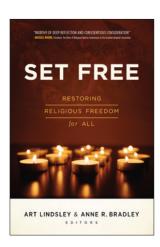


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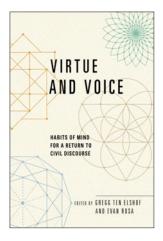


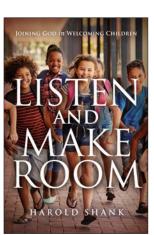
#### **ACU PRESS**

- 1 Reclaiming a Heritage
- 2 Resisting Babel
- 4 Reimagining the Student Experience
- 8 Listen and Make Room
- 10 Set Free
- 11 Virtue and Voice
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#### Dear readers,

Abilene Christian announced the formation of ACU Press in the fall of 1984. The move was seen as a natural step in the progress of the university—a way of expanding the university's growing academic reputation and an opportunity to maintain strong relationships with churches. After thirty-five years, ACU Press continues to grow.

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Our trade titles this year point to the need for spiritual balance, meditation, and trusting in an unseen God, even when circumstances are difficult or oppressive. We live in times that call for bravery, leadership, and focused attention to weightier matters of faith, along with a concern for the least of these. We're proud to present this list to you, and we hope you'll read, enjoy, and partner with us in creating a better future.

Jason Fikes

Director, Abilene Christian University Press and Leafwood Publishers

















# Reclaiming a Heritage

Reflections on the Heart, Soul & Future of Churches of Christ

RICHARD HUGHES

#### Can Churches of Christ Be Saved?

At the turn of the millennium, *Reclaiming a Heritage*, a small book with a powerful message, examined the future and changing identity of Churches of Christ, exploring the rich biblical resources that once anchored this tradition, and could anchor it still. However, many in Churches of Christ have become increasingly comfortable wearing cultural blinders, resulting in a distortion of the movement's original vision. This new edition of *Reclaiming a Heritage* invites Christians to reconsider a radical answer from the past—that true disciples of Jesus must vigorously stand against cultural compromises in favor of God's Word. The updated and expanded edition includes:

- Introduction by Leonard Allen
- Response Essays by Lauren Smelser White, John York, Raymond Carr, and David Fleer
- Final Reflections by Jerry Taylor

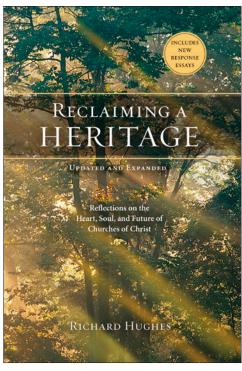
"This book reclaims the historic DNA of Churches of Christ, advocates for it, and calls us into it. Hughes reimagines our tradition so that the kingdom might flourish among us."

-JOHN MARK HICKS, Professor of Theology, Lipscomb University

"In these essays, Richard Hughes issues a heartfelt call to reclaim a vision of the kingdom of God, a vision that admits the human limitations of ignorance, history, and sin, and rejects any attempt to manage or tame the Almighty. If Churches of Christ are to survive, they need to hear this radical plea for a countercultural ethical vision."

-GARY HOLLOWAY, Executive Director of World Convention

RICHARD HUGHES is Scholar in Residence in the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University and is the author, coauthor, or editor of more than a dozen books, including Reviving the Ancient Faith: The Story of Churches of Christ in America.

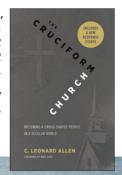


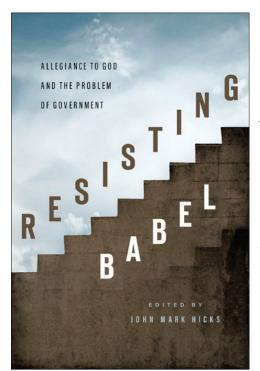
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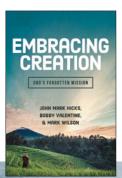




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# Resisting Babel

Allegiance to God and the Problem of Government

JOHN MARK HICKS

If the kingdom of God demands exclusive allegiance, how do followers of Jesus engage with a world shaped by political power?

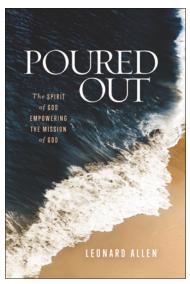
After the trauma of the Civil War, David Lipscomb, a Nashville farmer and church leader, advocated for allegiance solely to the kingdom of God rather than to human governments. *Resisting Babel* tells the story of Lipscomb's compelling, coherent, and eschatologically grounded vision, which fostered deep and significant religious reform in the United States and led to missionary zeal across the globe. That vision articulated a way forward for Christianity amidst the world powers. What happened among Churches of Christ during that time serves as a case study and parable of both possibility and warning for the modern church.

In this new book, Hicks has assembled the leading voices on David Lipscomb. Contributors include:

- Richard T. Hughes, Scholar in Residence at Lipscomb University, is the leading historian of Churches of Christ and has authored the standard work on its history.
- Richard Goode, professor of history at Lipscomb University, has written about and practiced pilgrim political theology, which is indebted in part to David Lipscomb.
- Lee C. Camp, professor of theology at Lipscomb University, is a leading ethicist among Churches of Christ.
- Joshua Ward Jeffery, chair of the Department of Humanities at Orme School in Mayer, Arizona, is a leading historian of the relationship between pacifism, the church, and World War I.

JOHN MARK HICKS is a professor of theology at Lipscomb University and has taught in higher education among Churches of Christ for over thirty-five years. He has published several works on Stone-Campbell history and theology, including Kingdom Come: Embracing the Spiritual Legacy of David Lipscomb and James Harding.





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# Poured Out

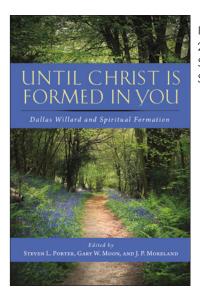
The Spirit of God Empowering the Mission of God

LEONARD ALLEN

After centuries of neglect, there is a renewed interest in the Holy Spirit. Many are beginning to realize that the Spirit is not a junior member of the Trinity, tame and shy. *Poured Out* explains why the church limited the Spirit for so long and how you can come to know the Spirit better and more fully. To become fruitful again—to move beyond apathy, defeat, and despair—you need to discover a deeper experience of life with God.

