

Friend Of Sinners Why Jesus Cares More About Relationship Than Perfection

A remarkable vision for how Christians can live with countercultural gentleness in a perpetually angry, attacking, outraged time. Wow! What a great book!" -- Max Lucado In a defensive and divided era, how can followers of Jesus reveal a better way of living, one that loves others as God loves us? How can Christians be the kind of people who are known, as Proverbs puts it, to "turn away wrath?" Scott Sauls's compelling new book shows Christians how to become people of "a gentle answer" in a politically, relationally, and culturally fractured world by helping readers: grow in affection for Christ, who answers our hostility with gentleness; nurture a renewed, softened heart in light of Christ's gentleness toward us; and catch a vision to forsake us-against-them mentalities, put down our swords, and "infect" a hostile world with gentleness. For those who long for a more civil way of being, A Gentle Answer reveals why answering hostility with gentleness is essential, how we can nurture our hearts to do so, and what a gentle answer looks like, both in the church and in the world. "A great, highly practical volume that points us to the tenderness of Jesus: 'a bruised reed he will not break'." -- Tim Keller, Pastor Emeritus, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City "Wow! What a great book.... We will be better humans because of it." -- Max Lucado, bestselling author and pastor of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas "Scott Sauls is the preeminent voice for fractured, polarized times.... Scott's every word is read under our roof." -- Ann Voskamp, bestselling author of One Thousand Gifts and The Broken Way "This book could not have come at a better time, as we navigate a culture of polarization....This is a heart changing book!" -- Rebekah Lyons, bestselling author, Rhythms of Renewal and You are Free

You cannot make it without God's mercy. Do we just need God's grace in dark and shameful moments? Are prayers for mercy only for those times when we really mess up? Jonathan Parnell says we need God's mercy all the time. In fact, contrary to many church cultures, Parnell shows that asking God for mercy should be as regular as asking God for our daily bread. There's no doubt that David was in a terrible predicament when he first prayed the words of Psalm 51. It was a dark and shameful moment in the Bible, and one so dark and shameful it seldom feels relevant to us today. But David's most desperate prayer is really a prayer for all of us—and not just for our worst moments, but for our every moment. In these pages, you'll discover: how to pray a daily, memorable prayer derived from Psalm 51 how to practice daily repentance and soul care how to pursue God and experience his joy in the Christian life This is God's mercy, and it's Mercy for Today.

In this five-session video study, Rich Wilkerson, Jr. shines a spotlight on every Christian's calling to reach the world, seek the lost, and save sinners with Jesus' scandalous message of the gospel of grace.

Christians know that God loves them, but can easily feel that he is perpetually disappointed and frustrated, maybe even close to giving up on them. As a result, they focus a lot—and rightly so—on what Jesus has done to appease God's wrath for sin. But how does Jesus Christ actually feel about his people amid all their sins and failures? This book draws us to Matthew 11, where Jesus describes himself as "gentle and lowly in heart," longing for his people to find rest in him. The gospel flows from God's deepest

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heart for his people, a heart of tender love for the sinful and suffering. These chapters take readers into the depths of Christ's very heart for sinners, diving deep into Bible passages that speak of who Christ is and encouraging readers with the affections of Christ for his people. His longing heart for sinners comforts and sustains readers in their up-and-down lives.

Bible teacher Kelly Needham debunks our world's constricted, small view of friendship and casts a richer, more life-giving, biblical vision for friendship as God meant it to be. As the family unit grows more unstable and the average age of marriage increases, a shift is taking place in our culture: for many people, friends now play the role of family. And just as with family relationships, our friendships often don't turn out quite as we envisioned or hoped, and we wonder, Is there a better way to do this? In *Friend-ish*, Kelly Needham takes a close look at what Scripture says about friendship. She reveals the distorted view most of us have of it and recasts a glorious vision for a Christian understanding. By teaching us how to recognize symptoms of idolatry and dependency, she equips us to understand and address the problems that arise in friendship--from neediness to discord and even sexual temptation. With hard-fought wisdom, a clear view of Scripture, and been-there perspective, Needham reorients us toward the purposeful, loving relationships we all crave that ultimately bring us closer to God.

