

## New Resources March 2019

Date: 2019-04-04

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ADULTS  
222.13  
KALAS

Kalas, David. ***The Gospel According to Leviticus: Finding God's Love in God's Law***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2019.

**Summary:** Rediscover and experience the love of God in Old Testament law. Do you struggle with knowing how the Old Testament law aligns with the good news found in the New Testament? Following up on *When Did God Become a Christian?*, author and pastor David Kalas explores what he sees as a rather significant hole in so many American Christians' experience. For many, while the New Testament is seen as the good news of God's love through Jesus, the law is set aside as tedious, troubling, or irrelevant. Some even see it as an example of an unloving God in the Hebrew Bible. If we were looking for a 'review' on Amazon of the Law, the Psalms would be the five-star. The Psalmist goes on and on, thanking God for it, calling it perfect, and claiming that it revives the soul. In his thoughtful and assuring style, Kalas would like to help readers rediscover that experience of the Old Testament Law. Additional components include a comprehensive Leader Guide for small group study. --Cokesbury

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Kalas, David. ***The Gospel According to Leviticus Leader Guide: Finding God's Love in God's Law***. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2019.

**Summary:** Rediscover and experience the love of God in Old Testament law. Do you struggle with knowing how the Old Testament law aligns with the good news found in the New Testament? Following up on *When Did God Become a Christian?*, author and pastor David Kalas explores what he sees as a rather significant hole in so many American Christians' experience. For many, while the New Testament is seen as the good news of God's love through Jesus, the law is set aside as tedious, troubling, or irrelevant. Some even see it as an example of an unloving God in the Hebrew Bible. If we were looking for a 'review' on Amazon of the Law, the Psalms would be the five-star. The Psalmist goes on and on, thanking God for it, calling it perfect, and claiming that it revives the soul. In his thoughtful and assuring style, Kalas would like to help readers rediscover that experience of the Old Testament Law. The Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide a group through the six-week study including session plans, activities, and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options. --Cokesbury

ADULTS  
225.92  
VANDER  
LAAN

Vander Laan, Ray. ***Cultures in Conflict Discovery Guide: 5 Lessons on Paul Proclaims Jesus as Lord - Part 2***. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2019.

**Summary:** LIFE AMONG PAGANS. How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else. In this sixteenth volume of That The World May Know(R), discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth-a dechristianized Western world-in a way that glorifies God. This discovery guide will take you on an interactive journey. Designed for use with the Cultures in Conflict Video Study. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East and elsewhere, the That the World May Know film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus. --Cokesbury

ADULTS  
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VANDER  
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Vander Laan, Ray. ***Cultures in Conflict DVD: 5 Lessons on Paul Proclaims Jesus as Lord - Part 2***. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan, 2019.

**Summary:** LIFE AMONG PAGANS. How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else. In this sixteenth volume of That The World May Know(R), discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth-a dechristianized Western world-in a way that glorifies God. Five episodes filmed on location in Greece and Israel. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East and elsewhere, the That the World May Know film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- 1. Engaging the Mind: Paul in the Stoa of Athens (31:00) --
- 2. Engaging the Heart: Paul Before the Areopagus (28:00)
- 3. Turning Weakness into Strength (32:00) -- 4. The Lord's Supper: Discerning the Body (35:00) -- 5. Transforming the Chaos (33:00)

ADULTS  
231.7  
WILLIAMS

Williams, Michael E. ***Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters Through Story***. Nashville, Upper Room Books, 2017.

**Summary:** "Tell me a story." Countless parents and grandparents have heard that request from children. People of all ages are captivated by a good story. Storytelling helps us makes sense of the events of our lives, the world around us, and God. When we tell stories, we speak a world into being—just as God did in the creation accounts in the book of Genesis. "Everyone is a storyteller," says author Michael Williams. You don't have to be a professional storyteller to be able to tell good stories. In this book on storytelling as spiritual exploration, Williams shares stories from his life and offers practical prompts that guide us to tell our own stories. He reminds us that we have been spoken into being as part of a much larger story. Using poetry, personal narrative, and retellings of biblical stories, Williams leads us to a deeper knowledge of the power of narrative. The stories that capture our attention shape us into who we are now and the persons we will become. Not all stories serve us well, however. Stories of fear stop us in our tracks and become roadblocks on the journey, while stories of fantasy, no matter how alluring, are dead-end streets. Spoken into Being points to a path beyond fear and fantasy, a way toward encounters with God, in whom all things are being made new. --Upper Room

**Content Notes:**

- In the beginning (first creation story retold) -- What are stories and what do they do? -- Finding the sacred in your story -- Intermission: the beginning (second creation story retold) -- Living between two stories -- Living beyond two stories -- Stories of fear, fantasy, and faith.

