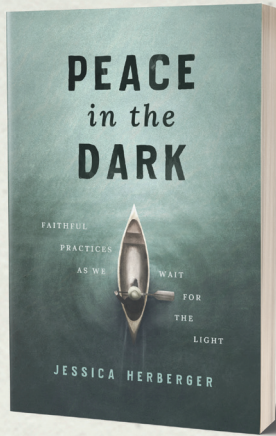




L E A F W O O D

P U B L I S H E R S

2024 New Releases



January 2024 • 160 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-299-1 • \$16.99
eBook 978-1-68426-876-4 • \$9.99

JESSICA HERBERGER is an author and Bible teacher who comes alive at the intersection of faith, history, and liturgy. She is the author of *Break Bread Together* and *Life Surrendered* and host of The Table—an online community gathered around the Word. She is also cofounder of the women’s ministry Seasons Northeast. Through her writing and speaking, Jessica encourages others to seek community, walk in obedience, and love others well. Jessica and her husband, Josh, live in upstate New York with their three kids, where she can be found surrounded by books, music, and plenty of love.

PEACE IN THE DARK

Faithful Practices as We Wait for the Light

Jessica Herberger

How do we stay faithful as we wait on God?

The time after Good Friday but before Easter Sunday is one of the most overlooked portions of the Bible. We tend to rush ahead to the empty tomb seeking to find the resurrected Lord, but our lives don’t come equipped with a fast-forward button. We all face seasons of waiting where we long for a new or better future.

Peace in the Dark invites you to look again and acknowledge the reality of Holy Saturday. The example of the early disciples in those in-between hours offers a depth of wisdom about what to do when things have gone wrong. Their practices can serve us as we face our own disappointments, trials, and even traumatic experiences. There is a way to not just live but to experience peace when God seems silent. Rooted in Scripture, nature, and her personal experiences of years of trial, Jessica Herberger guides us through what was happening on that day, why it matters, and how we can approach our Holy Saturdays with hope and faithfulness.

“Jessica Herberger manages to take a quiet day that we know little about—Holy Saturday—and offers us a gift we hardly knew we needed. Through careful reading of Scripture and history, compelling narrative, and lived wisdom, she shows us what it means to grieve, feast, endure the quiet, trust what can’t yet be seen, and allow paradox to be an invitation instead of a frustration. *Peace in the Dark* will help you discover fullness within the emptiness of the space between the crucifixion and resurrection, and how—even there in the deepest darkness—Light remains.”

—**Adriel Booker**, author of *Grace Like Scarlett* and *Tethered to Hope*

LEGACY CHANGER

Heal the Hurt, Redeem Your Story, Create Hope for Your Family

Kristen Hallinan

Heal from your past and create a stronger, healthier family. Be a Legacy Changer.

The pain we experience today—in marriage, parenting, friendships, self-esteem, and even faith—oftentimes has roots in the wounds we experienced growing up. Many of us unknowingly repeat the mistakes of our parents and grandparents, passing on an unnecessary family legacy of pain and suffering. Through biblical wisdom, relatable storytelling, and tips for practical application, *Legacy Changer* equips women to heal their wounds of generational toxicity and create a healthier, more hopeful legacy for their families.

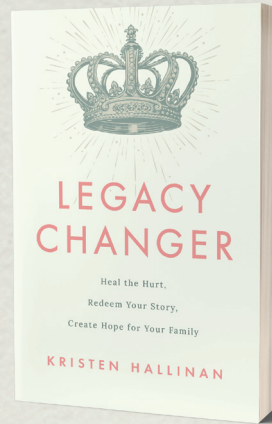
Facing generational pain allows us to heal from the lies and shame of our past and move toward truth and hope for our future. No matter what has happened in the past or what mess you might be in today, you are not destined to carry on your family’s wounds, unhealthy behaviors, or toxic relationships. It doesn’t have to be this way. Your legacy can be different.

“*Legacy Changer* is a vital toolkit for gently reflecting on past trauma (no matter how big or small) in order to write a new story. Kristen walks alongside readers, providing pragmatic resources to work through past wounds to gain a better understanding while also providing biblical wisdom for healing. This book invites you to handle yourself with tender care to walk in a new path. It’s a must-read.”

