

No Other Gods Confronting Our Modern Day Idols The Living Room

Minter explores what happens when good desires become false gods, robbing people of an intimate relationship with the heavenly Father. (Christian)

In this groundbreaking work of biblical analysis and interpretation, one of the most admired religious leaders of our time shows that religiously inspired violence has as its source misreadings of the texts of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Koran. When religion becomes a zero-sum conceit--i.e., my religion is the only "right" path to God, therefore your religion is by definition "wrong"--Violence between peoples of different beliefs is the only natural outcome, argues Rabbi Sacks. But by looking anew at seminal biblical texts in the Book of Genesis--in which we find the foundational stories of all three Abrahamic faiths--Rabbi Sacks offers an entirely different understanding of God's multiple relationships: with Jacob, patriarch of Judaism; with Ishmael, patriarch of Islam; and with Esau, whose blessing is understood to confirm God's relationship with monotheists from other faiths and overarching relationship with all of humanity. By analyzing the texts that recount how Abraham's immediate descendants resolved their various sibling rivalries, Rabbi Sacks teaches us a powerful lesson in the existence of multiple pathways to God. "We are not all the same," he declares. "There is no one faith that encompasses the plenary truth of human wisdom ... The

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belief that one faith--ours--holds the key to salvation deserves to be challenged, not just because it has led to so much persecution and bloodshed in the name of God, but because it attempts to confine God to one religion, one way, one image of mankind. God cannot be so confined and remain the God of transcendence, the God-without-an-image who systematically defies our attempts to capture Him in categories of human understanding ... Making space for that which is other than myself is not a doctrine of religious relativism. It is, rather, the humility that says there are things I will not, cannot, understand and that I must leave to God." Rabbi Sacks's bold statement of our need to look with new eyes at specific scriptural passages from within each of the Abrahamic monotheisms--passages that, when interpreted literally, can lead to hatred, violence, and war--is an eloquent, clarion call for people of goodwill from all faiths to join together to end the misunderstandings that threaten to destroy us all.

The heart of the biblical understanding of idolatry, argues Gregory Beale, is that we take on the characteristics of what we worship. Employing Isaiah 6 as his interpretive lens, Beale demonstrates that this understanding of idolatry permeates the whole canon, from Genesis to Revelation. Beale concludes with an application of the biblical notion of idolatry to the challenges of contemporary life.

Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy - Member Book by Kelly Minter is a women's Bible study of Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy. The city of Corinth was like our communities and

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cities--full of people and full of problems. In the middle of this busy metropolis, an early church was struggling to make a difference. Paul challenged the church to share the message of reconciliation--the gospel--despite hardship, pain, and struggle. He encouraged the new believers, reminding them the gospel was meant to thrive in circumstances such as these. Over 8 sessions, Kelly Minter will lead girls through the Letter of 2 Corinthians to discover how Paul's encouragement to the believers in Corinth challenges the church and young women today. This Bible study also includes leader helps and 7 weeks of personal study to be completed between group sessions. As new creations in Christ, we are to spread the message of Jesus' grace, comfort, and generosity with the world. In the way we live, we must boldly declare that He makes all things new.

The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." – Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous

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peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned,” the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, “to recognize the traces of God’s Spirit in events great and small.” Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*. Read the Amazon reviews and you'll discover why women are saying: "This is the study to do in your small group!" Women are being delivered from Anxiety Overeating Anger and more...

Now available in paperback and one of Beth Moore's most popular writings to date, *Breaking Free* is the breakthrough book on how to overcome the strongholds of sin and discover a better life.

This discussion guide to Jerry Bridges' *Respectable Sins* will help small groups explore the book's key principles. Women's Bible study by Priscilla Shirer that looks at Gideon's life.

