



**URC Children's and Youth Work
Library of Resources for Young People Aged 11-18
December 2017**

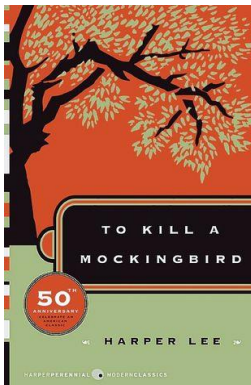
In need of inspiration? In search of new resources for your children's group? Looking for ideas for a particular event or season? Here are some resources we recommend for young people aged 11-18, their families and those working with them.

We've organised the resources into categories to help you find what you're looking for. These are:

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If you would like any more information on these materials or have some suggestions of your own, please contact us by e-mail at children.youth@urc.org.uk, by phone on 020 7916 2020 or by post to Children's and Youth Work Office, URC House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT.

Stories (with a message)



To Kill A Mockingbird

by Harper Lee (*Harperperennial Modern Classics*)

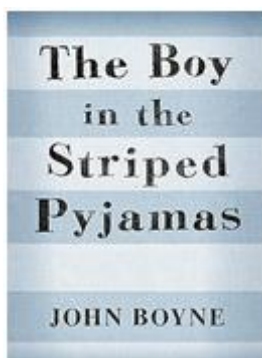
It's 50 years since Lee penned her only novel to date, but this tale, told through the eyes of a young girl called Scout, exploring innocence and kindness, justice and prejudice in a sleepy Southern town, remains a firm favourite decades on. A must-read exploration of social justice issues still as pertinent today as ever.



Soul Surfer

by Bethany Hamilton and Rick Bundschuh with Sheryl Berk (*MTV Books*)

This is the true story of a teenage surfer girl who lost her arm in a shark attack, but never lost her beliefs, using them, along with the loving support and faithfulness of her family, to return triumphantly to competitive surfing. Bethany's courage and determination are inspirational for everyone, regardless of age.



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

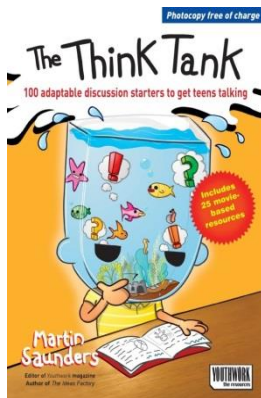
by John Boyne (*David Fickling Books*)

A difficult, but important read, offering valuable insight into a particularly horrific element of the Second World War, as well as the perspective of innocence and compassion which children often bring in such devastating situations. A story of friendship through opposition and adversity, leading to a completely avoidable tragic outcome



Table Talk (www.table-talk.org)

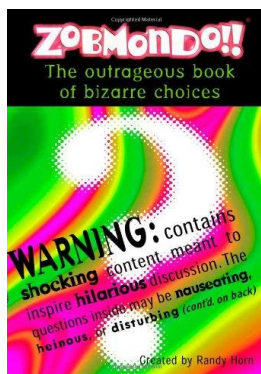
How do you get a good discussion going? Very often it's all about the questions you start with. 'Table Talk' offers an invaluable way for young people to enter relevant, Christian-themed discussion on a wide range of issues and topics through intriguing leading questions. Suitable for use in all sorts of contexts.



Think Tank : 100 Adaptable Discussion Starters to Get Teens Talking

By Martin Saunders (Monarch Books)

In a fast moving culture finding something new to engage with is always a challenge. Saunders successfully brings many of these to the table in an engaging and thought-provoking way for young people to engage with, linking provocative stories to Scripture, encouraging discussion and reflection.



Zobmondo!!

By Randy Horn (Workman Publishing)

Despite having some truly disgusting options, this book of 'would you rather' will get your youth group laughing as they engage in discussion topics like never before. The book contains 404 questions which range from the simple, thought provoking, funny and downright weird!



