

2021



DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GUIDE

And how are the Children?



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# River of Life, Feast of Grace:

## BAPTISM, COMMUNION, AND DISCIPLESHIP

By Jennifer W. Davidson



2021-2022

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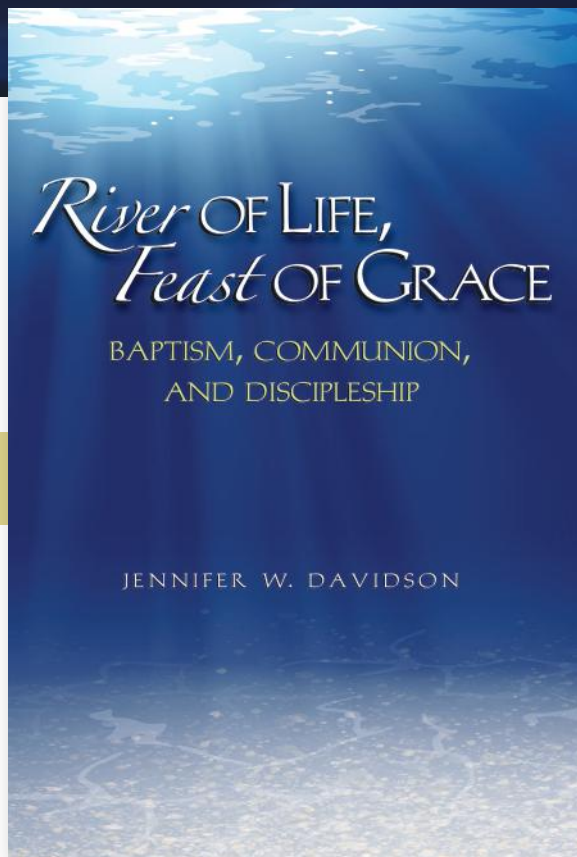
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*Jesus said, “Let the little  
children come to me, and  
do not hinder them, for  
the kingdom of heaven  
belongs to such as these.”*

MATTHEW 19:14

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# About This Resource

*The Discipleship and Christian Education Guide* is published annually by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). Print copies are mailed to all American Baptist regions and churches and to individuals by request. A PDF may be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Discipleship and Christian Education Guide, and additional print copies can be requested through customer service at 800-458-3766.

The *Revised Common Lectionary* is found on pages 12–13. A photocopiable litany for Christian Education Sunday (September 26) is provided in English, Traditional Chinese, French, and Spanish on pages 39–40. Be sure to check out the list of select ABHMS resources and ministries on page 11 as well as the resource suggestions that are included in the Month-by-Month Planning Calendar (pages 14–25) as you plan your ministries of discipleship and Christian education.

## Reflection on the Theme

*Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

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. This focus was selected in January of 2020 when work on the *Guide* began. Little did we know at that time how prophetic a choice that was. As I revise this introduction to the theme, we remain in an unprecedented season of pandemic, during which the situation of children on the margins is increasingly precarious—and yet they seem nearly invisible within the houses of power in our country. While federal, state, and local governments “play politics” and interest groups demand rights, increasing numbers of children suffer from hunger because their food security rested on school meals. While many children are benefiting from virtual education, the large number without computers or internet fall far behind their peers. When this challenging day passes, as we pray it will, will we ask, “How were the children during it all?” and if so, will we be able to answer, “The children were a priority”?

How might our nation change if we were to focus on the condition of children, rather than on the stock market, GDP, or military prowess, as the measure of the quality of our society? Or, if changing the nation is too tall an order, how might the church be transformed if Christians were to adopt the welfare of all children as a guiding principle and metric for success? It seems a fitting approach considering Jesus’ assertion that the kingdom *belongs* to children, coupled with his warning that we not be stumbling blocks to them. What if we began our worship services and business meetings with the question “And how are the children?” Might not regularly placing the welfare of children at the forefront of our deliberations transform us, our churches, our communities, our nation, and eventually the world? Christians are a kingdom people whose sole sovereign is the God who came to us as a child. When children are well, the kingdom is advanced!

So, I ask, “How are the children?” How are the children in our churches, in our homes, in our schools, across our nation, and throughout our world? What a challenging question for us to face! Historically the emotional, physical and spiritual security of children has not been at the forefront of concern in our nation nor in the Christian church. That failure can only be called sin. The sole appropriate response to sin is repentance. Therefore, the litany for Christian Education Sunday, found on pages 39–40, is a prayer of confession. Additionally, within these pages you will find articles to help you and your congregations consider the biblical foundations for relating to children. On page 7 we’ve shared the beautiful poem “To a Child” by Christopher Morley, and the planning calendar includes a monthly prayer for personal devotions, newsletters, board meetings, educational gatherings, or worship services. Some of the content in these pages may feel challenging; however, facing the discomfort of rethinking our views on children and our God-given responsibility to them will move us closer to the day when we can say, “All the children are well,” a day in which any cost in discomfort will be repaid with interest.

With prayer for a kinder world for children—and for all of us,

Rev. Cassandra Carkuff Williams, EdD  
National Director, Discipleship Ministries

# 6 Things the Bible Says about Children

The Bible bears a complex witness to children, most of which has been neglected and some of which has been distorted and misused against children. One of the most foundational doctrines of Christian faith is the incarnation (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1–12). The belief that God chose to enter the world as a child bears witness to the sacredness of childhood and the inherent value of children. Listed here are six additional scriptural reminders about children.

## 1. Children have natural spirituality, and their relationships with God are independent of adult mediation.

- They participated in the covenant with God (Ezra 10).
- They expected to question and actively engage in discussion about God (Exodus 12–13; Joshua 4:5-7).
- They are designated as ones ordained to praise God (Psalm 8:2, quoted by Jesus in Matthew 21:16).

## 2. Children have personal agency, are God's instruments, and serve as models for adults.

- The child Samuel was called to be a religious and political leader when adults failed (1 Samuel 3).
- A young slave girl was the agent of healing for a military commander (2 Kings 5).
- Jesus identified children as models for entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17).
- Jesus called children models of greatness (Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48).
- A child listened to Jesus, trusted Jesus, and provided the means for Jesus to reveal his divinity when adults, including the disciples, failed to do so (John 6:1-15).

## 3. Children are not “little adults”; they have special status and a different level of accountability.

- As human beings, children are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27).
- Children belong *first* to God (Genesis 30:20; Psalm 127:3).
- Adults should teach children through stories of God's love and grace rather than through moralistic precepts (Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:15-16; 8:4; John 9:20-21; 1 Corinthians 13:9-11).
- Jesus went through the developmental process of childhood himself (Luke 2:40, 52).

## 4. Children are innocent victims of adult choices, so God has special concern for them.

- They were victims of adult idolatry that included child sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:4-5).
- The primary causes of children's suffering in scripture are famine and war (Lamentations 2:11-12).
- Children are often victims of adult ambitions (Matthew 2:1-18).

## 5. God identifies with children; children both reveal and receive God's kingdom.

- The kingdom belongs to children (Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17).
- Jesus' first act after the glory of the transfiguration was to heal a child (Matthew 17:14-18; Mark 9:15-29; Luke 9:37-43).
- Jesus was recognized and proclaimed by children as the son of David (Matthew 21:15-17).

## 6. How we treat children has serious consequences; their needs and how we respond to those needs are central to faithfulness.

- Jesus proclaimed that to welcome (literally, to treat as a special guest) a child is to welcome him and the God who sent him (Matthew 18:2-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48).
- Jesus warned, “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea” (Matthew 18:6; cf. Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-3).



Photo: Amy Tran on Unsplash

# Biblical Guidelines for Relating with Children

*Family is the first place a child forms and experiences relationships. It is a child's first experience of community. . . . I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that family is the most important arena for a child's spiritual development and soul care.*

—IVY BECKWITH, *POSTMODERN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY*

## Christian Family

Many people would identify being active in church, living according to certain rules, studying the Bible, and teaching children about Jesus as markers of a Christian family. While such practices are part of Christian family life, they do not create a Christian home. The central tenet of the Christian understanding of God is divine grace. As Christians we literally stake our lives on the love of God revealed through grace: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The most powerful vehicle for Christian formation is grace-filled community. The most formative force in the life of a child is family. A Christian family's primary occupation, therefore, must be *love*, and its primary quality must be *grace*. Grace creates spaces where children can freely explore what it means to be alive, trusting that boundaries will provide safety and missteps will be met with gentle guidance. Grace also creates safe spaces for parents and other caregivers by allowing them to relax, to celebrate


children as children, and to accept themselves as imperfect beings who may need to ask God—and children—for forgiveness at times.

It is incumbent upon us to dedicate significant effort to creating households, churches, and educational institutions that are characterized by patience, kindness, calmness, respect, long-suffering, honesty, hope, and joy (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Jesus identifies with the *elachistōn*, which is commonly translated as “the least” (Matthew 25:45). *Elachistōn* generally indicates smallest in size, last in rank, lowest in stature, and most limited in power—a fitting description of children. Children are little. Their bodies and minds are busy with the enormous task of growing up. Children can neither provide for themselves nor navigate the adult world, so they easily feel insecure. When basics of life are lacking, structure is not provided, or unrealistic expectations are imposed, the task of growing strong in mind, body, and spirit is put at severe risk.

While we may find comforting the oft-repeated platitude that children are resilient, the first years of life do last forever. The experiences of childhood are literally imprinted on developing minds and bodies and therefore remain operative throughout the remainder of our lives. If we want children to develop healthy, authentic relationships with Christ, it is critical and nonnegotiable that early experiences be grace filled. Therefore, our interactions with children must be guided by the conviction that children are *entitled* to special consideration and that the ways we treat them *are* the ways we choose to treat Jesus.

When Jesus admonished his followers to let the children come to him (Matthew 19:14), he didn't say, “*Make* the children come to me” or “Watch these children carefully lest they fail to enter the kingdom.” He said, “Do not hinder them” and “The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” The call of Jesus is not to dominate children but to take heed of our own behavior lest we impede their faith.



A Christian family's  
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Grace provides the context in which children are more likely to find their way to a freely chosen relationship with the One who sees them as already a part of the kingdom. And a necessary first step toward that end may very well be for adults to repent.

## Authoritarian Parenting

The common practice of equating children's obedience to adults with obedience to God is tantamount to blasphemy. It controverts a fundamental truth of Christian faith—that parents and children stand *side by side* under the authority of God. Those who approach parenting as a matter of control through punishment impart a foundational image in a child's soul (Gk., *psyche*) of a demanding, punishing God.

Many teach that the Bible prescribes physical punishment of children. It does not. The oft quoted "Spare the rod and spoil the child" does not appear in the Bible, nor does it refer to punishing children. The phrase comes from the seventeenth-century poem "Hudibras," which is a satirical polemic on factions involved in the English Civil War and has nothing to do with children. Many people also quote Proverbs as the authority for corporal punishment, an irresponsible and erroneous use of scripture.

Hebrew has more than nine different words to describe stages of the human life cycle from birth to old age. Proverbs 1:4 has *na'ar*, a Hebrew word that refers to a male who is "shook loose from" the parent; that is, a young adult man. Unfortunately, many translations use "the young" or "youth" here, misrepresenting the book from the start. Of the following Hebrew words for children, only two—*gamul* (a weaned male child) and *elem* (a preadolescent male)—appear at all in Proverbs, and none appears in texts commonly used to support corporal punishment:

- *yeled*: an infant—not in Proverbs
- *yonek*: a suckling—not in Proverbs
- *olel*: beginning solid food—not in Proverbs
- *gamul*: a weaned child—once in Proverbs
- *taph*: young children—not in Proverbs
- *elem*: approaching adolescence—once in Proverbs

The most prominent word for people used in Proverbs is *ish*, which means adult male. All texts that refer to striking or using the rod have *na'ar* (young adult male), *kesilem* (fools), *bahar* (young warrior), or *ben* (generic for son but always preceded by *na'ar* in the text). English versions of these verses very generally read "child," "children," "boy," or

“youth,” poor translation choices that have had terrible consequences for children.

