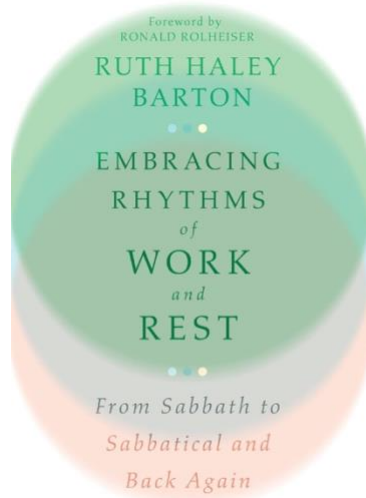


## Books

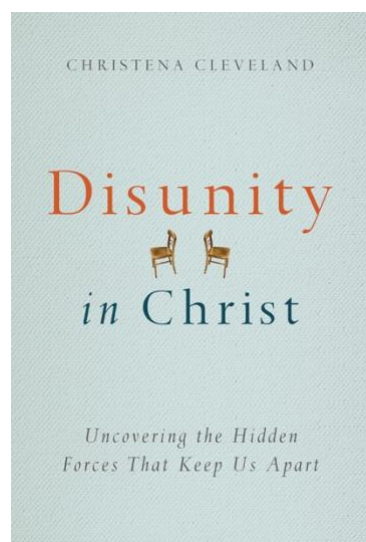
### [Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest by Ruth Haley Barton](#)



In our frenzied culture, the possibility of living in balanced rhythms of work and rest often feels elusive. This rings especially true for pastors and leaders who carry the weight of nonstop responsibility. Most know they need rest but might be surprised to find within themselves a deep resistance to letting go and resting in God one day a week, let alone for longer seasons of sabbatical. The journey to a meaningful sabbath practice is slow and gradual, and it is a journey we need to take in community. Sharing her own story of practicing sabbath for the past twenty years, Ruth Haley Barton offers hard-won wisdom regarding the rhythms of sabbath, exploring both weekly sabbath keeping as well as extended periods of sabbatical time.

Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest grounds us in God's intentions in giving us the gift of sabbath, providing practical steps for embedding sabbath rhythms in churches and organizations. Each chapter concludes with "What Your Soul Wants to Say to God," an opportunity to reflect and engage God around your own journey with the material. Sabbath is more than a practice—it is a way of life ordered around God's invitation to regular rhythms of work, rest, and replenishment that will sustain us for the long haul of life in leadership. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

### [Disunity in Christ by Christena Cleveland](#)



Despite Jesus' prayer that all Christians "be one," divisions have been epidemic in the body of Christ from the beginning to the present. We cluster in theological groups, gender groups, age groups, ethnic groups, educational and economic groups. We criticize freely those who disagree with us, don't look like us, don't act like us and don't even like what we like.

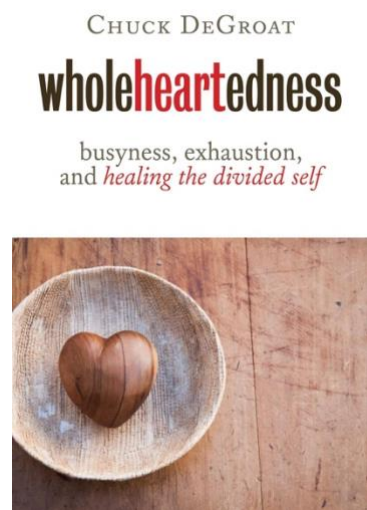
Though we may think we know why this happens, Christena Cleveland says we probably don't. In this eye-opening book, learn the hidden reasons behind conflict and divisions. Learn: Why I think all my friends are unique but those in other groups are all the same, Why little differences often become big sources of conflict, Why categorizing others is often automatic and helpful but can also have sinister side effects, Why we are so often victims of groupthink and how we can avoid it, Why women think men are

judging them more negatively than men actually are, and vice versa, Why choices of language can actually affect unity.

With a personal touch and the trained eye of a social psychologist, Cleveland brings to bear the latest studies and research on the unseen dynamics at work that tend to separate us from others. Learn why Christians who have a heart for unity have such a hard time actually uniting. The author provides real insight for ministry leaders who have attempted to build bridges across boundaries.