World War One: Reflective Prayer Stations and Activities

(http://www.unc.org.uk/images/Ministries/Children%20and%20Young%20People/Young-People-11-15/reflective_prayer_ideas1.pdf)

Designed especially by CofE Guildford Diocese for young people, this collection of prayer stations, suggestions and activities promotes reflection on a range of Christian themes associated with World War One. A very useful and engaging resource indeed.



Greater Love – Lesson Plans

(http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/203992/HOPE/Mission_Moments/Remembrance/Remembrance.aspx#.U-3YgvldWqQ)

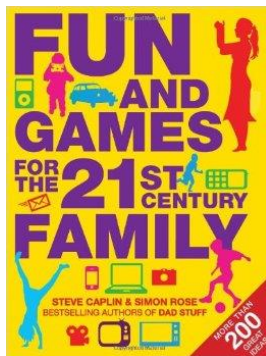
As part of the centenary of World War 1, HOPE and partners have produced resources to help churches be at the heart of the remembrance moments, including KS2 and KS3 lesson plans to engage young people in the commemoration process both in the classroom as well as less formal youth group settings.



Exam Stress?

(<http://childrenandyouth.org.uk/category/worker/resources-worker/exam-stress/>)

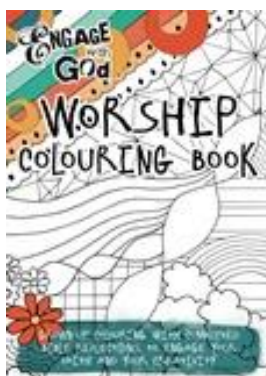
If you, or young people you know, are approaching or dealing with exams, then this resource could be for you. With top revision tips, relaxation techniques and helpful advice, the Methodist Church offers all you need to see this stressful season out!



Fun and Games for the 21st Century Family

by *Steve Caplin and Simon Rose (Old Street Publishing)*

Two dads wrote this book as they sought to find a balance between the fun and interaction of traditional games with the rising popularity of technology. This fantastic collection gives traditional games a twist, introduces new ones and makes some very imaginative use of smartphones...



Worship Colouring Book

by *Engage Worship* (www.engageworship.org/store/worship-colouring-book)

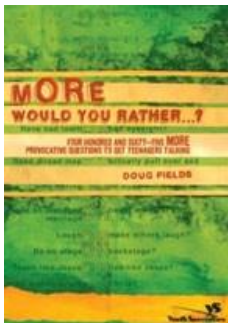
Colouring isn't only about passing the time. Colouring as an act of prayer or a time of reflection on scripture can be a useful worship experience for individuals and groups alike. This book of quality line drawings based on Biblical verses and themes offers a spiritual focus for colouring, inviting participants to think deeper about relevant bible verses and principles relating to the pictures.



'How To Be More Awesome' Journal & Supported Website Resource

Tim Slack & Suzanne Quinney (www.bemoreawesome.net)

Drawing from Positive Psychology and Appreciative Inquiry (AI), this great journaling pack offers a personal development tool to increase personal resilience, confidence and wellbeing. This engaging, easy to use resource supports positive reflection and awareness, helping young people to identify and build on their strengths and skills.



More Would You Rather

by Doug Fields (Zondervan)

Would you rather live without your thumb or your big toe? Be famous or inspirational? Flip burgers or deliver pizza? The answers to such questions have a story behind them which can help them to explore thoughts about values, fears, and faith amongst other things. Thought-provoking fun for all ages.



100 Ways to Energise Groups: Games to Use in Workshops, Meetings and the Community

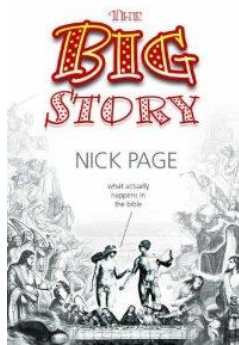
http://www.spen.org.uk/mymedia/files/resource_pdfs/youth_work/100%20Ways%20to%20Energise%20Groups.pdf

There are lots of resources available to encourage young people to get talking and discussing, but what about games and activities to get the body as well as the mind going? This great collection of 100 great ideas will get young people standing, sitting, walking, jumping, writing and singing as they bond with their peers, work together and learn more about each other.



