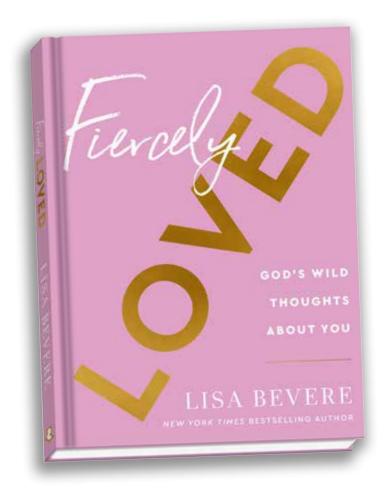
# Revell

# 90 Devotions to Change the Way You Think God Thinks about You



- From a New York Times bestselling author whose books have sold more than 1 million copies
- Lisa Bevere has 2 million followers on social media and over 300.000 email subscribers
- Messenger International podcasts have over 7 million downloads

o you know that God loves to think about you? Even right now! The psalmist David realized this when he wrote Psalm 139: "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. "But God doesn't just think about you. He loves you—fiercely. In times of uncertainty, we need some pillars we can build our lives on. You are loved. You are welcomed. You are wanted. You were always his idea and he has a plan for you.

*New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Bevere shifts your perspective with daily boosts of courageous love, giving you a confidence grounded in both your identity and your relationship with your Creator.

These 90 devotionals each include Scripture to guide you, encouragement to lift you up, and powerful declarations of truth to send you forth in strength.

### **Fiercely Loved**

Lisa Bevere



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: May 3 \$19.99 978-0-8007-4170-9

casebound 6 x 8 192 pages Case Quantity: 24

Category: RELIGION / Devotional RELIGION / Christian Living / Women's Interests RELIGION / Christian Living / Inspirational Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

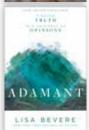
Lisa Bevere has spent nearly three decades empowering women of all ages to find their identity and purpose. She is a New York Times bestselling author and internationally known speaker. Her previous books, which include Fight Like a Girl, Lioness Arising, Girls with Swords, Without Rival,

Adamant, and Godmothers, are in the hands of millions worldwide. Lisa and her husband, John, are the founders of Messenger International, an organization committed to developing uncompromising followers of Christ who transform their world. Learn more at www.lisabevere.com.



Godmothers 978-0-8007-3685-9 Adamant 978-0-8007-2725-3 Without Rival 978-0-8007-2724-6





#### **EXCERPT**

From the nightly news to our social media feeds, a drumbeat of messages tells us one thing about our politics—we are strangers to one another. And since politics has infested everything, we start to feel disconnected from the people in even our closest relationships. It's no wonder that loneliness and depression are rampant for individuals and that populism and nationalism are rampant for countries.

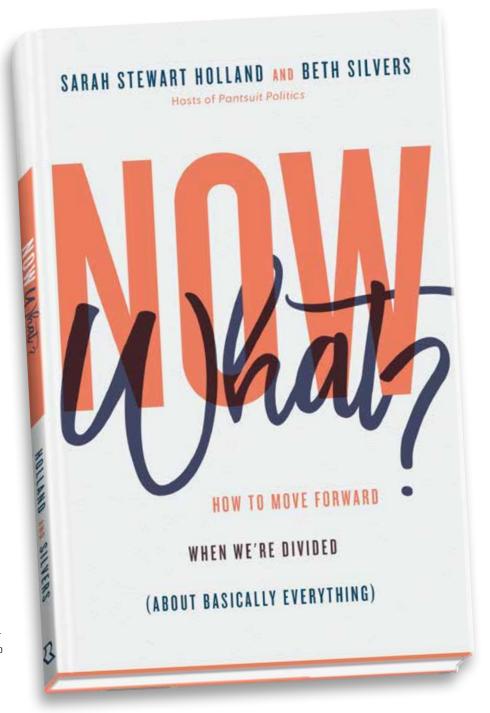
So, what do we do? How do we find connection to one another when our differences are constantly on display?

In other words, now what?

It's become so clear to us that most political conflict is wrapped around deeper emotional and spiritual dynamics—dynamics that might be painful to examine but have the capacity to help us grow and heal far beyond our political conflicts. In this book, we attempt to zoom out and see what larger issues are at the center of our political conflicts, whether they take place inside our families, our workplaces, our communities, our country, or our world. On our podcast, we constantly ask ourselves: What's underneath this conflict? How do we bring it into the light? How do we find something good in that light? We want to share what we've learned here, in the hopes that you'll find new questions or phrases to help you dig deeper in your relationships.

We're inviting you to see the connections you hold with fellow human beings in a bigger way.

We will begin with our closest connections—our family, our friends, our coworkers—and look at what political conflict can teach us about ourselves and others. Then, with fresh eyes, we hope to expand into the other connections we hold with our fellow human beings—in our communities, states, nation, and world—to see beyond the political morass to how we can continue on . . . together.



