

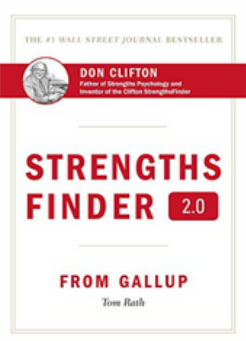
Essential Reading

Click on book image for direct link to purchase.

**Please Note: This is a changing guide as the syllabus changes. As we try to keep our files updated, always refer back to the latest syllabi for additions/subtractions of essential reading.*

Spiritual Formation in Ministry

DR. MARV PENNER



StrengthsFinder 2.0. Discover your Strengths.

You do not need to purchase the book, but you do need to purchase the access code to do the 35-minute survey, found here:

<https://store.gallup.com/p/en-ca/10108/top-5-cliftonstrengths>

ESTIMATED COST: \$28.00



Smith, James K.A.

You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit.

Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2016: IVP, 2004.

“This book is rich with though provoking questions around how we approach ministry. The tough questions must be answered in order for leaders to recalibrate their thinking and moving towards a different approach to ministry. It is an important read at the onset of a student’s journey with The Coalition for Youth Ministry Excellence.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$18.00 - \$27.00

Youth Ministry Management: Principles & Practice

GINNY OLSON



Work, Mike & Olson, Ginny.

Youth Ministry Management Tools, 2.0. Zondervan/Youth Specialties.

“This book will be a continual reference guide for a building and maintaining healthy administrative aspects of your ministry It is a must have in your youth ministry tool box”

ESTIMATED COST: \$14.00 - \$50.00

(Print Version is best for this text)

MASTERS LEVEL READING



Lotich, Patricia S.

Smart Church Management - A Quality Approach to Church Administration.

CreateSpace Independant Publishing Platform.

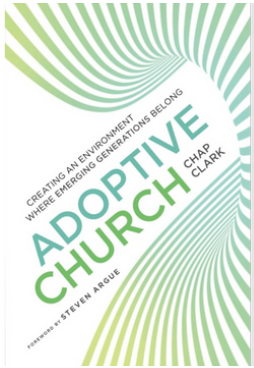
“Church leaders understand that managing the day-to-day operations of a church can be challenging because of limited resources, managing volunteer labor and supporting the needs of the congregation. Smart Church Management is a guide to managing the resources of a church which is people, time and money.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$17.00

(Kindle E-Version is fine for this text)

Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry

DR. CHAP CLARK



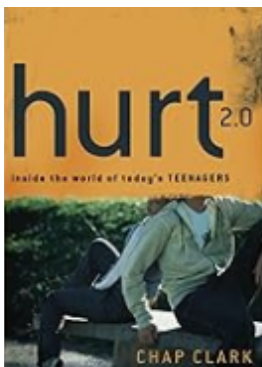
Clark, Chap.

Adoptive Church: Creating an Environment Where Emerging Generations Belong.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

“Integrating the latest research on adolescent faith and young adult ministry for the local church, this book presents a new way of thinking about youth ministry. Chap Clark offers today’s youth leaders highly practical principles based on his extensive experience, showing how they can implement a sustainable youth ministry program in their local church.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$10.00 - \$23.00



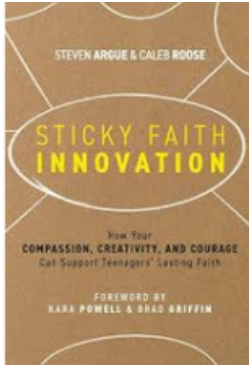
Clark, Chap.

Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today’s Teenagers.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

“Now leading youth ministry expert Chap Clark substantially updates and revises his groundbreaking bestseller (over 55,000 copies sold). Hurt 2.0 features a new chapter on youth at society’s margins and new material on social networking and gaming. Each chapter has been thoroughly revised with new research, statistics, quotations, and documentation.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$14.00 - \$31.00



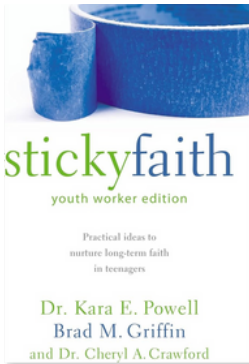
Argue, Steven & Roose, Caleb.