Here are the tools we need to understand how we can overcome the hidden forces that divide us. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## Wholeheartedness by Chuck DeGroat



book\*\*

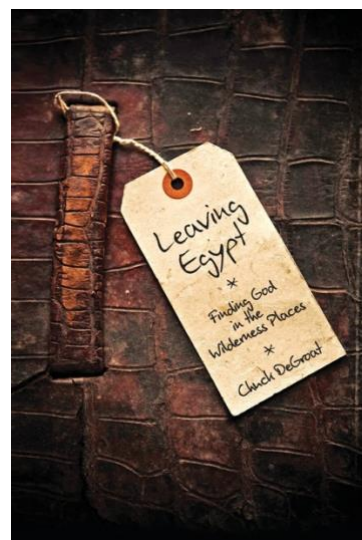
*I'm being pulled in a thousand different directions.*

As a therapist, Chuck DeGroat hears that line all the time. "I hear it from students and software developers," he says. "I hear it from spiritual leaders and coffee baristas. And I hear it from my own inner self."

We *all* feel that nasty pull to and fro, the frantic busyness that exhausts us and threatens to undo us. And we all *think* we know the solution — more downtime, more relaxation, more rest. And we're all wrong.

As DeGroat himself has discovered, the real solution to what pulls us apart is *wholeheartedness*, a way of living and being that can transform us from the inside out. And that's what readers of this book will discover too. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in**

## Leaving Egypt by Chuck DeGroat



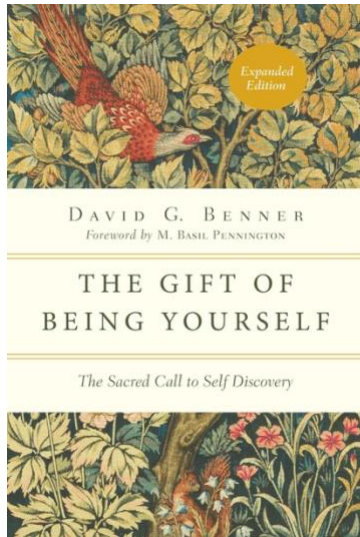
The Exodus story is your story.

The Israelites' liberation from Egypt and journey to the promised land is one the Bible's most compelling stories a breathtaking account of competing wills, freedom and slavery, faith and doubt. But the Exodus isn't just a long-ago Bible story. It's the overarching theme of every person's life. We each find ourselves enslaved: to work, to destructive relationships, to food, to spending . . . but beyond our personal Egypt lies God's promised land.

In *Leaving Egypt*, Chuck DeGroat shows how our wilderness journey helps us face our fears, receive our new identity, experience transformation, and live into our new found freedom.

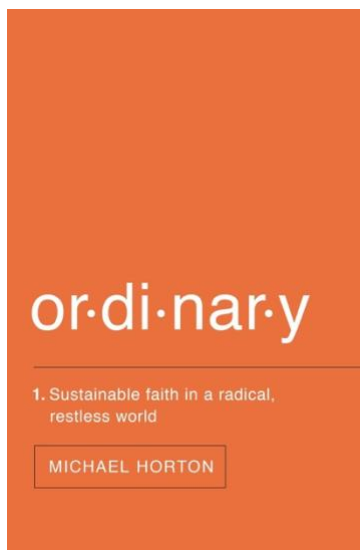
**\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [The Gift of Being Yourself by David Benner](#)



"Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know thee."  
—Augustine  
Much is said in Christian circles about knowing God. But Christians throughout the ages have agreed that there cannot be deep knowledge of God without deep knowledge of the self. Discerning your true self is inextricably related to discerning God's purposes for you. Paradoxically, the more you become like Christ, the more you become authentically yourself. In this profound exploration of Christian identity, psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner illuminates the spirituality of self-discovery. He exposes the false selves that you may hide behind and calls you to discover the true self that emerges from your uniqueness in Christ. Freeing you from illusions about yourself, Benner shows that self-understanding leads to the fulfillment of your God-given destiny and vocation. Rest assured, you need not try to be someone you are not. But you will deepen your experience of God through discovering the gift of being yourself. This expanded edition, one of three titles in The Spiritual Journey trilogy, includes a new epilogue and an experiential guide with questions for individual reflection or group discussion. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

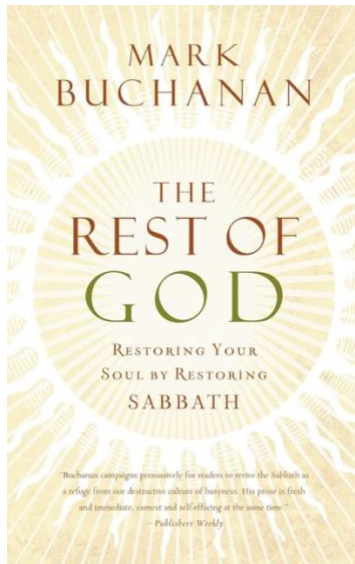
## [Ordinary by Michael Horton](#)



Radical. Crazy. Transformative and restless. Every word we read these days seems to suggest there's a "next-best-thing," if only we would change our comfortable, compromising lives. In fact, the greatest fear most Christians have is boredom—the sense that they are missing out on the radical life Jesus promised. One thing is certain. No one wants to be "ordinary."  
Yet pastor and author Michael Horton believes that our attempts to measure our spiritual growth by our experiences, constantly seeking after the next big breakthrough, have left many Christians disillusioned and disappointed. There's nothing wrong with an energetic faith; the danger is that we can burn ourselves out on restless anxieties and unrealistic expectations. What's needed is not another program or a fresh approach to spiritual growth; it's a renewed appreciation for the commonplace.