# An Invitation to Rebuild Connection and Community Despite What Divides Us

- Pantsuit Politics podcast averages 350,000 downloads per month and was one of Apple's 2021 Spotlight podcasts
- The authors and their work have been featured by the New York Times, the Atlantic, Parents, Elle, and CNN's Morning Joe
- "Sarah and Beth are an absolute gift to our culture right now. They teach us how to dialogue well without sacrificing our humanity."

  —Jen Hatmaker

rom friendships to Facebook to far-off countries, what do we do when our lives seem mired in conflict? How do we find connection when our differences are constantly on display and even exacerbated by algorithms and echo chambers? How do we build a kinder society?

If you are tired of the anxiety, frustration, and fear that pervade your connections with other people, both online and in real life, Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers want you to know one thing—you are not alone. In this book they will help you understand the powerful connections you have with other people on a personal, community-based, national, and even international level. Then they show you how to

- engage your family with a spirit of curiosity
- listen closely to the anxieties and fears of your friends
- explore shared values within your community
- understand your work as a citizen in a diverse country
- hold lightly those things that are beyond your control around the world

The status quo isn't working. If you long to be a peacemaker and a positive influence in your spheres, *Now What?* is your door to a future that is characterized by hope, love, and connection despite our differences.

### Now What?

Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: May 3 \$21.99 978-0-8007-4080-1

casebound 5½ x 8½ 240 pages Case Quantity: 24

Category: SELF-HELP / Personal Growth / General FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS / Conflict Resolution RELIGION / Christian Living / Social Issues Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers cohost the popular podcast Pantsuit Politics and coauthored I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversation. Both Sarah and Beth attended Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and later received their Juris Doctors (Sarah from American University and Beth from the University of Kentucky).

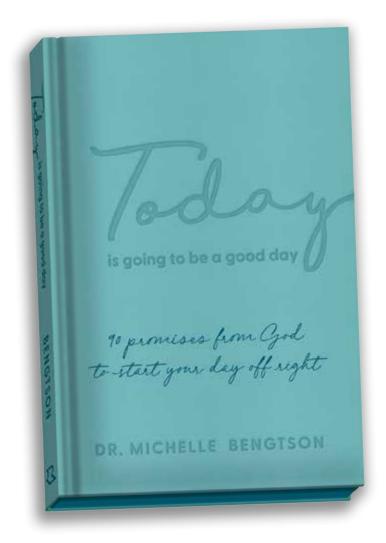
Sarah began her career as a congressional staffer, campaign aide, and blogger and social media consultant. She lives in Paducah, Kentucky, where she served a term as a city commissioner and sits on the board of numerous civic organizations. Beth has practiced law and served as a human resources executive and business coach. Beth lives in Union, Kentucky, and serves on several local boards of directors. Sarah and Beth speak frequently to universities, businesses, and civic organizations about improving political dialogue.

Sarah shares life with her spouse, Nicholas, and children Griffin, Amos, and Felix; Beth with her spouse, Chad, and children Jane and Ellen. Sarah's dog, Cookie, and Beth's dog, Lucy, are beloved and frequent contributors to their work.



Learn more at www.pantsuitpoliticsshow.com.

# Every Day Can Be a Good Day When You Trust God's Promises



- Bengtson's podcast, Your Hope-Filled Perspective, was ranked ninth in Podcast Magazine's Top 50 Moms in Podcasting and in the top 2.5% globally
- Inspired by her popular daily "Today Is Going to Be a Good Day" posts on social media
- Popular author, speaker, and podcaster with over 25 years of private counseling experience

ob frustrations, difficult relationships, fluctuating health, emotional upheaval. When life conspires to drag us down with all of its troubles, it can be hard to keep our spirits up. Dr. Michelle Bengtson knows. Severely ill and mired in depression, she desperately needed something to cling to. That is when she decided to stand on God's promises that, despite her circumstances, every day was a good day for a good day.

In this uplifting devotional, Bengtson helps you make each day a *good* day no matter what is going on in your life. Each reading includes Scripture, reflection, prayer, and a recommended playlist song designed to help you live out Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Because our thoughts determine our beliefs, our beliefs determine our attitudes. and our attitudes determine our behaviors.

# Today Is Going to Be a Good Day

Dr. Michelle Benatson



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: May 17 \$14.99 978-0-8007-4032-0

casebound 4 x 6 208 pages Case Quantity: 40

Category: RELIGION / Devotional
RELIGION / Christian Living / Personal Growth
RELIGION / Christian Living / Spiritual Growth
Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

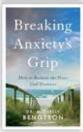
**Dr. Michelle Bengtson** is a board-certified neuropsychologist with more than 25 years of experience in the mental health field. She is a national and international media resource on mental health and wellness. Dr. Bengtson is the author of the award-winning *Hope Prevails* and *Hope Prevails Bible Study*,

as well as *Breaking Anxiety's Grip*. She writes at www.drmichellebengtson.com and her popular podcast, *Your Hope-Filled Perspective*, has ranked in the top 2.5 percent of podcasts globally. She lives in South Carolina with her husband of 30 years, their two sons, and a joyful Pomeranian.

