

# Recommended Resources for Christian Leaders<sup>1</sup>

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## A. Resources on Church & Cultural Awareness Books

- Barna, George and David Kinnaman, ed. *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect with Them* (Tyndale, 2014). See [www.barna.org/churchless](http://www.barna.org/churchless).
- Burge, Ryan. *The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going* (Fortress Press, 2021). Also see <http://ryanburge.net/>. Burge, a professor of political science and a pastor, does extensive research on religious views and practices in America.
- Kinnaman, David, and Mark Matlock. *Faith For Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon* (BakerBooks, 2019). Using extensive research, the book offers five practices that can help disciples of Jesus thrive as exiles in digital Babylon. These include: (1) form a resilient identity and experience intimacy with Jesus; (2) develop the muscles of cultural discernment; (3) forge meaningful intergenerational relationships; (4) train for vocational discipleship; and (5) curb entitlement and self-centered tendencies by engaging in countercultural mission.
- Kinnaman, David and Aly Hawkins. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church ... and Rethinking Faith* (Baker, 2011).
- Kinnaman, David and Gabe Lyons. *UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity ... and Why It Matters* (Baker Books, 2007).
- Knopp, Richard A. "Understanding and Engaging the Nones." *Stone-Campbell Journal* 21 (Fall 2018): 217-237.
- McFarland, Alex, and Jason Jimenez. *Abandoned Faith: Why Millennials Are Walking Away and How You Can Lead Them Home* (Tyndale, 2017). Offers a strong voice of hope for parents, church leaders, and others who serve the Millennial generation.
- Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Churches Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* (Baker, 2016). See the accompanying website at <http://churchesgrowingyoung.com>. Based on research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations who are effectively engaging 15-29 year olds.
- Rienow, Rob. *Never Too Late: Encouraging Faith in Your Adult Child* (Kregel, 2017).
- Shaw, Haydn. *Generational IQ: Christianity Isn't Dying, Millennials Aren't the Problem, and the Future Is Bright* (Tyndale, 2015). Provides a perceptive (and positive) analysis of four basic generations along with practical proposals for how Christians should approach friends and family, and for how the church should respond.
- Smith, Christian. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Contends that the predominant worldview of American teens is "moral therapeutic deism."
- White, James Emery. *The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated* (Baker, 2014). A survey and analysis of the fastest growing demographic group in America—the religiously unaffiliated—and how the church can effectively reach them.
- White, James Emery. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World* (Baker, 2017).

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<sup>1</sup> These sources are especially recommended for Christian leaders (in the church, in families, and in other ministries). Many books are available in cheaper digital versions. Other recommended resources are available (1) for youth and young adults and (2) on science and the Christian faith at <https://www.roomfordoubt.com/recommended-resources>.

## Websites & Online Sources

- American Culture and Faith Institute. “Groundbreaking ACFI Survey Reveals How Many Adults Have a Biblical Worldview” (Feb. 27, 2017). <https://www.culturefaith.com/groundbreaking-survey-by-acfi-reveals-how-many-american-adults-have-a-biblical-worldview>.
- American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS). “American Nones: The Profile of the No Religion Population” (2008). See [https://secularstudents.org/sites/secularstudents.org/files/NONES\\_08.pdf](https://secularstudents.org/sites/secularstudents.org/files/NONES_08.pdf). Links to several studies at <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/>.
- Barna Research Group ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)). Led by David Kinnaman (formerly by George Barna).
- Barna Group. *The Open Generation: How Teens Around the World Can Make an Impact*. 2022 Report. [https://shop.barna.com/products/how-teens-around-the-world-can-make-an-impact-the-open-generation?\\_ga=2.231827615.1445259536.1666987483-271037402.1666987483](https://shop.barna.com/products/how-teens-around-the-world-can-make-an-impact-the-open-generation?_ga=2.231827615.1445259536.1666987483-271037402.1666987483).
- Barna Group. “GEN Z: The Culture, Beliefs, and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation.” Vol. 1. 2018 Report. Replay of simulcast video of the report’s release is here: [http://www.whoisgenz.com/?utm\\_source=Barna+Update+List&utm\\_campaign=7bbe080081-GENZ\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_I\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8560a0e52e-7bbe080081-171981205&mc\\_cid=7bbe080081&mc\\_eid=be5bccb035](http://www.whoisgenz.com/?utm_source=Barna+Update+List&utm_campaign=7bbe080081-GENZ_CAMPAIGN_2018_I_25&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8560a0e52e-7bbe080081-171981205&mc_cid=7bbe080081&mc_eid=be5bccb035).
- Barna Group. “GEN Z: Caring for Young Souls and Cultivating Resilience.” Vol. 2. 2018 Report. <https://shop.barna.com/collections/gen-z/products/gen-z-volume-2>.
- Barna Group. “Competing Worldviews Influence Today’s Christians” (May 9, 2017). <https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians>.
- Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. Headed by George Barna, the CRC periodically releases a variety of research reports on youth as well as on pastors and parents, including the American Worldview Inventory. <https://www.arizonachristian.edu/culturalresearchcenter/research/>.
- Lifeway Research. Led by Ed Stetzer. For relevant statistics, especially see the section on “Fast Facts.” <https://research.lifeway.com/fast-facts/>.
- Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/religion/>. Provides significant analyses of American and global religion, including “America’s Changing Religious Landscape” (2015) and “Modeling the Future of Religion in America” (2022). See <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/> and <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>.
- White, James Emery. “Church and Culture Blog.” Accessible at <https://www.churchandculture.org/blog>. White successfully bridges academic astuteness and down-to-earth analyses of culture and challenges for the church. He is former president of Gordon-Conwell and founder and senior pastor of a megachurch (Mecklenberg) in Charlotte, NC.

