

The Bible Book by Book

A Journey Through Its People, Places and Themes

by Chris Rogers

published by Monarch imprint of Lion Hudson

in Flexiback (978-0-857-21016-6)

Apr 2011

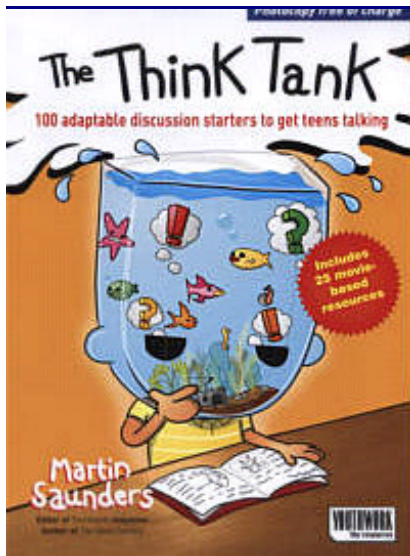
at £14.99

A collaboration work from the Elevation/Youthwork/Monarch teams make this a brilliant young peoples guide to the content of the Bible. Following the usual high level production style of Lion Bible Guides, i.e. shiny glossy paper, great photographs and maps etc, it is perked up by a lovely to look at script on the headers and subsections. -

Bullet pointed, short, pithy and easy to read it makes for an excellent grounder in the bible. Definitely one I would recommend for the resource shelves of any secondary level RE teacher or youth leader, and definitely one to give to teens who are journeying through the Bible, whether it be for school, for church or better yet for themselves. -

Great all round resource material to my mind.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



The Think Tank

100 Adaptable Discussion Starters to get Teens Talking

by Martin Saunders

published by Monarch imprint of Lion Hudson

in Paperback (978-1-854-24964-7)

Aug 2010

at £12.99

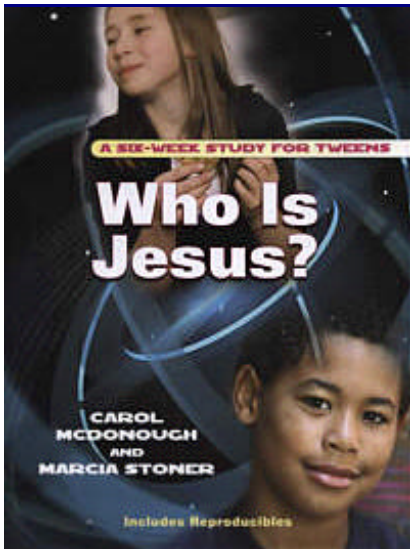
Photocopy free of charge. Includes 25 movie-based resources. -

Given this book of discussion starters is a Youthwork Magazine resource it was always going to be pretty good, after all it's got real weighty credentials because it's from Martin Saunders the editor of Youthwork, add in that it's got 100 excellent discussion starters and it's photocopyable and it's a sure fire winner. -

I have to admit it is one of the best discussion starter/group resources I have seen in a while, each starter is really good sound biblically based material that nevertheless deals with a topical real life issue in a clear and open way and allows for real discussion to happen. It does not avoid the weighty subjects of homosexuality, gender, racism, drugs, domestic violence etc and what is better yet is that they are broached in such a way as to be open ended allowing for real discussion without offering initially a particular bias - something that can occasionally be missing in Christian youth resources, but here these are still good biblical discussions. -

add in the addition of real on topic material like cyber-bullying, connectivity and networking. fashion, euthanasia etc and then the movie based discussions which use things like the Simpsons film, stardust etc and you really do have an all round winner that works with any youth group and also with any small group too!

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Who is Jesus?

