

# *Microsites to Thrive:*

Seven Churches that Reveal

THE POWER OF  
*small*

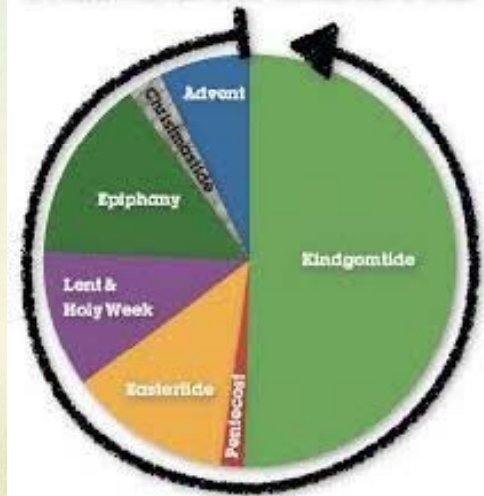
1. Like the Beginning
2. Be Faithful While Suffering
3. Against False Teachings and Sinful Practices
4. In the Midst of Sexual Immorality
5. Constantly Awakening
6. Patiently Endure
7. Go Cool Like Gold Refined



Begin Kingdom-tide

at Microsites of Savage & Lanham

Seasons of the Church Year



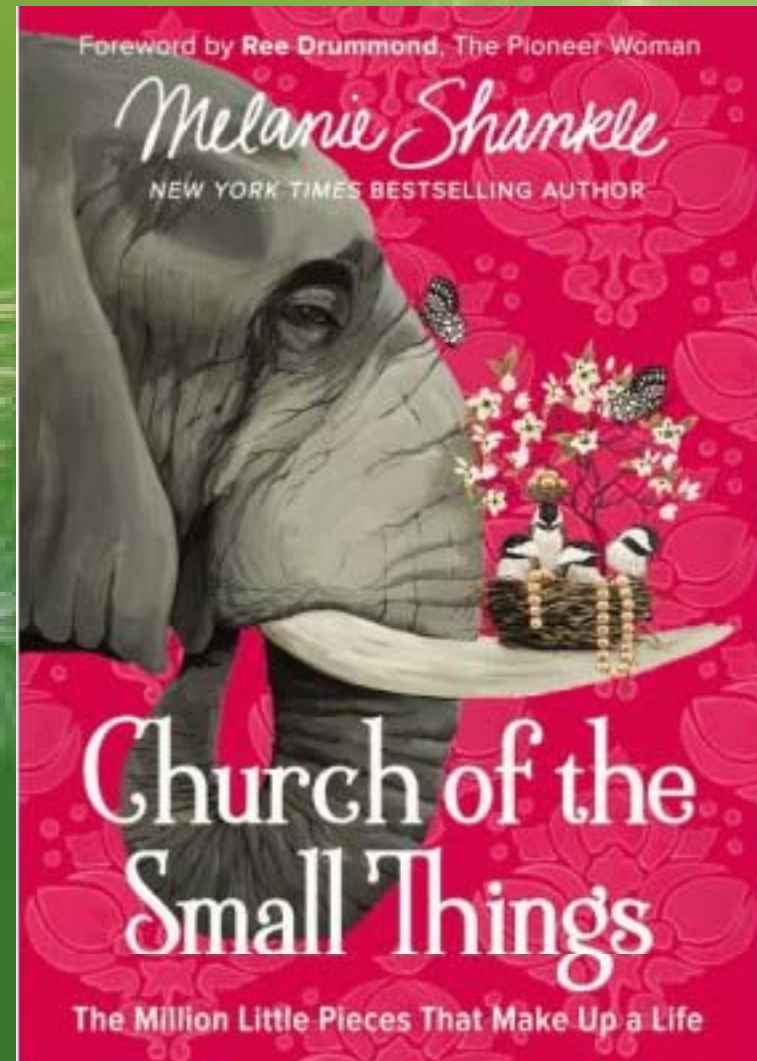
THE MICROSITE  
**CHURCH**



*“God does extraordinary things in our most mundane moments of faithfulness.”*

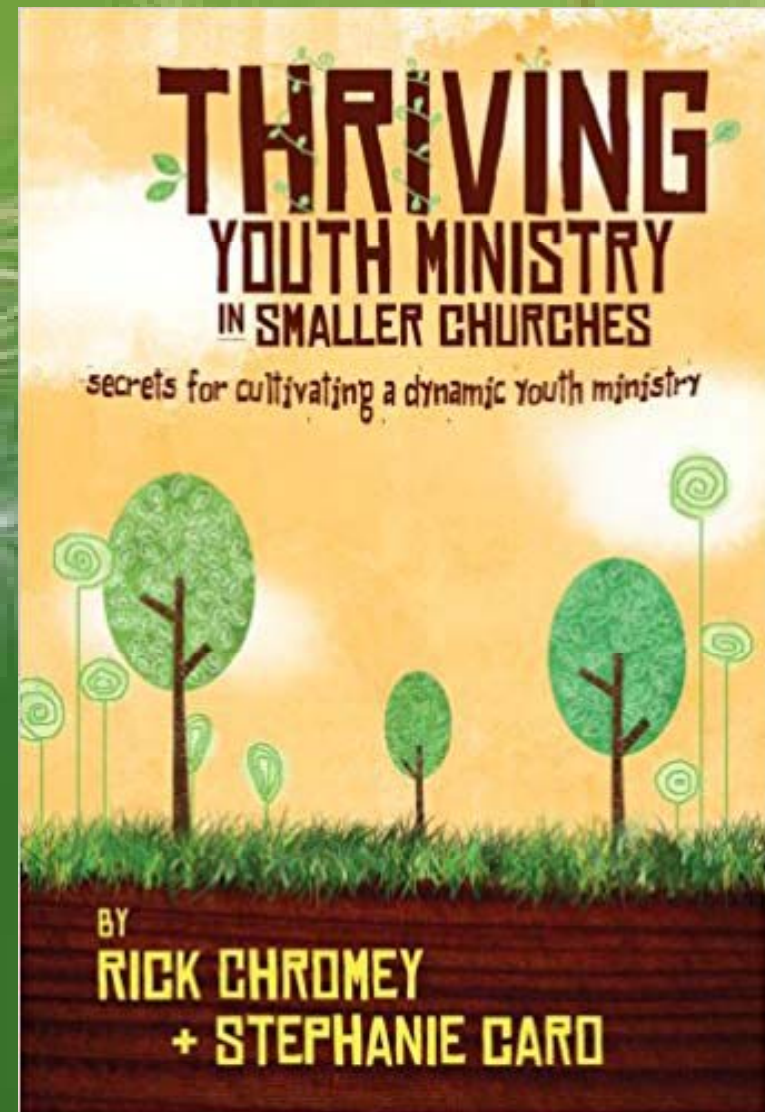
*“God uses **the smallest acts of faithfulness to love and influence the people around us**—and sometimes that looks a lot like packing sandwiches for lunch, working in a cubicle, or playing tea party one more time even though you feel like gnawing your arm off.”*

*In **Church of the Small Things**, she invites us to **view our daily tasks as the holy and precious callings.***



Are you in a "small" church? Well, guess what--**you're the majority.** With the average church in America clocking in around 75 members, there's no reason **why "small" has to equal "less"** when it comes to healthy, thriving youth ministry.

And a smaller youth ministry has the flexibility and qualities to be nimble and relational, two qualities that will serve your teenagers better than a kickin' stage or a big budget.



***“How to Lead in a Diverse World”***  
By Christina Walker on June 14, 2018

*“Stretch yourself.  
Spend time in prayer asking God to  
reveal how he might be inviting you to  
grow as a leader.”*



A Guide to Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being

# HOW TO *thrive*

as a  
SMALL-CHURCH  
PASTOR



Steve R. Bierly

TEACH YOUR SON  
TO BE A MAN  
OF GOD



*“Did you know that **if a child is the first person in a household to become a Christian, there is a 3.5% probability everyone else in the household will follow? If the mother is the first to become a Christian, a 17 % will follow. But if the father is first, there is a 93 % probability will follow.**”*

**Sid Woodruff**

*men's ministry and deacon ministry specialist,  
LifeWay, Nashville, TN*

*“Of about 94 million men in US, 68M don't attend any church, but 85 percent of those say they grew up with some sort of church background.”*

*These men aren't necessarily opposed to going to church, they just don't see churches as being "male-friendly."*

A dandelion seed head is shown on the left side of the image, with its seeds blowing away. The background is a vibrant green, suggesting a grassy field. The entire scene is framed by a thin black border.