—**Mandy Arioto**, President and CEO of MOPS International

“Kristen beautifully shows us through real-life examples, biblical references, and practical tips just how important it is to deal with the pain of our past and work toward what matters most. She helps readers transition their mindset to the truths of Jesus while ushering them into a healing journey. If you want to be a legacy changer, then this book is for you!”

—**Nicole Jacobsmeyer**, speaker & author of *Take Back Your Joy*



February 2024 • 192 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-297-7 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-873-3 • \$9.99

KRISTEN HALLINAN, a sought-after writer and speaker, is passionate about helping women redeem the pain of their past and move toward a healthier and more hopeful future. On a mission to equip women and support families, Kristen previously worked as Director of Development for MOPS International. She enjoys working with teen moms, crisis pregnancy centers, and serving as a premarital mentor with her husband, Shawn, in Dallas, TX. You can find her other writings in publications like *Relevant Magazine* and *The Joyful Life*. Laughing with and chasing after her four children helps burn off the calories she consumes of her favorite treat—homemade gluten-free churros.

FRIEND OF GOD

Letting Jesus Say Who You Really Are

Rusty George

The only person who gets to say who you are is Jesus.

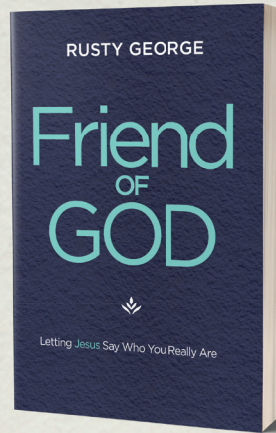
Did you have a nickname growing up? Most are fun and harmless, but sometimes the names get mean. Then, after we swallow a few other negative internal messages, we believe the lies. What others say becomes what we begin to believe about ourselves.

The apostle John grew up just like us. People handed him a ready list of labels—the brother of James, a Jew, a fisherman, a hothead—but then Jesus gave him a new direction in life. Writing about these events many years later, John referred to himself using a curious label. He always writes as “the one Jesus loved.” Many wonder about this choice. Some even think it’s presumptuous. Why would anyone single themselves out as the *one* loved by Jesus?

Rusty George wisely sees that John called himself “the one Jesus loves” so every reader could see that Jesus values and deeply loves them. *Friend of God* takes you inside John’s writings—his Gospel, his letters, and the Revelation—so you can discover how Jesus saw John, and thus how he sees you.

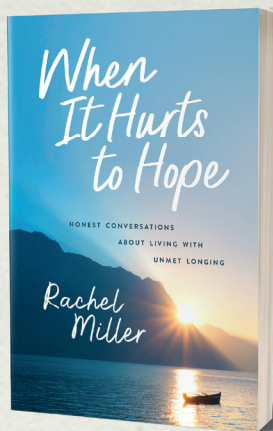
You are not the sum of what other people think of you. You are more than your victories or your mistakes. You, like John, are the one Jesus loves.

Written as short devotional entries, *Friend of God* encourages you to take the next 45 days and see how your relationship with Jesus grows.



March 2024 • 144 pp • 5 x 8
PB 978-1-68426-372-1 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-867-2 • \$9.99

RUSTY GEORGE is the lead pastor of Real Life Church Ministries in Valencia, California. For almost twenty years, Rusty has provided visionary leadership and teaching to his churches in the Santa Clarita Valley and Simi Valley, California. Rusty’s heart for those far from God drives his organizational leadership, weekly teaching, and conference speaking engagements. Rusty is a loyal Kansas City Chiefs and Royals fan and lives in Santa Clarita with his wife, Lorrie, and their two daughters.



March 2024 • 208 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-298-4 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-874-0 • \$9.99

Rachel Miller is an author and speaker who teaches on faith, creativity, and communication. She works with best-selling authors and speakers to help them craft compelling messages. She has written for Lifeway, YouVersion, Proverbs 31 Ministries, The Daily Wire, and Ramsey Solutions. She is the cofounder of *The Writer's Room*—a community of writers that offers annual conferences and gatherings. She and her husband, Jeff, love stand-up comedy, being outside, and planning global adventures from Base Camp, their home in Franklin, Tennessee. Connect with Rachel at [rachelmillerauthor.com](https://www.rachelmillerauthor.com) and on Instagram at [@rachel.s.miller](https://www.instagram.com/rachel.s.miller).