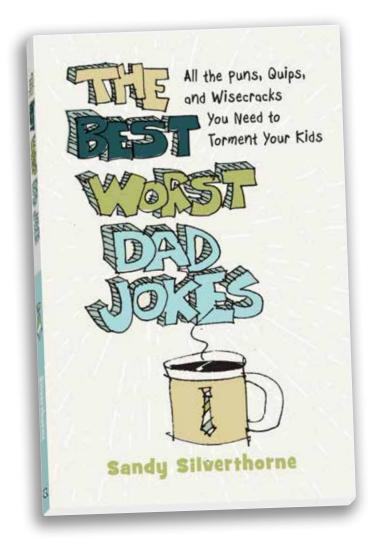


**Hope Prevails** 978-0-8007-2707-9 **Breaking Anxiety's Grip** 978-0-8007-3593-7





# Jokes to Keep the Family Laughing (and Rolling Their Eyes at Dad)



- Author's books have sold almost 1 million copies
- "Dad joke" books are a consistent seller each year for Father's Day and Christmas gifts
- Book includes over 500 jokes with fun illustrations

hen a man becomes a dad, he takes on certain responsibilities: providing for his family, raising up his children to be good citizens—and telling the absolute worst jokes he can come up with. But dad jokes don't always come naturally, which is why Sandy Silverthorne created *The Best Worst Dad Jokes*. Filled with more than 500 groan worthy jokes to torment your kids, this collection makes it possible for dads to fill any moment of dead air with a joke that will have everyone within hearing distance rolling their eyes and edging away to avoid association with you. Jokes like . . .

I don't have a dad bod; I have a father figure.

I saw a sign that said Watch for Children. That sounded like a good trade to me.

and of course . . .

When does a joke become a dad joke? When it's fully groan. And hey, it's only downhill from there.

### The Best Worst Dad Jokes

Sandy Silverthorne



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: May 17 \$9.99 978-0-8007-4033-7

trade paper 5 x 8 144 pages Case Quantity: 36

Category: HUMOR / Form / Jokes & Riddles HUMOR / Form / Comic Strips & Cartoons HUMOR / General Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

### Sandy Silverthorne has

been writing and illustrating books since 1988, with nearly 1 million copies sold. He is the award-winning creator of the Great Bible Adventure children's series, *Crack Yourself Up Jokes for Kids*, and *Made You Laugh!* Sandy has worked as a cartoonist, author, illustrator,

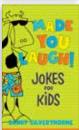
actor, pastor, speaker, and comedian. Apparently, it's hard for him to focus. Connect with him at www.sandysilverthornebooks.com.



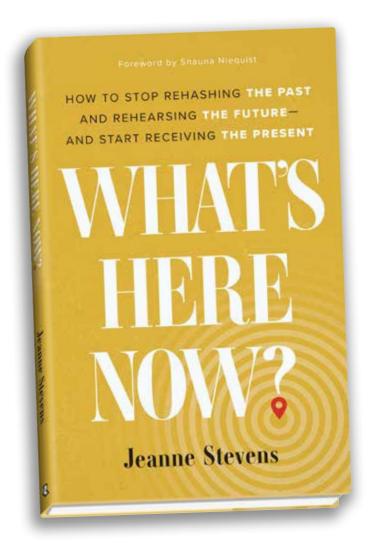
The Big Book of Crack Yourself Up Jokes for Kids 978-0-8007-4051-1 Now That's Funny 978-0-8007-3767-2

978-0-8007-3767-2 **Made You Laugh!** 978-0-8007-3766-5





# How to Stop Rehashing the Past and Rehearsing the Future to Start Receiving the Present



- "Jeanne Stevens lives and leads from her soul. She has the kind of wise and authentic voice that we all need in our lives."—Annie F. Downs, New York Times bestselling author
- Foreword by Shauna Niequist
- Gives readers practical tools to learn the power of one question to lead them to peace and purpose in their present moment

ife is filled with uncertainty, and people have never needed peace more. When it comes down to it, what keeps us from experiencing peace in our lives is either living in the past or living for the future. When we obsess over what's already happened or put all of our efforts into creating a picture-perfect tomorrow, we miss what God has for us here and now. The result is regret over what we can't change, and anxiety over what we feel we must change. That's not what God wants for us.

With honest transparency, hope-filled compassion, and plenty of vulnerable humor, pastor Jeanne Stevens reveals the shockingly simple path to peace: presence. She helps you slow down, center yourself, and ask the all-important question, What's here now? Jeanne gives readers practical tools to move from obsessing about the past or worrying about the future to experiencing peace and purpose in the present moment.

