

Worksheet 3: Literature Review

The first three resources should be your 3 primary text resources. The next three should make varied use of Academic Journals, peer reviewed articles, commentaries, dictionaries, and text resources. Feel free to go beyond 6 resources as you will need about 10 for this paper. Remember, I expect these resources to be actively used throughout your paper.

Missing: an urgent call for the church to rescue kids by Melissa J MacDonald

- MacDonald, Melissa J. *Missing: An Urgent Call for the Church to Rescue Kids*. Kudu, 2014.
- The author draws from her experience as a children’s minister and her research on Millennials to challenge the reader to embrace the task of reaching the crucial generation of children with the gospel before it’s too late. Children between 4 to 14 years old are called the 4/14 window and are the largest unreached people group in the world. Unless they come to faith within the first decade and a half of their lives, they will likely never have a relationship with God.
- Topic resource: reaching children
- “Parents are THE influencers in their kid’s lives, whether er like it nor not” (13). “The 4/14 Window refers to a demographic age group. There are 2.3 billion kids in the world, and those aged 4 to 14 are the largest unreached people group today. In the United States, nearly 85 percent of people who make decision for Christ do so between the ages of 4 and 14” (17). “[Barna] stresses the fact that before the age 13, kids are forming what they believe. After age 13, they start defending what they believe” (28). “The issue is no longer training kids to think—it’s giving them permission to think” (39). “Kids need adults in their lives who are willing to enter into their reality” (88). “...but, the truth is that it is very likely in your church you have kids looking for authenticity, looking for adults they feel safe with so they can share real life with them, and they are not finding it” (95).
- Almost the whole book

Let go and Run beside by Seam Sweet

- Sweet, Sean. *Let Go and Run beside: Essentials of Intentional Preteen Ministry*. S.l.: Four Rivers Design, 2020.

- A guidebook for intentional pre-teen ministry. Written for ministry leaders and their teams, the book will provide a practical foundation as the reader grows in their ministry in which 9-12-year olds in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade take ownership of their faith in Jesus Christ. Is packed full with ways to create space for preteens to move toward a relationship with God that is theirs and essentials of preteen ministry.
- Topic resource: starting a pre-teen ministry and leadership
- "...create space for preteens to move toward: a faith in God that is THEIRS, a love of God's Word that is THEIRS, and a walk with Jesus Christ that is THEIRS" (13). "God's voice is the one I want these kids to hear, not mine" (36). "An Intentional Preteen Ministry is one in which kids feel safe as we challenge them to spread their wings and try new things" (44). "1 in 6 youth aged 6-17 years old experience a mental health disorder. They also report that 50% of all lifetime mental illness begin showing symptoms in people before the age of fourteen years" (49). "It's often not important that the choice they're making is the RIGHT choice; the important thing for them is that it's THEIR choice" (57).
- The first half of the book that I have already read (still in the process of reading)

What Can I Do?: Making a global difference right where you are by David Livermore

- Livermore, David A. *What Can I Do?: Making a Global Difference Right Where You Are*.

Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

- *What can I do?* Shows people who long to spread God's love for the world that their everyday lives continually cross paths with God's plan to bring healing and hope to the nations. Global mission is something we all can be part of in tangible ways. And while that might include going on a short-term mission trip or providing financial support, there are many more ongoing and holistic forms of engagement. This book helps readers see that the roles they already have—business leader, scientist, teacher, student, parent, or neighbor—can provide ways to engage in global mission. Mission is what we were created to do.
- Topic source: cross cultural mindsets and evangelism
- "One of the most important roles we play as we work with the kids and students in our lives is giving them an imagination to live the best possible life—a life defined by surrender to Jesus, being an image bearer of God, and joining God's work in the world" (115). "Education itself is also a redemptive gift" (117). "Jesus didn't answer every question he was asked; instead he asked probing questions and encouraged people to think wisely" (117).
- Chapter 8 "Kids' Heros" talks solely about how kids can be the ones to make a difference.

Unfinished by Ricard Stearns

- Stearns, Richard. *Unfinished*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2013.
- So, you believe in God, now what? Stearns takes the reader on a breathtaking journey to rediscover the critical mission of Christ in our world today and the richness of God's calling on our lives. The reader will find his/her deepest purpose only when he/she discover the unique role God created for him/her to play in His unfolding story.
- Theology of evangelism and discipleship
- "Jesus called us to be disciples and make disciples, not just be deciders" (58). "Living in the Kingdom of God means we must try to live as Jesus lived, love what Jesus loved, and obey what Jesus taught" (71). "The local church creates framework for followers of Jesus to come together around worship, discipleship, and mission" (72).
- Chapters: *The Mission of God* and *The Invitation of God*

Ministry students ages of conversion with implications for childhood evangelism and baptism practices

- Horton, Dennis. *Ministry students' ages of conversion with implications for childhood evangelism and baptism practices*. Christian Education Journal 7, no. 1: 30+. Gale Academic OneFile, 2010. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A225247401/AONE?u=nysl_se_nyac&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=2a0ecc2c.

- The author talks about the decrease of conversion to Christianity and baptism in North America. Several denominational leaders and Christian educators have expressed concerns about the possible negative effects related to these seemingly premature conversions. However, it is important to encourage childhood evangelism and baptism.
- Theology of evangelism and conversion
- "The survey data confirms at least three factors that correlate with young ages of conversion: gender, parental faith, and church involvement." "Even though a relatively high percentage of the survey group reported early conversion experiences, their pursuit of a vocation in ministry provides a strong indication that they are still committed in their faith and spiritual life." "Denial of participation in public [rituals](#) can have a discouraging effect on the very ones who are striving to

commit themselves to their faith, especially for those who are growing up within a supportive Christian environment.”

- Sections that supports my thesis

Understanding the Bible by John R. W. Stott

- Stott, John R. W. *Understanding the Bible*. Zondervan, 2011.
- John Stott examines the cultural, social, geographical, and historical background of the Bible, as he outlines the story with its central theme, and as he explains its message. The book answers foundational questions: Who wrote the Bible? What is its message? Why is it thought to be a "holy" book? How does one read and interpret it? Best of all, though, you'll broaden your vision of Jesus Christ, the focal point of Scripture. How? The reader will see Jesus as never before: both as a man of his times and culture, and as the culmination of a divine providence that prepared the way for the ministry of the Messiah.
- Bible commentary
- “If He intended future generations to benefit from it, He must have made provisions for it to be reliably reported, in order to make the good news available to all men in all times and places” (121). “Do not be like them,” he said. If they were to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, their righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees” (128)
- Possible chapters – The story of the Bible (The New Testament), The Authority of the Bible, The Interpretation of the Bible, and the Use of the Bible.