SMALL CHURCH RESOURCE GUIDE

SUPPORTING WORSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY

Small churches are the heart of their communities, offering deep connections, faithful witness, and dedicated ministry, often with limited resources. We recognize the unique challenges small congregations face—whether it's finding adaptable worship materials, supporting lay leadership, or sustaining meaningful mission work. This guide is designed to help you navigate those challenges by providing thoughtfully curated books and curriculum in one place so that you can easily find what will work for your congregation.

Each section highlights key resources and materials to help deepen your ministry, whether you're looking for broad support or guidance on a specific topic. Whatever your ministry needs, we hope these resources equip and inspire you for faithful service.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- Browse by category using the buttons below to find resources that meet your church's needs.
- Click on covers and text links to view more details and purchase.
- Look for blue buttons and text links to access excerpts and additional resources.

LEADERSHIP & LAY MINISTRY

LEADERSHIP TRAINING & POLITY

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

MISSION-BUILDING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT EVERY AGE

PASTORAL MINISTRY & CAREGIVING

MINISTERING DURING GRIEF

PREACHING & LECTIONARY RESOURCES

WORSHIP & MUSIC RESOURCES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PRO TIP: Bundle Purchases to Save on Shipping

We hear from many customers concerned about shipping costs, and we completely understand. As a smaller organization, we don't have the bulk shipping discounts that large retailers like Amazon do, which means our shipping costs are simply higher. Also, we never charge more than what we're charged.

One way to make shipping more cost-effective? Bundle your purchases! Since the base shipping cost applies to every order, combining multiple items into a single purchase lowers the per-item shipping cost. With the everyday discount you receive on many books from PC(USA) Store, when you bundle your purchases, we think you'll find that your overall cost is lower than at other retailers.

LEADERSHIP & LAY MINISTRY



Part-Time Is Plenty

Thriving without Full-Time Clergy

G. Jeffrey MacDonald

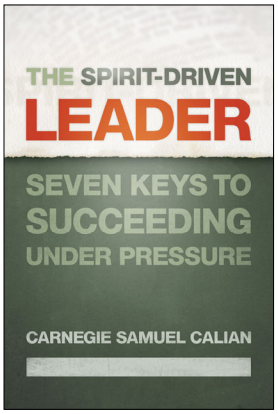
ISBN: 9780664265991

~~$27.00~~ $17.55 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

Part-Time Is Plenty offers small churches with limited budgets and staff a practical and inspiring guide to reimagining ministry. Author and part-time pastor Jeffrey MacDonald draws on real-life examples to show how congregations can move beyond survival mode by embracing part-time models as opportunities for renewed lay leadership, deeper community engagement, and vibrant spiritual life. With its hopeful vision and concrete strategies, this book is an essential resource for congregations seeking to build a sustainable and faithful leadership framework in today's rapidly changing church landscape.

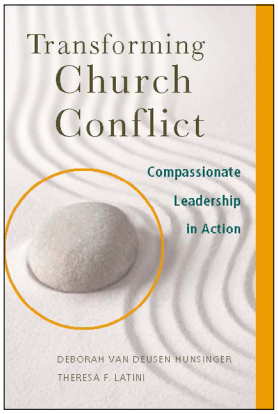
DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

ADDITIONAL BOOKS FOR LEADERSHIP GUIDANCE



Best for all leaders, within and beyond the church.

READ EXCERPT



Best for leaders in church settings who work to mediate conflict.

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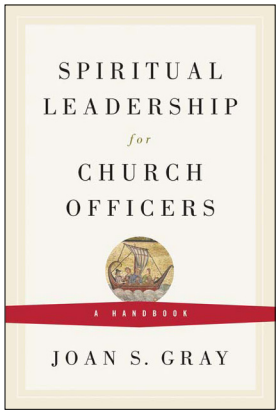
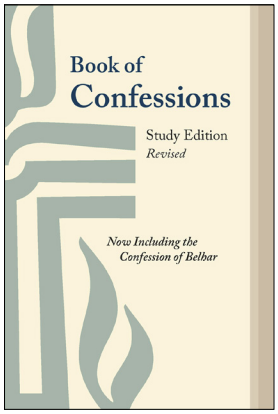


Best for elders and deacons in the PC(USA).

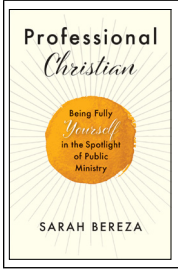
READ EXCERPT



Best for all PC(USA) leaders and members studying the confessions.

