



**URC Children's and Youth Work  
Library of Resources for Young Adults Aged 18-25  
December 2017**

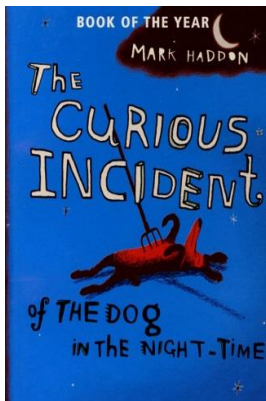
In need of inspiration? In search of new resources for your children's group? Looking for ideas for a particular event or season? Here are some resources we recommend for young adults aged 18-25, their families and those working with them.

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

Stories (with a message)	Page 2
Themed and General Resources	Page 4
Bible, Worship, Prayers and Reflection	Page 7
Sport	Page 10
Lent and Easter	Page 11
Christmas	Page 12
Literature for Work with Young Adults	Page 13

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](mailto: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.

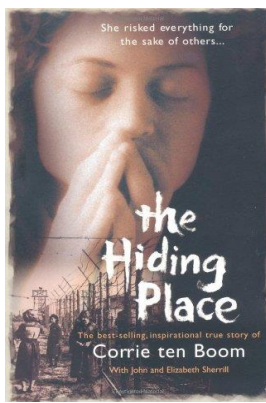
Stories (with a message)



**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**

by *Mark Haddon* (???)

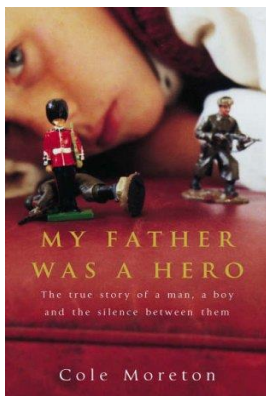
Narrated by 15-year-old Christopher, ‘a mathematician with some behavioural issues’, Haddon brilliantly explores the realities of seeing the world ‘differently’. This is no ordinary murder mystery, as Christopher interprets his experiences, comes to terms with hidden secrets about his family and the potential these all open up for his future.



**The Hiding Place**

by *Corrie Ten Boom, with Elizabeth Sherill & John Sherrill* (Hodder & Stoughton)

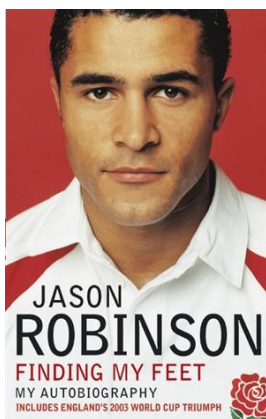
During the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands, ten Boom’s family courageously offered shelter to persecuted Jews during the Nazi occupation of Holland. The faith of the whole family was tested as they found themselves caught up in the Dutch underground until a trap brought about their arrest...



**My Father Was a Hero**

by *Cole Moreton* (Viking)

Moreton, viewing his grandfather as a WW2 hero, wonders what happened to his family after the war and why no one wants to talk about it. An intriguing story shedding fresh light on life during the blitz, the curse of un-diagnosed mental illness and exploring what it really means to be a hero.



**Finding My Feet**

by *Jason Robinson* (Hodder)

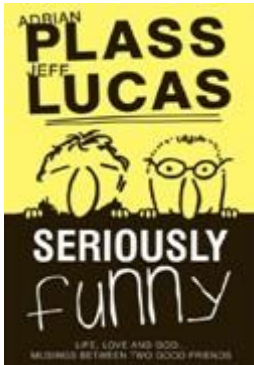
The renowned rugby star shares his journey from poverty to success. But he also admits that it wasn’t the answer to being happy. His extraordinary turnaround from hard-drinking, deeply troubled teenager to born again Christian and dedicated family man makes his story a fascinating and important read.



### **Real Teens, Real Stories, Real Life**

by *T. Suzanne Eller* (???)