In short, the book of Proverbs is about instruction of young adult males, and therefore the practice of supporting corporal punishment of children through recourse to its texts is completely invalid. The outstanding question of how to interpret texts that refer to striking or the rod in relationship to young men is beyond the scope of this discussion; however, two items of note are in order: Proverbs is poetry, a genre of literature that uses imagery to communicate concepts; and the word translated “rod” (Heb., *beto*) is most commonly used in reference to the work of a shepherd, as in “Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, KJV). It is also often translated as tribe or clan.

The argument of usefulness is also unsound as support for physical punishment. Research has demonstrated that even limited use of corporal punishment is ineffective for lasting behavioral change, while at the same time contributing to negative behavioral outcomes.\* Conversely, the positive impact of banning spanking has been strikingly demonstrated in a study by the Institute for Health and Social Policy at McGill University in Montreal, which looked at 400,000 youths in eighty-eight countries. The thirty coun-

tries with full bans (home and school) on corporal punishment experienced 69 percent lower rates of physical fighting among adolescent males and 42 percent lower for females. Countries with partial bans (school only), demonstrated no change in fighting among males.

Choosing not to use corporal punishment or to engage in authoritarian parenting in general doesn’t mean giving up discipline. On the contrary, it frees us up to use discipline in its true sense of teaching. The best teaching involves guidance, boundaries, and modeling. Parents who establish trust and open communication and model the behavior they expect from children are the best teachers. And Christian parents who embody the love and grace of God are the best disciplers.

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\* Elizabeth Gershoff, “Corporal Punishment by Parents and Associated Child Behaviors and Experiences: A Meta-Analytic and Theoretical Review,” *Psychological Bulletin* 128 (2002).

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## April is “Prevention of Child Abuse Month,”

the perfect time to lead “Gracious Parenting,” #603 in ABHMS’s free, downloadable Workshops for Church Life and Leadership, found at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources.



A close-up photograph of a young child's face, focusing on the right eye. The eye is large and expressive, with a reflection of a green landscape and a blue sky visible in the iris. The child's skin is light brown, and their hair is dark. The background is blurred, showing more of the child's face and some indistinct shapes.

## To a Child

The greatest poem ever known  
Is one all poets have outgrown:  
The poetry, innate, untold,  
Of being only four years old.

Still young enough to be a part  
Of Nature's great impulsive heart,  
Born comrade of bird, beast, and tree  
And unselfconscious as the bee—

And yet with lovely reason skilled  
Each day new paradise to build;  
Elate explorer of each sense,  
Without dismay, without pretense!

In your unstained transparent eyes  
There is no conscience, no surprise:  
Life's queer conundrums you accept,  
Your strange divinity still kept.

Being, that now absorbs you, all  
Harmonious, unit, integral,  
Will shred into perplexing bits—  
Oh, contradictions of the wits!

And Life, that sets all things in rhyme,  
may make you poet, too, in time—  
But there were days, O tender elf,  
When you were Poetry itself!

—Christopher Morley (1890–1957)

# One Child's Story

## A Study on Genesis 21:8-21

### Introduction to the Story

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 thirteen verses that tell of the “other child.” That his story will not be denied, that it insists on being told, is remarkable in itself.

### Commentary on Genesis 21:8-20

The introduction to this vignette makes it clear that the focus is Isaac. In an era of high childhood mortality rates, having a son become a *gamul* or weaned one, was momentous. That transition also signaled a son’s move from dependence on mother’s milk into his father’s circle.

**Vv. 9–10:** Isaac’s mother, Sarah, takes notice of the brothers together and feels threatened. The Hebrew *tsachaq* is often translated as “mocking”; in this verse, however, the word has a variety of uses. In Genesis alone, it is also translated as play and physical affection. When used for the reaction of Abraham (Genesis 17:17) and Sarah (Genesis 18:12) to God’s promise of a son, it is translated as “laugh.” The word sounds like the name “Isaac,” which emphasizes Sarah’s concern that Ishmael, the son of her slave, not be a pretender to the rightful place of her son. When Abraham accepted him as a son, Ishmael became entitled to an inheritance, which would be lost if his mother was freed. While we can’t be certain of the range of Sarah’s motivation (fear, jealousy, self-preservation), we do know that she used what limited power she had to shut out the other child, who had been fathered by her husband with Hagar at her request, who had no choice in the matter.

**Vv. 11-14:** Abraham opts to send the mother and child away even though he is “distressed,” a Hebrew term that refers to an evil act that causes personal pain. God’s response is reassurance and reaffirmation of the promise that this



“lesser child” would also become a great nation; a promise remarkably similar to the one given to Abraham himself (Gen. 17:4)—and a promise of which Hagar is unaware.

**Vv. 15-21:** In ancient patriarchal cultures, women were dependent on men for survival. Hagar was sent out with a bottle of water, some bread, no destination, and no hope. Once the water gave out, she was truly desperate, but in her despair, she found her voice and called out to God. God heard the voice of Hagar, but not only her voice. God also heard the voice of the boy.

We often speak of bringing children to God or God to them, but when we go to hurting children, we will find God already there. We yearn for mountaintop experiences, but we are more likely to experience interaction with the divine among parched throats, empty bellies, and detention cages. In the end, God opened Hagar’s eyes to a solution, and the vignette ends with a description that echoes the one of Isaac’s life: “God was with the boy as he grew up” (v. 20). The word for “grow” here suggests both physical growth and thriving.

### Questions for Reflection or Discussion

**1.** Hagar is without choice. Abraham chooses by default. Sarah chooses between two children. The story reveals a God who values both the “chosen child” and the “other child.”

- In what ways do we choose among children, and on what basis do we make those choices?

- How are we, like Abraham, emotional but passive in our concern for children?
- What loyalties or fears influence us to, like Sarah, make choices that hurt others?
- How might you and your faith community choose actions that better honor God's love for all children?

2. Sarah's voice is one of self-preservation. Abraham, whose voice was most powerful in the culture of his day, remains virtually silent. Hagar raises her voice in despair. Ishmael appears voiceless until we realize that God hears the voice of the child.

- What conflicting voices are you hearing?
- Which voices do you most often heed?
- Whose voices are missing or being silenced in our culture?
- How might you hear and heed the voices of children in your home, your church, our nation, our world?

3. As the patriarch, Abraham has the most power, yet he acts powerless to address what he sees as evil. Sarah's limited power is exercised for self-protection. Hagar hasn't any social power, but by virtue of being an adult has more than the essentially powerless Ishmael.

- What resources and influence do you and your faith community hold within the culture?
- What agendas, fears, or misunderstandings might keep you from using your power for children?
- What situations do you feel powerless to affect?
- How might you have your eyes opened to possible solutions?

4. Ishmael is marginalized by age, social status, and ethnicity.

- Who might not feel welcome in your church because of socioeconomics, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, or immigration status?
- Are some members and regular attendees not fully included in the life of your church? Why?
- In what ways are children marginalized in your family, church, community, or nation simply because they are children?
- How might you redress this marginalization as an act of faithfulness to the Creator who loves all children?

5. Hagar was released with neither plan nor destination to wander about in the wilderness—a resourceless mother with a child, a woman without standing in patriarchal culture, a slave without status in a foreign land.

- Do you ever judge the marginalized for the choices they make?
- Is it possible that some situations are so desperate that people simply do not have good options?
- Where are the wildernesses of our land in which children wander without hope?
- What changes in our society would give all children the chance to grow and thrive?
- What, if any, self-protective instincts or values (financial concerns, personal priorities, long-held political allegiances, fears of “the other”) might hinder you or your church from working for changes that make our nation one in which all children are valued and cared for?

## Prayer

*Child-loving God, the circumstances of children in our nation lead us to despair. If we open our eyes, we are faced with unimaginable hunger, poverty, and abuse, as well as tax-funded mistreatment of children by our own government. Please open our eyes to both the problems and the solutions. Give us courage to go to the wells you show us, fill our water skins, and reach out on behalf of children. In the name of Jesus, your Son who entered this world as a child.*

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— Terry Eagleton

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Intercultural Ministries provides education opportunities and safe spaces for intercultural engagement. For more information, contact Rev. F. Salvador Orellana, Director, Intercultural Ministries ([salvador.orellana@abhms.org](mailto:salvador.orellana@abhms.org)).

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Disaster Response provides financial assistance through One Great Hour of Sharing. Volunteer Mobilization Ministries facilitates individual volunteer missionary appointments, summer service opportunities, group mission experiences, and specialized service projects. Contact Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte ([rothangliani.chhangte@abhms.org](mailto:rothangliani.chhangte@abhms.org)) who

oversees One Great Hour of Sharing, or Rev. Kadia Edwards, National Coordinator, Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response ([kadia.edwards@abhms.org](mailto:kadia.edwards@abhms.org)).

*In Support of Excellence (ISOE)* and the *Your Money, Your Goals* are financial empowerment tools to clergy, leaders, congregations, and communities. Contact Jennifer L. Sanborn ([jennifer.sanborn@abhms.org](mailto:jennifer.sanborn@abhms.org)) for more information.

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# Revised Common Lectionary 2021

## Year B

### January 1: New Year's Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

### January 3

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

### January 6: Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-16  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### January 10: Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

### February 2

Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 84 or Psalm 24:7-10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

### February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### February 17: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 21: First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

### February 28: Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

### March 7: Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

### March 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

### March 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

### March 25: Annunciation of the Lord

Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10  
Hebrews 10:4-10  
Luke 1:26-38

### March 28: Palm or Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;  
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11;  
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

### Holy Week: March 29-April 3

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11;  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11  
Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1  
Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36  
Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70;  
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32  
Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14;  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42  
Holy Saturday: Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations  
3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8;  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

### April 4: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

### April 11: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### April 18: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### April 25: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

### May 2: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### May 13: Ascension Day

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### May 16: Seventh Sunday of Easter

(If Ascension not celebrated here)  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### May 23: Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### May 30: Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### June 6

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)  
and Psalm 138  
Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

### June 13

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 and Psalm 20  
Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34



#### June 20

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20 or  
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16 and Psalm 133  
Job 38:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

#### June 27

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130  
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24 or  
Lamentations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

#### July 4

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48  
Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

#### July 11

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24  
Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

#### July 18

2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37  
Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

#### July 25

2 Samuel 11:1-15 and Psalm 142  
2 Kings 4:42-44 and Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

#### August 1

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12  
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

#### August 8

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130  
1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

#### August 15

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111  
Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

#### August 22

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

#### August 29

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### September 5

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125  
Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

#### September 12

Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19  
Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

#### September 19

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1  
Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or  
Jeremiah 11:18-20  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

#### September 26

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Psalm 124  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

#### October 3

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 and Psalm 26  
Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

#### October 10

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15  
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

#### October 17

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

#### October 24

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)  
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

#### October 31

Ruth 1:1-18 and Psalm 146  
Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and Psalm 119:1-8  
Hebrews 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34

#### November 1: All Saint's Day

(Sometimes observed on first Sunday in November)  
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 24  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

#### November 7

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127  
1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

#### November 14

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

#### November 21: Christ the King (End of Church Year)

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)  
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

#### Year C Begins

#### November 28: First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

#### December 5: Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

#### December 12: Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

#### December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

#### December 24 & 25: Christmas Eve & Day

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)  
OR  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20  
OR  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

#### December 26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

# 2021 Year-At-A-Glance Calendar

## JANUARY 2021

America for Christ promotional window begins.

