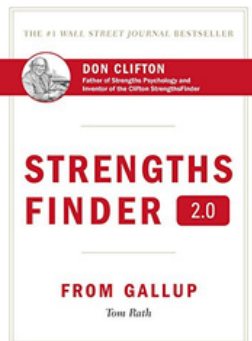


# Essential Reading

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.*

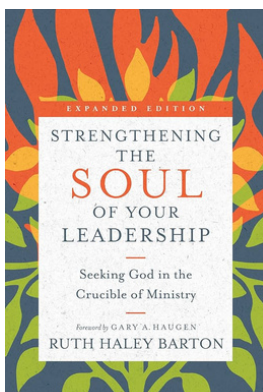
## Personal & Spiritual Formation



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**

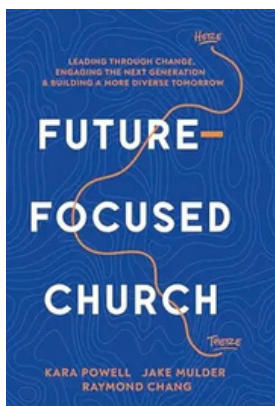
Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties. 2014.



Lotich, Patricia.

### **SMART Church Management. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed**

Bowlers Publishing, 2012.

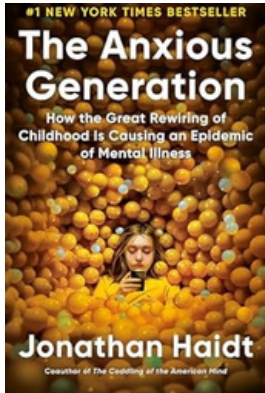


Powell, Kara & Mulder, Jake

### **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.

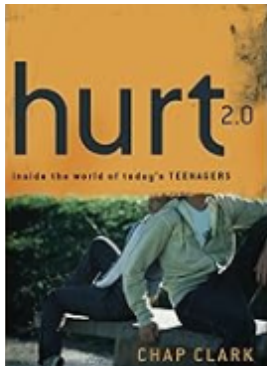
## Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry



Clark, Chap.

### **Adoptive Church**

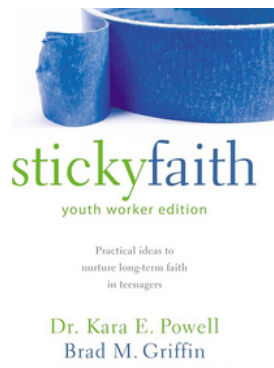
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.



Clark, Chap.

### **Hurt 2.0**

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

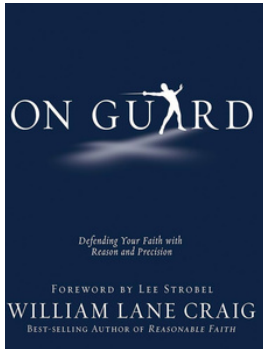


Powell, Kara, Griffin, Brad M., & Crawford, Cheryl A.

### **Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition**

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

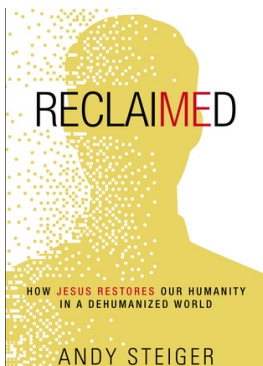
## Conversational Apologetics & Contemporary Worldview



Craig, William Lane.

### **On Guard**

Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2010.



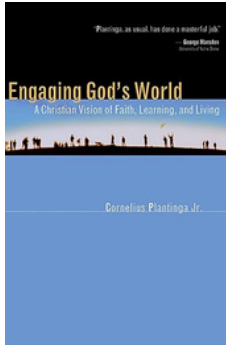
Steiger, Andy.

### **Reclaimed**

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

## Understanding Today's Youth Culture

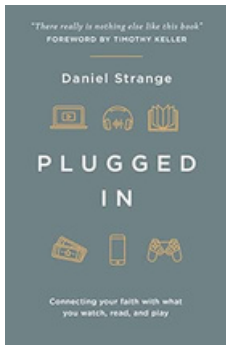
*Please Note: The following are selections of recommended reading material, not all are required.*



Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr.

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

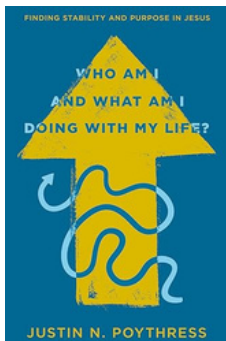
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.



Strange, Daniel.

### **Plugged In: Connecting Your Faith With What You Watch, Read, and Play.**

U.K: The Good Book Company, 2019.



Poythress, Justin.

### **Who Am I and What Am I Doing With My Life?: Finding Stability and Purpose in Jesus.**

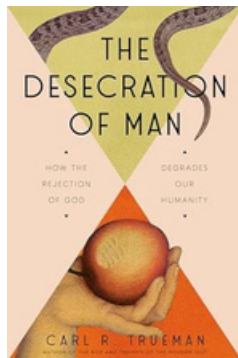
U.K: The Good Book Company, 2026.