Sticky Faith Innovation.

Fuller Youth Institute, 2021.

“This book is for every youth leader who knows that change is part of youth ministry. It’s for adults and mentors whose hearts both sing and break over young people. And it is for courageous pastors who will do whatever it takes to faithfully serve their teenagers.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$26.00



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

Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition: Practical Ideas to Nurture Long-Term Faith in Teenagers.

Zondervan Publishing, 2011.

“This resource will give youth pastors what they need to help foster a faith that sticks with all the teenagers in their group long after they’ve left the youth room.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$9.00 - \$21.00

Conversational Apologetics & Contemporary Worldview

ANDY STEIGER



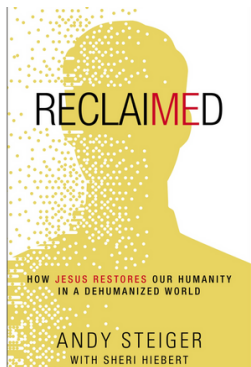
Craig, William Lane.

On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision.

David C Cook, 2010.

“In his engaging style, Dr. Craig offers four arguments for God’s existence, defends the historicity of Jesus’ personal claims and resurrection, addresses the problem of suffering, and shows why religious relativism doesn’t work.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$10.00 - \$15.00



Steiger, Andy.

Reclaimed: How Jesus Restores Our Humanity in a Dehumanized World.

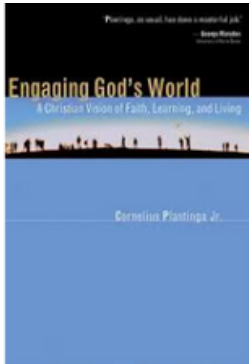
Zondervan. 2020.

“In Reclaimed, author and cultural critic Andy Steiger explores the trend toward dehumanization that underlies our fraught times. People on both sides of the political aisle and from all walks of life share a deep desire for better understanding, justice, and human dignity. Yet we’re uncertain how to achieve these aims. Steiger points to Jesus as the basis for rediscovering our common ground and our shared humanity.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$25.00

Understanding Today's Youth Culture

DR. WALT MUELLER



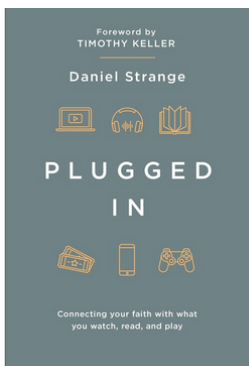
Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr.

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

Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

“This book reiterates the necessity for gaining a clear understanding of a Christian worldview. Plantinga brings this message to the forefront, when he reminds us that to love God is to do it with our whole mind, by knowing and studying His redemptive story. He reminds us that learning is a spiritual calling that draws us into a closer attachment with our creator and redeemer.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$13.43 - \$23.00



Strange, Daniel.

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

Good Book Company, 2019.

“Dan Strange encourages Christians to engage with everything they watch, read and play in a positive and discerning way. He also teaches Christians how to think and speak about culture in a way that plugs in to a bigger and better reality—the story of King Jesus, and his cosmic plan for the world.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$16.00 - \$22.00



Reinke, Tony.

12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You.

Crossway, 2017.

“Drawing from the insights of numerous thinkers, published studies, and his own research, writer Tony Reinke identifies twelve potent ways our smartphones have changed us—for good and bad. Reinke calls us to cultivate wise thinking and healthy habits in the digital age, encouraging us to maximize the many blessings, avoid the various pitfalls, and wisely wield the most powerful gadget of human connection ever unleashed.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$12.00 - \$16.00



Childers, Alisa.

Live Your Truth and Other Lies.

Tyndale Elevate. 2022.

“Author Alisa Childers invites you to examine modern lies that are disguised as truths in today’s culture. Everyday messages of peace, fulfillment, and empowerment swirl around social media. On the surface, they seem like sentiments of freedom and hope, but in reality they are deeply deceptive.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$20.00 - \$24.00

MASTERS LEVEL READING



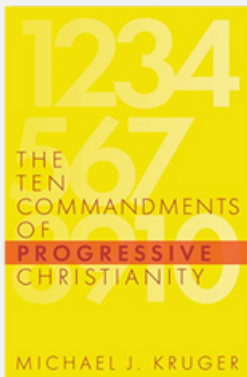
Trueman, Carl R.

