

Deep Ministry In A Shallow World Not So Secret Findings About Youth Ministry Youth Specialties

Spiritual lethargy is one of the greatest dangers to confront a believer in his or her day-to-day walk with God. A. W. Tozer said, "There are only three directions from which danger comes to the Christian life. They are the world through which we journey, the god of this world and our own mortified flesh." In this never-before-published book, the renowned teacher issues a clarion call for all Christians to awaken to the times in which we live and stand boldly against spiritual and moral slumber. Tozer's focus is on those few believers who will heed the call to arouse themselves rise up in the face of the great temptation to malaise that is before us, believing that God always begins with one or two who hear and heed His voice, and refuse to become weary in their pursuit of Him. Both national leaders with broad spheres of influence as well as local, grassroots practitioners are waking up to the reality that 50% of their graduating seniors struggle deeply with their faith in college. Offering a few special "Senior Seminars" or giving seniors a "graduation Bible" and hoping for the best are both too little and too late. FYI's research confirms that it's never too early to start developing faith that continues to grow and lasts. Sticky Faith gives youth workers both a theological/philosophical framework and a host of practical programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers.

If you long to reach kids and see their lives changed by God, this comprehensive guide shows you how. Purpose Driven® Youth Ministry will do for youth ministry what Rick Warren's Gold Medallion award-winning, The Purpose Driven® Church is doing for pastoral ministry. It's an indispensable guide to creating and maintaining youth ministry for the long run. It will help you create a solid spiritual team that builds the foundations of the Christian faith into the hearts and lives of young people. Forged around the fundamental purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship, Purpose Driven® Youth Ministry uses the experiences of Saddleback Church to illustrate what a healthy Youth ministry can be. Nine transferable principles help you - Connect with the power of God for passionate, committed leadership - Define the purpose of your ministry and communicate it effectively - Identify your potential audience - Create programs that reach your audience and fulfill God's purposes - Implement processes that move students to maturity - Enhance your ministry with clearly defined values - Team up with parents to involve the whole family - Find volunteers and develop them into participating leaders - Persevere through tough times and thrive in an ever-changing environment. Balancing both theory and practice, Purpose Driven® Youth Ministry can be applied to any church setting, regardless of size, denomination, facilities, resources, and existing leadership. Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry will help you develop a ministry that equips students rather than a ministry that coordinates events. Doug Fields says, "My

goal for this book is to coach you through a plan to build a healthy youth ministry that isn't dependent on one great youth leader and won't be destroyed when the youth worker leaves the church. It's not a book on how to grow your youth ministry with six easy steps; it's about identifying, establishing, and building health into your church's youth ministry.

The spiritual formation of young people can often focus on encouraging their personal spiritual practices, and perhaps linking them to a local youth group. While both are important, Networks for Faith Formation argues that a far wider set of relationships are needed to help faith grow. The aim of Networks for Faith Formation is to describe and commend eight key networks, relational bonds that nurture and nourish faith. The eight networks are "bedroom practices" (personal faith), church, family, friends, mentors, small groups, events and gatherings, and mission and service. The description of each network draws on biblical studies, practical theology, and the social sciences, and practical ideas for helping young people engage with such networks are included throughout the book. In a context where some overlook the complexity of spiritual formation, Networks for Faith Formation is an important resource for church leaders, youth ministers, and parents seeking to help young people grow in faith. Since relational bonds are key for people of any age, it can also help all within the church understand the need for relationships in spiritual growth.

Unleashing the Passion of Young People in Your Church Is Possible! Churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, Growing Young provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing--spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, Growing Young shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church. Visit www.churchesgrowingyoung.org for more information.

Many of the statistics you read about teenagers and faith can be alarming. Recent studies show that 40-50 percent of kids who are connected to a youth group throughout their senior year will fail to stick with their faith in college. As youth workers are pouring their time and energy into the students in their ministries, they are often left wondering if they've done enough to equip their students to carry their faith into adulthood. Fuller Youth Institute has done extensive research in the area of youth ministry and teenage development. In Sticky Faith, the team at FYI presents youth workers with both a theological/philosophical framework and practical programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers. Each chapter presents a summary of FYI's quantitative and qualitative research, along with the implications of this research, including program ideas suggested and tested by youth ministries nationwide.

