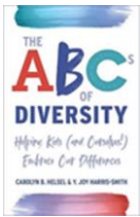


# New Books!

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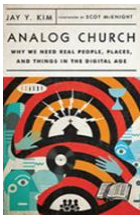
## **ABCs OF DIVERSITY: HELPING KIDS (AND OURSELVES!) EMBRACE OUR DIFFERENCES**

**(820131)** Author: Helsel, Carolyn and Harris-Smith, Y. Joy. An ideal resource for teachers, parents, ministry personnel, non-profit leaders, human resources directors, and librarians, this book helps parents and teachers of children, youth, and young adults navigate conversations about differences so they can raise up individuals committed to respectful civic engagement. Such intercultural dialogues can support communities as they work for the mutual well-being of all. This book includes specific resources and activities for persons of various ages that parents and community leaders can employ to encourage compassion and empathy. Chapters: The ABCs of diversity; Identities we're assigned at birth; Identity and diversity in action; Disentangling gender and sexuality; Relearning race; Fears of fitting out – religious differences; Social media and diversity; Old enough to know better; Choosing our place in history. Includes book lists and activities for young children and youth and a bibliography. Age: Adult. 189 Pages.



## **ADVENTURING TOGETHER: HOW TO CREATE CONNECTIONS AND MAKE LASTING MEMORIES WITH YOUR KIDS (820133)**

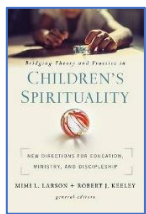
Author: Eskridge, Greta. A modern, practical, and inspiring guide for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to creating deep heart connections with kids by regularly creating new experiences and intentional adventures together. Chapters: The stuff lasting connections are made of; Adventures change us; Yes, you can adventure with your kids!; How to begin – start small; How to continue – be intentional; How to thrive – grow your adventures; Adjust your attitude; Try new things; Revisit favorites; Do hard things; Get outside; Indoor adventures; Adventuring with books; Call to action; How to create an adventure club; How to hike with kids; How to enjoy a museum trip with kids; How to start a book club. Age: Adult. 189 Pages.



## **ANALOG CHURCH: WHY WE NEED REAL PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

**(820125)** Author: Kim, Jay. What does it mean to be an analog church in a digital age? In recent decades the digital world has taken over our society at nearly every level, and the church has increasingly followed suit--often in ways we're not fully aware of. But as even the culture at large begins to reckon with the limits of a digital world, it's time for the church to take stock. Are online churches, video venues, and brighter lights truly the future? What about the digital age's effect on discipleship, community, and the Bible? As a pastor in Silicon Valley, Jay Kim has experienced the digital church in all its splendor. In this book, he grapples with the ramifications of a digital church, from our worship and experience of Christian community to the way we engage Scripture and sacrament. Could it be that in our efforts to stay relevant in our digital age, we've begun to give away the very thing that our age most desperately needs: transcendence? Could it be that the best way to reach new generations is in fact found in a more timeless path? Could it be that at its heart, the church has really been analog all along? Chapters: EDM and grandma's church – the relevance of transcendence; Slow and steady – why go analog?; Cameras, copycats and caricatures – worship in the digital age; To engage and to witness – analog worship; Rebuilding Babel – community in the digital age; A tax collector and a zealot walk in to a CrossFit – analog community; Jackpot! – Scripture in the digital age; Howtoreadabook – analog Scripture; The meal at the center of history – communion; Blinded by the light – where do we go from here? Includes discussion

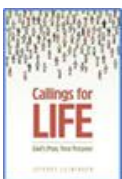
questions. Age: Adult. 203 Pages.



## **BRIDGING THEORY AND PRACTICE IN CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR EDUCATION, MINISTRY, AND DISCIPLESHIP (820126)**

Author: Larson, Mimi and Keeley, Robert, editors. Chapters: What have we learned? – 75 years of children's evangelical spiritual formation; Comparing five theological views and ministry practices; Coloring outside the lines – a conversation about racial diversity and the spiritual lives of children; Believing and belonging – embracing children with disabilities; Faith-forming environments for children; Reimagining the role of family in 21st century family faith practices; The role of faith or spirituality in a child's response to grief and loss; Resilience, trauma, and children's spirituality; The biblical basis for using story in a child's formation;

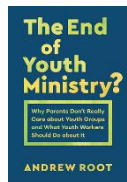
Sharing hard stories with children; Little theologians – learning with and from children as we live in the story together; Does the church care if children can think?; Normalizing white spirituality in children's Sunday school; Becoming a soul friend – spiritual direction with children; The sacred playground – play and a child's faith; Casing a vision for the future. Includes subject and Scripture indexes. Age: Adult. 264 Pages.



