

New Resources December 2017

Date: 2018-01-02

ADULTS 231.6 ZAHND Zahnd, Brian. ***Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God: The Scandalous Truth of the Very Good News***. Colorado Springs, Colorado, WaterBrook, 2017.

Summary: In his famous sermon “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” Puritan revivalist Jonathan Edwards shaped predominating American theology with a vision of God as angry, violent, and retributive. Three centuries later, Brian Zahnd was both mesmerized and terrified by Edwards’s wrathful God. Haunted by fear that crippled his relationship with God, Zahnd spent years praying for a divine experience of hell. What Zahnd experienced instead was the Father’s love—revealed perfectly through Jesus Christ—for all prodigal sons and daughters. In *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God*, Zahnd asks important questions like: Is seeing God primarily as wrathful towards sinners true or biblical? Is fearing God a normal expected behavior? And where might the natural implications of this theological framework lead us? Thoughtfully wrestling with subjects like Old Testament genocide, the crucifixion of Jesus, eternal punishment in hell, and the final judgment in Revelation, Zahnd maintains that the summit of divine revelation for sinners is not God is wrath, but God is love. --Waterbrook Multnomah

ADULTS 249 BEVINS Bevins, Winfield H. ***Grow at Home DVD: A Beginner's Guide to Family Discipleship***. [Franklin, TN], Seedbed, 2016.

Summary: There are tons of books on Christian parenting. A quick internet search will produce a near endless number of results. While many of these books are immensely helpful, very few address one of the most critical aspects of family faith—the role of discipleship in shaping children’s lives. Perhaps you’re new to the idea of family discipleship. It’s simple, really. Family discipleship is when parents help their children become disciples of Jesus Christ in the home through reading the Bible, praying, worshiping, and doing missions together. It starts in our marriages, by loving our spouses with the love of Christ. It happens by teaching, loving, and sharing our faith with our children. Written for families of all ages and backgrounds, *Grow at Home* unpacks these ideas with a practical guide to family discipleship. When we bring the gospel back in the home, it will spread through our neighborhoods and into the communities where we live. Let the journey begin! --Seedbed

Content Notes:

- 1. A Parent's Responsibility -- 2. Rediscovering Family Worship -- 3. Reading the Bible as a Family -- 4. Teaching Children Truths through Catechism -- 5. Cultivating Character through the Fruits of the Spirit -- 6. Learning to Pray the Lord's Prayer -- 7. Becoming a Missional Family -- 8. Following Jesus through the Church Year -- 9. Introducing Your Children to Jesus

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Content Notes:

- Foreword by Jessica Lagrone -- Introduction: Why Family Discipleship? -- 1. A Parent's Responsibility -- 2. Rediscovering Family Worship -- 3. Reading the Bible as a Family -- 4. Teaching Children Truths through Catechism -- 5. Cultivating Character through the Fruits of the Spirit -- 6. Learning to Pray the Lord's Prayer -- 7. Becoming a Missional Family -- 8. Following Jesus through the Church Year -- 9. Introducing Your Children to Jesus -- Notes

ADULTS
262.076

Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church.
Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2017.

ABINGDON

Summary: There is deep disagreement about what The United Methodist Church should teach about homosexuality, same gender marriage, and the ordination of LGBTQ persons. In 2019, a special session of General Conference will be held to consider these issues and how they will be addressed by The United Methodist Church in the future. *Living Faithfully* is designed to help you understand the shape of this debate and what it means for the present and the future. Each chapter includes background on the Bible, Christian theology, history, stories from diverse viewpoints, and United Methodist structure and practice to guide reflection and conversation. You'll also find definitions of key terms and information about upcoming events. The four chapters are: 1. Is the Practice of Homosexuality Incompatible with Christian Teaching? 2. Is Same-gender Marriage Compatible with Christian Teaching? 3. Is Ordaining Practicing Homosexuals Compatible with Christian Teaching? 4. Where Are We Now? This four-week study will help you understand and grapple with various views about the ministry and teaching of The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality. It will lead you to have honest, well-informed, and grace-filled conversations with others about these matters and the calls for change. And it will help you discern, in prayer and conversation, how you can respond faithfully in love of God and neighbor. A Leader Guide is included with lesson plans to help facilitate a four-session small group study. --Cokesbury

Content Notes:

- Introduction -- 1. Is the Practice of Homosexuality Incompatible with Christian Teaching? -- 2. Is Same-gender Marriage Compatible with Christian Teaching? -- 3. Is Ordaining Practicing Homosexuals Compatible with Christian Teaching? -- 4. Where Are We Now? -- Leader Guide -- Meet the Writers

ADULTS
262.076
HANSEN

Hansen, Adolf. ***Is It Time?: Helping Laity and Clergy Discuss Homosexuality One Question at a Time.*** Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2017.