A Six-week Study For Tweens

by Carol McDonough and Marcia Stoner

published by Abingdon Press from Alban Books

in A4 Paperback (978-0-687-65800-8)

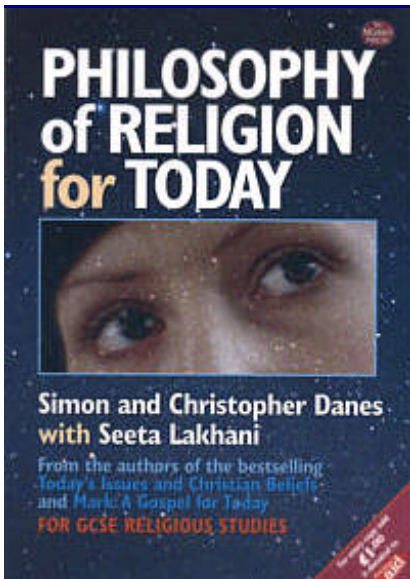
Jul 2010

at £10.99

Another of the American tween series resources that means these are aimed at the 10 - 13 age range. This one is a good introduction and study of the life of Jesus from his birth to his resurrection and what that really means in terms of how it affects our faith rather than just being about the story. -

It has in it strong reproducible material and handouts, some good short drama skits and a really well thought out and timed leaders guide for each of the six sessions. On the whole with this book you get everything you need - or a list of what you need to supply for the activities - to do a good 6 week study of Jesus that could actually be a good precursor to confirmation or a baptism/commitment study.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Philosophy of Religion for Today

For GCSE Religious Studies

by Simon and Christopher Danes with Seeta Lakhani

published by St Mark's Press

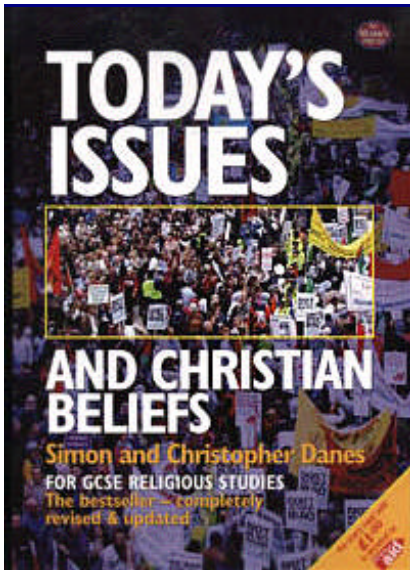
in A4 Paperback (978-1-907-06205-6)

2009

at £14.75

- Philosophy of Religion for Today - is the third in a trilogy of textbooks by Simon and Christopher Danes, designed to be used as a course textbook or revision guide by students taking GCSE RE. As with the two previous books, the earlier edition has been completely revised and updated to bring it into line with the requirements of the new specifications which came into force in 2009. The Danes brothers both read Theology at Brasenose College, Oxford and Seeta Lakhani, who joins them in this text, has a degree in Anthropology and is an expert on Hinduism, which she teaches at the Hindu Academy in London. The layout of the book uses attractive graphic presentations; encourages students to think for themselves and to "own" their learning; and gives a deep coverage to all the issues relevant to the GCSE specifications.

Notes by [Sue Cooper](#)



Today's Issues and Christian Beliefs

For GCSE Religious Studies

by Simon and Christopher Danes

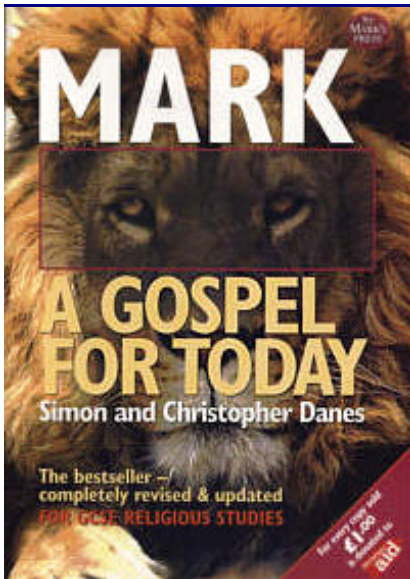
published by St Mark's Press

in A4 Paperback (978-1-907-06202-5) 2009

at £14.75

This textbook was originally published by Lion but has been completely revised in this edition to meet the requirements of the new 2009 GCSE specifications. Simon and Christopher Danes each has a wealth of relevant experience through teaching RE in both Church and non-denominational schools and this has given them considerable insight into best practice in modern education. The textbook contains first hand accounts of relevant experiences from people who have been actively involved in the issues covered; the layout of the pages is clear and the type faces used provide a variety of sizes and fonts, making the pages attractive. The information on issues such as poverty, agnosticism, sexism and fertility is presented rationally and with balance. I would recommend this text to teachers of RE for classroom use but it could also be used by individual students as a revision guide.