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 10 Baptism of the Lord
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 17 Christian Unity Sunday
- 18 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- 24 Green Lake Sunday
- 27 Holocaust Remembrance Day (International)

## FEBRUARY 2021

Black History Month

- 1 Anniversary of the founding of the Women's American Baptist Home Mission Society (1877)
- 7 Baptist World Alliance Sunday
- 14 Transfiguration Sunday
- 14 Church Vocations Sunday
- 15 President's Day
- 17 Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins
- 21 1st Sunday of Lent
- 22-28 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week
- 27 Anniversary of the founding of the Baptist General Tract Society (1824)
- 27 American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 28 Single Adult Awareness Sunday
- 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

## MARCH 2021

America for Christ Offering Month and Women's History Month

- 5 World Day of Prayer
- 7 America for Christ Sunday
- 7 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 8 International Women's Day
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 14 American Baptist Seminary Sunday
- 14 4th Sunday in Lent
- 21 Women in Ministry Sunday
- 21 5th Sunday in Lent
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- 28 Palm or Passion Sunday

## APRIL 2021

Prevention of Child Abuse Month and Autism Awareness Month; One Great Hour of Sharing promotional window begins.

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 3 Holy Saturday
- 4 Easter
- 7 World Health Day
- 8 Holocaust Remembrance Day (U.S.)
- 18 American Baptist Volunteer Sunday
- 18-24 National Volunteer Appreciation Week

- 22 Earth Day
- 25 American Baptist Camps and Conferences Sunday
- 27 Anniversary of establishment of American Baptist Home Mission Society (1832)

## MAY 2021

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and Older U.S. Americans Month

- 2 Peace Sunday
- 3-10 Family Week
- 6 National Day of Prayer
- 7 May Fellowship Day
- 9 Mother's Day
- 9 Rural Life Sunday
- 13 Ascension Sunday
- 15 Armed Forces Day
- 16 Baptist Heritage Day
- 23 Pentecost
- 30 Trinity Sunday
- 31 Memorial Day

## JUNE 2021

One Great Hour of Sharing Month, Torture Awareness Month, and Immigration Heritage Month

- 6 One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday
- 6 Religious Liberty Sunday
- 6 International Environmental Sabbath
- 13 Children's Day
- 13 Baptist Youth Day of Prayer
- 14 Flag Day
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 20 Father's Day
- 27 American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries Sunday

## JULY 2021

- 4 Independence Day
- 13 Anniversary of the arrival of Adoniram and Ann Hasseltine Judson in Burma
- 25 Parent's Day

## AUGUST 2021

World Mission Offering promotion begins.

- 1 Friendship Day
- 6 Transfiguration

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)

- 6 Labor Day
- 19 American Baptist Women's Sunday
- 19 National Back to Church Sunday
- 21 International Day of Prayer for Peace
- 24 Native American / First Nations Day
- 26 Christian Education Sunday

## OCTOBER 2021

Pastor Appreciation Month; World Mission Offering Month; National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- 3 World Mission Offering Sunday
- 3 World Communion Sunday
- 10 American Baptist Laity Sunday
- 11 Columbus Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 16-18 National Observance of Children's Sabbath
- 24 United Nations Day
- 24 Campus Ministry Sunday
- 24-30 National Pastoral Care Week
- 31 Reformation Sunday
- 31 Reformation Day

## NOVEMBER 2021

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 1 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
- 2 Election Day
- 5 World Community Day
- 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 7 American Baptist College Sunday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 14 Stewardship Sunday
- 14 Anniversary of the founding of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society (1877)
- 21 Bible Sunday
- 21 Asian American Baptist Sunday
- 21 Christ the King Sunday—The Church Year Ends
- 25 Thanksgiving
- 28 1st Sunday in Advent—The Church Year Begins

## DECEMBER 2021

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Month

- 5 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Sunday
- 5 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 12 3rd Sunday in Advent
- 19 4th Sunday in Advent
- 24 Christmas Eve (sundown)—Jan. 6 Christmastide
- 25 Christmas
- 26-1 Kwanzaa
- 26 Student Recognition Sunday
- 31 New Year's Eve (Watch Night)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Christian Unity Sunday	18 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Dr. Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 Green Lake Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## A Prayer for Children

*We pray that all children will be given daily opportunities to savor the joys, freedoms, and creativity of childhood. Please keep them free from adult-sized worries regarding finances, family discord, hunger, homelessness, abuse, and other concerns far too heavy for their gentle shoulders. And for children who struggle in circumstances that demand that they carry such burdens; give adults the Christ-centered courage to love and support them.*

—Rev. Marilyn Turner-Triplett, DMin,  
Healing and Transforming Ministries, ABHMS

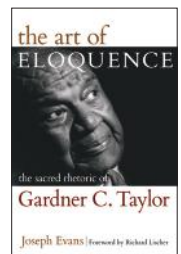
## Resources

- ABHMS's Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops) include:
  - 702 Teaching with Respect for Diverse Learning Styles
  - 702E Enseñar Respetando los Diversos Estilos de Aprendizaje
  - 703 Teaching Approaches for Discipleship Formation
- For more information on the America for Christ offering, visit <https://abhms.org> or contact Vincent Dent, Chief Development Officer ([vincent.dent@abhms.org](mailto:vincent.dent@abhms.org)).
- Materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are available at [www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/week-of-prayer).

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *The Art of Eloquence: The Sacred Rhetoric of Gardner C. Taylor* by Joseph Evans
- *The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer* by Alice Burnette Greene
- *#InThisTogether: Ministry in Times of Crisis* by Curtis Ramsey-Lucas
- Orders for the Spring 2021 quarter of Judson Bible Journeys curriculum for adults, "Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant," are due by January 30. Student book (regular size): \$5.99; student book (large print): \$6.99; leader's guide (print): \$8.99; leader's guide (PDF or EPUB): \$6.99; worship leaflets: \$5.00.



## Notes

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Anniversary of the founding of the Women's American Baptist Home Mission Society	2	3	4	5	6
7 Baptist World Alliance Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Church Vocations Sunday Transfiguration Sunday	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins	18	19	20
21 1st Sunday in Lent	22	23	24	25	26	27 Anniv. of the founding of the Baptist General Tract Society American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
28 2nd Sunday in Lent						

## A Prayer for Children

*Lord God, who calls all of us your created children, we pray for our children. Guard their bodies, minds, and spirits from hurt and harm. Let words of life and your love be spoken to them. Help them to learn their potential and then to live it. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, our sibling. Amen.*

—Rev. Jeffrey A. Johnson, PhD, National Coordinator, Faith Initiation (Evangelism) and Discipleship, ABHMS

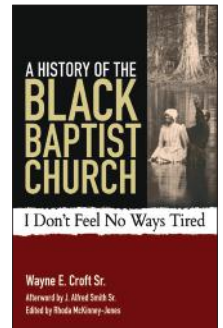
## Resources

- *Spiritual Disciplines Made Easy*, Workshops for Church Life and Leadership C902, is the perfect resource for Lent (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops).
- *Race and Poverty: A Five-Session Study Guide* can be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Bible Studies.
- A downloadable bulletin insert for Black History Month is available at [ABHSarchives.org/for-churches/](https://ABHSarchives.org/for-churches/).
- For information on the American Baptist Men's prayer breakfast, visit [ABMen.org](https://ABMen.org).

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *A History of the Black Baptist Church: I Don't Feel No Ways Tired* by Wayne E. Croft Sr.
- *The Formation of a People: Faith Formation in the African American Church* by Carmichael D. Crutchfield
- *Journey with Jesus through Lent* by Glenn E. Porter Sr.



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FEB

## March 2021

*America for Christ Offering Month and Women's History Month*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 America for Christ Sunday 3rd Sunday in Lent	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins American Baptist Seminary Sunday 4th Sunday in Lent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Women in Ministry Sunday 5th Sunday in Lent	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm or Passion Sunday	29	30	31			

## A Prayer for Children

*For cries during prayer time,  
for giggles during the anthem,  
for crayons smashed into pew cushions,  
for loud questions at inopportune times,  
and off-key singing during the sermon,  
we give thanks.*

*Let us never take for granted  
these signs of life in our church  
and the privilege of being entrusted  
to be their church home.*

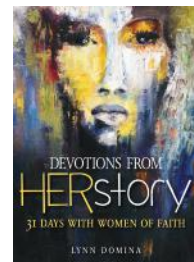


—Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi, pastor,  
Royersford Baptist Church, Royersford, PA

From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Devotions from HERstory: 31 Days with Women of Faith* by Lynn Domina
- *Meant for Good: Fundamentals of Womanist Leadership* by Debora Jackson



## Notes

## Resources

- Download the following resources at [www.abhms.org/Mission/Discipleship](http://www.abhms.org/Mission/Discipleship)
  - [Tenebrae Service for Children](#)
  - [Celebrating Holy Week with Young Children](#)
  - [Palm Sunday Donkey for Children](#)
- Download resources for Women's History Month at [ABHSarchives.org/for-churches/](http://ABHSarchives.org/for-churches/)

MAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 American Baptist Volunteer Sunday	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 American Baptist Camps and Conferences Sunday	26	27 Anniversary of establishment of American Baptist Home Mission Society	28	29	30	

## A Prayer for Children

*El Roi, thank you for being the God who sees the most vulnerable among us. We pray for at-risk children cast aside by society. Protect them from abuse and exploitation. Lord, open our eyes to see the children in this world whom we have made invisible. Protect their defenseless hearts and keep them safe. Deliver them from suffering and provide them with hope for their future. Amen.*

—Rev. Kadia Edwards, National Coordinator, Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministries, ABHMS

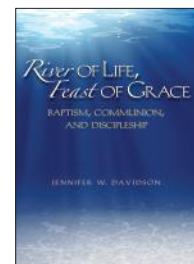
## Resources

- ABHMS's Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops) include:
  - 301 Child abuse Prevention in Churches (also in Karen)
  - 301E Prevención del Abuso de Niños y Niñas en las Iglesias
  - 603 Gracious Parenting
  - 920C A Matter of Stewardship: Eco-justice in Biblical Perspective
- The child-friendly faith project is dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect enabled by religious belief, doctrine, and practice. To learn more, visit [childfriendlyfaith.org](http://childfriendlyfaith.org).
- Resources on ABHMS history are found at <https://abhms.org> > About Us > Where We Come From.

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *River of Life, Feast of Grace: Baptism, Communion, and Discipleship* by Jennifer W. Davidson
- *To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch* by Dennis L. Johnson
- *Taking Apart Bootstrap Theology: Gospel of Generosity & Justice* by Terrell Carter
- Orders for the Summer 2021 quarter of *Judson Bible Journeys* curriculum for adults, "Confident Hope," are due by April 30, 2020. Student book (regular size): \$5.99; student book (large print): \$6.99; leader's guide (print): \$8.99; leader's guide (PDF or EPUB): \$6.99.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Peace Sunday	3	4	5	6 National Day of Prayer	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 Ascension Day	14	15
16 Baptist Heritage Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Pentecost	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday	31 Memorial Day					

## A Prayer for Children

*Dear God, you who protect us in your bosom and nourish us with your love, I beg you to protect our children from injustices, abandonment by the government, and earthquakes that destroy the foundations of their lives. Give them the peace that comes from the hope that a new world is possible, that they can find refuge in you and a safe place to exist.*

—Abigail Medina Betancourt,  
Puerto Rico Volunteer Coordinator, ABHMS

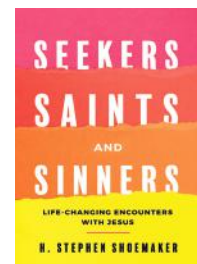
## Resources

- ABHMS's Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops) include:
  - 107 American Baptist Heritage
  - 107E La Herencia de los Bautistas Americanos
  - 601E Cultivando la Fe en las Familias
- Bulletin inserts and articles related to Disability Ministries, including "Grounded in Faith: Resources on Mental Health and Gun Violence," can be found at <https://abhms.org> > Ministries > Healing Communities > Disability Ministries.
- Peace Sunday resources are available from The Baptist Peace Fellowship (<https://www.bpfna.org/>).