Summary: Conversations about human sexuality are taking place all over The United Methodist Church--in local congregations, among leaders, and in conferences. Adolf Hansen, an ordained elder who is theologian-in-residence at St. Luke's UMC,

Indianapolis, contributes to this conversation by presenting questions for laity and clergy to explore as they engage in open dialogue in an atmosphere of mutual respect, even when the conversation partners disagree. The author says, "My hope is that persons who read this book will become aware of the wide variety of issues related to the subject of homosexuality; will be encouraged to reflect on each of them; will think through the meaning of whatever answers they give to the questions the book raises; will grapple with the implications of the stances they take; and will engage in conversations with others—both in a one-on-one setting and in a group." (from the Introduction) When we do that, he argues, we can move on to the wider issues and give our full attention to the mission of the Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. --Cokesbury

ADULTS ***A Firm Foundation: Hope and Vision for a New Methodist Future.***
262.076 Franklin, Tennessee, Seedbed, 2017.

WESLEYAN

Summary: What does the future hold for The United Methodist Church? It is the question being asked all around our denomination. What should be the response to the competing visions and notable division within contemporary Methodism in North America? Can we explore the issues confronting us in a post-Christendom era without rupturing our relationships? This carefully curated volume engages the deep heart questions of United Methodists and casts a compelling vision by trustworthy voices for dynamic faith. Contributors explore the power of classic ideas such as: The Lordship of Jesus Christ, Engaging scripture meaningfully, The power of the Holy Spirit, The promise of sanctification, Living with undivided purpose, Fostering dynamic discipleship, The gift of the global church. This resource is a useful tool not only in navigating present challenges but in pursuing the future promise for the people called Methodists. The foundational principles that have guided Methodist thought from the beginning of John Wesley's countercultural movement remain rich resources as we explore what it means to remain faithful disciples in the tradition of the Wesleys. --Seedbed

Content Notes:

- Foreword / William J. Abraham -- Commitment to transformation / Jeff Greenway -- Witness: Awakening orthodoxy / Madeline Carrasco Hennes -- When Jesus is Lord / David Watson -- Witness: Living and relevant church today / Carlos Pirona -- Faithfully engaging the scriptures / Chris Ritter -- Witness: Committed to scripture / Debo Onabanjo -- When the Holy Spirit comes with fire / Carolyn Moore -- Witness: Hiring a sanctified felon / Heather Hill -- Loving God with an undivided heart / Maxie Dunnam -- Witness: Our God of deliverance / Kenneth Levingston -- The dynamism of discipleship / Andrew Forrest -- Witness: Jesus on the margins / Jorge Acevedo -- The church's global DNA / Kimberly Reisman -- Witness: Agenda at the crossroads / Jerry Kulah -- Epilogue: What comes next? / Keith Boyette.

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Content Notes:

- 1. Commitment to Transformation (10:51) -- 2. When Jesus is Lord (11:51) -- 3. Faithfully Engaging the Scriptures (12:40) -- 4. When the Holy Spirit Comes with Fire (10:05) -- 5. Loving God with an Undivided Heart (11:10) -- 6. The Dynamism of Discipleship (9:57) -- 7. The Church's Global DNA (11:12) -- 8. What Comes Next? (5:22)

ADULTS Metaxas, Eric. ***Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy : A Righteous
284.1092 Gentile vs. The Third Reich.*** Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 2010.
METAXAS

Summary: As Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside. One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer—a pastor and author. In this New York Times best-selling biography, Eric Metaxas takes both strands of Bonhoeffer's life—the theologian and the spy—and draws them together to tell a searing story of incredible moral courage in the face of monstrous evil. Metaxas presents the fullest accounting of Bonhoeffer's heart-wrenching decision to leave the safe haven of America to return to Hitler's Germany, and sheds new light on Bonhoeffer's involvement in the famous Valkyrie plot and in "Operation 7," the effort to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland. --Thomas Nelson

CHILDREN Burrows, Mark. ***My Testament Leader's Guide: Guiding Kids Through
220.071083 Creative Journaling and Holy Conversation : 26 Sessions for
BURROWS Children Grades 3-5.*** Nashville, TN, Abingdon Press, 2016.

Summary: A two-volume comprehensive Bible study series connecting Old and New Testament stories. The series, which is useful in multiple settings from Sunday School to weeknight study, includes creative journaling and holy conversations for children in grades three to five. The series will help children connect themes from both the Old and New Testament. Each volume has 26 sessions and includes: A learning objective, A New Testament Story, An Old Testament Story, Creative journaling prompts and wonder questions. Each My Testament session has an Old Testament story and a New Testament story that are woven together around a main theme. Throughout each session the children are given opportunities to respond to scripture. There are opportunities to creatively write, illustrate, pray, and to ask difficult questions as children enter into a deepening understanding of scripture. My Testament is more than just "journaling." Each child will create a one-of-a-kind document of what they believe to be true about their relationship with God. The ideal length for each session of My Testament is 45 minutes. Within this time, opportunities are provided for holy conversations in the form of wonder questions. As the participants create their testaments, responding to scripture, they will be encouraged to discuss their responses with those around them. --Cokesbury

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CHILDREN ***Children's Dramas for the Church Year: Reproducible Dramas for Advent and Christmas.*** Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2014.
263.91083
ABINGDON

Summary: You're only asking for four things when it comes to an Advent or Christmas program for your children's ministry. It needs to be 10 minutes or less, incorporate all

age groups, work for the size of your church, and be super easy to produce. You don't need a miracle to find the perfect short drama. This is the resource that will get you from rehearsals to curtain calls stress free. --Cokesbury