

Children Matter Celebrating Their Place In The Church Family And Community

Busting gender stereotypes and assumptions one pronoun at a time! Pronouns serve as a familiar starting point for kids and grown-ups to expand ideas about gender and celebrate personal expression with fun imagery that provides a place to meet and play. The book offers a playful narrative about pronouns, as well as resources for grown-ups.

Children's ministry has the power to change the lives of kids and families. Unfortunately, it's not always clear that the work a person does with kids is really making a lasting difference. Ask children's ministry leaders and kid-influencers if they are making the impact on children's lives as they had hoped and most likely the responses will be mixed. And for good reason. Research over the past decade has revealed an alarming lack of long-term growth in the faith community as children progress through student ministries into adulthood. Clearly, something needs to change. Relational Children's Ministry seeks to reverse this trend by equipping children's ministry leaders with practical tools to disrupt the status quo approach to discipleship with children and realign their ministries for greater long-term impact. Ministry leaders will: Learn how to relate intentionally to kids and families by putting five discipleship invitations modeled by Jesus into practice Explore practical approaches to realign their children's ministry for a new trajectory by hitting three "reset buttons" to ensure long-term discipleship is embedded Encounter examples of disruptive disciple-makers in action and learn key principles that can be translated into their own ministry context Children's ministry leaders will receive practical training to refocus their children's ministry along with time-tested tools to personally recommit to lifelong discipleship. Kid-influencers can become a disciple-making community that redirects the current trajectory for this and future generations. Story, Formation, and Culture brings together a myriad of scholars, researchers, and ministry leaders into conversation about how we can effectively nurture the spirituality of children. Built around the three themes of story, formation, and culture, this volume blends cutting-edge research and insights with attention to how we can bring theory into practice in our ministries with children. The work of children's spiritual formation is often a marginalized component in the church's overall ministry. This volume seeks to equip pastors, leaders, and scholars with cutting-edge research and practices that effectively strengthen their ministries with children.

Though numerous volumes have been written on human observations about children, very few volumes present God's perspective on them as recorded in the Bible. Precious in His Sight fills the gap admirably. Not only is this volume unique, it is also comprehensive. The author covers all of the children in the Bible, intensively studying the biblical text as well as incorporating insights from the best historical works on childhood and child-rearing in ancient times. The author's sensitivity to the cultural and sociological factors impinging on families in biblical times is everywhere apparent. In order to appreciate what the book of Proverbs says about children, for example, one must understand how children were treated and viewed in other cultures during Old Testament times. Everything the Bible says about children applies to contemporary childhood, according to the author. He finds biblical examples and abundant implications for children's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual development. The principles that can be garnered from this incisive work will help educators and parents in the teaching and training of children today.

Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful

Turning Kid-Influencers Into Lifelong Disciple Makers

Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey

Welcoming Africa's children – Theological and ministry perspectives

One Big Heart

A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church

Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics

"I Am Whole is a delightful picture book to celebrate children of mixed backgrounds and cultures. Written with love to embrace the differences that come with being multi-racial, including language, family and cultural traditions. This book encourages children to embrace their diversity and recognise that such differences make us whole. A fun rhythmic read aimed at children aged 0-7."--Amazon.com

This new book from top Christian education professionals integrates biblical foundations, educational theory, and practical insights into a new curriculum formation approach for the local church. Uniquely identifying curriculum as a means of ministry through the metaphor of mapmaking, it shows how believers are lost along the spiritual journey without a study plan, having no clear destination or reliable path to follow toward maturity. Detailing the theological, educational, and pastoral dimensions that make a curriculum Christian, the text is arranged into four sections: (1) rationale for curriculum, (2) curricular foundations, (3) curricular theory, and (4) the practice of curriculum. Covering areas from children's ministry to adult education, contributors include editors James R. Estep, Karen L. Estep, and Roger White as well as Holly Allen, Mark H. Senter III, Michael S. Wilder, Timothy Paul Jones, and Brett Robbe.

The authors have devised an exciting way to introduce three- to - seven year olds to the wonder of worship. Activities are developed around the order of worship commonly used in Reformed churches: assemble in God's name; proclaim, give thanks to and go in God's name.

