

Burnett, Bill and Evans, Dave. *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life.* Knopf, 2015. In *Designing Your Life*, Burnett discusses how to develop a life that is rewarding and productive. As a result of reading this book I gleaned several tools. First, it is important to be curious and recognize opportunities. Second, I need a bias to action and trying new things; third, reframe problems; fourth, be aware of the process involved in life design; fifth, collaborate and ask for help. One takeaway that I gleaned from this book is that it is important to have many options. In my current life context, I plan to apply this book by using mind mapping to generate multiple ideas and approaches to problems. I also plan to ask for help and collaborate with others more instead of isolating myself.

Sayers, Mark. *The Road Trip that Changed The World: The Unlikely Theory That will Change How You View the Church, and Most Importantly, Yourself.* Moody Publishers, 2012. In *The Road Trip*, Sayers discusses secularism and cultural shifts in light of Jack Kerouac's 'Road-Trip' pleasure-seeking philosophy. There are several take-aways from this book. First, Christians need to be peculiar people who live with good morals. Second, the quest for control is as destructive for today's world as it was for the people who were building the Tower of Babel. I plan to apply it to my current life context by refocusing on the core of my faith rather than the entertainment-centered worship of today's churches. I also plan to be more mindful of the ways that I seek to exert control over my life and learn to trust God more.

Stone, Douglas and Patton, Bruce. *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most.* Penguin Books, 2010. In *Difficult Conversations*, Stone provides constructive tools on ways to navigate difficult interactions with other people. There are several takeaways from this book. First, I learned about the problems that prevent me from achieving positive interactions. The three difficult conversations are: what happened, are my feelings valid, and what is the impact on my self-image. I plan to apply the tools in this book to conversations in my current life context in several ways. I plan to tell my story with greater clarity by using the three recommended guidelines. I will also stop presenting my conclusions as the truth; and I will give the other person room to change by not exaggerating with "always" and "never."

Tyson, Jon & Grizzle, Heather. *Creative Minority: Influencing Culture Through Redemptive Participation.* Amazon Digital Services, LLC, 2016. In *Creative Minority*, Tyson presents the premise that the Church should view itself as a creative minority that can gradually transform the world. This book encourages Christians to tell compelling narratives that can draw people in. One takeaway that I gleaned from this book is that "the Church is the Trinity on earth." (Tyson, 18). I plan to apply it to my current life context by loving my neighbors, shifting my focus to generosity and servanthood, and walking in the same way as Jesus.

Wright, Dr. H. Norman. *Crisis & Trauma Counseling: What to Do and Say When it Matters Most.* California: Regal, 2011. In *Crisis & Trauma*, Dr. Wright provides a paradigm for biblical crisis counseling. There are several takeaways from this book. First, during crisis counseling it is important to help the counselee accept responsibility and refocus. I plan to apply this book to my current life in a counseling context by considering two important questions: How would I feel and what would I do or say if I were in the counselee's shoes.

Murphy, Wendy E. and Kram, Kathy M.. *Strategic Relationships at Work: Creating Your Circle of Mentors, Sponsors, and Peers for Success in Business and Life.* McGraw-Hill Education, 2014. In *Strategic Relationships at Work*, Murphy discusses how to succeed professionally through career entrepreneurship. There are several takeaways from this book. First, mentoring should be rigorously informal and benefit both the mentee and the mentor. Second, the pathway to advancing professionally is to have "relational savvy." It is important to reflect, experiment, learn, and teach. I plan to apply the strategies in this book to my current professional life by making the most of relationships with my peers at work. I also plan to participate in the mentoring circles that are available at my workplace.

Schaller, Mary and Crilly, John. *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations: Walking Alongside People Who Believe Differently.* Tyndale Momentum, 2016. In *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*, Schaller provides practical tools to help facilitate relationships with other people who have different beliefs. One takeaway that I gleaned from this book is that it is important to avoid the common pitfall of appearing judgmental or condemning in spiritual conversations with non-believers. I plan to apply the arts presented this book to my current life living in New York City by intentionally listening to others, asking questions that convey interest, and practicing hospitality.

Carmen, Allison. *The Gift of Maybe: Finding Hope and Possibility in Uncertain Times.* Penguin Group, 2014. In *The Gift of Maybe*, Carmen presents the philosophy of 'maybe' that can create room for hope. One takeaway that I gleaned from this book is to look for possibilities rather than faults and failures in the face of uncertainty. I plan to apply this book to my current life as I work to overcome the fear of the unknown while embracing future possibilities with hope.