




Science: Discovery and Discipleship

John D. Mays





There are *two*
books of God's
revelation of
himself to us:

- ✦ The book
of God's
Word
- ✦ The book
of God's
Works ...



Glory

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.



Care

Psalm 104:24

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psalm 104:27

These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.



Growing

Psalm 111:2

Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.



Praise

Psalm 148:3

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!



What happens when you kill an ant?

A creature that gave glory to God by its existence has ceased to exist.



Discovery

Discipleship

Two realities we must face up to:

1. We have removed ourselves and our children from nature (safety concerns, screen time, etc.)
 - ➔ We have lost touch with one of God's books and must repent and restore contact with creation
2. We have failed to care for God's creation (this took some of us unawares, but we know more now than we did in previous generations)
 - ➔ Worse, we continue to destroy it; we must repent and make it part of our worship to care for the creation God loves

Discovery I

If creation is to play a role in *discipleship*, as it has for thousands of years, we must be *in creation* so that *discovery* can occur.



Discovery 2



Discovery
begins at
the age of 0.

Discovery 3

“Normal” exposure: riding bikes, playing at the creek, farms, woods, mountains, sea, stars.



Discovery 4

Our relationship
to nature:

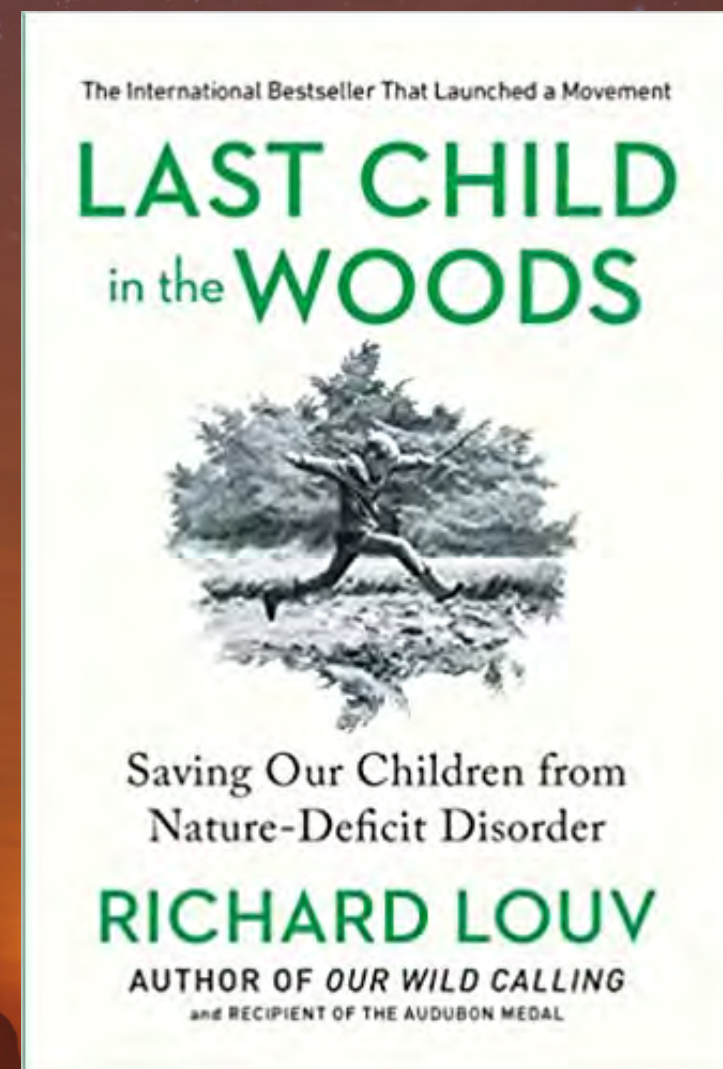


Mental Health
Physical Health

Discovery 5

IDEAS
FOR
YOU

1. Inform yourself on the extent of the problem: Read *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv
2. Get excited about new possibilities: Read *Song of a Scientist*, Calvin DeWitt