Linsey Davis, Emmy-winning correspondent for ABC News, brings us a culture-rich picture book proudly showcasing the beauty of diversity while also celebrating the wonderful things we have in common. From skin, hair, and eyes in a multitude of colors to different personalities and interests, One Big Heart reminds us that God gave us all special traits and characteristics that make us uniquely ourselves. And yet he's made us more alike than different, giving us many things in common-like sharing fun and laughter on the playground, a sense of curiosity, big feelings, and so much more! One Big Heart is: Beautifully written by Linsey Davis, Emmy-winning ABC News correspondent and author of The World Is Awake A multiethnic, multicultural, multiracial children's picture book that recognizes our unique differences while also celebrating how alike we are An inspiring story of

inclusion, connection and acceptance *Written from a Christian worldview Combining lyrical rhymes and Lucy Fleming's whimsical art, this inspiring story is the perfect read-aloud book for kids ages 4-8 and a welcome gift for: Parents and grandparents Teachers School librarians Get ready to celebrate all our similarities and our differences! This diverse picture book—drenched in color and full of laughter and fun—will show us how.*

Philosophy & Education

Powerful Learning Environments and Theologizing and Philosophizing with Children Wherever You Are

Creating a Preschool and Children's Ministry

Story, Formation, and Culture

All Because You Matter (Digital Read Along)

Celebrating Gender Freedom for Kids

With the decline of traditional Sunday school and education programs in recent years, many Christians have not learned the fundamental doctrinal content of the faith. In this text Gary Parrett and Steve Kang set forth a thoroughly biblical vision for intentional teaching of the Christian faith that attends to both the content and process of educational and formational ministries. Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation presents in counterpoint form four views of children's spiritual formation and four related methods of Christian Education. Each chapter is written by a prominent person(s) representing his or her view. Contributors also respond to the other viewpoints. Views include the contemplative-reflective model (cultivating a quiet, worshipful spirit), instructional-analytic model (involving child evangelism and Bible memorization), pragmatic participatory model (focusing on high-energy activities, often seen in mega-churches), and the media-driven active-engagement model (using a video-based curriculum with limited teacher training).

Two children's spirituality experts draw on over a decade of field research to show how adults can effectively work with children to nurture their faith.

Children know God. They encounter God in diverse ways as they walk along the spiritual journey. Amidst this diversity, four distinct avenues for connecting with God emerge in the lives of children: word, emotion, symbol, and action. These are the four spiritual styles, broad approaches to spirituality and faith through which children experience God and make sense of their lives in the world around them. Children's Ministry that Fits blends insightful research, relevant theory, and practical ministry into a guidebook for discovering and understanding children's spiritual styles. Drawing from theology, personal experience, and the spiritual lives of children, David M. Csinos offers practical wisdom that will help pastors, parents, and teachers to move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches to children's ministry and begin nurturing the spiritual lives of children in welcoming and inclusive environments.

Children's Ministry That Fits

Children's Ministry in the 21st Century

The Book with No Pictures

Precious in His Sight

Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation

Shades of Black

Building Faith, Wisdom, and Character in the Messes of Daily Life

Often, a disconnect exists between the way pastors, children's ministry volunteers, and churches describe the health and impact of children's ministry volunteers (and the overall functioning of an ongoing children's ministry). The volunteer dysfunction that is evident in many churches goes beyond the building scenario or the current strategy that leadership is pursuing. If one asks the pastor of just about any local church how the children's ministry is going, most pastors will respond positively. However, if speaking with a children's ministry volunteer, one is likely to hear, "I am burned out, but I feel obligated to serve here because we have such a shortage of volunteers and I do love these kids." Too often, there is no program in place to monitor the health of the ministry. Official training is lacking, church vision is blurred, and many children's ministry volunteers feel like they are nothing more than large-group, unpaid babysitters. This book analyzes these problems and provides pragmatic, systematic steps to a healthier, more robust children's ministry.

