

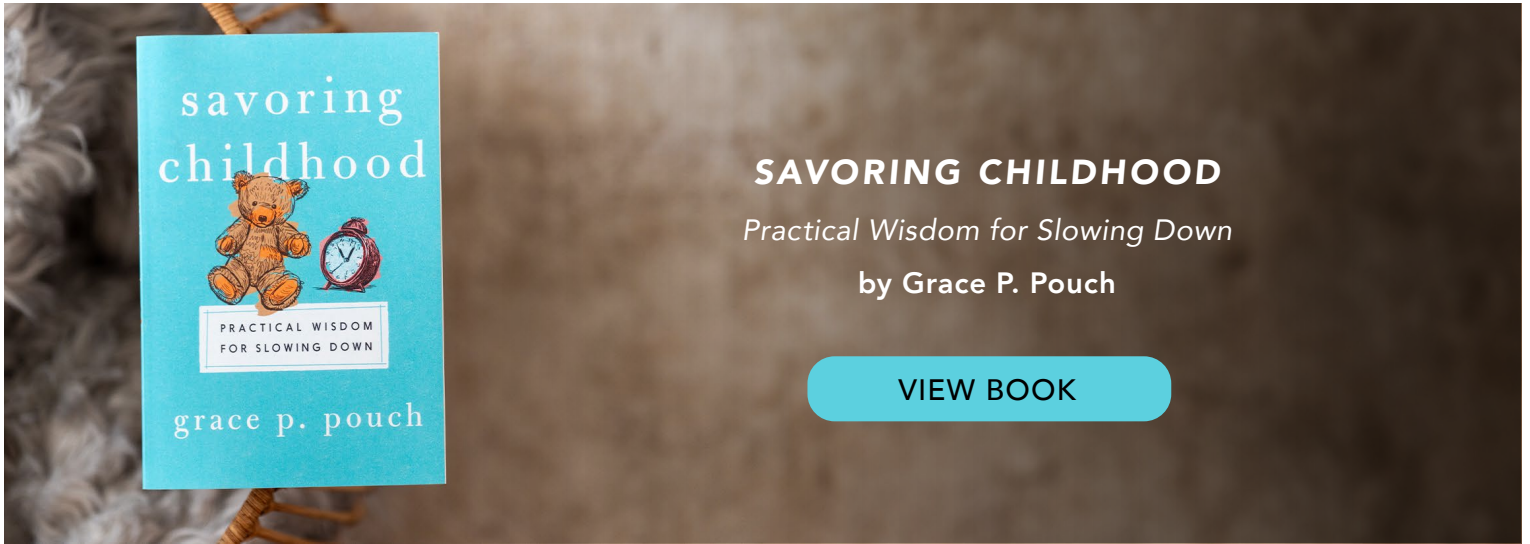
SUMMER READING 2026

PRESS KIT



The IVP publicity team has put together the following list of recent books for the carefree days of summer. We hope these titles spark ideas for you to inspire your audience to slow down, rest, create something new, take a walk, relish in a hobby, and ultimately, rediscover delight.

Let us know if you would like to explore an excerpt, article, or interview around any of these topics.



SLOW DOWN

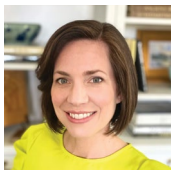
Drawn from an average family's experiments with resisting the rush of life and spiritual formation wisdom from voices like Dallas Willard and Richard Foster, Grace Pouch presents practical steps to slow things down so that children can grow deep relational roots, inward character, and a flourishing friendship with God.

In *Savoring Childhood*, learn how to push back against the demands of our superficial, automatic, and always-on culture as you walk through five essential ways of slowing:

- Slow gratification
- Slow schedules
- Slow media
- Slow consuming
- Slow growing up

“What Grace Pouch offers to readers in this marvelous book is not only permission to give our children the gift of slowness but also rich insight and practical guidance to do it well. This is the book you didn’t know you needed but are desperately glad you’ve found. Read it. Savor it. Ingest it. And let it help you get off the mad runaway train of soul-crushing busyness that marks our modern lives.”