Notes by Sue Cooper



Mark: A Gospel For Today

For GCSE Religious Studies

by Simon and Christopher Danes

published by St Mark's Press

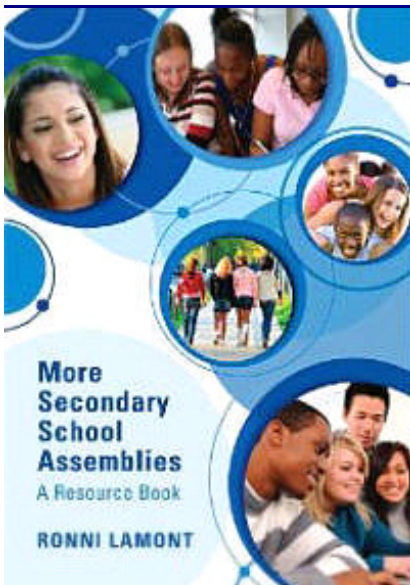
in A4 Paperback (978-1-907-06200-1)

09/09/2009

at £14.75

Simon and Christopher Danes, both graduates in Theology from Brasenose College, Oxford, and both experienced teachers of RE in Church and non-denominational schools, have revised their book, Mark: a Gospel for Today, to bring it into line with the new GCSE specifications which came into force in 2009. Quite simply, this textbook contains all the guidance a teacher or student studying St Mark's Gospel needs for examination success at GCSE. Information is clearly presented, the content and contexts are made clearly available to all abilities and the attention of the readers is engaged without there being any "dumbing down" of the content and import; for example, such knotty problems as transubstantiation are presented with historical and religious accuracy and the student is allowed to think the problem through and come to their own conclusion. A truly useful tool whether to be used as a class textbook or for individual revision. - -
A useful aid to study is the CD of St Mark's Gospel from St Mark's Press. 'Peter Wickham's compelling reading captures the power and the drama of Mark's story.' - These publisher's words are willingly endorsed by the TGBS Editor

Notes by Sue Cooper



More Secondary School Assemblies

by Ronni Lamont

published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)

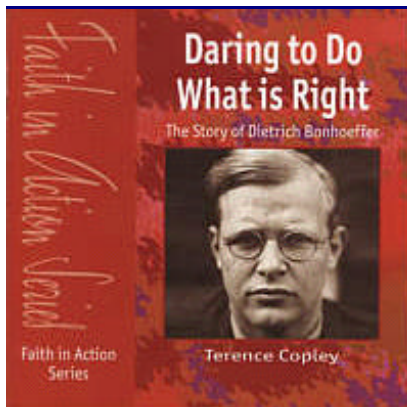
in Paperback (978-0-281-06169-3)

Jul 2009

at £10.99

This collection of assemblies suitable for secondary schools is put out in conjunction with the Assemblies Website www.assemblies.org.uk which is compiled by the same editor. The assemblies are collected under three headings: Christian Festivals, Throughout the Year and World Faiths: they are headed as being suitable for the whole of a secondary school or for Key Stage 3 or Key Stages 3 and 4 for example. Whilst I find some of the assembly plans indicated as being "whole school" more suited to being for the younger secondary years, there is no doubt that judiciously used, this book would be an huge help to all those class teachers and heads of year who have to give assemblies on a regular basis. I have made this book available to all my colleagues in the staffroom!