ADULTS      Heath, Sarah. ***The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More***  
248.4 HEATH      ***Content Life***. Nashville, TN, Abingdon Press, 2019.

**Summary:** FOMO, the fear of missing out, isn't new. But today, social media makes us increasingly more aware of the fun, interesting, and enjoyable activities that others are experiencing. We yearn for the lives we assume others are already living. Through insights gained through her own journey toward contentment, author Sarah Heath found the answer to overcoming these feelings is to live an authentic life. Rather than longing for and chasing after somebody else's life, you have to show up completely to your own life with honesty and courage. In *The Authenticity Challenge*, Sarah invites you to embrace authenticity in three key areas of your life: vocation (the What), relationships (the Who), and faith (the Why). Over the course of 21 days, you will be guided through seven daily challenges each week related to one of these areas. Take the challenges on your own or combine with this three session DVD featuring Sarah in 8-10 minute video segments designed for small group discussion. Additionally, leader helps found in the book make sharing group study easier, allowing you to share your experience with others and encourage one another as you grow in authenticity. Being authentic in all areas of your life allows you to see

how uniquely beautiful your story is. It enables you to be grateful for who you are. And it empowers you to move toward a more content life.  
--Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- A Little Intro and Confession -- 1. The Who -- 2. The What -- 3. The Why -- 4. Conclusion -- Leader Helps -- Notes

ADULTS      Heath, Sarah. ***The Authenticity Challenge DVD: 21 Days to a More***  
248.4 HEATH      ***Content Life***. Nashville, TN, Abingdon Press, 2019.

**Summary:** Learn how to embrace authenticity in your life in just 21 days! FOMO, the fear of missing out, isn't new. But today, social media makes us increasingly more aware of the fun, interesting, and enjoyable activities that others are experiencing. We yearn for the lives we assume others are already living. Through insights gained through her own journey toward contentment, author Sarah Heath found the answer to overcoming these feelings is to live an authentic life. Rather than longing for and chasing after somebody else's life, you have to show up completely to your own life with honesty and courage. In *The Authenticity Challenge*, Sarah invites you to embrace authenticity in three key areas of your life: vocation (the What), relationships (the Who), and faith (the Why). Over the course of 21 days, you will be guided through seven daily challenges each week related to one of these areas. Take the challenges on your own or combine with this three session DVD featuring Sarah in 8-10 minute video segments designed for small group discussion. Additionally, leader helps found in the book make sharing group study easier, allowing you to share your experience with others and encourage one another as you grow in authenticity. Being authentic in all areas of your life allows you to see how uniquely beautiful your story is. It enables you to be grateful for who you are. And it empowers you to move toward a more content life.  
--Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- 1. The Who (7:26) -- 2. The What (6:32) -- 3. The Why (6:24) -- 4. Optional Wrap-Up (1:27)

ADULTS      Stanley, Andy. ***Guardrails DVD: Avoiding Regrets in Your Life***.  
248.4      Grand Rapids, Mich, Zondervan, 2018.  
STANLEY

**Summary:** Ever wonder what it would be like to have guardrails in other areas of your life—areas where culture baits you to the edge of disaster and then chastises you when you step across the line? Your friendships. Your finances. Your marriage. Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails. In this five-session video-based small group Bible study, Andy Stanley challenges

us to stop flirting with disaster and establish some personal guardrails.  
--Zondervan

**Content Notes:**

- 1. Direct and Protect (23:00) -- 2. Proximity (24:00) -- 3. Forever Yours (26:00) -- 4. Money Matters (22:00) -- 5. The Heart of the Matter (33:00)

ADULTS  
248.4  
STANLEY

Stanley, Andy. ***Guardrails Study Guide: Avoiding Regrets in Your Life***. Grand Rapids, Mich, Zondervan, 2018.