The Week Junior (www.theweekjunior.co.uk)

This weekly newspaper/magazine for children presents news and articles in an accessible way with great images. The magazine is perfect for discussion starters around national and international events and could be a prompter for who and what needs to be prayed for as well as keeping children up to date with what's going on around them.



The Big Story

Nick Page (Authentic Lifestyle)

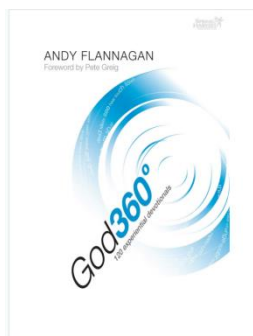
A great little resource offering a healthy balance of humour, narrative and explanatory information to help the reader find out in SUPER FAST TIME about God's big story as detailed in the Bible, how the various characters connect and how the various books in the Bible come together.



Awesome on the Inside

by Tim Hawkins (Intervarsity Press)

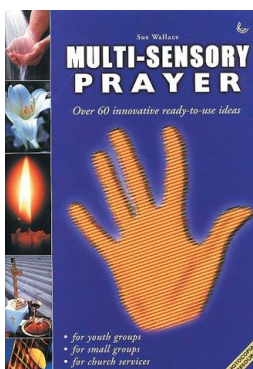
How can you grow to become the person that you were destined to be? How can you achieve your full potential? Written for teenagers of the 21st century, Hawkins explores the Bible in ways which support readers in discovering the big things God wants them to do in life.



God 360°

by Andy Flannagan (Spring Harvest Publishing)

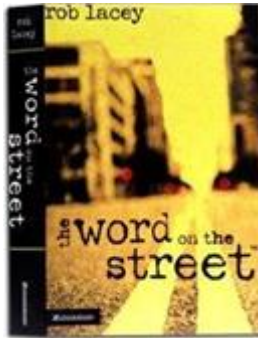
God 360° is a different kind of devotional book, challenging the reader, to let words become flesh in action and experience by reading Scripture in contexts suitable to the content of its stories, whether that be on a mountain top or in a waste disposal site! A fresh, fascinating and insightful collection of experiences young people are bound to enjoy.



Multi-Sensory prayer

by Sue Wallace (Scripture Union)

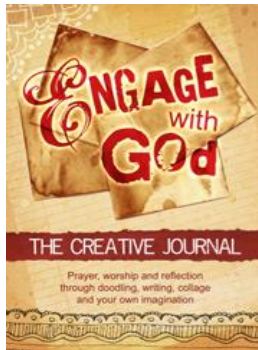
Multi-Sensory Prayer is a collection of over 60 ideas to help you and your young people meet God in active, experimental prayer. This resource includes various ways of exploring the senses to enrich the prayer experience - using everything from candles and broken pottery to leaves, newspapers, dough and mirrors!



The Word on the Street

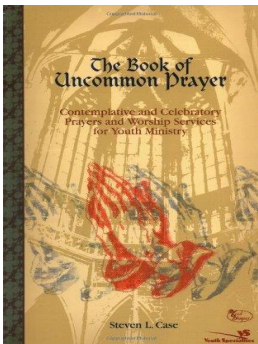
By Rob Lacey (Zondervan)

Previously known as ‘*The Street Bible*’, this is Scripture as you’ve never heard it before. A fast-moving overview of Christianity’s central text in contemporary language with vivid 21st century imagery including Psalms as songs, the Gospels as one story, epistles as emails, and Revelation as seen through a virtual reality headset...