Enduring Connections gives churches and ministers significant guidelines for establishing a quality childhood ministry with preschoolers and grade-schoolers. Enduring Connections is especially helpful to ministers and directors of childhood ministry that are called from the laity to staff positions. By focusing on building a childhood ministry that intentionally connects children to God and the community of faith through paths that are driven by relationship rather than programs, Janice Haywood has produced a resource that will help churches of any size design their own unique ministry for children. A TCP Leadership Series title.

My Own Way is a poem and a picture book that introduces very young children to the wonder of gender diversity. Why feel limited to his or hers, blue or pink, football or ballet?

By learning about the process of spiritual formation, parents and those leading children's ministries will be enabled to facilitate the spiritual growth of children in their care.

Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey

My Own Way

Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children

An Introduction in Christian Perspective

From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children

Enduring Connections

Discipline That Connects With Your Child's Heart

Children's spiritual development is currently a hot topic in Christian circles, as well as in other fields and disciplines such as educational psychology, medicine, developmental psychology, education, and sociology. The key question for Christian scholars and educators is "How do

Christian beliefs and practices uniquely interrelate with children's spirituality?" In 2003 and again in 2006, a national conference entitled "Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives" examined children's spirituality from a distinctly Christian standpoint. This book is a collection of the best materials from the 2006 conference. The first half of the book addresses definitional, historical, and theological concerns related to spiritual development in children. The second half explores best practices for fostering spiritual growth among our children--in our homes, families, churches, Christian schools, and among special populations of children--from a wide spectrum of Christian scholars and practitioners. The volume closes with John Westerhoff's moving keynote address and Catherine Stonehouse and Scottie May's eloquent, culminating plenary address. Nurturing Children's Spirituality provides a rich cross section of the current research and writing by Christian scholars on children's spirituality. Contributors: Holly Catterton Allen, Michael J. Anthony, Stacy Berg, Chris J. Boyatzis, MaLesa Breeding, Marilyn Brownlee, Linda V. Callahan, Jane Carr, Mara Lief Crabtree, Karen Crozier, James Riley Estep Jr., Jeffrey E. Feinberg, Stephanie Goins, Judy Harris Helm, Dana Kennamer Hood, Sungwon Kim, Kevin Lawson, Scottie May, Marcia McQuitty, Heidi Schultz Oschwald, Donald Ratcliff, Pam Scranton, Timothy A. Sisemore, Catherine Stonehouse, La Verne Tolbert, T. Wyatt Watkins, John H. Westerhoff III

A Powerful Approach to Bringing God's Grace to Kids Did you know that the way we deal (or don't deal) with our kids' misbehavior shapes their beliefs about themselves, the world, and God? Therefore it's vital to connect with their hearts--not just their minds--amid the daily behavior battles. With warmth and grace, Jim and Lynne Jackson, founders of Connected Families, offer four tried-and-true keys to handling any behavioral issues with love, truth, and authority. You will learn practical ways to communicate messages of grace and truth, how to discipline in a way that motivates your child, and how to keep your relationship strong, not antagonistic.

Discipline is more than just a short-term attempt to modify your child's actions--it's a long-term investment to help them build faith, wisdom, and character for life. When you discover a better path to discipline, you'll find a more well-behaved--and well-believed--kid.

"In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what"-- Too Small to Ignore will encourage you to turn your good, loving intentions into strategic actions and empower you to help change the world--and the future--forever, one child at a time. The time has come for a major paradigm shift: Children are too important and too intensely loved by God to be left behind or left to chance. Children belong to all of us and we are compelled to intervene on their behalf. We must invest in children all across the world. In Too Small to Ignore, Dr. Stafford issues an urgent call for change. His adventures as a boy raised in a West African village provide an often-humorous and always-captivating backdrop to his profound and inspiring challenges. Wess lived the reality of "it takes a village to raise a child" and calls us to "be that loving village for children everywhere."