WHEN IT HURTS TO HOPE

Honest Conversations about Living with Unmet Longing

Rachel Miller

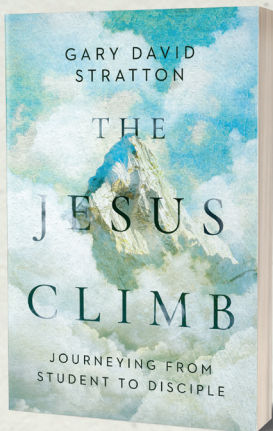
Embrace the tension of unmet longing and live with hope—even when life doesn't look like you thought it would.

Maybe you've chosen to bury your dreams, denying your desires and sleepwalking through life. Maybe you've let your longing take the driver's seat and now you feel frantic and out of control. Even worse, you find yourself growing cold to God, wondering, *If I never get what I want, is God still good?* This book tackles that hard question—and many others.

In many church circles, we're told to bury our God-given longings. In our current culture, we're encouraged to overindulge them. *When It Hurts to Hope* will show you the middle ground: how to honor God and honor your desires at the same time. Drawing upon her own experience of heartache, Rachel Miller offers encouragement and practical advice on embracing the tension of unmet longing. She shares tools for readers to be emotionally and spiritually healthy, including teachings on toxic shame, spiritual bypassing, lament, and community. Ultimately, Jesus is the only one who can meet every longing. Delayed dreams can deepen our intimacy with God while we hope for the day when he wipes away every tear and heals every heartache.

"Each page of *When It Hurts to Hope* is a beautiful gift of truth and encouragement—a field guide for living well while waiting and for how to still hope when your dreams may never come true. Hilarious and honest, Rachel speaks into tender topics that are often spiritually bypassed in a way that is both helpful and hopeful. Whatever unmet longing lives in your soul, this book is for you in this season."

—**Meredith Boggs**, author of *The Journey Home*



April 2024 • 208 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-112-3 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-894-2 • \$9.99

GARY DAVID STRATTON (BA, Wheaton College; MA, PhD, Talbot School of Theology) is a leading expert in the spiritual formation of students in educational settings. A Senior Fellow for the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), Gary cofounded the Future of Hope youth theology institute and the award-winning website TwoHandedWarriors.com. Gary and his wife, Dr. Sue Stratton, have served as church planters, youth pastors, campus ministers, administrators, and professors at twelve schools in the United States and China. Gary is currently Professor of Spiritual Formation and Cultural Leadership and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Johnson University.

THE JESUS CLIMB

Journeying from Student to Disciple

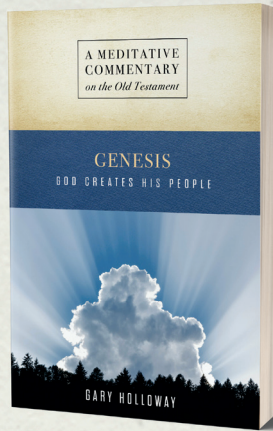
Gary David Stratton

What if following Jesus was meant to be as challenging as climbing Everest, yet as effortless as taking your next breath?

The Jesus Climb crafts the epic story of the quest to climb the world's tallest mountain into a parable illustrating how Jesus trained his first disciples to scale the summit of his greatest commandment—loving God and others with everything within us. Just as climbing Mount Everest is only possible after intense acclimation training, Jesus transformed his first disciples through a two-part spiritual acclimatization journey. The disciples' *ascent* into a higher and higher commitment to loving God and neighbor with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength was made possible by their *descent* into a deeper and deeper experience of the intimate, transforming, and other-centered love of God. By teaching and modeling both aspects of this two-part journey, Jesus transformed his first students into a discipleship community capable of loving as he did, changing their world through the power of other-centered love.

The Jesus Climb maps out eight key “expedition camps” through which Jesus acclimated his first disciples on their journey from student to disciple. Each chapter explores the life of a historical exemplar who lived out Jesus’s teachings in their day and concludes with a personal discipleship “climbing guide” with contemporary spiritual practices for Christ followers today. Chapters also include links to online bonus materials for further personal, small group, and classroom study.