Engage with God – the creative journal (www.engageworship.org)

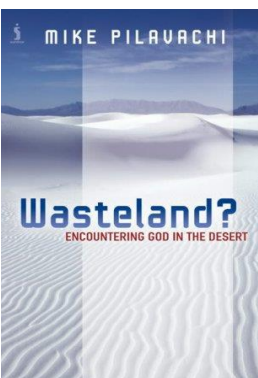
Are you a doodler? Are your notebooks covered in scribbles and doodles and hand drawn pictures? If so then this is the prayer book for you. These creative journals encourage prayer, worship and reflection through doodling, writing, collage and your own imagination – who said prayer had to be neat and tidy?!



The Book Of Uncommon Prayer

By Steven L. Case (Youth Specialties)

A useful collection of contemplative and celebratory prayers and worship services for youth ministry. Moving away from the idea that all good youth workers have smoke machines and a rock band to reach teenager’s souls, this book leads towards the idea that young people, as everyone, truly need ‘the full diet of Christian Worship’.



Wasteland? - Encountering God in the desert

By Mike Pilavachi (Survivor)

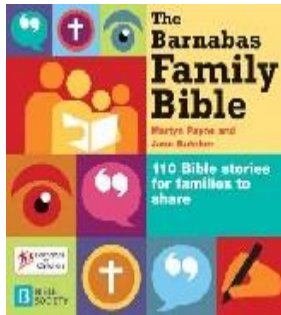
With an easy-to-read and engaging style, this book explores the idea that although mountain top experiences can be invigorating, it is in the valleys that we find real growth. Pilavachi uses Scripture alongside his own experiences to enthuse and inspire on our journey with Christ especially when that takes us through the wastelands.



'Life is Beautiful'

by *The Afters (Fair Trade Services)*

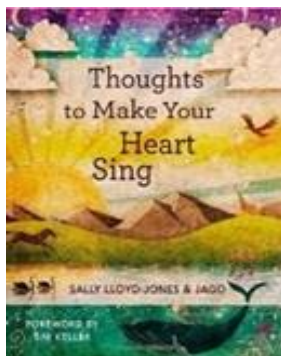
Texas-based, Christian Rock band 'The Afters' offer much food for thought in their album, 'Life is Beautiful', with songs such as 'Find Your Way', 'Believe (Waiting For An Answer)' and 'Breathe In Breathe Out' to keep the discussion going. A good resource for Bible study.



The Barnabas Family Bible

by *Martin Payne and Jane Butcher (The Bible Reading Fellowship)*

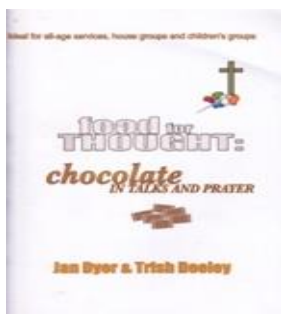
In true Barnabas style, this simple, yet authentic version of Scripture aims to make the Bible accessible without losing the meaning or intent. This particular edition aims to support families as they explore God's Word together, sharing various experiences, thoughts and views, keeping the Bible alive and relevant across the generations.



Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing

by *Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago (Zondervan)*

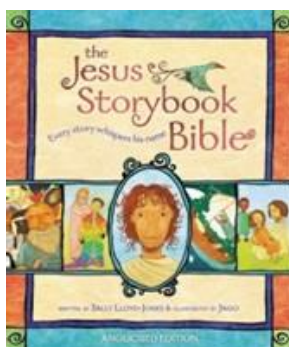
This gorgeous collection of 101 simple, yet profound thoughts on faith shared spiritual truths, told in a conversational tone. Although pitched at younger children, this book is also great for young teens who are new to Christianity, perhaps needing reassurance or encouragement.



Food for Thought : chocolate in talks and prayer

by *Jan Dyer and Trish Deeley (Christian Dance Fellowship of Britain)*

Yes, the Christian Dance Fellowship of Britain, which aims to bring those who are keen on God and dancing together has, indeed, published a guide on how to use chocolate as a means to share the Word of God and as a focus for prayer. Delicious!