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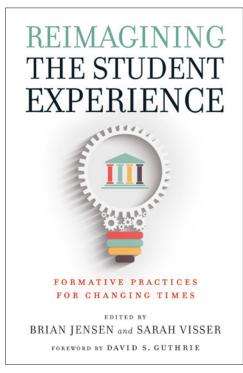
STEVEN L. PORTER, GARY W. MOON, AND J. P. MORELAND

At a popular level, Dallas Willard wrote with remarkable clarity about spiritual formation. But his writings also addressed academic concerns such as shifts in modern moral philosophy, the nature of education, and the psychology of the human self. *Until Christ Is Formed in You* brings together ten authors who knew Willard well to introduce his wide-ranging vision and consider again the overall significance of this one-of-a-kind teacher.

"Finally—a scholarly yet accessible volume that explores the broad spectrum of Dallas Willard's remarkable contributions to the field of Christian spiritual formation!"

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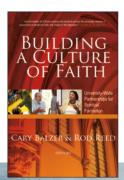




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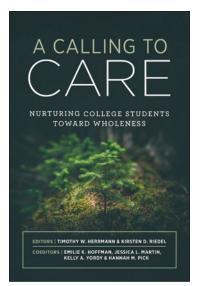
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BRIAN JENSEN is an executive search consultant at Vanderbloemen with fifteen years of experience in Christian higher education, including roles in residence life, student leadership development, and executive leadership.

SARAH VISSER serves as the vice president for student life at Calvin College. During the past fifteen years, Sarah has served in a variety of administrative and faculty roles, spanning both student affairs and classroom teaching.





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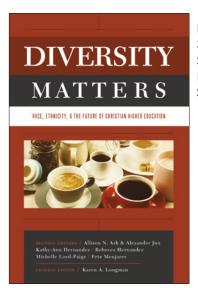
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TIMOTHY W. HERRMANN AND KIRSTEN D. RIEDEL

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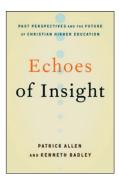
KAREN A. LONGMAN

Today, no institution can ignore the need for deep conversations about race and ethnicity. *Diversity Matters* offers leaders a roadmap as they think through how their campuses can be hospitable environments for diversity. It includes five key sections:

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- Autoethnographies: Emerging Leaders and Career Stages

Each chapter in *Diversity Matters* includes important discussion questions for administration, faculty, and staff.



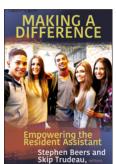


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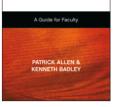
Resident assistants are key leaders on a Christian college campus. They build a sense of community, serve as peer-counselors, and embody the mission of the university. *Making a Difference* examines complex topics like faith development, gender identity, confrontation, and self care in order to empower resident assistants to become leaders in their communities. *Making a Difference* shows how this journey of service can be a rewarding and even life-changing journey.



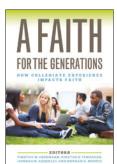
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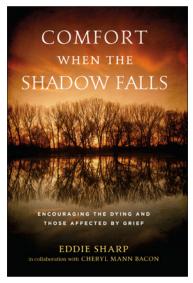
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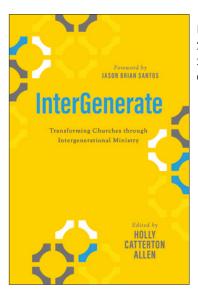
Encouraging the Dying and Those Affected By Grief

EDDIE SHARP IN COLLABORATION WITH CHERYL MANN BACON

The call to ministry in the name of Jesus holds many delights, joys, and encouragements. Yet the ministry of comfort—serving those who are dying or affected by death and grief—can be hard, forcing us to come face-to-face with human mortality. These moments in ministry take us into the colder shadows of life, but the world needs faithful men and women to serve the dying and the grieving—no hiding places, no excuses. Comfort When the Shadow Falls is a reflective, compassionate, and holistic examination of how Christ calls us to minister in the shadow of death.

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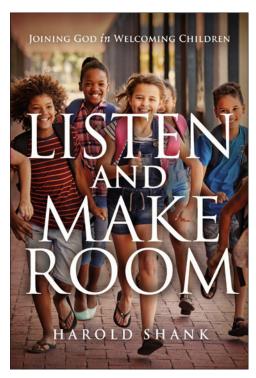
HOLLY CATTERTON ALLEN

Christian leaders everywhere are asking how we can bring the generations back together. *InterGenerate* responds with new perspectives on generational theory, fresh biblical and theological insights, and practical steps for developing innovative practices in your ministries. With a broad spectrum of voices, this collection offers guidance on how to

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- lead all-age worship and community service projects, and
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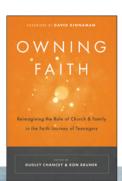




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HAROLD SHANK

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Finding places for those who are left out, especially children, is the work of discipleship. We rarely listen to those who have small voices in our world. Instead, we fill up all the space ourselves, leaving no room for those who have little ability to acquire a spot. But *Listen and Make Room* shows us that to follow Jesus's example means to understand that the vulnerable are at the core of God's mission.

HAROLD SHANK has spent over fifty years in ministry and leadership across the country. In his role as national spokesperson for Network 1:27, Harold speaks and writes to promote Christian childcare, raising awareness among churches and Christians nationwide. He has served as president of Ohio Valley University in Vienna, West Virginia; as a professor at Harding School of Theology and at Oklahoma Christian University; and as a leader in church planting and ministries among the poor at the Highland Street Church of Christ in Memphis, TN. Harold and his wife, Sally, have two adult sons and four grandchildren.



#### Reconciliation Reconsidered

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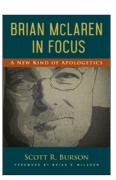
Conversations about children and faith draw us close to the heart of God. The authors of *Along the Way* lead everyone in the church in a careful yet understandable dialogue about nurturing children spiritually. Along the way, we discover that the individuality of each child and the distinctiveness of their context call us to see each child's walk with God as a unique journey of discovery.

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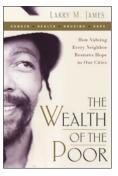


Labeled as both a villain and a hero, Brian McLaren has been celebrated and maligned by the evangelical community. This book puts McLaren in focus—showing the development of his ideas over time, giving firm assessments of his positions, and offering suggestions of both the strengths and weaknesses of his thinking.

