

Church on the Ridge

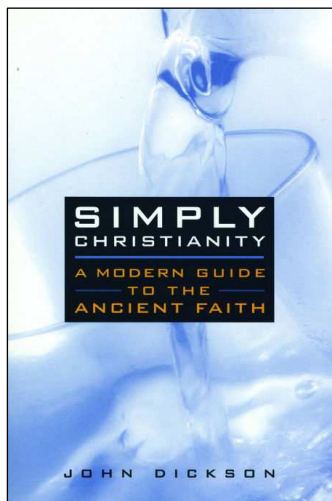
Recommended Books: November/December 2009

Hi all,

These are some of the books we recommend for people at Church on the Ridge. There is something here for everyone. The blurbs for each book are written in a similar style to the book itself, so they give you an idea of not just the content, but the readability as well. Our own comments are in italics.

Most of these books will be on display at church in the coming weeks. They are available either through CBD (Christian Book Discounters, Pietermaritzburg, www.christianbooks.co.za) or through Loot (www.loot.co.za). You can go to the suppliers directly, but postage is free if you order through us and collect from us. Allow three weeks for delivery when buying from Loot. If you order through us, please make payment in advance on or before Sunday 29 November.

We hope you are blessed by one or more of these resources this Christmas. Sam, Deane and Pierre.



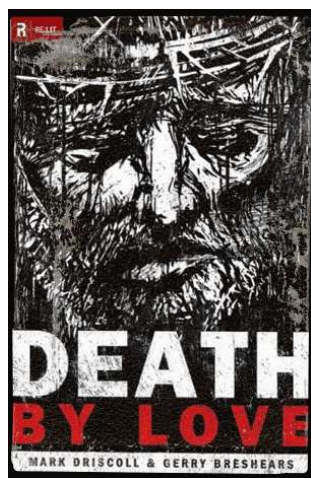
Simply Christianity: a modern guide to the ancient faith

John Dickson. Matthias Media. 9781876326180 | 239pp. Soft cover.
Price: **R80.00** through CBD.

One of the reasons people sometimes avoid looking into Christianity is that there are so many Christianities on offer, each with their spin on things, their own rituals and practices, their own religious package.

But just imagine we were able to get beyond this--to strip back all the rituals, myths and dogma; to put to one side the hair-splitting and disagreements; to get beyond all the trappings of 'religion' – what would we find? If we were to go back to Jesus himself, to the biographies about him contained in the New Testament, what would we discover Christianity to be about?

That is the project of this book. It aims to present simply Christianity, by reading and reflecting upon the ancient biography of Jesus written by Luke. Australian Christian Book of the Year: 2000.



Death by Love: Letters from the Cross

Mark Driscoll & Gerry Breshears. Relit. 267pp. Hardcover.
Price: **R161.00** through Loot.

Deep theology meets gritty pastoral experiences as Death by Love explains the practical implications of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. This compilation of heartfelt letters written from a pastor to his people shows how the grace of Christ is applied to the most sin-filled situations.

'This book is brutally honest about sin and suffering and wonderfully hopeful as it points to our true Savior.' Timothy S. Lane. Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation.

We don't recommend Death by Love for young or sensitive readers.

You Can Change

Tim Chester. IVP. 9781844743032 | 202pp. Soft cover
Price: **R108.00** through Loot.

'Many books are written by experts. This isn't one of them,' admits Tim Chester. 'It was born out of my own struggle to change. My long battle with particular issues set me searching the Bible as well as writings from the past. This book shares the amazing truths I discovered.'

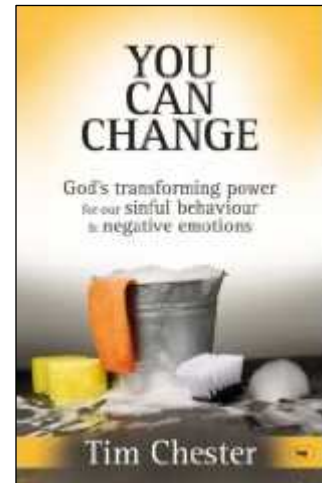
'For years I wondered if I'd ever overcome certain sins. And while I can't claim to have conquered sin - for no-one ever can do - here are discoveries that have led to change in my life and the lives of others.'

You may be:

- a new Christian, struggling to change former habits
- an older Christian who has plateaued: you grew quickly when you first believed but now your Christian life is much of a muchness
- a Christian who's fallen into sin in a big way, wondering how you'll ever get back on track

This book is about hope in Jesus, hope for forgiveness, hope for true and lasting change. God promises liberating grace and transforming power to his people.

'Shockingly honest, carefully theological and gloriously hopeful.' - Paul Tripp

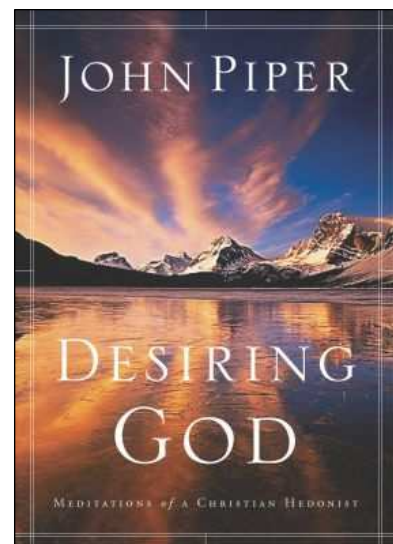


Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist

John Piper. Multnomah. 1590521196 | 358pp. Hard Cover.
Price: **R135.00** through CBD.