READ EXCERPT

SELF-CARE BOOKS FOR PASTORS & OTHER LEADERS



Professional Christian: Being Fully Yourself in the Spotlight of Public Ministry, by Sarah Bereza

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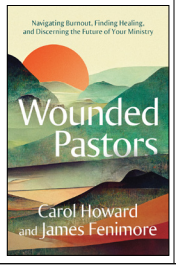

Wounded Pastors: Navigating Burnout, Finding Healing, and Discerning the Future of Your Ministry, by Carol Howard & James Fenimore

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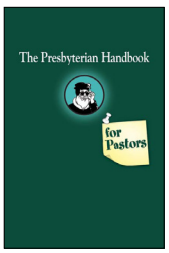

The Presbyterian Handbook for Pastors

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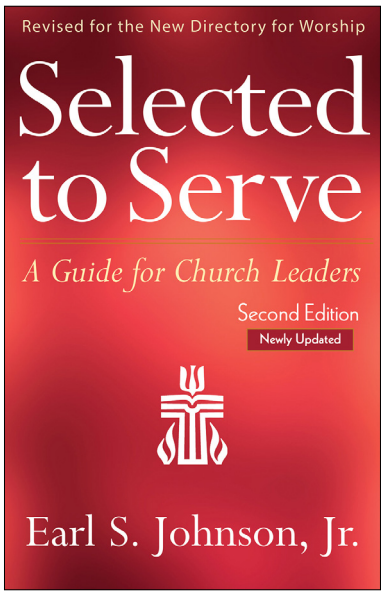
LEADERSHIP TRAINING & POLITY



Selected to Serve, Second Edition

A Guide for Church Leaders

Earl S. Johnson, Jr.

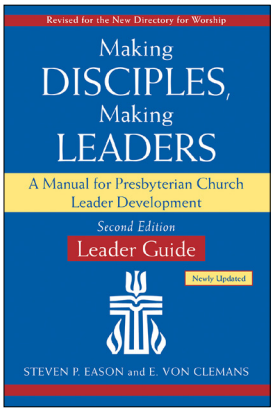
ISBN: 9780664266745

~~$24.00~~ $15.60 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

This useful guide for church leaders covers all aspects of officer training: call, duties, ethics, the Presbyterian Constitution, and much more. Congregations will find this resource indispensable for the recruitment and training of effective church leaders. Earl S. Johnson, Jr., has updated this best-selling book to include the revised Directory for Worship in the *Book of Order*.

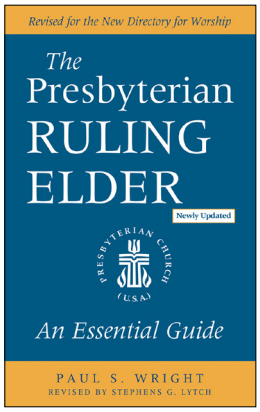
DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

ADDITIONAL BOOKS



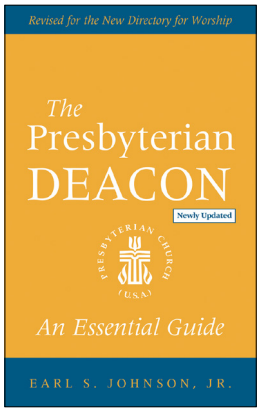
Best for PC(USA) leadership training, including a leader's guide and participant workbook.

LEADER EXCERPT
PARTICIPANT EXCERPT



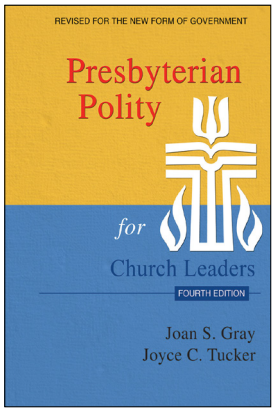
Best for ruling elder training. English, Korean, and Spanish.

ENGLISH EXCERPT
KOREAN EXCERPT
SPANISH EXCERPT



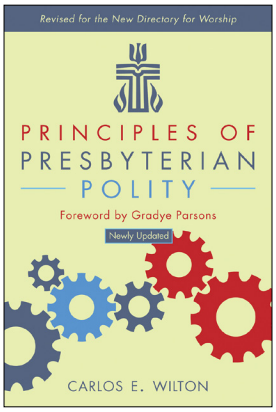
Best for deacon training. English, Korean, and Spanish.

ENGLISH EXCERPT
KOREAN EXCERPT
SPANISH EXCERPT



Best for PC(USA) leaders looking for a comprehensive interpretation of the *Book of Order*.

READ EXCERPT



Best for PC(USA) leaders looking for the "why" behind the "what" of Presbyterian polity.

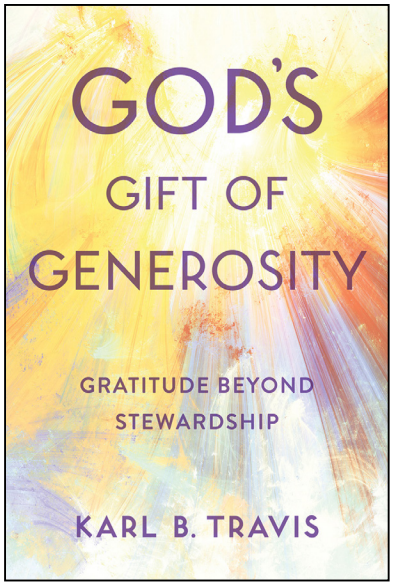
READ EXCERPT

MORE LEADERSHIP STUDY OPTIONS

Being Reformed Workbooks and Studies provide many resources for leadership training, including the Transformational Leaders study (includes Leader's Guide and Participant's Book in English), the Ruling Elders: Formation, Workbook One (available in English, Korean, and Spanish); and the Ruling Elders: Transformation, Workbook Two (available in English and Spanish).