Far from a call to low expectations and passivity, Horton invites readers to recover their sense of joy in the ordinary. He provides a guide to a sustainable discipleship that happens over the long haul—not a quick fix that leaves readers empty with unfulfilled promises. Convicting and ultimately empowering, *Ordinary* is not a call to do less; it's an invitation to experience the elusive joy of the ordinary Christian life. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

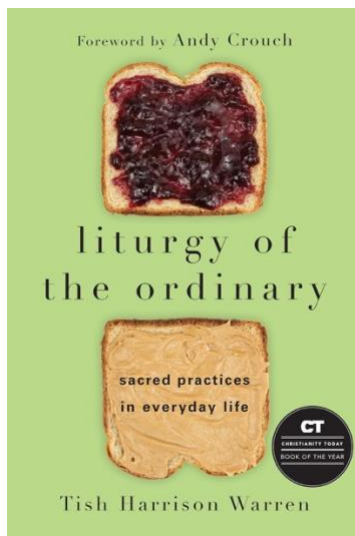
## [The Rest of God by Mark Buchanan](#)



Widely-acclaimed author Mark Buchanan states that what we've *really* lost is "the rest of God—the rest God bestows and, with it, that part of Himself we can know only through stillness." Stillness as a virtue is a foreign concept in our society, but there is wisdom in God's own rhythm of work and rest. Jesus practiced Sabbath among those who had turned it into a dismal thing, a day for murmuring and finger-wagging, and He reminded them of the day's true purpose: *liberation*—to heal, to feed, to rescue, to celebrate, to lavish and relish life abundant.

With this book, Buchanan reminds us of this and gives practical advice for restoring the sabbath in our lives. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [The Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren](#)



In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that the author does every day. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Tish Harrison Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday. Each activity is related to a spiritual practice as well as an aspect of our Sunday worship. Come and discover the holiness of your every day. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [The Thing Beneath the Thing by Steve Carter](#)



**We all have a surface self we present to the world, but our smiling faces often hide our pain that comes from unsuccessful attempts to find relief through harmful choices. How can we keep past wounds from damaging us? Learn to allow God to heal triggers, insecurities, and more so you can experience spiritual health and wholeness.**

Every driver knows the importance of avoiding potholes when navigating a route. Besides the uncomfortable bump, they can create permanent damage to vehicles and endanger entire roadway systems.

The same is true of our lives. We all have potholes that have been formed by pain, trauma, or choices that we've made. Usually we find a quick fix, filling the hole with activities and even addictions disguised as culturally acceptable life choices. But before long, the

hole is back—and often wider and deeper—waiting to catch us off-guard, which in the end creates even more permanent damage.

In *The Thing Beneath the Thing*, pastor Steve Carter asks the simple question, “How is life working for you?” He knows that potholes exist and that the longer we live disconnected from answering this question, the more we will fill those holes with harmful choices. The solution? Allow God to fill them with His grace and love so that we can discover the beauty of peace and wholeness He has for us.

The process lies in discovering our:

- Triggers: the setup that sets us off
- Hideouts: where we go to escape the pain of our story
- Insecurities: the false stories we create about ourselves
- Narratives: the false stories we create about others
- Grace: the place where we discover how to become whole, holy, and spiritually healthy

Journey with a seasoned fellow traveler who has learned how to ask key questions that help us unlock the places where we've buried things. Then we can dig deep, invite healing, and learn new ways to operate so we can begin experiencing the life of freedom Jesus promised.

**\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## The Relentless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer



*“Who am I becoming?”*

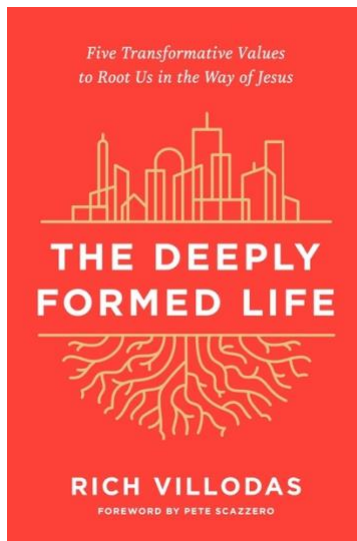
That was the question nagging pastor and author John Mark Comer. Outwardly, he appeared successful. But inwardly, things weren't pretty. So he turned to a trusted mentor for guidance and heard these words:

*“Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.”*

It wasn't the response he expected, but it was—and continues to be—the answer he needs. Too often we treat the symptoms of toxicity in our modern world instead of trying to pinpoint the cause. A growing number of voices are pointing at hurry, or busyness, as a root of much evil.

