

# New Resources November 2015

Date: 2015-12-01

ADULTS  
205.699  
SPOELSTRA

Spoelstra, Melissa. **Joseph: The Journey to Forgiveness.** Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** All of us know what it's like to be hurt or betrayed. Often it's a small breach such as being spoken to rudely or overlooked in a time of need. Other times we experience lies, gossip, or harsh words that cut us to the core. Some of us have endured unspeakable pain through abuse, adultery, or abandonment. God knows the pain we cause each other and longs to help us learn to practice forgiveness. Nowhere do we see forgiveness played out more fully in Scripture than in the biblical story of Joseph. This six-week study explores what God has to say to us about grace and forgiveness through Joseph's story of trial and triumph found in Genesis 37-50. As we study his dreams, his betrayers, his dysfunctional family, his struggle to forgive, and his journey toward reconciliation, we'll find truths that echo into our own personal situations as well as practical help for answering common questions, such as: How do I stop dwelling on the hurt? Is forgiving someone excusing what happened? When will I stop having to re-forgive? Is there a difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? How can I forgive and still set boundaries? Is it ever okay not to forgive? Whether or not you are working through a hurtful situation right now, you can learn from Joseph how to release your past and present hurts to God and allow Him to do a supernatural work of forgiveness in your life. God wants to use the very things intended to hurt you as a source of blessing in your life and the lives of others. The Leader Kit includes the following components: Participant Book, Leader Guide, DVD, and a Preview Book. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- Week 1: Acknowledging the Pain (29:14) -- Week 2: Waiting to Be Remembered (28:45) -- Week 3: Dreams Coming True (27:43) -- Week 4: The Roller Coaster Ride (27:13) -- Week 5: Grace and Boundaries (22:04) -- Week 6: Moving Forward (18:15) -- Promo Video (1:22)

ADULTS  
231.6  
ANTONUCCI

Antonucci, Vince. **God for the Rest of Us: Experience Unbelievable Love, Unlimited Hope, and Uncommon Grace.** Louisville, Ky: City on a Hill Productions, 2015.

**Summary:** God for the Rest of Us follows the story of a Las Vegas Church in the heart of Sin City. Lead by Pastor Vince Antonucci, this series focuses on real-life people you wouldn't expect to see sitting next to you on Sunday morning. Experience what happens when a church reaches out and asks the question: what if God is not just for the faithful, church-going, or holier-than-thou types? What if God is for the rest of us? The God for the Rest of Us Small Group Study includes: A small group leader's DVD tutorial, Six video episodes on DVD, An easy-to-follow Leader's Guide for facilitating a small group gathering, One copy of the Journal for the study. --City on a Hill Productions

ADULTS  
241.64  
BAYLOR

**Christian Reflection: A Series in Faith and Ethics.** Waco, Tex: The Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor University, 2015.

**Summary:** Since generosity echoes God's love, practicing it in our lives and congregations is essential. Our contributors explore the distinctive features of Christian generosity, its central role in discipleship, and why its practice is so difficult in a consumerist culture. A generous spirit is often impeded by presumption or despair - which are believing we can control our happiness, or giving up on it. Either view, Doug Henry observes, can make us grasping of

objects and resentful of others. Kelly Liebengood outlines the Pauline expectation of generosity that not only gives to those in need, but also makes room for them in our gatherings. Such subversive generosity is as countercultural today as it was then, Jason Coker notes: it "can critique global capitalism by envisioning a future where human dignity is more important than profit." Allen Walworth and Richard Stearns offer prophetic calls for us to be generous with our resources. Patricia Snell Herzog examines our "comfortable guilt" with giving so much less than we want to give or our religious commitments require. She recommends that we foster a new culture of giving in our congregations, and for this Ruben Swint has a suggestion: that we learn to speak the language of generosity as well as the language of stewardship. Jonathan and Elizabeth Sands Wise provide a winsome portrait of a generous and hospitable lifestyle. --Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor University

**Content Notes:**

- "Generosity of Spirit," / Douglas V. Henry -- "Paul's Expectations of Generosity," / Kelly D. Liebengood -- "Subversive Generosity," / K. Jason Coker -- "Solving the Riddle of Comfortable Guilt," / Patricia Snell Herzog -- "How Congregations (and Their Members) Differ on Generosity," / Ruben Swint

ADULTS Giglio, Louie. **The Comeback DVD: It's Not Too Late and You're Never**  
248.4 GIGLIO **Too Far**. Nashville, Tenn: W Publishing Group, 2015.