A friend feels rejected. A counselee is angry. A church member's child is ill. You want to help, but where do you begin? Author and counselor Michael R. Emlet outlines a model of one-another ministry based on how God sees and loves his people primarily as saints, while bringing comfort to the sufferer, and faithfully speaking truth to the sinner. Filled with everyday illustrations as well as counseling examples, Emlet demonstrates what it looks like to approach fellow believers simultaneously as saints, sufferers, and sinners. Emlet unpacks Scripture and draws on his many years of counseling experience to help counselors, pastors, and friends love others wisely and well. As part of CCEF's *Helping the Helper* series, this guide for ministry provides an overall framework for wisely helping any person by loving others in the same way that God loves us.

Lily of the Valley. Bright and Morning Star. Rose of Sharon. Author of the Faith. The Lord Jehovah. Friend of Sinners. Son of Man. King of Kings. What does Christ mean to you? When you consider His person, His work, and His words, are you struck by the depth and complexity, the richness and incalculable beauty of who He is? This classic study, revised for today's reader, examines the many names of Christ, more than 300 in all, each revealing an intimate portrait of the Savior. In this new edition, devotional prayers accompany each name, helping you meditate on the character and person of Jesus Christ. This book is an invaluable resource to any library and is sure to enrich your personal devotional time. *Names of Christ* follows *Names of God* in a classic trilogy designed to help contemporary Christians better understand the glory, majesty, and power of the triune God.

For a number of reasons, evangelism is often fraught with anxieties and fears. At the same time, sharing your faith is one of the most fulfilling and exciting things that you will ever do. As a "friend of sinners," Jesus spent half of his ministry time in one-on-one discussions with others. This is the primary model for evangelism that our Lord has provided for us. In *One-on-One Evangelism*, Lee Moseley offers a fun and simple model for spreading the gospel. It's as simple as being a friend. After reading this book, you will one day look back, and say, "I never dreamed it was so easy. There is nothing I like to do more than get with people and

become their friends. Absolutely nothing "

What if that person you've been trying to avoid is your best shot at grace today? ...And what if that's the point? In *Accidental Saints*, New York Times best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls "a religious but not-so-spiritual life." Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop and a gun-toting member of the NRA. As she lives and worships alongside these "accidental saints," Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace—a gift that feels to her less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit with a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn't have been on their own. In a time when many have rightly become disillusioned with Christianity, *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike. Told in Nadia's trademark confessional style, *Accidental Saints* is the stunning next work from one of today's most important religious voices.

Popular pastor Chad Veach casts a vision for a future beyond what most dare to imagine and guides us all toward the abundant plans God has for his children. Are you disappointed with your life? Do you feel like you'll never accomplish anything remarkable? Fear not: you are in the perfect place for God to enter with his plan! In fact, your disappointments and failures are merely minor setbacks preceding a major comeback. In *Faith Forward Future*, Chad Veach presents the proof that God has always known you, has always cared, and is waiting to give you his better dream for your life. When you hear his words and release your broken dreams, you'll receive all that God has in store and be enabled to reach your best possible tomorrow. With powerful Bible teaching and practical guidance, Veach invites you to stop limiting tomorrow's possibilities by learning how to ask God for big things today dismiss the distractions of regret by being empowered to use your past for good, and redefine success by joining God in writing the remarkable story of your life!

Join Greg Laurie, pastor and bestselling author of *Steve McQueen: The Salvation of an American Icon*, as he takes you on a personal journey into the life and legend of Johnny Cash. At the peak of his career, Cash had done it all—living the ultimate rags-to-riches story of growing up on a cotton farm in the Deep South to becoming a Nashville and Hollywood sensation, singing alongside heroes like Elvis Presley and performing for several American presidents. But through all of this, Cash was troubled. By the time he released the iconic *Man in Black* album in 1971, the middle-aged icon was broken down, hollow-eyed, and wrung out. In his search for peace, Cash became embroiled in controversy. He was arrested five times in seven years. His drug- and alcohol-induced escapades led to car accidents and a forest fire that devastated 508 acres. His time was divided between Jesus and jail, gospel tunes and the "Cocaine Blues." But by the end of his life, Cash was speaking openly about his "unshakeable faith." What caused the superstar to turn from his conflicting passions to embrace a life in Christ? *Johnny Cash: The Redemption of an*