By incorporating this simple question into your everyday life, you will experience freedom from unhealthy patterns of relating to God and others through the avenues of shame, guilt, worry, and anxiety.

### What's Here Now?

Jeanne Stevens



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: May 17 \$22.99

978-0-8007-4085-6

hardcover 5½ x 8½ 256 pages Case Quantity: 32

 $\label{lem:category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Personal Growth$ 

SELF-HELP / Personal Growth / General SELF-HELP / Motivational & Inspirational

Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Jeanne Stevens is the founding and colead pastor of Soul City Church in Chicago, one of America's fastest growing urban churches. Prior to starting Soul City Church, Stevens was on the pastoral staff at Willow Creek Community Church and North Point Community Church. A sought-after speaker,

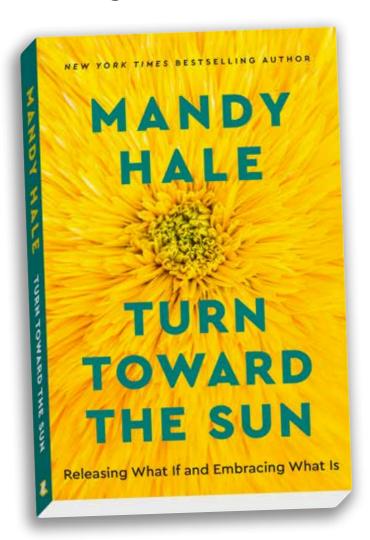


© Todd James Photograph

leader, and writer, Jeanne's passion is to help people wake up to their purpose as they pursue a life of wholehearted freedom. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Jarrett, and their two children. Learn more at www.jeannestevens.com.

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### Fresh Inspiration from a New York Times Bestselling Author to Embrace Life as It Comes



- Author has a social media reach of over 2.5 million followers
- The Huffington Post dubbed Mandy a "Twitter Powerhouse"
- In 2019, Good Morning America identified Mandy's Instagram as one of the "10 Instagram Accounts to Follow for Major Inspiration"

f recent world events have taught us anything, it's that life doesn't always look the way we want it to look. And while we can't control the curveballs life throws at us, we can control our response to them. We can choose to loosen our grip on what we think life is "supposed" to be and embrace life for exactly what it is-messiness and mayhem and all. We can choose to stubbornly turn toward the sun, even as the storm rages around us. That surrender is where true happiness and peace lie.

With insights born from her own hard-won battles, Mandy Hale turns her attention (and her sizable wit) to showing you what she's learned about letting go of the desire to control everything in life. With the honesty and authenticity she's known for, Mandy inspires you to stop striving, live in the moment, sit with your experiences, and trust God with the unknown.

If you've felt depleted or despairing as you've wrestled with circumstances beyond your control, you will find in Mandy a kind and trustworthy guide through the storm.

### Turn toward the Sun

Mandy Hale



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: June 14 \$16.99 978-0-8007-3882-2

trade paper 5½ x 8½ 192 pages Case Quantity: 32

Category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Personal Growth

RELIGION / Christian Living / Women's Interests RELIGION / Christian Living / Inspirational Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Mandy Hale is a blogger turned New York Times bestselling author and speaker. Creator of the social media movement The Single Woman, Mandy cuts to the heart of single life with her inspirational, straight-talking, witty takes on life and love. Named a "Twitter Powerhouse" by the Huffington Post, a "Woman of Influence" by the



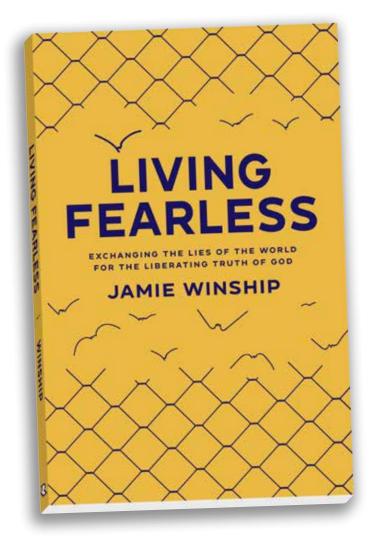
Nashville Business Journal, one of the "10 Instagram Accounts to Follow for Major Inspiration" by Good Morning America, and a "Single in the City" by Nashville Lifestyles magazine, she has also been featured in USA Today and Forbes magazine, on Glamour.com, and in many other media outlets. She is the author of several books, including Don't Believe the Swipe. She lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Learn more at www.mandyhale.com.