Downloadable Studies offer practical, congregation-wide leadership resources as single-purchase downloads that can be shared freely within your church. Browse the curated collection, plus download a free article: Leading Effective Meetings.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



God's Gift of Generosity

Gratitude beyond Stewardship

Karl B. Travis

ISBN: 9780664261276

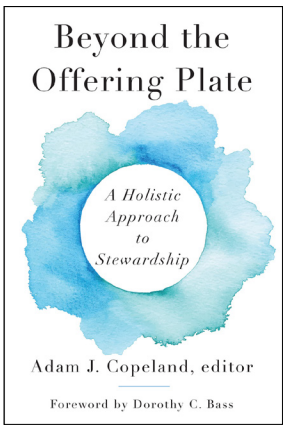
~~$28.00~~ $18.20 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

God's Gift of Generosity is an inspiring and practical guide for pastors and lay leaders in small congregations who want to reframe stewardship not as obligation, but as joyful response to God's abundance.

With a free downloadable group guide, it's ideal for churchwide study and planning, offering accessible theology, deep encouragement, and real tools to help your congregation grow in gratitude and giving.

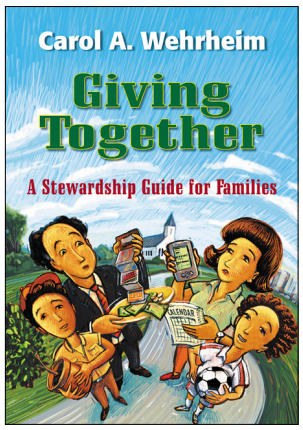
DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

ADDITIONAL BOOKS



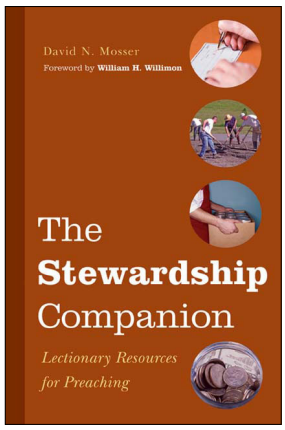
For church leaders and stewardship committees. Includes reflection questions and life applications at the end of each chapter.

READ EXCERPT



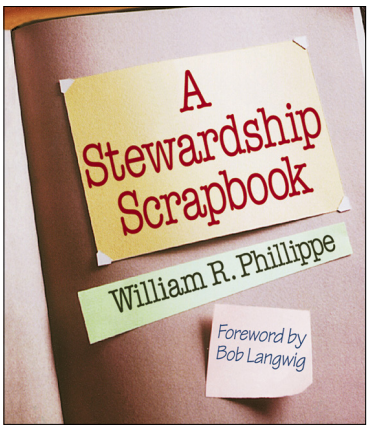
For group or family study. Includes a robust leader's guide so anyone can lead a group.

GOOGLE PREVIEW AVAILABLE



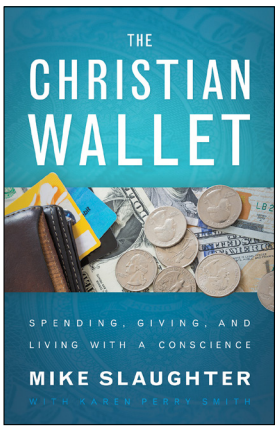
For pastors, worship leaders, and stewardship committees.

READ EXCERPT



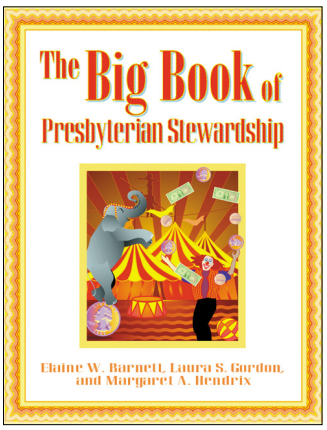
For church leaders and stewardship committees. Includes sermon illustrations and other worship resources.

GOOGLE PREVIEW AVAILABLE



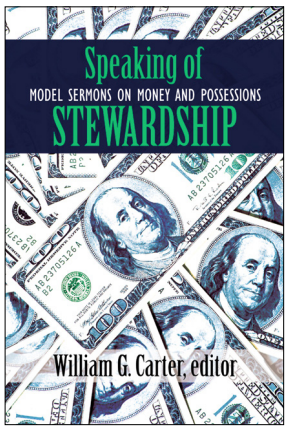
For group study with adults. Discussion questions are included and a free, in-depth Stewardship Study Guide is available.

READ EXCERPT



For church leaders and stewardship committees. Includes discussion questions, inventories, sample plans, and other practical resources.

