

BOOK RE

Christian Living

► *If God Disappears*

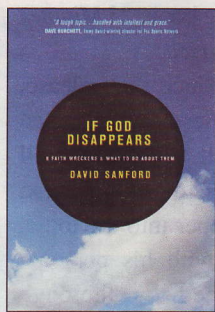
David Sanford

Tyndale House Publishers

hardcover, 176 pages, \$16.99

978-1-414-31617-8

Sanford owns a literary agency and has worked with top Christian authors, but he needs to look no further than himself to find



faith-building material. *If God Disappears: 9 Faith Wreckers & What to Do About Them* sensitively approaches those dark times in a Christian's life when he or she questions faith in God.

Everyone has such a story, Sanford says, and almost everyone is tempted to walk away from God at some point in his or her life. For most, that time comes after experiencing loss or pain—times in which God seems a million miles away. The author encourages the reader not to shy away from those feelings, and even describes them as an essential part of the faith journey.

But while Sanford empathizes with and reaches out to the reader, he doesn't coddle. Nine chapters outline dangerous patterns of thought and behavior ("faith wreckers") and prescribe biblical antidotes to turn them into "faith builders." For those ready to give up on God, *If God Disappears* shows that He's truly been there all along.

—Cara Davis

Family Life

► *The Firstborn Advantage*

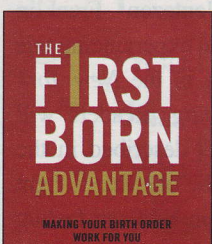
Kevin Leman

Revell (Baker Publishing Group)

hardcover, 304 pages, \$19.99

978-0-800-71911-1

Firstborn children can sometimes find that position can be a double-edged sword. In *The Firstborn Advantage*, best-selling



author Leman (*The Birth Order Book*) explores the profound effect birth order can have.

The book focuses on the unique character and personality traits that make

CHILD OF DIVORCE CHILD OF GOD

A Journey of Hope and Healing



Kristine Steakley

Top Pick

► *Child of Divorce, Child of God*

Kristine Steakley

IVP Books (InterVarsity Press)

softcover, 180 pages, \$15

978-0-830-83471-6

Family Life

Divorce is a subject that requires careful discussion, considering the pain caused not only to the children in the family but also the guilt often assumed by the parents. Finding that delicate balance in *Child of Divorce, Child of*

God: A Journey of Hope and Healing, Steakley injects biblical insights, personal experience and best of all, hope.

The author steers the children of divorced parents away from having a pity party, but at the same time not holding back from addressing the pain caused by absent parents. She dismisses modern notions of children being able to accept divorce and "move on" as too simplistic, while at the same time holding out the promise that God can redeem and transform shattered lives. She even highlights the resolve generated by children with divorced parents who exhibit even more forceful determination to make their own marriages work. Steakley closes the book with a special word to parents regarding their children.

Child of Divorce, Child of God is full of useful information, but beyond that, the warmth and honesty of the writer will affect readers looking for comfort and community.

—DeWayne Hamby

derstand his or her own firstborn. Leman's research on birth order is practical, to the point and always relevant.

—Julie Daniel

Fiction

► *Sunset*

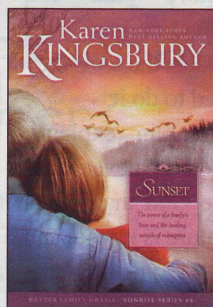
Karen Kingsbury

Tyndale House Publishers

softcover, 336 pages, \$13.99

978-0-842-38758-3

In the fourth and final book in the "Sunrise Series," Kingsbury concludes the story of a Christian family's tragedies, trials and ultimate triumphs.



The time has come for new beginnings as John, head of the Baxter family, prepares to remarry and sell the family home, bringing long-established memories into conflict with the demands of his oncoming sunset years. Other family members are dealing with problems of their own—marital strife, problematic pregnancies, the uncertainties

of the future. In *Sunset*, Kingsbury brings to a close the story of a Christian family's tragedies, trials and ultimate triumphs.

► *Where the Heart Leads*

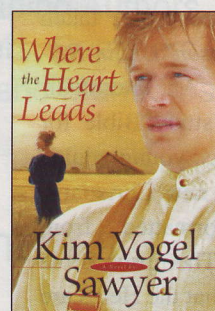
Kim Vogel Sawyer

Bethany House Publishers (Baker Publishing Group)

softcover, 352 pages, \$13.99

978-0-764-20263-6

In *Where the Heart Leads*, sequel to *Waiting for Summer's Return*, Kansas farmer Thomas Ollenburger, of German



Mennonite heritage, is graduating from college in Boston in 1904. The mother-in-law of Thomas' stepmother Summer—the main character of the first book—has taken him in for his school years, and he commits himself to a presidential campaign and falls in love.

As he goes home to Kansas, he struggles to find God's will—is he supposed to stay or go back to Boston? A love triangle of sorts forms when a friendship blossoms with neighbor Belinda. She helps him find the freedom to return to Boston, where he must face the truth about some issues he holds close to his heart

hardcover, 176

978-0-802-454

Mohler,

Baptist Th

an audien



today's socie

Stressing

an act of wor

explains the

plain the Sc

authority an

last is the l

warns, as ma

as an antiqu

Some mi

Mohler neve

modernism

over, exampl

churches tha

are rare. Stil

pastors of th

on message.

Social

► *What Am*

Rodney Stark

Baylor Universi

softcover, 200

978-1-602-581

Baylor Un

fessor Stark

legacy of



parts—congr

tices; atheis

gion and the

discussion in

Atheist" writ