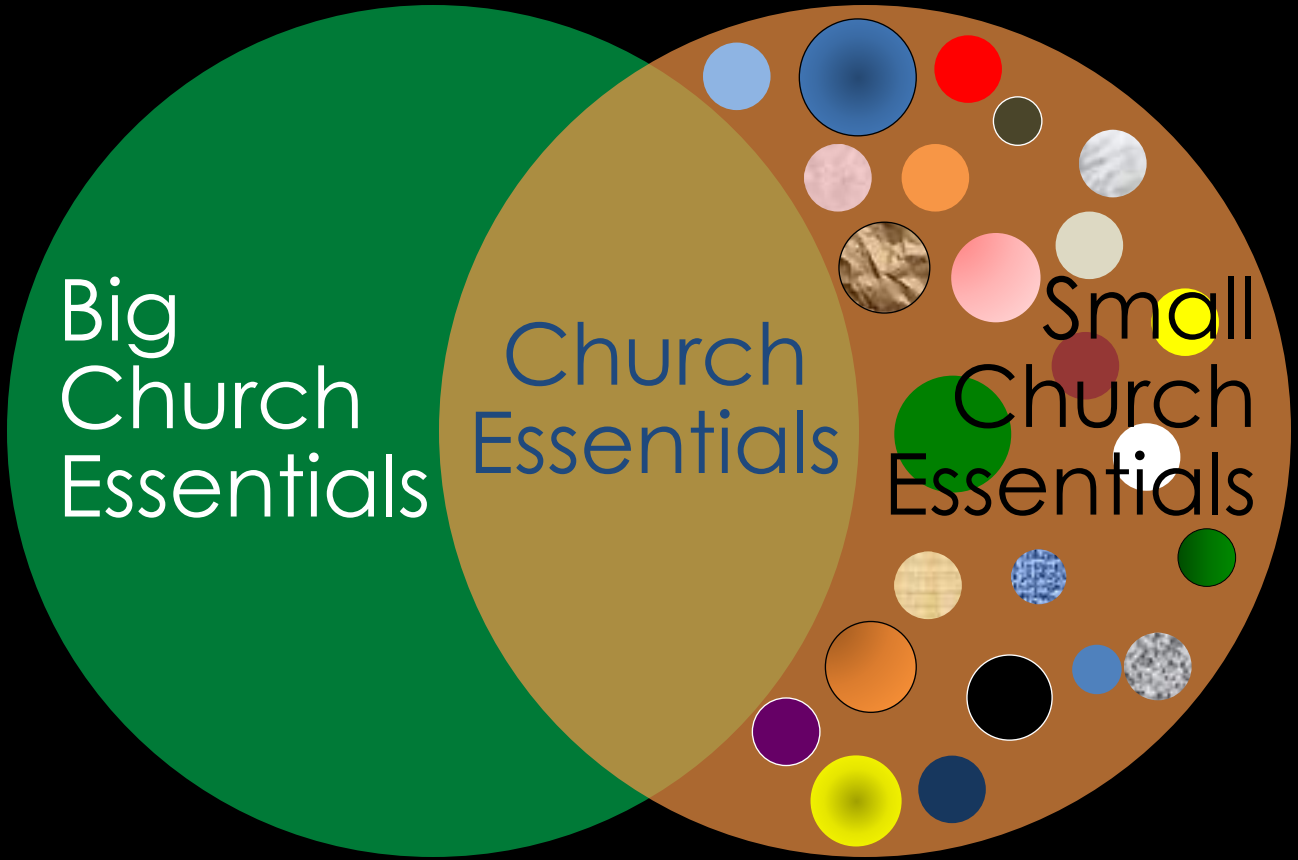
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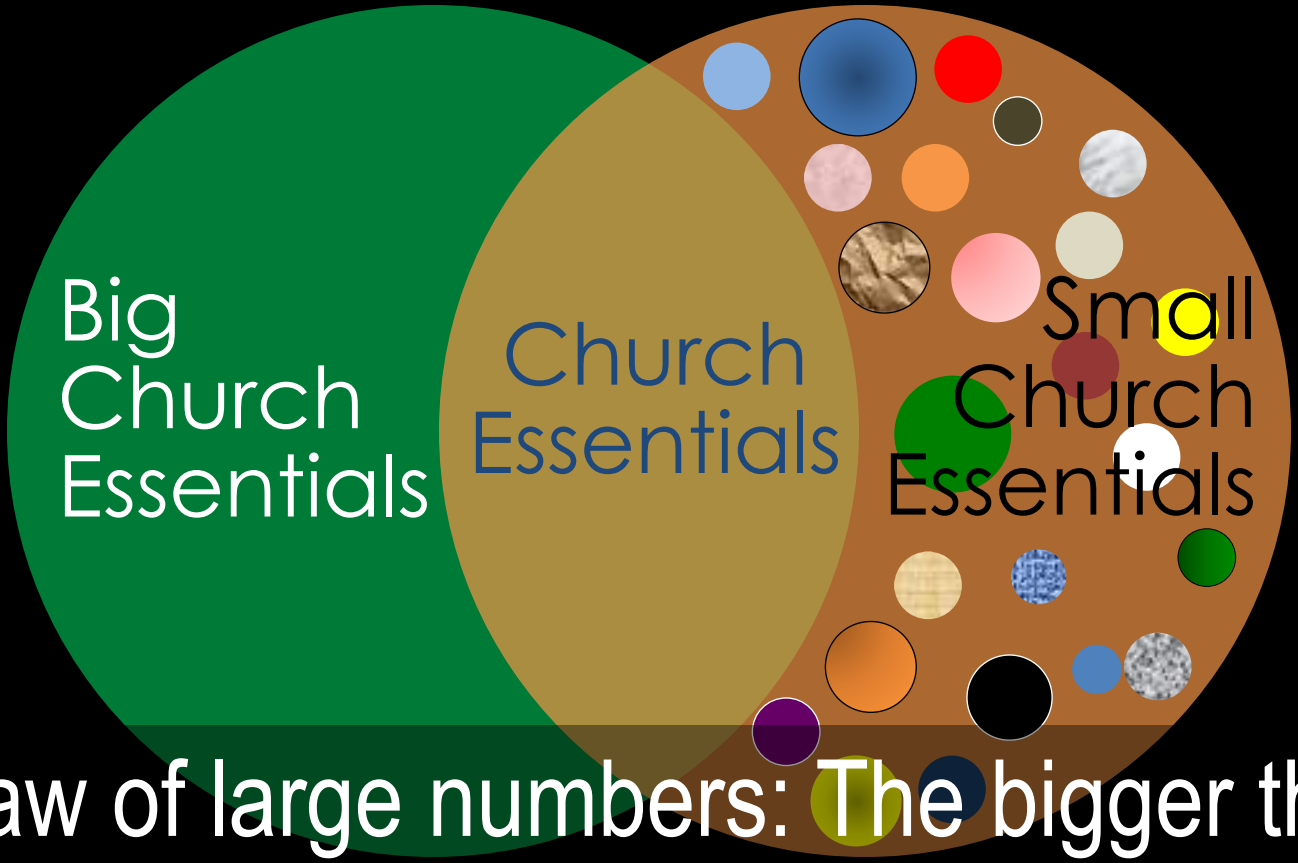
- Big church leadership compensates for the pastor's absence