### **ALSO AVAILABLE**

Don't Believe the Swipe 978-0-8007-3883-9



# Unlearn Your False Views of God and Relearn the Model Set by Jesus



- Winship is a frequent speaker in churches worldwide
- Book includes incredible true stories from author's life in conflict zones around the world
- Through stories, Scripture, and probing questions, this book guides readers on a journey of growing personally and spiritually

amie Winship spent nearly 30 years living and working in conflict zones, and during that time he has learned an important truth: all human conflict originates from fear, and fear originates from a false view of God, ourselves, and others. Until we exchange what's false for what's real, we will never experience being fully alive, fully human, and fully free.

Unpacking the power of knowing our true identity in Christ, Winship takes us on a journey of telling ourselves the truth, changing our mindsets, and experiencing actual life transformation that leads to radical courage in the face of all that life throws at us. With humor, clarity, and real-life practicality, *Living Fearless* is your invitation to listen closely to what God is trying to say to you about himself, about the person he created you to be—and also about all those other people he created and loves.

If you want to discover the incredible difference abiding in Christ will make in your life and faith, get ready to do "a new thing" with God.

### **Living Fearless**

Jamie Winship



### VITAL INFORMATION

Available: June 14 \$15.99 978-0-8007-4029-0

trade paper 5½ x 8½ 176 pages Case Quantity: 36

Category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Spiritual Growth
RELIGION / Christian Living / General

Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

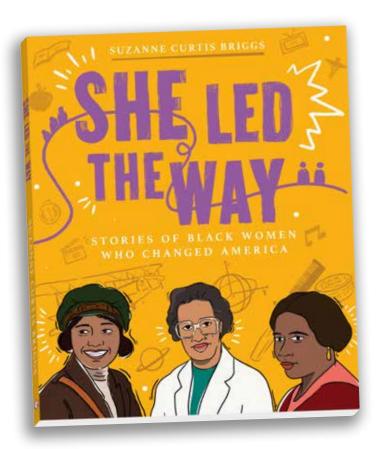
Jamie Winship is a former Metro DC area police officer who spent nearly 30 years living and working in the Muslim world, teaching people how to hear from God and live in his Kingdom. Jamie and his wife, Donna, speak around the US and across the globe to help people find their God-given



Randy Tahtine

identity and experience a life of freedom. Jamie and Donna live in East Tennessee. Learn more at Identity-Exchange.com.

# True Stories of Black Women in American History for Middle-Grade Readers



- Inspires young readers with stories of women of courage and faith
- Includes stories about Katherine Goble Johnson, Bessie Coleman, Selma Burke, and more
- Meets a market need for more books on Black history in America

orn into slavery, Rebecca Crumpler became the first Black female physician in America. Stuntwoman Bessie Coleman was the first Black person in the world to obtain a pilot's license. The work of Harlem Renaissance sculptor Selma Burke can be found on the American dime. The calculations of NASA mathematician Katherine Goble Johnson were critical to the success of US manned spaceflight.

These Black women and many more overcame tremendous obstacles and prejudices to make their mark on American history. In *She Led the Way*, you'll read their inspiring stories and the stories of ten more innovative, courageous, artistic, and driven women who broke through barriers of gender and color in order to reach their goals and fulfill their potential in a world that was too often indifferent and even hostile. Includes illustrations.

### She Led the Way

Suzanne Curtis Briggs



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: June 14 \$14.99 978-0-8007-3591-3

trade paper 7½ x 9 176 pages Case Quantity: 32

Category: JUVENILE NONFICTION / Biography & Autobiography / Religious JUVENILE NONFICTION / Biography & Autobiography / Historical JUVENILE NONFICTION / Biography & Autobiography /

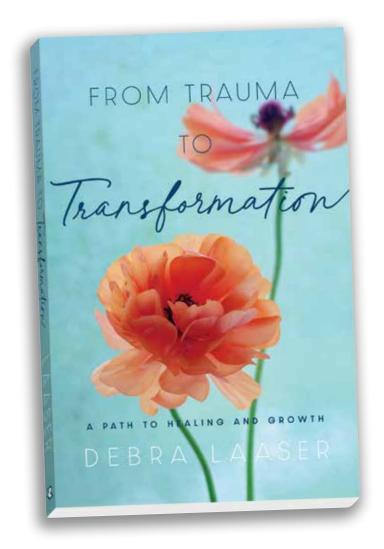
Rights: Worldwide

General

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Suzanne Curtis Briggs** is a former teacher who has been reading history all her life and enjoys writing about it. She loves a good story, especially when it's true.

### A Healing Journey toward Your Best Self



- Laaser is well known in the American Association of Christian Counselors
- Laaser is cofounder of Faithful & True, a counseling center focusing on sexual addiction and relationship betrayal
- Compassionate resource for women who want to heal and be even stronger after experiencing betrayal or trauma

e have all heard of post traumatic stress, but few of us think about the possibility of post traumatic growth—the positive ways in which we can be transformed by our trauma. Yet this is precisely what can happen when we face our hurts, struggle through the rubble of our broken relationships, and unearth the ways God wants to use our trials to refine and mature us.

