Resource List:
Pastors

The resources listed here align with Focus on the Family’s philosophy and mission. Call us at 1-800-A-FAMILY, or visit our online store at store.focusonthefamily.com. (Information is regularly updated, but it’s still possible that an item originally available from Focus on the Family is now unavailable.) You might also be interested in content posted on our website at focusonthefamily.com.

Included
Leadership
Pastoral Counseling
Pastoral Ministry
Preaching
Spiritual Growth
For Congregations
Webpages, Q&As, and Resource Lists
Referrals

Books

**Addicted to Busy: Recovery for the Rushed Soul** by Brady Boyd (2014) • 9780781410342
In today’s hectic world, we’re often tempted to match that busyness, even when it might simply be to avoid dealing with deeper soul issues. Learn to embrace the Lord’s peace and rest.

**Church Is a Team Sport: A Championship Strategy for Doing Ministry Together** by Jim Putman (2009) • 9780801072086
Find guidance to help disciple new and mature believers toward continuous Christian growth—and to help them become a cohesive, strong team.

**The Conviction to Lead** by Dr. Al Mohler (2014) • 9780764211256
Leadership isn’t just about administration. It’s about shaping the hearts and minds of others—and that requires firm beliefs that can’t be swayed. Mohler shares 25 principles that can help you learn to lead from your convictions.

**How to Win Friends & Influence People** by Dale Carnegie (1936) • 9781439167342
First published in 1936, this classic motivational book explains how to communicate effectively and to successfully navigate interpersonal relationships.

**Leaders Who Last** by Dave Kraft (2009) • 9781433513183
Kraft discusses three important areas for leaders to consider as they seek to impact others: foundations, formations, and fruitfulness.

**Next Generation Leader** by Andy Stanley (2006) • 9781590525395
Stanley explores five aspects of a strong leader: character, courage, competence, clarity, and coachability. Learn to grow and strengthen your leadership skills so that others won’t regret following you.

**Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer** by J. Oswald Sanders (2007) • 9780802482273
Sanders offers examples from Scripture and from biographies of such men as David Livingstone and Charles Spurgeon. He explores the cost, responsibilities, and qualities of leadership; the art of strengthening other leaders; and more.
Spurgeon on Leadership by Larry Michael (2010) • 9780825435362
Michael discusses Charles Spurgeon’s approach to and teachings on leadership—from calling to courage to compassion to coping, and more.

Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership by Ruth Haley Barton (2008) • 9780830835133
Learn to maintain a joyful relationship with the Lord even as you pour into others. Explore topics such as handling loneliness in leadership, cultivating spiritual community, and more.

Changing Culture by Changing Hearts (John MacArthur) • 9781624711619
MacArthur discusses how Christians should respond in a culture that’s hostile to our values. If our primary goal is to change the world’s moral values, we become enemies of society rather than compassionate friends. But it’s possible to silence critics when our lives and actions reflect the truth of the God who loves, saves, and transforms people.

Refocusing Our Lives to Reflect God’s Heart (Jim Daly) • 9781624711886
Daly encourages believers to rise above political agendas and partisan battles—and instead, interact with others in a way that reveals the Lord’s kindness to a hurting world.

Restoring Balance to Your Life (Dr. Richard Swenson) • 9781624717550
More than one-third of Americans describe themselves as feeling constantly rushed. Swenson discusses how our society has increased in speed, complexity, and stress, and he offers advice on fighting overload and achieving healthy balance in life.

Taking the Lead, Changing the World (Dr. Al Mohler) • 9781624712616
Mohler shares about the importance of biblical leadership and leading from conviction by relying on principles every Christian can use to impact the world for Christ. He also speaks to parents about their influence in developing future leaders.

Your Attitude: The Key to Success (Dr. John Maxwell) • 9781624716652
Based on Paul’s statement, “Let this attitude be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5), Maxwell explores the attitude Christ displayed: 1) He had nothing to prove, 2) nothing to lose, and 3) nothing to hide. Maxwell then discusses principles behind a healthy attitude—and how to handle difficulties.

Counseling: How to Counsel Biblically by John MacArthur and Wayne Mack (2005) • 9781418500054
This book is based on the belief that 1) God’s Word should be the authority of Christians helping those who hurt; 2) Counseling is a critical aspect of the Church; and 3) God’s people can learn to counsel others well.

