

OB 2004 Recommended Reading List

(This list is in random order and the information is provided by your OB leaders.)

Descriptions of each book are given below.

THE LIST

I.	Can Man Live without God	Zacharias
II.	The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership	Maxwell
III.	Connecting	Crabb
IV.	Through Gates of Splendor	Elliot
V.	Courageous Leadership	Hybels
VI.	Desiring God	Piper
VII.	Celebration of Discipline	Foster
VIII.	Teaching to Change Lives	Hendricks
IX.	The Five Love Languages	Chapman
X.	The Treasure Principle	Alcorn
XI.	Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire	Cymbala
XII.	Knowing God	Packer
XIII.	Hand Me Another Brick	Swindoll
XIV.	What's So Amazing About Grace?	Yancey
XV.	The Jesus I Never Knew	Yancey
XVI.	Principles of Spiritual Growth	Stanford
XVII.	Ministering Cross Culturally	Lingenfelter
XVIII.	Wild At Heart"	Eldridge
XIX.	The Journey Towards Relevance	Oberbrunner
XX.	Mystery of God's Will	Swindoll
XXI.	The Holy Bible	God

Devotionals:

My Utmost for His Highest (This was written a long time ago, and the English might be a little hard to follow sometimes.)

Streams in the Desert

A Godward Life, by John Piper

THE DESCRIPTIONS

I. **Can Man Live Without God?** by Ravi Zacharias

Ravi Zacharias is an apologist. In this book he makes a clear argument for God, answers many of today's agnostic questions. By doing this, he really instills a confidence in Christianity. If you are in any conversations with postmoderns asking a lot of questions, this would be a good book to have as a resource... he also wrote another one called Jesus Among Other Gods that compares Jesus with other leaders/gods of other religions. (Another book along these same lines, is Mere Christianity, by CS Lewis.)

II. **The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership**, by John Maxwell

John Maxwell is a former pastor who is now a well-known author and speaker. This book identifies "21" laws which are true to every kind of quality leader. Maxwell

sights many examples—secular as well as in the Christian world to communicate. It is interesting reading probably the best know of Maxwell's books. Other good books of Maxwell's include: The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork and The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player.

III. **Connecting**, by Larry Crabb

Larry Crabb is a psychologist/counselor, who actually taught at Grace College for a few years. In this book he shares that to really make an impact in anyone's life, there has to be a connection. He talks about different ways to connect, and tells a lot of stories about himself. Looking to really get involved with others in our church and disciple them now after OB, this book has great ideas, and is a great reminder of the biblical foundation of connecting.

IV. **Through Gates of Splendor**, by Elisabeth Elliot

This is a biography of Jim Elliot, Elisabeth's husband. He felt God's call on his life from a young age. God called him to reach out to the Auca Indians in Ecuador. They are a cannibal group, and no one had ever visited them and survived before. This book is very well written, as I would recommend anything written by Elisabeth Elliot (Passion and Purity, or Discipline the Glad Surrender). Jim's life is a great testimony to what God can do through someone who is living faithfully day by day and challenges the reader to do the same. His famous quote is, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

V. **Courageous Leadership**, by Bill Hybels

Bill Hybels is the Senior Pastor at Willow Creek in Chicago. He has a lot of experience under his belt and does a great job of passing that on. Not only does he give great advice and clues to leadership, but his writing style also really makes you really excited to start doing some of these things.

VI. **Desiring God**, by John Piper

John Piper is the Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN. John says that being satisfied in God, and Him being glorified go hand in hand. His famous quote is, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." As we seek our satisfaction in God, (who He is, not what He gives) then He will be most glorified. He takes a chapter at a time and explains how that should look in different areas... Bible, Missions, Money, Prayer... basically every aspect of the Christian life. Other good books from Piper include: "A Godward Life Book II", "A Hunger for God", which discusses fasting and prayer, and "Pleasures of God" which discusses God's delight in being God. "Let the Nations Be Glad" is his main missions book.

VII. Celebration of Discipline, by Richard Foster

This book explains the different disciplines of Christianity: meditation, prayer, Bible reading, fasting, and a few others. It opens your eyes to help see how to balance your time with God, and suggests some things that maybe had never come to mind before. He also wrote a really good book focusing only on prayer... called Prayer, by Richard Foster.

VIII. Teaching to Change Lives, by Howard Hendricks

A wonderful communicator from Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Hendricks shares 7 laws that help people passionately communicate God's Word. Bruce Wilkinson used the 7 Laws of the Teacher (which should be another name for this book) and developed the 7 Laws of the Learner, which has been widely used. This classic is easy to read, applicable, and will motivate you to be passionate about presenting God's Word.