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This resource will give youth pastors what they need to help foster a faith that sticks with all the teenagers in their group long after they've left the youth room. Take your teens into a solid understanding about the New Testament and important truths it teaches! Twelve sessions in two 6-session units: The Kingdom is Near, The Kingdom is Growing; each Bible lesson features a New Testament person who helps them learn how they can be full members in God's Kingdom, too! • Highlights from the Gospels and Acts • Focuses on faith, surrender and the power of the Holy Spirit • Downloadable easy-print pages for younger teens for each session • Help kids find their identity, purpose and power in Christ Kids desperately need healthy, committed adults who can help them thrive in their faith and become active participants in the life of the church. This requires the efforts of the whole faith community. Chap Clark, one of the leading voices in youth ministry today, brings together twenty-four experts from a variety of denominations and traditions to offer a comprehensive introduction to adoptive youth ministry, a theologically driven, academically grounded, and practical youth ministry model. The book shows readers how to integrate emerging generations into the family of faith, helping young adults become active participants in God's redemptive community.

What if we're just skimming the surface? Christianity holds out the promise of a better way and a better day. So we've studied, joined more small groups, and checked all the boxes—yet, we're still hungry for more. What if the gospel we've come to know is even deeper than we ever imagined? What if the same gospel that works in us to change us continues to work through us to change everything else? Speaking from more than twenty years of experience working in the local church, Brandon Hatmaker leads us past the hurdles between our current lives and the lives we crave. He shows us how Jesus changes everything and how a greater understanding of the gospel leads to deeper faith, richer community, and more fulfilling purpose.

This book encourages and equips father in how to share their faith with their sons. It provides idea of how to raise their sons in spiritual maturity, such as • Encourage uniqueness • Avoid the “Do Nots” • Comfort disappointment • Motivate growth

Most parents would give anything to anchor their children with a vibrant faith that “sticks” and continues to mature long-term. Yet despite this deep desire, research indicates that approximately 40-50% of high school seniors drift from their faith after graduation. In response to this problem, the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) has launched the College Transition Project, a national longitudinal study following 400 high school seniors during their first three years in college. This provocative and needed research is geared to spark a movement that empowers parents, churches, leaders, and adults of all ages to develop robust and long-term faith in kids. The Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project was formed in 1997 to participate in the renewal of youth ministry in the Christian church. Its mission is to foster Christian communities that are attentive to God's presence, discerning of the Spirit and who accompany young people into the way of Jesus. Our mission is founded on the biblical vision of the human person who is created in the image and likeness of God and whose deepest longing is for communion with God and others in love. In response to Christ's invitation to abide in him (John 15:4), we believe that the central purpose of youth ministry is to open the minds and hearts of young persons to an intimate relationship with God in Christ through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. We seek to fulfill our mission through retreats, workshops, training events, written materials, and relationships that promote a contemplative approach to youth discipleship. The

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contemplative approach to youth ministry is based on a Christian community's commitment to cultivate attentiveness to God's Presence in the lives of young people and is supported in the following seven ways: SABBATH, PRAYER, COVENANT COMMUNITY, ACCOMPANIMENT, DISCERNMENT, HOSPITALITY, AUTHENTIC ACTION.

"You know that the key to a strong youth group is your volunteer team. And the key to a strong team of volunteers is a common vision and passion for both teenagers and the ministry. Unfortunately, you probably also know what a struggle it can be to get that vision out of your own head and into the hearts of your volunteer team. Too often, we youth pastors schedule regular meetings with our adult volunteers and small group leaders with good intentions, but these meetings often degenerate into a string of announcements about upcoming events and leave out the things that lead to deeper ministry. This unique, research-based training resource addresses the needs of you and your volunteer leaders and includes the voices of influential youth ministry veterans. Designed to focus on a key monthly issue over nine months, Essential Leadership provides you with insight and tools to make ministry team meetings work, and to engage all your leaders in discussion that will take both the ministry and the students deeper by exploring: Ò Your ministry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats Ò Integrating students into the life of the church Ò Effective family ministry Ò Holistic ministry Ò Giving and receiving mentoring Ò Getting the rest you need Ò Deep justice Ò Helping kids who are hurting Ò Giving your kids a faith that lasts Using this leader's guide along with the companion participant's guide will strengthen your youth ministry leadership team so that together you can make a deeper impact on the lives of teenagers."