Effective Biblical Counseling by Larry Crabb (1977) • 9780310225706
Crabb believes that “God has ordained the local church to be his primary instrument to tend to his people’s aches and pains.” Here he offers “practical help to Christians who want to be more effective in ministering to their suffering brothers and sisters.”

Ministering to the Mourning by David Wiersbe and Warren Wiersbe (2006) • 9780802412416
For pastors, lay leaders, chaplains, hospice workers, first responders, and anyone caring for those who mourn, this book offers biblical wisdom and practical tools for handling grief.

Seeing With New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition Through the Lens of Scripture by David Powlison (2003) • 9780875526089
Powlison offers biblically based insights on peace, worry, motives, defensiveness, comfort, and more.
Coping With the Loss of a Loved One (David and Nancy Guthrie) • 9781624710919
Losing two infants to the same genetic disorder, the Guthries share candidly about their journey through grief—and about the importance of trusting God’s sovereignty.

Finding Freedom From Destructive Relationships (Leslie Vernick) • 9781624711893
Vernick shares about her own difficult relationship with her mother and offers insights to help others recognize and deal with abusive relationships.

Trusting God When He Breaks Your Heart (Pastor Ed Underwood) • 9781624711848
Sharing from Scripture and his own physical torment, Underwood offers help to those struggling to navigate through crises of faith and illness—offering inspiration and assurance of God’s care.

The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers by David Hansen (2013) • 9780830841042
Covering twelve topics, Hansen invites pastors to return to the heart of ministry: Beginning, Call, The Holy Spirit, Temptation, Eschatology, Preaching, Prayer, Friendship, Sacrament, Leadership, Leaving, and Reward.

Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry by John Piper (2013) • 9781433678820
Piper calls for a return to the spiritual life: “The more professional we long to be, the more spiritual death we will leave in our wake. For there is no professional childlikeness (Matt. 18:3); there is no professional tenderheartedness (Eph. 4:32); there is no professional panting after God (Ps. 42:11).”

Caring for People God’s Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma edited by Dr. Tim Clinton, Dr. Archibald Hart, and George Ohlschlager (2005) • 9780785297758
Learn to care practically for the most common issues brought to Christian counselors and pastors.

Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City by Timothy Keller (2012) • 9780310494188
Keller shares what he’s learned from over two decades of ministry in New York City to help you consider a theological framework for your own commitment to outreach that is Gospel-centered, city-centered, and movement-centered.

Christian Mindful Manners by Marvis Williams • 9781609571269
Williams offers a biblically based approach to how the church can and should respond to those who struggle with mental illness.

Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry by Paul David Tripp (2012) • 9781433541377
Tripp vulnerably recounts his struggle with anger and his realization of some inherent concerns about the pastorate. He explores the pastoral culture, the danger of forgetting who God is, and the danger of forgetting who He made us to be.

The Dignity of Human Life Focus on the Family online booklet
This resource for pastors and church leaders offers relevant research, stories and illustrations, sermon nuggets, notable quotations, and lessons from history—all to help communicate a clear, compassionate biblical perspective on the sanctity of human life.

Essential Church? Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts by Thom Rainer (2008) • 9780805443929
Rainer summarizes his research on why young adults leave the Church, and he identifies areas of focus that can help draw them back: simplify (structure), deepen (content), expect (attitude), and multiply (action).
**Five Smooth Stones for Pastoral Work** by Eugene Peterson (1992) • 9780802806604

Peterson explores the Old Testament regarding five specific areas of pastoral work: prayer-directing (Song of Songs), story-making (Ruth), pain-sharing (Lamentations), nay-saying (Ecclesiastes), and community-building (Esther).


London and Wiseman offer encouragement and insight to pastors—whether seasoned or new—regarding the unique and varied aspects of ministry.

**Leading on Empty: Refilling Your Tank and Renewing Your Passion** by Wayne Cordeiro (2010) • 9780764207594

A pastor, Cordeiro shares about his own struggle with burnout and how he learned to look to God for wisdom in finding a healthy balance in life.

**Liberating Ministry From the Success Syndrome** by Kent and Barbara Hughes (2008) • 9781581349740

A pastor and his wife share the truth behind genuine accomplishment for the Lord. It’s not about numbers. It’s about walking joyfully with Christ, pursuing holiness, and serving others with humility and love.

**Misfits Welcome** by Matthew Barnett (2014) • 9781400206568

Barnett, founder of the Dream Center in Los Angeles, explores how God can use our inadequacies, uncertainties, and mistakes to fulfill His purposes.