The Open Access version of this book, available at www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781472453983, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivative 4.0 license. Experiences of hearing the voice of God (or angels, demons, or other spiritual beings) have generally been understood either

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as religious experiences or else as a feature of mental illness. Some critics of traditional religious faith have dismissed the visions and voices attributed to biblical characters and saints as evidence of mental disorder. However, it is now known that many ordinary people, with no other evidence of mental disorder, also hear voices and that these voices not infrequently include spiritual or religious content. Psychological and interdisciplinary research has shed a revealing light on these experiences in recent years, so that we now know much more about the phenomenon of "hearing voices" than ever before. The present work considers biblical, historical, and scientific accounts of spiritual and mystical experiences of voice hearing in the Christian tradition in order to explore how some voices may be understood theologically as revelatory. It is proposed that in the incarnation, Christian faith finds both an understanding of what it is to be fully human (a theological anthropology), and God's perfect self-disclosure (revelation). Within such an understanding, revelatory voices represent a key point of interpersonal encounter between human beings and God.

The city of Corinth was like our cities-full of people and full of problems. In the middle of this bustling metropolis, an early church was struggling to make a difference. Paul challenged the church to share the message of reconciliation-the gospel-despite hardship, pain, and struggle. He encouraged the new believers, reminding them the gospel was meant to thrive in circumstances such as these. Over eight sessions, Kelly Minter will lead you through the Letter of 2 Corinthians to discover how

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Paul's encouragement to the believers in Corinth challenges the church today. As new creations in Christ, we are to spread the message of Jesus' grace, comfort, and generosity with the world. In the way we live, we must boldly declare: He makes all thing new Book jacket. Stopping the spiral of toxic thoughts. In Get Out of Your Head, a six-session video-based Bible study, Jennie inspires and equips us to transform our emotions, our outlook, and even our circumstances by taking control of our thoughts. Our enemy is determined to get in our heads to make us feel helpless, overwhelmed, and incapable of making a difference for the kingdom of God. But when we submit our minds to Christ, the promises of goodness of God flood our lives in remarkable ways. It starts in your head. And from there, the possibilities are endless. This guide serves as a tool to prepare you in leading this Get Out of Your Head study and to encourage you along the way. It helps you as the leader to effectively point your group to the overarching theme of each lesson and point them to the themes of each study. This Get Out of Your Head Leader's Guide includes: Session-by-session helps to guide your group through the study. Walk-through for using each piece of the study: Videos, Study Guide, and Conversation Card Deck. The vision for Get Out of Your Head. Tips for leading your group, and much more. This guide is designed for use with the Get Out of Your Head Video Study (9780310116394), sold separately. Streaming video, study guide, and conversation cards also available.

Trace the path of Joseph's life in the Book of Genesis to

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observe how God's sovereignty reigns, even in our darkest moments. Learn to recognize when God is working during periods of waiting, trust God's plan when life doesn't make sense, and rest in the sufficiency of His presence in every circumstance. His provision is enough, His presence is constant, and His purpose is unstoppable. (8 sessions) Features: Leader helps to guide questions and discussions within small groups Personal study segments to complete between 8 weeks of group sessions Interactive teaching videos, approximately 35 minutes per session, available for purchase or rent Benefits: Place your hope in the God who is with you. Learn to trust God's purposes when life doesn't make sense. Recognize how God is working in your waiting. Rest in the sufficiency of God's presence in every circumstance.

Laudato Si 'is Pope Francis' second encyclical which focuses on the theme of the environment. In fact, the Holy Father in his encyclical urges all men and women of good will, the rulers and all the powerful on earth to reflect deeply on the theme of the environment and the care of our planet. This is our common home, we must take care of it and love it - the Holy Father tells us - because its end is also ours.