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Seekers, Saints & Sinners: Life-Changing Encounters with Jesus* by H. Stephen Shoemaker
- *The New Manual of Worship* by Nancy E. Hall
- *Honoring the Generations: Learning with Asian North American Congregations*, edited by M. Sydney Park, Soong-Chan Rah, and Al Tizon
- *Making SPACE at the Well: Mental Health and the Church* by Jessica Young Brown



## Notes

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MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday Religious Liberty Sunday International Environmental Sabbath	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Children's Day Baptist Youth Day of Prayer	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 World Refugee Day Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries Sunday	28	29	30			

## Prayer for Children

Creator of all,

Remind us that we are all well when we:

Protect the vulnerable, the meek, the voiceless, and the fragile;

Treat all children with kindness, love, dignity, and respect;

Put children first in education;

Shelter them and guide them along the path of faith; and

Work toward the welfare of all children irrespective of background, race, ethnicity, or country of origin.

—Rev. Florence Li, National Coordinator,  
Asian Ministries, ABHMS

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Justice for Rizpah's Children: Radical Responses to Childhood Poverty* by Marilyn Turner-Triplett
- *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families* by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier
- *With Liberty and Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America* by Susan K. Williams Smith



## Resources

- ABHMS's Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops) include:
  - 302 Basics of Teaching and Relating with Children (also in Karen)
  - 303 Teaching the Bible to Children (also in Karen)
  - 304 Young Children and Faith Formation
  - 104 Growing Persons
  - 104E Creciendo como Personas
- Religious Liberty Sunday information can be found at [www.BJOnline.org](http://www.BJOnline.org).

## Notes

# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Anniversary of the arrival of Adoniram and Ann Hasseltine Judson in Burma	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Parent's Day	27	28	29	30	31

## A Prayer for Children

*Because they are little, make us gentle,  
Because they are learning, keep us calm,  
Because they are poetry, help us to hear them,  
Because they are precious, teach us to treasure them,  
Because they are yours, give us humility  
May we love them as you have loved us, with vulnerability, grace,  
patience, forgiveness, kindness, and trust.*

—Rev. Cassandra Carkuff Williams, EdD, National  
Director, Discipleship Ministries, ABHMS

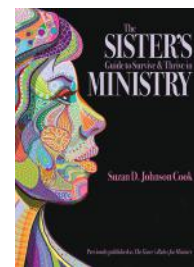
## Resources

- *Gracious Parenting*, Workshops for Church Life and Leadership #603 can be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> Publications & Resources > Workshops.
- Nineteen states allow corporal punishment in schools with permitted acts that are considered criminal when applied to adults in those very same states. The use of in-school corporal punishment is also applied disproportionately with poor children, boys, students of color, and students with disabilities experiencing higher rates of physical punishment.  
The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry supports legislation outlawing the use of corporal punishment. Visit [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org) for more information.

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *The Sister's Guide to Survive & Thrive in Ministry* by Suzan D. Johnson Cook
- *The Extraordinary Story of Ann Hasseltine Judson: A Life beyond Boundaries* by Rosalie Hall Hunt
- *The Changing Church: Finding Your Way to God's New Thing* by Daniel Cash and William H. Griffith
- Orders for the Fall 2021 quarter of *Judson Bible Journeys* curriculum for adults, "Celebrating God," are due by July 30. Student book (regular size): \$5.99; student book (large print): \$6.99; leader's guide (print): \$8.99; leader's guide (PDF or EPUB): \$6.99.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Friendship Day	3	4	5	6 Transfiguration	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## A Prayer for Children

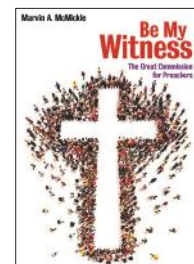
*We pray for the children of undocumented workers called “Dreamers.” Help us to find common ground with those of different places and different customs. Guide our words so we speak with the spirit of Christ and hospitality. Help us to remember our own times of transition and uncertainty. We ask all this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

—Rev. Eddie Cruz, DMin, National Coordinator,  
Congregational Mission and Discipleship

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Be My Witness: The Great Commission for Preachers* by Marvin A. McMickle
- *Table Life: An Invitation to Everyday Discipleship* by Greg Mamula



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## Resources

- ABHMS’s Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (<https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources > Workshops) include:
  - 201 Planning Discipleship Formation/Christian Education (also in Karen)
  - 404C Encounter: Come as You Are (also in Karen)—a study for youth
  - 405C MTW: Equipped for Life!—a study for youth
  - 502 Bible Study Methods for Growing Disciples (also in Karen)
  - 503 Maximizing Discussion in Adult Small Groups
  - 901C Reading the Bible with Integrity (also in Karen)
  - 903C Becoming a Disciple-Making Community

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 American Bapt. Women's Sunday National Back to Church Sunday	20	21 International Day of Prayer for Peace	22	23	24 Native American/ First Nations Day	25
26 Christian Education Sunday	27	28	29	30		

## A Prayer for Children

*Lord God, we are thankful for your precious gift of children! Help us to nurture their faith in you through the examples we set in our words and actions. Guide our thinking and our paths, that we might live as mentors who reflect your care for them. Give us strength to boldly proclaim your love to the children in our community.*

—Rev. Christine Roush, DMin, National Coordinator,  
Discipleship and Faith Formation, ABHMS

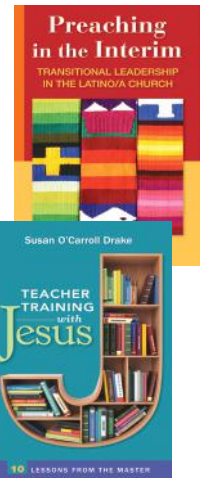
## Resources

- International Day of Prayer for Peace information can be found at <https://internationaldayofpeace.org>.
- A litany for Christian Education Sunday is found on pages 39–40.
- The struggles of native people across our nation remain great—the result of unresolved issues between first nations and the United States, broken promises, and systems that foster dependency and oppression. Natives are a diverse people group of more than five hundred tribes with cultural values that can enrich our broader society. For information on Native Ministries, contact Rev. Ben Sullivan, Native American Ministries Coordinator ([ben.sullivan@abhms.org](mailto:ben.sullivan@abhms.org); 405-833-0141).
- American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABW), a community of American Baptist women and girls serving in Christ's name. For information and resources, visit <https://abwministries.org>.

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Preaching in the Interim: Transitional Leadership in the Latino/a Church* by Efrain Agosto
- *Teacher Training with Jesus: 10 Lessons from the Master* by Susan O'Carroll Drake
- *Let the Oppressed Go Free: Exploring Theologies of Liberation* by Marvin A. McMickle



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# October 2021

Pastor Appreciation Month; World Mission Offering Month; National Disability Employment, Domestic Violence Awareness, and Mental Health Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 World Communion Sunday World Mission Offering Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 American Baptist Laity Sunday	11	12	13	14	15	16 World Food Day 16-18 National Observance of Children's Sabbath
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Campus Ministry Sun. 24-30 Nat'l. Pastoral Care Week	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Reformation Sunday						

## A Prayer for Children

*God of ups and downs,  
of good days and bad days,  
of laughter and tears,  
hear our prayer.*



*Protect and heal our children,  
especially those struggling with mental and emotional health.  
Comfort the anxious heart.  
Cast out the harmful voices.  
Calm the hand that would inflict self-harm.  
Speak tenderly, even if a back is turned to you.*

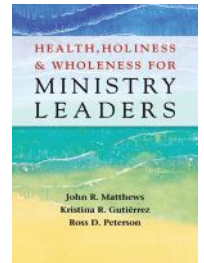
*We pray in the powerful name of Jesus Christ,  
that all children will be well.  
Amen.*

—Rev. Lauren Ng,  
Director of Leadership Empowerment, ABHMS

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Health, Holiness, and Wholeness for Ministry Leaders* by John R. Matthews with Kristina R. Gutiérrez and Ross D. Peterson
- *Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World* by Richard P. Olson
- *MBA Quick Book for Ministers* by Vincent Wyatt Howell and Vincent Wyatt Howell Jr.
- *Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers*, 20th Anniversary Edition, by Kirk Byron Jones
- Orders for the Winter 2021 quarter of *Judson Bible Journeys* curriculum for adults, "Justice, Law, History," are due by October 30, 2020, from Judson Press. Student book (regular size): \$5.99; student book (large print): \$6.99; leader's guide (print): \$8.99; leader's guide (PDF or EPUB): \$6.99.



## Resources

- Children's Sabbath materials are available at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).
- World Food Day information can be found at [www.fao.org/world-food-day](http://www.fao.org/world-food-day).

## Notes



# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints' Day Baptist Women's Day of Prayer	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends American Baptist College Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Anniv. of the founding of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society(1877) Stewardship Sunday	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Bible Sunday Christ the King Sunday— The Church Year Ends Asian American Baptist Sunday	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 1st Sunday in Advent—The Church Year Begins	29	30				

## A Prayer for Children

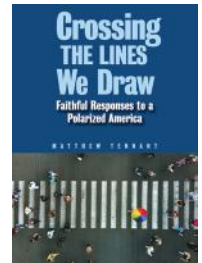
*God, make my prayers for my children to be for all children.  
When I pray for my son's more easeful carrying of hidden  
burdens, help me to see all whose struggles are not visible. When  
I pray for my daughter to know herself as enough, exactly as  
she is, may my prayer echo out toward beloved children of  
God everywhere. Amen.*

—Jennifer L. Sanborn, Program Director,  
In Support of Excellence, ABHMS

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America* by Matthew Tennant
- *Beyond Stewardship: A Church Guide to Generous Giving* by John Zehring and Kate Jagger
- *Envisioning the Reign of God: Preaching for Tomorrow* by Debra J. Mumford



## Resources

- An Advent Wreath Dedication service and two sets of weekly Advent Readings for personal or corporate use can be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources.
- Advent and Christmas Activity Sheets for Children can be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources.
- *A Matter of Stewardship: Ecojustice in Biblical Perspective* is available in print by contacting Leda Carter (888-792-2467; [leda.carter@abhms.org](mailto:leda.carter@abhms.org)).

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NOV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday in Advent Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Sun.	6	7	8	9	10 Human Rights Day	11
12 3rd Sunday in Advent	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday in Advent	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas
26 26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa Student Recognition Sunday	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve (Watch Night)	

## A Prayer for Children

*Gracious God, we pray that every child receives the care and provision needed to live into their wildest dreams! Help us create space where children are free to lean into joy, creativity, and exploration. Help us to nourish their imagination and questions in the ways that we needed as children, so that their journey is filled with abundance and wellness.*

—Rev. Brittany Graves, Associate Coordinator,  
Public Witness and Advocacy, ABHMS

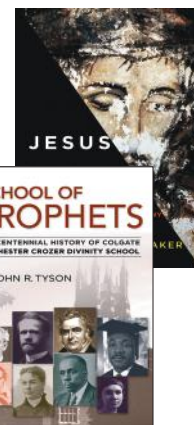
## Resources

- America for Christ promotion begins in January. Watch for your offering packet, or for more information visit <https://abhms.org> or contact Vincent Dent, Chief Development Officer ([vincent.dent@abhms.org](mailto:vincent.dent@abhms.org)).
- Advent and Christmas Activity Sheets for Children can be downloaded at <https://abhms.org> > Publications & Resources.
  - The prison system is the fastest-growing industry in the United States. *Family Freedom Kit* and *Prisoner Reentry and Aftercare Ministry Toolkit* are available at <https://abhms.org> > Ministries > Healing Communities > Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministries.