Big
Church
Essentials
Church
Essentials
Small
Church
Essentials



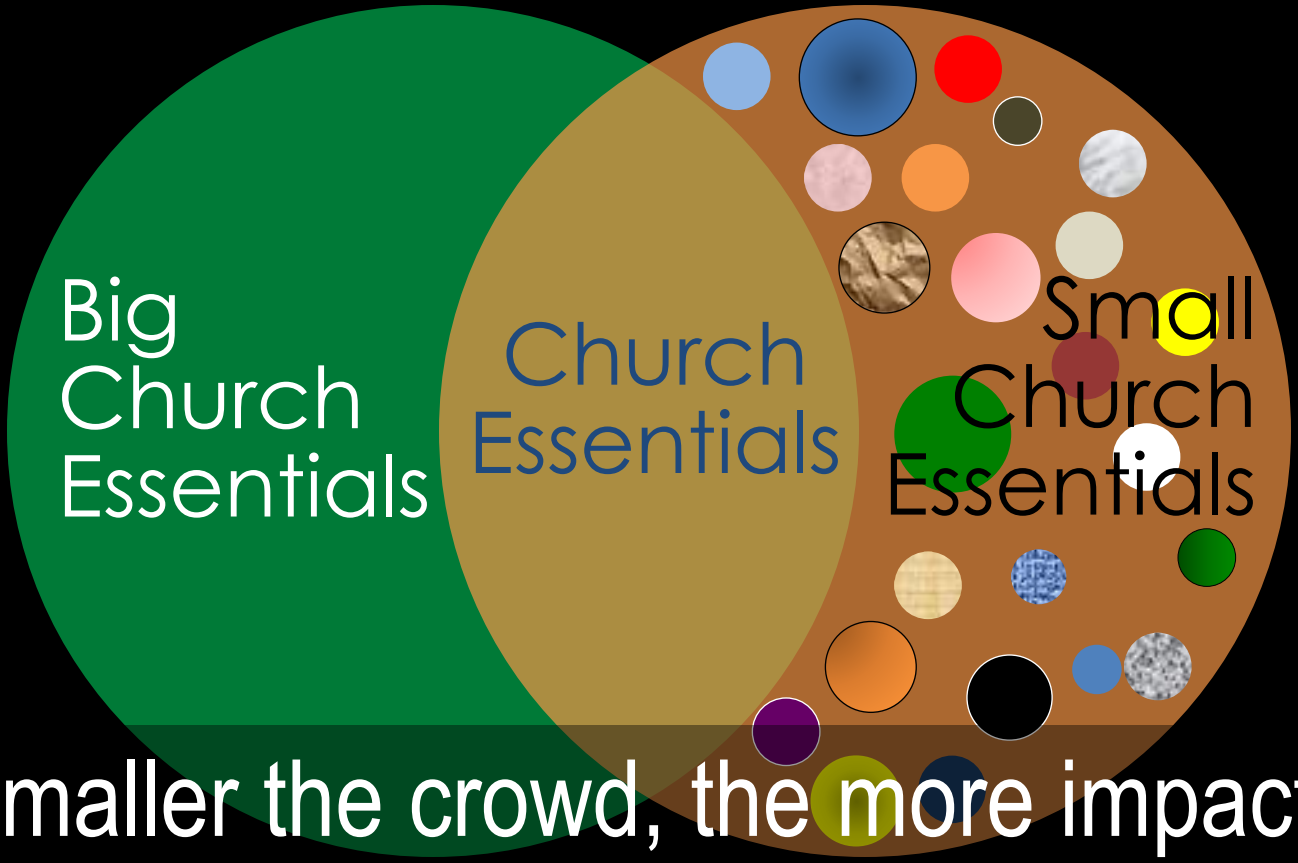
Many big church principles don't translate well to a small church context