IX. The Five Love Languages, by Gary Chapman

Dr. Gary Chapman, a psychologist, shares five basic ways in which people prefer to give, as well as receive love: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service and Physical Touch. Ever see people who are both really trying to show love to the other person, but neither one of them gets it and they are frustrated. Then they may need to understand that the other person is communicating in their natural language. This is enjoyable, easy reading and will help you better connect with people.

X. The Treasure Principle, by Randy Alcorn

This short, powerful book centers on the joy of financial giving to God and His work. In a day and age where most Christians are robbing God and missing out on the pleasure of financially supporting what He wants, Alcorn shares on six treasure principles:

God owns everything, I am just His manager.

My heart always goes where I put God's money.

Heaven, not earth, is my home.

I should live not for the dot but for the line

Giving is the only antidote for materialism.

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of living.

XI. Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, by Jim Cymbala

Pastor Cymbala leads a congregation in the toughest part of New York. His wife directs the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir from this church. While Pastor Cymbala has not be "trained" as a pastor in seminary, this book shares story after story of how God uses ordinary, spirit-controlled Christians to make incredible differences in the lives of others who need to know God. He accomplishes this through the power of the Holy Spirit-- It's not about us, it is about Him.

XII. Knowing God, by J.I. Packer

A classic. Enough said. Read it. You will be glad you did!

XIII. Hand Me Another Brick, by Charles Swindoll

Swindoll is President of Dallas Theological Seminary as well as a pastor. He is a well-known author and speaker who uses great stories to communicate. This book is on leadership and studies the example of Nehemiah the prophet.

XIV. What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey

Yancey identifies that one of the biggest reasons why people today are unattracted to the church is because of the lack of grace. "Why would I want to go to church, I already feel bad enough as it is" is the mentality of many non-believers and believers today. Yancey does a great job of covering the essentials of Christianity by showing grace, forgiveness, and showing love.

XV. The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey

The Jesus I Never Knew looks deep into the culture that Jesus faced and brings light to the reasons why Jesus often responded the way He did. Because of our understanding and our culture, some of the stuff Christ says baffles us, but Yancey digs into the mindset of Jesus' time to find the answers.

XVI. Principles of Spiritual Growth by Miles J. Stanford

This is a short book of about 100 pages. It is full of so much spiritual truth that in order to process what is written you can only read a couple pages at a time. Then you have to put the book down and see how it is lived out in your life. The book is split up into 18 small chapters and each one covers a principle of spiritual growth. The chapters are as following: faith, time, acceptance, purpose, preparation, complete in Christ, appropriation, identification, consecration, self, self-denial, the cross, discipleship, the process of discipleship, rest, help, cultivation, and continuance. What is also great about this book is that the author uses tons of quotes from great examples of faith like Lewis Sperry Chafer and Andrew Murray. This book is a life long read.

XVII. Ministering Cross Culturally by Sherwood Lingenfelter

This is a must read, and a great book to start with for anyone wanting to dive into cross-cultural ministry. And lets face it folks: the world is at your doorstep. All you need to do is go to school each day to be involved in cross-cultural ministry. Whether you go halfway around the world, or just to your public school or local Chinese restaurant, this is an incredibly insightful and practical book for cross-cultural ministry. Try to get ahold of the 2nd edition if possible.

XVIII. Wild At Heart by John Eldridge

Eldridge takes a deep look at the true heart of a man. He digs deep into looking at different issues that really make up who we are as men the way God has designed it from the beginning. It is a challenging, inspiring, and very insightful book to read that will help unlock who we really are as men. This book is not for weak but for the wild!!

XIX. The Journey Towards Relevance by Kary Oberbrunner

Kary, a youth pastor at Powell GBC (and a former OB leader☺), writes a powerful but very conceptually simple book about being relevant in the world today. He goes back to the foundation of the faith and brings much insight into what it means to not separate from the world, not conform to the world, BUT transform your world. A must read for those who desire to be impactful Christians today!

XX. Mystery of God's Will by Swindoll

It is an incredible book about following God's guidance but also about what his will looks like and how to determine whether something is the will of God or not and the different avenues of will, be that sin nature, Gods perfect will, good will, pleasing will, over all will..

XXI. The Holy Bible by God

Don't forget the best selling book of all time! This one should be at the top of your list...