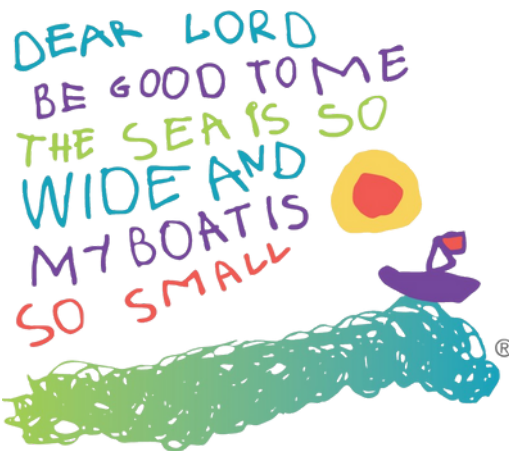


**Children's Defense Fund**

840 First Street NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002  
childrensdefense.org

**CDF ADVOCATES'  
BOOK CLUB**



**children's  
defense fund**



# Develop your prophetic voice for children and their families.

Read. Reflect. Engage.

Launch a CDF Advocates' Book Club on the Children's Sabbath weekend! Members of CDF Advocates' Book Clubs will read, reflect, engage, and cultivate necessary prophetic voices with communities on the margins—communities contending against systemic injustices that directly impact children and youth, and challenge biblical and theological assumptions justifying institutional complicity with oppressive systems.



**Many of the following books are available for purchase from CDF's Haley Farm online bookstore, [cdfwebstore.com](http://cdfwebstore.com). Most are also available through other booksellers.**

Baldwin, Lewis and Victor Anderson, editors. *Revives My Soul Again: The Spirituality of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2018.

Barber II, William J. *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement.* (Paperback title: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*) Boston: Beacon Press, 2016.

Blount, Reginald and Virginia Lee, eds. *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth.* New York: Friendship Press, 2019.

Brooks, Adrian. *The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQI Activism.* Hoboken, NJ: Cleis Press, 2015.

Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth. *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families.* King of Prussia, PA: Judson Press, 2011.

Couture, Pamela D. *Seeing Children, Seeing God: A Practical Theology of Children and Poverty.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

De La Torre, Miguel. *Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting a Badass Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2015.

*Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2021.

Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Edelman, Peter. *Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America*. New York: The New Press, 2019.

Ellison, Gregory. *Cut Dead but Still Alive: Caring for African American Young Men*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.

*Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

Enns, Elaine and Ched Myers. *Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2021. (Visit <https://healinghauntedhistories.org> for resources including a readers' guide, videos, and more.)

Francis, Leah Gunning. *Faith & Ferguson: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2015.

*Faith After Ferguson: Resilient Leadership in Pursuit of Racial Justice*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2021.

Garza, Alicia. *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*. New York: One World, 2020.

Harvey, Jennifer. *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*. Abingdon Press, 2019.  
(Videos and discussion guide are available at [www.abingdonpress.com/raisingwhitekids](http://www.abingdonpress.com/raisingwhitekids).)

Janssen, Denise, ed. *Educating for Redemptive Community*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015.

Kaba, Mariame. *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2021

Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1995.

Limmer, Rabbi Seth M. and Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, eds. *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority*. New York: CCAR Press, 2018.

Lindner, Eileen. *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy*. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2006.  
(available through CDF webstore.)

Myers, Bryant. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011.

Parker, Evelyn. *The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls: Hard Stories of Race, Class, and Gender*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2010.

Reyes, Patrick. *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021.

*Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2016.

Rich, John A. *Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.

Schindler, Rabbi Judith and Judy Seldin-Cohen. *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America*. New York: CCAR Press, 2018.

Secours, Molly. *White Privilege Pop Quiz: Reflecting on Whiteness*. Independently published, 2020.

Salvatierra, Alexia and Peter Heltzel. *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2013.

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: One World, 2015.

Streaty Wimberly, Anne E, et. Al, eds. *From Lament to Advocacy: Black Religious Education and Public Ministry*. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Publishing, 2020.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

T'ruah. *Handbook for Jewish Communities Fighting Mass Incarceration* (available for download at <https://truah.org/resources/handbook-for-jewish-communitiesfighting-mass-incarceration/>).

Wong, Kent, Ana Luz Gonzalez and James M. Lawson Jr. *Nonviolence and Social Movements: The Teachings of Rev. James M. Lawson Jr.* Los Angeles: UCLA Labor Center, 2016. (available through CDF webstore.)

Wright, Almeda. *The Spiritual Lives of Young African Americans.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.



# GOD AND GUNS: THE BIBLE AGAINST AMERICAN GUN CULTURE



Watch [Fuller Studio's video, "God and Guns: The Bible and American Gun Culture,"](#) featuring the authors of the book before the book was written.

## FOR THE CHURCH:

Develop a Bible study. Take each of the texts discussed in God and Guns. Each week discuss the tensions and similarities between how the Bible addresses guns, weapons, and violence and how it is discussed in American popular culture.

## FOR BROADER COMMUNITIES:

### Questions to Ponder

What sacred texts have we created that keep us from developing gun policies that protect our children?

Who gains from American gun policy?

### Exercise

As a community, write a letter to America's children about our gun policies. Write a letter to the world about guns in America.





# RESURRECTION HOPE: A FUTURE WHERE BLACK LIVES MATTER



Host a watch party of Dean Kelly Brown Douglas' [Morning Devotion](#) conversation at the 2022 the Proctor Conference.

## CONSIDER THREE QUESTIONS:

1. How are we continuing to allow white supremacy to inform the construction of social systems? How do those systems continue to subjugate our children—particularly children of color?
2. What "monuments" do we continue to erect—both literally and figuratively—that keep us from focusing on the well-being of America's children?
3. How do we challenge the narratives that offer up our children's suffering as part of a sacred, redemptive pathway?

In a blog published in January 2022, Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, CDF's CEO and President, challenges us to think about raising children while simultaneously changing the conditions for them to thrive. With your community, pinpoint two conditions that you can commit to challenging so that we might have a resurrection hope and raise democracy.