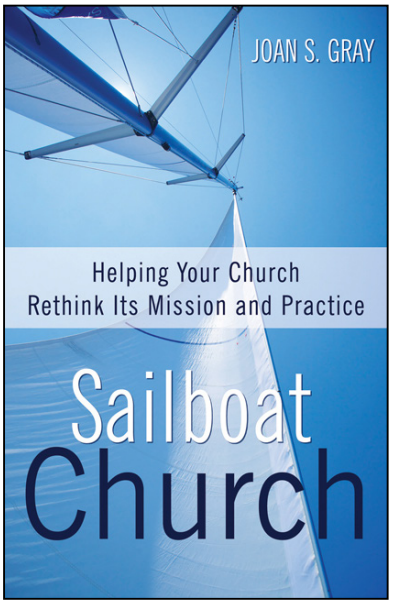
GOOGLE PREVIEW AVAILABLE



For pastors and worship leaders.

GOOGLE PREVIEW AVAILABLE

MISSION-BUILDING



Sailboat Church

Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice

Joan S. Gray

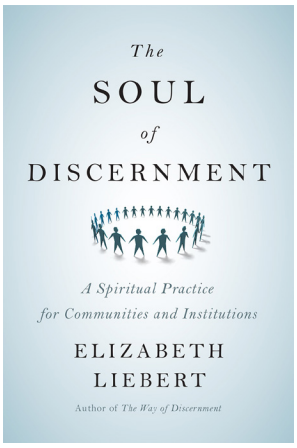
ISBN: 9780664259587

~~$20.00~~ $13.00 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

Sailboat Church offers a powerful and practical framework for small congregations ready to rediscover their identity and purpose. Using the metaphor of rowing versus sailing, Gray invites churches to shift from a mindset of control and scarcity to one of openness, trust, and spiritual discernment. Especially useful for small churches facing limited resources, this book provides actionable insights, discussion prompts, and a 40-day prayer guide to help leaders and members cultivate spiritual practices, embrace their gifts, and move forward with renewed energy and clarity. Ideal for sessions, leadership teams, or congregation-wide study.

DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

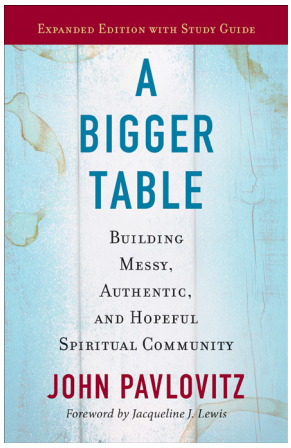
ADDITIONAL BOOKS



Takes groups through the Social Discernment Cycle to answer the question, "How is God leading us, individually or together, to act in this particular moment in our organization?"

Each chapter includes a spiritual practice, often called Awareness Examen. When applicable, separate versions intended for individuals and groups are included.

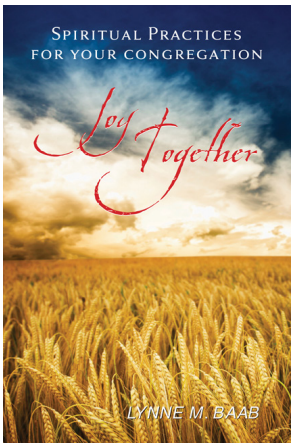
READ EXCERPT



Uses the metaphor of building the bigger table Jesus imagined to practice radical hospitality, total authenticity, messy diversity, and agenda-free community.

The book ends with a comprehensive study guide and sermon series outline. A downloadable book club guide is also available.

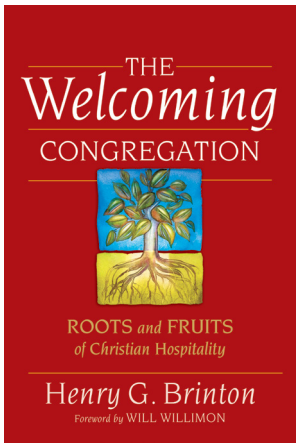
READ EXCERPT



Describes how six spiritual practices that congregations can do together can help with congregational life and discernment.

Discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter.

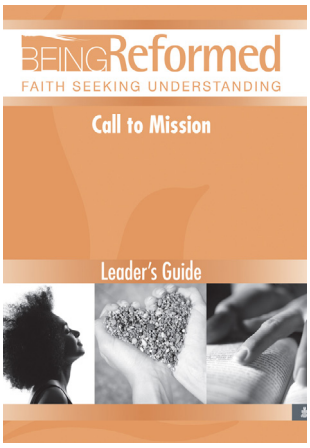
READ EXCERPT



Provides stories of inclusion, examples of the best practices of truly welcoming congregations, and suggestions about hospitable practices that can be used by churches across the social and theological spectrum.

