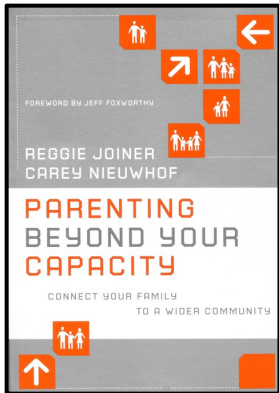


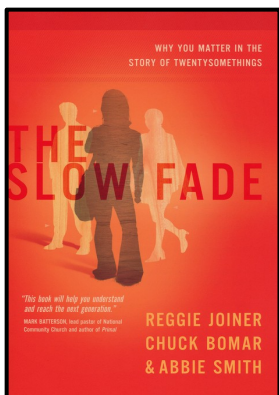
Recommended Books: Parents



Parenting Beyond Your Capacity by Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof
Engage your family in a bigger story, a story that involves more than just your family - one that involves other influences who are on a journey to discover why a relationship with God really matters. We want to encourage you to establish a lifestyle as a parent in which you...

- Invite others to invest in your children so your sons and daughters have other voices that will help shape and determine the direction of their lives.
- Create a culture of unconditional love to fuel the emotional and moral health of your children.
- Tap into the power of quality moments together, building a sense of purpose through everyday experiences.

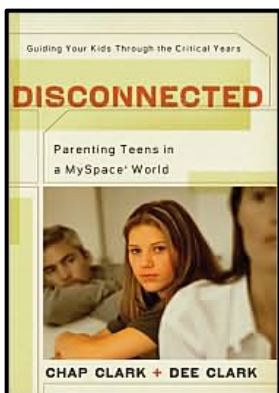
This isn't a self-help book. It's a get-help book. It's about how you can increase your parenting capacity by connecting with available resources, some of which you know about and some which you might not.



The Slow Fade by Reggie Joiner, Chuck Bomar and Abbie Smith
Many churches and families have programmed their youth ministry finish line at twelfth grade. We walk our seniors out the door, breathe a sigh of relief, and let them disappear for a few years. We assume they'll return to church later, probably as adults with young families in tow.

The problem is, if we let them go, we may never see them again. Too old for youth group and uncomfortable with labels, college-aged and twenty-something Christians become disconnected from faith. Almost imperceptibly, they become less and less involved in church and faith, and eventually, absent altogether - in what we call the slow fade. Yet as these young people face critical decisions that affect the rest of their lives, they need their faith communities more than ever.

So what's the answer? You. Coauthors Reggie Joiner, Chuck Bomar, and Abbie Smith - a senior pastor, a college pastor, and a twenty-something - offer insight and suggestions and make a compelling case for personal, intergeneration relationships as the way to stop the slow fade.

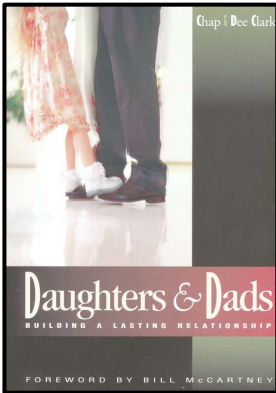


Disconnected by Chap Clark and Dee Clark

Your teens live in another world. They encounter different sorts of challenges than you did. But you can learn how to help them navigate our increasingly superficial, politicized, and performance-driven world.

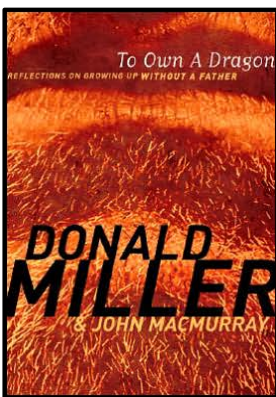
Authors Chap and Dee Clark are not only youth and family experts, they're also parents. In *Disconnected*, they put their years of research and experience to work to help you understand your teen. This up-to-date, realistic book doesn't ignore the harsh realities of adolescent life. It describes how things have changed since you were a teen and gives you ways to build your relationship with your teens while instilling in them the values they need to thrive in a MySpace world.

Recommended Books: Parents



Daughters & Dads: Building Lasting Relationships by Chap Clark and Dee Clark

Many men are at a loss when it comes to relating to their teenage daughters. Here's practical guidance and encouragement—written from a faith-based perspective—that will help you nurture your relationship with your daughter and understand your changing role in her life. This book is filled with tips on how to build trust, maintain closeness, communicate effectively and help her maintain a healthy identity, and includes letters from adolescent girls to their dads.