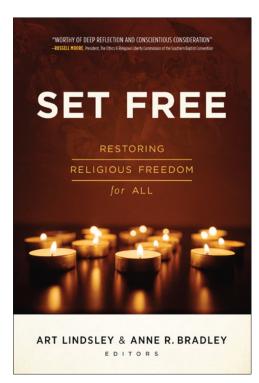
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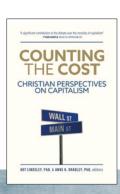
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ART LINDSLEY AND ANNE R. BRADLEY

We've Remembered Our First Freedom—Until Now.

Religious freedom is one of the most important freedoms that the American experiment has given the world. Sadly, many have forgotten not only the importance of our first freedom but also that its roots are founded in biblical principles that call us to champion religious freedom for all. As a result of our inattention, the religious liberties we take for granted are now being challenged.

In Set Free, editors Art Lindsley and Anne R. Bradley explore the biblical underpinnings of religious freedom and how those biblical roots have been understood throughout history, the essential role of religious freedom in promoting human flourishing, and why this precious freedom must be restored for people of all faiths, not just our own. With contributions from Christian theologians, historians, and public policy analysts, Set Free provides readers with a firm understanding of Christianity's unique and essential contribution to religious freedom.

#### **Contributors**

- Anne R. Bradlev
- Stanley W. Carlson-Thies Art Lindsley
- Joseph Connors
- Daniel L. Dreisbach
- Barrett Duke
- Os Guinness

- Mark David Hall
- Jennifer Marshall Patterson
- John S. Redd Jr.
- E. Gregory Wallace
- Hugh C. Whelchel

ART LINDSLEY is the vice president of theological initiatives at the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics. Previously, he served as president and senior fellow at the C. S. Lewis Institute. He is also coeditor with Anne R. Bradley of For the Least of These: A Biblical Answer to Poverty and Counting the Cost: Christian Perspectives on Capitalism.

ANNE R. BRADLEY is the George and Sally Mayer Fellow for Economic Education and the academic director at The Fund for American Studies. She also serves as the vice president of economic initiatives at the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics.



# Virtue and Voice

Habits of Mind for a Return to Civil Discourse

GREGG TEN ELSHOF AND EVAN ROSA

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Virtue and Voice brings together a comprehensive collection of ethicists, philosophers, historians, theologians, and thought leaders to address the question of improving civic discourse and personal conversations. In particular, they probe the concept of humility—an essential yet often misunderstood virtue. While acknowledging the current climate of contentious and ineffective civil discourse, Virtue and Voice highlights how the cultivation of intellectual virtue can renew our voices and heal the broken state of our public discourse.

#### **Contributors**

- Robert Audi
- · Jason Baehr
- Christena S. Cleveland
- Peter C. Hill
- George M. Marsden
- · Richard J. Mouw
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GREGG TEN ELSHOF is a professor of philosophy at Biola University. He is author of I Told Me So: Self-Deception and the Christian Life, which won the Christianity Today 2009 Book Award for Christian Living, and Confucius for Christians.

EVAN ROSA is the assistant director of public engagement at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. He formerly served as the director of Biola University's Center for Christian Thought, where he founded and edited The Table.

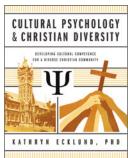




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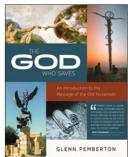


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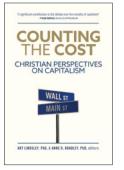


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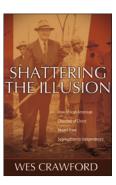


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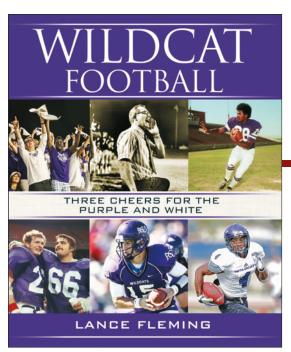
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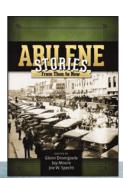




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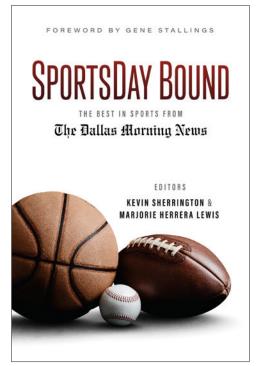
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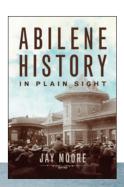
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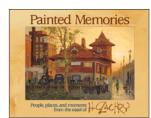


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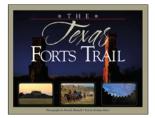


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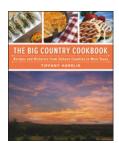


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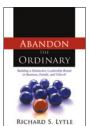
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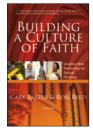
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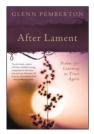
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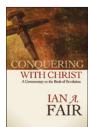
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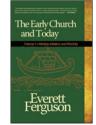
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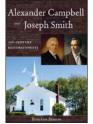
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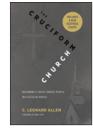
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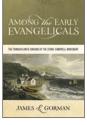
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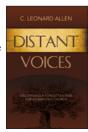
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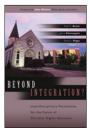
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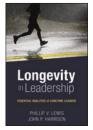


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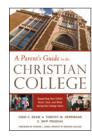
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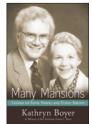
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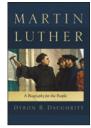
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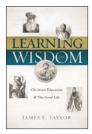
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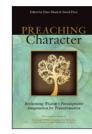
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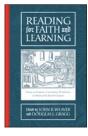
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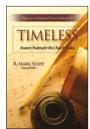
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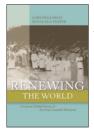
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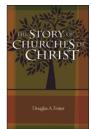
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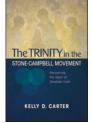
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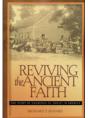
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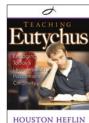
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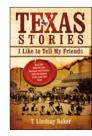
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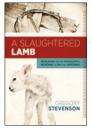
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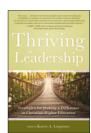
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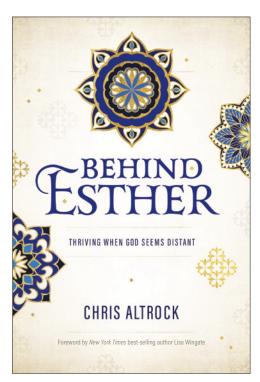
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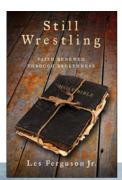




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CHRIS ALTROCK serves as the senior preaching minister for the Highland Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee. The author of six other books, including Ten-Minute Transformation: Small Spiritual Steps that Revolutionize Your Life, Chris is a trained spiritual director, and he teaches as an adjunct professor at Lipscomb University. Connect with him at www.chrisaltrock.com.