McLaughlin, Rebecca.

**10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) About Christianity.**

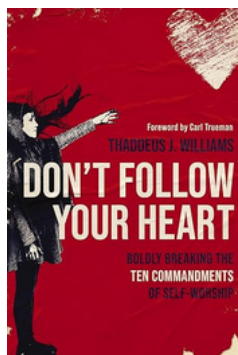
Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.



Trueman, Carl.

**The Desecration of Man: How the Rejection of God Degrades Our Humanity.**

New York, NY: Sentinel, 2026.

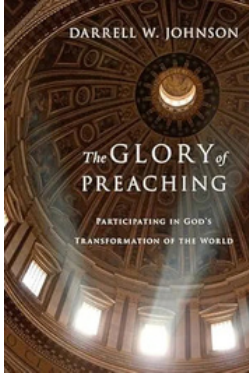


Williams, Thaddeus J.

**Don't Follow Your Heart: Boldly Breaking the 10 Commandments of Self-Worship.**

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2023.

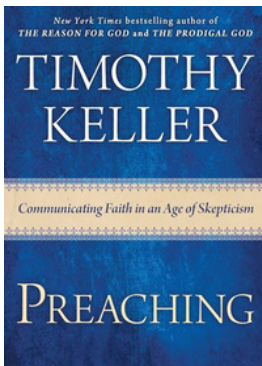
## Communications & Ministry Leadership



Johnson, Darrell W.

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

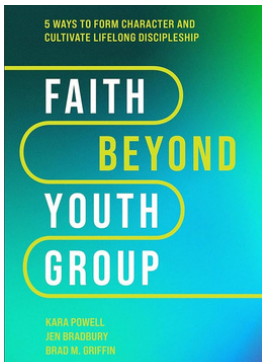
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.



Keller, Timothy.

### **Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism**

New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

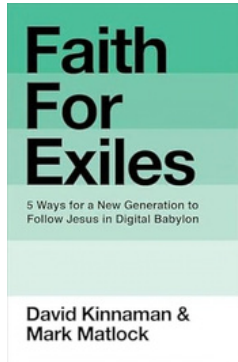


Powell, Kara, Jen Bradbury, and Brad M. Griffin.

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

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2023.

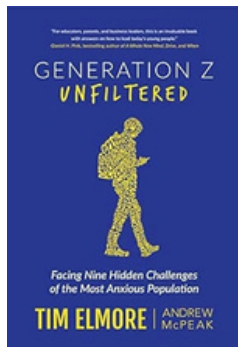
## Adolescent Faith Formation



Kinnaman, David and Matlock, Mark.

### **Faith for Exiles**

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2025.

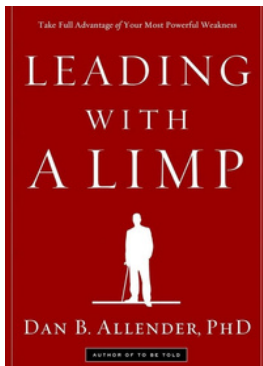


Elmore, Tim and McPeak, Andrew

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

Poet Gardner.

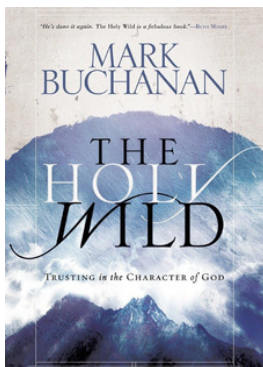
## Soul Shaping



Allendar, Dan.

### **Leading with a Limp**

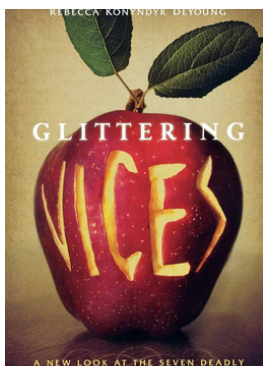
Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 2008.



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**

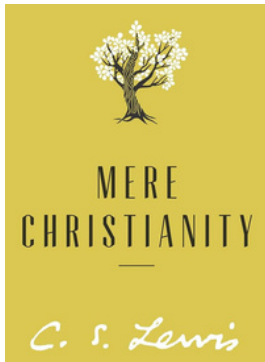
Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009.



Lewis, C.S.

**The Screwtape Letters**

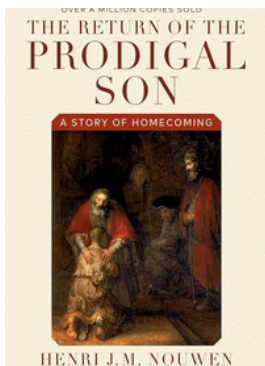
New York, NY: Harper Collins 1961.



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

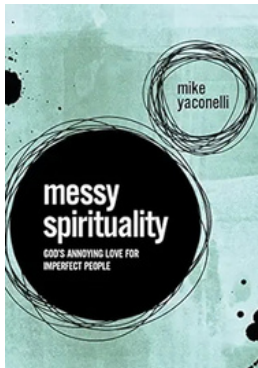


Peter Scazzero

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.