Within the pages of this book, you'll find a fascinating roadmap to staying emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## The Deeply Formed Life by Rich Villodas



Most believers live in the state of “being a Christian” without ever being deeply formed by Christ. Our pace is too frenetic to be in union with God, and we don't know how to quiet our hearts and minds to be present. Our emotions are unhealthy and compartmentalized. We feel unable to love well or live differently from the rest of the world—to live as people of the good news. New York pastor Rich Villodas says we must restore balance, focus, and meaning for our souls. *The Deeply Formed Life* lays out a fresh vision for spiritual breakthrough following five key values:

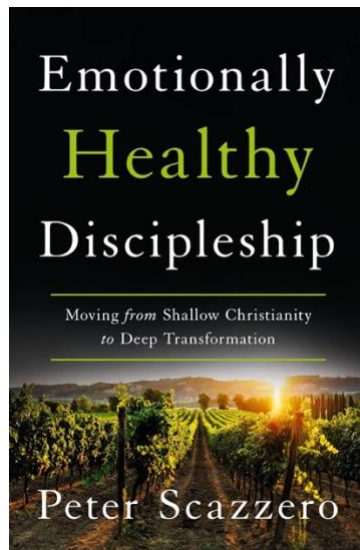
- **Contemplative Rhythms Value:** slowing down our lives to be with God.
- **Racial Justice Value:** examining a multi-layered approach to pursuing racial justice and reconciliation.
- **Interior Examination Value:** looking beneath the surface of our

lives to live free and love well.

- **Sexual Wholeness Value:** exploring how our sexuality connects with our spirituality.
- **Missional Presence Value:** living as the presence of Christ in a broken world.

*The Deeply Formed Life* is a roadmap to live in the richly rooted place we all yearn for: a place of communion with God, a place where we find our purpose. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [Emotionally Healthy Discipleship by Pete Scazzerro](#)



**The global church is facing a discipleship crisis. Here's how we move forward into *transformative* discipleship...**

Pastors and church leaders want to see lives changed by the gospel. They work tirelessly to care for people, initiate new ministries, preach creatively, and keep up with trends. Sadly, much of this effort does not result in deeply changed disciples.

Traditional discipleship strategies fail because they only address surface issues and do not go deep enough into the emotional health of individuals.

But transformative, emotionally healthy discipleship is a methods-based biblical theology that, when fully implemented, informs every area of a church, ministry, or organization. It is a discipleship structure built from the center that:

- Slows down our lives so we can cultivate a deep, personal relationship with Jesus.
- Challenges the values of Western culture that have compromised the radical call to follow the crucified Jesus.
- Integrates sadness, loss, and vulnerability, that, when left out, leave people defensive and easily triggered.
- Acknowledges God's gift of limits in our lives.
- Connects how our family and personal history influence our discipleship in the present.
- Measures our spiritual maturity by how we are growing in our ability to love others.

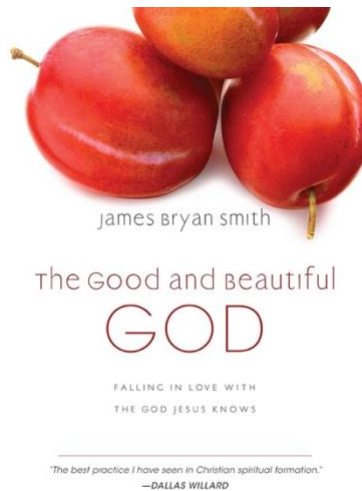
In *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*, bestselling author Pete Scazzerro takes leaders step-by-step through how to create an emotionally healthy culture and multiply deeply-changed people in every aspect of church life, including:

- Leadership and team development
- Marriage and single ministry
- Small groups and youth and children's ministry
- Preaching, worship, and administration
- Outreach

**Complete with assessments and practical strategies, *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship* will help you move people to the beneath-the-surface discipleship that actually has the power to change the world.**

**\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith](#)



**"God wants me to try harder."**

**"God blesses me when I'm good and punishes me when I'm bad."**

**"God is angry with me."**

We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true—but many are false. James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here.

Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once you've discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads you through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body

and soul as well as your mind.

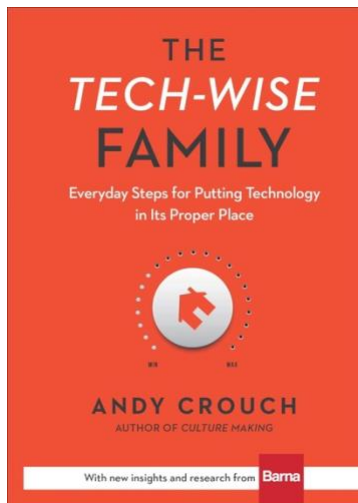
At the end of each chapter you'll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart. Because the best way to make a complete and lasting change is to go through the material in community, small group discussion questions also accompany each chapter.

This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by—to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed—and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God.

The Good and Beautiful Series includes four essential discipleship books from James Bryan Smith. Work through these proven Bible study resources individually or with a group to learn who God is, what it means to be a Christian, how to live in community, and how to address toxic self-narratives that hinder spiritual growth. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***



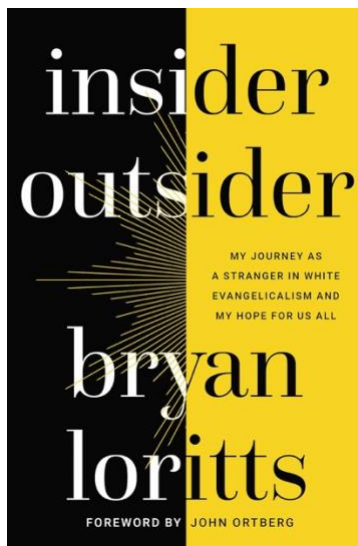
## [The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch](#)



Making conscientious choices about technology in our families is more than just using internet filters and determining screen time limits for our children. It's about developing wisdom, character, and courage in the way we use digital media rather than accepting technology's promises of ease, instant gratification, and the world's knowledge at our fingertips. And it's definitely not just about the kids.

Drawing on in-depth original research from the Barna Group, Andy Crouch shows readers that the choices we make about technology have consequences we may never have considered. He takes readers beyond the typical questions of what, where, and when and instead challenges them to answer provocative questions like, *Who do we want to be as a family?* and *How does our use of a particular technology move us closer or farther away from that goal?* Anyone who has felt their family relationships suffer or their time slip away amid technology's distractions will find in this book a path forward to reclaiming their real life in a world of devices. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [Insider/Outsider by Brian Lorrits](#)



**Pastor Bryan Lorrits dives deep into what it's like to be a person of color in predominantly white evangelical spaces today and where we can go from here.**

God boldly proclaims throughout the book of Acts that there is no "ethnic home team" when it comes to Christianity. But the minority experience in America today--and throughout history--too often tells a different story.

As Lorrits writes, "It is impossible to do theology devoid of cultural lenses and expressions. Like an American unaware of their own accent, most whites are unaware of the ethnic theological accent they carry." *Insider Outsider* bears witness to the true stories that often go untold--stories that will startle, enlighten, and herald a brighter way forward for all seeking belonging in the family of God. This seminal book on race and the church will help Christians

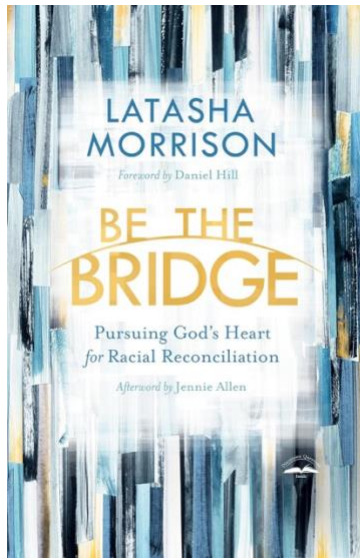
discover:

- How they can learn the art of listening to stories unlike their own
- Identify the problems and pitfalls that keep Sunday morning the most segregated hour of the week

- And participate in an active movement with God toward a holy vision of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer calls "life together"

Drawing on insightful snapshots through history, eye-opening personal experiences, and biblical exposition, Loritts awakens both our minds and hearts to the painful reality of racial divides as well as the hope of forgiveness. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison](#)



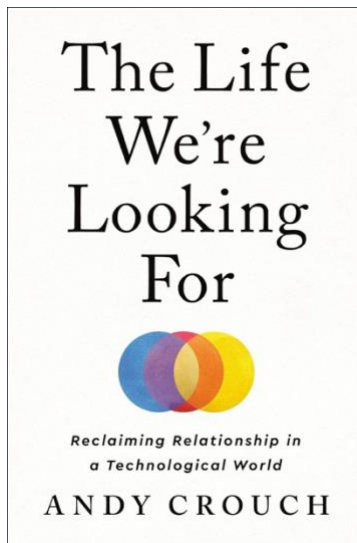
In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening.