Big
Church
Essentials
Church
Essentials
Small
Church
Essentials



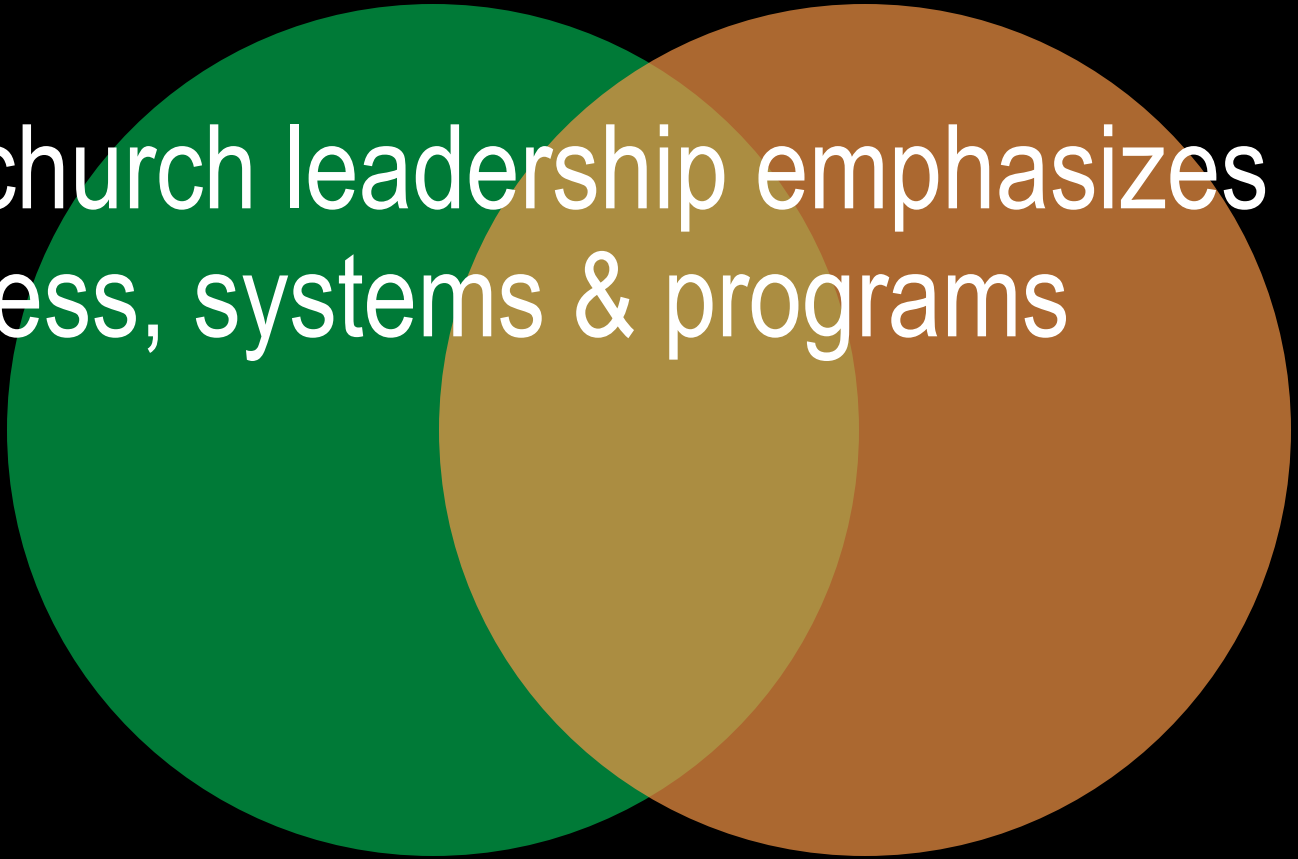
The law of large numbers: The bigger the crowd, the more predictably it behaves

3. Understand and use the unique DNA of your small church for God's glory



The smaller the crowd, the more impact each person has – for good and bad

Big church leadership emphasizes process, systems & programs





Big church leadership emphasizes process, systems & programs

Small church leadership emphasizes relationships, culture & history

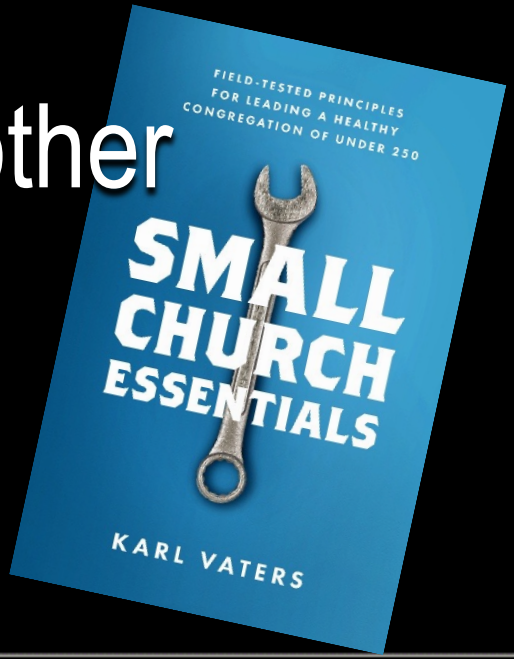
In a big church, the friendliest people are on the First Impressions team

In a big church, the friendliest people are on the First Impressions team

- In a small church, *everyone* is on the First Impressions team

The G.I.F.T. plan for friendlier churches

Greet someone new
Introduce people to each other
Follow Up on someone
Thank someone



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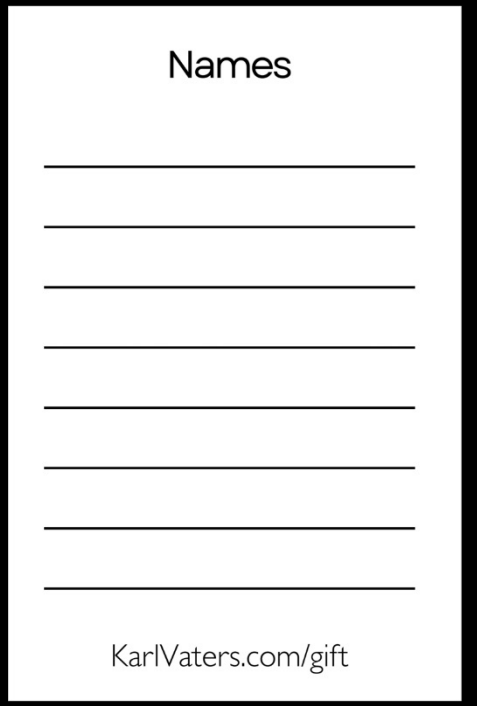
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20 for $15