**Summary:** Feeling like you've blown it? Reached the point of no return? That your life hasn't gone as planned? If so, you are not alone. We all know what it feels like to have life disappoint us and not work out as we'd hoped. We all know what it's like to long for something different, something better, and something more. Drawing on his own experiences and pivotal Bible stories, author Louie Giglio shows how God is all about comebacks. Samson had blown it repeatedly; nevertheless, he experiences tremendous triumph at the end of his life. The prodigal son, as Jesus describes him, returns home in disgrace only to be welcomed by his father with open arms—no questions asked. The list goes on: Joseph, Moses and Peter all experienced comebacks. Jesus himself performed the greatest comeback of all by rising from the dead. God is in the business of giving fresh starts to people. He gives hope to the hopeless. Direction to the directionless. Help to those who need help. God is always good, all the time, and His plans will always prevail, even when our plans don't. He already knows what the solutions are. No matter what kind of disappointment or grief or pain or trouble or heartache we encounter, God always offers a new beginning, a change of heart, and a powerful spiritual turnaround. God offers the way forward, and his pathways are always good. The Comeback proves God can use our mess and still make a masterpiece—and that our current circumstances will not get the final say in our lives. -- Thomas Nelson Publishers

**Content Notes:**

- 1. A Deeper Kind of Comeback Story (16:00) -- 2. Paradise in a Garbage Dump (16:00) -- 3. When Dreams Are Dashed (21:00) -- 4. Never Too Late (14:00) -- 5. Get Up (18:00) -- 6. Jesus Is Enough (17:00)

ADULTS Giglio, Louie. **The Comeback Study Guide: It's Not Too Late and You're**  
248.4 GIGLIO **Never Too Far**. Nashville, Tenn: W Publishing Group, 2015.

**Summary:** Feeling like you've blown it? Reached the point of no return? That your life hasn't gone as planned? If so, you are not alone. We all know what it feels like to have life disappoint us and not work out as we'd hoped. We all know what it's like to long for something different, something better, and something more. Drawing on his own experiences and pivotal Bible

stories, author Louie Giglio shows how God is all about comebacks. Samson had blown it repeatedly; nevertheless, he experiences tremendous triumph at the end of his life. The prodigal son, as Jesus describes him, returns home in disgrace only to be welcomed by his father with open arms—no questions asked. The list goes on: Joseph, Moses and Peter all experienced comebacks. Jesus himself performed the greatest comeback of all by rising from the dead. God is in the business of giving fresh starts to people. He gives hope to the hopeless. Direction to the directionless. Help to those who need help. God is always good, all the time, and His plans will always prevail, even when our plans don't. He already knows what the solutions are. No matter what kind of disappointment or grief or pain or trouble or heartache we encounter, God always offers a new beginning, a change of heart, and a powerful spiritual turnaround. God offers the way forward, and his pathways are always good. The Comeback proves God can use our mess and still make a masterpiece—and that our current circumstances will not get the final say in our lives. -- Thomas Nelson Publishers

**Content Notes:**

- Introduction -- How to Use This Guide -- Session 1. A Deeper Kind of Comeback Story -- Session 2. Paradise in a Garbage Dump -- Session 3. When Dreams Are Dashed -- Session 4. Never Too Late -- Session 5. Get Up -- Session 6. Jesus Is Enough

ADULTS  
248.4  
HANSEN

Hansen, Adolf. **Becoming a Disciple: A Lifelong Venture.** Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Discipleship. It's not easy. Jesus makes that clear when he set forth the conditions: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." And yet, weren't all the disciples different? Might discipleship—within Christ's directive—mean something unique to each of us? In *Becoming a Disciple* you'll meet eight United Methodist clergy and hear them discuss the definition of discipleship as they help us along to pursue the adventure of a lifetime. --Cokesbury