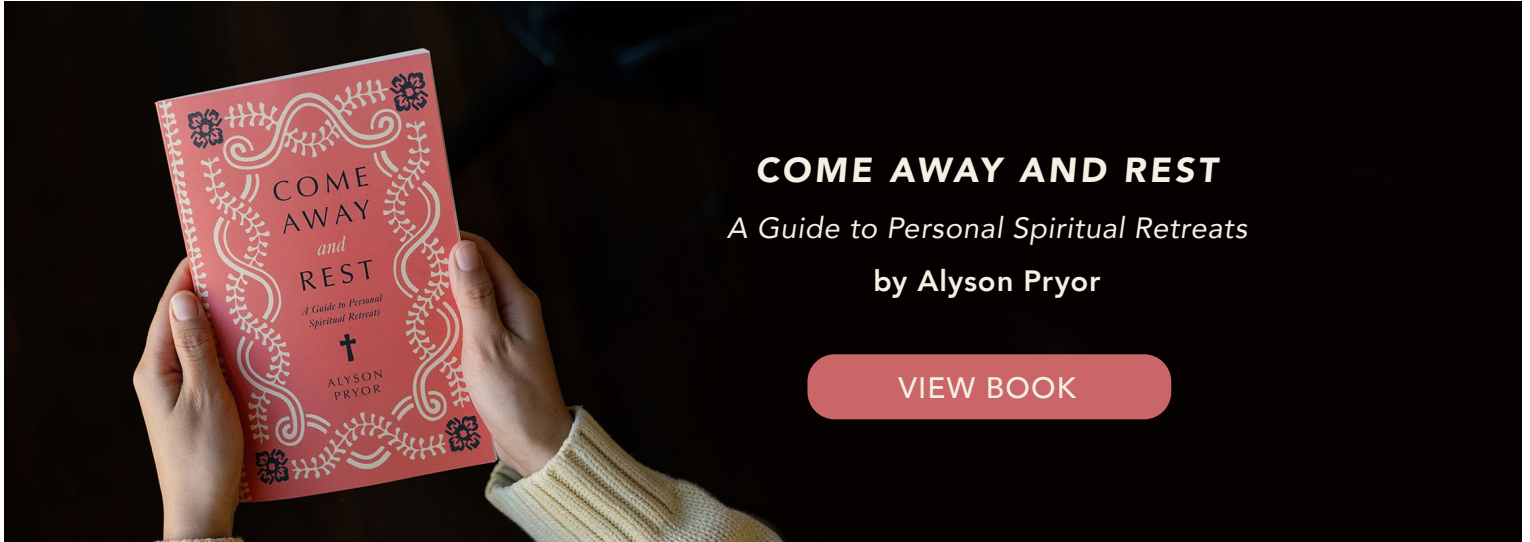
—DAVID AND PHAEDRA TAYLOR, author and artist of *Prayers for the Pilgrimage*



GRACE P. POUCH is content manager for Renovaré, where she curates and produces resources for spiritual renewal. She previously served as a seminary professor and Christian education specialist for elementary school children. Grace and her husband, William, live with their two children, Charlotte and Henry, in Greenville, South Carolina.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



REST

If you need discernment, are grieving, are going through a time of transition, or are simply weary, *Come Away and Rest* helps you find the sacred rhythm of spiritual retreat. Alyson Pryor gently guides you on a healing, life-giving path of spiritual renewal through personal retreats of silence, solitude, and intentional rest.

In *Come Away and Rest*, you will find:

- Guidance for how to prepare for a personal spiritual retreat
- Step-by-step instructions for crafting six personal retreats, ranging between six hours to several days
- Wisdom for re-entering life after a retreat

“Alyson Pryor nails a reality that transcends the physical and invades our spiritual, emotional, relational, and other aspects of life. We are hyper-driven and desperate for peace. In these pages Alyson not only shows us the importance of times of solitude, silence, and rest; she shows us just how to go about it in practical and specific ways.”