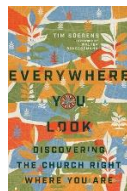
## **CALLINGS FOR LIFE: GOD'S PLAN, YOUR PURPOSE (820129)**

Author: Leininger, Jeffrey. College students and recent graduates are often uncertain about the future, wondering if they chose the right path and will land a job. Adults in stable jobs and full-time parents often experience feelings of being stuck, frustrated, or unhappy; they think the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Those who have lost their jobs or are retired may wonder what the future hold and if they will be able to support themselves. In our quest to "have it all" in life, we might be overwhelmed or stressed, but God's Word speaks a better truth about how we're meant to live. Pastor Jeffrey Leininger gives readers five key themes to focus on with these struggles and uncertainties, providing reassurance and guidance while reminding us all that God does have a plan for

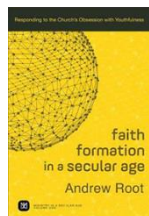
our live. Chapters: Callings; Presence; Diapers and sippy cups; God loves dirt; God-given. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 158 Pages.



**END OF YOUTH MINISTRY?: WHY PARENTS DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT YOUTH GROUPS AND WHAT YOUTH WORKERS SHOULD DO ABOUT IT (820136)** Author: Root, Andrew. What is youth ministry actually for? And does it have a future? Andrew Root, a leading scholar in youth ministry and practical theology, went on a one-year journey to answer these questions. In this book, Root weaves together an innovative first-person fictional narrative to diagnose the challenges facing the church today and to offer a new vision for youth ministry in the 21st century. Informed by interviews that Root conducted with parents, this book explores how parents' perspectives of what constitutes a good life are affecting youth ministry. In today's culture, youth ministry can't compete with sports, test prep, and the myriad other activities in which young people participate. Through a unique parable-style story, Root offers a new way to think about the purpose of youth ministry: not happiness, but joy. Joy is a sense of experiencing the good. For youth ministry to be about joy, it must move beyond the youth group model and rework the assumptions of how identity and happiness are imagined by parents in American society. Chapters: Toward a journey to joy; Don't waste your life – youth ministry and the good life; Are the kids OK? – goods and youth ministry; Three sets of parents – things and happiness emerge; Identity, part 1 – a dance party, Demi Lovato, and the internal quest; Transformation in youth ministry; Identity, part 2 – romance, recognition, and resentment; Happiness, part 1 – Powerball, endgames, and Sheryl Crow versus Taylor Swift; When goods become the good; Happiness, part 2 – holiness, virtue, and Luther's freak-out; Joy and the custodian – what youth ministry is for; Borne burdens – youth ministry and stories of joy; Open takes and closed spins – youth ministry and transcendence; An identity event – how youth ministry affects identity; Holding vigil – youth ministry and cruciform practices; Conclusion – friendship and DQ. Age: Adult. 225 Pages.



**EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK: DISCOVERING THE CHURCH RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE (820137)** Author: Soerens, Tim. What's the point of the church anyway? The emerging generation is opting out of the church in large numbers. They're embarrassed at how the church is portrayed in the media and dismayed at what appears to be their options for participation. Is church really necessary anymore in our day? Is it even possible? Tim Soerens sees this unsettled state of affairs as an extraordinary opportunity: the church, he says, is on the edge of a new possibility at the very moment so much of it feels like it's falling apart. In his extensive travels in all kinds of neighborhoods, he has seen the beginnings of this movement firsthand. In this book, he lays out practical, actionable steps for building collaborative communities in any neighborhood. Here is a vision of the church grounded in a grassroots movement of ordinary people living out what it means to be the church in their everyday lives. Chapters: The movement or the meltdown; The big Why; The magic of paying attention; The megachurch next door; The parish is the unit of change; The same team; Learning from local heroes; Already here. Age: Adult. 134 Pages.