ADULTS  
248.4 RAWLE

Rawle, Matt. **The Faith of a Mockingbird DVD: A Small Group Study Connecting Christ and Culture.** Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up." This four-session DVD features Matt Rawle guiding us through a Bible study based on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, using Lee's beloved characters to explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics. It is designed for small group use, in conjunction with Rawle's book, *The Faith of a Mockingbird*. Each video session is approximately 6-8 minutes. All video sessions are closed captioned. *The Faith of a Mockingbird* is part of *The Pop in Culture Series* of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics. A Participant Book, a full Leader Guide, and a Worship Resources Flash Drive also are available for group study. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- Week 1 - Scout Finch: Telling Your Story (7:19) -- Week 2 - Atticus Finch: When Your Story is Challenged (6:14) -- Week 3 - Tom Robinson: When Challenge is Defining (6:05) -- Week 4 - Boo Radley: Defining a Mystery (5:27)

ADULTS  
248.4 RAWLE

Rawle, Matt. **The Faith of a Mockingbird Leader Guide: A Small Group Study Connecting Christ and Culture.** Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up." In *The Faith of a Mockingbird*, based on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, pastor and author Matt Rawle uses Lee's beloved characters to explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics. Join Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson in this four-week study considering God's world and what it all means. This Leader Guide contains everything needed to guide a group through the workbook and DVD. It includes session plans and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options. *The Faith of a Mockingbird* is part of The Pop in Culture Series of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics. A Participant Book, a DVD featuring four sessions with the author, and a Worship Resources Flash Drive also are available for group study. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- To the Leader -- Session 1 - Scout Finch: Telling Your Story -- Session 2 - Atticus Finch: When Your Story is Challenged -- Session 3 - Tom Robinson: When Challenge is Defining -- Session 4 - Boo Radley: Defining a Mystery

ADULTS Rawle, Matt. **The Faith of a Mockingbird Worship Resources Flash Drive:**  
248.4 RAWLE **A Small Group Study Connecting Christ and Culture.** Nashville, Tenn:  
Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** This Worship Resources Flash Drive will give you ideas and tools for use in worship and in your congregation during a churchwide study of *The Faith of a Mockingbird*. Resources include promotional videos, worship countdowns, sermon outlines, posters, social media images, PowerPoint slides, and more helps to incorporate the theme into the worship service. *The Faith of a Mockingbird* is part of The Pop in Culture Series of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics. A Participant Book, a DVD featuring four sessions with the author, and a full Leader Guide also are available for group study. --Cokesbury

ADULTS Rawle, Matt. **The Faith of a Mockingbird: A Small Group Study**  
248.4 RAWLE **Connecting Christ and Culture.** Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up." In *The Faith of a Mockingbird*, based on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, pastor and author Matt Rawle uses Lee's beloved characters to explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics. Join Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson in this four-week study considering God's world and what it all means. *The Faith of a Mockingbird* is part of The Pop in Culture Series of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics. A DVD featuring four sessions with the author, a full Leader Guide, and a Worship Resources Flash Drive also are available for group study. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- Introduction -- "To Kill a Mockingbird": A Quick Refresher -- 1. Scout Finch: Telling Your Story -- 2. Atticus Finch: When Your Story is Challenged -- 3. Tom Robinson: When Challenge is Defining -- 4. Boo Radley: Defining a Mystery -- Notes -- Acknowledgments

ADULTS  
248.4  
SMALLEY

**Live Like You Were Dying Companion Booklet: Daily Reading and Small Group Study Guide.** Nashville, Tenn: Live Loud, LLC, 2007.

**Summary:** The Daily Readings, written by John Fischer, will challenge you on a personal level to examine life's priorities and reflect on how to live your "one and only life" each day. The Four Small Group Sessions, presented by Gary Smalley, provide your small group the opportunity to embark on a life changing experience in powerful and sometimes unpredictable ways. --Back Cover

ADULTS  
248.4  
SMALLEY

**Live Like You Were Dying DVD: Small Group Teaching.** Nashville, Tenn: Live Loud, LLC, 2007.

**Summary:** These video sessions provide your group with 4 weekly video teachings based upon the themes of Live Like YOu Were Dying campaign. Includes host coaching videos by Pastor Lance Witt. --Container

**Content Notes:**

- Session 1: Live Like You Were Dying (9:41) -- Session 2: Speak Sweeter (9:37) -- Session 3: Love Deeper (10:35) -- Session 4: Give Forgiveness (10:48)

ADULTS  
248.5  
GUINNESS

Guinness, Os. **Fool's Talk : Recovering the Art of Christian Persuasion .** Downers Grove : InterVarsity Press, 2015.