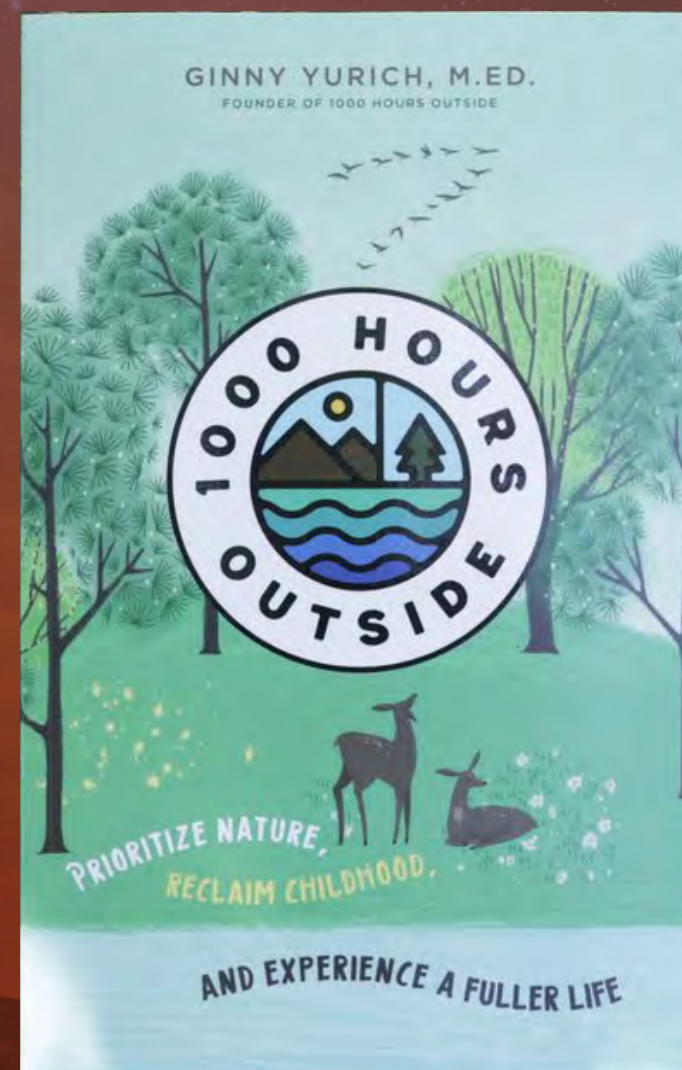


Discovery 5

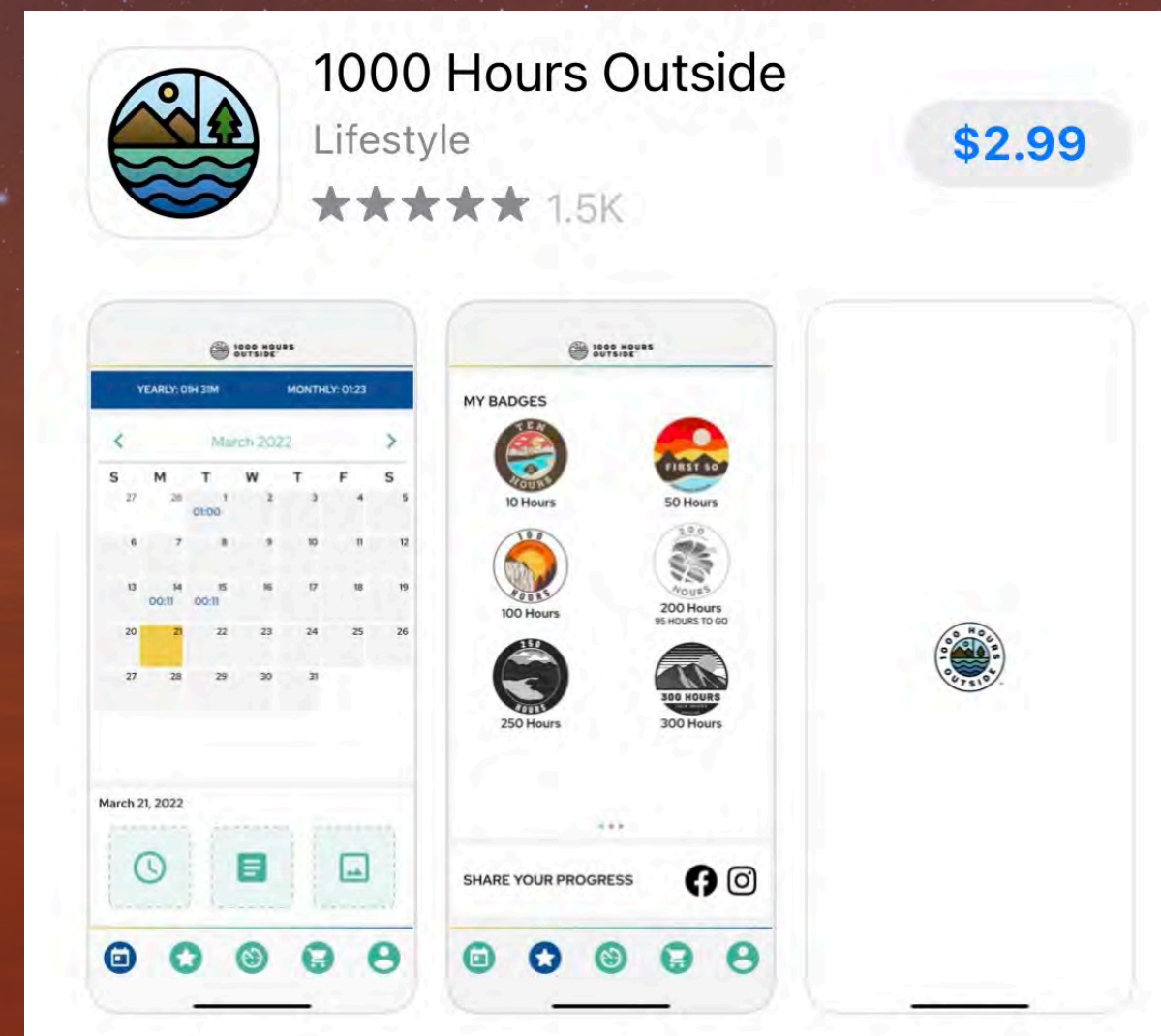
IDEAS
FOR
YOU

3. Get help with the new