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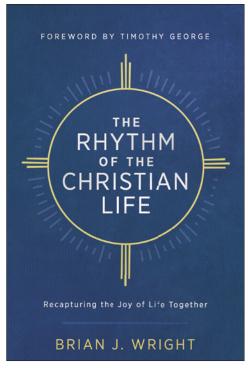
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BRIAN J. WRIGHT is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and earned his PhD from Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of Communal Reading in the Time of Jesus and has been featured on several Christian media networks. Wright currently serves as an adjunct professor and as a chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.



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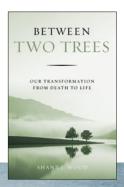
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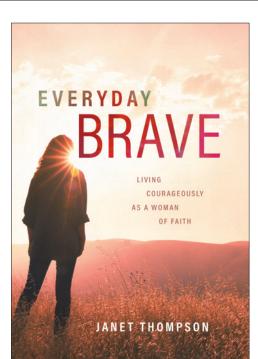
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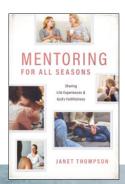


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# Everyday Brave

Living Courageously as a Woman of Faith

JANET THOMPSON

#### Be Your Own Kind of Brave!

Bravery isn't reserved for women serving on international mission teams, in the military, or as a first responder. Every woman is brave, much braver than she might think. But feelings of doubt and inadequacy try to stop us from living up to our Godgiven potential to be courageous women of faith.

In *Everyday Brave*, Janet explores the extraordinary actions of fifty ordinary women in the Bible, women who display bravery in usual and unusual circumstances. Twenty-eight women of today also give testimonies of realizing their strength and courage through God's love. As Janet shares the stories of these women, she reminds us that the heart and substance of bravery, even in the face of fear, comes from unconditionally placing our hope in the only One who can give us the courage to stay the course.

"Bravery doesn't come wrapped in a superhero cape. Everyday Brave is filled with stories of ordinary women from contemporary and biblical times who say yes to God's call to step out in faith."

**—LORI WILDENBERG**, speaker and author of Messy Journey

"If you long to be a bold, resilient, and faith-filled woman of God, Everyday Brave is for you!"

—CAROL KENT, international speaker and author of Becoming a Woman of Influence

JANET THOMPSON is an award-winning Christian speaker and the author of twenty books, including Mentoring for All Seasons. She is the founder and director of Woman to Woman Mentoring Ministry and About His Work Ministries, and she writes a weekly blog and monthly online newsletter at www.womantowomanmentoring.com.



# Women's Ministry with Purpose

 $A\ Vibrant,\ Gospel-Centered\ Approach$ 

GENA B. MCCOWN

#### What Does God Expect from Women's Ministry?

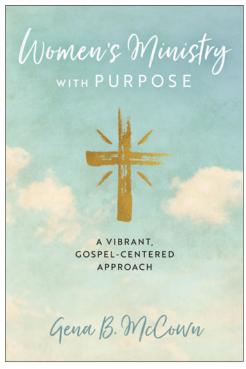
While women's ministry can easily get caught up in Bible study themes and Pinterest-worthy decor, God's heart calls for a ministry that is rooted in him. In this book, Gena explores Scripture to establish what a thriving women's ministry was intended to be and the ways women can minister deeply to one another.

Every church needs a team of women who serve in God's name. Women's Ministry with Purpose will show you how to rediscover the true purpose of your women's ministry and gain support from your church's leadership. Most importantly, it will breathe new life into leaders and volunteers, offering practical advice for organizing, training, and supporting the women in your ministry.

"I appreciate Gena's willingness to be vulnerable and honest about the state of many women's ministries and to provide such practical ways to get back on track. This is a helpful resource if you are looking for ways to realign your women's ministry with your church's vision and get refocused on God's masterplan of the gospel!"

—KADI COLE, church leadership consultant and author of Developing Female Leaders

GENA B. MCCOWN has served in various ministry leadership roles for twenty years. She is currently the women's ministry educator at Christian Leaders Institute and a mentor for up-and-coming ministry leaders through the Women's Ministry Council. A native of south Florida, Gena and her husband, Justin, have three daughters: Casey, Shelby, and Naomi. Connect with her at www.genamccown.com.



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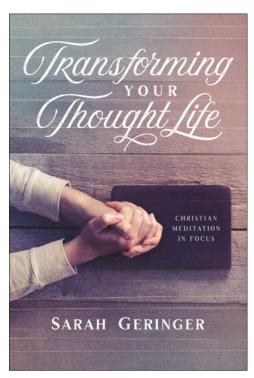
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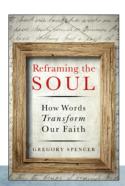




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Thousands of thoughts fly through our minds every day, many of them negative. And Satan knows how susceptible we are to these negative thoughts that leave us frustrated and feeling defeated. However, the time-honored practice of Christian meditation can help us find victory in these spiritual battles..

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"What do we do when our thoughts leave us feeling beaten, bruised, and out of control? In Transforming Your Thought Life, Sarah reminds us that the answer lies not inside ourselves but within the pages of Scripture."

**—LAUREN GASKILL**, author of Into the Deep and president of She Found Joy

"Sarah returns meditation to its rightful place in the Christian life, teaching us to leverage the power of Scripture to shape our thoughts. Sarah's vulnerable personal applications and fresh perspectives challenge us to clean up the playgrounds of our minds!"

—AMY CARROLL, speaker and author of Breaking Up with Perfect and Exhale

SARAH GERINGER is an author, speaker, and graphic designer. She is a member of the writing and proofreading team for the Encouragement for Today devotions. Sarah is also a regular contributor to the Hope-Full Living devotionals and several faith-based websites, including A Wife Like Me, Devotable, and Woman to Woman Ministries. She lives in Southeast Missouri with her husband and three children. Follow Sarah as she writes about finding peace in God's Word at www.sarahgeringer.com.



