YoungLives Recommended Resources


Mentor Meetings
Want to impart the heart of relational ministry to your mentors? Here are some ideas to get you started!

3Story [http://3story.org/]
3Story provides a framework for evangelism that flows out of our everyday lives, and that teaches us to be aware of – and ready for – opportunities to share our faith. The website includes training for volunteers and junior leaders.

Campaigners Handbook: How to Help Kids Grow
This is a must-have tool for training mentors to make disciples. It includes insight into how teens learn and skills for asking good questions and fostering life-changing discussions.

Deepening the Soul for Justice by Bethany Hoang
The challenges of injustice can be overwhelming, and many well-intentioned Christians get burned out. What can you do to stay in the game? Includes questions for group discussion.

Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring by Mentor [http://www.mentoring.org/program_resources/elements_and_toolkits]
This website hosts The National Mentoring Partnership’s definitive, research-based handbook on the basics of recruiting and training effective mentors. Free download.

Hole in our Gospel by Richard Sterns
This is the true story of a CEO who set aside worldly success for something far more significant, and discovered the power of Jesus to change his own life. Richard Sterns is the president of World Vision US.

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall and Lynn Vincent
The powerful story of the friendship between an art dealer and a homeless man – one of those stories that proves that truth is stranger than fiction. A discussion guide is available.

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle
For 20 years, Boyle has run a gang-intervention program in LA. His book contains powerful examples of the power of unconditional love – even in the midst of messy situations.

YL Access [http://younglifeaccess.com/]
YL Access is a video library of Young Life-exclusive training tools, including a channel for YoungLives. Assign a lesson before your meeting– or use the lessons as a step-by-step meeting outline.

Teen Pregnancy
How many teenagers are having children in my state? And how do I talk about this issue to my volunteers and donors? Check out these resources for answers.

County Health Rankings [http://www.countyhealthrankings.org]  
Searchable index of the rate of different health issues – including teen pregnancy – by county.

Updated March 2017. Want to recommend a resource for this list? Contact rebecca.asper@gmail.com

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It Couldn’t Happen to Me: Three True Stories of Teenage Moms by Townsend Press
An introduction to teenage pregnancy for new mentors, donors, and even teen moms. It includes three true stories and statistics about teenage pregnancy. Less than 100 pages, easy-to-read, and only $1 from Townsend Press.

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy http://thenationalcampaign.org/
The National Campaign’s website compiles and produces many of the latest statistics and studies on teenage and unplanned pregnancy.

Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage by Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas
Sociologists Edin and Kefalas talked with 162 low-income single moms to learn how they think about marriage and family. Their book offers an intimate look at why they put children before marriage, despite the daunting challenges they know lie ahead.

Poverty
Want to understand kids in poverty better and be better equipped to serve them? Check out these resources on your own or as part of a group study with mentors.

Bridges Out of Poverty by Ruby Payne
Ruby Payne is considered an expert on the mindsets of economic classes. She offers insight into thinking patterns of those in poverty and advice for helping to create opportunities for success.

Caring for the Least of These: Serving Christ Among the Poor by David Caes (Editor)
Essays from the front-lines of ministry that highlight the need to treat the poor with dignity and to provide hope. The book provides basic tools for living out our calling to work among the poor.

The Least of These: Lessons Learned from Kids on the Streets by Ron Ruthruff
Ruthruff tells stirring, biblically relevant stories of the real young people who he has served and what these kids have taught him in return about Christ-centered ministry.

Ministry of Mercy by Tim Keller
Keller powerfully reminds us that God calls us to be ministers of mercy to people in need of shelter, assistance, medical care, or just friendship.

Playspent.org
Put yourself in a teen mom’s shoes, and try to survive the month with your low-paying job. This simple, engaging web game is a great way for mentors to deepen their empathy for and understanding of decision-making in poverty. It could also be a fun way for teen moms to “practice” living on their own.

See Poverty, Be the Difference by Donna Beegle
Donna Beegle shares the amazing story of how she escaped generational material poverty through education and the help of several key mentors, and then teaches her readers how to help those in material poverty.

When Helping Hurts by Corbett, Fikkert and Platt
This book reveals our own poverty, examines both the systemic and personal issues that lead to material poverty, and gives very clear directions for how to inspire change that lasts and that doesn’t bring shame to the very ones we are trying to help. A must-read for areas working with teen moms in material poverty.
Abuse & Destructive Behaviors
We are often faced with overwhelming issues in YoungLives - issues that we have never thought about, let alone been trained in. If you need a lay person’s guide to dealing with some of the tough stuff that girls are dealing with, browse through these resources.