Do you have a real relationship with God, or do you just have a religion? Do you know God, or do you just know about God? In *How Big Is Your God?* Paul Coutinho, SJ, challenges us to grow stronger and deeper in our faith and in our relationship with God—a God whose love knows no bounds. To help us on our way, Coutinho introduces us to people in various world religions—from

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Hindu friends to Buddhist teachers to St. Ignatius of Loyola—who have shaped his spiritual life and made possible his deep, personal relationship with God. What do Netflix, our desire for the corner office, and that perfect picture we just posted on Instagram have to do with each other? None of these things is wrong in itself. But when we begin to allow entertainment, success, or social media to control us, we miss out on the joy of God's rule in our hearts. In *Gods at War*, Pastor Kyle Idleman, bestselling author of *Not a Fan*, helps every believer recognize there are false gods at war within each of us, and they battle for the place of glory and control in our lives. According to Idleman, idolatry isn't an issue? it is the issue. By asking insightful questions, Idleman reveals which false gods each of us are allowing on the throne of our lives. What do you sacrifice for? What makes you mad? What do you worry about? Whose applause do you long for? We're all wired for worship, but we often end up valuing and honoring the idols of money, sex, food, romance, success, and many others that keep us from the intimate relationship with God that we desire. In this updated edition, Pastor Kyle adds a new introduction as well as new content about the battle many of us face with technology—whether we are tempted to send just one more text, stay online when our bodies need rest, or find ourselves putting email before in-person relationships. How can we seek God with our whole hearts instead? Using true, powerful, and honest testimonies of those who have struggled in each area, *Gods at War* illustrates a clear path away from the heartache of our 21st century idolatry back to the heart

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of God—enabling us to truly be completely committed followers of Jesus.

Written by Rebecca McLaughlin, Author of *Confronting Christianity* In a world of increasing ideological diversity, kids are being challenged to think through their own beliefs at an early age. Questions like How can you believe the Bible is true?; Why can't we just agree that love is love?; and Isn't Christianity against diversity? can seem like roadblocks for kids who are following Jesus, as well as for those who might otherwise consider faith in Christ. In this helpful book—written both for Christian kids and for those who think Jesus is just a fairy tale character—Rebecca McLaughlin invites readers ages 12–15 to dig deep into hard questions for themselves and perhaps discover that the things that once looked like roadblocks to faith might actually be signposts.

From the time Jennifer Linck was old enough to rock her Cabbage Patch Doll, she dreamed of being a mother. As her friends began welcoming tiny bundles of joy, Jennifer struggled to conceive a child. As a gut-wrenching desire to be a mom built within her, God began to place adoption on Jennifer's heart. In 2010, Jennifer and her husband, John, felt God leading them to build their family through international adoption. Eighteen months after they began their journey to Ethiopia, God took them on a detour that only He could have orchestrated. After accepting a job at the local homeless shelter, Jennifer began to see how God truly wanted her to live her life—serving the least of these. As God transformed her heart and showed her how to truly love the poor, the widow, and the orphan, He began to weave together a

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story that would eventually lead to her son. In *Bringing Home the Missing Linck*, Jennifer shares how the pain and heartache of infertility became the building blocks God used to strengthen her faith and make her heart more like His, as He answered her prayers for a child. *The Armor of God*, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

Fans of *Payback's a Witch* and *The Ex Hex* won't want to miss this charming and humorous novel featuring a South African writer facing her past and literally living her dreams—and conjuring a real-life hero. A Goodreads Most Hotly Anticipated Romance A USA Today Best New Rom-Com “An ambitious story of magic, romance, and healing from past trauma...Anxious Gaia's difficult background and social awkwardness will endear her to many readers.” —Publishers Weekly “A sweet reminder of the connections between love and magic.”

—KirkusReviews One unexpected kiss . . . Successful romance author Gaia Anders has a secret: anything she dreams at night is magically written into her bestselling novels. After a lonely childhood in foster care, her dream life is the only one she trusts. Gaia's waking life just can't compare—until she gets caught in one utterly surprising, crazy-passionate, real-life kiss . . . One near-perfect guy . . . Workaholic businessman Jacob Scott has had a crush on his brother's best friend, Gaia, since forever—but he never expected to literally share her dreams. Living out their magical nighttime fantasies is explosive, but it's their waking desire turning his single-

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mindful ways upside down. It's making him want a future he didn't think was possible . . . One dream that could come true . . . But Gaia has secrets from her past she won't reveal. And Jacob's attempts to keep the peace in his own fractured family puts him up against her deepest fears. Soon, they're facing hard truths about who they are and what they're running from. And the only way to break this curse is realizing true love's real-life power . . .

Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale defend the absolute claims of Christ against modern belief in the "secular gods" of atheism, scientism, relativism, and more. The rise of these secular gods presents the most serious challenge to the absolute claims of Christ since the founding of Christianity itself. The Christian worldview has not only been devalued and dismissed by modern culture, but its believers are openly ridiculed as irrelevant. In JESUS AMONG SECULAR GODS, Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale challenge the popular "isms" of the day, skillfully pointing out the fallacies in their claims and presenting compelling evidence for revealed absolute truth as found in Jesus. This book is fresh, insightful, and important, and faces head on today's most urgent challenges to Christian faith. It will help seekers to explore the claims of Christ and will provide Christians with the knowledge to articulate why they believe that Jesus stands tall above all other gods.

Musician and author Kelly Minter explores the natural needs of women that can become modern-day idols, replacing God's presence in their lives.

Life Is Never Mainly About Love and Marriage. So Learn

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to Live and Date for More. Many of you grew up assuming that marriage would meet all of your needs and unlock God's purposes for you. But God has far more planned for you than your future marriage. Not Yet Married is not about waiting quietly in the corner of the world for God to bring you "the one," but about inspiring you to live and date for more now. If you follow Jesus, the search for a spouse is no longer a pursuit of the perfect person, but a pursuit of more of God. He will likely write a love story for you different than the one you would write for yourself, but that's because he loves you and knows how to write a better story. This book was written to help you find real hope, happiness, and purpose in your not-yet-married life.

This beautiful journey through the Amazon invites readers to search their souls and follow Jesus wherever the river runs—experiencing the adventure of knowing the poor and forgotten people He loves. In *Wherever the River Runs*, Kelly Minter invites us on a jungle adventure down a river teeming with piranhas, caymans, a beautiful people, and, especially, God's presence. Her honest and engaging narrative pulls back the curtain on one of the most captivating places on earth as well as on parts of the gospel we may be able to recite but have never fully believed. For anyone feeling complacent in their American Christianity, Kelly's story of the forgotten people of the Amazon and how they transformed her understanding of the gospel, is sure to inspire. Introduces young readers to Catholic beliefs as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Colossians 3:12 tells us to "clothe" ourselves in

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Christian virtues such as forgiveness, joy, patience, and compassion. But how does that work in real life? Can we really “dress up” in the character of Christ? Kelly Minter says the answer is yes—if we let the Master Designer do the fitting. This relatable book offers insightful Scripture study with real-life stories and simple, down-to-earth explanations of the tricky concepts of justification and sanctification—stitching it all together with dry humor and honesty. There are no gimmicks, no guilt trips, just an irresistible invitation for women to enjoy a spiritual makeover—to put on a life that’s personally tailored by the One who knows and loves them best.

Insightful and heart-warming, this classic book is written for those who seek to know God better. It unfolds life-impacting, biblical truths and has been called a "soul-stirring celebration of the pleasures of knowing God." Christians desperately need to name and expose the modern-day false gods of prosperity, nationalism, and self-interest. Combining a biblical study of idolatry with practical discipleship, Old Testament scholar Christopher J. H. Wright calls readers to fight the temptation of idolatry as we consider connections between Old Testament patterns and today's culture.

