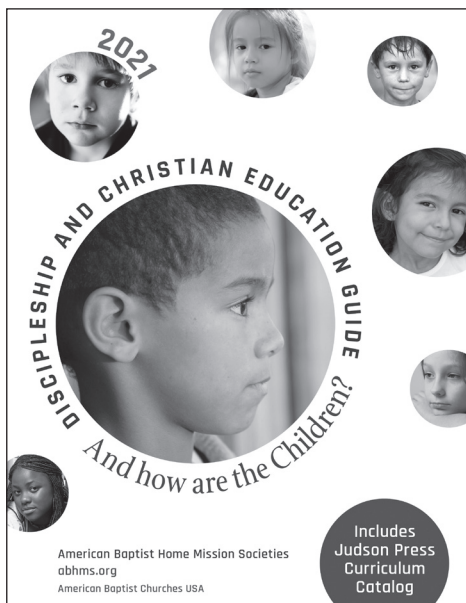


## Ministry focus: Discipleship

“The Discipleship and Christian Education Guide” is published annually by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS).



Print copies are mailed to all American Baptist regions and, by request, to churches and to individuals. A PDF may be downloaded at <https://abhms.org/resources/publications/discipleship-guide/>, and additional print copies can be requested through customer service at 1-800-458-3766.

### Reflection on the 2021 Discipleship & Christian Education Guide theme

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matthew 19:14).

“How are the children?” This greeting of the Masai with its traditional response, “All the children are well,” reminds us of the importance of children’s welfare as a measure of the well-being of any society.

## AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021 For the Purpose of Equipping Saints

EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)



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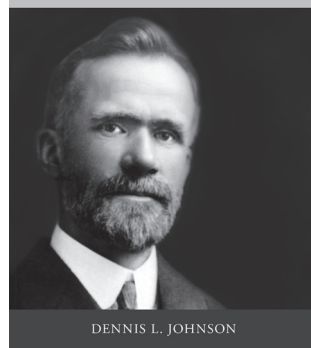
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)



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### To Live in God REFLECTION GUIDE



### “To Live in God Reflection Guide”

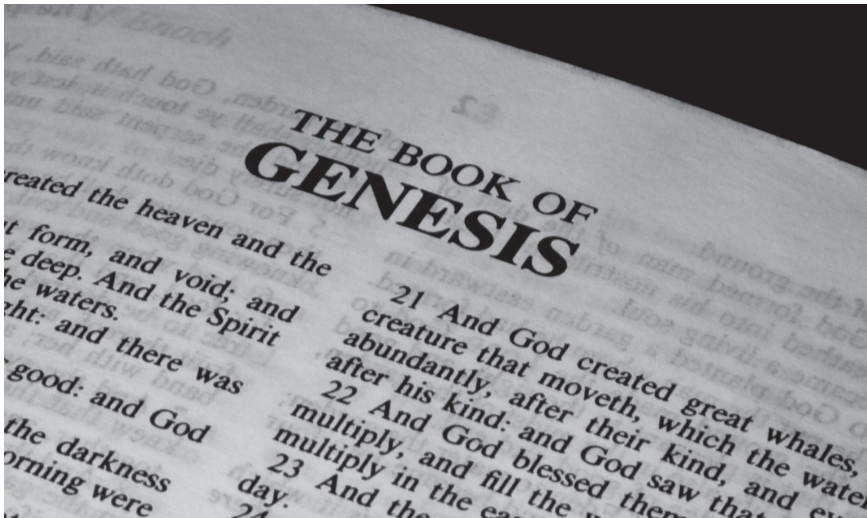
New for use by individuals and in small group settings is the free “To Live in God Reflection Guide,” a companion resource for “To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch” (Judson Press, 2020). In solitude or in community, deepen your inward communion with the Spirit, expand your outward obedience to the call of Jesus Christ in service, and learn to walk in solidarity with the people God loves. The Reflection Guide features suggested reading plans,

questions for reflection, and an outline for forming your own Circle of Spiritual Companions. Download it at [judsonpress.com](http://judsonpress.com).

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### Ministry Focus: Evangelism

Begin by reading Genesis 21:1-20. Ishmael was the “other” child. Born to Abram through a servant named Hagar, Ishmael was thrice marginalized: by age, by social status as the son of a slave, and by ethnicity as the son of an Egyptian slave. Genesis 12-25 focuses on Israel’s ancestors, with chapters 21-22 telling the story of the childhood of Ishmael’s half-brother, Isaac. Isaac was the son who fulfilled God’s promise to Abraham and Sarah of a child from whom a great nation would descend. Wedged into that purposeful narrative of the esteemed child come 13 verses that tell of the “other” child. That his story will not be denied—that it insists on being told—is remarkable in itself.



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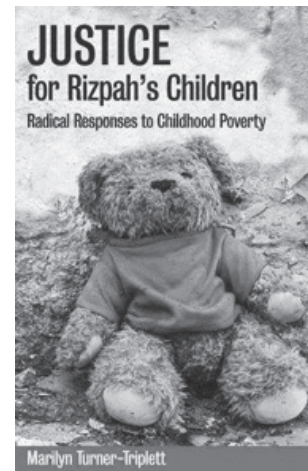
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### “Justice for Rizpah’s Children: Radical Responses to Childhood Poverty”

Move beyond awareness to intentional engagement in effecting justice in response to the challenge of childhood poverty in the United States. Inaccurate perspectives about childhood poverty can become a barrier to action because the issues seem so complex. Grounded in the sermon “Rizpah’s Children,” this book provides concerned readers with more nuanced and accurate understanding of the situation and the human beings involved, as well as a biblically based roadmap for taking practical action. Featuring the voices of parents, grandparents, caretakers and children, each chapter highlights community organizations whose diverse efforts are focused on alleviating the impact of poverty in America.



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### Ministry focus: Leadership Empowerment

Through American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Co-Creators Incubator, individuals with innovative ministry ideas—called Co-Creators—meet as a cohort. They are then paired with mentors possessing expertise in entrepreneurship, theological framing, leadership development, networking, congregational support, missiology and strategic thinking. Their meeting is one of storytelling, collaboration and experimentation. At “Demo Day,” Co-Creators pitch their ideas to Creative Partners who may choose to provide ongoing support and resources to nurture the ideas.



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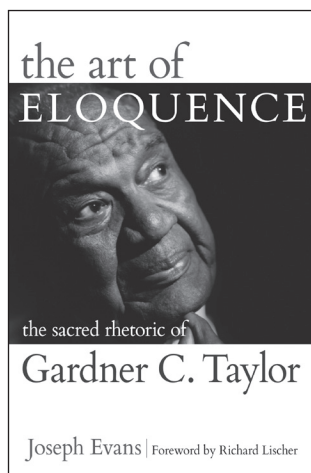
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### “The Art of Eloquence: The Sacred Rhetoric of Gardner C. Taylor”

During his lifetime, the Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor was hailed by TIME magazine as the dean of America’s black preachers. Newsweek honored him as one of the 12 greatest preachers in the English-speaking world. A civil rights leader, a Presidential Medal of Honor recipient and a longtime pastor, Taylor was called “the poet laureate of American Protestantism.” In “The Art of Eloquence: The Sacred Rhetoric of Gardner C. Taylor,” scholar and pastor Joseph Evans analyzes the

art of Taylor’s preaching according to the five classical canons of rhetoric, celebrating in particular his excellence in narrative eloquence—the heart of his persuasive proclamation.