But change begins with an honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions. These ongoing dialogues have formed the foundation of a global movement called Be the Bridge—a nonprofit organization whose goal is to equip the church to have a distinctive and transformative response to racism and racial division.

In this perspective-shifting book, founder Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She expertly applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration.

Along with prayers, discussion questions, and other resources to enhance group engagement, *Be the Bridge* presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [The Life We're Looking For by Andy Crouch](#)



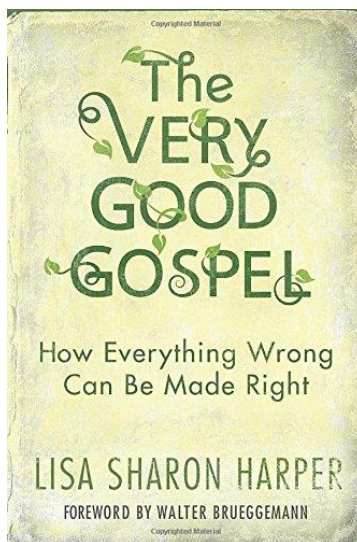
Our greatest need is to be recognized—to be seen, loved, and embedded in rich relationships with those around us. But for the last century, we’ve displaced that need with the ease of technology. We’ve dreamed of mastery without relationship (what the premodern world called magic) and abundance without dependence (what Jesus called Mammon). Yet even before a pandemic disrupted that quest, we felt threatened and strangely out of place: lonely, anxious, bored amid endless options, oddly disconnected amid infinite connections.

In *The Life We're Looking For*, bestselling author Andy Crouch shows how we have been seduced by a false vision of human flourishing—and how each of us can fight back. From the social innovations of the early Christian movement to the efforts of entrepreneurs working to create more humane technology, Crouch

shows how we can restore true community and put people first in a world dominated by money, power, and devices.

There is a way out of our impersonal world, into a world where knowing and being known are the heartbeat of our days, our households, and our economies. Where our vulnerabilities are seen not as something to be escaped but as the key to our becoming who we were made to be together. Where technology serves us rather than masters us—and helps us become more human, not less. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

## [The Very Good Gospel by Lisa Sharon Harper](#)



God once declared everything in the world “very good.”

*Can you imagine it?*

**A Vision of Hope for a Broken World**

*Shalom* is what God declared. *Shalom* is what the Kingdom of God looks like.

*Shalom* is when all people have enough.

It’s when families are healed.

It’s when churches, schools, and public policies protect human dignity.

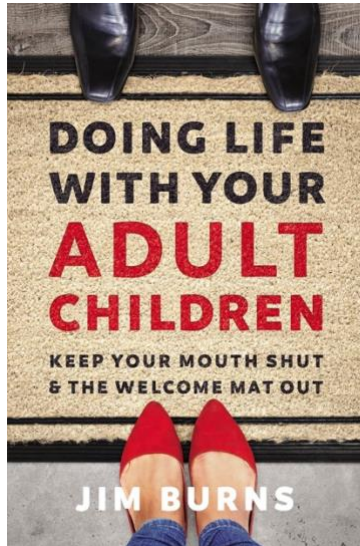
*Shalom* is when the image of God is recognized in every single human.

*Shalom* is our calling as followers of Jesus’s gospel. It is the vision God set forth in the Garden and the restoration God desires for every relationship.

What can we do to bring *shalom* to our nations, our communities, and our souls? Through a careful exploration of biblical text, particularly the first three chapters of Genesis, Lisa Sharon Harper shows us what “very good” can look like today, even after the Fall.

Because despite our anxious minds, despite division and threats of violence, God's vision remains: Wholeness for a hurting world. Peace for a fearful soul. *Shalom*. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [Doing Life With Your Adult Children by Jim Burns](#)



**Are you struggling to connect with your child now that they've left the nest? Are you feeling the tension and heartache as your relationship dynamic begins to change? In *Doing Life with Your Adult Children*, bestselling author and parenting expert Jim Burns provides practical advice and hopeful encouragement for navigating this tough yet rewarding transition.**

If you've raised a child, you know that parenting doesn't stop when they turn eighteen. In many ways, your relationship gets even more complicated--your heart and your head are as involved as ever, but you can feel things shifting, whether your child lives under your roof or rarely stays in contact.