**Summary:** In our post-Christian context, public life has become markedly more secular and private life infinitely more diverse. Yet many Christians still rely on cookie-cutter approaches to evangelism and apologetics. Most of these methods assume that people are open, interested and needy for spiritual insight when increasingly most people are not. Our urgent need, then, is the capacity to persuade—to make a convincing case for the gospel to people who are not interested in it. In his magnum opus, Os Guinness offers a comprehensive presentation of the art and power of creative persuasion. Christians have often relied on proclaiming and preaching, protesting and picketing. But we are strikingly weak in persuasion—the ability to talk to people who are closed to what we are saying. Actual persuasion requires more than a one-size-fits-all approach. Guinness notes, "Jesus never spoke to two people the same way, and neither should we." Following the tradition of Erasmus, Pascal, G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, Malcolm Muggeridge and Peter Berger, Guinness demonstrates how apologetic persuasion requires both the rational and the imaginative. Persuasion is subversive, turning the tables on listeners' assumptions to surprise them with signals of transcendence and the credibility of the gospel. This book is the fruit of forty years of thinking, honed in countless talks and discussions at many of the leading universities and intellectual centers of the world. Discover afresh the persuasive power of Christian witness from one of the leading apologists and thinkers of our era. -- InterVaristy Press

**Content Notes:**

- Recovering the lost art -- Creative persuasion -- Technique: the devil's bait -
- The defense never rests -- The way of the third fool -- Anatomy of unbelief -
- Turning the tables -- Triggering the signals -- Spring-loaded dynamics -- The art of always being right? -- Beware the boomerang -- Kissing Judases -- Charting the journey -- The way of the open hand.

ADULTS  
248.8  
HAYNER

Hayner, Stephen A. **Joy in the Journey : Finding Abundance in the Shadow of Death .** Downers Grove, Illinois : InterVarsity Press, [2015].

**Summary:** Steve Hayner was serving as president of Columbia Seminary and was healthy and fit when he found out he had terminal pancreatic cancer. He and his wife Sharol embarked on a journey together with their children that

soon included tens of thousands of visits from friends and acquaintances via the CaringBridge website. The overwhelming response to their posts on this website attested to the surprising and engaging way that they chose to live in the face of death. As a result they uncovered the remarkable truth that God, our good Shepherd, provides a feast for us when we are in the valley of the shadow of death as well as in the green pastures. Steve was always known for signing letters and emails, "joyfully." These pages, including reflections from some of those closest to Steve and Sharol, offer us a hope-filled glimpse into what it means to walk with God in honesty, with joy, even through great pain. --InterVarsity Press

ADULTS Pyle, Nate. **Man Enough : How Jesus Redefines Manhood** . Grand Rapids : 248.842 PYLE Zondervan, 2015.

**Summary:** Man Enough challenges the idea that there is one way to be a man. The masculinity that pervades our church and culture often demands that men conform to a macho ideal, leaving many men feeling ashamed that they're not living up to God's plan for them. Nate uses his own story of not feeling "man enough", as well as sociological and historical reflections, to help men see that manhood isn't about what you do, but who you are. It's not about the size of your paycheck, your athletic ability, or your competitive spirit. You don't have to fit any masculine stereotype to be a real man. In our culture and churches more thoughtful, quieter, or compassionate personalities, as well as stay-at-home dads, are often looked down upon; and sermons, conferences, and publications center on helping men become "real men". This pressure to have one's manhood validated is antithetical to Gospel living and negatively affects how men relate to each other, to women and children, and to God. Man Enough roots men in the Gospel, examines biblical examples of masculinity that challenge the idea of a singular type of man, and ultimately encourages men to conform to the image of Jesus—freeing men up to be who they were created to be: a son of God who uniquely bears His image.