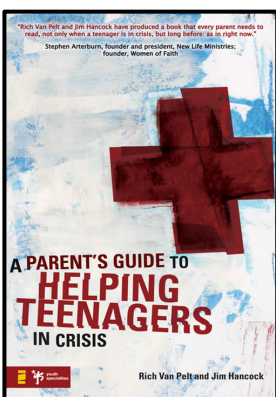


To Own A Dragon by Donald Miller with John MacMurray

The need for good fathers (and growing up without one) is the main theme of *To Own a Dragon*. Humorous and honest, Miller makes an affable poster boy for a generation of adult children whose parents divorced and whose fathers split. Miller's own biological father left when he was in diapers and Miller's child-like (though not childish) way of processing life confronts many realities which he—now in his early thirties—is just beginning to understand and feel as loss. Writing ("remembering" might be more accurate) with John MacMurray, Miller's surrogate father for four year during his early twenties, he relates his story of absent parental authority and his youth devoid of passed-down paternal wisdom.

A Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers in Crisis by Rich Van Pelt and Jim Hancock

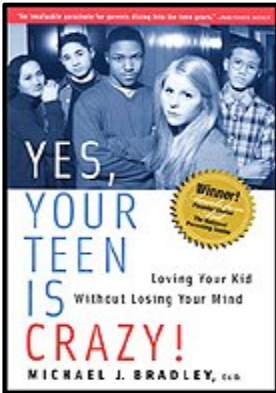
You've seen it on the news too many times to count. School shootings, adolescent addictions, bullying, eating disorders, depression and suicide, cutting, pregnancy. There is no lack of bad news to be told about teenagers today. Maybe you believe that will never happen to "my child." And maybe it won't. But crises aren't always the stories that make the evening news. The spectrum of crises an adolescent may face can range from something as (seemingly harmless) as getting caught cheating on a test to dealing with the breakdown of the family, to acting out and getting in trouble with the law.



Rich Van Pelt and Jim Hancock, both of whom have raised teenagers into adulthood and have spent decades in youth ministry and crisis management, bring together their expertise and insight to help you identify and understand what a crisis is and how you can help your teen live and grow through it. In addition to learning appropriate responses to crises, you'll learn how to prevent some of these issues, and how to get professionals involved when necessary.

Whatever it is your teen is dealing with, your influence in their life is still the most important one. So be prepared to walk them through their crisis with wisdom, compassion, and the tools necessary to help them through their turbulent teens.

Recommended Books: Parents



Yes, Your Teen Is Crazy! by Michael Bradley

Raising a teenager was never supposed to be like this. In today's world, every thirteen-year-old child lives with issues like sex, violence, drugs, alcohol, divorced parents, and easy access to guns. Yet in this new and sometimes terrifying 21st century, many parents struggle in vain to raise teens with 30-year-old rules that no longer work.

In *Yes, Your Teen Is Crazy!* psychologist Michael Bradley updates the rule book, giving you the insight, the hope, and the help you need to safely steer your teenage children through the stormy waters of adolescence. Explaining that you are the most important influence in your teenager's life, Dr. Bradley gives you the training and skills you need to transform your 21st century teen into a strong, confident, productive adult.

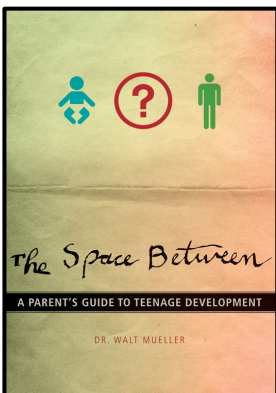


Candid Confessions of an Imperfect Parent by Jonathan McKee

Ever feel like you're not sure how to parent your teenagers? You're not alone. Author Jonathan McKee—a parent of three teenagers—gets vulnerable as he draws on his own parenting (mis)adventures and almost twenty years of studying youth culture. Like you, he's not perfect. You'll definitely laugh with him, and you might even laugh at yourself while you learn from his practical advice.

In this enlightening and entertaining book, Jonathan McKee shares how to connect with your kids, how to teach lasting values to teenagers in an R-rated world, and how to put parenting blunders behind you. You'll discover how to:

- notice communication arenas—like cheap breakfast spots—where your kids will naturally open up.
- get from "What's your favorite pizza topping?" to "What's troubling you right now that you're too scared to talk about?"
- let them mess up—even big time—and not overreact when you discover things like how they really talk on Facebook.
- help them begin to make mature decisions about things like what song to download or what outfit to buy.



The Space Between: A Parent's Guide to Teenage Development by Walt Mueller

For many parents, raising children seems pretty manageable until the teenage years. Then fear, confusion, frustration, and lack of understanding begin to invade the hearts and minds of these once-confident parents. The “normal” changes of adolescence seem to be nothing but abnormal to parents who begin to feel like helpless bystanders. But parents don't need to feel alone or paralyzed by these feelings. For nearly twenty years, Walt Mueller has studied adolescents and the culture they're surrounded by. His expertise was put to the test when his own children became teenagers. Now he's bringing wisdom from research and his own experience to help parents through the tumultuous years of adolescence. With empathy and practical tools, parents will address several important issues, including the questions:

- How can I begin to facilitate a smoother adolescent period for my teen?
- How can I begin to break through the walls of confusion, fear, frustration, and misunderstanding?
- How can I be a positive and proactive bridge-builder into the life and world of my teenager?