The message of Desiring God is that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him. In this book, Piper calls this worldview "Christian Hedonism" and explains why pursuing maximum joy is essential to glorifying God. He discusses the implications of this for conversion, worship, love, Scripture, prayer, money, marriage, missions, and suffering.

The great business of life is to glorify God by enjoying him forever. Discord between duty and delight doesn't exist: delight is our duty. Piper stuns us again and again with things we saw in the Bible, but never dared to believe. Join him on this dangerous quest for maximum joy in God. But beware, it may cost you your life. Never mind - "the steadfast love of the Lord is better than life" (Psalm 63:3).





Psalms: Soul Songs (Bible Study Guide for Selected Psalms)

Tim Chester. Good Book Company. 9781904889960 | 56pp. Soft cover. Price: **R32.50** through CBD.

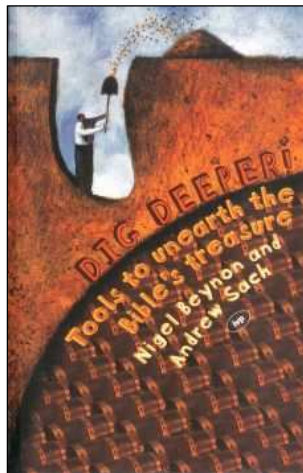
Exploring love, temptation, fear and guilt from the Psalms

How often do you get the tune of a mindless song stuck in your head? It's one way that Christians can end up thinking and wanting things just like the world around us. So God has given us a collection of songs that can help us re-tune our hearts to what He thinks and wants instead.

You may feel as if your soul is downcast or sick — troubled by worry, sin, suffering, fear or guilt. David, the Israelite king who wrote many of these songs, tells us that the Word of God revives the soul — it's powerful stuff! And how to revive your soul is the theme of this selection. Mostly written by people rolling in trouble, they take us from the problems we face, and turn us back to God, the rock.

In these psalms you will find medicine for your soul. Learn to fear God instead of others, to trust Him in difficult times and to sing a new song to the God who saves.

It's likely that our small groups will be working through this book at some stage in 2010. In that case, everyone involved would need to buy their own copy, for legal reasons.



Dig Deeper. Nigel Beynon & Andrew Sach.

IVP. 9781844741038 | 160pp. Soft cover. **R90.00** through CBD.

This is a toolbox. Sorry if that conjures up memories of failed DIY projects, or rusty, forgotten implements decked with cobwebs at the back of your garden shed. But there are no spanners or trowels here. Rather these tools are a means of getting to the bottom of any Bible passage and discovering its true meaning.

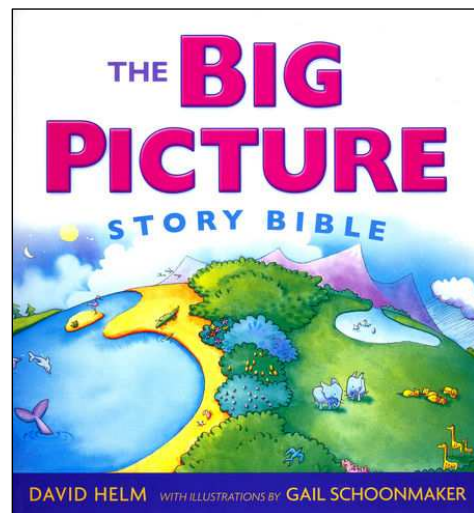
This book aims to help you to 'correctly handle the word of truth' (2 Timothy 2:15) so that you will experience God's clear guidance in your life, come to know him better and grow to love him more. Our prayer is that your Bible reading will never be the same again.

The Big Picture Story Bible (age 2 to adult)

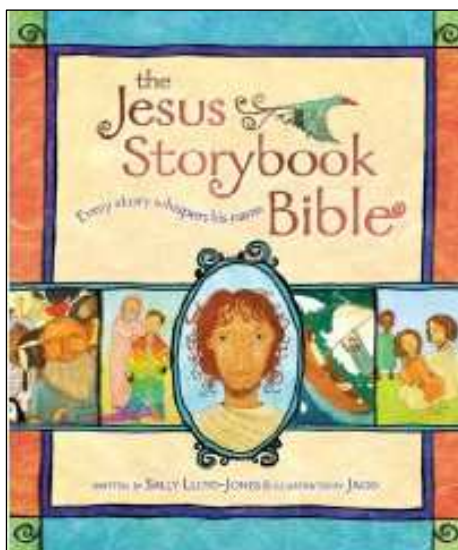
David Helm. Crossway. 9781581342772 | 451pp
Large print, 26 short stories (approx. 2 sentences per page)
Hard cover. Price: **R185.00** through CBD.

