



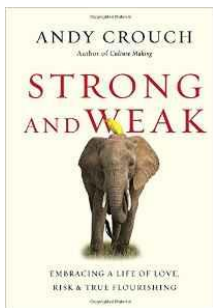
“Beautiful Hands” Written by Kathryn Otoshi and Bret Baumgarten

A colorful children’s book asking each of us, “What will your beautiful hands do today?” the question is answered on full page paintings, each with a practical answer that leads into a spiritual one. For example, the first answer says, “Will they plant . . . (What can you plant?)” followed by a two-page, brilliantly painted continuation, “. . . IDEAS?” All the paintings are done with hand or finger prints connected with a few colorful, simple lines. It is a beautiful book with a beautiful, inspiring message.



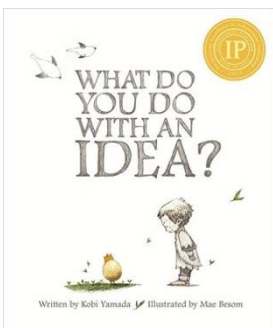
The Pleasure of God: Finding Grace in the Ordinary by J. Ellsworth Kalas (WJK Press)

Here is a small book to remind us how God touches every fiber of our lives, as the author explores 22 ordinary, everyday activities such as reading, shopping, learning, sleeping, bathing, conversation, entertainment and more.



Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk & True Flourishing By Andy Crouch (IVP Books)

Andy Crouch leads us to more abundant living, away from grasping at safety and power, toward becoming more vulnerable and taking risks. He asserts that we need to find a balance between being strong and being what some may see as “weak”. In allowing ourselves to become more vulnerable we are able to love more fully and are more able to flourish.



What Do You do with an Idea? Written by Kobi Yamada and Illustrated by Mae Besom (Compendium)

This is a good question. What do YOU do with an idea? Do you store it away in your “good-idea cabinet” or do you do as the hero in this book and keep it with you, playing with it, sharing it with others and letting it have a life of its own where it grows and flourishes until all at once it takes over the world? The story and illustrations of this children’s book provide a good metaphor that could well be part

of any leadership training time or beginning of a session or committee meeting as well as a starting place for a complete sermon.