

Suggested Resources in our Albany Synod Lending Library

SafeKeeping: Session Plans for Developing Abuse Awareness In Kids

by Henni Helleman and Patricia J. Vos. Faith Alive Christian Resources. 2006.
An age-appropriate two-session abuse prevention curriculum for grades K-8.

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Transforming Today

by John Ortberg with Stephen and Amanda Sorenson. Zondervan. 2004.
Six-session curriculum overflowing with exercises on the spiritual disciplines including prayer, confession, servanthood, and reflection. DVD, leader and participant guides.

Displacing the Divine-The Minister in the Mirror of American Fiction

by Douglas Walrath. Columbia University Press. 2010. Surveying religious fiction that includes authors like Harriet Beecher Stowe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sinclair Lewis, John Steinbeck, Garrison Keillor and Jan Karon, Walrath studies the varied portrayals of fictional ministers to reflect upon subtle changes in society and belief-specifically people's perception of God and the evolving role of church. Walrath highlights the ongoing challenges that skepticism, secularization and science have brought to today's clergy.

Making it Work: effective administration in the small church

by Douglas Walrath. Judson Press. 2008. This is an invaluable resource for pastors with appropriate ideas and examples of what really works in small churches. In addressing the unique needs of small congregations, Walrath provides practical, easy-to-understand principles for effective, efficient church administration.

The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love With The God Jesus Knows

by James Bryan Smith. InterVarsity Press. 2008. This is the first in a series of books designed to guide readers in an apprenticeship with Jesus recognizing we follow Jesus to become more like him. This book looks at our competing narratives about God and tests them against the God Jesus reveals. Group exercises and discussion and reflection questions included. To learn about the apprentice approach to spiritual formation go to www.apprenticeofjesus.org.

The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting On The Character of Christ

by James Bryan Smith. InterVarsity Press. 2009. Second in the apprentice series, this book walks through the "Sermon on the Mount," Matthew 5-7, taking seriously the teachings of Jesus as something his apprentices will be able to do. Group exercises, reflection and discussion questions are important elements in this resource on spiritual formation.



Nooma Short Film Series by Rob Bell

We now have most titles in our library. This is a very popular series used in Albany Synod churches, many titles appropriate for senior high use. These modern day parables in DVD form run 12-14 minutes with scripture and questions in the film text. More detailed five-pack discussion guides are available at zondervan.com/ministry.

Rain: God's comfort during the storms of life.

Flame: Love as God intended it to be for us.

Trees: Meaning for our lives, today and forever.

Noise: How can we hear God through the noise around us?

Kickball: Why doesn't God always give us what we want?

Name: Live more in tune with the life God wants for us.

Tomato: Where does our value come from?

She: Are we missing a fundamental part of God's nature?

Shells: Are we missing out on something great?

Store: What is really the root of our anger?

You: Insight into circumstances that surrounded the first people of the Christian movement to better understand ourselves.

Rhythm: What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

Open: Does God answer prayer? Some, but not all?

Sunday: Why do we attend church, tithe, or give our time?

Luggage: Forgiveness isn't just about people who hurt us.

Dust: We believe in God, but does God believe in us?

Bullhorn: Loving God means loving everyone around us.

Lump: No matter what we've done, God always loves us.

Matthew: Losing someone we love can be the most difficult thing to go through in life.

Rich: Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.

Breathe: Throughout our everyday lives we don't pay much attention to the way we breathe, do we?

Whirlwind: When bad things happen to good people and we can't make any sense of it, where does that leave us?



You can visit our Schenectady synod office and borrow any resource from our library. Individuals and congregations can use a resource for a period of three weeks. Materials can be renewed or sent to you upon request. Our business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm, with a lunch break from 12:15-1:00.

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