

4/30/2020

A few years back I put together a recommended resources list. I have added and removed a couple items to update it. The following suggestions are ones that rose to the top when I thought of recommendations to pass along. This list gives a glimpse into some things that I enjoy, have appreciated, been shaped by, and continue coming back to. If you choose to check out any of them, I pray God may use them to his glory and your blessing.

*In Christ,
Pastor George*

Daily Devotionals

The Bible – I just had to put this at the top!

Near Unto God – Abraham Kuyper. I like both the original translated into English and the update by James Schaap. I received James Schaap's update when I did profession of faith and it is one of the devotionals I have come back to the most often. It is much abbreviated and has updated illustrations from the original.

Stilling the Storm – Paul David Tripp

Gracelaced – Ruth Chou Simons – with beautiful paintings and biblically sound reflections this has become Richarla's go to devotional and she has gifted copies to many friends. It has a solid gospel focus addressing the seasons of life (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) in the light of Christ

Beholding and Becoming – Ruth Chou Simons

Family Devotions

Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds – Starr Meade – a family devotional that goes through the Heidelberg Catechism in a year.

Foundations – Troy and Ruth Simons

Children/Young Adult devotionals

Thoughts to Make Your Hearts Sing by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Jesus Storybook by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Big Picture Story Bible by David Helm

The Gospel Story Bible by Marty Machowski

At Your Baptism by Carrie Steenwyk and John Witvliet

Dive Devotions – by Bryan Keeley junior high devotional

Devotional Reading

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society – Eugene Peterson – reflections on the Psalms of Ascent (120-134) by an author whose other writings have helped me think in a grounded and God-glorifying manner about ministry.

The Pastor – Eugene Peterson – A memoir on life as a pastor, well worth reading, good stories interspersed with theological reflections.

The Good News We Almost Forgot – Kevin DeYoung – fresh reflections on each Lord's Day of the Heidelberg Catechism

Just Do Something – Kevin DeYoung – A short helpful read on discerning God's will in your life.

The Tech-wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place – by Andy Crouch

Recommended Magazine

Modern Reformation – published quarterly by Whitehorse Inn

Recommended Podcasts

Whitehorse Inn – a group of pastors and theologians, headed by Michael Horton from Westminster Seminary California, reflect on the gospel, theology and life.

Renewing Your Mind – put out by Ligonier Ministries

Risen Motherhood – Richarla has really appreciated how these two moms speak the gospel into the lives of mothers

Legacy Dads – Lance and Dante are two men addressing the issues of fatherhood from a Reformed Baptist perspective. I have listened for a month of two and it seems worth checking out

Theology/Biblical knowledge

Delighting in the Trinity – Michael Reeves

Rejoicing in Christ – Michael Reeves

You Are What Your Love – James K. A. Smith

The Meaning of Marriage – Timothy Keller

The Prodigal God – Timothy Keller

Prayer – Timothy Keller

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering – Timothy Keller

Sacred Marriage – Gary Thomas

Married for God: Making your marriage the best it can be – Christopher Ash

Conscience: What it is, how to train it, and loving those who differ – Andrew David Naselli and J.D. Crowley – Naselli is a professor at Wheaton College and Crowley is an OPC missionary in Cambodia

Novelists

I love to read novels, they help give me insights into human nature and experiences I have never had myself. Novels provide a holiday, letting me escape into a different world for a short time, and let me see the world through a different set of eyes than my own. The following authors are ones I find myself coming back to and rereading again and again because of the blessing I receive through their imaginative “secondary creations” as Tolkien described the task of creating a world in a story. In particular, I find I enjoy reading fantasy because a good fantasy author helps me see and reflect on issues in a completely different setting so that I can come to them with fresh eyes rather than thinking of them in my default mindset. If you want a thoughtful book exploring this idea more check out *Echoes of Eden: Reflections on Christianity, Literature, and the Arts* by Jerram Barrs

J.R.R. Tolkien – *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* – Richarla and I listen to the unabridged audio recording by Robert Ingles almost yearly

C.S. Lewis – *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Stephen Lawhead – historical fiction/fantasy much of it rooted in Celtic lore from the British Isles

Brandon Sanderson – fantasy/science fiction – a good sampler would be *Elantris* or *Warbreaker*
If you prefer something young adult and humorous check out *Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians*

J.K. Rowling – her *Harry Potter* series

Andrew Peterson – *Wingfeather Saga* a young adult series

Musicians

Andrew Peterson – I highly recommend most everything he has recorded. His album “Behold the Lamb” is one of my favorite Christmas albums. It tells the story of salvation centered on Jesus’ birth.

Keith and Kristen Getty “Songs for the Christian Life” – This album is full of songs reflecting on living life well to God’s glory in every aspect of life.

Gregory Wilbur – “My Cry Ascends” – a wonderful collection of psalms and old hymns set to Celtic folk type music. Our family especially enjoys listening to this on Sunday mornings before going to church.

Praise Baby collections – well done settings of classic hymns and newer songs, not just for babies as the title implies.

Games

If you like playing these games and are looking for some to play with, call us. If you have never heard of these games before and are interested in learning, call us. We enjoy playing games.

Ticket to Ride board game – Richarla and I like the Europe version best but like to play any map you have

Quiddler – a short-word card game

Qwerkle – a strategic tile game involving matching colors and shapes

Doodle Dice – a Yahtzee type game where you roll dice with different symbols on them trying to make pictures on cards to collect the different color cards.