Looking for answers about your life and ministry from a woman's perspective? Geared for professionals and volunteers alike, Help! I'm a Woman in Youth Ministry! focuses on the unique ministry issues that you wrestle with every day, including: The challenges of singleness, marriage, and parenthood Mentoring and counseling Making your voice heard Fair treatment and fair pay Working with men...and much more! Regardless of age, marital status, church size, or denomination, Help! I'm a Woman in Youth Ministry! will transform how you approach your unique, vital place in the youth ministry world.

Opening the Field of Practical Theology introduces students to practical theology through an examination of fifteen different approaches—ranging from feminist to liberationist, Roman Catholic to evangelical, Asian American to Latino/a. After an introduction to the field of practical theology and its broad range of practice today, the book features chapters written by leading experts in the discipline. Each chapter has an identical structure to facilitate comparison, covering historical context, key features and figures, norms and sources of authority, theory-practice, contexts, interdisciplinary considerations, areas of current and future research, and suggested readings. Opening the Field of Practical Theology is an ideal introduction to the field, highlighting the diverse ways practical theology is engaged today.

Everyone is being discipled. The question is: what is discipling us? The majority of Christians today are being discipled by popular media, flashy events, and folk theology because churches have neglected their responsibility to make disciples. But the church is not a secondary platform in the mission of God; it is the primary platform God uses to grow people into the image of Jesus. Therefore, as church leaders, it is our primary responsibility to establish environments and relationships where people can be trained, grow, and be sent as disciples. There are three indispensable elements of discipleship: Learning to participate in the biblical story (the Bible) Growing in our confession of who God is and who we are (theology) Regularly participating in private and corporate intentional action (spiritual disciplines) Deep Discipleship equips churches to reclaim the responsibility of discipling people at any point on their journey. 2010 Christianity Today Book Award winner! 2010 Golden Canon Leadership Book Award winner! Feeling caught between the traditional church and the emerging church? Discover a third way: deep church. C. S. Lewis used the phrase "deep church" to

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describe the body of believers committed to mere Christianity. Unfortunately church in our postmodern era has been marked by a certain shallowness. Emerging authors, fed up with contemporary pragmatism, have offered alternative visions for twenty-first-century Christianity. Traditionalist churches have reacted negatively, at times defensively. Jim Belcher knows what it's like to be part of both of these worlds. In the 1990s he was among the pioneers of what was then called Gen X ministry, hanging out with creative innovators like Rob Bell, Mark Oestreicher and Mark Driscoll. But he also has maintained ties to traditionalist circles, planting a church in the Presbyterian Church of America. In *Deep Church*, Belcher brings the best insights of all sides to forge a third way between emerging and traditional. In a fair and evenhanded way, Belcher explores the proposals of such emerging church leaders as Tony Jones, Brian McLaren and Doug Pagitt. He offers measured appreciation and affirmation as well as balanced critique. Moving beyond reaction, Belcher provides constructive models from his own church planting experience and paints a picture of what this alternate, deep church looks like--a missional church committed to both tradition and contemporary culture, valuing innovation in worship, arts and community but also adhering to creeds and confessions. If you've felt stuck between two extremes, you can find a home here. Plumb the depths of Christianity in a way that neither rejects our postmodern context nor capitulates to it. Instead of veering to the left or the right, go between the extremes--and go deep.

In an often shallow and fast-paced world, how can we really know and be known by another person? How do we make true friends? The Digital Age is all about change, but the need for true friendship never changes. You are designed for real engagement with others---for affirmation that goes beyond a simple "like" on social media, for connection over meals, for hope and excitement about the future. Above all, you need to be known and accepted for who you are. But how do you find and maintain this kind of friendship in a fluid and frenetic culture? In *Known*, Dick and Ruth Foth offer inspiration and proven practices to build relationships through personal storytelling and affirmation. They draw on years of mentoring, rich relationships, and the model of Jesus to show you why friendship is one of the keys to a full life and the greatest gift we can give to each other.

It's time to change the face of poverty, to live our faith authentically and to get involved with the people who need help. It's time to sub-merge ourselves, to go deep—beneath the surface of shallow living—and make a difference in our world! Follow author John Hayes as he lives out his faith on some of the toughest streets and poorest ghettos in the world. Learn what real compassion looks like in the trenches. Discover why people of faith cannot ignore the poor and how the St. Francis model of compassion can help alleviate suffering today. You'll also be energized to action through an inside look at the workings of InnerCHANGE, a mission organization that seeks to work among the poor, rather than just offering aid and handouts. Readers will come away with practical ways they can work for justice and find significance in the process.