**Content Notes:**

- Out of the wilderness -- Man made -- Shifting sands -- Muscular Christianity -- Jesus -- Delighting in weakness -- The fall of a man -- Your name shall be -- Fully human -- Sharing space -- Beyond battles

ADULTS 253 Lomenick, Brad. **The Catalyst Leader DVD: 8 Essentials for Becoming a Change Maker**. Nashville, Tenn: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

**Summary:** The Catalyst Leader DVD-Based Study identifies the 8 essentials and key characteristics for leading well now and over the next 20 years. Are you a high-octane, energizing leader with big ideas and the skills to back them up? Do you help shape the hearts and minds of those you lead? In short, are you a Catalyst leader? The reality is that most of us want to be good leaders, but we're not sure how to use those elements to best impact our leadership. You may be a leader, but are you influencing and truly making a difference? The Catalyst Leader is a brand new resource designed to help you lead now and lead well. 8 sessions. --Thomas Nelson

ADULTS 253 Lomenick, Brad. **The Catalyst Leader Participant's Guide: 8 Essentials for Becoming a Change Maker**. Nashville, Tenn: Thomas Nelson, 2013.

**Summary:** The Catalyst Leader Participant's Guide, designed for use with the DVD-based study of the same title, identifies the 8 essentials and key characteristics of a Catalyst leader for leading well now and over the next 20 years. Are you a high-octane, energizing leader with big ideas and the skills to back them up? Do you help shape the hearts and minds of those you lead? In short, are you a Catalyst leader? The reality is that most of us want to be

good leaders, but we're not sure how to build those elements in a way that will deliver the most impact in our leadership. The Catalyst Leader lays out the key elements and defines what it means to be a Catalyst and reveals the path for developing these elements in your own leadership skill set. You may be recognized as a leader, but it doesn't mean you are influencing and truly making a difference. The Catalyst Leader is a brand new resource designed to help you lead now, and lead well. 8 sessions. --Thomas Nelson

ADULTS Cloud, Henry. **Making Your Small Group Work DVD**. Grand Rapids, Mich:  
253.7 CLOUD Zondervan, 2012.

**Summary:** In Making Small Groups Work, Cloud, Donahue, and Townsend provide four sixty-minute sessions to train leaders and group members in the foundational values and practices of becoming a life-changing community. These sixty-minute sessions are the foundations of small groups that include teaching by the authors, creative segments, and activities and discussion time. The group has the chance to review and learn new group life techniques over the course of four in-depth sessions: • Session 1 provides a foundational experience that helps group members get excited about the adventure and life-changing power of small group life. • Session 2 focuses on introducing values, ground rules, and logistical issues to deepen relationships. • Session 3 unpacks each of the five key values through in-depth teaching and practical examples. • Session 4 transitions the group to running on its own, using a variety of exercises to help the group clarify what their focus will be, and what they want to do in their next meeting. Making Small Groups Work helps leaders to create strong relationships and promote the kind of in-depth discussion that will help everyone grow in their spirituality. --Zondervan

**Content Notes:**

- 1. Getting Connected--God's Purpose for Small Groups (60:00) -- 2. Five Habits of Life-Changing Small Groups (60:00) -- 3. Setting the Ground Rules (60:00) -- 4. Determining Your Group's Purpose (60:00) -- 13 Coaching Sessions (5-10 min. each) -- 1. Confrontation (60:00) -- 2. Conflict Resolution (60:00) -- 3. Helping People in Crisis (60:00)

ADULTS Cloud, Henry. **Making Your Small Group Work Participant's Guide**. Grand  
253.7 CLOUD Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2012.

**Summary:** Whether you're a new or seasoned group leader, or whether your group is well-established or just getting started, the Making Your Small Group Work DVD and participant's guide (sold separately) will lead you and your group together to a remarkable new closeness and effectiveness. Designed to foster healthy group interaction and facilitate maximum growth, this innovative approach equips both group leaders and members with essential skills and values for creating and sustaining truly life-changing small groups. Created by three group life experts, the two DVDs in this kit include: • Four sixty-minute sessions on the foundations of small groups that include teaching by the authors, creative segments, and activities and discussion time. • Thirteen five-minute coaching segments on topics such as active listening, personal sharing, giving and receiving feedback, prayer, calling out the best in others, and more. Formerly titled ReGroup. --Zondervan

ADULTS Cleveland, Christena. **Disunity in Christ : Uncovering the Hidden Forces  
262.72 That Keep Us Apart** . Downers Grove, Illinois : IVP Books, [2013].