## From Judson Press

([www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) or 800-458-3766):

- *Jesus Stories: Traveling toward Testimony* by H. Stephen Shoemaker
- *School of Prophets: A Bicentennial History of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School* by John R. Tyson
- *Transformed by Pastoral Transition: A Guide for Congregations* by Marcia Bailey



## Notes

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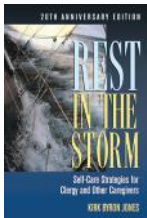
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## New Resources



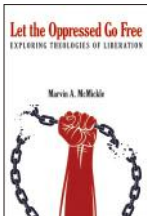
**AVAILABLE JANUARY 2021**

### **Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers, 20th Anniversary Edition**

*Kirk Byron Jones*

A best-seller among seminarians and seasoned leaders alike, this 20th anniversary edition offers updated and expanded content for readers familiar with the original as well as those new to the work. This expanded edition features a new author introduction and two new chapters on “Cultivating Meaningful Friendships” and “Unleashing Your Dynamic Creativity.”

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1818-4 / ePub ISBN: 978-0-8170-8219-2



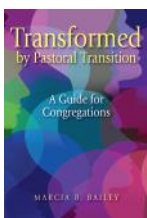
**AVAILABLE JANUARY 2021**

### **Let the Oppressed Go Free: Exploring Theologies of Liberation**

*Marvin A. McMickle*

From pastor, scholar, and best-selling author, Marvin McMickle, comes this new volume that considers the evolution of liberation theologies in their historic and cultural contexts. Beginning with the author’s own formative experiences with the Black theology of James Cone, it also explores the socioeconomic implications of Latin American liberation theologies, the theologies of feminist scholars, womanist theologians, and women in ministry. More than a chronological history or intellectual analysis, this book breathes with lived faith and practical theology, acknowledging the contexts out of which theologies of liberation emerge and the transforming impact they have on the social and political lives of Christians today.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1819-1 / ePub ISBN: 978-0-8170-8220-8



**AVAILABLE MARCH 2021**

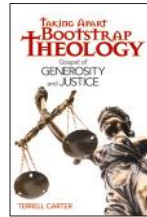
### **Transformed by Pastoral Transition: A Guide for Congregations**

*Marcia B. Bailey*

Designed as a practical and deeply spiritual guide for congregations facing pastoral transition, this book from experienced transitional pastor and consultant on interim ministry, Rev. Dr. Marcia Bailey, uses the framework of the Christian worship service to help church leaders usher their faith community through a process of honoring the

past, healing the present, and discerning the future. Includes worship resources for each stage in the transitional season, from bidding farewell and processing grief related to the outgoing minister, to celebrating the gifts of community and anticipating the next stage in the congregation’s life together.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1820-7 / ePub ISBN: 978-0-8170-8221-5



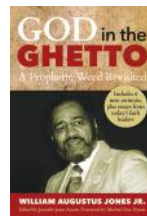
**AVAILABLE APRIL 2021**

### **Taking Apart Bootstrap Theology: Gospel of Generosity and Justice**

*Terrell Carter*

Combining scholarly critique with practical wisdom, professor and pastor Terrell Carter exposes the racist and classist assumptions entangled in the rugged individualism of what he calls “bootstrap theology.” Dismantling both the impossible idiom of “pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps” and the social theory of Marx’s Protestant Work Ethic, Carter challenges the academy and church to advance a more faithful gospel, one that extends a spirit of generosity and a call to social justice for all God’s people, especially those who are the most vulnerable.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1821-4 / ePub ISBN: 978-0-8170-8222-2



**AVAILABLE MAY 2021**

### **God in the Ghetto: A Prophetic Word Revisited**

*William Augustus Jones Sr.;*

*edited by Jennifer Jones Austin*

*Foreword by Timothy Stewart*

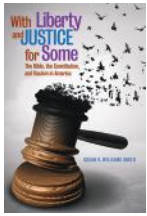
A reissue of the classic book by the late, great William “Bill” Augustus Jones, with updates by the author’s younger daughter, this expanded version includes several never-before-published sermons from the preaching giant. The original volume featured essays on urban ministry and sermons on social justice. Additionally, features new essays reflecting on the legacy and influence of Dr. Jones and his work, from notable leaders including James Forbes, Frederick Haynes, Otis Moss III, J. Alfred Smith Sr., Al Sharpton, Jacqueline Thompson, and more!

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1822-1 / ePub ISBN: 978-0-8170-8223-9

*New Resources cont. p. 28*



## New Resources *(cont.)*



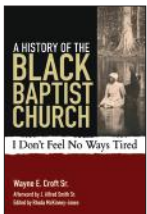
### **With Liberty & Justice for Some: The Bible, the Constitution, and Racism in America**

*Susan K. Williams Smith*

Examines how our foundational documents: the Bible and the Constitution have failed

people of color and asks the question, What will it take to reclaim the transforming and affirming power of God and government to secure liberty and justice for all?

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1813-9

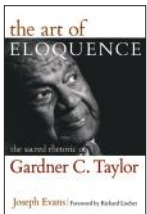


### **A History of the Black Baptist Church: I Don't Feel No Ways Tired**

*Wayne E. Croft Sr.*

Highlights key leaders, theological concepts, historic events, and social concerns that influenced the growth of what we know today as the diverse

Black Baptist family of churches. ISBN: 978-0-8170-1817-7

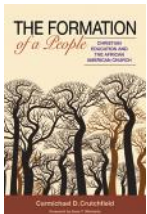


### **The Art of Eloquence: The Sacred Rhetoric of Gardner C. Taylor**

*Joseph Evans; Foreword by Richard Lischer*

Analyzes the art of Gardner C. Taylor's preaching according to the five classical canons of rhetoric, celebrating in particular his excellence in narrative eloquence, which was the heart of his persuasive proclamation.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1814-6

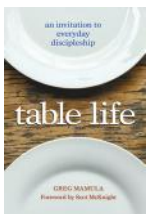


### **The Formation of a People: Christian Education and the African American Church**

*Carmichael D. Crutchfield;*

*Foreword by Anne T. Streaty Wimberly*

Expands our understanding of education to encompass the larger life and ministry of the church, from practices of testimony, worship, and preaching to more traditional classroom contexts of Sunday church school and midweek Bible study. ISBN: 978-0-8170-1816-0

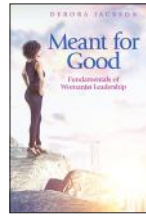


### **Table Life: An Invitation to Everyday Discipleship**

*Greg Mamula; Foreword by Scot McKnight*

Presents a uniquely holistic approach to table fellowship as a spiritual discipline.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1815-3



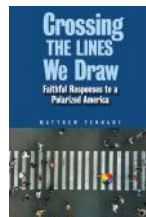
### **Meant for Good: Fundamentals of Womanist Leadership**

*Debora Jackson;*

*Foreword by Cheryl Townsend Gilkes*

Uses the biblical story of Joseph's exile and rise to power in Egypt and the stories of Black women's experiences to highlight leadership fundamentals that may be redeemed for the good of ourselves and our organizations.

ISBN: 978-0-8170-1810-8

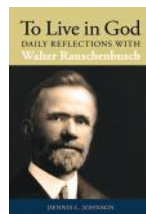


### **Crossing the Lines We Draw: Faithful Responses to a Polarized America**

*Matthew Tennant; Foreword by Deidra Riggs*

Offers scriptural insights for developing strategies that will equip people of faith to cross the lines in meaningful dialog within their congregations and in the communities where they live, work, and minister to others.

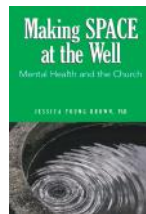
ISBN: 978-0-8170-1812-2



### **To Live in God: Daily Reflections with Walter Rauschenbusch**

*Dennis L. Johnson*

A volume of 180 daily reflections to encourage and exhort readers in spiritual growth and social action. ISBN: 978-0-8170-1808-5

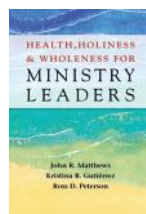


### **Making SPACE at the Well: Mental Health and the Church**

*Jessica Young Brown, PhD;*

*Foreword by Micah L. McCreary*

Using the biblical motif of going to the village well for the waters that sustain life and exploring the communal significance of that well, this book calls on the Black Church to rally its historic resilience and creativity to acknowledge and engage those in its pews who are struggling with mental health concerns. ISBN: 978-0-8170-1811-5



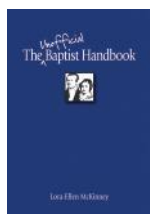
### **Health, Holiness and Wholeness for Ministry Leaders**

*John R. Matthews with Kristina R. Gutiérrez and*

*Ross D. Peterson; Foreword by Stephen Ott*

Offers practical wisdom for developing healthy patterns of behavior in all areas of personal and vocational life. ISBN: 978-0-8170-1809-2

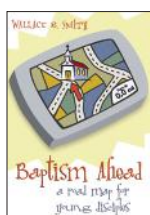
# Baptist Membership Resources



## The Unofficial Baptist Handbook

Lora-Ellen McKinney

With a sense of humor and a deep respect for the diverse expressions of Baptist faith and life, *The Unofficial Baptist Handbook* explores matters related to Scripture, to church life, and to Baptist identity. Author Lora-Ellen McKinney writes as one who has grown up in the Baptist church and loves it, with all of its quirks and charms. Perfect for those who are new to the Baptist tradition—and educational and entertaining for those who aren't so new but still have much to remember and learn. \$14.99



## Baptism Ahead: A Roadmap for Young Disciples

Wallace R. Smith

Baptismal preparation and a basic orientation to Christian discipleship and church membership for children ages 8–12. \$15.00;

Downloadable Leader's Guide e-book available online at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com). \$7.00.



## The New Life: Six Studies for New Baptists, 3rd rev. ed.

Allan R. Knight and Gordon H. Schroeder;  
Foreword by Joe Kutter

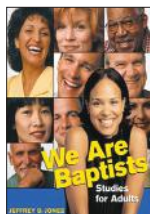
A manual for those who are just beginning the Christian walk, *The New Life* describes basic beliefs of our faith and the distinctive features of the Baptist family. \$7.99; 10-copy set—\$60.00



## Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith

Everett C. Goodwin

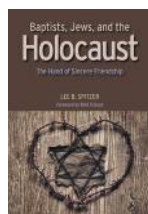
Provides a basic orientation to the historical and theological origins of the Baptist faith. Book, \$13.00; Study Guide, \$7.00



## We Are Baptists

Jeffrey D. Jones and Debra L. Sutton

Each volume offers 14 flexible, Scripture-based sessions addressing a single theme related to Baptist identity and beliefs. \$10.00 each; separate books for Older Elementary Children and Younger Elementary Children. PDFs available for the adults and the youth.

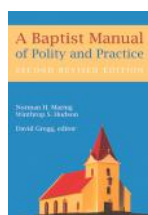


## Baptists, Jews, and the Holocaust: The Hand of Sincere Friendship

Lee B. Spitzer

A thorough narrative history that explores the previously unknown work of Baptists in the United States during the Second World War.