No child is too young to begin learning about the greatest love story of all — God's love for his people, as portrayed in the Bible.

David R Helm and Gail Schoonmaker collaborate to create a beautifully illustrated book of Bible stories especially for children, written with simplicity. Rather than simply retelling the most familiar short scenes from the Bible, this book presents the unified story running through the Old and New Testaments. This delightful book will help children learn the Bible's whole story and begin to appreciate the fulfilment of God's promise to his people.



The Big Picture Bible Story Book is perfect for parents to read to their children, and eventually, for children to read on their own. It is an excellent way to introduce them to a book that will guide them through all of life. *A great starting point for parents who don't fancy themselves as Bible teachers!*



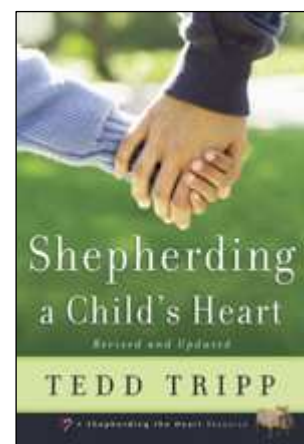
The Jesus Storybook Bible (4 to adult) Sally Lloyd-Jones.
Hard cover. Price: **R151.00** through Loot.

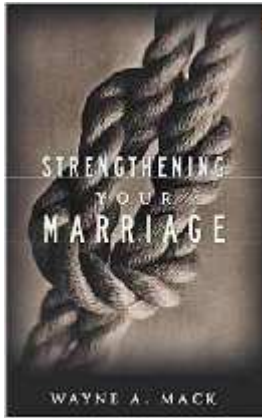
The Jesus Storybook Bible tells the one story underneath all the stories of the Bible and points to the birth of a child, the Rescuer, Jesus. Complete with 44 Bible stories, The Jesus Storybook Bible paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus and invites children to see that he is not only at the centre of God's great story of redemption—he is at the centre of their story too. Children and adults alike will be captivated by the beautifully written narrative and the original and unique illustrations by accomplished artist Jago. Lloyd-Jones' powerful gift of storytelling draws the reader into the greatest adventure of all time in an exciting page-turner that kids (and adults) find hard to put down.

Shepherding a Child's Heart

Tedd Tripp. Shepherd Press. 0966378601. Soft cover.
Price: **R110.00** through CBD.

Shepherding a Child's Heart is about how to speak to the heart of your child. Bringing deep biblical principles to the task of parenting and concentrating on what is going on inside a child rather than just their outside behaviour.





Strengthening Your Marriage. Wayne Mack.

Soft cover. Price: **R97.00** through Loot.

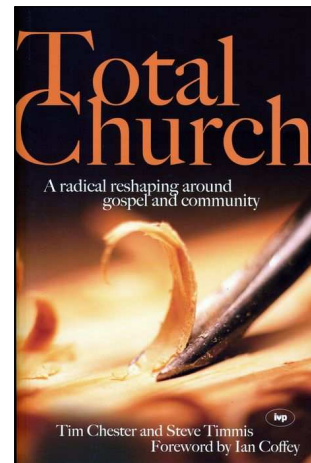
Dr. Wayne Mack recognizes the challenges involved in building a strong marriage. He also knows that Scripture provides the method and means for meeting those challenges with growing success. In this volume, Dr. Mack offers a wealth of practical information on marital roles, communication, finances, sex, parenting, and family religion. This valuable counselling aid for pastors can also be used with great benefit by couples on their own.

Total Church. Tim Chester & Steve Timmis. IVP.

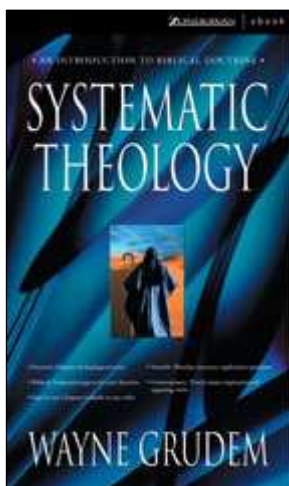
9781844741915 | 205pp. Soft cover. Price: **R115.00** through CBD

Total Church pleads for two key principles for church and mission. First, the gospel as content: being word centred (for the gospel is truth) and being mission centred (for the gospel is truth to be proclaimed). Secondly, the community as context: sharing our lives as Christians and offering a place of belonging to unbelievers.

The authors apply these principles to church planting, evangelism, apologetics, social involvement, leadership, discipleship, pastoral care, world mission and notions of success. They critique current trends within the church: emerging church movements are strong on community but weak on truth, while conservative evangelicalism is strong on truth but weak on community. Their call is a call for the best of both. A timely and provocative book.



This book provides an important foundation to understanding and applying our church's core values, which can be found at churchontheridge.wordpress.com.



Systematic Theology – An introduction to biblical doctrine

Wayne Grudem. Zondervan. ISBN: 0310244757 | 1290pp.

Hard cover. Price: **R395.00** through CBD.

This introductory textbook has several distinctive features: a strong emphasis on the scriptural basis for each doctrine; clear writing, with technical terms kept to a minimum; and a contemporary approach.

E&OE.