The Jesus Storybook Bible

by *Sally Lloyd-Jones (Zondervan)*

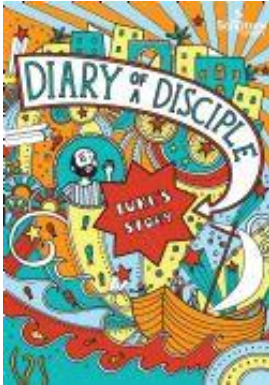
The 'Jesus Storybook Bible' looks at the amazing gift of Jesus to the world, giving teens the chance to explore 'God's amazing, never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.'



Participate!

by Meg Prowting, Penny Fuller and Mike Seaton (Barnabas Publishing)

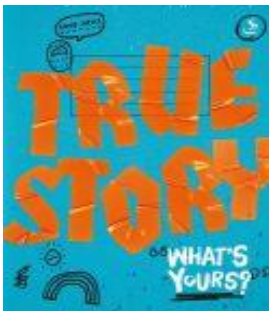
As the URC increases its emphasis on Discipleship, this seven week programme is ideal for enabling young people to explore their calling and consider their role in the life and work of the Church as part of their discipleship journey. Each session considers three elements; God, Others and Me, with a range of options for varying ages, needs and abilities.



Diary of a Disciple: Luke's story

by Emma Willis (Scripture Union)

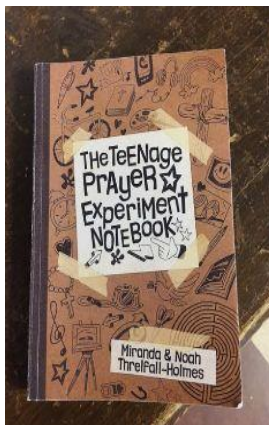
This re-imagining of the Gospel of Luke opens up the story for a new generation. Using contemporary language, art, approaches and expression, this important book of the Bible is presented in an accessible, understandable and relevant way for teenagers.



True Story

by Pete Brown (Scripture Union)

'True Story' invites teenagers to reflect upon six key interactions which Jesus has with characters in the Gospels. This fascinating exploration of Biblical encounters with Jesus is an ideal resource for any young person seeking answers to life's bigger questions.



The Teenage Prayer Experiment Notebook

by Miranda and Noah Threlfall-Holmes (SPCK)

[\(http://teenageprayerexperiment.blogspot.co.uk/\)](http://teenageprayerexperiment.blogspot.co.uk/)

Encouraging, and helping, our young people to pray is an honourable task, but it can also have its challenges! Avoiding the patronising approach of a 'grown up' telling 'youngsters' how to pray, this book and accompanying blog is written by a mother and son together, offering honest reflections on different prayer ideas, recognising young people as equal partners on the journey of faith.



The Unofficial Bible for Minecrafters by *Garrett Romines and Christopher Miko (Lion Hudson)*

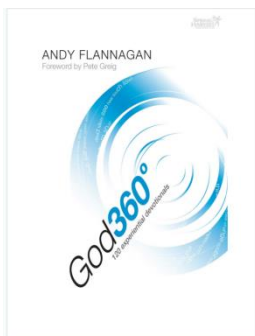
The world of the Bible is brought to you by two Minecraft master builders. Read the famous stories of the bible, created through the medium of Minecraft. A must for any Minecraft fan and a great way to engage with bible stories in a fresh way.

General Lectionary



Spill The Beans (www.spillbeans.org.uk)

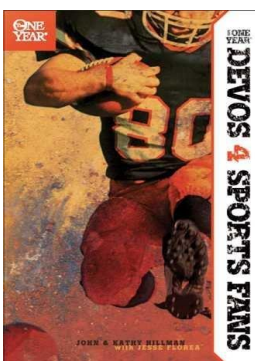
A lectionary based all-age worship and learning resource written in an informal, story-based style. Ideal for Sunday Schools, Junior Church, Pilots, Uniformed Organisations, school assemblies or whatever else you can think of! Lots of crafts, games, prayers, music and re-told Bible stories. Value subscription deals available.