With compassion born from personal experience and insights gathered from years of counseling others, licensed marriage and family therapist Debra Laaser helps you stop asking "Why me?" and start asking "Lord, what would you have me learn from this?" She offers tangible steps you can take to move beyond daily survival toward a future in which you can thrive.

God does not waste our pain. With Laaser's expert guidance, you can experience positive life change not in spite of the hurt, loss, or betrayal you have undergone but because of it.

# From Trauma to Transformation

Debra Laaser



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: July 19 \$16.99 978-0-8007-3803-7

trade paper 5½ x 8½ 208 pages Case Quantity: 36

Category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Women's Interests
SELF-HELP / Personal Growth / General
RELIGION / Christian Living / Spiritual Growth
Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

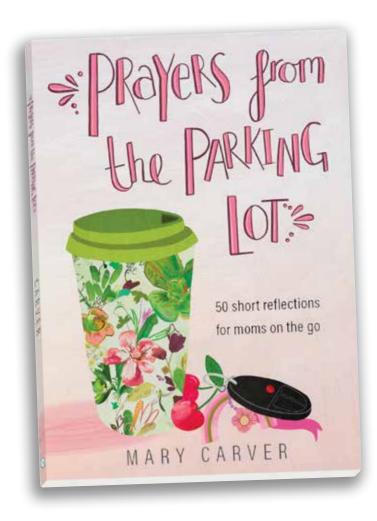
**Debra Laaser** is a licensed marriage and family therapist and cofounder and director of Faithful & True. She was involved in recovery with her husband, Mark, for 30 years and is committed to helping couples find healing and transformation from the pain of sexual addiction and relational betrayal. Debra



Kelly Volkma

has facilitated therapy groups for wives for over 20 years and now devotes her time to counseling spouses who have been relationally betrayed. She is the author of the highly acclaimed book *Shattered Vows* and, together with Mark, coauthored *The Seven Desires of Every Heart*. She lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Learn more at www.faithfulandtrue.com.

### 50 Calming Reflections for the Overwhelmed and Overscheduled



- Bite-sized readings geared toward busy moms
- Carver has written for MOPS.org, Lifeway's *ParentLife* and *HomeLife* magazines, and many others
- Addresses timely topics such as bullying, safety, and screen time

aise your hand if you've ever hidden in your car. Just for a moment, just long enough to catch your breath. You're not alone! Moms everywhere are sitting on park benches and bleachers, in minivans and bus stops, at the baseball field, the dance studio, or in line at the grocery store. And we are exhausted.

Moms don't need more information, instructions, expectations, or responsibilities. Instead, you need something to put your mind and heart at ease. You need a reminder that everything you're anxious about is in God's hands. And you need it in small doses you can fit into your schedule—even if that means a few stolen minutes in the car!

Prayers from the Parking Lot meets you where you are—overscheduled and overwhelmed. Perfect for reading while you're on the go, these to-the-point devotions and prayers are topically arranged so you can go straight to the issue you're facing right now. If you're looking for understanding and encouragement as you navigate your busy days, this little book will yield big results.

## Prayers from the Parking Lot

Mary Carver



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: August 9 \$9.99 978-0-8007-4081-8

trade paper 5 x 7 128 pages Case Quantity: 36

Category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Devotional RELIGION / Christian Living / Prayer RELIGION / Christian Living / Women's Interests Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Mary Carver writes and speaks with humor and honesty, encouraging women with truth found in unexpected places. She is a regular contributor to (in)courage, the author of Women of Courage, Journey to the Cross, and the (in)courage Bible study Courageous Joy, as well as the coauthor of Choose

Joy, Sacred Tears, and Empowered. Mary lives in Kansas City with her husband and two daughters. Find her online at www.marycarver.com.



**Empowered** 978-0-8007-3816-7



#### **EXCERPT**

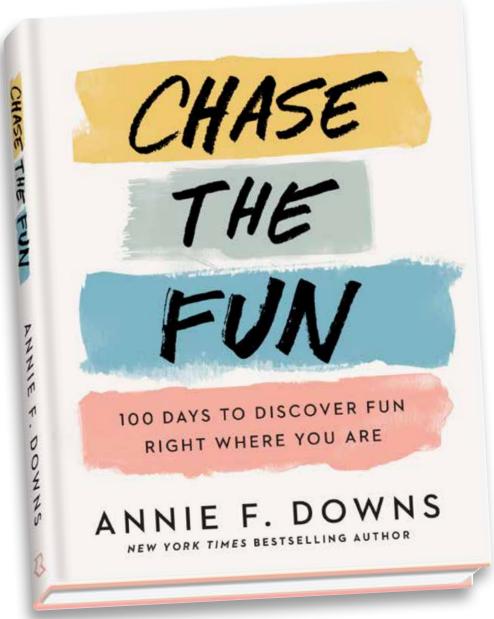
A few years ago, I was texting with my friend Emily P. Freeman, another author and podcaster and one of my favorite spiritual directors, and we were talking about our work. Emily specializes in helping people make decisions. "What is the next right thing?" That's the question she poses to her readers and fans (like me) on a weekly basis through her podcast and in her book.