Celebrating the Resource That Unites Us All

But Children Matter

Mapping Out Curriculum in Your Church

I Am Whole

Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Approaches to Nurturing Children's Spirituality

A Book Celebrating Differences

What I Like About Me! Teacher Edition

Around the world, water appears in many forms: a snowflake, an oasis, the stream from a faucet, monsoon rain. In *Water's Children*, twelve young people describe what water means to them. The descriptions are as varied as the landscapes the speakers inhabit, but each of them also expresses, in their own language, a universal truth: Water is life. Accompanied by the glowing illustrations of Gérard Frischeteau, *Water's Children* is a celebration of our world's most precious resource and will encourage thoughtful discussion among young readers and listeners. The narrators' words, lyrically written by Angèle Delaunois, offer emotional and sensory details that bring their experiences to life. On the final page, a guide identifies the languages in which the phrase "water is life" appears in water marks on each spread throughout the book, with thanks to the individuals who provided the translations, helping to craft this truly global story. Originally published in French and nominated for the prestigious TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, *Water's Children* has now been translated into six languages in eight countries around the world.

Children's spiritual development is currently a hot topic in Christian circles, as well as in other fields and disciplines such as educational psychology, medicine, developmental psychology, education, and sociology. The key question for Christian scholars and educators is How do Christian beliefs and practices uniquely interrelate with children's spirituality? In 2003 and again in 2006, a national conference entitled Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives examined children's spirituality from a distinctly Christian standpoint. This book is a collection of the best materials from the 2006 conference. The first half of the book addresses definitional, historical, and theological concerns related to spiritual development in children. The second half explores best practices for fostering spiritual growth among our children--in our homes, families, churches, Christian schools, and among special populations of children--from a wide spectrum of Christian scholars and practitioners. The volume closes with John Westerhoff's moving keynote address and Catherine Stonehouse and Scottie May's eloquent, culminating plenary address. Nurturing Children's Spirituality provides a rich cross section of the current research and writing by Christian scholars on children's spirituality. Contributors: Holly Catterton Allen, Michael J. Anthony, Stacy Berg, Chris J. Boyatzis, MaLesa Breeding, Marilyn Brownlee, Linda V. Callahan, Jane Carr, Mara Lief Crabtree, Karen Crozier, James Riley Estep Jr., Jeffrey E. Feinberg, Stephanie Goins, Judy Harris Helm, Dana Kennamer Hood, Sungwon Kim, Kevin Lawson, Scottie May, Marcia McQuitty, Heidi Schultz Oschwald, Donald Ratcliff, Pam Scranton, Timothy A. Sisemore, Catherine Stonehouse, La Verne Tolbert, T. Wyatt Watkins, John H. Westerhoff III

Photographs and poetic text celebrate the beauty and diversity of African American children. On board pages.

A congregation rejoices when a new child is added to its midst, yet the church often wrestles—in both theology and practice—with how to best receive and minister to infants and children entrusted to her care. Frequent questions arise like: *Infants and Children in the Church* addresses these

critical and sensitive questions from a variety of rich traditions, including Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, and Baptist, so that Christians can make the most of every opportunity as they minister to children.

Too Small to Ignore

Free to Be!

Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus

A Practical Guide

Children Matter

Water's Children

An Exercise in Intergenerational and Literary Bible Translation

Drawing on current scholarship and research by authors with experience of a range of International contexts who are experts in this accessible guide focuses on approaches that encourage spiritual, physical, mental and emotional development in children through a range of lenses through which readers can reflect on their ministry with children and their families. This book offers inspiration for them to improve their practice. Up-to-date research and thinking provides a fresh and flexible understanding of work with children and families. It also prepares readers to develop and support a team that can take responsibility for the key areas needed in an effective children's ministry. With each chapter featuring practice examples, relevant theory, theological reflections, opportunities for reflection and suggestions for further reading, *Re-Thinking Children's Work in Churches* is an accessible and indispensable guide for those who want to focus on the holistic development of the child.

The world is a confusing and painful place for children (and adults). How do you respond faithfully to your kids' big questions? Learn to craft faithful conversations and be better prepared to talk about the tough stuff with your kids. More than 30 essays from young Christian parents/pastors address today's toughest topics, including gender, race, bullying, mental illness, death, divorce, technology, and generosity. *When Kids Ask Hard Questions* invites you to take a deep breath, create safe spaces for the hard conversations, and speak the truth in love. Each chapter includes a resource list for further exploration.

