



# Jonathan McKee

## MY TOP TEN BOOKS



Jonathan McKee, a Focus on the Family Associate, voices three of the five daily 1:00 features of “Plugged In” in a new format that launched in February 2020. Jonathan’s expertise with teens and technology makes him an ideal voice to help parents navigate today’s media landscape. He’s the author of over 25 books including *The Guy’s Guide to God, Girls, and the Phone in Your Pocket*. He speaks to parents and leaders worldwide and provides free resources at [TheSource4Parents.com](http://TheSource4Parents.com). Check out his top ten book picks!

*As a guy who studies the Bible and culture all day for my own writing, when I relax and read a book at night it’s typically fiction so I can “unplug” for a few hours. Here’s my all-time favorites.*

### 1. *A Painted House*, John Grisham

I love this glimpse through the eyes of a 7-year-old boy growing up on a cotton farm in 1952, a reminder of how life was... and still is. Truly my favorite of all time.

### 2. *Mindhunter*, John Douglas

This behind-the-scenes peek into the life of John E. Douglas’ 25-year career in the FBI hunting and interviewing real life serial killers is entrancing. As a guy who has spent hundreds of hours diving into the mind of school shooters for my book *Bystanders*, I’m fascinated by John’s knack for psychological profiling (maybe because he’s the guy who really launched it).

### 3. *Encounters with Jesus*, Tim Keller

Keller has so many amazing books, but he truly captivates me with the way he walks

me through Jesus’ day-to-day connections with people. I read this book like a personal devotional.

### 4. *Along Came a Spider*, James Patterson

I’m taking liberty when I list this title, because honestly I love Patterson’s entire “Alex Cross” detective series. His keen insight into the criminal mind, his dedication to his family...it all started with this book.

### 5. *Jaws*, Peter Benchley

This is not only on my list of favorite books, but favorite films as well (the 1975 Steven Spielberg original, not the pathetic sequels).

### 6. *Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky

How did a Russian book get on my list? This is the one book I read in high school that I’ve returned to countless times.

### 7. *What’s So Amazing about Grace*, Philip Yancey

All of Yancey’s books are great, but this one grabbed me on the

first page (as all books should). A must-read for any Christian.

### 8. *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell

Maybe it’s just because I love research, or because I’m bewildered by a business book that evaluates how *Sesame Street* keeps our attention and why.

### 9. *The Meaning of Marriage*, Tim Keller

Best marriage book ever, hands down. His comparison of the “covenant marriage” compared to the “consumer marriage” is worth the entire book. Groundbreaking stuff.

### 10. *The Walking Dead Graphic Novel*, Robert Kirkman

Uh, yeah...I’m a nerd (and the author of a zombie survival guide for teenagers). And this is one of the greatest escapes into a post-apocalyptic world where you consistently ask yourself, “What would I do in this situation?” (Although I always have to wonder if Kirkman’s opening premise is a little too much like the truly terrifying Danny Boyle film, *28 Days Later*). Hmmmmm.

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you’re airing “Plugged In,” it’s Jonathan’s voice you’re hearing each Monday (with what new movies to rent, stream, or buy), Wednesday (all things teens and screens), and Thursday (TV reviews). The daily feature will soon be available in a customized version; contact [hannah@ambaa.com](mailto:hannah@ambaa.com) to confirm station ID or to sign up.