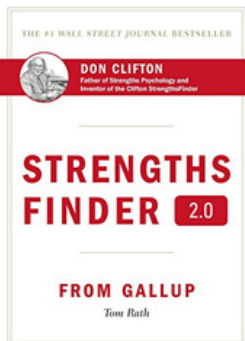


Essential Reading

Click on book image for direct link to purchase.

Please Note: This is a changing guide as the syllabi change. We try to keep our files updated, but always refer to the latest syllabus for additions/subtractions of essential reading, and recommended reading.

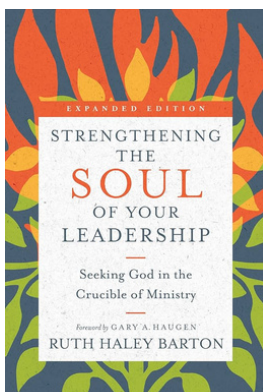
Personal & Spiritual Formation



Rath, Tom

StrengthsFinder 2.0

New York: Gallup Press, 2013.



Barton, Ruth Haley.

Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership

Downers Grove, Illinois. Inter-varsity Press. 2008.

Youth Ministry Management



Work, Mike & Olson, Ginny.

Youth Ministry Management Tools 2.0

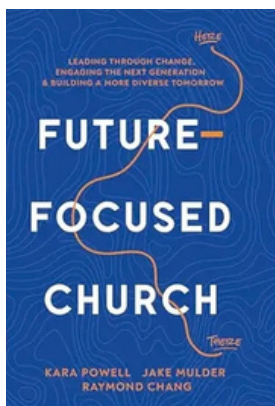
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties. 2014.



Lotich, Patricia.

SMART Church Management. 3rd ed

Bowlers Publishing, 2012.

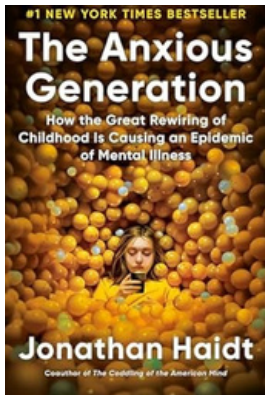


Powell, Kara & Mulder, Jake

The Future-Focused Church

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group. 2025.

Counseling Adolescents & Their Families



Haidt, Jonathan

The Anxious Generation

New York: Penguin Books, 2024.

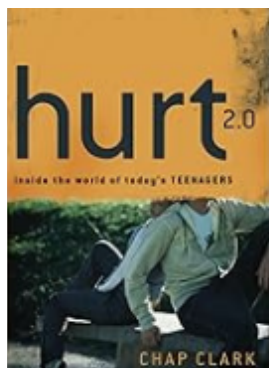
Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry



Clark, Chap.

Adoptive Church

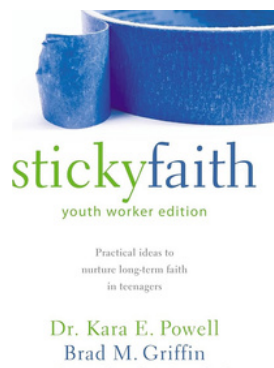
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.



Clark, Chap.

Hurt 2.0

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

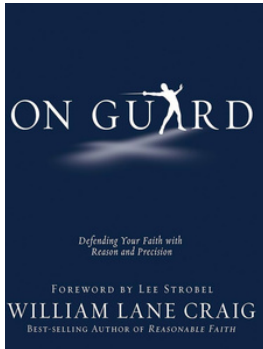


Powell, Kara, Griffin, Brad M., & Crawford, Cheryl A.

Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

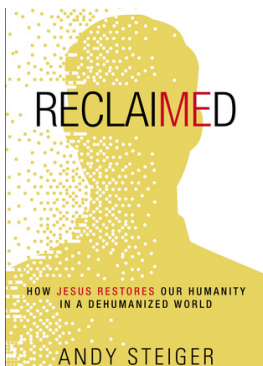
Conversational Apologetics & Contemporary Worldview



Craig, William Lane.

On Guard

Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2010.



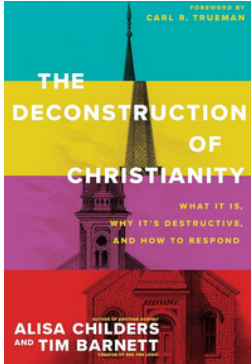
Steiger, Andy.

Reclaimed

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Understanding Today's Youth Culture

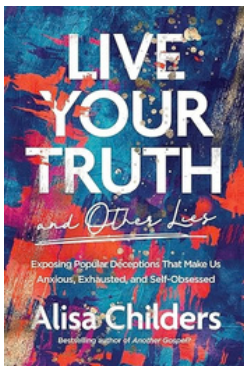
Please Note: The following are selections of recommended reading material, not all are required.