Who loves young teens more than they could ever imagine? Who longs to give them self confidence and a strong identity, to help them be what they were meant to be? Jesus. Help youth workers introduce young teens to the radical messages of Jesus. This study points students to the supernatural power of Jesus Christ and the lessons He taught, which still ring true today for young people. From the miracle of raising

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Lazarus to Christ's own resurrection and ascension, students will be filled with awe and amazement that the eternally powerful Christ wants a personal relationship with them. Key themes throughout show the balance Christ showed between His power to heal and to cast out demons, and His tenderness to love and care for His disciples and followers, and for us. His parables communicate a spiritual truth or religious principle through simple, but powerful, stories that students can relate to. The three four-week modules explain who Christ is, and how each of us can follow His example to a fruitful and fulfilled life.

Effectively encourage your insecure junior high students to know who they are and where they fit—to grow from bashful to bold! *Sharing Your Faith and Serving Others Uncommon Junior High Group Study* has everything leaders need to inspire reluctant younger teens and give them the tools they need to feel armed, dangerous and overflowing with love for God and neighbor! Students will learn about the Great Commission, the Great Commandment, about missions at home, world missions and their place in God's work of redemption and reconciliation. Through 12 flexible sessions of Bible study, adaptable for groups of any size, junior-highers will discover that sharing Jesus and serving others are two sides of the same coin. And the hands-on, kid-friendly activities and service projects will help youth leaders create unforgettable group experiences that shape hearts and minds!

Hurt provided a vivid and insightful view into the world of today's teenagers. Now leading youth ministry expert Chap Clark substantially updates and revises his groundbreaking bestseller (over 55,000 copies sold). *Hurt 2.0* features a new chapter on youth at society's margins and new material on social networking and gaming. Each chapter has been thoroughly revised with new research, statistics, quotations, and documentation. Praise for the first edition "Based on solid research and years of insightful observation, Hurt offers a deep and penetrating look into the contemporary adolescent experience that will serve us well as we work to have a prophetic, preventive, and redemptive influence on the world of today's youth culture."--Walt Mueller, Center for Parent/Youth Understanding "A daring yet hopeful glance into the underworld of teen promiscuity, self-mutilation, and suicide. . . . A groundbreaking resource for parents, youth ministers, and counselors."--ForeWord "Clark's classic book [is] highly recommended by youth workers and educators who write about teenage stress. It is foundational reading that provides valuable insight into the hurting hearts of young people."--YouthWorker Journal "Clark has been stepping inside the world of teenagers for many years. This book is a unique invitation for us to join him in their world. When we finish this journey, we will care more about kids and understand who they are and the challenges they face."--Denny Rydberg, Young Life "Drawing together research from many others along with his fresh exploration into the world beneath, Clark paints a compelling picture of adolescent life. . . . This book is a must-read for anyone who has any contact with adolescents."--Journal of Youth Ministry

The explosive growth of the Sticky Faith movement marks the dawning of a new era in ministry with young people. An increasing number of youth workers, pastors, and parents are responding to the mass exodus of teenagers and young adults from the church by embracing Sticky Faith principles and practices (see stickyfaith.org). But Sticky Faith is not a "quick fix" solution. Changing the way your church equips young people is a process that can take months and even years, and it looks different in each

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unique ministry context. Through our intensive work with churches from across North America, the Fuller Youth Institute team has developed a pathway to help you lead change in your ministry. Now we've made these proven tools available to any leader who wants to launch Sticky Faith in their own congregation. Much more than a book, this field guide puts tools in your hands for the next 180 days with four key groups: your core team, volunteers, parents, and the entire church. Complete with training resources and a host of videos and digital downloads, you'll be ready to make changes that stick. How teenage girls can combat the world's definition of self-image through a biblical understanding of who they are If there is a teenage girl who feels comfortable with her body and appearance, the authors have yet to meet her. This book helps explain where that dissatisfaction comes from, from media like MTV, magazines, and advertisements. It then gives girls a healthy biblical perspective on physical appearance, concluding that the only real way for girls to experience lasting acceptance of their bodies is to look at how God has created them and how he intends for them to love others and themselves. Through their own vulnerability and personal stories, the authors help girls realize they are not the only ones who feel so poorly about themselves. This revolutionary book is written more like a conversation than a lecture and presents the topics and the biblical passages about self-image in new and fresh ways.