At-Risk: Bringing Hope to Hurting Teens by Scott Larson
This book gives very practical advice about what every young person needs to become mature in Christ (a new identity in Christ, a place to belong, a dream, and more) and encouragement to those who are working with difficult teens.

Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse - Student Ed. by Steven Tracy
For teenagers who have experienced any kind of abuse or abandonment, it can often feel like hope is lost and they're doomed to stay stuck in unhealthy habits and patterns. Teens and ministry leaders will be armed with a better understanding of how the effects of abuse can lead to risky behaviors, shame, trauma and isolation, and they will be encouraged to look toward a hope-filled future.

Ministry with Youth in Crisis by Harley Atkinson
A comprehensive look at seven major adolescent crises and how youth workers can effectively deal with them: self-identity, family life, social relationships, sexuality, suicide, substance abuse and eating disorders.

Multi-cultural & Urban Ministry
Our different economic backgrounds, races, denominations, ages, and ethnicities can pose difficulties. These resources offer helpful perspectives for understanding and appreciating each other!

A Theology as Big as the City by Raymond Bakke
Ray Bakke is the execute director of International Urban Associates. Increasingly, people of all nationalities and backgrounds are living together in cities. How can our churches and ministries effectively reach such a diverse group?

Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life by Robert D. Lupton
This book is a practical tool in helping ministries to enhance their effectiveness at community building. Includes the Eight Components of Community Development.

The Cultural Intelligence Difference by David Livermore
Few people have developed the deep cultural intelligence (CQ) required to really thrive in our multicultural world. This book gives readers customized strategies for improving interactions with people from diverse cultures.

Disunity in Christ by Christena Cleveland
With practical and biblical examples of how to form a common identity in Christ, this book demonstrates how instead of being colorblind – we can use our different perspectives to become stronger together.

Heart of Racial Justice by Brenda Salter McNeil and Rick Richardson
McNeil and Richardson convincingly remind us that our cultural and ethnic identities are important – but that our most important identity is found in Christ.
**Jesus and the Disinherited** by Howard Thurman
A small book, but a deep read about Jesus’ example for loving one another to the point of becoming like those without power. This is a classic – written by a spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr.

**“The Well”** by Urban Youth Workers Institute [http://uywi.org/the-well](http://uywi.org/the-well)
Free webinars, conference recordings, blog posts, and downloadable training tools for urban youth workers.

**With Justice For All** by Dr. John Perkins
John Perkins, an African-American who grew up in Mississippi in the 50’s and returned later to help alleviate poverty and oppression, is the visionary behind the Christian Community Development Association. This book is one of the foundational resources for learning about community development.

**Bible Translations**
If you are looking for an easy-to-read Bible translation, consider one of these options.

**Jesus Storybook Bible**
Simply told Bible stories with lasting truths. A great way to share Jesus with teen moms AND their children! You can also purchase the whole Storybook Bible on CD.

**New Living Translation: The New Believer’s Bible, Inspire Bible, or the One Year NT for Busy Moms**
The NLT is written at a sixth-grade reading level and is often recommended for youth with low literacy levels. Several NLT Bibles could be particularly helpful for teen moms:

- The **New Believer’s Bible** is uniquely designed to help new Christians read, study, and understand the Bible through devotional reading plans, memory verses, an overview of the Bible, book intros, and a topical index.
- The **Inspire Bible** is beautiful wide-margin Bible with illustrations to color and lots of space to take notes or draw. Great for visual learners!
- The **One Year New Testament for Busy Moms** is like a Bible and devotional in one. This compact New Testament is divided into daily 5-minute readings with brief intros and application questions for each passage. Questions focus on the needs of moms – not necessarily wives – so it is appropriate for single mothers. And at $10/book, it’s affordable.

**Streetlights Bible** [http://streetlightsbible.com](http://streetlightsbible.com)
Streetlights is an urban multimedia Bible, using audio, video and curriculum to communicate. Recording artists and teachers unite to produce word-for-word Scripture recited to street-credible beats and scripture narration music videos. The audio Bible can be played on mp3 players, and the videos are great for group Bible studies.

**Discipleship**
YoungLives has access to lots of great resources for Campaigners and one-on-one discipleship!

This website features short, powerful testimonial videos from people of different races and backgrounds who have been through everything from abuse to fatherlessness to drug use. All free! You can also order a 6-week study guide with discussion questions.
Made New contains 16 Bible study lessons written specifically for YoungLives teen moms, with topics ranging from prayer to marriage and child development. Lessons include discipleship activities for mentors and teen moms to do together after the lesson. Made New is available online or as a pdf.

**Moms In Prayer [http://momsinprayer.org/](http://momsinprayer.org/)**
MIP gathers women to pray for schools around the globe. Their website has prayer guides and resources that could be helpful for Campaigners – and their prayer gatherings would be a great next step for teen moms who are looking for a way to meet other Christian moms in their neighborhoods.