**Summary:** Ever wonder what it would be like to have guardrails in other areas of your life—areas where culture baits you to the edge of disaster and then chastises you when you step across the line? Your friendships. Your finances. Your marriage. Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails. In this five-session video-based small group Bible study, Andy Stanley challenges us to stop flirting with disaster and establish some personal guardrails.  
--Zondervan

**Content Notes:**

- Using the Study Guide -- Introduction -- 1. Direct and Protect -- 2. Proximity -- 3. Forever Yours -- 4. Money Matters -- 5. The Heart of the Matter -- Leader's Guide

ADULTS  
248.5  
MAYNARD

Maynard, Phil. ***Connect!: Creating a Culture of Relationships That Matter***. [Place of publication not identified], EMC3, 2016.

**Summary:** In Connect!, Phil turns everything we have ever learned about how to do faith sharing upside down. It is not top down information sharing. It is not bottom up catechism learning. It is putting ourselves in the right places for person to person building of relationships, for heart to heart making of new friends, and for soul to soul sharing of our faith journeys. Connect! does not preach at us; it journeys with us. Phil Maynard provides the scriptures, the questions, the tools for an individual, a church team or a whole congregation to self-discover their own pathway to “connect” with those who do not yet know Christ. And this self-discovery takes place in a way that is filled with respect and integrity for each and every person. It allows each team or church to find the processes that express who they are as Christians and honor their core values. --EMC3

ADULTS  
248.5  
MAYNARD

Maynard, Phil. ***Connect! For Individuals and Small Groups: Creating a Culture of Relationships That Matter***. [Place of publication not identified], EMC3, 2016.

**Summary:** In Connect!, Phil turns everything we have ever learned about how to do faith sharing upside down. It is not top down

information sharing. It is not bottom up catechism learning. It is putting ourselves in the right places for person to person building of relationships, for heart to heart making of new friends, and for soul to soul sharing of our faith journeys. Connect! does not preach at us; it journeys with us. Phil Maynard provides the scriptures, the questions, the tools for an individual, a church team or a whole congregation to self-discover their own pathway to “connect” with those who do not yet know Christ. And this self-discovery takes place in a way that is filled with respect and integrity for each and every person. It allows each team or church to find the processes that express who they are as Christians and honor their core values. --EMC3

ADULTS 250 ***Rooted in Grace: Essays on Dialogue Without Division.*** Southlake,  
DUGGINS Texas, Columkille Press, 2018.

**Summary:** Rooted in Grace is a collection of essays, liturgies, and spiritual exercises focused on staying connected during difficult discussions. Each essay includes questions for discussion for ease of use in small groups and Sunday School lessons. While the collection was designed to be helpful in congregational discussions of the 2019 UMC General Conference and the discussion of The Way Forward, it does not specifically address questions around human sexuality. Rather, it addresses the vanishing art of disagreeing without devolving into animosity. The book has applications well beyond the current issues within the UMC. Rooted in Grace was written by people connected to the Missional Wisdom Foundation. The authors are young and old, male and female, gay and straight, and the opinions and perspectives are varied. The result is a book that speaks to all people without regard to their political party or position on human sexuality issues. --Missional Wisdom Foundation

ADULTS Search, Bill. ***The Essential Guide for Small Group Leaders.*** Carol  
253.7 Stream, IL, Christianity Today, 2017.  
SEARCH

**Summary:** Most small-group leaders don't have time to read a book on small groups. Most barely have time to lead a group, much less explore the ins and outs of group ministry. They just want to know how to lead their group well! In this book, you'll find simple, clear answers presented in quick lists so you can easily find what you need. It will answer questions like: How do I start a healthy group? How do I build relationships within my group? How do I help people grow as Christ-followers? How do I help my group become more outward-focused? As a leading voice in small-group ministry and the author of Simple Small Groups, Bill Search has been serving in churches big and small for over 20 years, and he shares wisdom, humor, and realistic tips that every small-group leader—from brand-new to seasoned veteran—can implement in their very next meeting. Every group has struggles. Every group has its ups and downs. Every leader feels overwhelmed at some point. But there's good news—the answers to your biggest leadership questions are pretty simple. There are easy steps you can take and

simple principles you can apply that will solve the most common problems your group will encounter. --Back cover

ADULTS  
254.8  
MARDEN

Marden, Bonnie Ives. ***Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship***. Nashville, TN, Foundry Books, 2019.