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American Icon dives deep into the singer's inner demons, triumphs, and gradual return to faith. Laurie interviews Cash's family, friends, and business associates to reveal how the singer's true success came through finding the only Person whose star was bigger than his own.

"Harvey Turner is one of the better evangelists I have had the privilege of knowing. He personifies what he writes here. This isn't a book written by a man unwilling to wade into the lost world, but by a man who opens his home, uses his time and lives intentionally in the hopes that men and women will become sons and daughters of God." Matt Chandler Lead Pastor of The Village Church President of Acts 29 Church Planting Network Jesus was a friend of Sinners. Are you? Most Christians understand that telling others about Jesus is important and want to reach people who don't know God. But most believers don't actually share the gospel, because they don't know how. In "Friend of Sinners," Pastor Harvey Turner unpacks the Why, What, and How of evangelism. The book begins with a close look at Christ's conversations with people, and Harvey then uses Christ's example as the foundation for the rest of the book. This practical, biblical approach to evangelism helps believers break down the barriers preventing them from telling people about Jesus so that they feel empowered to share the gospel.

The Celebrate Recovery Devotional is 366 original brief readings, designed as a daily reinforcement and encouragement for millions who are on the road to recovery. Celebrate Recovery is not just a program but a means toward lasting life change, and the key to recovery is to keep the eight Christ-centered Life Principles alive. As readers engage with the devotions, they will discover the principles more firmly cemented in their daily thinking and actions, and will find ongoing support and hope for the road ahead. Each powerful devotion is a reminder of God's goodness, grace, and redemption, and will be an inspiration to anyone struggling with old hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Start where you are. Begin today. The Celebrate Recovery Daily Devotional is 366 original brief readings, designed as a daily reinforcement and encouragement for millions who are on the road to recovery. Celebrate Recovery is not just a program but a means toward lasting life change, and the key to recovery is to keep the eight Christ-centered Life Principles alive. As readers engage with the devotions, they will discover the principles more firmly cemented in their daily thinking and actions, and will find ongoing support and hope for the road ahead. Each powerful devotion is a reminder of God's goodness, grace, and redemption, and will be an inspiration to anyone struggling with old hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Start where you are. Begin today.

In Jesus and Other Men, Susanna Asikainen explores the masculinities of Jesus and other male characters and the ideal femininities in the Synoptic Gospels.

How did early Christians remember Jesus--and how did they develop their own Christian identities and communities? In this accessible and revelatory book, Greg Carey explores how transgression contributed to early Christian identity in the Gospels, Acts, Letters of Paul, and Revelation. Carey examines Jesus as a friend of sinners, challenger of purity laws, transgressor of conventional masculine values of his time, and convicted seditious. He looks at early Christian communities as out of step with respectable practices of their time. Finally, he provides examples of contemporary Christians whose faith requires them to do the

right thing, even when it means violating current definitions of respectability.

What if learning was exciting? What if students felt important and empowered every time they walked into the building? What if parents looked forward to calls from their children's teachers and principals, instead of cringing when the school's number popped up on their phones? To Todd Nesloney and Adam Welcome, those aren't far-fetched what ifs; they can (and should) be a reality for every teacher, school, parent, and student. In *Kids Deserve It!*, Todd and Adam encourage you to think big and make learning fun and meaningful for students. While you're at it, you just might rediscover why you became an educator in the first place. Learn why you should be calling parents to praise your students (and employees). Discover ways to promote family interaction and improve relationships for kids at school and at home. Be inspired to take risks, shake up the status quo, and be a champion for your students. #KidsDeserveIt

