

**Designing Your Life – Bill Burnett & Dave Evans**

I appreciated the practical input provided by the authors on not only looking to the positives, but also looking to our failures as a way of being able to learn and grow. The chapter on failure was of great worth. Especially being in ministry contexts, the motivation to succeed often pushes me into performance-driven mindsets. However, in viewing life as a process, rather than looking to the outcomes, it helped me see that sanctification truly is a journey, where even my failures, God redeems.

**The Road Trip that Changed the World – Mark Sayers**

This substantial read from Mark Sayers was a gentle reminder for myself to live with purpose. In contrasting the ideas of secularism and hedonism, seen in Kerouac's journey, with the biblical examples of journeying with a purpose, I was reminded to look to the greater things of God, and not be swept up by the immediate cultural milieu of the day. Especially as I am working with college students, this book provided invaluable points and examples for young people to live with a theology of the cross, looking to the hope of eternity.

**Difficult Conversations: Douglas Stone & Bruce Patton**

This text provided me with a holistic model of looking at disagreements I may face in ministry. Too often, I jump to conclusions based on my own emotions and perspectives. The text was helpful as it pointed me to not only look from a limited perspective, but to consider the nuances of each situation. And in having these conversations, the goal is to come to a conclusion that is beneficial for the involved parties, seeking to honor all those involved.

**A Creative Minority – Jon Tyson & Heather Grizzle**

This idea of the church being a creative minority in the world was fascinating to read about. For myself, I realized I live in a Christian bubble, often only spending time with others that look and think like me. I am reminded how detrimental that can be to the world we've been called to live in. To hold fast to the faith while living as a part of society, although a daunting task, is something I want to continue to grow in.

**Healing for Damaged Emotions – David Seamands**

This book was helpful as it discussed the topic of depression. In the context I am in, students often come to me with similar experiences to those mentioned in the book. It was enriching as it equipped me not only with scripture, but with beneficial practices.

**Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands – Paul Tripp**

This book was helpful in learning of my need to become a tool that God can use. One point the author highlights is the idea of the casual, where we look for cookie cutter solutions to peoples' individual problems.

**The Gift of Being Yourself – David Benner**

Benner talks about the importance of transformational knowledge. In reflecting on myself, I was more similar to the examples he used of how we know a lot about ourselves rather than knowing of ourselves. This book got me to desire to know God more so that I can truly know myself.

**How People Change – Timothy Lane & Paul Tripp**

This book was incredible in how it got me to consider my life in light of the truths of the Bible. The sinfulness of my heart was made clear in the words of Lane and Tripp, but also the grace of God and the life change that comes with knowing Christ in the midst of that sinfulness was also magnified. In my ministry context, I hope to not skip over addressing each person's faults and shortcomings, but also reminding them of the grace of the gospel that gives hope to their lives.