The teens in this book are not fictitious. They have experienced the full range of disappointments, heartaches, and personal failures that life can throw. This open and honest read identifies with the things that teenagers face, whilst demonstrating God's desire for relationship, His love and His mercy. Hugely encouraging and inspiring.



### **Seriously Funny**

*Adrian Plass and Jeff Lucas (Authentic Media)*

Two exceptionally gifted and funny Christian speakers share their conversations with readers. Adrian and Jeff grapple with life and faith questions, in a very personal way, sharing some individual experiences which provide vivid images and superb metaphors.

## Themed and General Resources

### Christian Aid Collective

(<http://www.christianaidcollective.org/resources>)



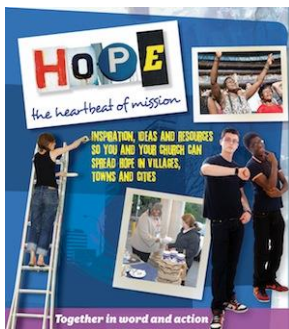
The Christian Aid Collective empowers young people in fighting for justice. It wrestles with the big issues surrounding global poverty and aims to inspire learning and passion in such areas as tax, climate change, conflict, equality, health, corruption... Their website is jam packed with lots of resources!

### Fresh

by *Krish Kandiah (IVP)*



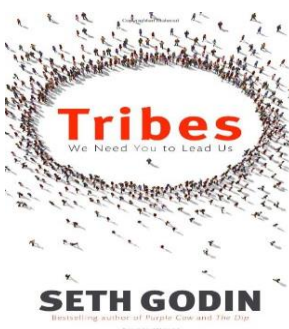
Full of Gospel-focussed and practical wisdom to help young adults navigate through their first few weeks of university, this great resource provides bite-sized daily inspirations and challenges for new students covering everything from writing essays to writing home, making friends to making the grade, debt to dating...



### Hope – the heartbeat of mission

(<http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/>)

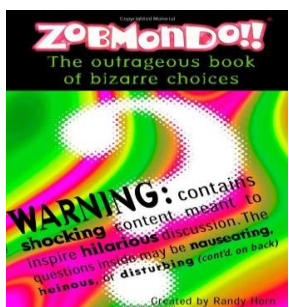
A 220-page collection packed full of tried-and-tested mission ideas, resources and funding links for foodbanks and village fairs; Passion plays and parenting courses and more to get your young adults, and the whole church community, excited and involved in local mission.



### Tribes – We need you to lead us

by *Seth Godin (Piakus)*

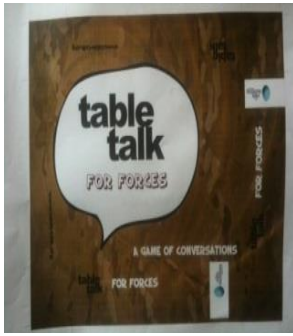
A leader in the internet revolution, Godin explains how and why people can lead their own 'tribes', groups who share a common interest or passion. Contains some powerful observations about the difference between management and leadership.



### Zobmondo!!

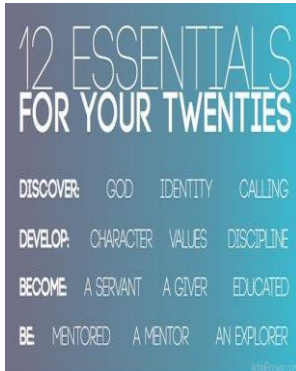
By *Randy Horn (Workman Publishing)*

This strange book of 'would you rather' will get your youth group laughing as they engage in discussion topics like never before. Contains 404 questions ranging from the simple to downright weird!