## B. Books & Articles on Christian Worldview and Apologetics

- Childers, Alicia. *Live Your Truth and Other Lies: Exposing Popular Deceptions That Make Us Anxious, Exhausted, and Self-Obsessed* (Tyndale, 2022). Childers examines modern lies that are disguised truths in today’s culture (e.g., everyday messages of peace, fulfillment, and empowerment that swirl around social media).
- Conway, Bobby. *Doubling Toward Faith: The Journey to Confident Christianity* (Harvest House, 2015). A practical and helpful analysis of doubt. It can lead to confusion, hopelessness, and despair. But it can also deepen our dependence on God, develop empathy for others, and motivate us to find satisfying answers.
- Copan, Paul. *When God Goes to Starbucks: A Guide to Everyday Apologetics* (Baker Books, 2008). 224 pp. Copan addresses a variety of slogans that are often problematic for Christians that are connected to views of truth and reality, to worldviews, and to Christianity. It includes material on looking out for yourself,

lying, the nature of God, miracles, science, other religions, homosexuality, Old Testament “holy wars,” and Christian division.

- Crain, Natasha. *Faithfully Different: Regaining Biblical Clarity in a Secular Culture* (Tyndale, 2022). Helps Christians identify and respond to significant worldview challenges such as cancel culture, secular social justice, progressive Christianity, deconstruction, and more.
- Crain, Natasha. *Talking with Your Kids about God: 30 Conversations Every Parent Must Have* (Baker Books, 2017). Presents 30 chapters in Five Parts that deal with the existence of God, science and God, the nature of God, believing in God, and the difference God makes.
- Crain, Natasha. *Talking with Your Kids about Jesus: 30 Conversations Every Christian Parent Must Have* (Baker Books, 2020). Thirty conversation questions are arranged in five parts: The identity of Jesus, the teachings of Jesus, the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, and the difference Jesus makes.
- Craig, William L. and Joseph E. Gorra. *A Reasonable Response: Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible* (Moody Press, 2013). 432pp. Five Parts deal with questions about knowing and believing what is real, God, origins and the meaning of life, the afterlife and evil, Jesus, and Christian practice.
- Ferrer, Hillary Morgan. *Mama Bear Apologetics: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies* (Harvest House, 2019). This is a mom-to-mom guide to equip moms—though not exclusively moms—on how to teach their kids to have biblical beliefs. Part 1 has four chapters of challenge for moms. Part 2 includes chapters on Self-Helpism, Naturalism, Skepticism, Postmodernism, Moral Relativism, Emotionalism, Pluralism, New Spirituality, Marxism, Feminism, and Progressive Christianity.
- Fischer, Austin. *Faith in the Shadows: Finding Christ in the Midst of Doubt* (InterVarsity Press, 2018). The book contends that it is not doubt that destroys faith, it is thinking that there is no room for doubt. Faith is threatened most by the misdirected and unachievable demand for certainty. With this platform, the book addresses science, the problem of evil, hell, God’s silence, and more. It emphasizes that the ultimate remedy for doubt is based in love—a responsive experience with God.
- Geisler, Norman and Frank Turek. *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* (Crossway, 2004). Contends that it takes more faith to reject the existence of God than to accept it. It covers many questions (e.g., about God, design, first life, new life forms, miracles, Jesus, the New Testament, Jesus’ resurrection, and who Jesus was and is).
- Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (Dutton, 2008). Part One responds to prominent criticisms of Christianity (e.g., there can’t be just one religion; a good God wouldn’t allow suffering; Christianity is a straitjacket; the church is responsible for injustice; a loving God would not send people to hell; science has disproven Christianity; the Bible can’t be taken literally). Part Two focuses on the reasons for faith (e.g., clues of God; the knowledge of God; the problem of sin; religion and the Gospel; the (true) story of the cross; the resurrection).
- Keller, Timothy. *Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical* (Viking, 2016). Compared to Keller’s book *The Reason for God*, this book shows the relevance and the desirability of Christianity so that the skeptic or secularist would be open to hearing about the reasons for God. It is filled with documented quotations and illustrations that would be useful for a teaching or preaching reference. (See Rich Knopp’s review here: <http://christianstandard.com/2017/helping-the-skeptical-see-god/>.)
- Knopp, Richard A. *Truth About God: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?* A short book (94 pp) plus extensive endnotes for those who want to go deeper. It also includes discussion questions. Six short videos highlight main issues in the book, including the relationship between faith and doubt. <https://richknopp.com/truth-about-god/>.
- Knopp, Richard A. “Where Will We Go Without God?” *Christian Standard* 149 (June 2014): 38-40. Online at <http://christianstandard.com/2014/06/where-will-we-go-without-god/>.
- Knopp, Richard A. “Learning to Love God in a World of Growing Skepticism and Secularism.” 2016 North American Christian Convention session. Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuiEWpf6Ohw&feature=youtu.be>.

- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions* (Zondervan, 2019). Koukl offers practical strategies for communicating and defending the Christian faith.
- McDowell, Sean. *Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God* (Harvest House, 2009). Contains 16 chapters by various authors with ideas and insights for effectively and persuasively communicating the Christian message to a postmodern culture.
- McDowell, Sean, and J. Warner Wallace. *So the Next Generation Will Know: Preparing Young Christians for a Challenging World* (David C Cook, 2019). 208pp. Written for anyone who works with the youngest generation (GenZ). Includes 8 chapters and a Postscript that inform and challenge us to give young people our priority (e.g., by recognizing their uniqueness, connecting with their hearts, and giving them a worldview with significance) and to prepare them for the future (e.g., by developing a passion for truth; training rather than entertaining; providing adventures; and using movies, music, social media, and current events).
- McGrath, Alister. *Mere Apologetics: How to Help Seekers & Skeptics Find Faith* (Baker, 2012). McGrath has doctorates in molecular physics and theology from Oxford. The book's nine chapters include chapters on various "pointers" to God and "gateways" for opening the door to faith.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *Confident Faith: Building a Firm Foundation for Your Beliefs* (Tyndale, 2013). Part One discusses and analyzes six "paths" to faith; Part Two offers 20 "arrows of truth" from science, logic, the Bible, history, and experience. Part Three addresses 10 "barriers" to belief.
- Mittelberg, Mark. *The Reason Why Faith Makes Sense* (Tyndale House, 2011). A small book that deals with questions about faith, God, the Bible, our accountability to God, Jesus, and God's forgiveness. Useful as a resource for Room For Doubt's "Basic Questions" curriculum.
- Moreland, J. P., and Tim Muehlhoff. *The God Conversation: Using Stories and Illustrations to Explain Your Faith. Revised and Expanded edition* (IVP Books, 2017). 192pp. Offers insight on intriguing topics (e.g., God's goodness and terrorism, the maze of different religions, the resurrection of Jesus, ethics, design or accident, unfulfilled desires and God). It includes examples, quotations, and stories that can help explain the Christian worldview in our conversations and communication.
- Powell, Doug. *Holman QuickSource Guide to Christian Apologetics* (Holman Reference, 2006). A book packed with much information in an attractive and colorful layout with many pictures. It talks about "apologetics" (giving a defense of the Christian faith), considerations about God's existence, the origin of the New Testament, the reliability of the Old and New Testament, miracles, prophecy, Jesus' resurrection, who Jesus was, and the problem of evil.
- Powell, Kara E. and Chap Clark. *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids* (Zondervan, 2011).
- Powell, Kara, and Steven Argue. *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future* (Baker Books, 2019).
- Putman, Jim, and Bill Putman. *Hope for the Prodigal: Bringing the Lost, Wandering, and Rebellious Home* (Baker, 2017). The book offers biblical truths and practical advice, based on personal experience, on how to reach prodigal children with love and service.
- Stonestreet, John, and Brett Kunkle. *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World* (David C Cook, 2017). Offers valuable direction on recognizing cultural undercurrents; understanding youth struggles with identity; how to talk to youth about same-sex marriage and transgenderism; how to help youth avoid addictions; and how to ground youth in the biblical story and empower them to change the world.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* (David C Cook, 2013). Wallace uses his nationally recognized skills as a homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. Including gripping stories from his career and the visual techniques he developed in the courtroom, Wallace uses illustration to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity.

- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective* (David C Cook, 2016). In this children's companion to the bestselling *Cold-Case Christianity*, detective Wallace gets kids excited about testing witnesses, examining the evidence, and investigating the case for Christianity.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *God's Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe* (David C Cook, 2015). Wallace is a cold-case homicide expert who has appeared on cases on truTV (Court TV) and NBC's "Dateline." He applies his cold-case methods to the origins of the universe.
- White, James Emery. *A Mind for God* (InterVarsity, 2006). A small book that's a great place to be challenged to develop your mind for God.
- Young, Ben. *Room For Doubt: How Uncertainty Can Deepen Your Faith* (David C Cook, 2017). Now a teaching pastor, Ben Young struggled with doubt. This book takes an honest look at hard questions about God, the Bible, and faith. It offers examples of spiritual giants in scripture and history who doubted. It gives insight on how to process uncertainty and disappointment with God. It clarifies the difference between uncertainty and mystery and provides encouragement for how faith and doubt can go together.

### **C. Some Websites on Christian Worldview and Apologetics**

- <https://www.alwaysbeready.com>. Always Be Ready Apologetics Ministry headed by Charlie Campbell. It is "dedicated to equipping people with well-researched information on issues that seek to undermine or challenge the truth of Christianity as revealed in the Bible." It includes links to many topics and research areas.
- <https://www.answersingenesis.org>. A young earth creationist website headed by Ken Ham.
- <https://www.apologetics315.com>. The site hopes to be a significant educational resource for churches, campus groups, and Christians around the world.
- <http://www.arn.org>. Many resources from the Intelligent Design community.
- <https://coldcasechristianity.com>. J. Warner Wallace, a cold-case homicide detective defends Christianity.
- <https://crossexamined.org>. Headed by Frank Turek, co-author with Norman Geisler of the book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*.
- <http://ehrmanproject.com>. Offers responses to Bart Ehrman, an influential university professor who challenges historic Christianity's claims about the Bible. He frequently appears in TV religious documentaries.
- <http://www.garyhabermas.com>. Gary Habermas specializes in the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus.
- <https://www.josh.org>. A website for the ministry of Josh McDowell, a prominent Christian author and speaker who addresses key questions about Jesus, the Bible, the resurrection of Christ, etc.
- <https://www.leestrobels.com>. Website of former atheist and former *Chicago Tribune* reporter, Lee Strobel, who is now a prominent defender of the Christian faith and author of *The Case for Christ*.
- <https://mamabearapologetics.com>. A resource that challenges and informs ladies (moms and others) to be better prepared to help their children respond to the variety of attacks against the Christian faith.
- <https://oneminuteapologist.com>. Brief video interviews with a variety of Christian thinkers.
- <https://www.ratiochristi.org>. Provides resources and local organizations for students in high school and college as well as for parents and professors.
- <https://www.reasonablefaith.org>. The website of William Lane Craig, a leading Christian apologist and debater, that offers both scholarly and popular materials, including podcasts and videos.
- <https://www.reasons.org>. Reasons to Believe website of Hugh Ross, a Christian astronomer, who defends the compatibility between biblical creation and a very old universe of over 13 billion years.
- <https://www.richknopp.com>. Provides resources from presentations by Richard Knopp, director of Room For Doubt.
- <https://www.risenjesus.com>. Website of Mike Licona, a Christian apologist and president of Risen Jesus, Inc.

<http://www.roomfordoubt.com>. A website that offers an environment to encourage questions, address doubts, and strengthen faith. A variety of resources are provided for churches, small groups, camps, and campus ministries, including a six-week curriculum called “Basic Questions” and 15 lessons on “Strengthen Your Faith.”

<https://seanmcdowell.org>. Sean McDowell seeks to bring truth to a new generation. He also has a popular podcast called “Think Biblically.”

<https://www.str.org>. Led by Greg Koukl, Stand to Reason trains Christians to think more clearly about their faith and to make an even-handed, incisive, yet gracious defense for classical Christianity and classical Christian values in the public square.

<https://www.summit.org>. Summit offers many online resources, conferences for 16-25 year olds, and curriculum materials to help Christians engage culture with a biblical worldview. In its curriculum section, it provides a “high school worldview test.”

### **D. Video Resources**

For a list of recommended short videos usable for adults and youth on a variety of topics, see the Room For Doubt Recommended Resources for Teens and Young Adults at <https://roomfordoubt.com/recommended-resources/teens-and-young-adults>.