50 for $30

100 for $45

(Business card size)



Back

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THE CHURCH LOBBY

bi-weekly podcast

Karl talks to church leaders about small-church issues


Big church leadership emphasizes process, systems & programs
Small church leadership emphasizes relationships, culture & history

Culture: The unwritten set of rules that governs everything a church does

Pastors of pre-existing small churches don't *set* the culture, they *inherit* a culture

Step 1: Know the current culture

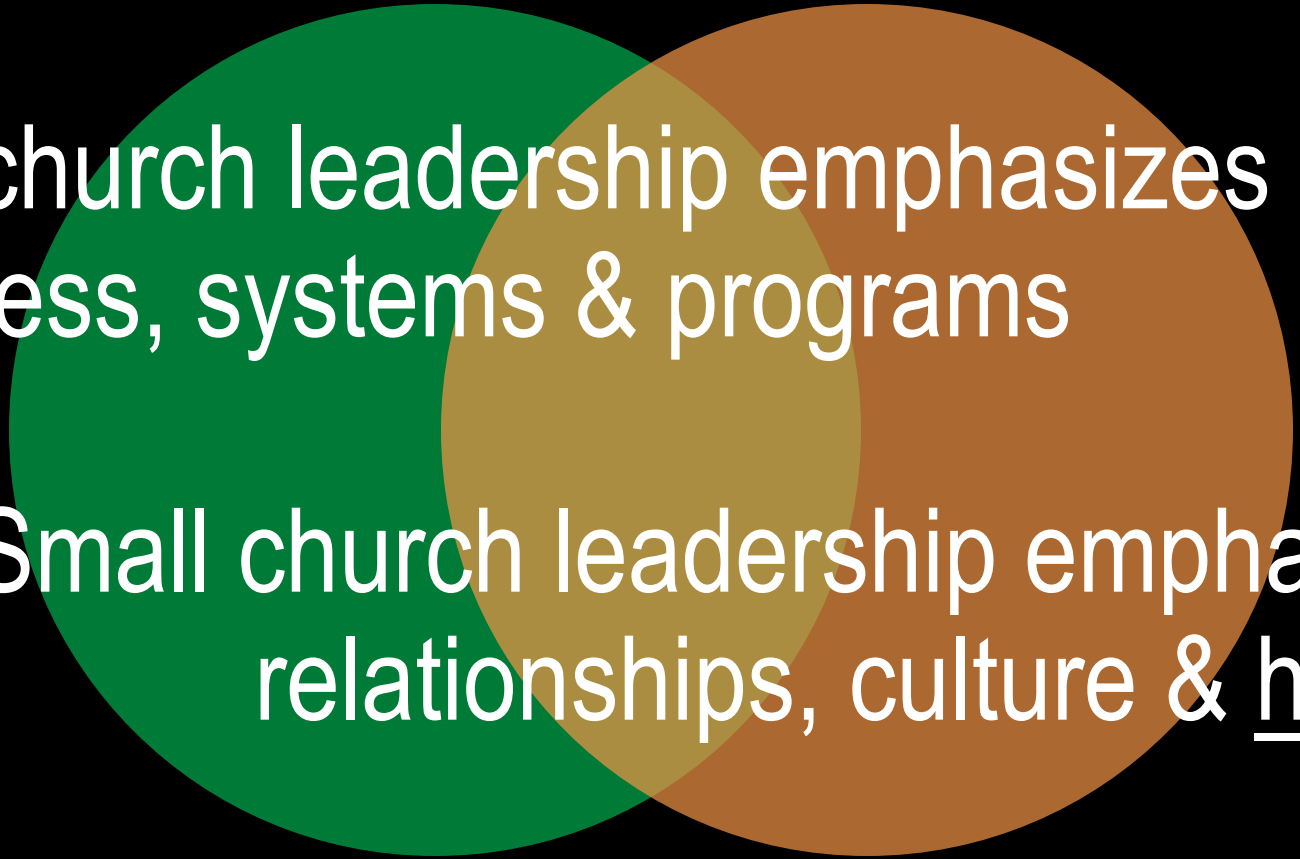
Step 1: Know the current culture

Step 2: Show them what you appreciate about the church's culture

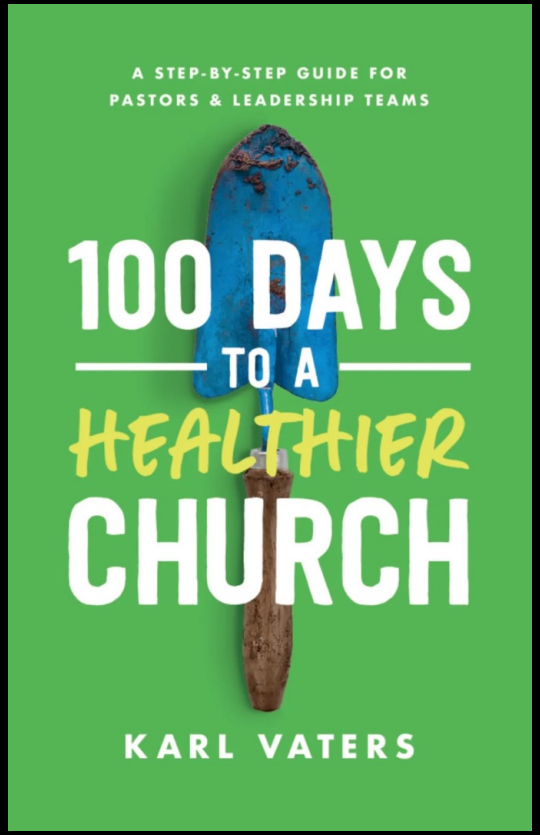
Step 1: Know the current culture

Step 2: Show them what you appreciate about the church's culture

Step 3: Receive limited permission to participate with them in moving the culture forward