Childers, Alisa, & Barnett, Tim.

The Deconstruction of Christianity: What It Is, Why It's Destructive, and How to Respond

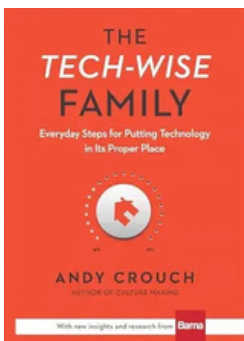
Tyndale Elevate, 2024.



Childers, Alisa.

Live Your Truth and Other Lies: Exposing Popular Deceptions That Make Us Anxious, Exhausted, and Self-Obsessed

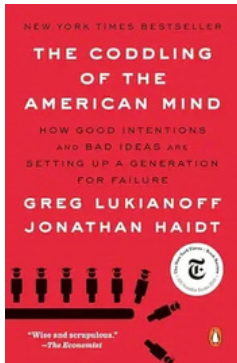
Tyndale Elevate, 2021.



Crouch, Andy, and Amy Crouch.

The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place

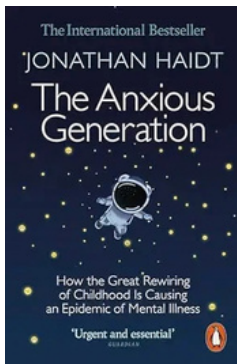
Baker Books, 2017.



Lukianoff, Luke & Haidt, Jonathan.

The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure

Penguin Books, 2019.



Haidt, Jonathan.

The Anxious Generation

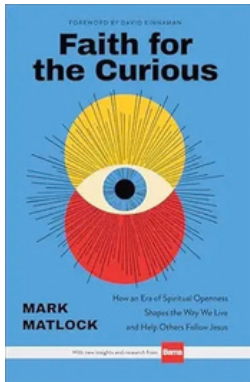
New York: Penguin Books, 2024.



Lukianoff, Greg, and Rikki Schlott.

The Canceling of the American Mind: Cancel Culture Undermines Trust, Destroys Institutions, and Threatens Us All - But There is a Solution

New York: Penguin Books. 2023.



Matlock, Mark.

Faith for the Curious: How an Era of Spiritual Openness Shapes the Way We Live and Help Others Follow Jesus

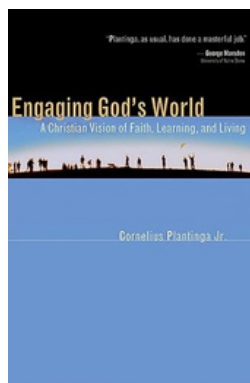
Baker Books, 2024.



Mesa, Ivan, ed.

Before You Lose Your Faith: Deconstructing Doubt in the Church

The Gospel Coalition, 2021.



Plantinga, Cornelius Jr.

Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living

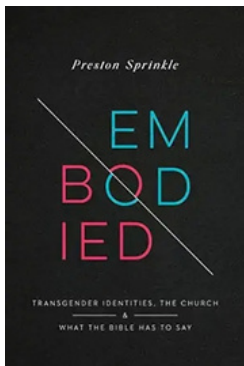
William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2002.



Reinke, Tony.

12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You

Crossway, 2017.



Sprinkle, Preston.

Embodied: Transgender Identities, the Church, and What the Bible Has to Say

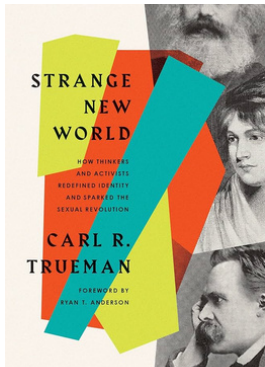
David C. Cook, 2021.



Strange, Daniel.

Plugged In: Connecting Your Faith With What You Watch, Read, and Play (Live Different)

The Good Book Company, 2019.



Trueman, Carl R.

Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution

Crossway, 2022.

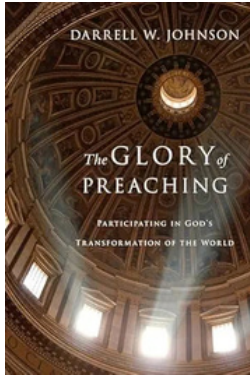


Faman, Theresa, and Robert L. Fastiggi.

Gender Ideology and Pastoral Practice: A Handbook for Catholic Clergy, Counselors, and Ministerial Leaders

2024.

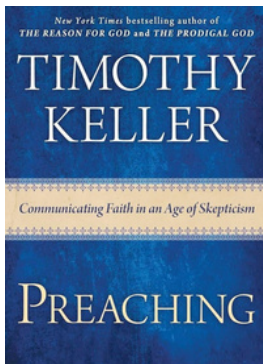
Communications & Ministry Leadership



Johnson, Darrell W.