God 360°

by *Andy Flannagan* (Spring Harvest Publishing)

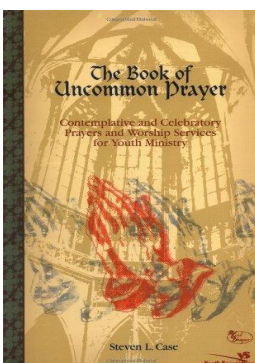
God 360° is a different kind of devotional book, challenging the reader, to let words become flesh in action and experience by reading Scripture in contexts suitable to the content of its stories, whether that be on a mountain top or in a waste disposal site! A fresh, fascinating and insightful collection of experiences young people are bound to enjoy.



One Year Devos 4 Sports Fans

by *John Hillma, Kathy Hillman & Jesse Florea* (Tyndale House)

Despite a distinctly American flavour, this book wonderfully explores what the world of sports can teach us about spiritual principles with illustrations from over 40 different sports, including basketball, football, baseball, skateboarding and much more, specifically aimed at sports fans aged 12 and up.



The Book Of Uncommon Prayer

By *Steven L. Case* (Youth Specialties)

A useful collection of contemplative and celebratory prayers and worship services for youth ministry. Moving away from the idea that all good youth workers have smoke machines and a rock band to reach teenager's souls, this book leads towards the idea that young people, as everyone, truly need 'the full diet of Christian Worship'.

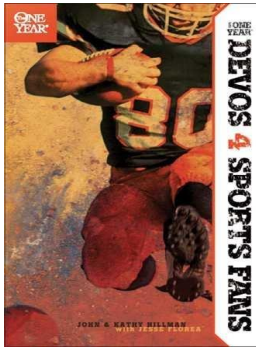
Seasons of the Spirit Lectionary Resources

(<http://www.seasonsonline.ca/>)



These collections of engaging and inspiring materials, produced ecumenically across international borders, is tailored for a range of age groups, allowing everyone in a church to explore the lectionary, both separately and together, in ways which are accessible and relevant to all. Free sample materials are available on the website.

Sport



One Year Devos 4 Sports Fans

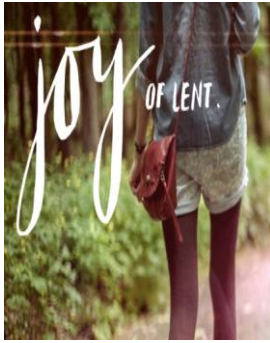
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Christians In Sport (www.christiansinsport.org.uk)

An organisation committed to supporting Christians everywhere in living out their faith through their sports clubs and teams as well as enable churches to engage with their local sporting communities. A dedicated youth section helps young Christian sportspeople recognise their ability to play sport as a gift from God and to encourage them to represent Jesus as they play.

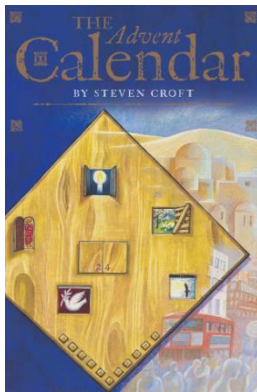


Count Your Blessings: Resources for Lent

www.christianaidcollective.org/resources/count-your-blessings

The Christian Aid Collective has published a series of resources for different ages to help us think through what Lent means. Many of us will ‘give something up’ for Lent each year. These resources aim to refocus us on giving up our time and our energy to make a difference to other people.

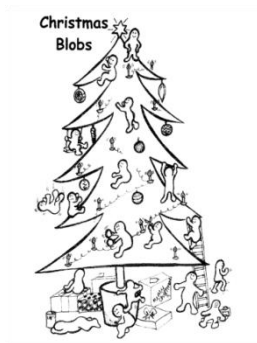
Christmas



The Advent Calendar

By Steven Croft (Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd)

This book is an excellent read in the run up to Christmas. It is based around Alice who has just moved to a new city and a new school. She is dreading Christmas but her idiot uncle, Sam, brings home an advent calendar like no other and she is suddenly thrown into an Advent she never dreamed of.



