

Some Recommended Reading from Tori Smit

Books for Children

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *Creation's First Light* (Indianapolis: IBJ Publishing, 2013).

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *God's Paintbrush* (Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights Publishing, 10th Anniversary edition 2004).

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, *The Shema in the Mezuzah: Listening to Each Other* (Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2012).

Rabbi Sasso is a wonderful writer and speaker. Each of these books are visual and storytelling masterpieces that invite the reader into the story and help them apply it to their own experience. Each of these books also include conversational material for parents and teachers discuss further the ideas presented. With *God's Paintbrush* questions for conversation are built right into the story and readers can break the story into small units for greater reflection.

Peifer, Jane Hooper, *The Family Song* (Scottsdale Pennsylvania and Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 2008).

Jane Hooper Peifer wrote this book as a sermon illustration for her Mennonite congregation. The family in the story embrace their own family song that they sing before every meal, regardless of who is there. As the people invited to the table grow and expand, and the events become more complicated the song becomes the ritual that reminds them of God's presence with them no matter what. This book includes a CD of the story, the song and the accompaniment for families/churches to sing-along.

dePaola, Tomie, *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1998).

Yoemans, Ellen, *Jubilee* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

These two books invite young children into a conversation about death and heaven. dePaola's book compares two loved, but very different grandmothers and gently tells the story of Tommy's experience of Nana Upstairs death clearly and with grace. Yeoman's book is a picture of heaven using the biblical word 'Jubilee' throughout the text when speaking of heaven. This story represents heaven as a grand banquet with a southern flavour. Both are great conversation starters.

Boling, Ruth L., Lauren J. Muzzy and Laurie A Vance, *A Children's Guide to Worship* (Louisville: Geneva Press, 1997).

This book should be bought in bulk by congregations to be placed at the back of the sanctuary for children to pick up on the way into worship with their families. A congregation of church mice clearly and simply explain the liturgical parts of Presbyterian worship so that children can be educated and feel engaged in worship preparing them for their meaningful participation in intergenerational worship. Parents and grandparents may also want to buy this book for conversation at home.

Books for Christian Education Leadership

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross, ***Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*** (Downer's Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2012).

Csinos, David M., and Ivy Beckwith, ***Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*** (Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2013).

Keeley, Robert J. ed., Shaped by God: ***Twelve Essentials for Nurturing faith in Children, Youth, and Adults*** (Grand Rapids: Faith Alive, 2010).

Tye, Karen B., ***Christian Education in the Small Membership Church*** (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008).

These four books look holistically at faithful ministry with children, youth and adults with special attention to building opportunities for faith formation through community intergenerational relationships and practices.

Smith, Traci, ***Seamless Faith: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life*** (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2014).

This book is a great resource for families helping them in establish and enrich the practice of faithful conversations and rituals at home. This book is filled with easy and great practical practices for families at home.

Dean, Kenda Creasy ed., ***OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook*** (Nashville: Abingdon, 2010).

DeVries, Mark, ***Family-Based Youth Ministry*** (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Both of these books represent the recent shift in youth ministry towards a philosophy that youth ministry must involve the whole church if we seek to provide a relational and transformational ministry that grows faithfulness that is meaning-filled and rich in experience.

Additional Resources for WMS Study

Horizons Bible Study (<http://horizons.pcusa.org>: Presbyterian Church USA, annual publication)

Each year the PCUSA Presbyterian Women's organization bring out an excellent study guide for their women's groups to use throughout their year as a part of their monthly meetings. Recent themes are: Come to the Waters (2015-16), and Reconciling Paul (2014-15). Years of past issues are available.

Thoughtful Christian (<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com>: Presbyterian Church USA).

This online resource allows you to purchase studies representing a wide variety of themes and lengths individually as you wish.