Slappy  
Father's  
Day

The righteous  
man walks in  
his integrity;  
**His children  
are blessed  
after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7



WHY  
MEN  
HATE  
GOING  
TO  
CHURCH

COMPLETELY REVISED & UPDATED

DAVID MURROW



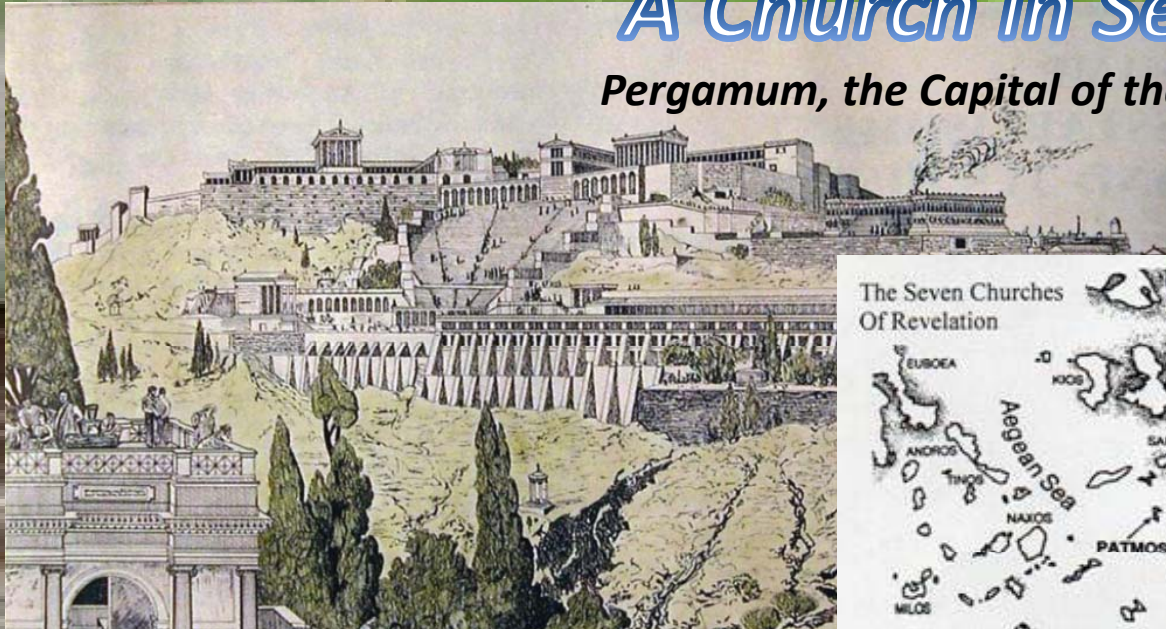
*Murrow suggests  
a boy band up front in worship,  
male parking attendants,  
male ushers,  
wide-screen television,  
prayer huddles [not circles],  
signs [men hate asking direction],  
...  
and robes—  
real men don't cross-dress or want  
to.*

*...  
the church should not alienate  
men unnecessarily.*

# Revelation 2:12-17

## A Church in Secular Church

*Pergamum, the Capital of the Roman Province of Asia*



The Seven Churches  
Of Revelation



THE CITY OF PERGAMOS

*Renowned for*

*1) its Library*

*2) Filled with temples and altars, w. an Immense Altar to Zeus*

*3) Animal Sacrifices for 24 hours a day, w. constant changes of priests*

*4) Serving the supremacy of Zeus*

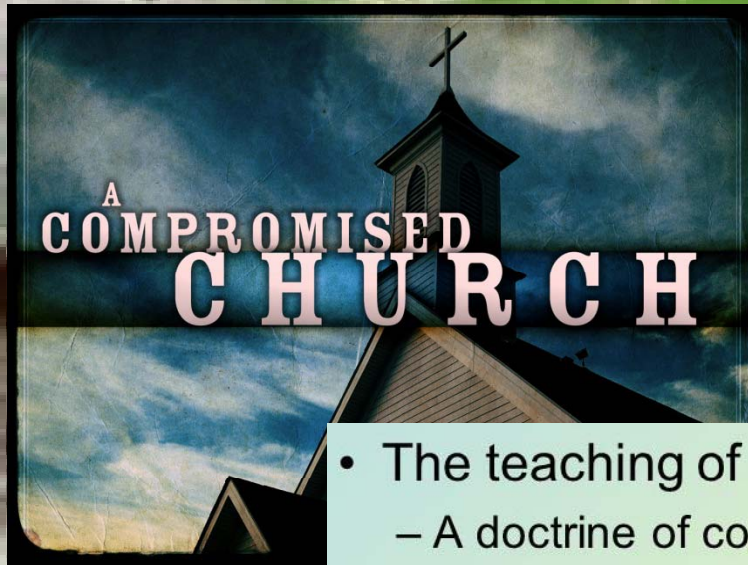
*5) A center for the worship of Acslepius, the god of healing*