CLEVELAND **Summary:** Despite Jesus' prayer that all Christians "be one," divisions have been epidemic in the body of Christ from the beginning to the present. We cluster in theological groups, gender groups, age groups, ethnic groups, educational and economic groups. We criticize freely those who disagree with

us, don't look like us, don't act like us and don't even like what we like. Though we may think we know why this happens, Christena Cleveland says we probably don't. In this eye-opening book, learn the hidden reasons behind conflict and divisions. Learn: Why I think all my friends are unique but those in other groups are all the same Why little differences often become big sources of conflict Why categorizing others is often automatic and helpful but can also have sinister side effects Why we are so often victims of groupthink and how we can avoid it Why women think men are judging them more negatively than men actually are, and vice versa Why choices of language can actually affect unity With a personal touch and the trained eye of a social psychologist, Cleveland brings to bear the latest studies and research on the unseen dynamics at work that tend to separate us from others. Learn why Christians who have a heart for unity have such a hard time actually uniting. The author provides real insight for ministry leaders who have attempted to build bridges across boundaries. Here are the tools we need to understand how we can overcome the hidden forces that divide us. --Cokesbury

ADULTS  
269.2 ROSS

Ross, Roger. **Meet the Goodpeople : Wesley's Seven Ways to Share Faith**. Nashville : Abingdon Press, [2015].

**Summary:** People gave up on church. They felt alienated and even ostracized by institutional religion. Sound familiar? Those were the spiritual conditions in which John Wesley's movement took hold—not so dissimilar to what we face today. But he managed to engage the disenfranchised of his time. Author Roger Ross believes we can use Wesley's genius to connect to the non-churched in our time. In *Meet the Goodpeople*, Ross demonstrates how we can retool Wesley's practices and reshape individuals, groups, and churches to lead pre-Christian people into a transforming relationship with Jesus and his church. Discussion guides in each chapter facilitate interaction for leadership teams and small groups, and offer practice for successful implementation. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- Stay close to the power -- On the go -- Plain talk -- Tune in to their heart -- Do life together -- Get everyone in the game -- Go global

ADULTS 273  
OLSON

Olson, Roger E. **Counterfeit Christianity DVD and Leader Guide: The Persistence of Errors in the Church**. Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Heresies are not limited to times of long ago. True, major heretical controversies originated ages ago, but many of these same errors and myths continue to circulate through congregations of today. Author Roger E. Olson helps church pastors and leaders know how to deal with these artificial truths—how to explain that they are not simple confusions or misunderstandings, but are instead counterfeit teachings that plague modern-day churches by undermining and dangerously distorting faithful living. He also demonstrates how heresies can serve the church by opening up a dialog that will ultimately educate congregations about Jesus, God, and salvation. For the 5-week study, the DVD and Leader Guide features Roger Olson responding to thoughtful on-screen questions from his former student Rev. Adam Hamilton. Contents include a Leader Guide by Magrey deVega. --Cokesbury

**Content Notes:**

- 1. Understanding Heresy and Orthodoxy (15:20) -- 2. The Mother of All Heresies and Messing with Divine Revelation (14:57) -- 3. Doubting the Deity of Jesus Christ and Contesting the Trinity (19:28) -- 4. Setting Grace Aside and Making God a Monster (15:06) -- 5. Reducing God to Manageable Size and Using God for Personal Gain (15:07)

ADULTS 273 OLSON Olson, Roger E. **Counterfeit Christianity: The Persistence of Errors in the Church**. Nashville, Tenn: Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** Heresies are not limited to times of long ago. True, major heretical controversies originated ages ago, but many of these same errors and myths continue to circulate through congregations of today. Author Roger E. Olson helps church pastors and leaders know how to deal with these artificial truths—how to explain that they are not simple confusions or misunderstandings, but are instead counterfeit teachings that plague modern-day churches by undermining and dangerously distorting faithful living. He also demonstrates how heresies can serve the church by opening up a dialog that will ultimately educate congregations about Jesus, God, and salvation. Includes questions for individual or group study. A DVD and Leader Guide is also available as a 5-week study in which Adam Hamilton hosts on-screen conversations with Roger Olson. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 287 NICKELL Nickell, Jane Ellen. **We Shall Not Be Moved : Methodists Debate Race, Gender, and Homosexuality** . Eugene, Oregon : Pickwick Publications, [2014].