“This book is one more sign of a fresh movement in the church.” Shane Claiborne author, *The Irresistible Revolution*
Dillon Burroughs has defended the faith as a writer, speaker, and professor. But when he asked himself how he was helping a homeless guy in his city or a hungry family in Darfur, everything started to unravel. Now, with renewed vision, disarming candor, and deep respect for the church, Burroughs gently leads readers through a reassessment of hot-button topics like these: Jesus was a friend of sinners and consumed alcohol. How did that work? He also said to love neighbors, sinners, and enemies. Does loving homosexuals fit in there somewhere? Why are the odds in America stacked against the success of a traditional marriage? Burroughs provides a safe place for spiritually minded and culturally savvy people to process their questions and find a more relevant and Christlike faith.

If you want to follow Jesus on the incredible journey of sharing Him while sharing life with others, it's time to eat with sinners—people just like you . . . and me. As long as people have been sharing their faith, there have been critics. Even Jesus dealt with naysayers as He spread His gospel: “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2, NIV). Sometimes we worry about our reputation when we spend time with non-Christians. But more than that, we worry about the time we spend with non-Christians: Will we understand each other? Will I offend them? Will they offend me? How long will it take before this relationship falls apart? Every meal Jesus ate, He ate with sinners. And over food and drink, through stories and insights and observations and conversations, people let their guards down, and sinners came to know the love of God and the hope of salvation. Now revised and updated, *Eats with Sinners* helps you to let your guard down so the love of God can get out across the table to your non-Christian friends. Note: This book was originally published by Standard Publishing in November 2009 (ISBN 0784723184). The NavPress version does not include recipes!

Friend of Sinners Why Jesus Cares More About Relationship Than Perfection Thomas Nelson

The world seems to have figured out the formula for manufacturing material success, but when it comes to finding true, lasting happiness, we are as lost as ever. We yearn for more, or less, or something that's just different from what we have right now. Deep down, we know there must be satisfaction for our longing. We just don't know where to find it. In *Sandcastle Kings*, Rich Wilkerson, Jr. uses four powerful stories from the seventh chapter of Luke to explain why spiritual fulfillment cannot be found in ourselves, in other people, in material things, or even in religion. By studying the stories of the centurion's faith, the resurrection of the widow's son, Jesus' message about John the Baptist, and the anointing by the woman with the alabaster jar, you will be able to face your doubts and insecurities and overcome your anxiety, discontentment, and depression. Wilkerson wants you to understand that the only answer for your spiritual bankruptcy is Jesus and that until you turn to him you will never experience the lasting peace and joy you so desperately crave.

"God's plan is to unite all things in Jesus, things in heaven and earth." (Ephesians 1:10) What does God unite us to in Christ? * To the reality of His calling, riches, and power * To one another by the work of Christ * To God's plan for the ages * To Christ's love * To our society, in the home and workplace * To the spiritual war we are destined to engage in "Our world is fragmented. Nature is divided and at war with itself. Classes of people are at constant odds with one another. Nations wage war against others. Ethnicities hate and attack others. Religions battle. Genders clash. Most of all, God and humanity are divided. But the plan of God in Christ is to crush all this fragmentation." (Chapter 1, Participation in God's Mysterious Plan) In *Christ Unites*, Nate Holdridge takes you on a journey through Paul's letter to the Ephesian church. There, Jesus is seen as the head of the church, the originator of a new humanity designed to carry out His will. Each chapter tackles a different dimension of Christ's work at unifying all things to Himself, at His purpose and plan for His people.

Are your thoughts out of control--just like your life? Do you long to break free from the spiral of destructive thinking? Let God's truth become your battle plan to win the war in your mind! We've all tried to think our way out of bad habits and unhealthy thought patterns, only to find ourselves stuck with an out-of-control mind and off-track daily life. Pastor and New York Times bestselling author Craig Groeschel understands deeply this daily battle against self-doubt and negative thinking, and in this powerful new book he reveals the strategies he's discovered to change your mind and your life for the long-term. Drawing upon Scripture and the latest findings of brain science, Groeschel lays out practical strategies that will free you from the grip of harmful, destructive thinking and enable you to live the life of joy and peace that God intends you to live. *Winning the War in Your Mind* will help you: Learn how your brain works and see how to rewire it Identify the lies your enemy wants you to believe Recognize and short-circuit your mental triggers for destructive thinking See how prayer and praise will transform your mind Develop practices that allow God's thoughts to become your thoughts God

has something better for your life than your old ways of thinking. It's time to change your mind so God can change your life.