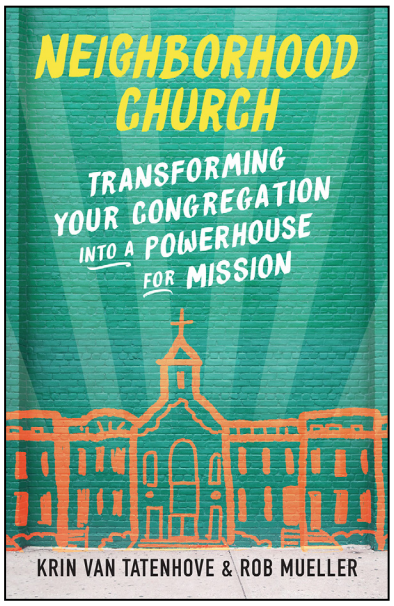
Discussion questions and an action plan are included in each chapter.

READ EXCERPT



Being Reformed Studies provide a number of resources for mission and social justice, including the Call to Mission study, which includes a Leader's Guide (in English and Korean) and a Participant's Book (in English and Korean).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Neighborhood Church

Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission

Krin Van Tatenhove & Rob Mueller

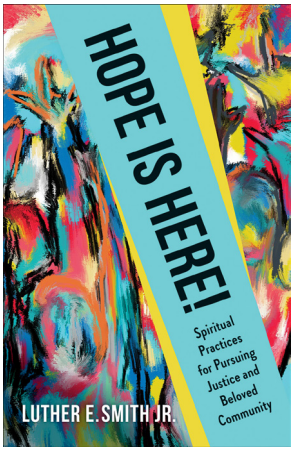
ISBN: 9780664264789

~~$22.00~~ $14.30 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

Neighborhood Church is a vital resource for small congregations ready to rediscover their purpose by connecting deeply with their neighborhoods. Grounded in practical wisdom and real-life stories, this book helps churches become vibrant, engaged partners in their communities—right where God has planted them. With additional free resources including a church study guide, sermon ideas, and downloadable content in Spanish and Korean, *Neighborhood Church* equips even the smallest congregation to reflect God's love, grace, and justice in meaningful, transformative ways. Video resources also help bring the book's vision to life. All additional resources are available here.

DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

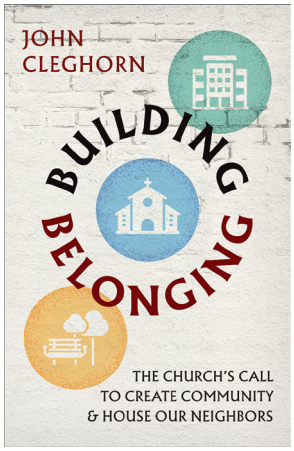
ADDITIONAL BOOKS



Interprets five spiritual practices for individuals and congregations to prepare readers to engage racism, mass incarceration, environmental crises, divisive politics, and indifference that imperil justice and beloved community.

Discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter. Additionally, a downloadable congregational guide helps put the book into action.

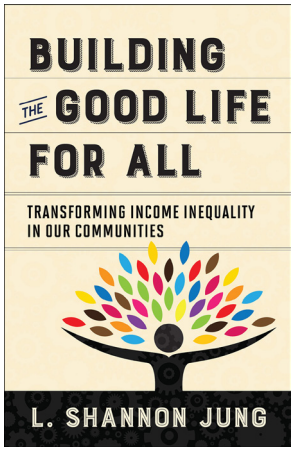
READ EXCERPT



Inspires churches to examine their unique abilities and resources to tackle housing insecurity in their community.

A downloadable congregational guide provides a roadmap to enact the innovative strategies from the book.

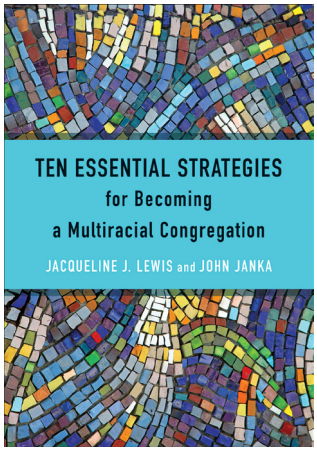
READ EXCERPT



Explores four transformational strategies to address income inequality.

Discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter. Additional video introductions for each chapter are also available.

READ EXCERPT



Aims to help churches build immunity from racial and ethnic tensions to build communities that celebrate diversity.

Set up like a workbook, this resource includes lessons, questions for conversation, and spaces for journaling.

READ EXCERPT



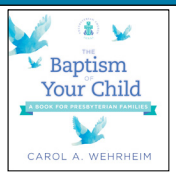
Uses models for cultivating empathy and interfaith awareness to move from neighborly intention to real dialogue and common action with Muslims in your community.

Includes a discussion guide for group study with links to video clips, a timeline of the first Muslim communities, and a glossary of Arabic terms related to Islam.