"The world is faster and busier than it's ever been, with more noise and distraction unsettling our already restless souls. We are a people out of rhythm. For Christians who are frustrated with churches that only add to the hustle and bustle, there must be an answer in our interior spiritual life. We long for deeper, more meaningful faith. Author and pastor Rich Villodas's *The Deeply Formed Life* offers an expansive, interconnected vision of spiritual formation comprised of five key pathways"--

So you're fired up, you want to make a difference, you want to change the world...but how? Signing up for your church's mission trip or service project is a great first step, and you are definitely going to make a difference in someone's life. But are you ready for the different cultures you may encounter? How are you going to really connect with the people you serve? And what about when you come home—how do you make sense of all the things you've experienced? It's easy to forget your experiences in the mission field—especially when the people around you haven't had those same experiences. And it is easy to go back to living your life the way you were before—but if you really want to change the world, you have to change, too. The only way that is going to happen is if you spend some time before, during, and after your service preparing for and processing your justice work. As you use this journal you will start to think about—

- the people you are serving
- your relationship with your teammates
- how God factors in to your service project
- the impact your experience has had on you
- how you can continue to make a difference in the world around you

If you think you're fired-up for service now, just wait! As you complete the creative and fun exercises included in this journal, you will be energized for justice work, you'll learn how to apply this to your own life, and nothing will be able to stop you. Take your younger teens into Ephesians, where the apostle Paul reveals the

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secret to being strong in the Lord: spiritual armor! Help teens put on every piece of God's armor, including the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the footreadiness that comes with knowing the gospel of peace. In the second half of *The Armor of God Uncommon Junior High Group Study*, students will learn how to use their offensive weapon—the sword of the Spirit, God's Word. Twelve sessions of active and engaging Bible lessons will equip young Christians to stand strong in their faith and march forward in confidence!

It doesn't take a long list of statistics to convince you that our world is broken. Mission trips, service projects, and supporting children through relief organizations are just a few of the ways that many youth workers engage their students in serving the least, the last, and the lost. As good and helpful as these things may be on the surface, that's where they remain—at the surface. The problems run far deeper than an occasional paint job or fundraising project can solve. But it's not hopeless. Deep social justice is possible in your youth ministry. Following their bestselling book, *Deep Ministry in a Shallow World*, Kara Powell and Chap Clark provide you with research and insights that will help your ministry get to the next level. In addition to helping you further understand the Deep Design method (introduced in their previous book), their practical Kingdom of God theology will help you go beyond simply trying to motivate your students to serve those in need, and invite your students (and maybe even your leaders) to wrestle with why those people are in need in the first place. You'll hear from well-known social justice leaders and youth workers who are making a difference in urban, suburban, and small town settings including: • Jim Wallis (Sojourners) • Tony Campolo (Eastern University) • Lina Thompson (World Vision/Vision Youth) • John Perkins (Christian Community Development Association) • Shane Claiborne (The Simple Way) • Larry Acosta (Urban Youth Workers Institute) • Rudy Carrasco (Harambee Christian Family Center) • Jeremy Del Rio (Community Solutions, Inc.) • Noel Castellanos (Christian Community Development Association), and more. In addition to expanding your personal justice commitments, *Deep Justice in a Broken World* will help you reflect with your own leadership team, and will provide you with online resources to take you even deeper into the journey. So go ahead, dig deeper into what it means to heal the broken world in which we live. Take your ministry deeper into social justice. Friends are so important to today's youth, and the good news is that friendship matters to God too! You can teach junior high kids how to have healthy relationships based on respect and acceptance, in ways that make sense for their lives. Becoming a stand-strong, clear-headed teen who is fearless of making healthy, positive choices - even if it means going against the flow - is a challenge.. and that's an understatement! Especially for tweens and younger teens, swimming against the tide of peer pressure can be stressful and confusing. Now, with *Friends and Peer Pressure*, part of the *Uncommon junior high study series* created by youth-ministry expert Kara Powell, you can help kids

in your group deal with the everyday pressures that come with the territory of growing up. Twelve sessions of activities and exercises will get teens thinking about how to let God reign in their friendships and how to lead rather than follow. Plus, downloadable student handouts and additional options are available for every session.