*6) Sanatoria, next to temples, where the sick laid in the hope to be healed by touches of snakes*



# Revelation 2:12-17

## A Thriving Church Shall NOT Compromise



- The teaching of Balaam (Num 22-24, 31:16)
  - A doctrine of compromise
  - Balaam couldn't curse Israel directly
    - So he got them to compromise (idolatry and fornication) so God would curse them
  - Some in the church were also compromising
    - Perhaps in idolatry and fornication (like Balaam)
    - Perhaps in other ways
      - With the Temple Warders
      - With the Aesclepium

*Revelation 2:12-17*  
*God will take care of you!*

*Hidden Manna,*  
a  
*White Stone,*  
and a  
*New Name.*

© ActiveChristianity



**THE LORD IS YOUR GOD.  
YOU WILL BE HIS PEOPLE.**

**ΛΟΝ ΜΙΓΓ ΒΕ ΗΙΣ ΡΕΟΒΓΕ.**



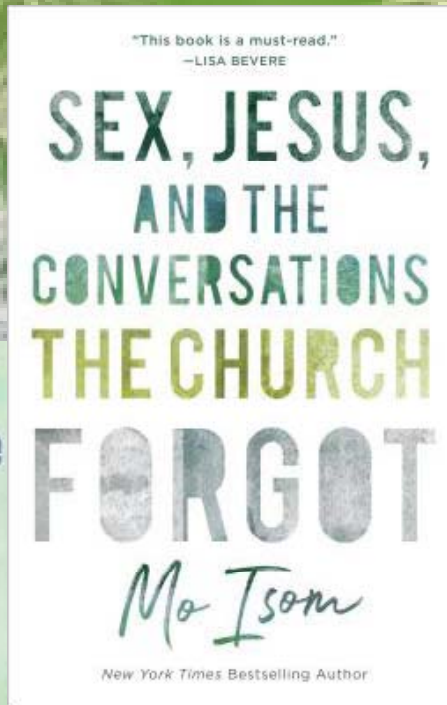
1. *No matter what circumstances you face, be a faithful witness.*

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against false teaching and sinful practices*

1. *No matter what circumstances you face, be a faithful witness.*

Never compromise your faith to fit in. Don't conform to the ways of the world or condone sin. Renew. Transform. Share faith. Be an example.



*"Sex. In a world overwhelmingly obsessed with it, why is the church so silent about it?"*

*While our secular culture twists, perverts, cheapens, and idolizes sex, there are gaping holes in the church's guidance of young people.*

*The result is generations of sexually illiterate people drowning in the repercussions of overwhelming sin struggles."*

*Microsites to Thrive*

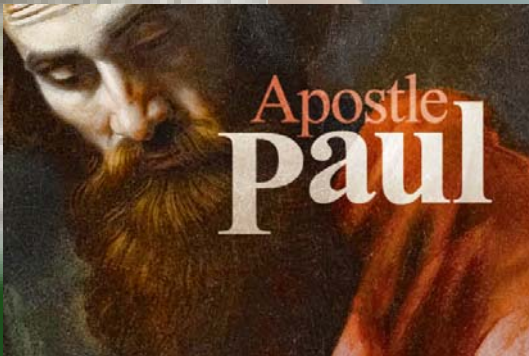
*5. Fight against false teaching and sinful practices*

1. *No matter what circumstances you face, be a faithful witness.*

DO NOT CONFORM TO  
THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD

but be transformed by the renewing of your  
mind. Then you will be able to test and  
approve what God's will is his good,  
pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:2



*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against false teaching and sinful practices*

1. *No matter what circumstances you face, be a faithful witness.*



ENTER THROUGH  
THE NARROW GATE.  
FOR WIDE IS THE  
GATE AND BROAD IS  
THE ROAD THAT  
LEADS TO  
**DESTRUCTION,**  
AND MANY ENTER  
THROUGH IT.