I don't remember the conversation as clearly as Emily does, but we had a talk about what we wanted to do next. What type of work, what type of creative things, how we wanted to spend our time. And as Emily tells it, as we were processing what to do next, I said to her, "Well, just chase the fun!"

Chase the fun.

It's a thing we did when we were kids. It was our first instinct—to chase the fun. It was our top priority, biggest goal, most important motivator. But that's not the case anymore, is it? Being an adult, whether you are 20, 40, 60, or 85, is different from when you were a kid. We used to play, we used to run and jump and dance and swing and slide and skin up our knees. We used to chase the fun.

While there are parts of childhood that are best left there—like the skinned knees, thank you very much—there is something important that we lost when we stopped chasing the fun. It doesn't mean every day is a party, and it doesn't mean we run from our responsibilities. But I just wonder if you picked up this book because of something that feels like it is missing in your life and you're trying to find it again. So, what would it look like for you to pay attention a little closer to the life you already have and the world in which you already live, and give a little chase to the fun that is right in front of you?



Revell Revell

### New York Times Bestselling Author Annie F. Downs's Books Have Sold over 500,000 Copies

- Perfect companion to the instant New York Times bestselling book That Sounds Fun
- Annie has a social media following of over 325,000, an email list of more than 35,000, and a weekly podcast with over 52 million downloads in 200 countries in its lifetime
- Beautiful full-color interior makes this a great gift

e all know that having fun enriches our lives and lifts our spirits, but so often life gets in the way. Fun seems like something we did when we were kids, and we just don't have time for it now. I mean, we barely have time for all the stuff we have to do, let alone the stuff we want to do. We can go days without actually having any fun at all. If you ask New York Times bestselling author Annie F. Downs, she'll tell you that's no way to live!

Annie knows that when you chase fun, joy follows. In this beautifully designed full-color devotional, she invites you to experience 100 delightful days of discovering fun right where you are. With her insightful writing and provocative questions, she helps you identify what you find fun and then go after it like it matters. Because it does.

Fun isn't frivolous or somehow extra. It's essential! So join Annie on this 100-day journey into prioritizing fun in your life.

### Chase the Fun Annie F. Downs



### **VITAL INFORMATION**

Available: August 2 \$18.99 978-0-8007-3876-1

hardcover 5½ x 7 240 pages Case Quantity: 24

Category: RELIGION / Christian Living / Inspirational RELIGION / Christian Living / Women's Interests RELIGION / Christian Living / Personal Growth Rights: Worldwide

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Annie F. Downs is a New York Times bestselling author, sought-after speaker, and successful podcast host based in Nashville, Tennessee. Engaging and honest, she makes readers and listeners alike feel as if they've been longtime friends. Founder of the That Sounds Fun

Network—which includes her

aptly named flagship show, That Sounds Fun—and author of multiple bestselling books like That Sounds Fun, What Sounds Fun to You?, 100 Days to Brave, and Remember God, Annie shoots straight and doesn't shy away from the tough topics. But she always finds her way back to the truth that God is good and that life is a gift. Annie is a huge fan of laughing with friends, confetti, soccer, and boiled peanuts (preferably from a back-roads Georgia gas station). Read more at annief downs.com and find her (embarrassingly easily) all over the internet @anniefdowns.

### **ALSO AVAILABLE**

That Sounds Fun 978-0-8007-3874-7 What Sounds Fun to You? 978-0-8007-3875-4





#### **EXCERPT**

Healthy self-sufficiency is important, but an unhealthy demand for control is not. For our insistence on autonomy (that is, the right to govern ourselves) can spread into our relationship with God. Unlike our children and friends, however, God rarely gives into our controlling ways. The King of the Universe simply can't be managed or manipulated, no matter how hard we try.

For there can only be one leader in the relationship. Only one God. Only one King. If we're going to be true followers of Jesus, we must be willing to be led. And that requires relinquishment of the wand, the remote control, and our passive-aggressive attempts to make God do our bidding.