# Legion

Rediscovering the God Who Rescues Me

SHADIA HRICHI

#### How far will Jesus go to rescue one lost soul?

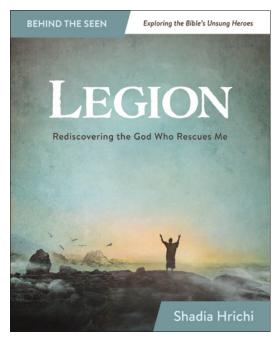
Tormented, chained, and living in a graveyard, the man known only by the name of the demons that tormented him had no one to help him—no one to intercede for him. No one but Jesus. Climb into the boat with Jesus as he heads into enemy territory. Witness Jesus's power and passion as he battles violent storms and armies of demons to rescue . . . one . . . lost . . . soul.

Sometimes we feel trapped and alone. But there is nothing that God cannot overcome. Through this six-week, action-packed study, you will experience God's relentless love as you celebrate the impassioned savior who moved heaven and earth to rescue you.

"Shadia has written another outstanding study. Legion is rich and in-depth. There were so many new insights; several brought tears to my eyes. Well written and well organized, this study is packed with valuable life lessons. I can't wait to read the next one!"

-FRANCINE RIVERS, international best-selling author

SHADIA HRICHI is a passionate Bible teacher who has a heart for seeing lives transformed by the power of God's Word. She holds a master's in biblical and theological studies as well as a master's in criminal justice. Shadia is the author of several Bible studies, including *Hagar* and *Worthy of Love*, and is often invited to speak at churches, conferences, and other events. Residing in northern California, Shadia is an active member of Venture Christian Church and loves to visit the ocean each week for "a date with Jesus." To learn more, visit www.shadiahrichi.com.



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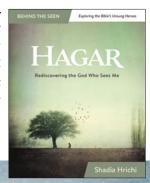
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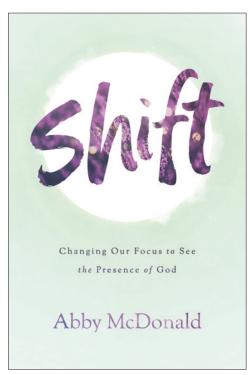
Hagar Rediscovering the God Who Sees Me

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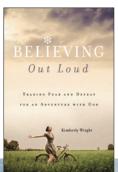
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Changing Our Focus to See the Presence of God

ABBY MCDONALD

If we want to see God in the midst of our struggles, we have to change the way we look for him.

There is no denying that miracles, answers to prayer, and abundant blessings testify to God's presence. When the desires of our hearts are filled, it's easy to see him. But what about the seasons when he seems invisible? Scripture tells us God never sleeps, but it is easy to feel like he is not attuned to our needs. *Shift* explores the life-changing truth that when we adjust our lens to focus our eyes on God rather than on what we wish we were seeing in our lives, he reveals himself to us. In fact, those moments when he seems invisible to us are often when others see him the most in us.

When Jesus walked the earth, he looked to God for his earthly needs. Jesus had a deep relationship with the Father that fueled his mission, his purpose, and his effectiveness. Scripture tells us that we can have that too. But there is a shift that needs to take place in our hearts and minds. No matter our circumstances, we can see God in our lives—right here, right now.

"For those who question if God cares what they are going through, Abby McDonald's wise and thoughtful insights provide a perspective shift for discouraged hearts. Learn to hang on to hope through difficult circumstances as you see God's trustworthy nature displayed with each turn of the page."

**—KATIE M. REID**, author of Made Like Martha: Good News for the Woman Who Gets Things Done

ABBY MCDONALD is a blogger, speaker, wife, and mom whose work has been featured on (in)Courage, For Every Mom, iBelieve, Crosswalk, and more. Her passion is to empower women to grow in faith and hope, even when life is messy. She earned a BA in English from the University of South Carolina and teaches writing workshops both online and at conferences each year. Abby lives with her husband and three children in western Maryland. Connect with her at www.abbymcdonald.org.

# S 攀

# Little Faith, Big God

Grace to Grow When Your Faith Feels Small

DEBBIE W. WILSON

#### God Isn't Looking for Heroes of Faith.

A thriving relationship with God is not built on our perfect performance but on our trust in a gracious Savior. Hebrews 11 reveals one superhero—Jesus. Our God delights in flawed followers who trust him in the daily aspects of their lives. He designed spiritual growth to be an ongoing journey of faith and delights in who you are becoming.

By exploring the lives of the people mentioned in Hebrews 11, Little Faith, Big God will inspire you to persevere in your faith through the examples of biblical men and women who failed, got up again, finished well, and were commended by God. With biblical principles to separate false hope from real faith, present-day stories to encourage you, and guiding questions to invite personal reflection, application, and discussion, Little Faith, Big God will equip you to trade your self-made superhero cape for a dynamic, grace-filled relationship with our big God.

"In her delightful work Little Faith, Big God, Debbie shares how God powerfully used imperfect people from the Bible and still uses ordinary, and sometimes blundering, folks like you and me to achieve his extraordinary plans and purposes. Each story contains nuggets of biblical truth, humor, and encouragement to help us on our faith journey. I highly recommend Little Faith, Big God."

—JOSH MCDOWELL, Christian apologist, evangelist, and author

DEBBIE W. WILSON helps people discover relevant faith, drawing from her personal walk with Christ, twenty-four years as a Christian counselor, and decades as a Bible teacher. Debbie is an Advanced Writers and Speakers Association-certified speaking and writing coach and the author of *Little Women*, *Big God* and *Give Yourself a Break*. In 1991, she and her husband founded Lighthouse Ministries, a Christian counseling and coaching ministry. For her, a good mystery, dark chocolate, and a laugh with her two poodles make a great day. Connect with her blog at debbiewwilson.com.



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It's Not the Size of Your Problems, But the Size of Your God DEBBIE W. WILSON

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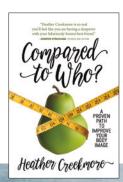




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Hope for Today When All You Want Is Tomorrow SARAH JOHNSON

Your invitation to wait well in a world obsessed with having everything now.