**Move: What 1,000 Churches Reveal About Spiritual Growth** by Greg Hawkins and Cally Parkinson (2011) • 9780310325253

Based on REVEAL survey results, this volume includes information about spiritual continuum (from exploring Christ to being Christ-centered), spiritual movement, and spiritual leadership.

**Nine Marks of a Healthy Church** by Mark Dever (2013) • 9781433539985

Dever considers 1) expositional preaching, 2) biblical theology, 3) the Gospel, 4) a biblical understanding of conversion, 5) a biblical understanding of evangelism, 6) a biblical understanding of church membership, 7) biblical church discipline, 8) a concern for discipleship and growth, and 9) biblical church leadership.

**On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work** by Derek Prime and Alistair Begg (2013) • 9780802431226

Gain a better picture of the many dimensions of a pastor’s work: calling, character, prayer, preaching, pastoral care, worship, delegation, and more.

**The Pastor As Scholar & the Scholar As Pastor** by John Piper and D.A. Carson (2011) • 9781433526473

A pastor and a scholar share anecdotes and insights to help bridge “interdisciplinary gaps” in service to the Lord and out of love for His people.

**Pastor to Pastor: Tackling the Problems of Ministry** by Erwin Lutzer (2008) • 9780825429477

Lutzer advises on handling difficulties such as church splits, burnout, congregational expectations, pastoral priorities, politics, church boards, worship, counseling, and more.

**Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls** by Lee Eclov (2012) • 9780802405678

Eclov offers a reminder of the importance of relying on God’s grace for all aspects of ministry—and for caring for your own soul.

**Portraits of a Pastor: The 9 Essential Roles of a Church Leader** edited by Jason Allen (2017) • 9780802416346

Learn how to balance and faithfully fill duties of being a preacher, shepherd, man of God, husband and father, evangelist, theologian, church historian, leader, and missionary.

**Sifted: Pursuing Growth Through Trials, Challenges, and Disappointments** by Wayne Cordeiro, Francis Chan, and Larry Osborne (2012) • 9780310494478

Be encouraged to know you’re not alone in the “heart work,” “home work,” and “hard work” of ministry.

**They Call Me Pastor: How to Love the Ones You Lead** by H.B. London and Neil Wiseman (2000) • 9780801017902

London and Wiseman explore the pastor’s role as shepherd, counselor, leader, minister, and more.

**Unlikely: Setting Aside Our Differences to Live Out the Gospel** by Kevin Palau (2015) • 9781476789446

In 2007, Palau and several pastors asked Portland’s mayor how the Church could serve the city. The question led to the creation of CityServe—and countless individuals and cities across the nation have been impacted.

**What Is the Mission of the Church?** by Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert (2011) • 9781433526909

Subtitled “Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission,” this volume offers a discussion about the Church’s mission.
Your Church Is Too Safe: Why Following Christ Turns the World Upside-Down by Mark Buchanan (2012) ● 9780310523284 ●
A veteran pastor, Buchanan urges churches to remember Christ’s call to love others sacrificially—to be dangerous for the Kingdom rather than live safely, and to put aside niceness for holiness.

Avoiding Burnout in the Midst of a Busy Life (Pastor Wayne Cordeiro, Reverend H.B. London) ● 9781624717413 ●
Cordeiro offers practical advice from his book Leading on Empty: Refilling Your Tank and Renewing Your Passion. London joins the conversation to discuss the challenges pastors face.

Basics (Alistair Begg) ● offered through Truth for Life
This annual conference at Parkside Church encourage those in pastoral and parachurch ministry. Search by “Basics conference” to access a list of available recordings.

Becoming the Widow’s Advocate (Herb Reese, Robert Jenner, Ryan Dunn) ● 9781624713279 ●
When Reese discovered that a young widow in his church cried herself to sleep every night on the living room floor, he was inspired to start an organization that equips men in long-term care for widows and single moms.

Breaking the Busyness Habit (Pastor Brady Boyd) ● 9781624717987 ●
Sharing his personal story of heart surgery and forced rest, Boyd shares the dangers and effects of a lifestyle that’s too busy in today’s culture of over-commitment.

Lessons Learned While Serving Others (Pastor Matthew Barnett) ● 9781624719721 ●
Barnett talks about the Dream Center in Los Angeles. He’s worked with gangsters, addicts, orphans, the homeless, and trafficked victims—many whose lives have been redeemed by the Gospel. Barnett challenges us to look for the misfits who cross our paths, and he suggests ways to demonstrate unconditional love.