**FAITH FORMATION IN A SECULAR AGE: RESPONDING TO THE CHURCH'S OBSESSION WITH YOUTHFULNESS (820135)** Author: Root, Andrew. The loss or disaffiliation of young adults is a much-discussed topic in churches today. Many faith-formation programs focus on keeping the young, believing the youthful spirit will save the church. But do these programs have more to do with an obsession with youthfulness than with helping young people encounter the living God? Questioning the search for new or improved faith-formation programs, leading practical theologian Andrew Root offers an alternative take on the issue of youth drifting away from the church and articulates how faith can be formed in our secular age. Chapters: The boring church and the pursuit of authenticity; The history of youthfulness; The perceived scam of the mass society; The rise of the hippie and the obsession with youthfulness; The rise of hip; Churches filled with bobos – the beasts of authenticity; Faith and its formation in a secular age; What is faith?; From membership to mystical union; The music of formation; Is God a favor bestower or gift giver?; Practical steps to consider as the household of ministry. Includes index. Age: Adult. 218 Pages.

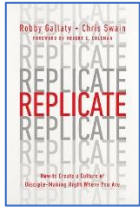


**LET THEM BE KIDS: ADVENTURE, BOREDOM, INNOCENCE, AND OTHER GIFTS CHILDREN NEED (820132)** Author: Smartt, Jessica. Former English teacher and homeschooling mother of three, Jessica Smartt felt the weight of helping prepare her kids for life, especially with all the outside pressures and influence of the world. She struggled with how she could raise her children with a sense of adventure, self-confidence, manners, faith, and the ability to utilize technology wisely. This book is her offering of grace and confidence to parents, giving them practical ideas to meet these challenges. Part story and part guidebook, every chapter includes doable strategies and encouragement for the journey. Chapters: Let them be kids – a manifesto; Why childhood matters; The gift of adventure; The gift of boredom; The gift of being uncool; The gift of imagination; The gift of balance; The gift of grit; The gift of manners and kindness; The gift of family; The gift of innocence; The gift of faith. Includes suggested book and movie lists; Conversations to have with your kids before they leave home; Things children should always have on hand; and Best family games. Age: Adult. 238 Pages.



**MARRIAGE IN THE MIDDLE: EMBRACING MIDLIFE SURPRISES, CHALLENGES, AND JOYS (820134)** Author: Greco, Dorothy Littell. Midlife is a season of challenge and change--professionally, relationally, physically, and spiritually. On our better days, we experience a sense of growing clarity and satisfaction about who we are. We might even be coming to terms with our limitations and vulnerabilities, letting go of some dreams and creating new ones. But many days, we are overwhelmed and exhausted by the intense transitions of this season, leaving us feeling off-balance and insecure. And these challenges reverberate through our marriages, making us wonder how we're going to survive. Though many assume that "midlife" is synonymous with "crisis," Dorothy Littell Greco reminds us that it doesn't

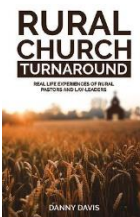
have to be that way. The demands of midlife actually force us to adjust and adapt, providing new opportunities for discovery and growth within our marriages. With vulnerability and insight, this book will inspire and encourage you to invest in your relationship with your spouse, enabling you both to thrive as you face the challenges and changes of this era together. Chapters: The paradox of midlife marriage – crisis or opportunity?; Telos – what was, what is, and what’s to come; Ch, ch, ch, changes – reading glasses, receding hairlines, and reorganized hormones; Pulled in two or more directions – how midlife caregiving affects marriage; Deciphering disappointment – the road to contentment; Navigating trauma and loss – the real crisis; Created to connect – how attachment issues affect marriage; Six, part 1 – how did we get here?; Sex, part 2 – where are we now?; Community – we’ll get by with a little or a lot of help from our friends; Telos reprised – becoming marriage visionaries. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 188 Pages.



**REPLICATE: HOW TO CREATE A CULTURE OF DISCIPLE-MAKING RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE**

**(820128)** Author: Gallaty, Robby and Swain, Chris. Over the last few decades American churches have produced plenty of converts but not as many mature believers. The studies show the majority of Christians don't even understand the basics of the faith. But how do you tackle such a big problem? This book shows church leaders how to make disciples who make disciples and get the rest of your church on board as well. This one-on-one relational ministry is how Jesus laid the foundation for His church that is still growing today, and it's how we continue the work in our own local congregations.