Christmas Blobs (www.blobtree.com)

‘Blob Trees’ by Pip Wilson and Ian Long are fun and interesting drawings designed to provoke thought and reflection. There are designs to suit all situations. If you have never seen them before, the Christmas collections offer a great introduction.



CAFOD Advent

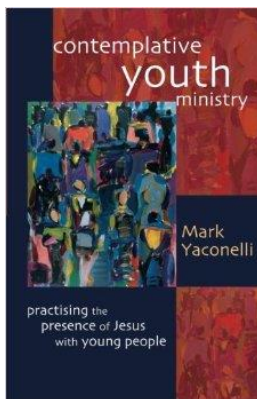
Calendar (<http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-schools/Young-people-s-Advent-calendar>)

Designed for secondary schools, but very much relevant for all, this alternative advent calendar explores the Christmas story in light of the current refugee crisis around the globe. How can the story of Jesus’ birth help us to ‘Welcome the Stranger’ in our midst?



A Social Network Christmas (*IgniterMedia*)

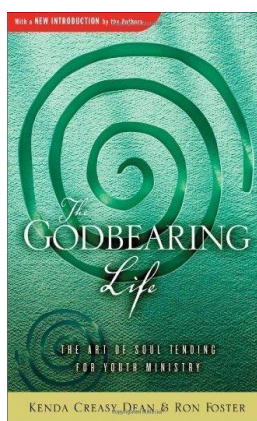
This re-imagining of the nativity story through social media has received over 2 million views since 2010. It’s still a great discussion starter and a fresh way of encouraging people to consider the implications of this crucial story in the midst of a technology savvy society.



Contemplative Youth Ministry: practicing the presence of Jesus with young people

by *Mark Yaconelli (SPCK)*

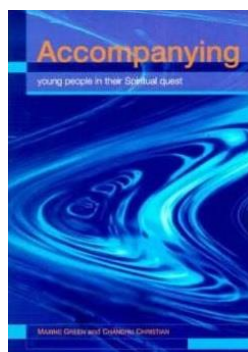
Yaconelli leaves high octane activities aside as he explores contemplative practices with teenagers. He seeks to equip young people in noticing, naming, nurturing and serving God in their lives, rather than avoiding deeper conversations by playing zany games. This book will change the way you do youth work.



The Godbearing Life: The Art Of Soul Tending For Youth Ministry

By *Kenda Creasy Dean & Ron Foster (Upper Room Books)*

This book is for anyone who is weary, overworked or stretched too thinly with the youth club, youth fellowship, youth camp and all the other programmes and activities organised to support young people in your church. A challenge to refocus on relationships, rather than content, and create sacred space in your ministry with young people.



Accompanying Young People on their Spiritual Quest

by *Maxine Green and Chandu Christian (Church House Publishing)*

An easy-to-read exploration of what it truly means to ‘accompany’ young people on the mammoth journey which faith always brings. Deals with issues of confidence and maturity, confidentiality and good practice. An important read for those interested in supporting young people in developing their spirituality.



YOUTHWORK Magazine (www.premieryouthwork.com)

This monthly magazine continues to adapt in its quest to relevantly deal with the needs of those working in Christian ministry with young people. It offers discussions, reflections, activities, schools materials and much more by way of inspiration and practical advice for those working in this challenging, yet exciting field.



Premier CYW Magazine: The Elephant in the Room Edition

(<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/>)

This month's edition is particularly special as it aims to help readers think about all sorts of things we don't like to talk about when it comes to children and young people. Sexuality, abortion, corporal punishment, hell... Where do we start?! An important read for everyone supporting children and young people in tackling life's challenges.