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” —2 Peter 3:18 How do Christians grow? Few question the call of the Bible to grow in godliness, but the answer to exactly how this happens is often elusive. In this book, Dane Ortlund points believers to Christ, making the case that sanctification does not happen by doing more or becoming better, but by going deeper into the wondrous gospel truths that washed over them when they were first united to him. Drawing on wisdom from figures throughout church history, Ortlund encourages readers to fix their gaze on Jesus in the battle against sin, casting themselves upon his grace and living out their invincible identity in Christ.

Is real friendship too risky? We live in a world where real friendship is hard to find. Suspicious of others and insecure about ourselves, we retreat into the safety of our small, self-made worlds. Now more than ever, it's easy to avoid people with whom we disagree or whose life experiences don't mirror our own. Safe among like-minded peers and digital “friends,” we really don't have to engage with those who can challenge and enhance our limited perspectives.

Tragically, even the church can become a place that minimizes diversity and reinforces isolation. Jesus models a much richer vision of friendship. Scott Sauls, pastor and teacher, invites you to see the breadth of Christ's love in this book, *BeFriend*. Join Scott on this journey through twenty-one meditations to inspire actively pursuing God's love through expanding your circle of friends. Scott has met too many people whose first impulse is to fence off their lives with relational barriers that only end up starving their own souls. Yes, it's true: Real friendship is costly. Love does make us vulnerable. But without risk, our lives will remain impoverished. Join Scott in *BeFriend* as he summons you toward diverse friendship that can enrich your life and, in the process, reveal a better version of yourself.

Learn the life-changing names of Jesus Names matter. Did you know that more than 350 names and titles related to Jesus can be found in the Scripture? The vastness of His character and His work on the behalf of His people are revealed through His many names. The more deeply we explore the names of Jesus, the more we are able to move from simply knowing about Him to truly knowing Him. Fall in love with Jesus all over again as you get to know Him through thirty-two of His life-changing names. These meditations by Nancy Leigh DeMoss, illuminated by the artwork of Timothy Botts and accompanied by quotes from classic authors, hymn writers, and preachers, will help you recapture the wonder of His name.

Smith reveals the character of Jesus and writes the book as if to a friend, illustrating the importance of Christ's message to modern men and women. This is a book for new believers, for lifelong followers, and for the merely curious.

Tired of eating only Christian casseroles, listening only to Christian music, and having only Christian companions? Then

why not try something radical — like being a friend of sinners like Jesus was? Unlike Jesus makes a convincing and convicting case that we who love Jesus must also love the lost — and must stop cocooning ourselves within our churches. Christians need to get out more. But this doesn't mean we become friends of the world (a decision some disciples make contrary to God's Word and detrimental to their spiritual health). Some Christians have simply "lost sense of the lostness of the lost" (Francis Schaeffer). Our hearts are not only "perpetual idol factories" (John Calvin), but are experts in excuse-making for not spending significant time with sinners. Unlike Jesus dismantles the top five excuses believers make for not being like the Lord Jesus, "a friend of sinners." Practical advice is given to church leaders for developing a friendship-evangelism mindset in our churches. We've even interviewed some of our unsaved friends on what keeps them from taking the gospel message seriously. This book is clear, practical, and challenging. It will help both educate and energize your church, empowering them to fulfill the gospel commission. Study questions make it suitable for small group and church-wide studies.

The most important questions anyone can ask are: Why was Jesus Christ crucified? Why did he suffer so much? What has this to do with me? Finally, who sent him to his death? The answer to the last question is that God did. Jesus was God's Son. The suffering was unsurpassed, but the whole message of the Bible leads to this answer. The central issue of Jesus' death is not the cause, but the meaning. That is what this book is about. John Piper has gathered from the New Testament fifty reasons in answer to the most important question that each of us must face: What did God achieve for sinners like us in sending his Son to die?