**The Peacemaker: Student Edition** by Ken Sande
In this student edition of The Peacemaker, teens learn how to apply biblical principles to conflict situations, allowing for forgiveness and reconciliation instead of hatred or violence. This much-needed resource can be used individually or as part of a small group.

**YL Access**
YL Access not only has Young Life-exclusive volunteer training tools, it is also part of RightNow Media - host to hundreds of Bible studies, sermon illustrations, testimonies, and even kids’ movies. There is even a Spanish-language section with videos in Spanish.

**You’re Grounded: Rooted in Truth in a Shallow World** by Chris Lassiter (YoungLives staff spouse)
You’re Grounded is an introductory book to Jesus Christ and the Christian life aimed specifically at the Hip Hop influenced generation. Easy to read, and uses stories from urban culture to highlight truth found in scripture. Ideal for small group and discipleship settings.

YFC has produced several sets of downloadable lessons for teen parents. They are available for free on their website – just search for **Lean In, Going Viral, Road Trip, Mom Manual** and **Green Means Grow**. These lessons could be adapted for use at schools, in contact work, or for group Bible study.

**Parenting, Finance, and Life Skills**
Curriculums and guides to use when teaching life skills topics. These are not faith-based, so they can be used in school settings as well as at YoungLives events.

**Discipline from Birth to Three** by Jeanne Lindsay and Sally McCullough
This parenting book was specifically written for teen moms, with easy-to-read chapters, plenty of pictures, lots of quotes from teenage moms, and helpful tips for parenting, living with multiple generations, making your home safe, and encouraging curiosity.

**Dreams to Reality: Help for Young Moms** by Laura Haskins-Bookser
Start fresh without starting over! By rethinking options for money management, relationship issues, and funding higher education, young mothers can learn to integrate their new families into their plans for themselves. Study guide also available.
**Finding the Gold Within**
This self-esteem book for women contains 160 pages of beautiful illustrations and brief lessons on topics like Facing Decisions & Challenges, Healing Inner Wounds, Getting a New Attitude, and Fostering Self-Esteem in Children. Note: there are also lessons on spirituality, but they are New Age, not Christian.

**Nurse Family Partnerships** [http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/first-time-moms](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/first-time-moms)
A free, voluntary program for first-time mothers. a local nurse visits during pregnancy and the first two years of baby’s life to offer guidance. Each visit is designed around three goals – a healthy pregnancy and delivery, the baby’s good health and development, and the mom’s goals for her future.

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**Partnering with Teen Parents** by Parents as Teachers: [https://ebiz.patnc.org/eBusiness/ProductCatalog/Product.aspx?ID=3012](https://ebiz.patnc.org/eBusiness/ProductCatalog/Product.aspx?ID=3012)
A comprehensive, 1,100 page digital curriculum designed for teen parents – including hundreds of handouts on topics including prenatal care, discipline, health, nutrition, self-care, setting goals, parenting, education, and family well-being. It is expensive, but they have given YoungLives permission to share within regions.

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A very simple, free online guide and downloadable handbook for setting financial goals, saving money, and making smart decisions about spending money.

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**HELP! I'm Moving Out on My Own** by Linda Levin
This “How-To” guide will help prepare teens for essential life skills like developing healthy relationships, opening a bank account, taking care of their car, interviewing for a job, and much more.

**Serving Teen Parents: From Literacy to Life Skills** by Ellin Klor and Sarah Lapin
Produced for librarians who want to incorporate literacy programs for teen parents, this book contains a wealth of information and ideas – from snack and craft ideas, to resources for teaching about finances and job skills, to parenting websites, to statistics and research on teen parents and their children.

**Text 4 Baby** by Johnson & Johnson [http://text4baby.org](http://text4baby.org)
Girls can sign up to get free text messages on prenatal care, baby health, parenting and more. They will get three messages a week during pregnancy and until their baby turns one.

**Teenage Fathers**
Whether or not you have direct contact with teenage fathers, they play a big role in the lives of teen moms and their children. These resources can give you insight into how to help – directly or indirectly.

**National Fatherhood Initiative** [http://www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org)
The National Fatherhood Initiative offers fatherhood statistics, skill-building materials, workshop and curriculum kits, and training. Check out “14 Critical Issues to Discuss with Moms.”

**Doing the Best I Can: Fatherhood in the Inner City** by Kathryn Edin and Timothy J. Nelson
This book examine how couples in challenging straits come together and get pregnant so quickly– without planning. They offer keen insight into a radical redefinition of family life where the father-child bond is central and parental ties are peripheral.