Notes by Sue Cooper



Daring To Do What is Right

The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

by Terence Copley

published by RMEP imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd

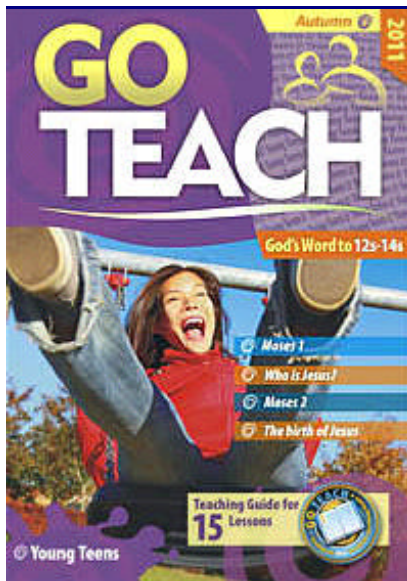
in Stapled Paperback(978-1-851-75354-3)

30/09/2008

at £5.68

On the whole this little booklet is a very good one which gives you short, simply written information about the German Lutheran priest called Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was killed by the Nazis shortly before the end of World War II because of his resistance against Hitler and his regime. The easy to read text is interrupted on every page by "What do you think" parts, that ask questions about the reader's opinion, so it encourages the reader to think about the reasons for the behaviour of the characters. There are some minor mistakes of facts in the booklet and in some parts it's glorifying Bonhoeffer too much. As a German Lutheran ordained priest and as someone who taught RE in different schools I approve this book and find it very useful.

Notes by Steffi Reuther



Go Teach – God's Word to 12s-14s – Autumn 2011 - Young Teens

Compiled by the 'Go Teach' team

published by Go Teach Publications Ltd

in Paperback (977-0-950-72513-1)

Apr 2010

at £6.90

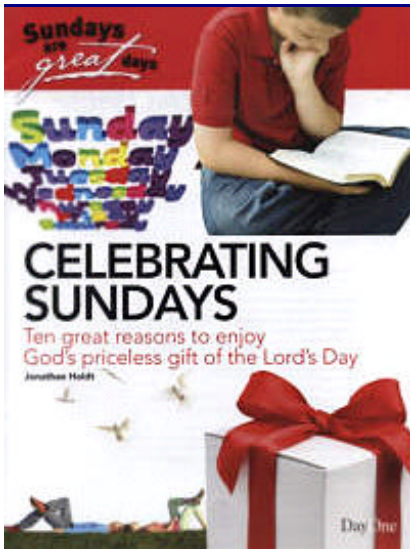
Also Come Learn, work book £2.20 and Visual Aids with CD£5.75 -

Go Teach is a four year programme produced in each of three editions, Spring, Summer and Winter. Each issue has a Teachers Guide, Visual Aids and Activity sheets. A Sample booklet is available from the Publishers. -

This series of workbooks, teachers' resources and visual aid resources (including excellent CDs) is carefully and attractively produced. The 'packaging' is such that it makes you want to open it ~ that's a good start! It also substantially delivers what it promises. The Programme and Catalogue leaflet clearly states: "Go Teach exists to produce Bible teaching materials to help churches, schools and individuals teach God's word to children and young people." This approach to Biblical knowledge will suit a conservative evangelical approach. Others will find it worth buying these materials as high-quality resources to use within a wider framework."

- See also material for other ages.

Notes by Ian Terry



Celebrating Sundays

Ten Great Reasons to Enjoy God's Priceless Gift of the Lord's Day

by Jonathan Holdt

published by Day One Publications

in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-1-846-25169-6)

Summer 2009

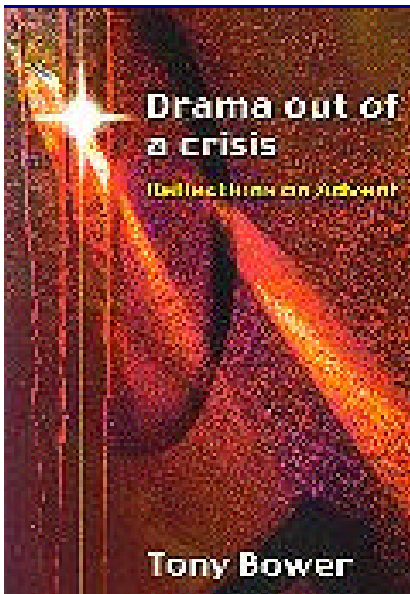
at £2.00

Jonathan Holdt takes a traditional approach to the issue of keeping Sunday Special. He highlights the danger of Sunday becoming a day like any other day. He considers the rhythm of the week, which has been established by God. On the seventh day he rested. Jonathan gives 10 reasons why the Lords Day should be kept special. -

The 10 reasons highlight the need for man to follow God s plan and to rest on the seventh day. There is a religious and moral requirement to set aside one day a week for physical rest, worshiping and honouring God. In an era where Christian values seem to be steadily eroding this can become an act of witness to non-Christians, our friends, our family and our children: also as an encouragement to other Christians. -

Jonathan concludes by looking at the difference in the way Christians should look at Sunday. Not by asking in a legalistic way, 'What can't I do on Sunday?' But 'What can I do on Sunday?' This booklet is an interesting companion to Dan Walkers - Sport on Sunday - .