A higher spiritual life is possible. Allow Jesus to transform you, as he did his first students. See your Christ-centered community grow and become agents of his self-sacrificial love.



April 2024 • 208 pp • 6 x 9
PB 978-1-68426-433-9 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-861-0 • \$9.99

GARY HOLLOWAY is the past Executive Director of the World Convention of Churches of Christ. Before that he taught spiritual formation at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Holding degrees from Freed-Hardeman, Harding, the University of Texas, and Emory University, he has written or edited over thirty books, including several volumes in the Meditative Commentary on the New Testament series. He is married to Deb Rogers Holloway.

A Meditative Commentary on the Old Testament

GENESIS

God Creates His People

Gary Holloway

The spirituality of Genesis centers on God as Creator and God as a Faithful Partner.

“In the beginning, God . . .” The Spirit of God hovers over the creation. The Lord makes all things. He is therefore the God of all power and wisdom.

What’s more, he creates everything good. Very good.

Now it looks as if most everything is bad. Pain, injustice, violence, and disaster surround us. If there is a God, some say, he must be evil, or powerless, or unconcerned. But the good news of Genesis is that the God we serve is not only powerful and wise—he is good. He made things good. And when they go bad, he still works his good will.

So things are not the way they were supposed to be. Genesis begins the story of a God who is working to make things right.

When humans abandon their proper place and rebel against the Lord, he punishes them as any loving father would. But he does not abandon humanity or the rest of his creation. Genesis tells the story of how God works in surprising ways through human choices, good and bad, to reclaim and restore his creation. He works in unlikely people—Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, and others. He initiates covenant with them. Even when they break covenant, he faithfully pursues them.

Genesis tells of a faithful God. And the Lord in turn expects his people to be faithful. That means trusting him, especially when his ways do not make sense. Abraham is willing to sacrifice his own son. Joseph trusts even when he is a slave and a prisoner. As we meditate on these stories of those who trusted, followed, and wrestled with God, let us open ourselves to his Spirit. Let us trust his inscrutable ways. Let us believe God so he might, through his covenant of love, count us as righteous.

A Meditative Commentary on the Old Testament

EXODUS TO DEUTERONOMY God Goes with His People

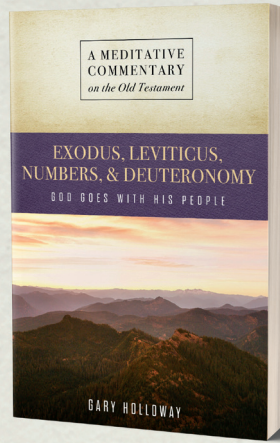
Gary Holloway

Have you ever started reading the Old Testament and got stuck in the law of Leviticus? If so, get unstuck with trusted teacher Gary Holloway.

The stories of Exodus–Deuteronomy remind us that right relationship with God is reflected in right relationship with the neighbor. God’s people are often reminded of their obligations to family, tribe, and nation. What’s more, they are to have right relationships with strangers and foreigners, remembering that God has love for all nations. The Lord calls them to treat people, animals, and the land as God treats them. They are to be “for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exod. 19:6).

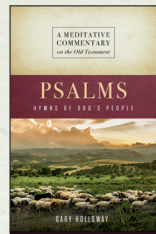
The laws found in Exodus–Deuteronomy (and there are many of them) reflect and embody the covenant God has made with Israel. They show what it means to be God’s people and to have relationship with him. This is why the first phrase of the Ten Words (or Ten Commandments) is “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” (Exod. 20:2). Relationship with God is based on the Lord’s gracious act of choosing and delivering Israel. It is not based on their obedience (which is good, because they often did not obey). However, because God has chosen them to be his people, the laws show them what it means to reflect the character of God, to “be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Lev. 19:2).

While you might get lost in Leviticus, you must remember that obedience is all about relationship to God. That’s why Israel is often reminded of what the law and obedience are about: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:5).



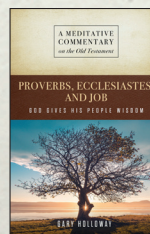
April 2024 • 192 pp • 6 x 9
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ALSO BY GARY HOLLOWAY



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THE BOOKROOM

Remembrance and Forgiveness—A Memoir

C. Leonard Allen

A moving memoir that is two stories in one.