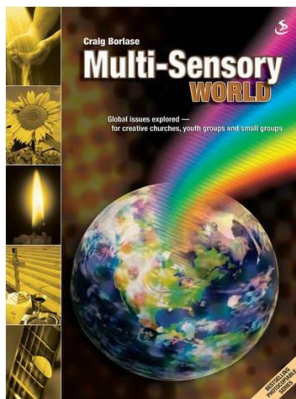
### **Table Talk for Forces ([www.table-talk.org](http://www.table-talk.org))**

Collection of leading questions to fire-up discussion. This particular pack relates to the Armed Forces, asking whether there is ever a right and a wrong side in conflict, whether there is a place for extremists in society, what it really means to be 'fit'...The list goes on!



### **12 Essentials for your Twenties ([www.adrielbooker.com/12-essentials-for-your-twenties](http://www.adrielbooker.com/12-essentials-for-your-twenties))**

Two great blog entries from Adriel Booker exploring some of the key concepts and characteristics we are given a great opportunity to encounter in our twenties. A young Christian woman seeking to make a difference in the world around her, Booker offers intriguing thoughts and advice useful to all.



### **Multi-sensory world**

*By Craig Borlase (scripture Union)*

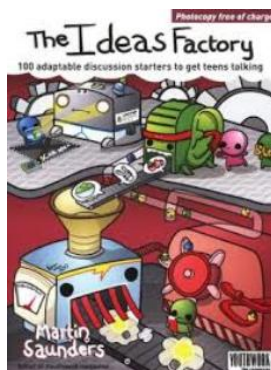
These ten sessions, which can be used stand-alone or dipped into, explore vital global issues in creative ways. Featuring materialism, climate change, fair trade and global injustice, this resource is perfect for 18-25 year olds as they continue to grapple with their place in the world and the responsibilities they now have as adults.



### **The Craftivist Collective**

([www.craftivist-collective.com/](http://www.craftivist-collective.com/))

If you like being crafty and are passionate about social and global issues then check out this group. Connected with the official Greenbelt programme, the collective aims to 'change the world one stitch at a time' by using art and crafts in the fight for social justice. Recent projects include the Robin Hood tax and childhood hunger.



### **The Ideas Factory**

*by Martin Saunders (Monarch Books)*

Ignore the 'suitable for teens' label. This collection of 'discussion starters' will have young adults talking just as much! Sections include racism, pornography and suffering to just to name a few, linking crucial issues with bible passages to enhance conversations. No easy answers, of course, but, rather, much needed debate.



**TED Talks** (<http://www.ted.com/talks>)

Sometimes, the best way to start a discussion is to listen to someone who has a bright idea. TED Talks are a great way to find such people, on video. This fantastic collection of talks on every subject one could possibly imagine is updated very regularly. Videos tend to last 15-20 minutes, offering inspiring ideas, provocative thoughts, engaging strategies and intriguing questions.



**Share The Meal** (*United Nations World Food Programme*)

This innovative app introduces young adults to the responsibility of sacrifice in serving those less fortunate than themselves. It encourages users to donate a small amount, every time they eat a particular food or do a particular thing, to feed someone in poverty. Check it out here: <https://sharethemeal.org/en/index.html>



**Drowning in the Shallow** by Andy Flanagan  
(<http://www.andyflan.com/>)

This collection of 12 songs by Andy Flanagan deals with the struggles of being a Christian in today's world and the challenges involved in moving from the shallows into the deeper, unknown waters of life and faith. Musically, the album is well crafted and well produced and an accompanying booklet gives 'the stories behind, beyond and between the songs'.



**Student Linkup** (<https://www.studentlinkup.org/>)

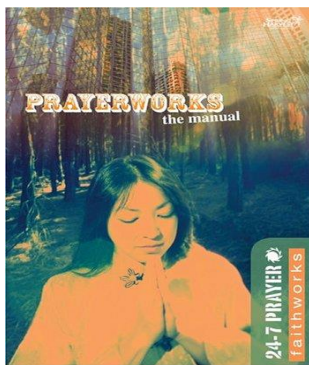
Moving to college or university is a massive step, the next part of your journey in life, but it's tough to walk into a church when you don't know the area or the people. Student Linkup lets you search for student-friendly churches in and around your university area, either as a web-based search or through the app. You can also register with the site so churches can contact you.