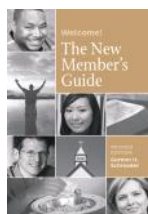
Rich with primary source material and covering the history of Northern (American) Baptists, Southern Baptists, and African American Baptists alike, this groundbreaking volume is a must-read for church historians, Holocaust scholars, Baptist history buffs, and anyone interested in interfaith relations. \$38.99



## A Baptist Manual of Polity & Practice, 2nd rev. ed.

Norman H. Maring and Winthrop S. Hudson;  
edited by David Gregg

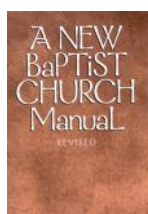
This classic reflects on profound shifts in Baptist polity since 1991 and new challenges, especially that of an increasingly fragmentary and secularistic culture. \$32.99



## The New Member's Guide, rev. ed.

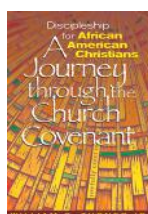
Gordon H. Schroeder

This booklet for new members offers a practical guide to church practices, Bible reading, and prayer, as well as an outline of basic Baptist beliefs, a church membership card, and more. \$5.99



## A New Baptist Church Manual, rev. ed.

This classic manual explains some distinguishing characteristics of Baptists and sets forth the principles and practices of the Baptist denomination. The book includes: sample church covenant, ordinances of baptism and communion, Baptist church government, a brief history of the Baptists, and more. \$6.00

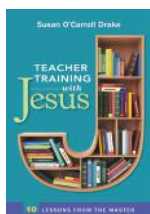


## Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey through the Church Covenant

William C. Turner, Jr.

An ideal resource for new church members or others who want to better understand their faith. \$15.00

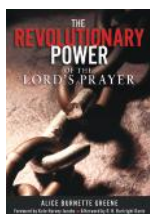
# Christian Education Teaching & Learning



## Teacher Training with Jesus: 10 Lessons from the Master

*Susan O'Carroll Drake*

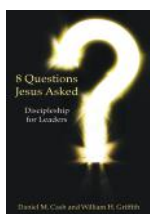
What habits, attitudes, or techniques can you learn from the world's Master Teacher? This book highlights 10 short lessons based on Jesus' model of teaching. Each lesson includes a Bible study, inspirational vignette, and practical suggestions to help you become more effective in teaching. Ideal for Christian educators, Sunday school teachers, and Bible study leaders. \$14.99



## The Revolutionary Power of the Lord's Prayer

*Alice Burnette Greene*

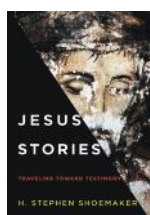
Offers today's Christian disciples new understanding of the potency and power this significant prayer delivers and the transformative effect it can have for sharing God's love in the world. \$15.99



## 8 Questions Jesus Asked: Discipleship for Leaders

*Dan M. Cash and William H. Griffith*

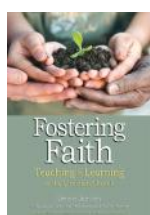
Focusing on eight powerful questions Jesus asked in the Gospels, explore each biblical situation with depth and analysis, and experience practical insights that you can use to improve leadership skills and engage the constant change you face in the world around you. Read independently for devotion or in a small-group study. \$13.99



## Jesus Stories: Traveling toward Testimony

*H. Stephen Shoemaker*

*Jesus Stories* brings the critical research of "historical Jesus" scholars, the four Gospels, and the Spirit of Jesus alive and present with us together to usher you on a journey that moves from history into testimony. Get to know the "real" Jesus at work in your life and faith. Join the quest for the Jesus who is searching for us. Walk with Jesus toward God, with God, into God. \$17.99



## Fostering Faith: Teaching and Learning in the Christian Church

*Denise Janssen with Diane Janssen Hemmen and Sallie Verner*

*Fostering Faith* proposes a shift from education as "schooling" to a holistic model of education

as transformation, which equips and empowers Christian disciples for ministry. Valuable for clergy, lay leaders, and education ministry members, this resource seeks to strengthen the vital role teachers play in the church and in the world as learners and disciples themselves. \$14.99



## Millennials in Ministry

*Jolene Cassellius Erlacher*

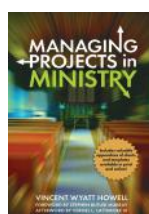
Based on a qualitative study of young adults (ages 18–35) from diverse denominations and countries serving in various ministry positions, *Millennials in Ministry* unveils the heart and vision of young leaders for the Christian church today. Highlighting the generational traits, values, and needs of millennials in ministry, this book offers helpful insights for churches and organizations working with this new generation of leaders. \$16.99



## Reclaimed: Faith in an Emerging Generation

*Denise Janssen*

Pastor and professor Denise Janssen offers insights into why many young adults leave the church of their childhood—and why some of them eventually return. Based on in-depth interviews with young adults who, as teenagers, were highly active in church-based youth ministries and camps, this book traces their return to active congregational life as emerging and young adults. \$15.99



## Managing Projects in Ministry

*Vincent Wyatt Howell*

Planning, development, and execution of ministry projects, from small annual events to large transition plans often cause church leaders anxiety and stress. *Managing Projects in Ministry* provides the fundamentals of project management, grounded with a biblical foundation, to foster effective leadership, maximize the talents of the congregation, increase efficiency, and enhance the chances of success. \$15.99



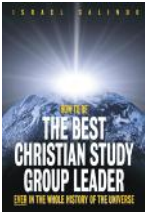
## Signs of Love: A Guide for Deaf Ministry

*Lori Buck*

In this unique resource, author Lori Buck offers a thorough introduction to deaf culture and practical guidelines for developing a deaf ministry that goes beyond learning American Sign Language and interpreting Sunday morning worship. \$17.99



# Christian Education Teaching & Learning *(cont.)*



## How to Be the Best Christian Study Group Leader Ever in the Whole History of the Universe

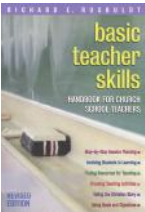
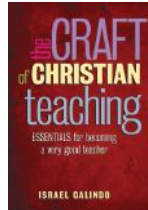
Israel Galindo

\$16.00

## The Craft of Christian Teaching: Essentials for Becoming a Very Good Teacher

Israel Galindo

\$16.00



## Basic Teacher Skills: A Handbook for Church School Teachers, rev. ed.

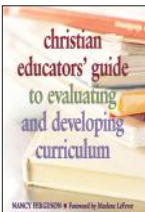
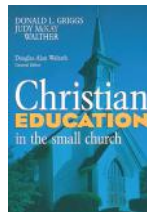
Richard E. Rusbuldt

\$12.00

## Christian Education in the Small Church

Donald L. Griggs and Judy McKay Walther

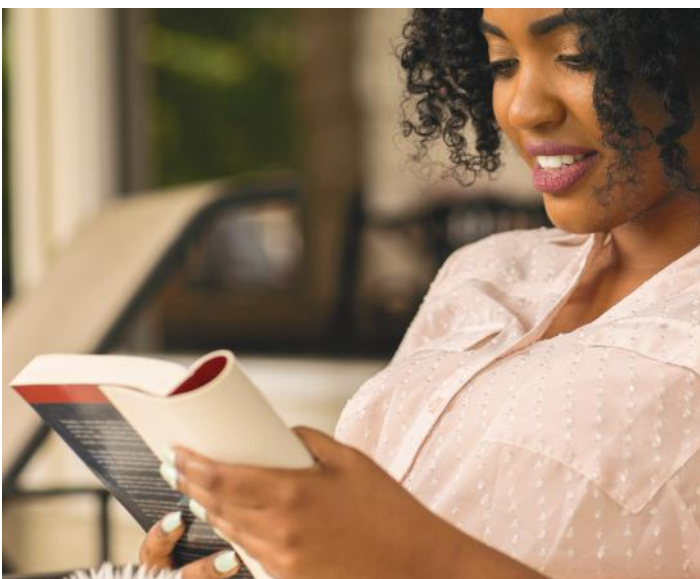
\$13.00



## Christian Educators' Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum

Nancy Ferguson

\$17.00



## Church Activities & Programming from Rachel Gilmore

### Church Programs & Celebrations for All Generations

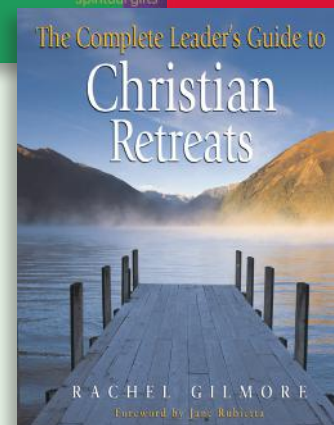
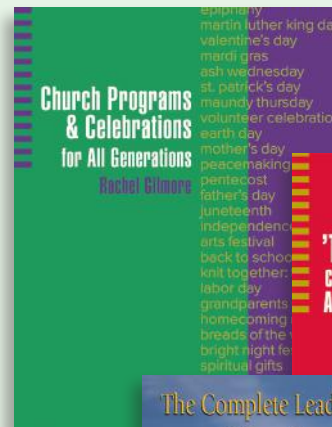
The 30 activities in this practical program book include everything from seasonal worship services to holiday-centered celebrations. \$18.00

### 'Tis the Season: Church Celebrations for Advent & Christmas

These 18 intergenerational programs and services engage participants in hands-on, experiential learning. \$14.99

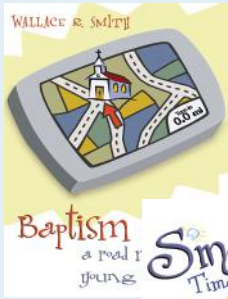
### The Complete Leader's Guide to Christian Retreats

Offers step-by-step guidelines for planning faith-based retreats and includes 11 complete sample retreats centered on a group-appropriate theme. \$17.00





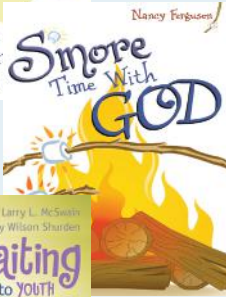
## Children & Youth Ministry



### Baptism Ahead: A Roadmap for Young Disciples

Wallace R. Smith

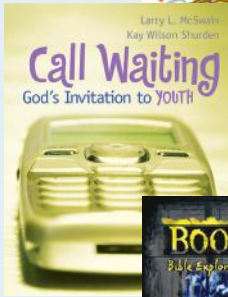
This innovative volume, designed as a six-week/six-chapter course, leads children ages 8–12 through baptismal preparation and a basic orientation to Christian discipleship and membership in the local church. \$15.00; downloadable leader's guide available at [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com), \$7.00



### S'more Time with God

Nancy Ferguson

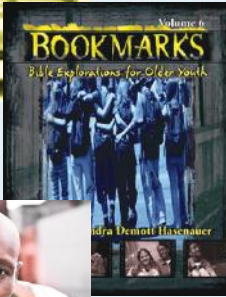
This interactive devotional for use with children includes weeklong themes. Each theme includes a song or Bible verse, questions or discussion ideas, an activity, Bible story, and closing prayer. \$12.99



### Call Waiting: God's Invitation to Youth

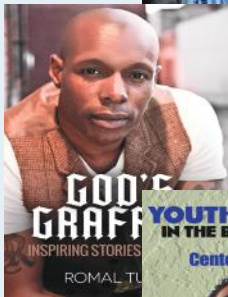
Larry L. McSwain and Kay Wilson Shurden

Helps older youth understand the nature of call, explore personal giftedness, and identify ways to walk in faithfulness to a unique and unfolding calling. \$10.00



### Bookmarks: Bible Explorations for Older Youth

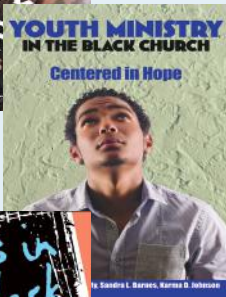
Each volume consists of 16 sessions grouped into four elective units—covenant, salvation, liberation and justice, and incarnation. In addition, each volume includes a story that runs throughout the course. Volumes 1–6, \$10.00 each.