—ED STETZER, dean of the Talbot School of Theology



ALYSON PRYOR is a trained marriage and family therapist and a certified spiritual director. She holds degrees in psychology from both the University of Southern California and Fuller Theological Seminary, as well as an MA in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care from Talbot Seminary. She currently serves as a staff spiritual director and adjunct faculty member at Biola University. Alyson and her family live in Southern California.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





IN THE BEGINNING WE CREATE
Reflections on Collaboration, Creativity, and Rest
by Nathan L. Nicholson

[VIEW BOOK](#)

CREATE SOMETHING NEW

Award-winning graphic designer and artist Nathan L. Nicholson reflects on God’s timeless patterns of creation, offering practical insights for how and what you create. He invites you to explore God’s creative process and discover how you can emulate his creativity in the creative gifts he has given you. Learn how you can honor God with every word, stroke, or melody you create with *In the Beginning We Create*.

This book includes:

- 21 inspiring reflections that draw from the Genesis creation narrative and other Scripture passages
- 40+ original artworks by the author thoughtfully included throughout the book
- Insights for spiritual growth as you learn how the process of creating connects you with God and has purpose and meaning

“This book is a breath of creative restoration. It reminds us that art is not just what we make, but how we worship. Every page feels like sitting with a mentor who helps you see your creativity as divine partnership—a sacred echo of the God who first created everything from nothing. This book fans the flame of purpose and reminds you that your art is holy. In a world where creative burnout and self-doubt often silence our gifts, this book feels like a revival for the artistic soul.”

—**RONISHA ARLENE**, faith and floral storyteller



NATHAN L. NICHOLSON is an artist, award-winning graphic designer, consultant, and creative director based in Chicago. He is an ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ. In 2024, he received the 40 Under 40 COGIC Achievers Award. Nathan is also the host of the *Culture Critic* podcast and the founder of NUMA Art, LLC, an independent creative services and communications agency. He is married to Praniece, and they have two children.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





SPIRITUAL WAYFINDING

33 Walking Meditations for Navigating Life with Embodied Wisdom

by Deborah Gregory

[VIEW BOOK](#)

TAKE A WALK

Spiritual director Deborah Gregory invites you on a pilgrimage through thirty-three unique walking meditations exploring the core questions *Where am I?* and *Where am I going?*

Walking practices in *Spiritual Wayfinding* include:

- Walking a labyrinth
- Night walking
- Collecting nature items to create outdoor art
- Using tree-growth patterns to navigate
- Walking barefoot
- And many more!

“Deborah Gregory writes with the kind of contemplative attention and practical wisdom that sits at the heart of the Ignatian tradition. She helps readers listen for God in the real, messy movements of their own lives, and she does so with a light, personal touch.”

—**BRENDAN MCMANUS**, spiritual director and author of *Redemption Road* and *Finding God in the Mess*

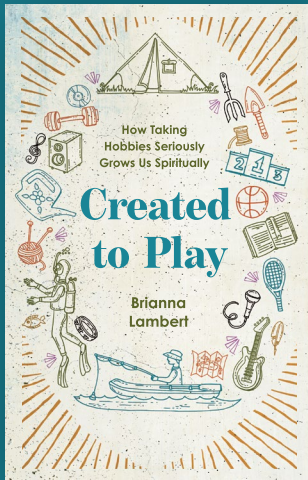


DEBORAH GREGORY is a spiritual director with a specialization in Ignatian spirituality, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, and the host of *The Betwixt Podcast*. Her holistic approach to Christian formation bridges ancient wisdom and modern neuroscience. Drawing from her experience in a neurodiverse family, she champions inclusive spirituality and supports those navigating a neurotypical world. Deborah enjoys leading retreats, training spiritual directors, and exploring nature in Central Florida, where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





CREATED TO PLAY

How Taking Hobbies Seriously Grows Us Spiritually

by Brianna Lambert

[VIEW BOOK](#)

CONNECT WITH GOD IN YOUR HOBBIES

Brianna Lambert reveals the ways God blesses your hobbies and uses them to form and pull you into worship. Lambert explores ten different titles you may inhabit in your play: Beholder, Curator, Maker, Herald, Restorer, Connector, Nourisher, Mover, Caretaker, and Historian.