### **Inspiring prayer – finding space in life to pray**

*(SGM Lifeworlds Ltd)*

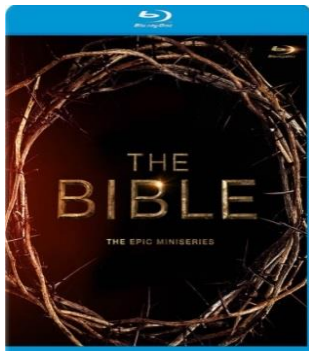
A helpful collection of prayers for all sorts of situations. From places of persecution to those time when God feels far away, from the need for healing to the fight for the environment, from pleas for direction and to confession of sins, there's something here to encourage and inspire everyone.



### **Prayerworks – the manual**

*(24-7, Oasis and Spring Harvest)*

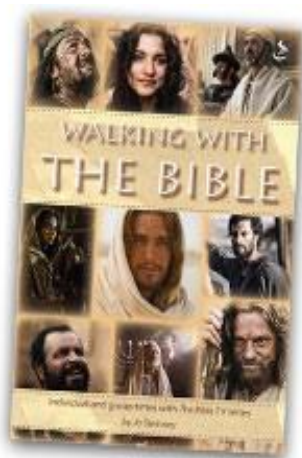
An invaluable source of advice, ideas, resources and encouragement for setting up prayer spaces based around the Gospel command to 'love God and love your neighbour', a difficult demand, requiring our reflection, focus and action. Includes guidance on running a week of prayer.



### **The Bible – The Epic Mini-series**

*(Authentic Video and DVD)*

The epic mini-series covering the mammoth journey from Genesis to Revelation, shown on Channel 5, is now available in box-set with all 10 episodes to own for yourself! A great overview of the most intriguing and popular library in history.



### **Walking with The Bible**

[www.scriptureunion.org.uk/TheBibleTVSeries/WalkingwithTheBibleBook/3512946.id](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/TheBibleTVSeries/WalkingwithTheBibleBook/3512946.id)

This free e-book by Jo Swinney of Scripture Union contains studies accompanying 'The Bible mini-series'. It can be used individually but also works well for groups. Each study follows an episode and explores the story, characters and enables the group to grapple with some of the more puzzling and complex aspects of the story.



### **‘The Manual’ – Bible notes for men**

*by Carl Beech and guest contributors (Crusade for World Revival)*

This collection of (currently) six books contains 60 days of readings, notes and prayers per volume, aimed at aiding men to develop their faith in, and walk with, God. Recommended by youth workers for older young people journeying through college, university, work or whatever else life throws at them as they enter the ‘big wide world’.



### **Bible Society Reel Issues (<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/reel-issues/>)**

A fascinating, free collection of Bible studies to accompany films. Offered by the Bible Society, these materials allow viewers to take one or two scenes and use them as discussion starters, or to explore a whole film of their choice in a much deeper way than they might otherwise in relation to Scripture. Suitable for a range of situations and contexts.



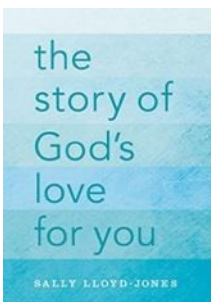
### **Radicalising Bible Studies: An Introduction (Council for World Mission)**

The Bible is not simply a collection of quaint tales. It’s a library of controversial, radical books which call us into action as we seek to build a better world. This collection of Bible Studies, with contributions from around the globe, seeks to open up the extraordinary ways in which scripture has, is and can influence in making this a fairer, more just world to live in.



### **Palindrome Poetry (<https://youtu.be/gjWSVrMUejo>)**

Click the link above and watch the video. Palindrome poetry reminds us that everything is not always as it seems. Can you find any other palindrome poetry? Why not have a go at writing your own?