### God's Graffiti: Inspiring Stories for Teens

Romal J. Tune

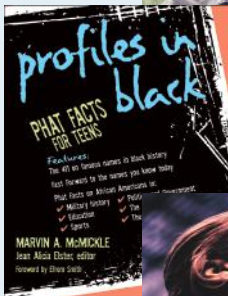
Motivational speaker and author Romal Tune interweaves the stories of at-risk youth in the Bible with his own story, offering powerful inspiration for teens to overcome real-life obstacles and fulfill God's purpose as great leaders. Includes the biblical stories of Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Esther, and more. \$13.99



### Youth Ministry in the Black Church: Centered in Hope

Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Sandra L. Barnes, Karma D. Johnson

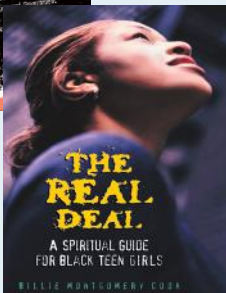
Using Scripture, anecdotes, best practices, and reflection points, this practical book invites youth leaders, pastors, and parents to participate in exploring hope-filled strategies for ministry to African American youth. \$16.99



### Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens

Marvin McMickle

This youthful history of Black America is a vital resource for educators, parents, and students alike. \$22.00



### The Real Deal: A Spiritual Guide for Black Teen Girls

Billie Montgomery Cook

In a conversational, teen-appropriate language and style, the author addresses a wide range of topics, including body image, self-esteem, sexuality, fear, and friendship. \$14.00

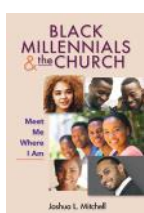
# Young Adult Ministry

## Urban Ministries, Inc.

### Urban Faith (Ages 18-34)

Includes 13 lessons based on the International Uniform Lesson Series in a contemporary magazine-style format. Each lesson is carefully written to address real-life issues while leading to a higher level of spiritual development. Each issue also includes 6 to 10 feature articles that cover a variety of real topics that are relevant to today's young, African American adults.

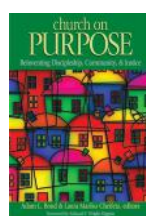
Teaching Success Kit	\$18.99
Teacher Manual	\$6.19
Student Leaflet/Take-Home Paper	\$4.50



### Black Millennials and the Church: Meet Me Where I Am

Joshua L. Mitchell

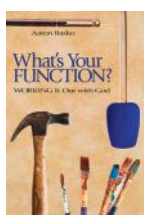
This practical resource equips church leaders with key insights to effectively attract and make disciples of this emerging generation of Black millennials. Drawing on the biblical narrative of Matthew 14, where Jesus invites Peter to come meet him on the water and supported by the research results from a nationwide study of young Black adults and real-life examples, Mitchell reveals specific principles, programming, and portraits of Black Millennials that will help churches to engage, connect, and spiritually grow and develop them. \$16.99



### Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community, & Justice

Adam L. Bond & Laura Mariko Cheifetz, editors

This collection offers "one big idea" from each of an array of emerging Christian leaders who are invested in addressing some of the concerns of today's church. The contributors share insights from their generational and vocational perspectives, critically engage in dialogue, and debate the traditional models of ministry and leadership. While appreciating what they have inherited, the authors display their faith in congregations' ability to change and adapt. \$15.99



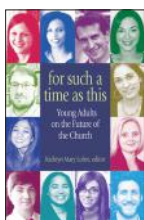
### What's Your Function? Working It Out with God

Aaron Basko

God built you with a special function to fulfill in the world. Learn three keys for discerning the career that fulfills your function:

- Purpose—what you were born to do
- Inspiration—what you love to do
- Earnings—how you can make a living

\$13.99



### For Such a Time as This: Young Adults on the Future of the Church

Kathryn Mary Lohre, editor

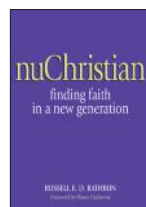
Discover an invigorating, new, and timely word from Christian young adults on issues such as eco-justice, immigration, interfaith relations, peace and justice, and inclusion. Designed for intergenerational study and discussion. \$15.99



### Faith Shaping: Youth and the Experience of Faith, rev. ed.

Stephen D. Jones

This book explains how parents and the church can help youth build a foundation of faith that will continue growing in young adulthood. Explores stages of the faith cycle, how to create a nurturing environment in home and church, how teens can shape their culture, and more. \$10.00

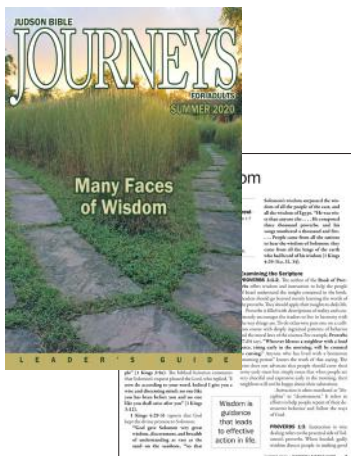


### nuChristian: Finding Faith in a New Generation

Russell E. D. Rathbun

Young adults today see the church as hypocritical, judgmental, and overly political. This book responds to these perceptions with a challenging invitation to be transformed by taking seriously the critique of a new generation, addressing the issues with practical ideas for church leaders who seek to reach today's young adults with a Christlike community. \$15.00

# Adult Ministry



## Judson Bible Journeys for Adults

### Judson Bible Journeys

Draws adults into an enriching, challenging, and enlightening learning experience that is sure to enrich their relationship with Jesus Christ. A curriculum designed for Baptist churches, it features the NRSV translation with a six-year cycle based on the International Uniform Lesson.

Quarterly Leader's Guide (print version) \$9.99

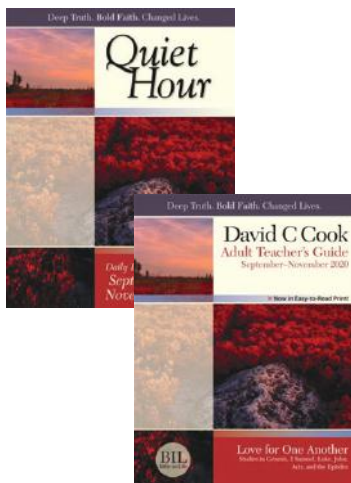
Quarterly Leader's Guide (ePub or downloadable PDF) \$6.99

Student Class Book (regular print) \$6.49

Student Class Book (large print) \$7.49

Leader's Monthly Units (downloadable PDF) \$3.99

Leader's Weekly Sessions (downloadable PDF) \$1.99

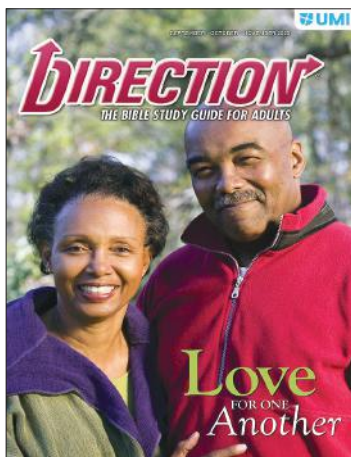


## David C. Cook Bible-in-Life & Echoes

### Comprehensive Bible Study

The standard in quarterly Bible study for more than 100 years, this student guide offers Biblical commentary and life applications, plus prints Scripture references in both KJV and NIV.

	Bible-in-Life	Echoes
Comprehensive Bible Study Book (large print)	\$6.29	\$6.99
Comprehensive Bible Study Book	\$6.29	\$5.99
Lesson Leaflets for Visitors	\$5.99	
Power for Living Take-Home Paper	\$6.99	\$6.99
Adult Teacher's Guide	\$10.99	\$10.99
Creative Teaching Aids	\$22.99	\$22.99
The Quiet Hour		\$6.99
Teacher's Guide & Creative Teaching Aids Packet	\$29.99	\$29.99



## Urban Ministries, Inc.

### Direction

(Age 35+) Features 13 weekly lessons with Scripture passages, memory verses, and thought-provoking questions for class discussions, and suggestions to incorporate Bible truth into the lives of African American Christians.

Teaching Success Kit \$18.99

Teacher Manual \$6.19

Student Magazine \$4.50

Student Book (large print) \$5.00



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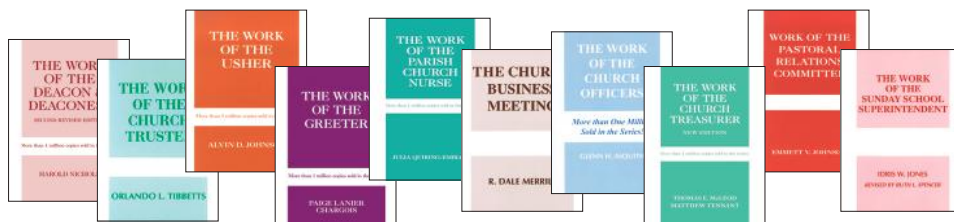
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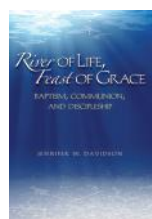
978-0-8170-1473-5 \$13.00

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978-0-8170-1510-7 \$13.00



# Leadership Growth & Development



## River of Life, Feast of Grace: Baptist, Communion, and Discipleship

Jennifer W. Davidson

Considers the historic theology of the Christian rites of baptism and communion from a Baptist perspective. And explores the practical implications of these rituals for a life of radical discipleship. Includes a variety of classical liturgies and original worship resources from an array of voices, diverse in culture, gender, and ethnicity, offering today's congregations a rich collection of worship resources for contemporary baptismal and communion services. An online leader's guide is available for small-group study. ISBN 978-0-8170-1805-4 \$17.99



## Envisioning the Reign of God: Preaching for Tomorrow

Debra J. Mumford

What we believe about the kingdom of God deeply affects how we relate to the world we inhabit here and now. Professor and scholar Debra Mumford takes the Christian study of "last things" (eschatology) and makes it practical for pastors and church

leaders today. She explores the idea that eschatology is not simply about our ultimate destruction but rather how we construct and conduct our human existence daily. Each chapter considers the eschatological beliefs of a different preacher and how those beliefs shape the style and content of that leader's ministry. ISBN 978-0-8170-1806-1 \$21.99



## MBA Quick Book for Ministers

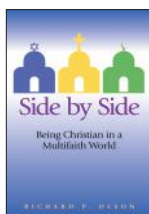
Vincent Wyatt Howell and Vincent Wyatt Howell Jr.

A new leadership paradigm that equips ministers to serve as chief executives for making disciples for Christ. This quick-book styled resource is designed to introduce ministers to "Pastoral MBA Competencies"—the practical knowledge of leadership and management skills that will benefit those serving today's congregations and other ministry settings. Highlighting topics that are addressed in a master's level program in business administration, this accessible resource also provides wisdom from clergy who have already completed the MBA. ISBN 978-0-8170-1807-8 \$16.99

*Leadership Growth & Development cont. p. 36*



## Leadership Growth & Development *(cont.)*

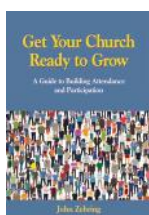


### Side by Side: Being Christian in a Multifaith World

Richard P. Olson

In just a few decades, the United States has changed from a largely Christian nation to the most religiously diverse country in the world.