Living Deep in a Shallow World was written for the Christ-follower who wants more out of life than the typical, daily Christian experience, especially living in a culture that majors on pointless pursuits, questionable moral issues, destructive behavioral patterns, and values of lesser importance—those that promise much but deliver so little. The book challenges the reader to live as God intended—approaching all of life with an eternal perspective, pursuing excellence everywhere, serving the kingdom of God in the place of God’s choosing, loving God and people more deeply, relying more fully on God in times of trial and trouble, taking seriously the coming judgment of God, and finally sharing the gospel message of God’s love and mercy in both “word and deed.” Living Deep in A Shallow World is the way life was meant to be—the self-life crucified, dead and gone, and the Christ-life, alive and functioning well. The need for deep people who model Christlikeness and live like Jesus, think like Jesus, and love like Jesus is critical and necessary for the effectiveness and testimony of the church and the individual believer wanting to live better and deeper in a messed-up world.

Pastors and church leaders want to see lives changed by the gospel. They work tirelessly to care for people, initiate new programs and ministries, preach new sermon series, and keep up with the latest trends. Sadly, it would seem that much of this effort is not resulting in deeply changed disciples. Why? Because many churches are unknowingly operating from a shallow discipleship that allows people to recycle the same problems year after year. Church goers are increasingly passive with lives not distinct from the culture. People are not able to integrate anger and sadness. Many are defensive and incapable of revealing their own weaknesses. Church leaders desperately need a better way of teaching people what it means to follow Jesus in a transformative way. In Emotionally Healthy Discipleship, bestselling author Pete Scazzero combines three decades of wisdom with hard lessons from his own ministry journey. He lays out what is required for church leaders to multiply deeply-changed people who are growing in relationship with God, themselves and others. Scazzero begins with four beneath-the-surface, systemic gaps that undermine serious discipleship. He provides a clear vision for a church culture that deeply changes lives and then practically unpacks the seven biblical marks of emotionally healthy discipleship: Learn to Be Before You Do Follow the Crucified, Not the Americanized, Jesus Receive the Gift of Limits Befriend Suffering and Loss Break the Power of the Past Practice the Presence of People Lead Out of Brokenness and Vulnerability Finally, he lays out practical steps for you to create an emotionally healthy discipleship culture that actually has the power to change the world.

Who is God? Does He care what I do with my life? Does God really love me? These days many young people are confused about God. Help youth workers provide a solid foundation for young teens with The Christian Life junior high school study resource. Part of the exciting Uncommon youth resource line, this straightforward presentation of the Gospel first explores who God is - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - then guides students through their relationships with God. Students will learn that God loves them no matter what; Jesus Christ is the only way to have a relationship with God; and the Holy Spirit lights the way to God. The three four-week modules examine one of the most critical parts of a young person's life, their faith. Lead students to discover that everyone is a sinner; how God's grace rescues us; and that we are to serve Him out of love and gratitude for His gift of grace.

Publishers Weekly Bestseller "If you're tired of surface-level teaching and shallow faith, this book will ignite a fire in your soul for a deeper walk with Jesus and draw you into the depths of the Word." —Gretchen Saffles, founder of Well-Watered Women Why We Need Jesus More Than Compliments "You're a beautiful daughter of the Most High King." And it's true. But it's not the whole truth. The beauty of being God's daughter has backstory. If you're tired of hearing the watered-down Christian teaching and hungry for a deeper spiritual life—one that gives real answers to your hardest questions—Stop Calling Me Beautiful teaches you how. You will learn how to pursue the truths of who God is and who you are in relationship to Him how to study Scripture, and how your view of God determines how you face life's challenges how legalism, shallow theology, and false teaching keep you from living boldly as a woman of the Word how to experience God's presence in painful circumstances Jesus doesn't offer a powerless salvation. He makes your brokenness part of His whole redemption story—if you allow Him to. Don't settle for a feel-good faith. If you want victory over insecurity, fear, shame, and the circumstances you are facing, it's time to embrace Jesus. All of Him.