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

Crossway, 2022.

“Historian Carl R. Trueman shows how influences ranging from traditional institutions to technology and pornography moved modern culture toward an era of “expressive individualism.” Investigating philosophies from the Romantics, Nietzsche, Marx, Wilde, Freud, and the New Left, he outlines the history of Western thought to the distinctly sexual direction of present-day identity politics and explains the modern implications of these ideas on religion, free speech, and personal identity.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$24.00



Kruger, Michael J.

The Ten Commandments of Progressive Christianity.

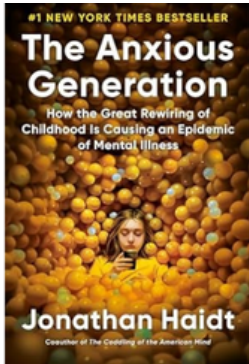
Crossway, 2022.

“Half-truths can sound quite appealing until you recognize their foundations and implications. In this booklet, I diagnose and critique each of these tenets and offer a brief biblical and theological response. Liberal Christianity never really goes away. If the church is going to hold fast to “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3), we must, in every era, be able to distinguish the true faith from the false.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$9.00 - \$11.00

Counseling Adolescents & Their Families

DR. MARV PENNER



Haidt, Jonathan

The Anxious Generation.

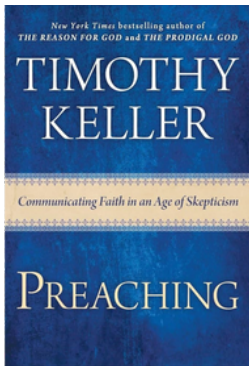
New York: Penguin Books, 2024.

"In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. Haidt shows how the "play-based childhood" began to decline in the 1980s, and how it was finally wiped out by the arrival of the "phone-based childhood" in the early 2010s. He presents more than a dozen mechanisms by which this "great rewiring of childhood" has interfered with children's social and neurological development, covering everything from sleep deprivation to attention fragmentation, addiction, loneliness, social contagion, social comparison, and perfectionism. He explains why social media damages girls more than boys and why boys have been withdrawing from the real world into the virtual world, with disastrous consequences for themselves, their families, and their societies."

ESTIMATED COST: \$17.00 - \$40.00

Communications

DR. CHUCK HUNT



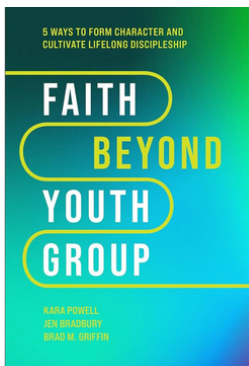
Keller, Timothy.

Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism.

Penguin Random House, 2016.

“Most Christians—including pastors—struggle to talk about their faith in a way that applies the power of the Christian gospel to change people’s lives. Timothy Keller is known for his insightful, down-to-earth sermons and talks that help people understand themselves, encounter Jesus, and apply the Bible to their lives. In this accessible guide for pastors and laypeople alike, Keller helps readers learn to present the Christian message of grace in a more engaging, passionate, and compassionate way.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$15.00 - \$25.00



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

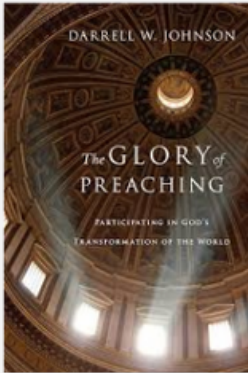
Faith Beyond Youth Group: Five Ways to Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship.

Michigan: Baker Books, 2023.

“If you’re tired of youth ministry that fails to change lives, it’s time to change youth ministry. Building on two decades of the Fuller Youth Institute’s work and incorporating extensive new research and interviews, Faith Beyond Youth Group identifies the reasons youth ministry often fails both short-term and long-term, and offers five ways adult youth leaders can cultivate character for a lifetime of growing closer to Jesus rather than drifting away. It shows leaders how to cultivate trust, model growth, teach for transformation, practice together, and make meaning so that the teenagers can become adults who hold fast to the truth 24/7 and boldly live out a robust faith in a watching world.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$20.00 - \$29.00

MASTERS LEVEL READING



Johnson, Darrell W.