*Doing Life with Your Adult Children* helps you navigate this rich and challenging season of parenting. Speaking from his own personal and professional experience, Burns offers practical answers to the

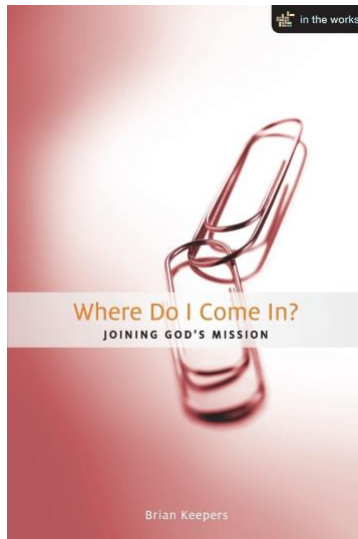
most common questions he's received over the years, including:

- My child's choices are breaking my heart--where did I go wrong?
- Is it OK to give advice to my grown child?
- What's the difference between enabling and helping?
- What boundaries should I have if my child moves back home?
- What do I do when my child doesn't seem to be maturing into adulthood?
- How do I relate to my grown child's significant other?
- What does it mean to have healthy financial boundaries?
- How can I support my grown children when I don't support their values?

Including positive principles on bringing kids back to faith, ideas on how to leave a legacy as a grandparent, and encouragement for every changing season, *Doing Life with Your Adult Children* is a unique book on your changing role in a calling that never ends.

**\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [Where Do I Come In? by Brian Keepers](#)

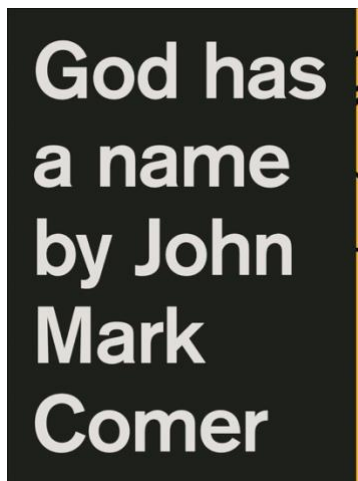


Do you think of yourself as a missionary? In reality, every part of your daily life is "mission work"--whether you're driving children to soccer practice, preparing for a meeting, or getting to know your next-door neighbor. Find out how to develop a missional mindset in your life with this small group study. Each In the Works study includes:

- five inspiring daily readings each week
- five easy-to-use discussion guides with opening and closing activities, Bible study, and discussion questions and activities
- follow-up action options
- everything you need (except Bibles) in one book.

**\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

## [God Has a Name by John Mark Comer](#)



***God Has a Name* is a simple yet profound guide to understanding God in a new light--focusing on what God says about himself. This one shift has the potential to radically alter how you relate to God, not as a doctrine, but as a relational being who responds to you in an elastic, back-and-forth way.**

In *God Has a Name*, John Mark Comer takes you line by line through Exodus 34:6-8--Yahweh's self-revelation on Mount Sinai, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. Along the way, Comer addresses some of the most profound questions he came across as he studied these noted lines in Exodus, including:

- Why do we feel this gap between us and God?
- Could it be that a lot of what we think about God is wrong?

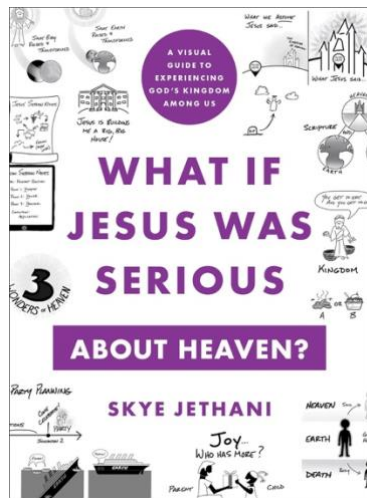
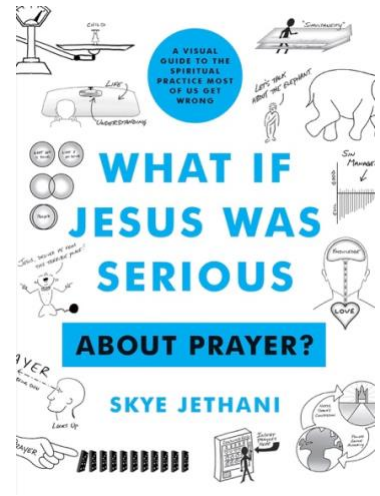
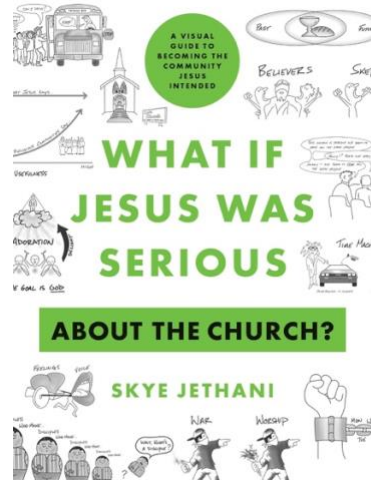
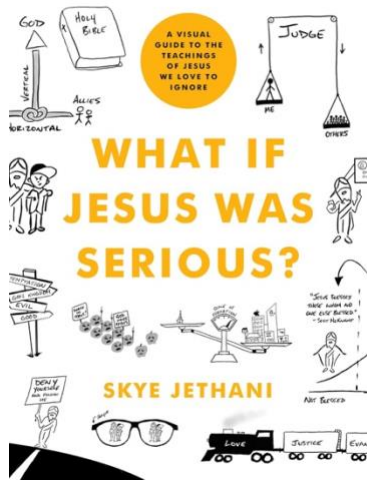
Not all wrong, but wrong enough to mess up how we relate to