BUT SMALL  
IS THE GATE AND  
NARROW THE ROAD  
THAT LEADS TO  
**LIFE,**  
AND ONLY A FEW  
FIND IT.

MATTHEW 7:13-14

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against false teaching and sinful practices*

1. *No matter what circumstances you face, be a faithful witness.*

wrong is wrong  
even if everyone is doing it

right is right  
even if only **you** are doing it

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against false teaching and sinful practices*



2. Repent if you've committed to sin.

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*



2. Repent if you've committed to sin.



*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

2. Repent if you've committed to sin.

PERGAMUM  
THE COMPROMISING CHURCH

It is a change of mind, that leads to a change of heart, that leads to a change in actions.

This change involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God.



*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

## 2. Repent if you've committed to sin.

If my people, which are called by my name,  
*shall humble themselves,*  
**and pray, and seek my face,**  
**and turn from their wicked ways;**  
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive  
their sin, and will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

FROM THAT TIME  
JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH, SAYING,

**“REPENT,  
FOR THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS AT HAND.”**

MATTHEW 4:17

I & II Chronicles: Restoring of the Holy City!

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

## 2. Repent if you've committed to sin.

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

**Acts 17:30**


"Repentance is the key with which we can unlock the prison from inside. We hold that key within our hands, and agency is ours to use it."

—Boyd K. Packer, "Who Is Jesus Christ?"  
Ensign and Liahona, March 2008

Paul In Athens  
Acts 17:16-34

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

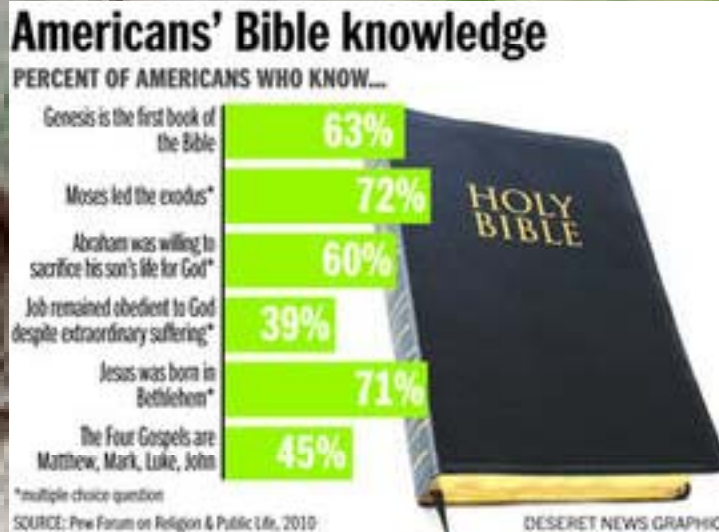


3. *Fight against false teaching with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

### 3. Fight against false teaching with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



**Ending Biblical Illiteracy**

“Americans revere the Bible. But, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of Biblical illiterates.”  
George Gallup

**I believe we're in a generation of biblical illiteracy. I believe it's our greatest sin and our greatest weakness.**  
Kay Arthur

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

3. Fight against false teaching with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS  
**LIVING & ACTIVE,**  
SHARPER THAN ANY  
**TWO-EDGED SWORD,**  
PIERCING TO THE DIVISION OF  
**SOUL & OF SPIRIT,**  
OF JOINTS AND OF MARROW,  
AND DISCERNING THE  
**THOUGHTS & INTENTIONS**  
OF THE HEART.

HEBREWS 4:12



*Double-edged Sword*

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

### 3. Fight against false teaching with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and, urging you to live lives worthy of God...

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)