**Summary:** As Protestant denominations are fracturing over whether to ordain gays and lesbians, this work looks at The United Methodist Church's conversations about the issue, in light of Methodism's historic contests over the leadership of African Americans and women, to see what can be learned from these earlier periods of change. Using the uniform context of the Methodist General Conference, where denominational policy is set, the book analyzes transcripts of floor debates in key years of these struggles, letting those who argued for and against the changes speak for themselves. Those arguments are read through the lens of French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, whose theory offers a sophisticated model that goes deeper than simple "resistance to change" in articulating a dialectic between social structures and agents that predisposes both to reproduce existing power relationships. This interdisciplinary, historical study seeks to move beyond conscious motivations for the exclusion of these three groups and uncover deeply embedded, misrecognized social dynamics. In exploring these groups' stories, this book examines who holds power in Methodist churches, how changes in authority structures occur, and why it is such a long and painful process. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 287.082 SCHMIDT Schmidt, Jean Miller. **Grace Sufficient : A History of Women in American Methodism, 1760-1939** . Nashville, TN : Abingdon Press, 1999.

**Summary:** Histories of women and American religion have tended to focus on women's religious activities rather than on women's religious lives. Studies of early American religion and spirituality have usually depended on the journals and sermons of male preachers. In order to understand the religious lives of ordinary Methodist women, Jean Miller Schmidt has looked at their diaries, letters, spiritual autobiographies, and the accounts of their pious lives and holy deaths that appeared as obituaries in publications like the Methodist Magazine. These powerful stories of faith are part of the shared history of Methodist people. --Cokesbury

ADULTS 287.0973 RICHEY Richey, Russell E. **American Methodism : A Compact History** . Nashville : Abingdon Press, 2012.

**Summary:** In this engaging and artful overview, Russell Richey, Kenneth Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt, some of Methodism's most respected teachers, give readers a vivid picture of soulful terrain of the Methodist experience in America. The authors highlight key themes and events that continue to shape the Church. Knowing their history, Methodists are better

positioned, prepared, and inspired for faithful witness and holy living. --  
Cokesbury

ADULTS  
287.6096  
WILLIAMS

Williams, Levi C. **A History of The United Methodist Church in Liberia.**  
Denver, Colo: Outskirts Press, 2014.

**Summary:** This is the first historical narrative about the United Methodist Church mission in Liberia. Rev. Dr. Levi Williams described the motivating factors that prompted the Methodist mission to Liberia and Africa, discussed the sacrifices of the early missionaries and other significant persons who contributed to this mission; he also explored current as well as future possibilities. --Cokesbury

ADULTS  
808.51  
HAMILTON

Hamilton, Adam. **Speaking Well : Essential Skills for Speakers, Leaders, and Preachers** . Nashville, Tennessee : Abingdon Press, 2015.

**Summary:** The thought of speaking in public strikes fear in the hearts of many. But we are often called upon to speak, teach, preach, or make presentations in our work and personal lives. In Speaking Well, Adam Hamilton offers nineteen powerful tips and tactics that lead to excellent speaking in any setting. --Cokesbury

CHILDREN  
264 NORTON

Norton, MaryJane Pierce. **Children Worship!**. Nashville, Tenn: Discipleship Resources, 2015.

**Summary:** "Children Worship!" offers planned experiences that help children understand what is expected in worship, how to participate, and what our words and actions mean. This thirteen-session worship education resource helps congregations incorporate young children into the worshiping community. Sessions focus on the six actions of worship and cover the following topics: Gathering, Giving Praise and Thanks, Praying, Proclaiming, Responding, and Sending. This resource, designed for use with children ages five through eight or as an intergenerational experience, includes a planning guide, individual session plans, congregational bulletin inserts, parent letters, and reproducible activity sheets. Leaders can use "Children Worship!" in a variety of settings. The material includes instruction for sessions that last forty-five minutes to one hour; reproducible bulletin inserts to help congregations know what participants are learning; worship suggestions for use during the time children are involved in the study; sample letters to parents to help the family reinforce each session; and suggestions for a churchwide study on children and worship. --Cokesbury