With *Created to Play*, you will:

- Explore how hobbies shape your spiritual formation, offering a fresh perspective on the theology of hobbies and leisure.
- Identify yourself among ten unique roles we take on through hobbies, uncovering how play shapes your identity in Christ.
- Learn to embrace rest and joy through hobbies, reenvisioning leisure as life-giving rather than wasteful.
- Challenge your guilt around play by learning how hobbies can form you spiritually, draw you into worship, and help you reflect God's character.

“Though I have read thousands of books through the years, and though many of them have dealt with my various hobbies, I don’t think I’ve ever read a book on hobbies in general, much less a book that offers a biblical perspective on them. I’m glad that I finally have! Brianna Lambert’s book is as clarifying as it is helpful as she shows that hobbies are not merely something we do to rest up from our true work but are an entirely different means through which we can bless others and bring glory to God. Read it to better understand the beauty of hobbies and read it to do them explicitly to the glory of God.”

—TIM CHALLIES, author of *Seasons of Sorrow*

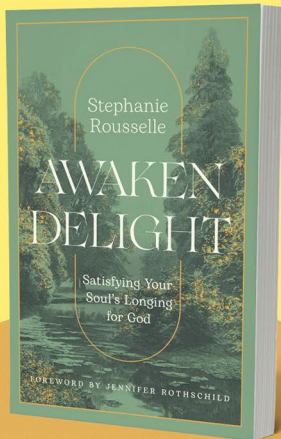


BRIANNA LAMBERT is a writer and author from a rural community outside Indianapolis. Her articles and essays have appeared in *Christianity Today*, *The Gospel Coalition*, *Common Good*, *Mere Orthodoxy*, and elsewhere. Brianna also serves on staff at Gospel-Centered Discipleship and writes for the women’s ministry at her local church. You might find her backpacking, camping, waterskiing, or starting a brand-new hobby with her husband and three children.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





AWAKEN DELIGHT

Satisfying Your Soul's Longing for God
by Stephanie Roussele

[VIEW BOOK](#)

REDISCOVER DELIGHT

Stephanie Roussele connects scriptural and theological truth to your everyday life so you can experience what delighting in God really means. It's not about checking boxes on a spiritual to-do list or mustering a constant state of positive feelings. Rather, delight is about satisfying your soul's deepest longing through a vibrant relationship with the living God.

In *Awaken Delight*, Stephanie Roussele

- shows how delighting in God is crucial for spiritual growth,
- provides spiritual habits that help you live in delight, and
- includes discussion questions and Bible engagement great for book clubs or small groups.

"If you aren't yet acquainted with the writings of Stephanie Roussele, prepare yourself for a verbal feast. In *Awaken Delight*, this extraordinary wordsmith will introduce you to spiritual delights that will transform your life. With impeccable research, meticulous study, and exquisite wording, she will make you hungry to experience biblical truth in a more personal way than ever before. You can read this book on your own, or better yet, invite a group of friends to study it together, chapter-by-chapter. You'll be glad you did."

—**CAROL KENT**, executive director of Speak Up Ministries, speaker, and author of *When I Lay My Isaac Down* and *He Holds My Hand*



STEPHANIE ROUSSELLE is a Bible teacher, speaker, host of the *Gospel Spice* podcast, and founder of Gospel Spice Ministries. Born and raised in France, Stephanie is a former atheist whose life motto is now "God's glory, our delight!" Having resided in four different countries during her lifetime, she now lives with her family in Pennsylvania.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)