Big church leadership emphasizes process, systems & programs
Small church leadership emphasizes relationships, culture & history

History: Don’t fight your church’s history



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JAN 5 — FEB 18

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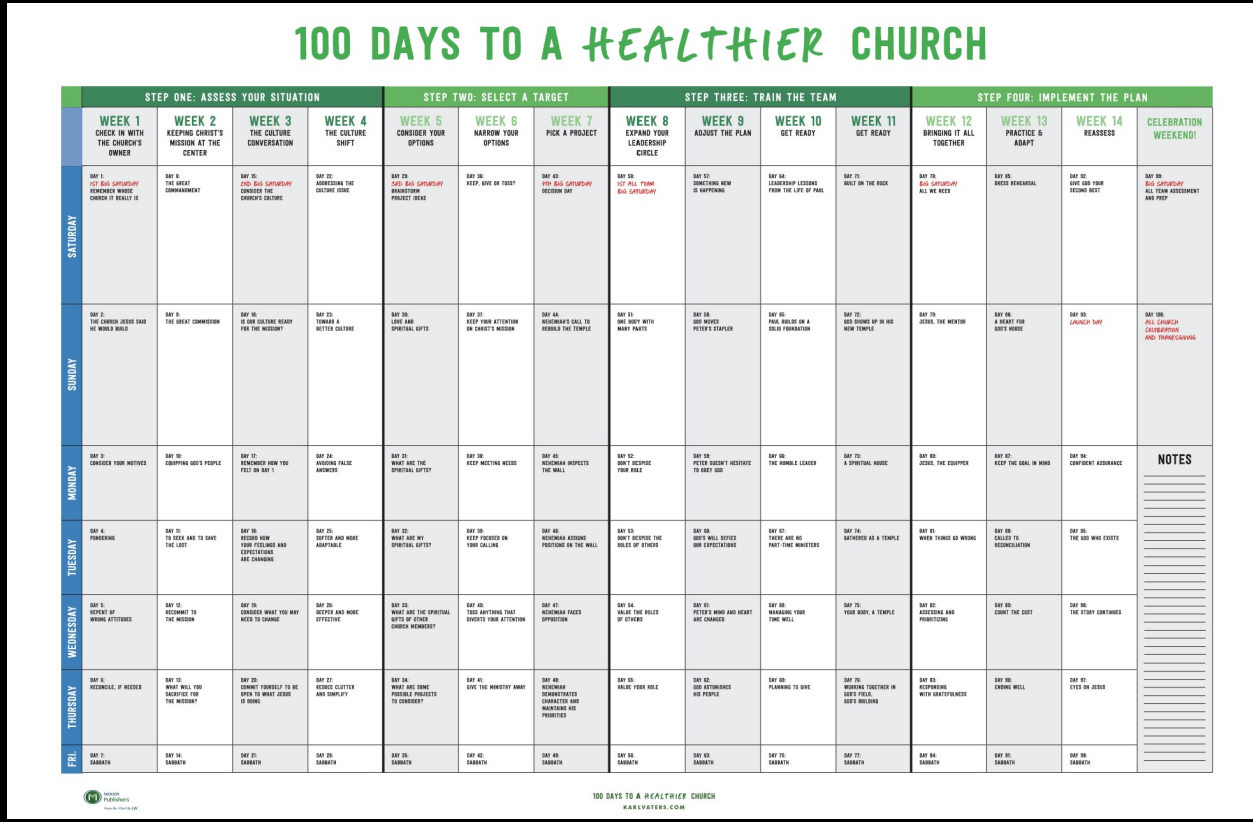
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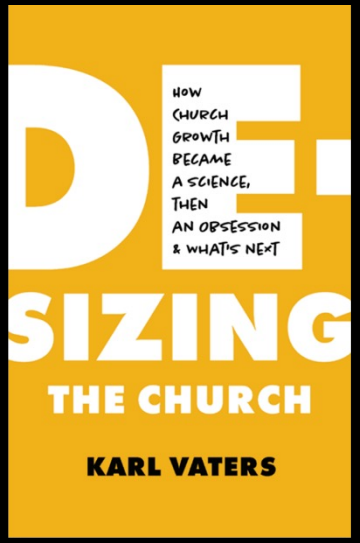
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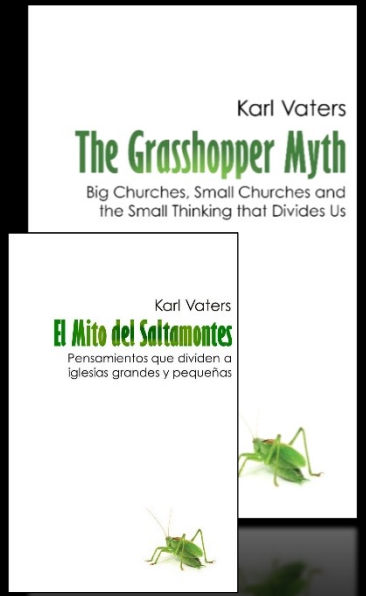
Next Workshop