No one likes to wait. But no matter how hassle-free the world around us has become, some things take time. Still, new beginnings are fun—finish lines, thrilling. We love and celebrate those mountaintop moments. Life in the middle, however, is often hard and boring, certainly nothing to celebrate. Yet Sarah has discovered that the best parts of life can actually be those very moments between where we are and where we want to be. Waiting is a vital part of our stories, and what we do with our times of waiting matters.

We have spent too much time believing that we are waiting because God has somehow forgotten about us. God can teach us what it means to fully trust him if we are willing. In *Now Waiting*, Sarah explains how you can

- remain confident in the goodness of God when your season of waiting leaves you feeling discouraged, frustrated, and left out of God's plan;
- embrace seasons of waiting as times to thrive, not just to endure; and
- find hope in the promises of God for today and tomorrow, even when things aren't going the way you planned.

Stop believing the lie that everyone else is living a better story. Live fully convinced of God's plans for you, even during your seasons of waiting.

SARAH JOHNSON has been inspiring women to live their truth and to follow the call of God for over a decade. Sarah is the host of her weekly podcast, InfluenceHER, and blogs at sarahjohnson.co. She will never turn down an invite for good coffee or authentic Mexican food and loves traveling to new places with her family. She juggles motherhood and ministry with grace, and while her life is filled to the brim, she wouldn't have it any other way. She lives in North Carolina with her husband, B. J., and their children.



# Class & Small Group Resource Guide

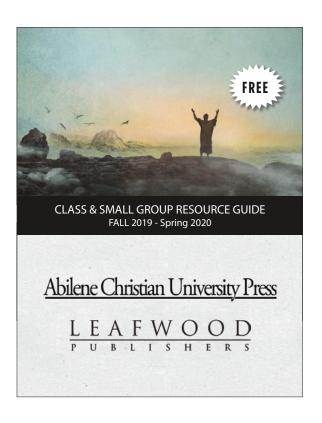
The Class & Small Group Resource Guide contains all of our products that include discussion questions to help guide a class or small group. Part of its value lies in its usefulness to anyone facilitating such discussions. Sorted topically, it is easier than ever to find exactly the type of study or discussion you are looking for.

Our increasing library of video series is included as they make leading classes and discussions even easier. With video segments and discussion questions, just about anyone can lead a fruitful and meaningful conversation.

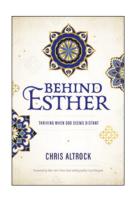
Our prayer is that you will find this free listing of our books and videos to be a helpful resource for your classroom and small group material needs.

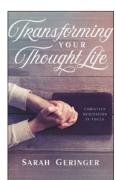
Call 877-816-4455 (toll free) for bulk discounts for your small group.

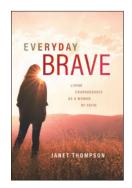
Resource topics include video series, Christian theology, grief and loss, leadership, stewardship, Old and New Testament studies, and prayer.

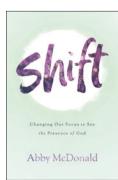












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DON MCLAUGHLIN

For too long, Christians have settled for less than the matchless love of Jesus. More than ever, believers are tempted to give in to their fears, prejudices, and suspicions. Through twelve film segments in this 2-DVD set, *Love First* offers a clear-eyed assessment of the current love/hate crisis and a practical strategy for how Christians can begin to truly love, especially those who do not love us in return.

"Love First reminds the Christian community that its primary allegiance is to God and the kingdom love ethic must guide Christian behavior in all areas of life, including the world of racial brutality and political warfare!"

—JERRY TAYLOR, Assistant Professor of Bible, Missions, and Ministry, Abilene Christian University



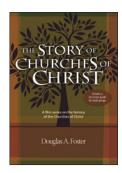
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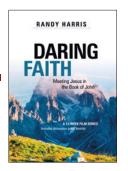
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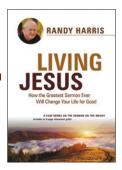
The Gospel of John was written so people would believe the unbelievable. This unbelievable story John tells is that God became man and lived among us. These claims got Jesus killed. And ever since, people who believe the claim still lose their lives. If you believe that Jesus is truly God, you believe the most daring idea of all time. Daring faith will cost your life. But along with the risk comes the great reward of becoming children of God. Are you ready for daring faith?



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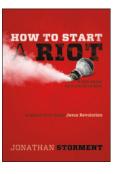
In twelve film segments, Randy Harris takes you into the teachings of Jesus that for us to obey and practice. Principles about integrity that's not for sale, sexual purity that begins in the heart, and a life of obedience that's a response to the profound grace of God. This 2-DVD set and companion booklet provides a guide for group study, personal time, or church viewing for people who want to live the way of Jesus.



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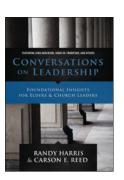
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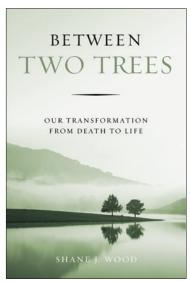
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The work of congregational leadership is a complex and challenging call. Nonetheless, by the grace and prompting of God, shepherd and elders respond to this call in various ways. This six segment series (15-18 minutes each) provides a practical and meaningful way to grow pastoral care, hope-filled visioning, and overall shepherding for leaders.



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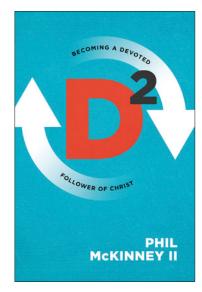
Our Transformation from Death to Life SHANE J. WOOD

The problem of Eden is much worse than you thought, but the solution is much better than you could have ever imagined. Between Two Trees reveals that the real tragedy of Eden is a union with death, a union that produces division and despair. In spite of this tragedy, Between Two Trees will challenge you to embrace hope, love, and the beauty of reconciliation at the true tree of life: the cross of Calvary.

By exploring the probelm of Eden and the power of the cross, Shane Wood calls us to walk on a path to transformation, a path to union with God. The book's journey ends under the shade of the tree of life in the New Jerusalem with God's unfinished creation now complete. Yes, Eden, but more importantly, you.

"Shane Wood knows the metanarrative of Scripture like few others, but what is more important is that he lives its principles every day."