Do your kids see the power and purpose in prayer—or is it something they endure until the "Amen"? What is this "worship stuff" Christians do? Is it just a bunch of people wearing choir robes? Playing guitars? Singing? Prayer and Worship Uncommon Junior High Group Study helps you answer teens' (possibly never-voiced!) questions in ways that make sense for their junior high lives: Help them understand how God answers prayer, what to do when He seems silent, why we keep on praying, what is worship? how does it all work? Through Scripture study, fun activities, stories and discussion, students will understand the "how and why" of prayer and—in ways that will help them make these two parts of loving God an integral part of their spiritual lives.

This study shows how God can use teens—even today—as instruments of His miraculous works. First, using the stories of Samuel, Josiah and Daniel, students will learn how they can recognize God's voice, remove idols in their lives and take a stand for the Lord. Then they will discover how a teenage girl named Mary obeyed God in very difficult circumstances and became the mother of our Savior; how the young Jesus was a model student and how, through a young boy's willingness to share what little he had, Jesus fed thousands. The youth worker article by Duffy Robbins encourages leaders to use the stories about young lives in the Bible to give teens the opportunity to see real-life people facing real-life issues under the loving hands of a real-life God.

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In *Practicing the Monastic Disciplines*, authors Sam Hamstra Jr. and Samuel Cocar recover the wisdom of the Christian desert and make it more available and accessible to modern Christians, especially those in the evangelical circle they inhabit. Believing that moderns like themselves often flail in their Christian lives, the authors discover in the desert Christians of late antiquity a clear map for growing in Christlikeness, as well as an effective set of tools (or weapons) for combating temptation. This set of insights sees its completion in the spiritual theology of Evagrius Ponticus, a monastic theologian who expertly assessed the maladies and corresponding remedies of Christian discipleship. Evagrius and his comrades offer modern Christians a coherent framework for spiritual formation and growth, one which treats seriously both the frailties of human nature and the potential for sanctification. This strand of patristic spirituality guides us toward glorifying God through both training our bodies and ordering our interior lives. The easiest thing for a believer to do is live their life in the shallow waters of the Christian life. *The Move* is for those that tired of shallow waters and ready to venture out into the deep. *The Move* is filled with supernatural life stories, revelation from decades of ministry and 222 Moves that will impact your life. This book has been a lifetime in the making!

Many parents of a teenager or young adult feel as though they're guessing about what to do next--with mixed results. We want to stay connected with our maturing child, but we're not sure how. And deep down, we fear our child doesn't want or need us. Based on brand-new research and interviews with remarkable families, *Growing With* equips parents to take steps toward their teenagers and young adults in a mutual journey of intentional growth that trusts God to transform them all. By highlighting three groundbreaking family strategies, authors Kara Powell and Steven Argue show parents that it's never too early or too late to - accept the child you have, not the child you wish you had - work toward solutions rather than only identifying problems - develop empathy that nudges rather than judges - fight for your child, not against them - connect your children with a faith and church big enough to handle their doubts and struggles - dive into tough discussions about dating, career, and finances - and unleash your child's passions and talents to change our world For any parent who longs for their kids to keep their roots even as they spread their wings, *Growing With* offers practical help and hope for the days--and years--ahead.

Deep Ministry in a Shallow World will show you a new way to prayerfully reflect on the questions you face in your youth ministry every day so you can find the answers that will take it to deeper places. That's because authors Chap Clark and Kara Powell have gathered significant research findings that will help shift your ministry paradigm. Did you know that: • the typical strategies we use to build relationships with kids might actually cause them to trust us less because of what this generation has endured? • recent research on communication could help us move past the witty talks and funny stories we work so hard to develop and instead actually connect the Bible to kids' lives? • studies show that offering students "just Jesus" and not helping them at home, school, and in their neighborhoods might not help them very much at all? The authors' research also led to their development of the Deep Design problem-solving process—a revolutionary model that will give you better tools than ever before to address every last issue you'll encounter in youth ministry.

Physical and emotional changes in junior high make kids feel like strangers even to

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themselves, and the pressures of family life, friendships and school that don't seem to ever let up. How can youth leaders help students in their group handle the stress? Dealing with Pressure and Change Uncommon Junior High Group Study from the Uncommon series, gives leaders everything they need to guide the group members as they face stressful situations at school, understand the rapid changes inside them, remain connected to God through ups and downs, and support their friends in trying times. Through 12 flexible sessions of Bible study, adaptable for groups of any size, junior high students will discover God walks beside them no matter their situation or stress level. The highoctane, kid-friendly activities will help students engage biblical truth with their hearts, minds and fidgety bodies, too!

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