

Summer Reading List 2022

Reading is a mixed bag for me. I love learning and I love hearing different perspectives, but I don't have a lot of time to sit still and focus on things for personal interest. I have mostly transitioned to audiobooks that I can listen to while gardening or driving, but I love to underline things that are moving to me and that goes out the window when I'm listening!

I thought I'd share some book recommendations in case you are looking for some summer reading ideas.

While I have read all of these books, I do not endorse everything the authors say. I hope you experience grace and challenge as you learn and grow closer to Jesus this summer!!

Stephanie

This Here Flesh by Cole Riley

Cole Riley tells her own story of faith that weaves a beautiful narrative of the complexities of living. I saw so many friends recommend this book and I finally picked it up. Nearly every line was moving.

Riley shares her own experience growing up black in America, but this book seems absent of judgment and condemnation. It is simply and profoundly her beautiful understanding of her life. I highly recommend it. A book discussion will be held about this book in the fall.

Good Enough Devotions by Kate Bowler

Kate Bowler is known for her book "No Cure for Being Human" which is a NYT best seller. She is a professor at Duke and is known for her rebuke of the prosperity gospel. She wrote a book of devotions last year and I read it during Lent. I was hesitant to read it because I don't like things to only be "good enough," but I really loved this devotion book and I highly recommend it.

Here if you Need me by Kate Braestrup

The deacons are currently reading this book that shares the story of a National Parks Chaplain who processes the death of her police officer husband and gives ideas and thoughts about how to care for others while they are dealing with grief and loss. We have several copies of this book in the office if you would like to pick one up. It's witty and insightful.

For Little Ones: Early Reader's Bible

When our daughter was 5 and just learning to read, she took great pride in her ability to read the whole Bible by herself with the Early Reader's Bible. If you have a little one, ages 5-7 in your life, this is a perfect first reader's Bible.

For Older Kids: The Comic Book Bible

For kids a little older -- ages 7-11, I recommend this graphic novel version of the Bible. We started with the Comic Book Bible Devotional when our son was 7 or 8 and we really enjoyed it, so then we followed up with the entire Bible version.

Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans

Rachel Held Evans is a heartwarming and though provoking theologian who passed away at the age of 37. Her writing has impacted so many and this book is the previously unpublished last manuscript written before she passed. It speaks about how to bring your whole self to your faith. I am currently reading this book and by coincidence one of our small groups is as well!

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

Kidd is a well known author who wrote "The Secret Life of Bees", among many others. She heavily researched the life of Jesus and the historical aspects of his day and wrote a **fiction** novel about what it would have been like if Jesus was married. The book reads similarly to The Red Tent by Anita Diamant and it is an interesting fictional perspective on Jesus' life.

The Strong and the Weak by Andy Crouch

Crouch is an editor of Christianity today and wrote this great book that breaks down the struggles in economic disparity in the United States. He gives charts and practical tools for individuals and churches who want to make a difference in the world.

To Bless the Space between Us by John O' Donahue

This is a book of blessings for the person looking for a contemplative experience. O' Donahue is well known in Christian meditation and spirituality. This book provides blessings for ordinary situations that we all experience.

The Bible: Philippians

And lastly, if you would like to challenge yourself this summer, read the book of Philippians in the Bible. It is a wonderful and uplifting book full of spiritual wisdom for everyday living. You'll likely notice that some of your favorite verses are all packed into this meaningful text.

Have a great summer and I'll see you in worship!

Stephanie