Notes by Bob Stoneham



Drama Out of a Crisis

Contemporary reflections on Advent

by Tony Bower

published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd

in Paperback (1-840-03946-9)

Jul 2002

at £8.99

Every now and then, an unpretentious, straight forward practical resource comes along. This book offers strikingly simply stories, monologues, sketches and poems which can be used during advent services. What's more, with a little creativity on the user's part (i.e. involving different ages to read, act or even props & music) then advent starts to take on a fresh and clear feel. It's not astounding stuff here, but it's useable straight away and with advent normally a hectic time of the year the preparation time can be short. There are 15 sets of reflections and if you're looking to 'freshen-up' a most familiar story then this is for you.

Notes by Andrew Elliott



Simon Peter: Challenging Times

Pocket Bible People

by Helen Clark

published by Day One Publications

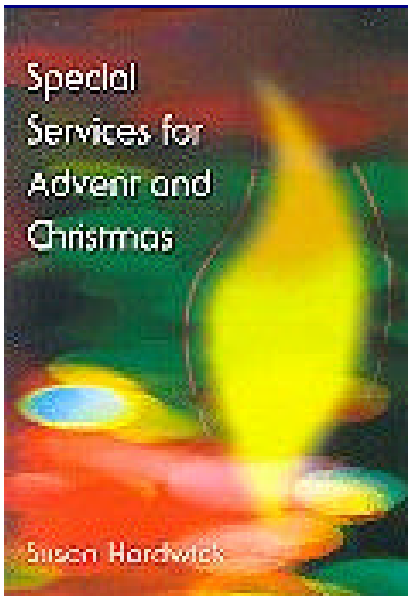
in Pocket Book (978-1-846-25158-0)

Summer 2009

at £5.00

This book would be really useful in a Youth Group setting. It gives young people a good grounding in the character of Simon Peter both the good and the bad. This shows our young people God's love and that He is willing to forgive us all. The book is also excellent at explaining simply the Trinity and the ascension. I feel young people would benefit greatly from this book and its companion book, - Simon Peter: The Training Years - . There are also some anecdotal stories which the youngsters might find helpful

Notes by [Barbara Stoneham](#)



Special Services for Advent and Christmas

by Susan Hardwick

published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd

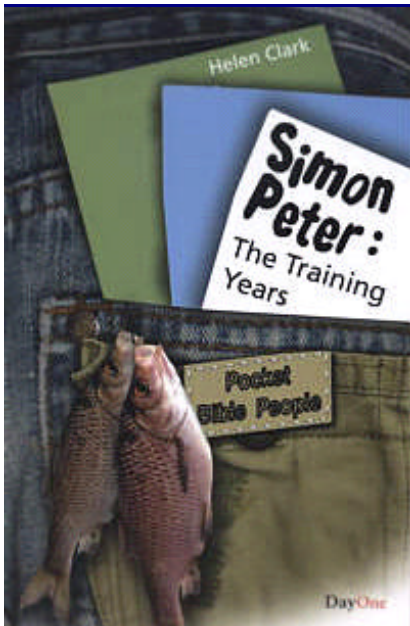
in Paperback (1-840-03961-2)

Jul 2002

at £9.99

At such a special time of the year, it is important to find a refreshing way to present Advent and Christmas to a congregation. Whilst this book doesn't offer anything surprising, it does offer structured outlines for services for 'all age', teenagers, children, and even a Christingle service. A fair amount of preparation is needed by anyone attempting to use these resources, but I would recommend the effort. So often at this time of the year services are too familiar and result in being uninspiring and sometimes, dare I say it, dull! But here is a resource which can help offer different ways at 'getting the message' out – without compromising the subtext of Advent and Christmas.