READ EXCERPT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT EVERY AGE

BAPTISM BOOKS FOR CAREGIVERS AND CHILDREN



The Baptism of Your Child, by Carol A. Wehrheim (Presbyterian Single & Pack of 5; Ecumenical Single & Pack of 5)

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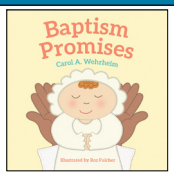

Baptism Promises, by Carol A. Wehrheim

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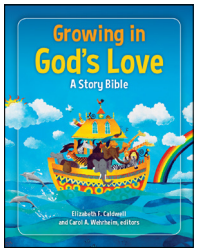
BOOKS & CURRICULUM FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH



Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell & Carol A. Wehrheim

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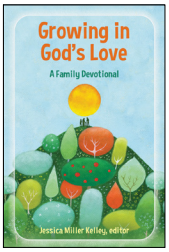

Growing in God's Love: A Family Devotional, edited by Jessica Miller Kelley

EXCERPT

Also available in Spanish!

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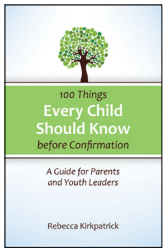

100 Things Every Child Should Know before Confirmation: A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders, by Rebecca Kirkpatrick

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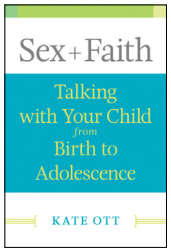

Sex + Faith: Talking with Your Child from Birth to Adolescence, by Kate Ott

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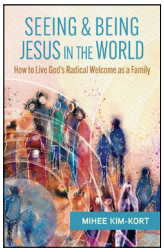
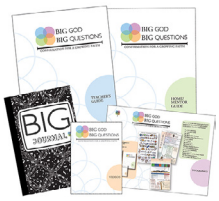


Seeing and Being Jesus in the World: How to Live God's Radical Welcome as a Family

by Mihee Kim-Kort

EXCERPT



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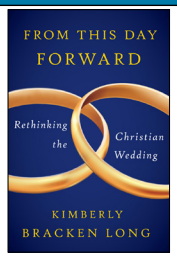

From This Day Forward—Rethinking the Christian Wedding, by Kimberly Bracken Long

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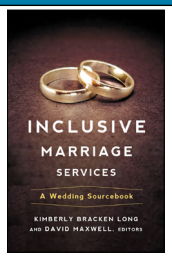

Inclusive Marriage Services: A Wedding Sourcebook, ed. by Kimberly Bracken Long & David Maxwell

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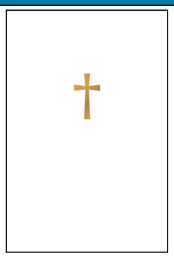

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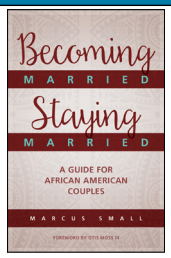

Becoming Married, Staying Married: A Guide for African American Couples, by Marcus Small

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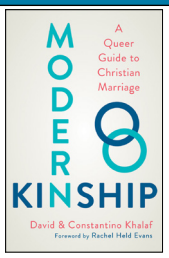

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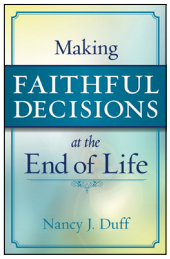

Making Faithful Decisions at the End of Life, by Nancy J. Duff

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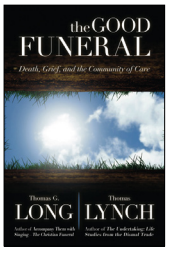

The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care, by Thomas G. Long & Thomas Lynch

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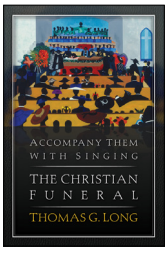

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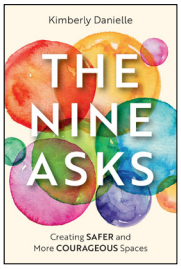

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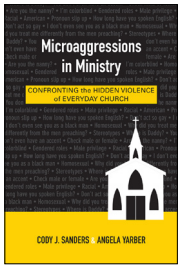

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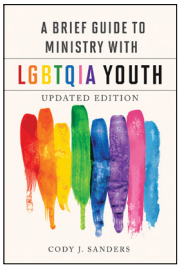

A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth, Updated Edition, by Cody J. Sanders

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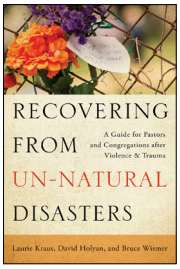

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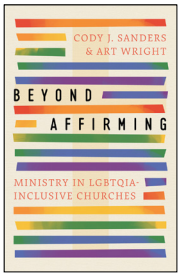

Beyond Affirming: Ministry in LGBTQIA-Inclusive Churches, by Cody J. Sanders & Art Wright

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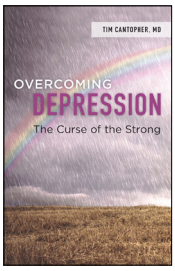

Overcoming Depression: The Curse of the Strong, by Tim Cantopher

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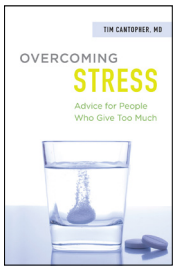