A lyrical, heart-lifting love letter to black and brown children everywhere: reminding them how much they matter, that they have always mattered, and they always will, from powerhouse rising star author Tami Charles and esteemed, award-winning illustrator Bryan Collier. Explores how the church can better minister to children inside and outside of the Christian education classroom. Draws on theories of psychology, and the authors' experience in various Protestant traditions.

Nurturing Children's Spirituality

Christian Perspectives and Best Practices

Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family, and Community

When Kids Ask Hard Questions

Relational Children's Ministry

Translating Nephesh in the Psalms into Chinese

Five Views on Theology and Ministry

This interdisciplinary study tackles the controversy of translating nephesh (נֶפֶשׁ) by using an intergenerational translation team to deepen our understanding of this term and providing a more valuable translation in Chinese, especially for use in specialist Children's Bibles. Traditionally nephesh is often translated in the Bible as 'soul', but despite the limitations of this popular rendering, it has led Christians in Chinese contexts to falsely understand views regarding the nature of human beings as a false trichotomy. Dr Hui Er Yu's study offers different options for translating nephesh using the context of where the word appears in Scripture as well as in reference to linguistic and cultural meanings in Chinese contexts. The findings in this book will help to remove anthropological misunderstandings among many Chinese Christians related to nephesh as a result of historic translation decisions. Dr Yu takes a unique approach to translation by using an intergenerational Bible translation team, ranging from seven to fifty-one years of age, which not only demonstrates the importance of intergenerational ministry but also presents a way to fulfill the growing need for well-translated Children's Bibles in China for thousands of young believers. This book provides important lessons for the many translation projects working towards Children's Bibles but also for how translation of biblical terms can be better reached through this intergenerational process.

The kids in *What I Like About Me*, are as different as night and day. And, guess what? They love it. Some adore the fact that their braces dazzle and gleam, others feel distinguished when they wear their glasses. This fun-loving book, with a mirror included on the last page, proves to kids that, in a world where fitting in is the norm, being different is what makes us special. Helping children learn about diversity, while fostering self-esteem, is what this super-sized Teacher Classroom Pack is all about. Teachers can read the rhyming text of the award-winning *What I Like About Me!* and use the oversized book to focus on differences in nationality, appearance, food, and more. Inviting children to look in the giant mirror will encourage them to think and talk about what they like best about themselves.

. . . I wanted you more than you'll ever know, so I sent love to follow wherever you go.
. . . Love is the greatest gift we have to give our children. It's the one thing they can carry with them each and every day. If love could take shape it might look something like these heartfelt words and images from the inimitable Nancy Tillman. *Wherever You Are* is a book to share with your loved ones, no matter how near or far, young or old, they are.

Attract kids to church, the logic often goes, and you get parents in the pews. All that's left is to get the kids out of the way. Here children's ministers David Csinos and Ivy Beckwith draw on research in human development and spiritual formation to show how children become disciples and churches become centers of lifelong discipleship.

A Comprehensive Guide for Teaching Christian Formation

Teaching the Next Generations

Infants and Children in the Church

Young Children and Worship

Formational Children's Ministry (ēmersion: Emergent Village resources for communities of faith)

They She He Me

Childhood and Children in the Bible

Get ready for what's coming next in Children's Ministry... Here's how. Ten front-line Children's Ministry experts peeked out over the horizon to identify ten trends shaping ministry in the next ten years. See inside to discover... How current culture is rewiring kids' brains--and secrets for connecting with children The latest education trends embraced by schools--and how they'll impact your Sunday school Morphing Children's Ministry into Family Ministry--and how that supersedes your impact What kinds of children are about to land in your ministry--and how to be ready for them Plus six more must-know insights--and practical activities that help you take advantage of shifting trends in your Children's Ministry. Be prepared. It's good advice for scouts...and even better advice for you.

Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: A Holistic Approach answers questions about the most effective ways to help children, pre-teens, and teens develop spiritually. This collection of research gleaned from presentations during the Fourth Triennial Children's Spirituality Conference at Concordia University in 2012 is divided into four major sections: (1) theological and historical foundations, (2) engaging parents and congregations, (3) engaging methodologies, and (4) exploring children at risk, child pornography, social justice, intercultural diversity, and abstinence education.