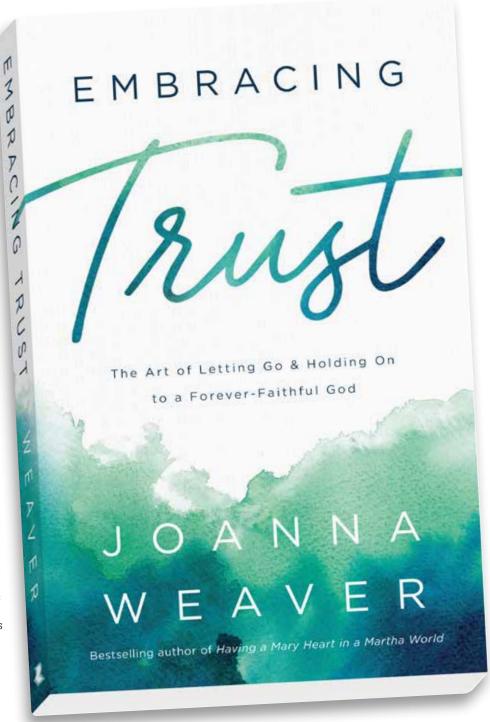
Jesus made that clear each time someone expressed an interest in being His disciple. Rather than offering incentives and a slick presentation of follower benefits, Jesus seemed to go out of His way to discourage followers by highlighting the cost.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me," Jesus said in Luke 9:23.

Not the best "lead," marketing experts would say. Or the best metaphor. Especially when crosses were used as instruments of torture by the Romans. Reserved for criminals, strung naked and bleeding for the whole world to see, it was considered by Jews the very worst way to die.

But rather than softening the image, Jesus went on to intensify it. "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (v. 24).

It isn't enough to carry your cross, Jesus told eager would-be followers. You've got to trust God enough to climb upon the cross and die if you want to truly live.



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rusting God. It's such a cliché. Yet nothing means more to our heavenly Father than when we surrender our lives completely to him and choose to believe he has our best in mind. David modeled that kind of deliberate dependence: as a shepherd boy, as a man running for his life, as a king who made grave mistakes. In both triumph and failure, David looked to God rather than to himself.

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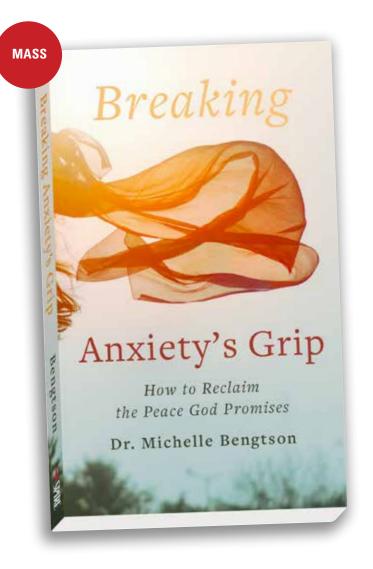
Joanna Weaver is the bestselling and award-winning author of Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, as well as Having a Mary Spirit and Lazarus Awakening. A pastor's wife, mother of three, and avid Bible teacher, Joanna loves speaking to women about the powerful freedom that is found

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**Dr. Michelle Bengtson** is a board-certified neuropsychologist with more than 25 years of experience in the mental health field. She is a national and international media resource on mental health and wellness. Dr. Bengtson is the author of the award-winning *Hope Prevails* and *Hope Prevails Bible Study*,

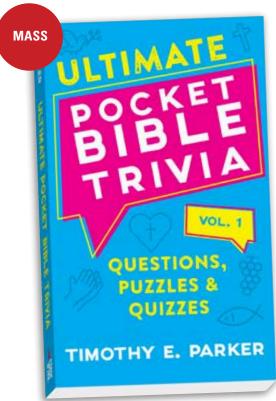
as well as *Breaking Anxiety's Grip*. She writes at www.drmichellebengtson.com and her popular podcast, *Your Hope-Filled Perspective*, has ranked in the top 2.5 percent of podcasts globally. She lives in South Carolina with her husband of 30 years, their two sons, and a joyful Pomeranian.



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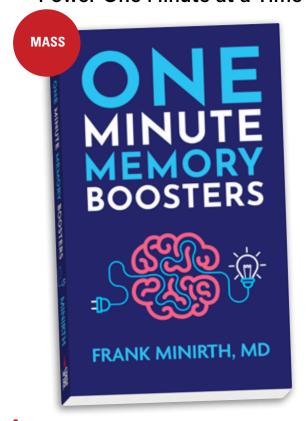
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### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Timothy E. Parker is an ordained minister and Guinness World Records Puzzle Master. He has entertained millions of puzzle solvers as the editor of three worldwide puzzle syndicates. He is the author of over 60 books, including Bible Brilliant. Parker has been profiled in dozens of newspapers and magazines including People, USA Today, and the New York Post. CNN calls his puzzles, "Smart games for smart people," and he has created custom games for top companies including Microsoft, Disney, Coca-Cola, Nike, Warner Bros., and Comcast.

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Frank Minirth, MD (1946–2015) was president of the Minirth Clinic in Richardson, Texas, and an adjunct professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. He was the author or coauthor of several books, including the bestselling Happiness Is a Choice and Strong Memory, Sharp Mind. For more information, visit minirthclinic.com.

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