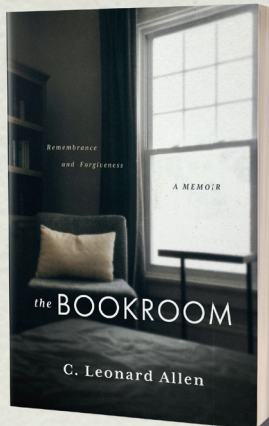
When we grow up Christian, it is always in a small place. At first, we don't even know it is a small place. It's just our place, and it feels like home. We launch out from this small place, and we discover that the Christian way is longer and richer than we ever dreamed.

But such a journey can be perilous, as Leonard Allen's story shows. His story begins at age eight in his father's small bookroom—and with an emerging set of questions about the faith he inherited. The search for answers leads him to tough places—eventually to a long season in the desert. Then into a season of creative work he had not imagined. And to some surprising gifts.

Readers will smile, probably laugh, and feel some of the grief along the way. And they will get glimpses into the rich texture of their lives—the place of memory, the influence of tradition, the desert experiences, the need for forgiveness, the gifts along the way.

“The driving theme of this memoir is Leonard's relentless search for answers to the perplexing theological questions growing out of his childhood experiences. It is all there—the good times and the bad and everything in between. Readers who have grown up in a similar heritage will relate immediately to the struggles of his journey.”

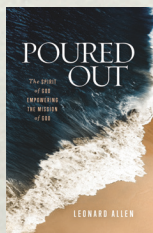
—**Royce Money**, President Emeritus,
Abilene Christian University



May 2024 • 176 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-043-0 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-855-9 • \$9.99

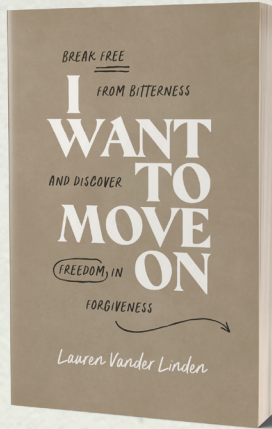
C. LEONARD ALLEN is the author of several widely read books, including *The Cruciform Church*, *Distant Voices*, and *Poured Out*. He has taught theology and ethics at John Brown University, Fuller Seminary, and Abilene Christian University. He currently serves as dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb University, Nashville.

More from C. Leonard Allen



POURED OUT
The Spirit of God
Empowering the
Mission of God
208 pp • 6 x 9

PB 978-1-68426-130-7 • \$16.99
eBook 978-1-68426-983-9 • \$9.99



May 2024 • 208 pp • 5.5 x 8.25
PB 978-1-68426-004-1 • \$17.99
eBook 978-1-68426-004-1 • \$9.99

LAUREN VANDER LINDEN is passionate about making complex issues simple by understanding and applying God's Word. As a former worship pastor, speaker, and business leader at a Fortune 250, she has had to work with, forgive, and receive forgiveness from many people! She and her husband, Travis, call Des Moines, Iowa, home, but they also love to travel. On their adventures, you can catch her husband looking at the views and Lauren incessantly looking around to avoid dangerous wildlife. You can find more writings about faith, travel, and lifestyle on laurenvanderlinden.com.

I WANT TO MOVE ON Break Free from Bitterness and Discover Freedom in Forgiveness

Lauren Vander Linden

You know you should move on—so why can't you?

Regardless of how long ago you were hurt, feelings of betrayal, bitterness, and confusion still repeat in your mind. You can't deny your anger, fears, or frustrations without giving the enemy a foothold. Bitterness grows wherever its given a chance to thrive. You find unwanted thoughts creeping in:

*I would never do to them what they did to me.
How can they be a Christian and act this way?*

God, why did you allow this?

My bitterness isn't as bad as what they did to me.

But I didn't do anything wrong.

If I don't fight for myself, no one will.

I can wait to forgive.

I Want to Move On was born out of this struggle. Each chapter addresses a different unwanted thought and combats them with biblical truths to give you the practical tools to beat bitterness once and for all.

By exposing bitterness and trusting God to bring justice in his way, you can finally get your life back! What are you waiting for? Get unstuck and break the cycle for good. Open the book!