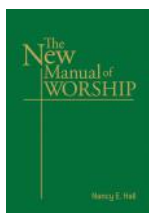
*Side by Side* reflects on living faithfully as a Christian in this new interreligious world. Reading the Gospels, the author finds fresh insight and guidance to live out our faith with respect, love, and regard for those who follow a different religious path. Through a personal journey of encounters, experiences, and readings, the author invites readers to join him in a venture of discovery to reflect, explore, and meditate. He focuses on relations among Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and with the “spiritual but not religious,” as well as on how to navigate conflicts between Christian traditions. \$16.99



### Get Your Church Ready to Grow: A Guide to Building Attendance and Participation

John Zehring

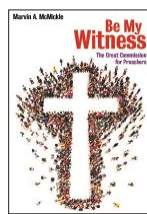
How can your church draw in the lost who need what your congregation has to offer? Beginning with a 12-question quiz to ascertain “How Ready Is Your Church to Grow?” author and consultant John Zehring goes on to offer a wealth of practical ideas and easy-to-implement strategies that are tailor-made for your local church’s stage of growth and readiness. Emphasizing participation and engagement over membership numbers, Zehring urges church leaders to focus on meeting people’s needs—in the congregation and, even more, in the surrounding community. \$14.99



### The New Manual of Worship

Nancy E. Hall

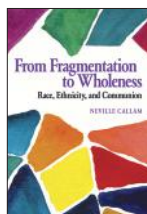
This new edition seeks to provide today’s ministry leaders with diverse materials for planning worship services of all kinds, encouraging them always to adapt the resources to the particular context, needs, and lifestyles of their own congregations. *The New Manual of Worship* features numerous updates and revisions, as well as 20 new services. \$19.99



### Be My Witness: The Great Commission for Preachers

Marvin A. McMickle

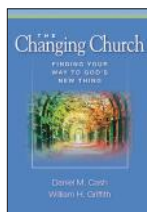
*Be My Witness* explores the Great Commission as recorded in Acts 1:8, “Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” McMickle offers a unique approach to the preaching task and suggests a way for preachers today to declare the gospel with relevance to the many issues and challenges society faces. He also examines the implications of what it means to be a witness for Jesus and considers a threefold understanding of the word *witness*—seeing something, saying something, and suffering something—and develops a twenty-first-century theology of preaching that encompasses both content and context for delivering the gospel message. \$17.99



### From Fragmentation to Wholeness: Race, Ethnicity, and Communion

Neville Callam

In an age of accelerating globalization that creates unprecedented experiences of diversity and exacerbates perceptions of division, Neville Callam offers a transforming vision of a world brought together through the power of the Lord’s Supper. *From Fragmentation to Wholeness* reflects on the untapped power of Holy Communion as a force for reconciliation, healing, and restored wholeness in our fragmented churches and communities. \$19.99



### The Changing Church: Finding Your Way to God's New Thing

Daniel Cash and William H. Griffith

We’ve often heard that change is the only constant. This reality, along with a rapidly shifting culture, is often a major challenge for the Christian church. Discover eight key shifts in the New Testament that were used to connect, call forth, and reach God’s people, alongside change-related elements we encounter in our day-to-day lives that will provide insight into new ways of being the body of Christ in our fast-paced world. Perfect for an eight-week study in small groups or Bible studies. \$16.99



# Spanish Ministry Resources



## El Discípulo

*Editado por el Rvdo. Eliezer Alvarez Díaz*  
Producido por la Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en Puerto Rico, El Discípulo es un recurso de educación Cristiana que considera al estudiante un participante activo en el proceso de transformación. Los escritores son de Puerto Rico, los Estados Unidos y Latinoamérica y representan contextos urbanos, rurales y metropolitanos.

Todos los recursos incluyen una lección para adultos y jóvenes en el mismo libro.

Guía para el Líder marzo–agosto, \$7.99  
septiembre–febrero, \$7.99

Guía para el Estudiante  
marzo–agosto, \$6.99  
septiembre–febrero, \$6.99



## Para ser bautistas: Lecciones para nuevos miembros / Being Baptist: Lessons for New Members

*J. Manny Santiago*

Diseñado para usar con adultos y jóvenes. Bilingüe. \$15.00  
¡Ahorre al comprar en cantidad!  
Paquete de 5-\$60.00; Paquete de 10-\$100.00



## Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes / Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families

*Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Prefacio por Luis Cortes*

Padres, pastores/as, educadores/as y líderes en la comunidad son invitados a escuchar a escondidas estas conversaciones entre padres, hijos y guardians. Este recurso práctico y sensible a las necesidades emocionales y cultura de las familias ofrece una perspicacia a las emociones y percepciones de las familias inmigrantes.

Bilingüe (Inglés/Español). \$13.99

Guía de estudio gratis está disponible para su descarga en línea (sólo en inglés).



## Herencia e identidad bautistas: Historia, principios y practicas

*Ángel Luis Gutiérrez; Prefacio por José Norat-Rodríguez, Miriam Z. Rodríguez Gutiérrez y Juan A. Gutiérrez, editores*

Una investigación histórica detallada, incluyendo textos bíblicos, para explorar la herencia e identidad bautistas. De muchísimo valor para estudiosos, ministros, ministras, y personas laicas en Estados Unidos, Puerto Rico y más allá. \$18.00



## Tentado a dejar la cruz: Renovando el llamado al discipulado

*Ernest R. Flores*

También disponible en Inglés: *Tempted to Leave the Cross: Renewing the Call to Discipleship*  
\$14.00

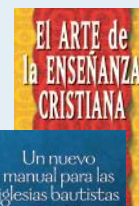
## El Arte de la Enseñanza Cristiana

*Israel Galindo*

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## Un nuevo manual para iglesia bautista

\$5.00



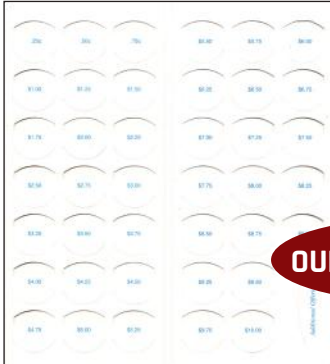
Un nuevo  
manual para las  
iglesias bautistas  
REVISTADO

Miriam Z. Gutiérrez

# Church & Church School Supplies

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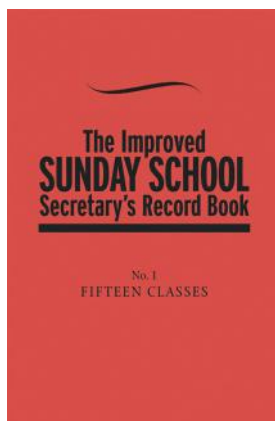
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## The Improved Sunday School Secretary's Record Book

Save concise records of students, teachers, and officers for a year. Sturdy spiral-bound book features weekly, quarterly, and yearly totals for up to 15 classes. 5.5" x 8.5"

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## Judson Sunday School Class Books

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068-4-6745-3015-7 24 names, navy blue cover, 16 pages, per dozen, \$9.00

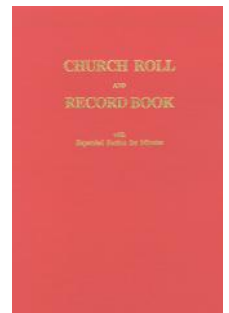
068-4-6745-3165-9 96 names, teal cover, 40 pages, per dozen, \$14.00



## Church Roll and Record Book

Record alphabetically the names of church members and leadership; as well as weddings, baby dedications, funerals, and more. Includes 160 additional pages for minutes. Handsomely gold-stamped on red buckram. 8" x 11". 352 pages.

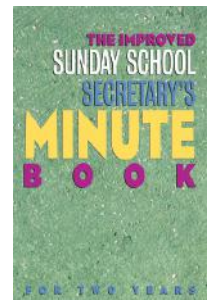
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## Improved Sunday School Secretary's Minute Book

Keep concise data for two years including attendance records, enrollment, new members, visitors, offering by departments, and minutes in this sturdy and comprehensive minute book. Spiral binding with wear-resistant paper cover. 5.5" x 8.5"

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## Church Sympathy Card

Envelopes included. Per dozen, \$13.00

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## 認罪禱告

領：我們說：“孩子是我們的未來。”

組：禱說：“孩子是我的產業。”

領：我們說：“坐好，保持安靜！”

組：禱說：“從孩子的口中發出讚美。”

領：我們說：“在我的家有我的家規。”

組：禱說：“我的國度屬於他們。”

領：我們說：“在這裡由我決定；服從我！”

組：禱說：“像個孩子一樣謙虛，否則不能進入天國。”

領：我們說：“他們的父母不應該把他們帶到這裡！”

組：禱說：“奉我的名接待這些小孩中的一個就是接待我。”

領：我們說：“他們是不守規則的。”

組：禱說：“請確保您不鄙視當中任何一個小孩子。”

領：我們說：“按照我說的去，而不是按我所做的去做。”

組：禱說：“讓小孩子到我這裡來，不要禁止他們。”

齊：當我們成為孩子的絆腳石時，請原諒我們。用祢的話代替我們的話。用祢的愛調較我們的行為。聆聽孩子的聲音，讓我們回應他們的禱告。

## A Prayer of Confession

Leader: We say, “The children are our future.”

Group: You say, “Children are a heritage from me.”

Leader: We say, “Sit still and be quiet!”

Group: You say, “Out of the mouths of children I have ordained praise.”

Leader: We say, “My house, my rules.”

Group: You say, “To them belongs my kingdom.”

Leader: We say, “I’m in charge here; obey me!”

Group: You say, “Humble yourself like a child or miss the kingdom.”

Leader: We say, “Their parents shouldn’t have brought them here!”

Group: You say, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.”

Leader: We say, “They are illegal.”

Group: You say, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones.”

Leader: We say, “Do as I say, not as I do.”

Group: You say, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.”

ALL: Forgive us when we are stumbling blocks to little ones. Replace our words with yours. Temper our actions with your love. Open our ears to the voices of children and make us answers to their prayers.



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# Una oración de confesión

Líder: Decimos: “Los niños son nuestro futuro”.  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “Los niños son herencia mía”.

Líder: Decimos: “¡Sientense quietos y quietas! ¡Estén calladitos y calladitas!”  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “En la boca de los niños has puesto la perfecta alabanza”.

Líder: Decimos: “Mi casa, mis reglas”.  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “A ellos y ellas les pertenece mi reino”.

Líder: Decimos: “Estoy a cargo aquí; ¡obedéceme!”  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “Humíllate como un niño, o no entrarás en el reino”.

Líder: Decimos: “¡Sus padres no deberían haberlos traído aquí!”  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “Cualquiera que da la bienvenida a uno de estos niños pequeños en mi nombre, me da la bienvenida a mí”.

Líder: Decimos: “Son ilegales”.  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “Asegúrese de no despreciar a uno de estos pequeños”.

Líder: Decimos: “Haz lo que yo digo, no lo que hago”.  
*Congregación:* Tú dices: “Dejen que los niños vengan a mí y no se lo impidan”.

Todos/as: Perdonanos cuando somos obstáculos para los pequeños y pequeñas. Reemplaza nuestras palabras con las tuyas. Modera nuestras acciones con tu amor. Abre nuestros oídos a las voces de los niños y niñas y haznos la respuesta a sus oraciones.

# Une prière de confession

Leader: Nous disons: “Les enfants sont notre avenir”.  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Les enfants sont mon héritage.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Reste assis et Soyez silencieux!”  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Dans la bouche des enfants, vous avez fait l’éloge parfait.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Ma maison, mes règles.”  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Mon royaume leur appartient.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Je suis en charge ici ; obéissez-moi!”  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Humiliez-vous comme un enfant, sinon vous n’entrerez pas dans le royaume.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Leurs parents n’auraient pas dû vous amener ici!”

*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Quiconque accueille un de ces petits enfants en mon nom, me souhaite la bienvenue.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Ils sont illégaux.”  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Assurez-vous de ne pas mépriser l’un de ces petits.”

Leader: Nous disons: “Faites ce que je dis, pas ce que je fais.”  
*Congrégation:* Vous dites: “Laissez les enfants venir à moi et ne les arrêtez pas.”

Tout: Pardonnez-nous quand nous sommes des obstacles pour les petits. Remplacez nos mots par les vôtres. Modérez nos actions avec votre amour. Ouvrez nos oreilles aux voix des enfants et faites-nous la réponse à leurs prières.



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