How do we overcome what we are being overcome by--whether depression, anxiety, overeating, a negative view of ourselves or any other stronghold--in order to experience the freedom that is available to us in Christ? When the pressures of life become overwhelming, we often find ourselves turning to food, shopping, alcohol, television or whatever our "counterfeit" might be in search of the relief, release and peace we are longing

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for. These choices are not necessarily bad, but the satisfaction is merely temporary. Before we know it, we can find ourselves enslaved by addictive and destructive behaviors, but there is a way out. With grace and warmth, author Robia Scott shows how true healing and lasting satisfaction can be found only as we learn to transfer our dependence from counterfeit comforts onto our one true Comforter: the Holy Spirit. Drawing from the experience of battling her own counterfeits--primarily her tumultuous relationship with food and obsession with dieting, weight and body image--Robia leads you step by step through the process of transformation. It is through learning how to experience and connect with the Person, the presence and the power of God that we discover who we truly are, and acquire freedom to live the life of purpose that we were created for.

To young Christians of the world, Pope Francis has a message for you: "Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive!" In his fourth apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis encapsulates the work of the 2018 synod of bishops on "Young People, The Faith, and Vocational Discernment." Pope Francis has always had a special relationship with young people, and in his fatherly love for you he shows that: You can relate to young people in Scripture who made a difference You identify with the Christ who is always young You face difficult issues in the world today You yearn for the truth of the Gospel You are capable of amazing things when you respond to the Gospel You learn and grow with help from the faithful of all generations You need bold and creative youth ministry You can discover who God made you to be You

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are urged to pray for discernment Christus Vivit is written for and to young people, but Pope Francis also wrote it for the entire Church, because, as he says, reflecting on our young people inspires us all. "May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us."

"Incredibly rich with wisdom and insight that will leave the reader, whether single or married, feeling uplifted."

—The Washington Times Based on the acclaimed sermon series by New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller, this book shows everyone—Christians, skeptics, singles, longtime married couples, and those about to be engaged—the vision of what marriage should be according to the Bible. Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that your spouse is there to help you realize your potential; that marriage does not mean forever, but merely for now; and that starting over after a divorce is the best solution to seemingly intractable marriage issues. But these modern-day assumptions are wrong. Timothy Keller, with insights from Kathy, his wife of thirty-seven years, shows marriage to be a glorious relationship that is also misunderstood and mysterious. *The Meaning of Marriage* offers instruction on how to have a successful marriage, and is essential reading for anyone who wants to know God and love more deeply in this life.

Addressing several aspects of living as a follower of Jesus—including obedience, servanthood, faithfulness, grace,

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authenticity, trust, and freedom--"Water Into Wine" is an intriguing, humorous, and significant read that reveals biblical truth in a fresh and compelling way.

Member Book for the 7-session study Kelly Minter that looks at the Letters of 1, 2, 3 John.

Depression is so common that it has been described as 'the common cold of psychiatry'. It is particularly difficult for Christians - there is often a feeling that Christians 'shouldn't' get depressed, and that it and anxiety are the result of a poor or damaged relationship with God. I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE THIS is an empowering and practical response to such common feelings. In the style of a workbook, with constant reference to the Bible, and the example of Jesus, it helps the reader to understand why they feel the way they do, and to draw on God's love and grace to find a path through depression and anxiety. The authors are all Christians, and experienced counsellors and psychiatrists.

Why is it that so many of us settle for a less-than-satisfying Christian life? We suffer the symptoms-spiritual dryness, dissatisfaction, and unanswered prayers-of a yet-unidentified problem that creates an obstacle between God and us. We seem unable to connect the dots between our symptoms and the problem causing them: God is no longer first in our hearts. Pastor Dennis Newkirk shares how God revealed to their church their idolatry. The lessons were difficult, but the result was an extraordinary spiritual revival and much deeper fellowship with God. No gods but God is about learning to confront our modern-day idolatry and how God uses a four-step pattern to call our hearts back to him. Examining our own lives before God and admitting that our hearts have strayed isn't easy, and it is most certainly humbling. But that's what God wants-a humbled, repentant person standing before him willing to be used in service for him. Let No gods but God show you the way.

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7-session Bible study for women by Kelly Minter looks at the prophet Nehemiah.

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