Finding and Training Church Volunteers In a Fast-Changing Culture

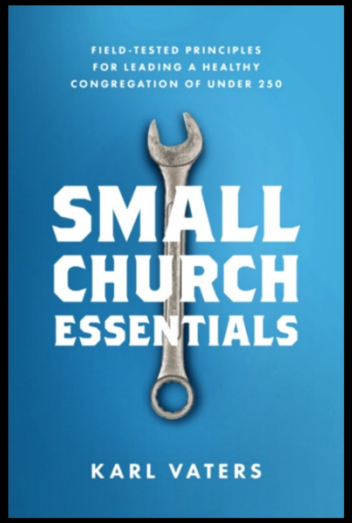
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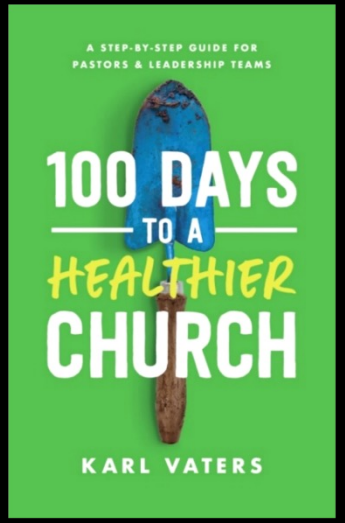
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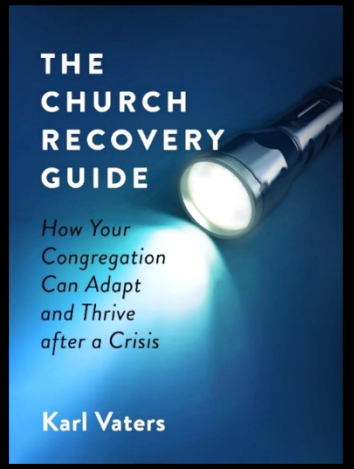
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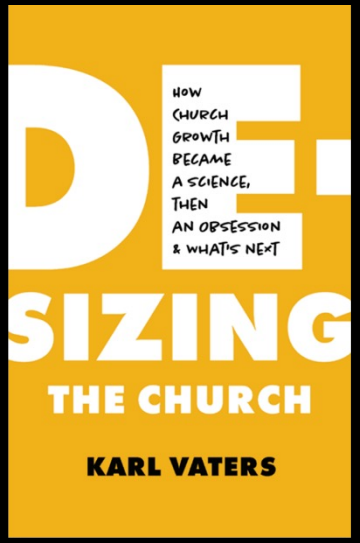
A small church is not a penalty for doing something wrong

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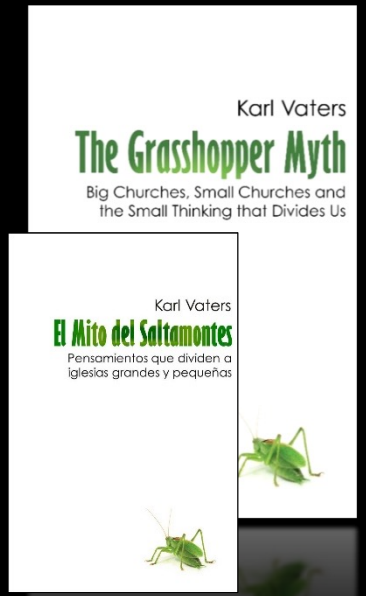
- It’s a specialty, and it’s worth doing well


The
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CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH & MINISTRY
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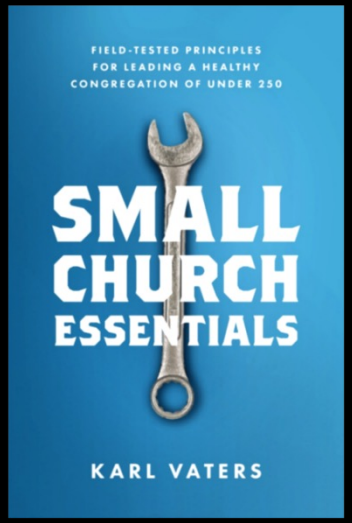
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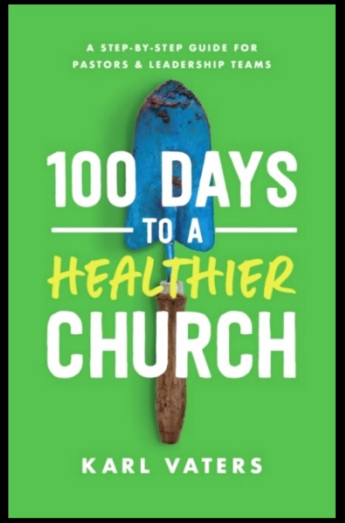
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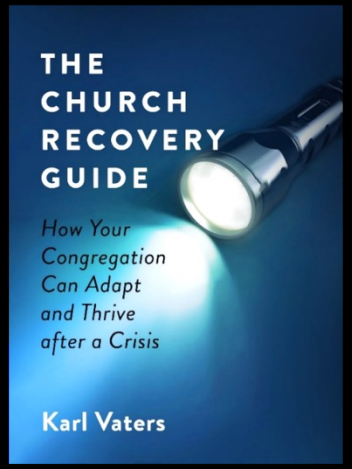
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$17



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Finding and Training Church Volunteers In a Fast-Changing Culture