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

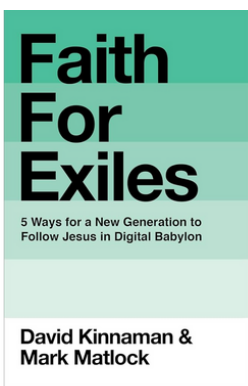
IVP Academic, 2010.

“This book is for any pastor or student who wants to cultivate a deeper pulpit approach, one that participates in the transforming mystery of God working through our less-than-perfect proclamation.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$33.00 - \$38.00

Adolescent Faith Formation

SID KOOP



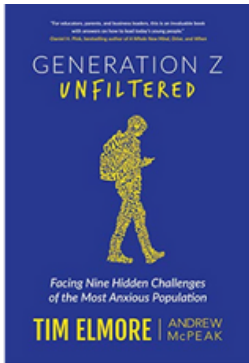
Kinnaman, David, & Matlock, Mark.

Faith for Exiles: 5 ways for a new generation to follow Jesus in Digital Babylon.

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2019.

“An extremely practical book that will be referenced many times throughout your ministry. Understanding the need to build resilient disciples in an age where youth are inundated with the cultural pull of a digital society, you will be presented with practical ways to offer spiritual engagement, which is paramount to leading others.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$18.00 - \$25.00



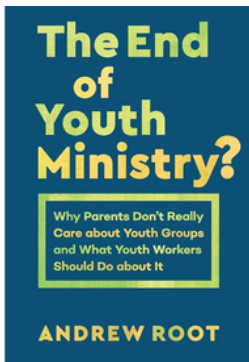
McPeak, Andrew & Elmore, Tim.

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

Atlanta, GA. Poet Gardener Publishers, 2019.

“The success of the next generation doesn’t depend entirely on them. Their best chance of success starts when adults choose to believe in them, challenge them, and walk with them through the nine greatest challenges today’s youth will face. For their sake, and for the future success of our world, it’s time we started seeing Generation Z— unfiltered.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$10.00 - \$31.00



Root, Andrew.

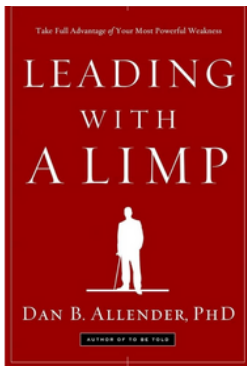
The End of Youth Ministry?

Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

“What is youth ministry actually for? And does it have a future? Andrew Root, a leading scholar in youth ministry and practical theology, went on a one-year journey to answer these questions. In this book, Root weaves together an innovative first-person fictional narrative to diagnose the challenges facing the church today and to offer a new vision for youth ministry in the 21st century.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$14.00 - \$26.00

Soul Shaping I



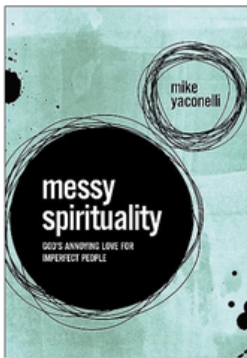
Allendar, Dan.

Leading with a Limp.

Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 2008.

“Sometimes leading others out of a place of brokenness can be most effective. Allender’s humble approach in this book brings a gentle reassurance that God best uses us when we are open and willing to be used by him, and are committed to His glory as we serve him.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$34.00



Yaconelli, Mike.

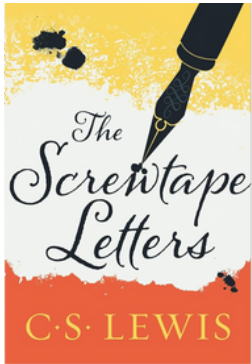
Messy Spirituality.

Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.

“Yaconelli has such a refreshing and adventurous way of leading others into authentic community inclusive of their bumps, bruises, warts and all. His message is paramount if we are to live out God’s salvation to a broken world. Messy Spirituality will foster grace and compassion and bring encouragement to the spiritual lives of leaders and those they lead.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$9.00 - \$20.00

Soul Shaping II

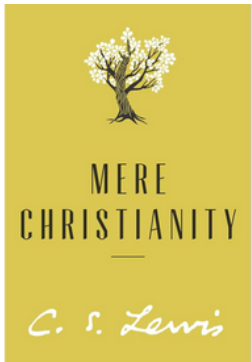


Lewis, C.S. **The Screwtape Letters.**

New York, NY: Harper Collins 1961.