Do you ever just want someone to help you figure life out - to tell you how to win at work, what guys to stay away from, and what jeans rock your body shape? With so much information at your fingertips, real success, good dates, and true friendships can still feel out of reach. Bianca Juarez Olthoff is your guide (minus the cargo shorts and tacky hat) to becoming today who you aspire to be tomorrow. Packed with lessons Bianca learned from her own mistakes and heartache, this field guide will help you avoid unnecessary detours on the path to your best self. With her signature wit, engaging stories, and brilliant insights from a counselor friend, Bianca gives spot-on advice for adulting, career, relationships, and faith. Following the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi, Bianca's humorous and honest anecdotes will empower you to create a successful life and discover all you can be. This curated manual for the modern woman will help you: Connect with a mentor, let go of bad friendships, and find a relationship worth keeping Trust the goodness of God even in loss, betrayal, and unanswered questions Take initiative, do hard things, and achieve meaningful success Fall in love with God's Word and see the Bible come alive The perfect cocktail of sass and down-to-earth guidance, How to Have Your Life Not Suck is just the book you need to navigate your way to the life you want to live. More than that,

Bianca will show you that though life is tough, you are too.

Pastor and writer Rich Wilkerson Jr. shines a spotlight on every Christian's calling to reach the world, seek the lost, and save sinners with Jesus' scandalous message of the gospel of grace. The Bible calls Jesus a friend of sinners. What does that mean? In *Friend of Sinners*, Rich Wilkerson Jr. shows readers the profound implications of the reality that Jesus calls us friends not because of who we are or what we have done, but because of who he is. While he was on earth, he knew that people needed to belong before they would want to behave. He understood that the power within him was greater than the darkness around him, so he loved fearlessly. By following his example, we can have the same clear conviction and compassion for the lost that he did. His gospel of scandalous grace cannot be overestimated. When we embrace the truth that we all need Jesus equally and when we trust him to bring transformation in people's hearts, we will walk as Jesus walked, experiencing the glory of God in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.

Jesus' "table fellowship" with sinners in the Gospels has been widely agreed to be historically reliable, but scholarly disputes continue. In this *New Studies in Biblical Theology* volume, Craig L. Blomberg engages with the debate, surveying the relevant biblical texts and their background, concluding with contemporary applications.

This engaging and inspirational book by Carl Lentz, the rock star pastor of Hillsong NYC, shows us the way toward a more connected, spiritually-grounded, and fulfilled life. When you think of a Christian pastor, you probably don't envision a tattooed thirty-something who wears a motorcycle jacket, listens to hip-hop music, references *The Walking Dead* and Black Lives Matter in his sermons, and every Sunday draws a standing-room only crowd to a venue normally used for rock concerts—in godless New York City, no less. But then you clearly have never met Carl Lentz. As lead pastor of the first United States branch of global megachurch Hillsong, the former college basketball player is on a mission to make Christianity accessible in the 21st century. In *Own The Moment*, he shares the unlikely and inspiring story of how he went from being an average teenager who couldn't care less about church to leading one of the country's fastest-growing congregations—how one day he is trying to convince a Virginia Beach 7-Eleven clerk to attend his service, and just a few years later he is baptizing a global music icon in an NBA player's Manhattan bathtub. Amid such candid personal tales, Lentz also offers illuminating readings of Bible passages and practical tips on how to live as a person of faith in an increasingly materialistic world. How do you maintain your values—and pass them onto your children—in a society that worships money and sex and fame? How do you embrace your flaws in this Instagram era that exalts the appearance of perfection? How do you forget about “living the dream” and learn to embrace the beauty of your reality? These are just a few of the many important questions Lentz answers in *Own The Moment*—a powerful book that redefines not just Christianity but spirituality as a whole.