Notes by [Andrew Elliott](#)



Simon Peter: The Training Years

Pocket Bible People

by Helen Clark

published by Day One Publications

in Pocket Book (978-1-846-25157-3)

Summer 2009

at £5.00

This book is aimed at young teenagers. It covers Simon Peter's early stages as a disciple of Jesus: his qualities both good and bad, his impulsiveness and his loyalty. It has sections the young people can study and answer questions and some anecdotal stories from the writers to explain some of the points of the book. It would be a useful guide for a study with a young Christian or young people with a growing interest in Christianity.

Notes by [Barbara Stoneham](#)



Sport & Sundays

Christian BBC Presenter Dan Walker Tells His Story

by Jonathan Holt

published by Day One Publications

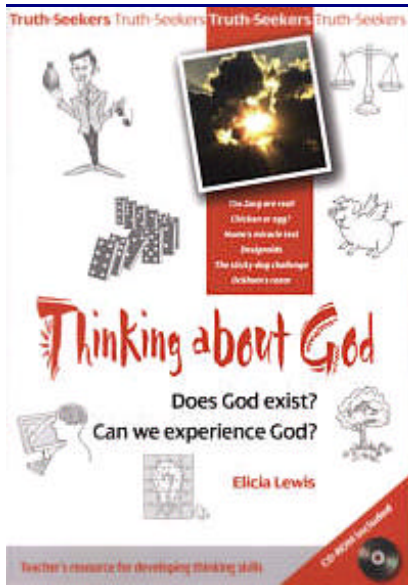
in Stapled A4 Pbk. (978-1-846-25172-6)

Summer 2009

at £2.00

As a Christian it is very easy to appear to be almost legalistic over the issue of keeping Sunday special. In this refreshing approach to the issue Dan Walker starts by telling his own story and also gives clear biblical reasons why we should not work or play sport on a Sunday. At University Dan already a Christian refused to play on a Sunday and this gave him a great opportunity to debate the reasons with his team mates and to witness to them. This encouraged him to read and re-read the scriptures on this issue. Dan gives a good overview and numerous biblical references. Dan also looks at the personal cost to him. As a sports commentator Dan after a promising start was unable to get a job as he would not work on a Sunday. He quotes one interviewer who said on the issue of not working on a Sunday, 'you will not get anywhere with an attitude like that'. - But Dan placed his trust in the Lord and is now working for the BBC on radio and T.V. He still holds true to his faith and does not work on a Sunday.

Notes by [Bob Stoneham](#)



Thinking About God: Does God Exist? Can We Experience God? with CD-Rom

Truth-Seekers series

by Elicia Lewis

published by RMEP imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd

in A4 Paperback (978-1-851-75362-8)

Jan 2009

at £39.93

- Thinking About God - is a title in the Truth-Seekers series published by RMEP and intended for secondary school use at Key Stage 3. The whole series is intended as a teacher's resource for developing thinking skills on issues of truth in religion and philosophy. This book, as do the other two, offers clear notes on teaching and learning activities; gives background information on the religious and philosophical ideas encountered; presents assessment examples; gives photocopy resources at A5 size and provides a CD-Rom containing all the activity sheets for printing out at A4 size. The activities are differentiated meaning that the material can be used at varying levels and stages. Each of the schemes of work lays out the teaching and learning objectives and gives detailed lesson plans. Any teacher of RE would be very happy to have this book (and its sister texts) in their department. - -

Other titles in the Truth-Seekers series are - Thinking About God's Nature - and - Thinking about Truth - , both available
Spring 2009. - Editor -

Notes by Sue Cooper

A picture pack to help individuals
or groups deal positively with loss and grief.
Sculptures by Jean Parker
Facilitator's notes by Sue Cooper
In association with World's End

Bald Statements

Exploring loss, grief and change



Bald Statements

Exploring Loss, Grief and Change

by Peter Fishpool

published by Christian Education

in Folder

(978-1-905-89323-2)