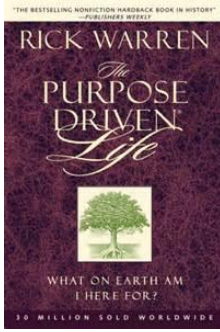


### **The Story of God's Love for You**

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

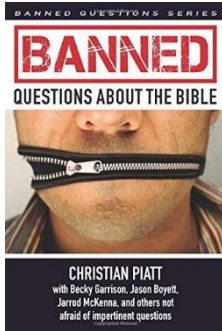
This ‘Jesus Storybook Bible’ for older readers offers the same words in adult packaging, giving young adults the chance to explore ‘God’s amazing, never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.’





**The Purpose Driven Life: What on earth am I here for?** by Rick Warren (Zondervan)

Beginning with Ephesians 1:11, ‘It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for...’, this fascinating text takes readers on a contemplative 40-day retreat. Looks at personal worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism in exploring God’s unique purpose for each of our lives.



**Banned Questions about the Bible** by Christian Piatt (Chalice Press)

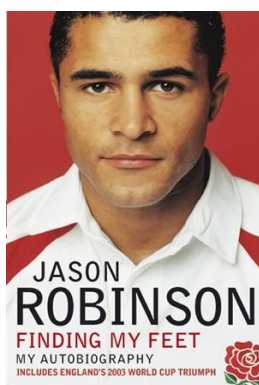
This book is great for starting an honest discussion with older young people about some of the difficult parts of the Bible and offers fresh insight and a range of views from topics like ‘Can God be both all-loving and yet allow people to be thrown into hell?’ to ‘If Adam and Eve were the first (only) people on Earth, where did their kid's spouses come from?’ Great for personal use or as part of a group discussion.

## Sport



### **Christians In Sport** ([www.christiansinsport.org.uk](http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk))

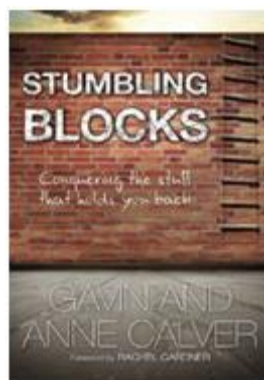
An organisation committed to supporting Christians in living out their faith through sports clubs and teams as well as enabling churches to engage with their local sporting communities. A dedicated youth section helps young Christian sportspeople recognise their sporting ability as a gift from God and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



### **Finding My Feet**

*by Jason Robinson (Hodder)*

The renowned rugby star shares his journey from poverty to success. But he also admits that it wasn't the answer to being happy. His extraordinary turnaround from hard-drinking, deeply troubled teenager to born again Christian and dedicated family man makes his story a fascinating and important read.



### **Stumbling Blocks: Conquering the stuff that holds you back**

*by Gavin and Anne Calver (Monarch Books)*

Life can often be a challenge. Questions, concerns, doubts and fears sometimes get the better of us and can, quite easily, cause us to wonder about God and the part He is playing in our struggle. Gavin and Anne Calver share hope and inspiration through their own experiences. A helpful read in those times when things just seem too much.



**Kickball** (<https://www.kickball.com> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdX7cZYgQ6k&feature=youtu.be>)

This hybrid of dodgeball and softball is ideal for everyone. Played on a softball diamond (or rounders field), a dodgeball is rolled from the pitcher to the kicker who must kick the ball inside the lines of the field then run. Don't let the catchers hit you or the base with the ball, though, or you're out!

## Lent and Easter

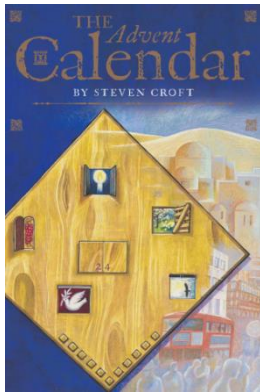


### **Love Life Live Lent**

*by Paula Gooder, Peter Babington (Church House Publishing)*

Each of these age-appropriate booklets give opportunities to help groups, families and individuals change the world for the better during Lent, undertaking one small action at a time, locally, nationally, and globally. The adult/youth version also includes a scripture quote and brief reflection for each day.