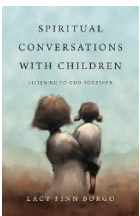
Learn the five marks of a healthy discipling church, how to influence culture, uproot misconceptions of the church and the gospel, and change your church and community. No more focusing on mere numbers, it's time to grow in maturity and through multiplication. Includes discussion questions. Age: Adult. 329 Pages.



**RURAL CHURCH TURNAROUND: REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES OF RURAL PASTORS AND LAY-LEADERS**

**(820124)** Author: Davis, Danny. Declining or plateauing rural churches do not have to die; they can live and become an influence for good in their communities. Unfortunately, many rural churches will close after decades of faithful service.

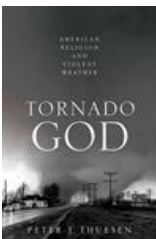
Revitalizing a declining or plateauing rural church requires visionary pastoral leadership and the cooperative work of lay leaders. In this book, Davis explores real-life experiences of rural pastors and lay-leaders who have led their congregations to a turnaround. He provides an honest and sometimes painful glimpse into the realities of leading a declining rural church, including his own, back to life. Through these experiences, you will learn to navigate a myriad of cultural and changes needed to revitalize your dying or plateauing rural congregation. The journey to rural church turnaround is hard, but Davis lays out the leadership characteristics and actions essential to making it happen. Chapters: The decline of the rural church; Life Point Church; Transformational leadership and the rural church; New Life Church – Barnett; Licking Assembly of God; New Life Church – Farmington; Communication and conflict; Facing challenges head on; The pattern within the turnaround experience; The language of the turnaround experience; The realities of the turnaround experience; Revitalizing small rural churches. Includes bibliography. Age: Adult. 147 Pages.



**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN: LISTENING TO GOD TOGETHER (820127)** Author:

Borgo, Lacy Finn. We are born into this world with a natural longing to connect to God and other human beings. When children have a listening companion who hears, acknowledges, and encourages their early experiences with God, it creates a spiritual footprint that shapes their lives. How can we increase our capacity to engage children in spiritual conversations? In this book, Lacy Finn Borgo draws on her own experience of practicing spiritual direction with children. In this book you'll find: sample interactive dialogues with children; ideas for engaging children with play, art, and movement; and prayers to use together. Whether you are a parent or grandparent, pastor, or spiritual director, you will find this to be a

friendly guide into deeper ways of listening. Chapters: Learning from Christopher; Children's spiritual formation; Posture, power, and patterns; The gift of eyes and ears; The language of play and projection; Attending the Spirit; Whole person prayer; Two friends on an expedition; Mystery. Includes: A childlike version of Psalm 23; Three guided prayer pages for walking a labyrinth; A childlike adaptation of the Lord's Prayer with bodies; Holy listening information and permission form; questions for reflection and discussion; and bibliography. Age: Adult. 166 Pages.



**TORNADO GOD: AMERICAN RELIGION AND VIOLENT WEATHER (820130)** Author: Thuesen, Peter. One

of the earliest sources of humanity's religious impulse was severe weather, which ancient peoples attributed to the wrath of storm gods. Enlightenment thinkers derided such beliefs as superstition and predicted they would pass away as humans became more scientifically and theologically sophisticated. But in America, scientific and theological hubris came face-to-face with the tornado, nature's most violent windstorm. Striking the United States more than any other nation, tornadoes have consistently defied scientists' efforts to unlock their secrets. Meteorologists now acknowledge that even the most powerful computers will likely never be able to predict a tornado's precise path. Tornadoes have repeatedly brought Americans to the outer limits of theology, drawing them into the vortex of such mysteries as how to reconcile

suffering with a loving God and whether there is underlying purpose or randomness in the universe. In this groundbreaking history, Peter Thuesen captures the harrowing drama of tornadoes, as clergy, theologians, meteorologists, and ordinary citizens struggle to make sense of these death-dealing tempests. Chapters: 'Whirlwind of the Lord' – the enduring god(s) of the storm; 'The violence of winds, and the reasonings of men' – storms and providence in colonial America; 'Stormy wind fulfilling His Word' – meteorology and theology in the nineteenth century; 'Every wind of doctrine' – explaining the whirlwind, 1900-1965; 'As stubble before the wind' – divine mystery and human responsibility; The primal whirlwind. Includes black-and-white illustrations and photographs, general and Scripture indexes and bibliography. Age: Adult. 293 Pages.