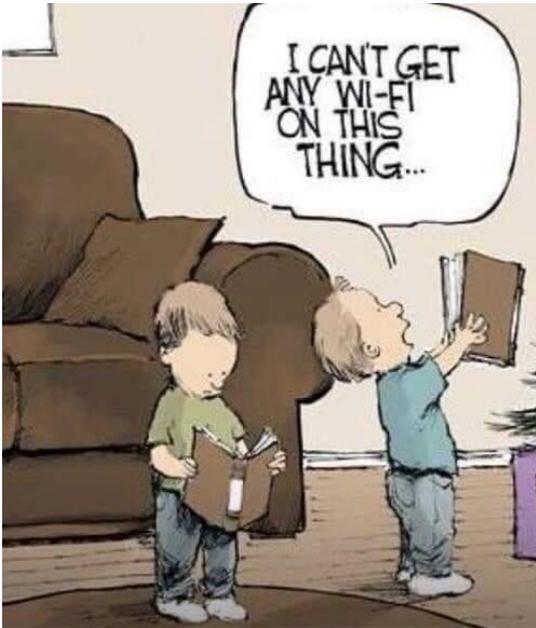


Good Reads

This is a reading list for anyone wishing to build their relationship with God, grow as a follower of Jesus Christ, or build their understanding of scriptures and the tenets of faith. Not every title is for every reader, but it is possible there is just something here that you will find encouraging or enjoyable.



Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton. ISBN#978-1-5018-4598-7

Peter, the fisherman, was not rich or educated, but he was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous yet possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, though he struggled with doubt and fear. Through relationship with Jesus, Peter became the “rock” the Christian Church is built upon. Author, Adam Hamilton, involves us with images of the countryside and culture of the land in which Peter and Jesus walked.

Woven, Understanding the Bible as One Seamless Story by Angie Smith. ISBN#978-1-4627-9660-1

Often the Bible feels confusing and complicated to us and more than we can understand on our own. Some parts of the Bible can feel familiar, yet we can struggle to navigate our way around scripture. We may recognize many of the stories yet remain unsure as to how they all fit together. Angie Smith helps tie together the loose, disconnected threads we find in the Bible, weaving them

into a beautifully crafted story line. Angie leads the reader to feel confident and knowledgeable and shows how the story God has inspired leads fully to knowing his Son, Jesus.

The Well-Watered Woman: Rooted in Truth, Growing in Grace, Flourishing in Faith by Gretchen Saffles. ISBN#978-1-4964-4545-2

Christian women may sometime find themselves failing to thrive, unable to flourish within their faith. The author begins a journey to lead the reader to find fullness, freedom, and fruitfulness in her daily walk with God. Using Scripture and her own personal story of surrender, Gretchen Saffles offers tangible tools not only to know Jesus more, but to live a life that thoroughly enjoys him, seeks him, and follows him into freedom.

Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids by Dr. Kara E. Powell & Dr. Chap Clark. ISBN#978-0310329329

Sticky Faith offers answers and brings positive and practical ideas to nurture within your children a faith that lasts a lifetime – a living and loving faith. Research today tells us that about half of all HS seniors will drift away from a walk of faith following graduation. Working together at the Fuller Youth Institute at Fuller Theological seminary, Powell and Chap have identified some best practices and relationship models that can make a change and set young adults on a path for lifelong faith and service. They provide a rationale and strategies for parents that will enable them to make a difference in their children’s lives at a critical time in their development, keeping focus on the importance of personal faith.

Ragged by Gretchen Ronnevik. ISBN#978-1948969482

We sometimes look at spiritual disciplines as a “To-Do” list or part of our daily schedule. When we do, we may risk the growth and blessing of Christ’s constant, unending work in us. The author believes that spiritual disciplines like prayer, meditation, Scripture reading, and discipleship are some of the good gifts God provides us. Often, we choose instead to skip the spiritual disciplines and latch on to the heavy burdens of Christian performance. Ronnevik readjusts reader thinking to see spiritual disciplines less as what we bring before the Lord and more about who Christ is for us as the author and perfecter of our faith.

Inspired – Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again by Rachel Held Evans. ISBN#978-0718022310

This book answers the questions the author herself has struggled with. She began a search to understand the Bible and how it should be read. Through studies and understanding of literature, Evans retells many of the well-known Bible stories in new and understandable ways. In working through the scriptures, she sorts these stories into new categories – origin stories, war stories, deliverance stories, wisdom stories, resistance stories, gospel stories, fish stories, and church stories. Her enthusiasm to know and love the Bible comes through as she leads the reader to find God’s loving and redemptive work in the world.

Church on the Move: A Practical Guide for Ministry in the Community, by G. Travis Norvell. ISBN#978-0817018320

Norvell, pastor of Judson Memorial Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN, explores the way churches do and do not interface with the community around them, and he provides concrete, practical ways for the church body and individuals to begin implementing this movement, including study questions, suggested resources, and “experiments” between chapters that can help them find the ways that work best in their respective contexts.

Disquiet Time: Rants and Reflections on the Good Book by the Skeptical, the Faithful, and a Few Scoundrels, edited by Jennifer Grant and Cathleen Falsani. ISBN#978-1-4555-7882-5

This collection of essays by self-identified spiritual misfits vulnerably and honestly wrestles with many of those peculiar, disturbing, and bizarre parts of the scriptures. The authors do not position themselves as experts or authorities, but rather fellow pilgrims trying to find their way. Their honesty will shock you, make you laugh out loud, and force you to reflect on what you really think.