-KYLE IDLEMAN, author of Not a Fan and Don't Give Up



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## D2

Becoming a Devoted Follower of Christ

#### PHIL MCKINNEY II

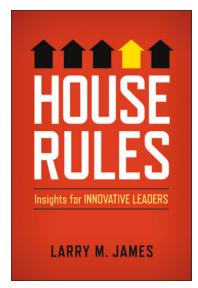
The words "follow me" changed the lives of twelve unlikely individuals in the first century, and they can change the course of your life as well. Many people claim to follow Jesus, but truly following him involves a commitment to transformational discipleship, not just nominal acceptance.

We are too often satisfied with simply receiving God's grace. Instead, we need to develop a consistent, intentional plan for greater spiritual growth and discipleship, focused on gaining an ever-increasing ability to apply God's Word to life. If you want more than sitting in pews and checking off participation boxes, if you are ready to follow Christ with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, this book is for you.

"Phil writes with a fresh voice, sharing how discipleship works best when it is understood and practiced in community."

—JOSH ROSS, lead minister at Sycamore View Church in Memphis, TN, and author of Scarred Faith and Re\entry





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## House Rules

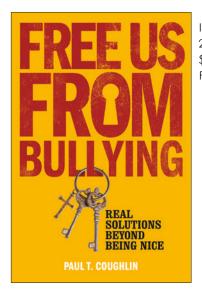
Insights for Innovative Leaders

LARRY M. JAMES

Whether you lead a Fortune 500 company or a local food pantry, *House Rules* will encourage you to face the daunting challenges ahead and expect big results. Larry James draws on the challenges and successes of leading CitySquare to share essential, on-the-ground leadership principles and instructive case studies to help you navigate environments as diverse as boardrooms, public housing developments, hunger relief efforts, and donor cultivation. His perspective on the deeply spiritual and interpersonal nature of leadership will inspire you to serve everyone you lead.

"Larry James is the kind of leader I aspire to be: authentic and effective."

—CAROL REDMOND NAUGHTON, President, Purpose Built Communities



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# Free Us from Bullying

Real Solutions beyond Being Nice

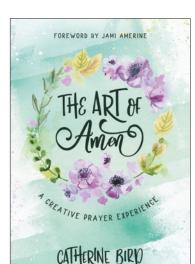
PAULT, COUGHLIN

An estimated twenty million children oppressed by bullying need our help. Bullies cannot be stopped merely with more compassion and understanding. In fact, bullying stems from the same roots as racism, sexual harassment, and even genocide, and it requires people to combat it in similar ways. Kindness and awareness—two buzzwords in today's anti-bullying movement—will not end bullying on their own. They must be activated by courage, transforming bystanders into righteous, loving protectors.

"In this book, Coughlin gives us powerful reasoning and inspiration as well as a realistic game plan against bullying. It's a must-read for anyone who cares about our culture, especially our hurting children."

 BARBARA COLOROSO, international anti-bullying expert and author of The Bully, the Bullied, and the Not-So-Innocent Bystander

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## The Art of Amen

A Creative Prayer Experience

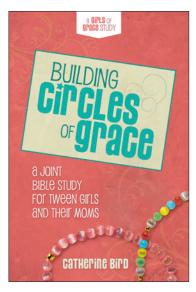
#### CATHERINE BIRD

Prayer time often becomes another chore on a never-ending to-do list. But God's gift of prayer is an invitation to set aside regular, consistent time to grow in our relationship with him. Infused with biblical truths, *The Art of Amen* will rejuvenate you with an artful blend of teachings on prayer and rich examples of creative prayer styles—such as Bible journaling, prayer walks, and intercessional prayer art.

Whether for personal worship or small group study, this creative prayer experience takes the guesswork out of prayer and is the perfect tool to help you build a deeper relationship with God.

"Maybe, like me, you grew up feeling there was just one way to pray. In The Art of Amen, Catherine Bird breaks that boxed-in thinking, showing us how to breathe new life and creativity into our conversations with God."

**—LYNN COWELL**, author of *Make Your Move* and *Brave Beauty* 



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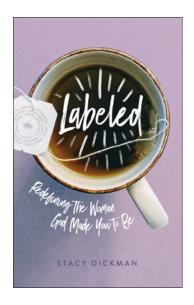
# Building Circles of Grace

A Joint Bible Study for Tween Girls & Their Moms

#### CATHERINE BIRD

Moms and daughters will explore what it means to build and sustain Christ-centered relationships with others. Some of the toughest experiences we encounter as young girls (and as moms too) are a result of people we choose as friends. But what are Christ-centered relationships? How do you reflect grace when confronted by a bully? How do you cope with the loss of a friendship? Can you really make a difference by putting Jesus first when it is not the cool thing to do? *Building Circles of Grace* invites moms and daughters to discuss all of these questions and more.





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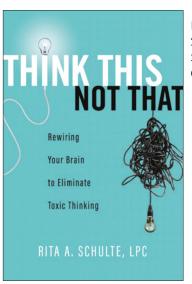
# Labeled

Redefining the Woman God Made You to Be STACY DICKMAN

The world's definition of an ideal woman often becomes a lady's personal list of inadequacies. Filtering through all the cultural noise, Stacy examines seven words that society frequently uses to compare women to each other and offers insight, biblical definitions, and practical solutions for breaking the traps set by these labels in order to reclaim them as God-honoring expressions of woman as God created her.

"If you want to stop striving for significance in the eyes of others and rest in the assurance of God's love for you, let Stacy's encouraging words and biblical insight empower you to only wear one label—beloved daughter of the one true God."

—KAREN EHMAN, New York Times best-selling author of Keep It Shut



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# Think This Not That

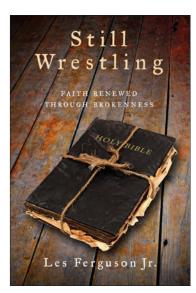
Rewiring Your Brain to Eliminate Toxic Thinking

RITA A. SCHULTE

Contrary to popular belief, your circumstances do not determine your mood. Rather, your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors flow from your interpretations of events. In our minds, we assign meaning to troubling events, and that meaning can trigger emotional stress.

Scripture challenges us to think about what is true, right, pure, and excellent, and that's much more than a feel-good message. How we think actually affects how we respond the world around us, especially when we face difficult situations. Drawing on her experience as a clinical psychotherapist and a trauma survivor, Rita Schulte combines science and faith to show you how a strong connection to God, mindfulness techniques, and target exercises can help you identify and change toxic thinking patterns, rewire your brain, and achieve better health and well-being.