My Journey Through Depression (Pastor Tommy Nelson) ● 9781624711862 ●
Nelson’s schedule of pastoring, writing, and teaching led to burnout, illness, and depression he didn’t know how to cope with. Calling on God, he received encouragement from his family, church, and others who helped him find healing.

Pastor to Pastor® ● Focus on the Family
This series of free audio programs features H.B. London and guests discussing some of the unique opportunities, challenges, and concerns pastors face.

Reaching Out to Your Neighbors (Pastor Jay Pathak, Pastor Dave Runyon, Angela Wheaton) ● 9781624714641 ●
Pathak and Runyon encouraged their congregations to transform their neighborhoods, one household at a time. Here, they suggest how to get acquainted and make friends with your neighbors, sharing the love of Jesus in practical, everyday ways.

Setting Your Family As Your Highest Priority (Pastor Andy Stanley) ● 9781624711572 ●
Stanley acknowledges the common challenges we face in balancing work commitments with time at home. But he urges potential workaholics to figure out how to cut back on their jobs for the sake of their family, rather than sacrifice their family for the sake of a career.

Showing Christ’s Love to Your City (Kevin Palau and Sam Adams) ● 9781624719578 ●
Palau, author of Unlikely, and Adams talk about their friendship formed in the context of meeting social needs in Portland. They describe their surprise at discovering that Evangelical Christians and people in the LGBT community can work together to solve problems without compromising their core beliefs, and they offer a practical example of how Christians can dialogue respectfully and share the love of Christ with those who hold different views.
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### Preaching

**Between Two Worlds: The Challenge of Preaching Today** by John Stott (1982) • 97808028086277 •
In a timeless offering, Stott explores preaching: its history, its theological foundations, contemporary objections to it, how to prepare for it, and more.

**Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon** by Bryan Chapell (2005) • 9780801027987 •
Chappell discusses how to approach preaching through a theology of Christ-centered messages. He offers practical help and suggestions for incorporating the method into a variety of situations, from weddings to funerals.

**Evangelistic Sermons** by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1984) • 9780851513621 •
This collection of twenty-one sermons by Lloyd-Jones highlights salvation and the Christian’s walk with the Lord.

**Lectures to My Students** by Charles Spurgeon (2010) • 9781598565164 •
This is a compilation of Spurgeon’s (1834–1892) lectures at The Pastor’s College. “The solemn work with which the Christian ministry concerns itself demands a man’s all, and that all at its best. To engage half-heartedly is an insult to God and man.”

**Preach the Word: Essays on Expository Preaching in Honor of R. Kent Hughes** by Leland Ryken and Todd Wilson (2011) • 9781433532979 •
J.I, Packer, Wayne Grudem, Jon MacArthur, and others share their thoughts on being an expository preacher.

**Preaching & Preachers** by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (2012) • 9780310331292 •
Compiled from a lecture series given by Lloyd-Jones in 1969, this volume offers his encouragement to pastors: “The most urgent need in the Christian Church today is true preaching.”

### Spiritual Growth

**The Christian in Complete Armour** by William Gurnall (2010) • 9781598564679 •
Gurnall (1616–1679) penned this work initially as three volumes. He offers insights on doctrinal truth, holiness, the “pre-eminence of faith against other graces,” and more.

**Disciplines of a Godly Man** by R. Kent Hughes (2006) • 9781581347586 •
Hughes considers discipline in areas of relationship (marriage, children, and friendship); the soul (devotion, prayer, and worship); character (integrity, work, and perseverance); and ministry (leadership, giving, and witnessing).

**The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God** by Dallas Willard (1998) • 9780060693336 •
“The most telling thing about the contemporary Christian is that he or she has no compelling sense that understanding of and conformity with the clear teachings of Christ is of any vital importance to [their] life.”

**A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society** by Eugene Peterson (2000) • 9780830822577 •
Peterson considers discipleship, repentance, providence, worship, service, help, security, joy, work, happiness, perseverance, hope, humility, obedience, community, and blessing.

**The Pastor in Prayer** by Charles Spurgeon (2004) • 9780851518503 •
This collection of prayers is compiled from Spurgeon’s preaching at the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

**Pilgrim’s Progress** by John Bunyan (1678) • 9780800786090 •
Originally published in 1678, Bunyan’s classic allegory follows Christian on his journey to the Celestial City and offers insight into believers’ struggles and triumphs in their walk with the Lord.

