

# Recommended Resources:

Howdy! I'm one of the gurus for the Book Table. You can find many of the things on this list on the book table at the Sunday night Harvest meetings, so if something catches your eye here, you can page through it more there.

These resources are things we've thought about, discussed, wanted to read, have read, or generally pondered on dark and stormy nights. So if you're looking for something to do on any given weeknight (besides home fellowship group), this might be a good place to begin.

(Harvest is in no way responsible for the contents of the list or of the items on this list.)

## Culture/Life:

### [TwentySomeone: Finding Yourself in a Decade of Transition](#)

Craig Dunham and Doug Serven

When I first picked up this book, I confess, I thought, 'this is going to be dumb, and it's all going to be stuff I've heard before'. Not so!

Yes, I had heard some of it before, but this book encouraged me to actually DO things for God, not just to hear things. *TwentySomeone* offers some great guidelines to begin becoming one of those "awesome God people": those people we dream of being like because they are visibly close to God, whether they're struggling or on top of the world. Plus, this is a quick read, which makes it all the more worth while.

Check the back for a couple of great Appendixes like "100 Things to Do in Your Twenties", and an excellent list of recommended reading.

### [Blue Like Jazz](#)

Don Miller

"I first heard about Don Miller's *Blue Like Jazz* from the pulpit while in seminary. The pastor who quoted it was cool. Evidently, he thought the book was cool. I wanted to be cool, too. So, when Heather wasn't looking, I grabbed her copy off the nightstand and began reading. Not cool. What I discovered (after asking her nicely if I could keep reading her book) was an engaging spiritual memoir devoid of Christian cliché and chock-full of honesty about the Christian life. It's the sort of book I would not hesitate to give to Christian and non-Christian alike because it examines the truth of Christianity from a compelling, fresh perspective. Plus, people think you're cool if you give them stuff." ~Ryan Laughlin

### [Wild at Heart](#)

John Eldridge

"Wild at Heart made me start singing the Rocky Theme in my head. I couldn't wait to get up every morning to read more; it made me want to BE wild at heart for God." ~Drew Hofferker

### [Amusing Ourselves to Death](#)

Neil Postman

Read an [excerpt](#) from the forward.

### **Science:**

#### [Darwin's Black Box: a Biochemical Challenge to Evolution](#)

Michael Behe

How much do you REALLY know about the creation/evolution debate? Michael Behe clearly explains the new, controversial "irreducibly complex" argument that has evolutionists stumped.

### **Literature:**

#### [Perelandra, Out of the Silent Planet, \*That Hideous Strength\*](#)

C.S. Lewis

I'm only nominally fond of Sci-Fi, so the first two books (*Perelandra* and *Out of the Silent Planet*) were good fun, but not something I'd read over and over again. However, the last book (*That Hideous Strength*) was most certainly Great Fiction, and well worth reading the first two books to get to.

#### [The Ball and the Cross](#)

G.K. Chesterton

I love Chesterton in general, I have a particular soft spot for his fiction. This is the best book for first time Chesterton readers. It's like Pilgrim's Progress for a modern audience: slightly allegorical, but just gosh, darn great. His heroes are gutsy and unashamed of their causes, each in their own unique, boisterous way.

#### [Miniatures and Morals: The Christian Novels of Jane Austen](#)

[Dr. Peter Leithart](#)

Jane Austen writes in a witty, satirical way that creates a social commentary parody of life not unlike the Simpsons. *Pride and Prejudice* is considered by many to be her best work. Dr. Peter Leithart has developed a cultivated love for Jane Austen's novels, and spends his first 30+ pages of his commentary defending the thesis statement "Real men read Austen". Find out why...

#### [Life with Jeeves](#)

P.G. Woodhouse

Woodhouse created the original Jeeves: the perfect butler who has an answer for absolutely everything. Woodhouse's nonchalant writing style, his deliciously foppish main character Bertie, and Jeeves's general braininess make this the perfect book to unwind with.

### [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)

C.S. Lewis

YOU MUST READ. NOW.

### [Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency](#)

[Douglas Adams](#)

And you thought *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was good? D.G.H.D.A. is Adams' best work. All the wit and fun of *Hitchhiker*, complete with plot, and horse in bathroom. And pink sand. And a Greek pot. And quantum physics. And ghosts. There's even a bit of... well, I don't want to spoil the ending.

### **Arts:**

*Art and the Bible* (a L'Aabri pamphlet)

[Francis Schaeffer](#)

Schaeffer is an excellent source for cultural information on art. This pamphlet is a great overview. To go more in-depth, track down a copy of his video series "How Shall We Then Live"; I've seen it repeatedly and am still amazed each time.

*Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*

[H. R. Rookmaaker](#)

Here is some *serious* food for thought! As you're reading, it might be a good idea to pop down to the National Gallery to view some of the pieces discussed. (note: this book is out of print, but you can find it used online; it is well worth it)

### **Theology:**

*The Case for Christ*

Lee Strobel

Strobel's excellent writing makes this an essential book to give to non-Christian friends, family, or co-workers. It's just what the title says: a case for Christ.

*Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*

Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

A book for the more serious reader.

*The Valley of Vision: A collection of Puritan Prayers*

Arthur G. Bennett

A cross between prayer and poetry, this collection shows how "the strength of Puritan character and life lay in the practice of prayer and meditation." A great book to enhance prayer life.

*Concise Theology*

J.I. Packer

### *Orthodoxy*

G.K. Chesterton

Chesterton's bold, boisterous style isn't in his fiction alone. As some say, what you believe comes out your fingertips; and so it is with Chesterton. His theological writings are as lively as they are profound.

### *Bondage of the Will*

Martin Luther

### *The Heidelberg Catechism: A Study Guide*

G. I. Williamson

## **Music:**

On the classical side of things, here are the absolute must-hear pieces of music:

Samuel Barber-Adagio for Strings: This piece is really popular, you hear it in Platoon, and Amelie. It has been arranged for everything from brass to choir to marimba, and it's always beautiful. One of the most pure pieces of music ever written, as far as I'm concerned, second only to...

Rachmaninoff-Vespers: Russian liturgy. Get the Robert Shaw Atlanta Chorus recording. I'm not even going to bother praising this, because the music will speak for itself when you hear it. The only person I know who doesn't like it is Jason Scheibe.

Gustav Mahler-Symphony #2: A programmatic symphony that begins by painting the death and funeral of a hero, progressing through an hour and a half, until in the final movement, the world ends, the dead rise from their graves, and the choir of angels sings. Takes some 250 musicians to perform, 2cds, quite beautiful. I recommend the Gilbert Kaplan recording.

Eric Whitacre-Choral Recordings: Contemporary composer writing complex, but very likable music. More depth than Part, usually uses English text with a bit of Spanish. Excellent setting of a Biblical text in "When David Heard" and of poetry in e.e. cummings' "i thank you God for most this amazing day."

Other (non classical):

### [Sufjan Stevens, Illinois](#)

If you have *that* friend (you know that friend – the one who devours Spin magazine and snorts snobbishly at all 'sell-out' bands you secretly sing along to in traffic) – surely he or she has dropped the name of Sufjan (pronounced SUF-

YAWN). Fair warning: it's not everyone's style, an original mix recently passed through the 9:30 Club, complete with a band of cheerleaders. Come on, feel the Illinoise!

Muse-anything: Muse fuses a Radiohead vocal texture with a fat rock sound, orchestral arrangements, and Wagnerian, Romantic harmony. Their best album is 2003's Absolution, but the other two studio albums are great also.

The Mars Volta: Latin Rock fusion band. They embrace every style, but do so without sounding like Old Country Buffet or overly pretentious. Start with De-Loused in the Comatorium, move to Frances the Mute.

Soul Coughing: Terribly hip. Disbanded these last 6 years, but relevant as ever. El Oso is their best album.

Blindside: For respectable, groundbreaking, Christian not-quite-screamo.

Jimmy Eat World-Futures: Just a likable album.

Johnny Cash-American Recordings IV: Quite possibly the best album I own. Very understated.

Some of these I'm sure you know. Also Cake, Jeff Buckley, Joss Stone, Queens of the Stone Age, Keane, Spoon, (Girls can Tell) and the White Stripes.

### [Indelible Grace](#)

**Film:** (check for our monthly Film & Theology on the [Harvest calendar!](#))

The Village - M. Night Shyamalan

13 Conversations About One Thing - Jill Sprecher

Hero - Jet Lee

Run Lola Run – Franka Potente

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead – Richard Dreyfus

Amadeus – Milos Forman

Spirited Away - Hayao Miyazaki (animated)

### **Interesting Articles:**

[What is Islam? An Overview](#)

[Islam and Christianity: what's the difference?](#)

[What is Sunni or Shi'ah?](#)

[Christianity and Mormonism: What's the difference?](#)

[Witnessing to a Mormon](#)

[Mormonism: an Overview](#)

[On The DaVinci Code](#)

**Internet Journals:**

[Relevant Magazine](#)

[Mars Hill Audio Journal](#)

[Saint Anne's Public House](#)

**For the Overly Ambitious:**

Greek Internet Tutorials: <http://www.ibiblio.org/koine/greek/lessons/>

<http://website.lineone.net/~ntgreek/>

Hebrew Internet Tutorial: <http://foundationstone.com.au/>

(Contact our fearless reader, [Erika](#), with questions or recommendations)