Researchers acknowledge that the home is the foundation for Christian nurture. In Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children, both scholars and ministry leaders come together with parents to promote a holistic environment where children are encouraged to love, respect, and obey God. From birth to high school, children's voices resonate throughout these studies as they are invited to share their reflections and experiences. Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children is a lively, easy-to-read collection that reflects a broad range of faith traditions and is ideal for all those who are committed to the spiritual development of children.

Much ministry to children looks more like mere entertainment than authentic spiritual formation. But what if children's ministries were rooted in a mind set whereby we taught children, with our words and actions, how the story of God, the story of church history, the story of the local community, and the story of the child intersect and speak to one another? What if children's ministry was less about downloading information into kids' heads and more about leading them into these powerful, compelling stories? Beckwith aims to help ministers and parents create a ministry that captures children's imaginations not just to keep them occupied, but to live as citizens of the kingdom of God. In addition to providing theological reasons for formational children's ministry, the book offers examples of how Ivy and other practitioners are implementing a formational model.

The purpose of this book is to combine perspectives of scholars from Africa on Child Theology from a variety of theological sub-disciplines to provide some theological and ministerial perspectives on this topic. The book disseminates original research and new developments in this study field, especially as relevant to the African context. In the process it addresses also the global need to hear voices from Africa in this academic field. It aims to convey the importance of considering Africa's children in theologising. The different chapters represent diverse methodologies, but the central and common focus is to approach the subject from the viewpoint of Africa's children. The individual authors' varied theological sub-disciplinary dispositions contribute to the unique and distinct character of the book. Almost all chapters are theoretical orientated with less empirical but more qualitative research, although some of the chapters refer to empirical research that the authors have performed in the past. Most of the academic literature in the field of Child Theologies is from American or British-European origin. The African context is fairly absent in this discourse, although it is the youngest continent and presents unique and relevant challenges. This book was written by theological scholars from Africa, focussing on Africa's children. It addresses not only theoretical challenges in this field but also provides theological perspectives for ministry with children and for important social change. Written from a variety of theological sub-disciplines, the book is aimed at scholars across theological sub-disciplines, especially those theological scholars interested in the intersections between theology, childhood studies and African cultural or social themes. It addresses themes and provides insights that are also relevant for specialist leaders and professionals in this field. No part of the book was plagiarised from another publication or published elsewhere.

A Holistic Approach

Re-thinking Children's Work in Churches

A Celebration of Being More Alike than Different

Shaping Children Using Story, Ritual, and Relationship

Guidance for Those Who Teach and Nurture

My Love Will Find You

A Celebration of Our Children

In the Bible, storytelling is an important means to pass on the revelation of God. God repeatedly commanded the people of Israel to tell his mighty acts to the next generation. Invariably churches follow this mandate and use biblical narratives as a means to transmit God's self-revelation to enable transformation. The author, Dr Annie George, listens to the voices of children in order to understand their perceptions of how storytelling of biblical narratives help them in their spiritual formation. Dr George's research highlights the importance of evaluating the impact of biblical narratives from a child's perspective as well as emphasising the need to give the same priority to the spiritual transformation of children as with other areas of study and ministry.

How Ministers Can Be Excellent and Effective Teachers Effective teaching is important not only to the Christian faith but to the success and impact of Christian ministry. This book champions the role of teaching as a necessary skill for ministers to develop,

equipping them to work effectively for the spiritual growth of young people. Terry Linhart, who has more than twenty-five years of experience training youth workers, brings together expert Christian educators representing a broad array of evangelical institutions and traditions to show how teaching connects to discipleship and the church in current contexts. Designed for the classroom, the book covers a wide range of topics and includes helpful illustrative diagrams, tables, line drawings, and charts.

Why the Least of These Matters Most

Nurturing a Life of Faith

Children's Perceptions of the Role of Biblical Narratives in Their Spiritual Formation

Successful Children's Ministry Volunteerism Strategies