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OVER 300,000 COPIES SOLD! Why won't God reveal his special will for my life already? Because he doesn't intend to... So says Kevin DeYoung in this punchy book about making decisions the godly way. Many of us are listening for the still small voice to tell us what's next instead of listening to the clear voice in Scripture telling us what's now. God does have a will for your life, but it is the same as everyone else's: Seek first the kingdom of God. And quit floundering. With pastoral wisdom and tasteful wit, DeYoung debunks unbiblical ways of understanding God's will and constructs a simple but biblical alternative: live like Christ. He exposes the frustrations of our waiting games and unfolds the freedom of finding God's will in Scripture and then simply doing it. This book is a call to put down our Magic 8-Balls and pick up God's Word. It's a call to get wisdom, follow Christ, be holy, and live freely. To just do something.

Nothing is more important than what a person believes about Jesus Christ. To understand Christ correctly is to understand the very heart of God, Scripture, and the gospel. To get to the core of this belief, this latest volume in the *Foundations of Evangelical Theology* series lays out a systematic summary of Christology from philosophical, biblical, and historical perspectives—concluding that Jesus Christ is God the Son incarnate, both fully divine and fully human. Readers will learn to better know, love, trust, and obey Christ—unashamed to proclaim him as the only Lord and Savior. Part of the *Foundations of Evangelical Theology* series.

This is a heart-level conversation with you, the reader. Every excuse, reason, and roadblock for not coming to Christ is examined and duly dealt with. If you think you may be too bad, or if perhaps you really are bad and you sin either openly or behind closed doors, you will discover that life in Christ is for you too. You can reject the message of salvation by faith, or you can choose to live a life of sin after professing faith in Christ, but you cannot change the truth as it is, either for yourself or for others. As such, it behooves you and your family to embrace truth, claim it for your own, and be genuinely set free for now and eternity. Come, and embrace this free gift of God, and live a victorious life for Him.

Who is Jesus Christ? You've never met Him in person, and you don't know anyone who has. But there is a way to know who he is. How? Jesus Christ - the divine Person revealed in the Bible - has a unique excellence and a spiritual beauty that speaks directly to our souls and says, "Yes, this is truth." It's like seeing the sun and knowing that it is light, or tasting honey and knowing that it is sweet. The depth and complexity of Jesus shatter our simple mental frameworks. He baffled proud scribes with his wisdom but was understood and loved by children. He calmed a raging storm with a word but would not get himself down from the cross. Look at the Jesus of the Bible. Keep your eyes open, and fill them with the portrait of Jesus in God's Word. Jesus said, "If anyone's will is to do God's will, He will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority." Ask God for the grace to do His will, and you will see the truth of His Son. John Piper has written this book in the hope that all will see Jesus for who he really is and will come to enjoy him above all else.

America's favorite inspirational novelist and #1 New York Times bestselling author paints vividly realized portraits of six of Jesus' closest friends and companions, bringing biblical truths to life in this captivating continuation of her Life-Changing Bible Story series. In our everyday lives, friends are the people whom we spend the most time with, go through struggles with, and who know us best. Each of Jesus' friends—Peter, John, Matthew, Judas, Mary Magdalene, and Lazarus—traveled with Jesus and were part of His daily ministry, and each has a compelling story to tell. There were some who would question or doubt Him...and one would even betray Him. Kingsbury brings these fascinating personalities to life in ways that will not only help bring you closer to the truths found in Scripture, but also to Christ. By combining valuable, instructive Bible study with compelling, insightful character sketches of Jesus' companions, Kingsbury provides you with a deeper understanding of the scriptural teachings featuring these fascinating people. Emotionally powerful, thought-provoking, and soulful, *The Friends of Jesus* will help you to appreciate the Bible and understand how it applies to your relationships with the most important people in your life.

Making Friends for Christ is a guide for learning how to be a real friend. It offers practical, everyday ideas for touching the people God has already put into your life. You will learn how to be a good listener, overcome common barriers, and invest in relationships. You can turn your home into a place of ministry and effectively tell how Christ has changed your life. You can learn to pray in faith for your friends and family and join with other believers for support and encouragement.

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