him?

- What if our "God" is really a projection of our own identity, ideas, and desires?
- What if the real God is different, but far better than we could ever imagine?

No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, the act of learning who God is just might surprise you--and change everything. **\*\*Discussion Questions NOT included in book\*\***

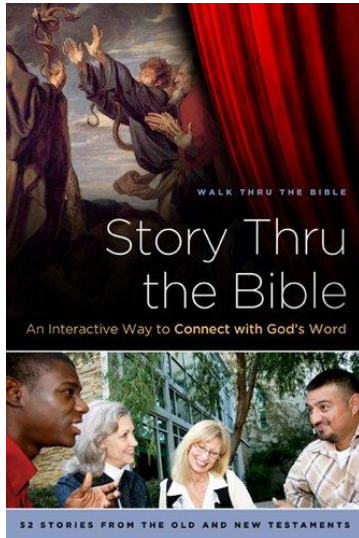
## What if Jesus Was Serious About...(any) by Skye Jethani



Let's face it. A lot of Christian resources can feel cheesy, out-of-touch, and a little boring. But when Skye Jethani started doodling and writing up some of his thoughts about God, his Twitter and email list blew up. *What If Jesus Was Serious?* is a compilation of all-new reflections (and hand-drawn doodles) from Skye. He takes a look at some of Jesus' most demanding teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and pushes us to ask whether we're really hearing what Christ is saying. The visual component of the book makes it memorable and enjoyable to read, and Skye's incisive reflections make it worthwhile for any Christian. If you've traditionally been dissatisfied with Christian devotional resources but love to learn about Jesus and think deeply, this book was written for you.

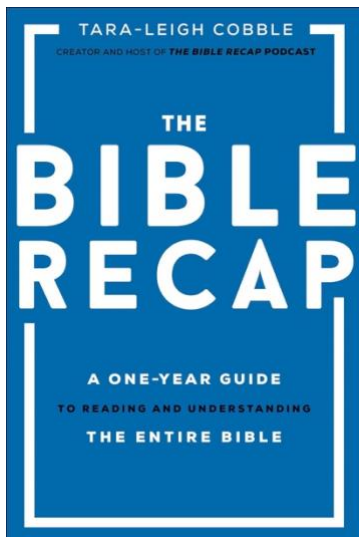
## Bible Studies

### [Story Thru the Bible: An Interactive Way to Connect with God's Word](#)



For centuries, people have passed on their heritage and history through storytelling. In *Story Thru the Bible*, you will learn an easy hands-on approach to oral teaching that engages the listener while sharing a biblical worldview. This approach causes the storyteller and the listener to engage in a whole new way while creating a laid-back atmosphere. This step-by-step guide uses 52 Bible stories adaptable to any culture or age group. Comes complete with summaries, questions, and practical applications. **\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\***

### [The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble](#)



Have you ever closed your Bible and thought, What did I just read? Or maybe you have tried to read through the Bible in a year, but quit when it felt confusing or impersonal. The Bible Recap is here to help. Tara-Leigh Cobble, host of the popular podcast The Bible Recap, walks readers through a one-year chronological Bible reading plan and explains each day's passage in an easy-to-understand way.

Emphasizing how God's character can be seen throughout Scripture, the recaps are simple and short yet deep enough to help you understand the hard parts and press into knowing God better. As Cobble says, The primary role of Scripture is to show me who God is, and if I behold God, my life will naturally conform around what I learn about him. The Bible Recap will not only help you grasp the entire narrative of the Bible, it will fortify your faith.

**\*\*Discussion Questions included in book\*\*** ([Separate book](#))