The Glory of Preaching: Participating in God's Transformation of the World

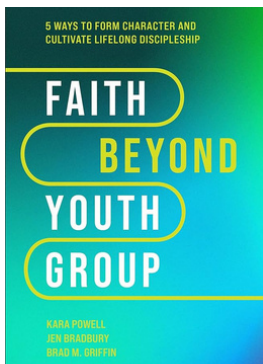
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.



Keller, Timothy.

Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism

New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

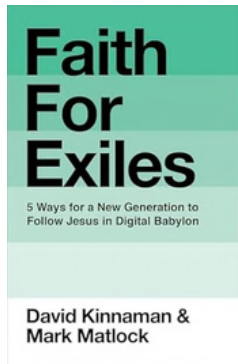


Powell, Kara, Jen Bradbury, and Brad M. Griffin.

Faith Beyond Youth Group: Five Ways to Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2023.

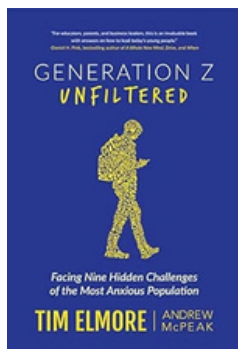
Adolescent Faith Formation



Kinnaman, David and Matlock, Mark.

Faith for Exiles

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2025.

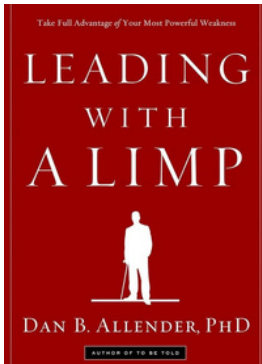


Elmore, Tim and McPeak, Andrew

Generation Z Unfiltered: Facing 9 Hidden Challenges of the Most Anxious Population

Poet Gardner.

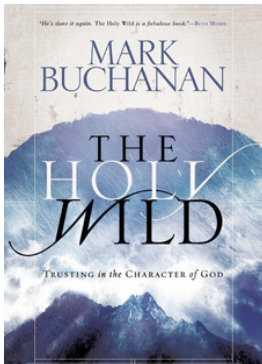
Soul Shaping



Allendar, Dan.

Leading with a Limp

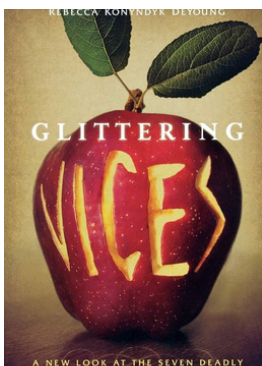
Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 2008.



Buchanan, Mark.

The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God

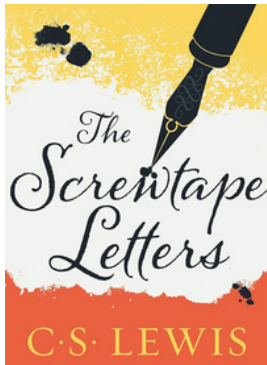
Crown Publishing Group, 2005.



DeYoung, Rebecca Konyndyk.

Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and Their Remedies

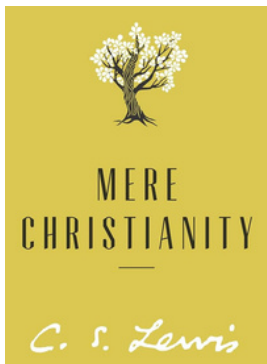
Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009.



Lewis, C.S.

The Screwtape Letters

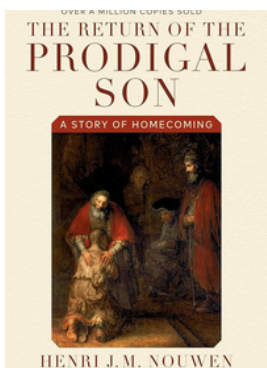
New York, NY: Harper Collins 1961.



Lewis, C.S.

Mere Christianity

New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1952.



Nouwen, Henri J. M.

The Return of the Prodigal Son

New York: Image Books, 1994.

The
**Emotionally
Healthy**
Leader



How transforming your inner life will
deeply transform your church, team, and the world

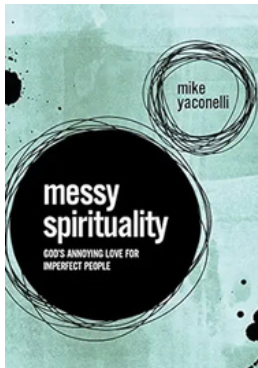


Peter Scazzero

Scazzero, Peter.

**The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming
Your Inner Life Will Deeply Transform Your Church,
Team, and the World**

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.



Yaconelli, Mike.

**Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for
Imperfect People**

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.