with Karl Vaters

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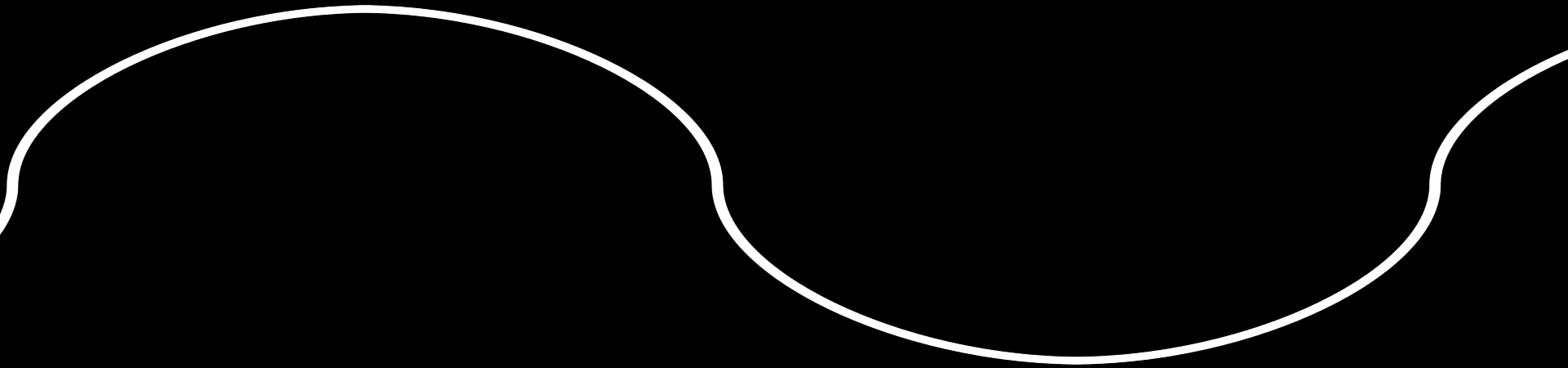
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The current pace of change is faster than our ability to adapt

Before Industrial Revolution

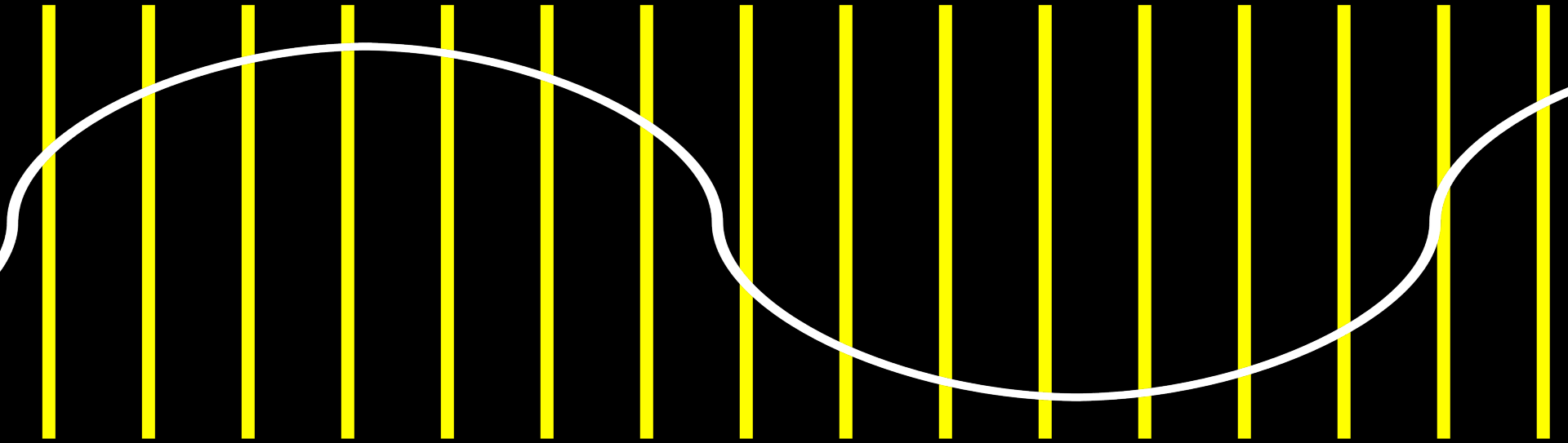
Pace of change



Before Industrial Revolution

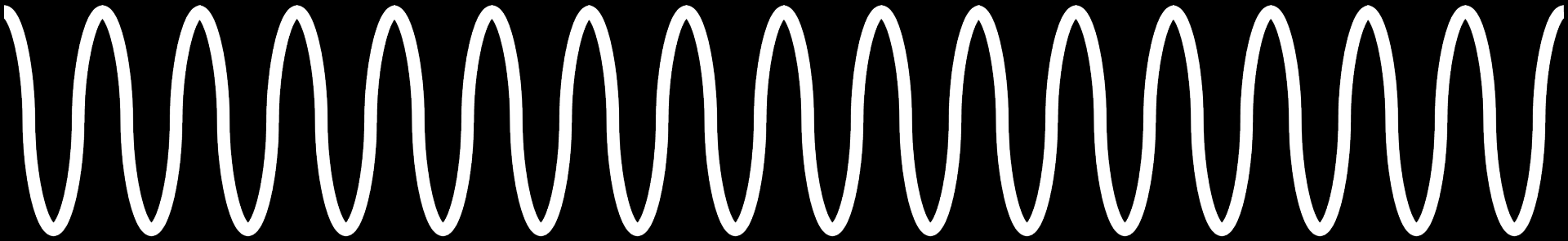
Pace of change

Length of a generation



Today (Electronic Age)