Overcoming Stress: Advice for People Who Give Too Much, by Tim Cantopher

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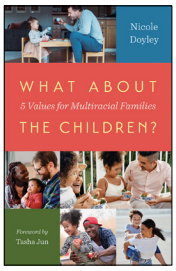

What about the Children? Five Values for Multiracial Families, by Nicole Doyley

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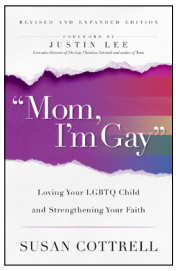

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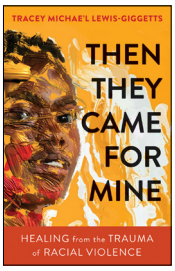

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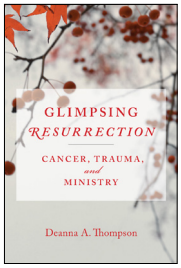

Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry, by Deanna A. Thompson

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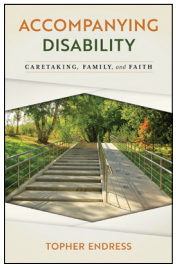

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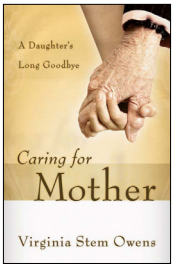

Caring for Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye, by Virginia Stem Owens

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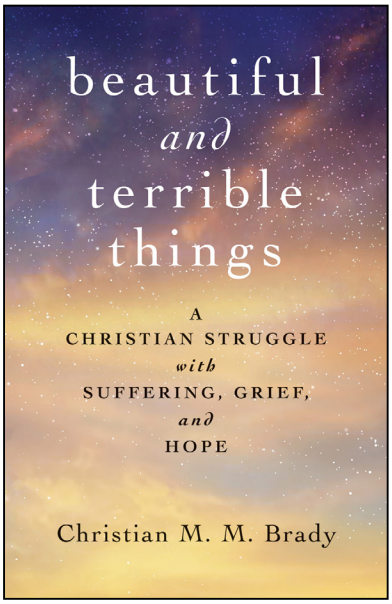

Beautiful and Terrible Things

A Christian Struggle with Suffering, Grief, and Hope

Christian M. M. Brady

ISBN: 9780664266127

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With deep faith, knowledge of Scripture, and the wisdom that comes only from experience, Christian Brady, an expert on Old Testament lament, guides readers grieving losses and setbacks of all kinds in voicing their lament to God, reflecting on the nature of human existence, and persevering in hope. Brady finds that rather than an image of God managing every event and action in our lives, the biblical account describes the very real world in which we all live, a world full of hardship and calamity that often comes unbidden and unmerited. Yet, it also is a world into which God lovingly intrudes to bring comfort, peace, and grace. A downloadable group reading guide is also available.

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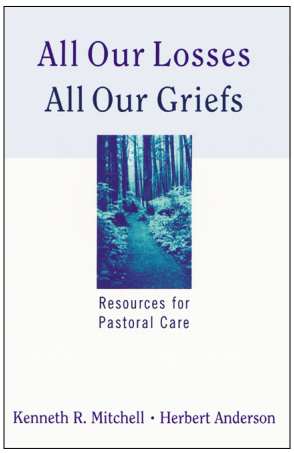

This classic and highly recommended book explores the origins and dynamics of grief, loss throughout life, caring for those who grieve, and the theology of grieving. This examination is enriched by vivid illustrations and case histories of individuals whose experiences the authors have shared.

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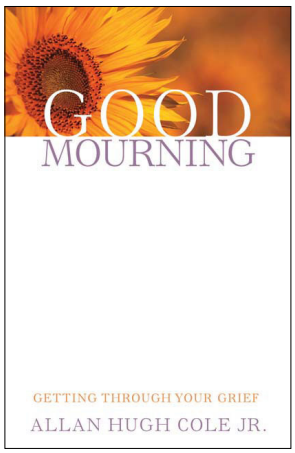

This brief book explains the process of grief, identifies ways of coping, and reminds us of the hope that we can find in mourning. Cole describes what it takes to be engaged in good mourning instead of endless suffering and demonstrates how faith and prayer can be practical tools in rebuilding life after loss.

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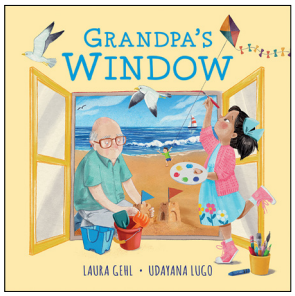

Grandpa's Window is a touching exploration of a child's experience of loss that encourages creativity and self-expression in the midst of grief. The book includes a note for adults and a discussion and activity guide for children is available for download.