**The Pleasures of God** by John Piper (2000) • 9781576736654 •
Piper delves into Scripture to explore the pleasures of God (in His Son, in His creation, and more)—and how knowing what brings God joy teaches us more about Him and about how we can live more fully in Him.

**Power Through Prayer** by E.M. Bounds (2009) • 9780802456625 •
“So we come to one of the crying evils of these times, maybe of all times—little or no praying… Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still.”
The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence (1989) ● 9780800785994 ●
This collection of conversations and letters reveals the heart of Brother Lawrence, a seventeenth-century French monk. “At any moment and in any circumstance, the soul that seeks God may find Him, and practice the presence of God.”

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer (1948) ● 9780978479916 ●
First published in 1948, The Pursuit of God offers Tozer’s thoughts on the believer’s need to continuously seek the Lord. “To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul’s paradox of love.”

The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges (2006) ● 9781576839324 ●
“We need to brace ourselves up and to realize that we are responsible for thoughts, attitudes, and actions... Only as we accept our responsibility and appropriate God’s provisions will we make any progress in our pursuit of holiness.”

The Valley of Vision edited by Arthur Bennett (2007) ● 9780851518213 ●
This classic collection of Puritan prayers and devotions helps today’s believers consider more deeply the Trinity, redemption, penitence, devotions, holy aspirations, grace, approaching God, service, and more.

Clergy Appreciation Month
- focusonthefamily.com/faith/christian-worldview/clergy-appreciation-month
Find information and resources to help you honor your pastors and pastoral families for their leadership, hard work, and sacrificial dedication.

The Pastor’s Advocate Series
- This series of free, downloadable booklets from Focus on the Family will help congregations better understand and care for their pastors, ministry leaders, and their families.
  Enriching Life in the Fishbowl
  Living in the Pastor’s Home
  Pastoral Restoration: The Path to Recovery
  Sabbatical for Ministers: The Benefits for Pastor and Congregations
  Working Together to Impact Your Community

Understanding the Challenges Pastors Face (Pastor Jud Wilhite, Wade Brown) ● 9781624714276 ●
broadcast
Willhite and Brown explain that pastors don’t always feel equipped to get help for themselves because of their position in the church or because of stress and expectations of others. Learn about the support available and how congregations can come alongside their pastors.

Church Resources
- focusonthefamily.com/church
Encourage yourself and inspire your ministry families with resources that can help bring balance to your personal and professional lives.

Mental Illness and the Church
- focusonthefamily.com/lifechallenges/promos/mental-health-resources
As the subjects of mental health and mental illness are being discussed more openly in Christian and secular arenas, we hope our partnership with LifeWay Research will shed light on how best to help families thrive. Expand the For Pastors area of this webpage for a free e-book titled Serving Those With Mental Illness, as well as other recommended resources.
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Q&As
- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a
  Browse our Q&As for advice and encouragement.

Resource Lists
- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/resources-and-referrals
  Find recommended resources and referrals listed by topic, including the following:

  - Christian Growth for Adults • RL022 ●
  - Christian Growth for Children & Teens • RL022A ●
  - Christian Heritage • RL035 ●
  - Cults, World Religions, & Apologetics • RL028 ●
  - Evangelism • RL074 ●
  - Marriage Resources for Churches • RL016A ●
  - Mental Health • RL046 ●
  - Pro-Life Advocacy & Encouragement • RL001A ●
  - Remarriage & Blended Families • RL068 ●
  - Separation & Divorce • RL041 ●
  - Social Issues • RL008 ●
  - Community Involvement • RL021 ●
  - Youth Workers & Parents of Teens • RL066 ●

Focus on the Family’s Pastoral Care Line
If you or someone in your family needs to talk confidentially, we have a private Pastoral Care line just for you. The staff of Focus on the Family’s Pastoral Ministries Department is available weekdays between 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (MT) by calling toll free to 877/233-4455. We encourage ministers and others in church leadership, chaplains, missionaries, and family members of any of these individuals to contact us for advice, resource information, or a listening ear.

Focus on the Family’s Christian Counselor Network
Search for licensed Christian counselors in your area: FocusOnTheFamily.com/FindACounselor

Hope Restored® marriage intensives—a ministry of Focus on the Family
2175 Sunset Inn Road
Branson, MO  65616
866/875-2915
hoperestored.focusonthefamily.com
- Our intensive programs are held in a retreat setting and are designed to rebuild and restore marriages experiencing significant hurt.

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