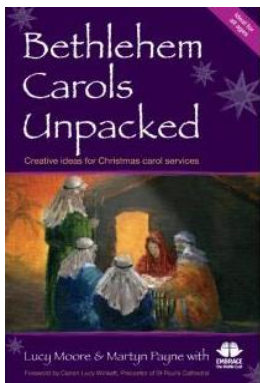
## Christmas



### **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.



### **Bethlehem Carols Unpacked**

*by Lucy Moore & Martin Payne with BibleLands*

Eleven of the best known carols from the popular 'Bethlehem Carols' collection are unpacked, with the story behind the carol, its biblical significance and meaning being brought under the spotlight. Full of creative ideas for using and illustrating carols by means of poetry, drama, prayer and worship.

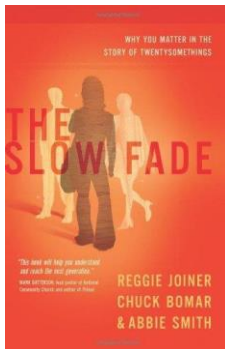


### **CAFOD Advent**

**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?

## Literature for Work with Young Adults



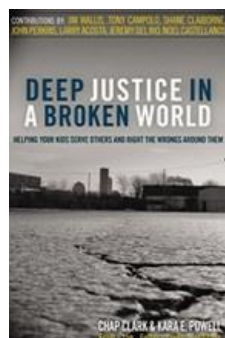
### **The Slow Fade: Why You Matter In The Story Of Twentysomethings** *By Reggie Joiner, Chuck Bomar and Abbie Smith (David C Cook)*

Provision in church for young people need not stop when they finish school. This easy to read book encourages churches to think about developing relationships with young adults in a different way. It aims to show that ministry with twenty-somethings is not only doable but absolutely necessary and you can be a part of it!!!



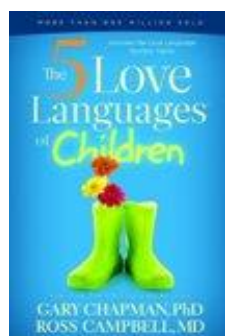
### **Accompanying Young People on their Spiritual Quest** *by Maxine Green and Chandu Christian (Church House Publishing)*

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.



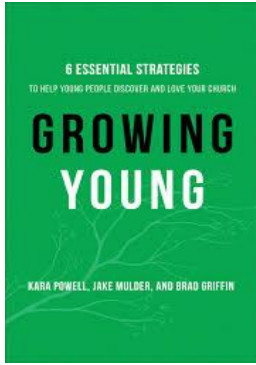
### **Deep Justice in a Broken World** *by Chap Clark and Kara E. Powell (Zondervan)*

Clark and Powell provide research and insights to help young adults, and youth workers alike, grow in today’s society. A much needed resource in a world of fast food, fast cars, and fast relationships. A great book for anyone who cares about the future of the world and how our future can help shape it for the better.



### **The 5 Love Languages of Children** *by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell (Moody Press)*

This wonderful book explores the idea that we all have a love bank that needs to be kept topped up for us to be able to be happy, healthy and resilient. Great for young parents, it explores the five love ‘languages’ of children (words of affirmation, receiving gifts, quality time, physical touch and acts of service) and how to use them in supporting children on their journeys.



## **Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church**

*by Brad Griffin, Jake Mulder and Kara Powell (Baker Publishing Group)*

Rather than help young people love your church, this book could help your church be a place where all people, across the generations, might be encouraged and equipped in their leadership skills, empowering one another in love. The ways of young people have much to teach us in this regard.



## **Premier CYW Magazine: The Elephant in the Room Edition**

[\(https://www.youthandchildrens.work/\)](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.