**Summary:** Pastors and lay leaders now have a clear, easy-to-use guidebook for church finances with “Church Finances for Missional Leaders: Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship,” by Bonnie Ives Marden. This important resource was recently released by the Publishing Office of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church (UMC). In “Church Finances for Missional Leaders,” Marden offers a step-by-step process of managing the budget and financial well-being for local churches of all sizes. The book can help pastors, treasurers, trustees, and finance and stewardship chairs and committees. It includes guidelines, tools and reproducible worksheets to help readers navigate the typical financial demands of operating a church. It’s a comprehensive approach, and reviewers are already pointing to it as a must-have item for every church leader. --General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

ADULTS  
261.8/325  
HUERTZ

Heuertz, Christopher L. ***Friendship at the Margins: Discovering Mutuality in Service and Mission***. Downers Grove, IL, IVP Books, 2010.

**Summary:** In our anonymous and dehumanized world, the simple practice of friendship is radically countercultural. But sometimes Christians inadvertently marginalize and objectify the very ones they most want to serve. Chris Heuertz, international director of Word Made Flesh, and theologian and ethicist Christine Pohl show how friendship is a Christian vocation that can bring reconciliation and healing to our broken world. They contend that unlikely friendships are at the center of an alternative paradigm for mission, where people are not objectified as potential converts but encountered in a relationship of mutuality and reciprocity. When we befriend those on the margins of society by practicing hospitality and welcome, we create communities where righteousness and justice can be lived out. Heuertz and Pohl's reflections offer fresh insight into Christian mission and what it means to be the church in the world today. Includes study guide. --IVPress

**Content Notes:**

- The vocation of relationship -- Reconnecting righteousness and justice through friendships -- Mutuality in mission -- Naming the ambiguities and tensions -- A spirituality fit for the margins.

Keen, Karen R. ***Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships***. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2018.

ADULTS  
261.835766  
KEEN

**Summary:** When it comes to same-sex relationships, this book by Karen Keen contains the most thoughtful, balanced, biblically grounded discussion you're likely to encounter anywhere. With pastoral sensitivity and respect for biblical authority, Keen breaks through current stalemates in the debate surrounding faith and sexual identity. The fresh, evenhanded reevaluation of Scripture, Christian tradition, theology, and science in Keen's *Scripture, Ethics, and the Possibility of Same-Sex Relationships* will appeal to both traditionalist and progressive church leaders and parishioners, students of ethics and biblical studies, and gay and lesbian people who often feel painfully torn between faith and sexuality. --Eerdmans

**Content Notes:**

- The church's response to the gay and lesbian community: a brief history -- Same-sex relations in ancient Jewish and Christian thought -- Key arguments in today's debate on same-sex relationships -- Fifty shekels for rape? Making sense of Old Testament laws -- What is ethical? Interpreting the Bible like Jesus -- The question of celibacy for gay and lesbian people -- Is it Adam's fault? Why the origin of same-sex attraction matters -- Imagining a new response to the gay and lesbian community.

ADULTS      Heath, Elaine A. ***The Mystic Way of Evangelism: A Contemplative***  
269.2 HEATH      ***Vision for Christian Outreach.*** Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker  
Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2017.

**Summary:** Elaine Heath brings a fresh perspective to the theory and practice of evangelism by approaching it through contemplative spirituality, offering a corrective to the contemporary American trend of programmatic and consumeristic forms of evangelism. By looking to mystics, saints, and martyrs of church history, she suggests we can discover ways of thinking about God that result in a life of outreach. This thoroughly revised second edition includes a new study guide. -- Baker Academic

**Content Notes:**

- Purgation. Into the Night -- Illumination. Love Is God's Meaning -- Broken Bread and Poured Out Wine -- Coming Home to Love -- Healing the Threefold Wound -- Redeeming the Earth -- Union. A Hermeneutic of Love -- Giving Ourselves Away -- Homing Prayer -- New Tongues of Fire -- Your Will Be Done on Earth -- Epilogue : Out of the Night -- Appendix : Corporate Experiences of the Dark Night.

ADULTS  
270.08664  
TYSON

Tyson, John H. ***Homosexuality: A Conversion: How a Conservative Pastor Outgrew the Idea that Homosexuality is a Sin.*** [Place of publication not identified], eBookIt.com, 2018.