*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*



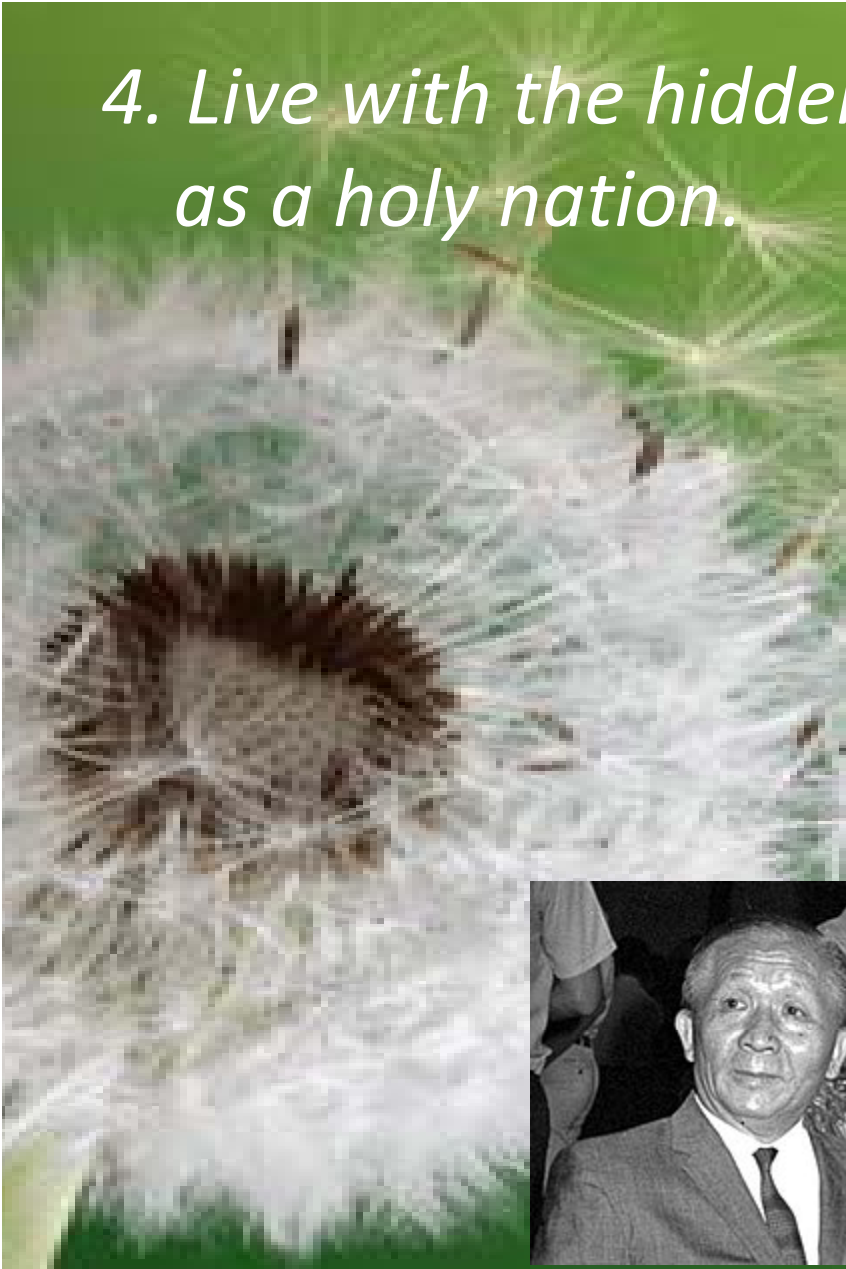


4. Live with the hidden manna that shapes you  
as a holy nation.

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

4. *Live with the hidden manna that shapes you as a holy nation.*



THE HIDDEN MANNA IS THE PORTION OF CHRIST THAT WE ENJOY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD WHEN THERE IS NO DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND HIM; WHEN THERE IS NO DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE LORD, WE ENJOY CHRIST IN THE MOST INTIMATE AND HIDDEN WAY; THIS IS THE ENJOYMENT OF THE HIDDEN MANNA, THE HIDDEN PORTION OF CHRIST.

**WITNESS LEE**



*Chinese Preacher (1905-1997)*

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

4. Live with the hidden manna that shapes you as a holy nation.

## **MEN OF GOD**

Lead her like **Abraham**.  
Fight for her love like **Jacob**.  
Care for her like **Boaz**.  
Love her like **Christ**.



*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*

4. Live with the hidden manna that shapes you as a holy nation.

218 **Rise Up, O Men of God**  
(FESTAL SONG. S. M.)

WILLIAM P. MERRILL, 1911 WILLIAM H. WALTER, 1894



1. Rise up, O men of God! Have done with less - er things; Give  
2. Rise up, O men of God! His king - dom tar - ries long: Bring  
3. Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait, Her  
4. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod: As

heart and soul and mind and strength To serve the King of kings.

*Microsites to Thrive*

*5. Fight against False Teaching and Sinful Practices*