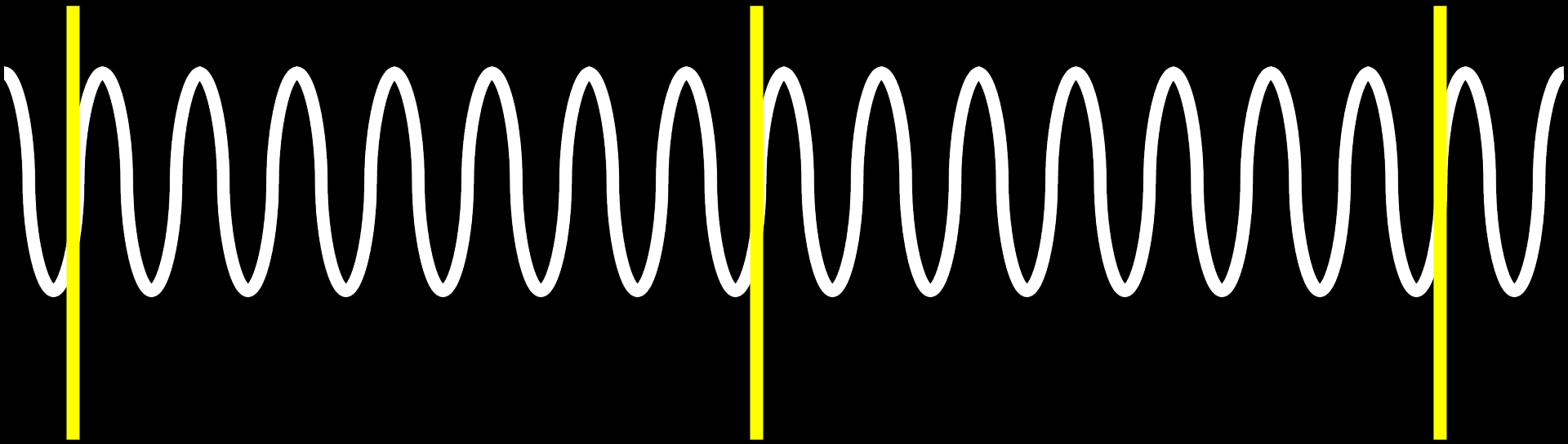
Pace of change



Today (Electronic Age)

Pace of change

Length of a generation



Challenges for the current and future church

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- The way people earn is changing

Challenges for the current and future church

- The way people earn is changing
- The way people give is changing

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- The way people earn is changing
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Challenges for the current and future church

- The way people earn is changing
- The way people give is changing
- The way people commit is changing
- The way people attend is changing
- The way people trust is changing

Today’s generation does not see church the way previous generations saw church

Previous generations saw the church through the lenses of tradition and duty

If our churches had members with this kind of faithfulness and passion, we would change this world in no time.



Previous generations saw the church through the lenses of tradition and duty

- Current generations see the church through the lenses of distrust and apathy

They want to see a church built on relationships and integrity

New generations will not build the kind of churches their parents built

New generations will not build the kind of churches their parents built

- Previous generations had relationships and built structures

New generations will not build the kind of churches their parents built

- Previous generations had relationships and built structures
- This generation has structures and needs to build relationships

If our churches had members with this kind of faithfulness and passion, we would change this world in no time.



Use the Jethro system to raise up mentors

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- 10, 50, 100, 1,000

Use the Jethro system to raise up mentors

- 10, 50, 100, 1,000
- Find Level 10 leaders first

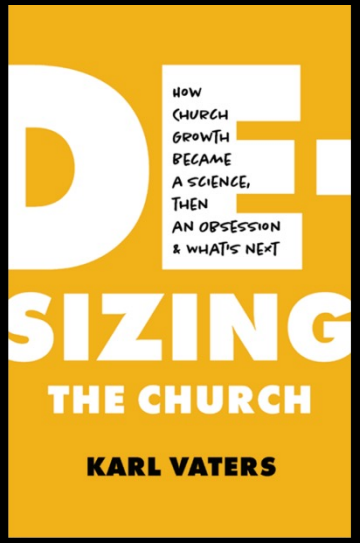
Start with one

Find leaders by looking for servants

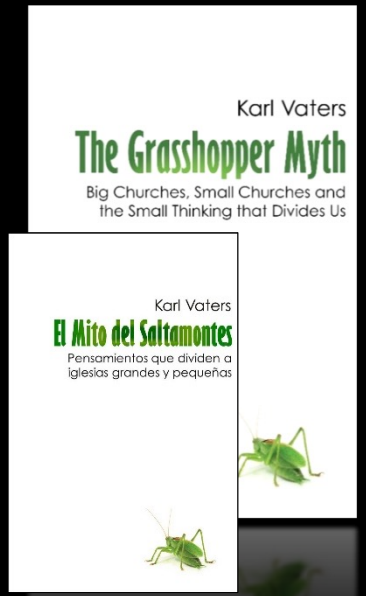
Find leaders by looking for servants

- It’s easier to teach a servant to lead than to teach a leader to serve

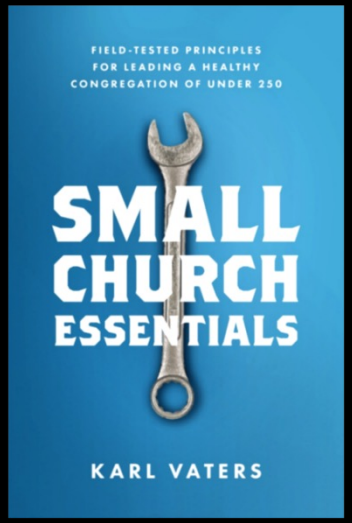
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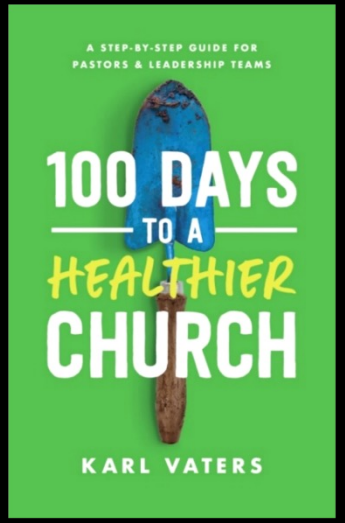
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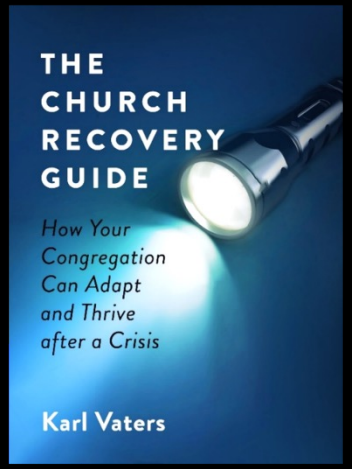
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