**Summary:** The Church has been wrong about LGBTQI people. This book explains why. Most of us grew up with only part of the story concerning our gay and lesbian neighbors. We thought people chose to be homosexual, and that with God's help they could choose to be straight. New scientific research shows that sexual orientation is determined in the waters of the womb, not in the waters of baptism. Being straight or gay is not an act of will, it is a gift of God. This book traces a growing understanding of the interplay between God's love, scripture, the Church, and homosexuality. Although it isn't a science, psychology, history, or biblical studies book, it touches on those disciplines. The renowned medical researcher, Dr. Gregory Prince, wrote the scientific portion of Chapter 5, "Born that Way." There, you will find the latest information about genetics as it relates to sexual orientation and identity. The new scientific information on this topic is important, and is placed within a theological context. The central message of this book is that God wants every LGBTQI person to know of God's tender and seeking care for you. The Lord Jesus sees you and loves you. You are precious in the sight of the Lord. With discussion questions at the end of each chapter, this is an excellent resource for Bible study, group discussion, and General Conference developments. --Back cover

ADULTS  
278.6  
GBHEM

***Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness.*** Nashville, TN, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2018.

**Summary:** The United States continues to experience change in ways that are increasingly rapid and drastic. Such change is due to a number of factors, some of which include: shifts in religious adherence across the population; the impact of immigration since 1965; demographic changes among majority and minority groups; the simultaneous persistence and transformation of racial realities; increasing economic inequalities; more intense globalization; environmental change; cultural, political, and other forms of polarization; shifting populations from rural to urban areas; the changing nature of families; and prolonged engagement in various wars and civil strife in various parts of the world. Christians believe that God is at work in our context in ways that are both obvious and mysterious, to reconcile, redeem, save, and recreate humanity along with all creation. Through God's grace, United Methodists, along with other Christians, are called to discern and participate in God's mission in the world. We must conceive the future of the church from a missional perspective. Individually and corporately, we must take stock of our Wesleyan heritage in all its fullness and ask how we can reengage that heritage in order to participate in the missio Dei. This book is the fruit of a colloquy sponsored by the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Association of United Methodist Theological

Schools, which convened at Boston School of Theology in November 2017. Author Information: Contributors: Peter J. Bellini, Paul W. Chilcote, Kenneth J. Collins, Timothy R. Eberhart, Thomas W. Elliott Jr., Robert Allan Hill, Robert Hunt, Arun W. Jones, M. Fulgence Nyengele, Luther Oconer, Hendrik R. Pieterse, Joerg Rieger, Elaine A. Robinson, David W. Scott, Mark R. Teasdale, Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Edward P. Wimberly, Philip Wingeier-Rayo --General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

ADULTS      Kimbrough, S. T. ***Radical Grace: Justice for the Poor and***  
287.092      ***Marginalized : Charles Wesley's Views for the Twenty-First***  
KIMBROUGH      ***Century***. Eugene, Oregon, Cascade Books, 2013.

**Summary:** This volume brings together for the first time the writings of Charles Wesley on the theme of justice for the poor and marginalized, drawing upon his sermons, manuscript journal, poetry, and a few letters. Most of his poems/hymns that address poverty and justice were left unpublished at his death. The author studies the theology of these texts for the first time in relation to relevant themes in his sermons, manuscript journal, and letters, and evaluates it in the light of its application and implementation in the eighteenth century and its viability for the twenty-first-century church and Christian. Charles's views of how Christians may "use divine grace divine" in seeking justice for the poor are indeed radical, for they advocate behavior that is often quite contrary to what is generally accepted as Christian practice. This volume makes clear that the radical grace he espouses is consistent with Holy Scripture and should indeed be practiced by Christians today. The liturgies and musical settings of some of the hymn texts that address the poor and marginalized at the end of the volume provide a pragmatic means for the worshipping community to integrate the principles of radical grace into their theology and praxis. --Cascade Books

ADULTS      Copeland, Stanley R. ***Together: United Methodists of the Temple,***  
287.6      ***Tabernacle and Table***. Plano, TX, Colinasway LLC, 2018.  
COPELAND

**Summary:** Stan Copeland and Scott Gilliland tell what a church has taught them through uplifting a vision to be "one diverse community, passionately engaging the Bible, uplifting Jesus in worship and loving service, and challenging in Love that which divides." Together supports the denomination moving forward by allowing local congregations, and area Conferences, to do authentic, Christ-centered ministry in their local mission fields. Together recognizes the long-standing theological and sociopolitical diversity within United Methodism as Traditionalist (Templers) and Progressives (Tabernaclers), but we all gather around a long, broad Table that the Lord sets, and to which He invites ALL of us to feast. --Cokesbury