



Summer Reading Suggestions

Your Spiritual Formation Committee has gathered some book suggestions for your family's reading pleasure. When you are on the beach, at the pool, chilling at home grab a book that is worth the read. Please let us know if this was helpful! We look forward to gearing up for September when we will roll out new educational opportunities including an all-church study, Wednesday night and Sunday morning studies, and Alpha. Have a fun summer and happy reading!

FOR CHILDREN:

Trailblazer Books are written for readers ages 8-12. They are exciting adventure stories about Christian heroes of the past. We have them at MPC in the Children's wing!

Cul-de-sac Kids Books are written for readers ages 7-10. They are fun adventure stories which teach valuable lessons through nine boys and girls who live on Blossom Hill Lane. We have the books at MPC in the Children's wing!

Notes from Jesus: What Your New Best Friend Wants You to Know

By Mikal Keefer

Age Range: 6 and up

Jesus Calling – 365 Devotions for Kids

By Sarah Young

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations

By Alex & Brett Harris

Age Range: 12 and up

Written by teens for teens, Do Hard Things is packed with humorous personal anecdotes, practical examples, and stories of real-life “rebelutionaires” in action. This

rallying cry from the heart of an already-happening teen revolution challenges a generation to lay claim to a brighter future, starting today.

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name

by [Sally Lloyd-Jones](#) (Author), [Jago](#) (Illustrator)

If you are a parent, grandparent, pastor, or teacher looking for a way to teach the children in your life about God's "Never Stopping, Never Giving up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love," look no further than the Jesus Storybook Bible.

While other Kids' Bibles contain stories from the Old and New Testaments, The Jesus Storybook Bible tells the Story beneath all the stories in the Bible, pointing to Jesus as our Savior. From the Old Testament through the New Testament, as the Story unfolds, children will clearly see that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation - and at the center of their story too.

The Jesus Storybook Bible:

- Visually brings scripture to life for children
- Contains 21 stories from the Old Testament
- Contains 23 stories from the New Testament
- Presents the best-loved stories of the Bible in an easy-to-understand format
- Shares how Jesus is at the center of our story
- Features the award-winning illustrations of Jago
- Features the beloved, best-selling writing of Sally Lloyd-Jones
- Is the perfect Kids' Bible for any age up to 6th grade

Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing by [Sally Lloyd-Jones](#)

Perfect for family devotions, bedtime, story time, or even as a companion to *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, this accessible yet theologically rich book reveals biblical truth in word and image-all working together and designed to do one thing: to make the reader's heart sing.

FOR ADULTS:

Jesus Among Secular Gods

By Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale

The Christian worldview is challenged and dismissed by the popular culture. This book challenges the secular “gods” which are being embraced and devaluing Christian faith. This book tackles head-on today’s most urgent challenges to the faith. It will help seekers and believers alike to explore the claims of Christ against the backdrop of an increasingly secular society, while shoring up their faith and providing an answer to why to believe in Jesus above all other “gods”.

More Than a Carpenter; Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell

This book has changed countless lives, including mine. Christianity is not a blind faith. It is rooted in history, with a foundation in actual events testified to. How can the skeptics be answered? How can any creeping doubts be confronted? How can we know for sure that we are following a faith which can be defended? How can our students confront the voices they hear in school and society in opposition to Christianity. This easy reading book, provides the foundation to know why we believe what we do as Christians.

Knowing God; J. I. Packer

This book is considered by many to be an all-time contemporary Christian classic. It is not enough for us to know about God, we are invited by our Creator to actually KNOW Him. This book provides a comprehensive look into all aspects of our God. It takes the reader down the path to show plainly what it means to KNOW God. It offers profound and basic spiritual truths told in a practical and readable way.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Is a parable for all ages This touching story on love, sharing, and growth is a classic delivering a powerful message for readers of all ages.

Jesus Calling by Sarah Young

Is a devotional for every day of the year featuring scripture from both the old and new testaments. Gain PEACE in His presence and a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Telling Secrets, a memoir, by Fredrick Buecher

Is based on his belief that the "human family" all have similar secrets. Buecher shares his deepest secrets and the influence they have had on different aspects of his personal and professional life.

The Shack by William P. Young

After his daughter's murder, a grieving father confronts God with desperate questions -- and finds unexpected answers -- in this riveting and deeply moving #1 *NYT* bestseller.

When Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter Missy is abducted during a family vacation, he remains hopeful that she'll return home. But then, he discovers evidence that she may have been brutally murdered in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness.

Four years later, in the midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note that's supposedly from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment, he arrives on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.

Mere Christianity C.S. Lewis

In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*, *Mere Christianity* provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith.

The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* is a classic Christian allegorical tale about a bus ride from hell to heaven. An extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment, Lewis's revolutionary idea in the *The Great Divorce* is that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. Using his extraordinary descriptive powers, Lewis' *The Great Divorce* will change the way we think about good and evil.

"The Spirit-Filled Life", by Charles Stanley

The book points out that many Christians ignore the Holy Spirit, either because they simply don't understand the concept or because the Spirit doesn't seem as "real" or

tangible as Jesus. In doing so, believers miss out on an important gift and resource in our daily lives. The book explains the Holy Spirit, how the Holy Spirit is an essential part of our faith, and how to draw closer to the Holy Spirit.

This book also fits well with our new sermon series on the Acts of the Apostles.

Celebration of Discipline, Prayer - Richard J.Foster

Both books are practical basic serious Christianity. Moderate read

If You Want To Walk On Water You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat - John Ortberg

Uplifting, Challenging, Inspiring and supportive. Easy read

As the name implies, the book makes the point that it's not enough to be aware of Jesus or "have faith" - a Christian needs to take steps to act on that faith. The book discusses facing our fears, stretching ourselves as Christians, and making our faith an integral part of our everyday lives.

The book is a fairly light read -- not too deep. Suitable for youth as well as adults.

Surprised By The Power The Power Of The Spirit - Jack Deere

A thought provoking look at the Holy Spirit - Easy read

Pilgrim's Progress - John Bunyan

Classic old Christian allegorical book. Old English -hard read

Modern English version - Moderate read - Great to read to children.

Advise- book with illustrations.