“A C.S Lewis classic that is thought provoking and completely relevant to any age. Coming from the perspective of mentoring demon, Screwtape, he implores his nephew, Wormwood to wreak havoc on a new Christian, getting him to use whatever method to draw him away from the redemptive life he has received in Christ. An excellent book to read and then study with students who are wanting to be disciplined.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$1.00 - \$21.00

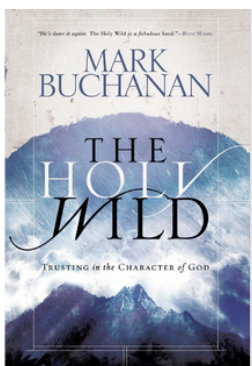


Lewis, C.S. **Mere Christianity.**

New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1952.

“Another thought-provoking classic by C.S. Lewis, that addresses the core of Christian beliefs in a critical thinking way. It is conversational in tone and will be not only an inspirational book you will want to read more than once, but you will also be able to use as a resource for discipleship.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$1.00 - \$21.00



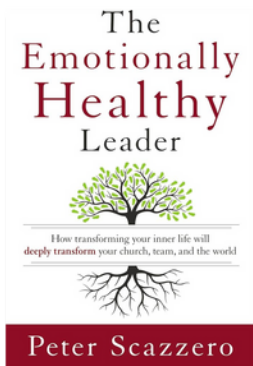
Buchanan, Mark. **The Holy Wild.**

Crown Publishing Group 2005.

“The Holy Wild is both a comforting and inspirational book that will lead the reader into the important reality of abiding with Christ. It is a book that describes a God who is adventurous, mysterious, and yet completely trustworthy. His character leads us to both risk and to rest in him.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$14.00 - \$23.00

Soul Shaping III



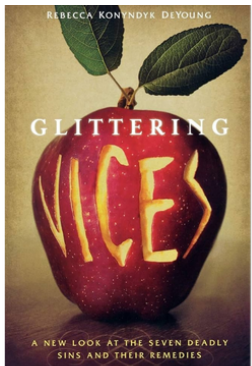
Scazzero, Peter.

The Emotionally Healthy Leader.

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2015.

“In *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*, bestselling author Peter Scazzero shows leaders how to develop a deep, inner life with Christ, examining its profound implications for surviving stress, planning and decision making, building teams, creating healthy culture, influencing others, and much more.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$11.00 - \$35.00



Deyoung, Rebecca.

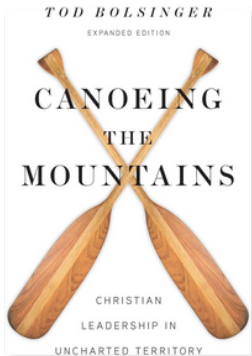
Glittering Vices.

Brazos Press, 2009.

“*Glittering Vices* takes a deep dive into vices that can entrap oneself, in both subtle and unsubtle ways. It is an illuminating book that helps one come to grips with some of the “shadow sides” that we tend to overlook in ourselves. However, the book does not leave us there. Deyoung brings hope by presenting the corresponding virtue, that we can be develop, warding off the vice that can so easily take a hold.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$33.00

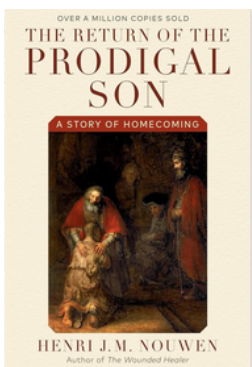
Soul Shaping IV



Bolsinger, Tod.
Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory.
Intervarsity Press, 2015.

“Anyone wanting to be a part church leadership and of the church moving forward, must read this book! A refreshing and motivating approach to leadership in a new era, Bolsinger uses the back drop of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition, to highlight the importance being willing to adventurously explore uncharted territory. The correlations to church leadership are truly inspiring.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$33.00



Nouwen, Henri.
Return of the Prodigal Son.
Gardeners Books, 1994.

“A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt’s The Return of the Prodigal Son catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell.”

ESTIMATED COST: \$23.00