How to Pray: a Simple Guide for Normal People, by Pete Greig. ISBN#978-1-64158-188-2

A co-founder of the 24-7 Prayer movement, Grieg has developed a simple pattern for prayer that is based off the Lord's Prayer. His acronym P.R.A.Y. stands for pause, rejoice, ask, and yield. Grieg's explanation of these steps is interspersed with anecdotes of "heroes of prayer" like Susanna Wesley, Brother Lawrence, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. There are considerable

online resources that go with the book (or stand independent from it) if one wishes to go deeper.

In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World, by Bruce Reyes-Chow. ISBN#978-0-827216-76-1

"What if kindness could change the world?"—that is the question BRC explores in this book. He does so with great vulnerability, self-awareness of his own foibles, and an unrepentant faith and confidence in Jesus. Note from Pastor Michael: BRC is a progressive, social-justice minded person of faith and that comes through in this book; he is not condescending or confrontational to those who would disagree, but he also does not shy away from the way his convictions overflow into the political sphere.

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life, by Tish Harrison Warren. ISBN #978-0830846238

In this book, THW hopes to awaken us to the holy that is present in even the most mundane moments our lives. She does this by compiling a sort of guided meditation through some of the mundane elements of our days: waking, making the bed, brushing teeth, losing keys, eating leftovers, fighting with my husband, checking email, sitting in traffic, calling a friend, drinking tea, and sleeping.

The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See, by Richard Rohr. ISBN#978-0-8245-2543-9

By exploring our roots in Jesus and Christian history, Rohr invites us to move beyond our tendency to see everything in terms of dualism (= black/white, either/or kind of thinking). Learning to see in this way helps us live in the present, and teaches us "how to actually experience our experiences, whether good, bad, or ugly, and how to let them transform us."

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. ISBN#978-0-385-23682-9

A modern spiritual classic by Nouwen, who writes the book to explore his conviction that "the spiritual life is a reaching out to our innermost self, to our fellow human beings, and to God." The spiritual disciplines of solitude, hospitality, and prayer are at the forefront of discussion, but Nouwen's emphasis is on the sorts of transitions that have to happen in us for these to be constructive practices.

Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion, by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.
ISBN#978-0-8308-4534-7

This book explores the ways American Christianity and racism have become entangled throughout our history. Author Drew Hart describes it like this: "*Reconstructing the Gospel* is an honest reckoning with the mangled, slaveholding religion that continues to pass for the gospel in the United States. It is not self-righteous or accusatory. Instead, Jonathan vulnerably grapples with his own ongoing repentance of white supremacy's powerful grip. Ultimately, this book is an invitation into the river that has been flowing for centuries in this land, providing a past and present counter-witness to the vandalization of Jesus's name."

Rework, by Jason Fried & David Heinemeier Hansson.
ISBN#978-0-307-46374-6

Rework is not written to be a book about the church, but about business. And yet these "new rules of business" are very much worth thinking about, as churches consider what it might mean to be effective and viable in these changing times. A simple and straightforward read, the authors offer and explore "rules" like "ASAP is poison," "welcome obscurity," "embrace constraints," and "do less better" (this last one is a Pastor Michael paraphrase).

Book Series

This group of books is an Old Testament historical fiction series. How God's people turned from Him and the success they found when they sought Him and His will. All are authored by Lynn Austin.

Gods & Kings ISBN#978-0-7642-2989-3

Song of Redemption ISBN#978-1-4412-0240-6

Strength of His Hand ISBN#978-1-4412-0241-3

Faith of my Fathers ISBN#978-1-4412-0300-7

Books for the Kids

Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints by Daneen Akers. ISBN#978-1734089509

Akers gives us an illustrated children's book about people of diverse faiths working for more love and justice in their corners of the world. Some of the profiles in caring include St. Francis of Assisi, Harriet Tubman, Florence Nightingale, and Mr. Rogers. Other lesser-known individuals wait to be introduced to the reader for their examples of loving-kindness.

Kirby McCook and the JESUS CHRONICLES, A 12-Year Old's Take on the Totally Unboring, Slightly Weird Stuff in the Bible, Including Fish Guts, Wrestling Moves, and Stinky Feet by Steve Arterburn and M.N. Brotherton.
ISBN#978-1496429773

If you are looking for a book about Jesus that kids will love, take a look at Kirby McCook. Kids will laugh and learn as they follow 12-year old Kirby, mentored by his grandfather, through the stories we all remember that built our faith in Jesus. Bible stories are laced with middle-grades humor to help teach kids that Jesus has been a part of the story from the very beginning of everything.

Who Am I and Why Do I Matter? By Chris Morpew.
ISBN#978-1784986988

Kids ask BIG questions about themselves and faith. Who am I? Where do I fit in? Am I good enough? What do people think of me? What does God think of me? Experienced Christian teacher and school chaplain Chris Morpew shares the answers he has given kids through the years in warm and understanding ways. He shows children how to embrace their identity as children of God, made in his image. Kids build self-worth in hearing the words God says about them.

Compiled by the ADT for the readers at FBC
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