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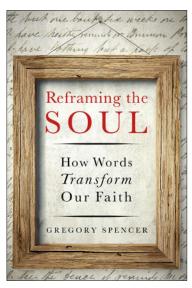
# Still Wrestling

Faith Renewed through Brokenness
LES FERGUSON JR

After the horrific double murder that destroyed his family, Les Ferguson started wrestling with God. But through this tragedy, he has become a trusted teacher who can offer you deep insight into Scripture. With Les as your guide, you can learn to read your Bible in fresh ways and relate to the people of Scripture, examining their humanity, seeing their fears, and acknowledging their weaknesses. His perspective on brokenness will give you permission to bring your entire life, even your doubts, before God.

"There is no better guide to dealing with the doubts and questions that come from life's tragedies than Les. Follow his ongoing journey of insight and understanding in Still Wrestling."

 AL ROBERTSON, author and speaker from A&E's Duck Dynasty



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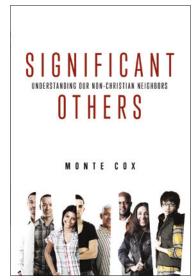
How Words Transform Our Faith GREGORY SPENCER

We all frame our experiences. Usually, our frames help us navigate our lives, but sometimes new circumstances—a divorce, a new job, an illness—drive us to reframe. Jesus himself calls us to reframe our lives in terms of grace instead of law, light instead of darkness, love instead of retaliation. *Reframing the Soul* will help you understand the power of the words you choose to describe how you see the world. With dozens of personal stories, Spencer shares practical ways to choose life-giving words.

"Reframing the Soul is a wonderful guide to navigating reality with grace and truth. It is honest, hopeful, literate, and faith-filled."

—JOHN ORTBERG, author of I'd Like You More If You Were More Like Me





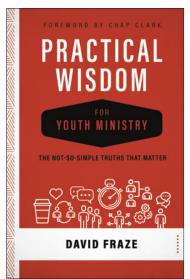
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Understanding Our Non-Christian Neighbors
MONTE COX

A generation ago, most Americans had little or no contact with Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, or any other adherents of non-Christian religions. Now our culture is much more pluralistic. In addition to these "others," many Westerners, disenchanted with Christianity, are more inclined than they were a generation ago to dabble in new spiritual alternatives that were not as readily available here before.

Many Christians don't know how to engage their newest non-Christian neighbors in conversation, partly because they feel ignorant about the religions practiced by others. Significant Others seeks to fill this knowledge gap so readers will become more acquainted with the religious backgrounds of devout non-Christians they are meeting, as well as with the growing number of American people who claim no religious affiliation at all. Each chapter also includes discussion questions for application.



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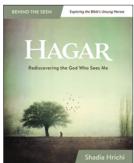
The Not-So-Simple Truths That Matter DAVID FRAZE

All youth ministers have asked this question to themselves at least once in their career: "What do I do now?" Packed with theological insight, expert advice, and personal testimony, *Practical Wisdom for Youth Ministry* speaks to the critical issues for volunteer leaders and youth ministers. With straightforward steps that are both biblically grounded and easy to apply, it discusses large-scale concerns such as organization, budgeting, and outreach, as well as personal concerns such as marriage, self-care, and conflict. This practical guide will help you build a strong foundation for your ministry.

"You won't just find ideas for how to reach kids in these pages; you'll discover more about your faith."

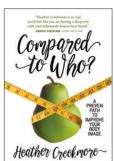
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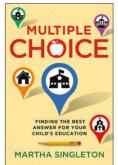
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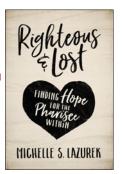


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Finding Hope for the Pharisee Within

MICHELLE S. LAZUREK

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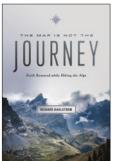
Hate is an epidemic, infecting social media, politics, neighborhoods, and homes. Communities of believers, which should be clinics with the cure, are instead suspected of being primary carriers of the virus. But there is hope. *Love First* offers a clear-eyed assessment of the current love/hate crisis and a practical, doable strategy for how Christians can begin to truly love, especially those who do not love us in return.



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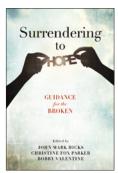
Two weeks before her due date, Sara lost a healthy baby girl. Six weeks later, doctors discovered Stage IV colon cancer. A week after this terminal diagnosis, Sara set up a blog and began telling her story of the "most wonderful terrible thing" that had ever happened to her. Through her humble perspective and unabashed passion, Sara teaches others to see God's presence in every moment—even those that are deeply painful.



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# Surrendering to Hope Guidance for the Broken John Mark Hicks, Christine Fox Parker, and Bobby Valentine

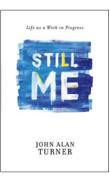
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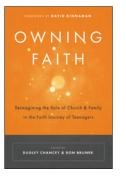


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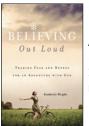
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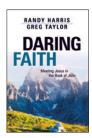
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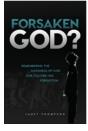
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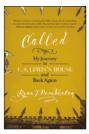
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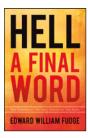
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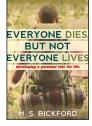
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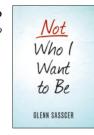
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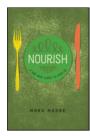
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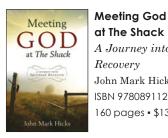
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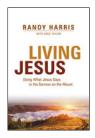


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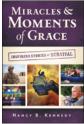
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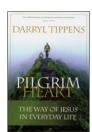
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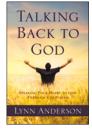
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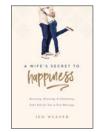
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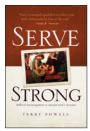
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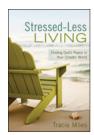
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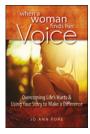
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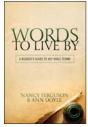
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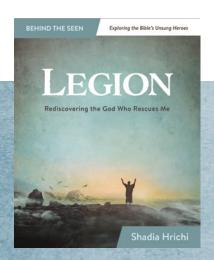
Texas Region: 14–16

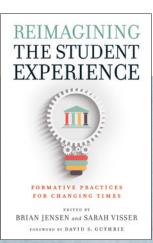
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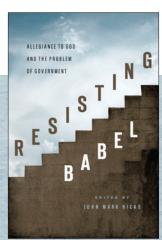


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