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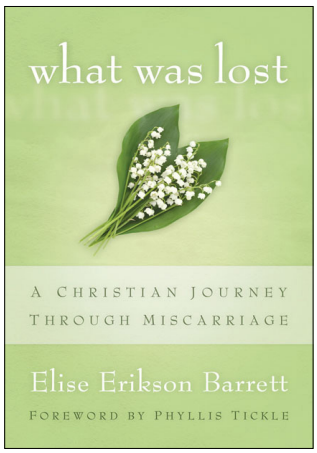

Barrett draws on her own painful experiences, as well as on interviews with others who have gone through the devastation of miscarriage, in an effort to help women grieve pregnancy loss. She also offers some practical advice such as breaking the news to others and coping with insensitive comments.

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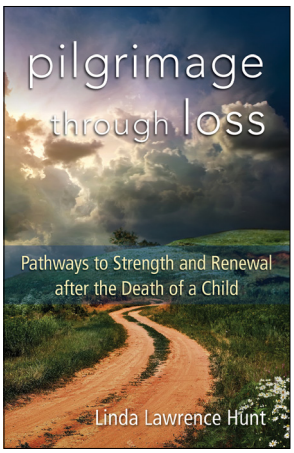

Rather than prescribing a path that will lead to recovery, *Pilgrimage through Loss* encourages parents to find the pathways that work for them as they seek to engage life again with meaning and hope. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, plus recent research on grief and loss.

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Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is a curriculum series based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. The Comfort Those Who Mourn unit explores how mourning includes a number of losses: a loved one, a job, a relationship. Through the practice of comforting one another, community bonds are strengthened and those who suffer are restored. While the Follow Me series has a number of package and purchase options, the Congregational Guide and Small-Scale Package are ideal for small congregations.

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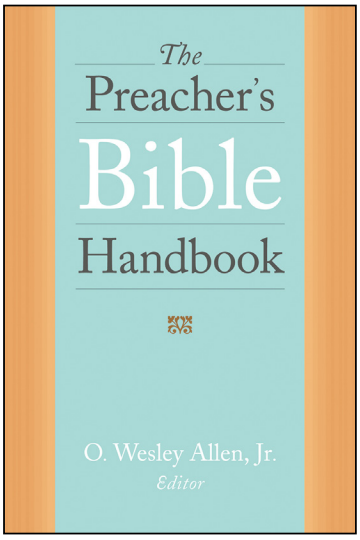

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O. Wesley Allen, Jr.
ISBN: 9780664263072

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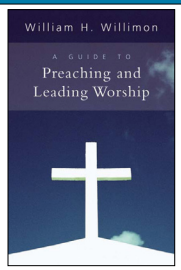

A Guide to Preaching and Leading Worship, by William H. Willimon

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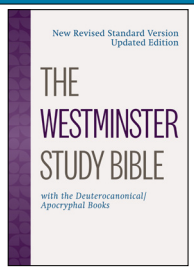

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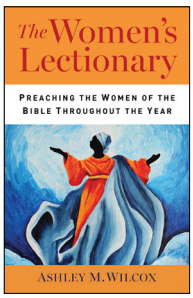

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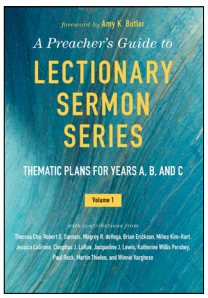

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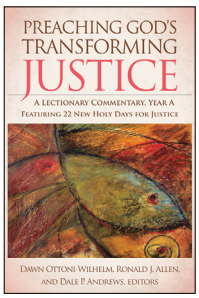

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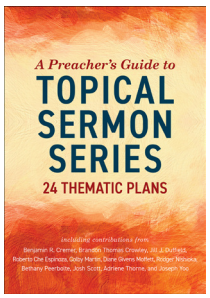

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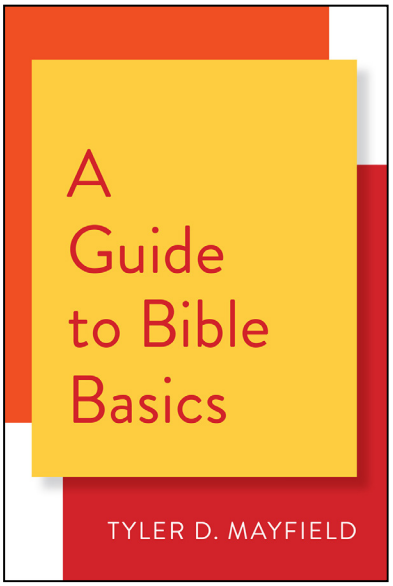

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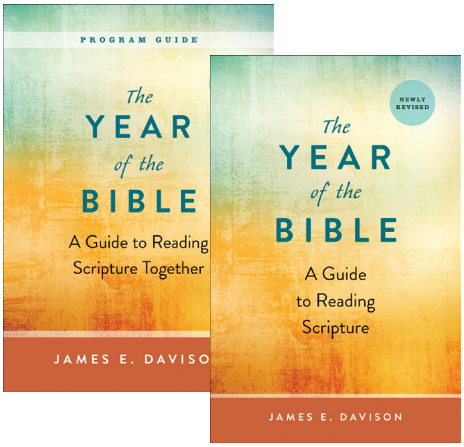

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