2008

at £24.80

This teaching and learning pack explores a series of eight sculptures made by Jean Parker which deal with personal loss and the grief process. The material provides an insight into why life is not always fair or easy and offers a pathway to some level of acceptance and reconciliation. In the accompanying CD-Rom there is all the materials a facilitator or teacher might require including a 25 minute video of Jean who clearly sets the art works in the context of her personal experience; a digital sequence of the eight sculptures; documents presenting quotations from Jean about each sculpture and a variety of stories from different religious traditions and ethical views. There is also a pack of eight large format picture cards, post card sized photos of each sculpture and a facilitator or teacher's book. - This exceptionally well presented pack would be of great use to anyone who is involved with grief or bereavement counselling, or who teaches RE, PSHE or Creative Arts at secondary school level.

Notes by Sue Cooper



Ruth: More Than a Love Story

by Helen Clark
published by Day One Publications
in Paperback (978-1-846-25078-1) Summer 2008
at £5.00

The funky cover is an indicator that this is a tool guide for those in charge of guiding young people towards Jesus – youth workers, pastors, priests, religious teachers etc. Each section explores Ruth's adventures in depth. There is a 'think tank' at the end of each chapter, with pertinent questions for discussion. At the book's close is a selection of crossword puzzles, crosswords and cartoons to be coloured in. -

The pull of this guide's charming illustrations draws in those like me who are not involved in a pastoral/teaching profession. Every reader will gain personal tidbits of information they didn't know about Ruth. I didn't know that when Ruth's first husband had passed away, she took the advice of her matchmaking mother (who the author describes as 'wise' rather than overbearing!) when she ensnared the love of her future husband. The way she went about making herself available is almost unheard of in Biblical times and labelled as forward even by today's standards. -

Unspoken is that the guidebook will only be used at its best when used in conjunction with reading the book of Ruth itself.

Notes by [Alice Collins](#)



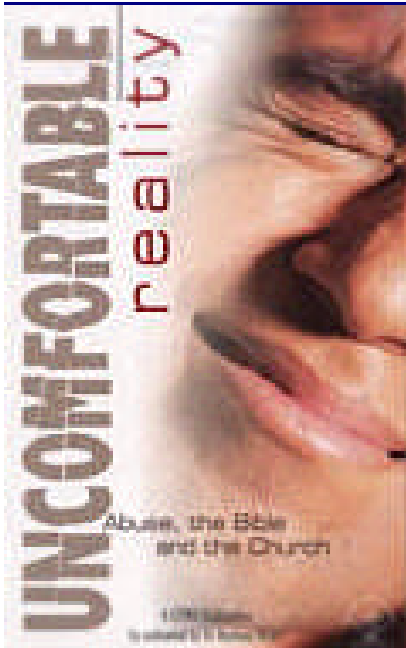
Jesus, the Last Week

15 assemblies for secondary schools

by Mike Anderson
published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd
in Paperback (1-840-03829-2) 2001
at £7.99

Ready-to-use assemblies based on a series of posters. The idea is to build up the notion of a journey through Jesus' last week by adding a poster to the wall each day. Each assembly looks at how Jesus acted or how he was treated by others, relating the theme to our own lives, and encouraging pupils to think about the way they treat others. With each poster is a 'thought for the day' which could be read either by teachers or pupils, and a daily prayer.

Notes by [Andrew Elliott](#)



Uncomfortable Reality

Abuse, the Bible and the Church

by Co-ordinated by Dr Marlene Hickin

published by CCPAS (Churches Child Protection Advisory Service)

in Paperback (978-0-953-43555-5) 2004

at £6.99

What do you do when you hear something unpleasant or shocking about somebody you know? -

This book addresses that difficult question and others. Written by a group of people with first-hand experience of the problems child abuse can create for the abused, their families and the churches to which abused and abuser may belong. This is an excellent introduction to this subject. Examples of Case Studies help the reader to understand the various issues and follow the text more closely. Chapters such as 'Stumbling Blocks in Facing Reality' and 'Biblical, Theological and Systemic Aspects' enable a thorough discussion of the basic problems while fully comprehending the awkwardness of anyone thrust into a situation of needing to act. This is what CCPAS exists for – to help, support and advise on best practice. - Only available through CCPAS, see Links page for details

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)