tools from *1000 Hours Outside*:
(1000hoursoutside.com)

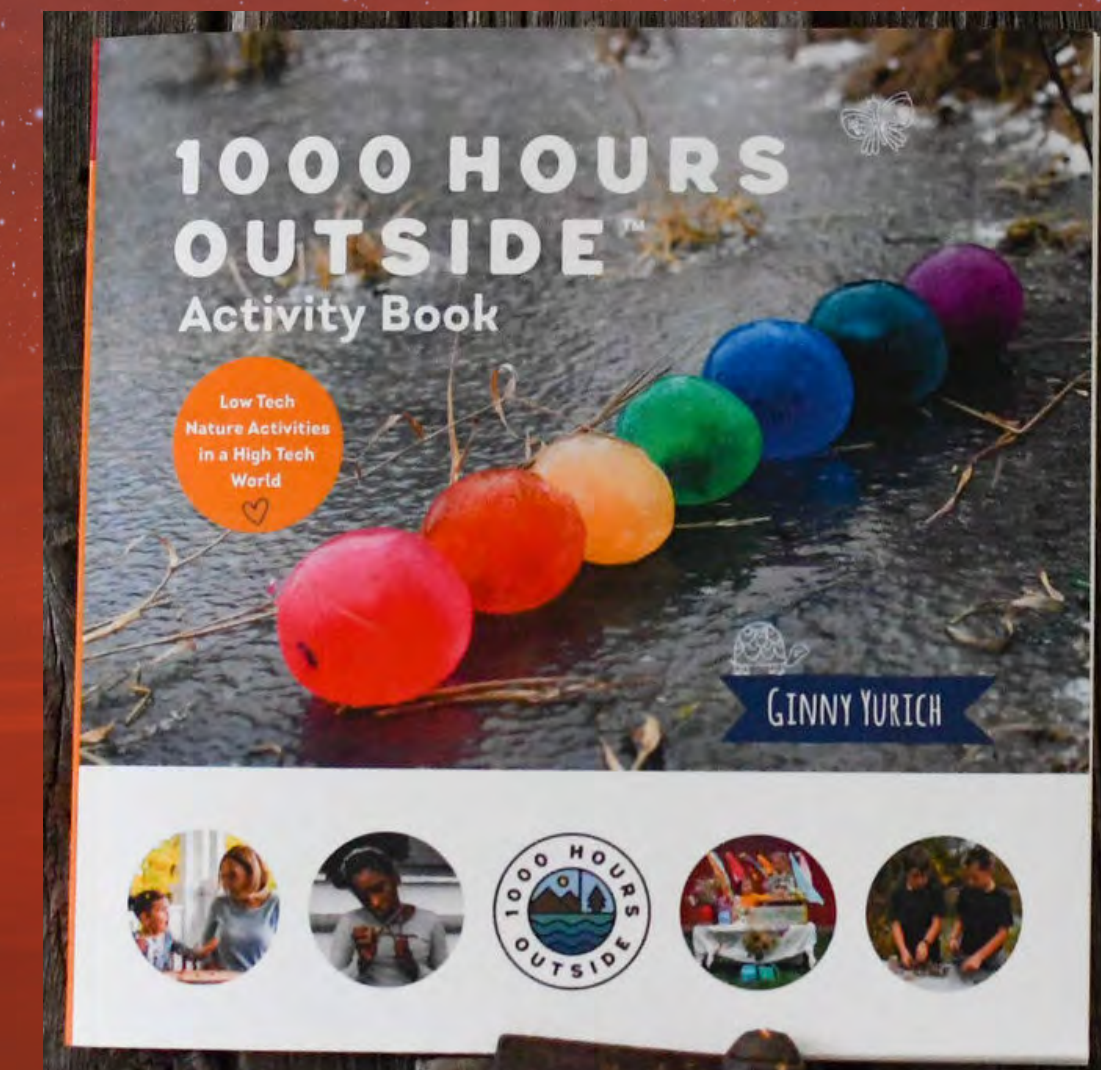
Book



Phone App



Other Stuff



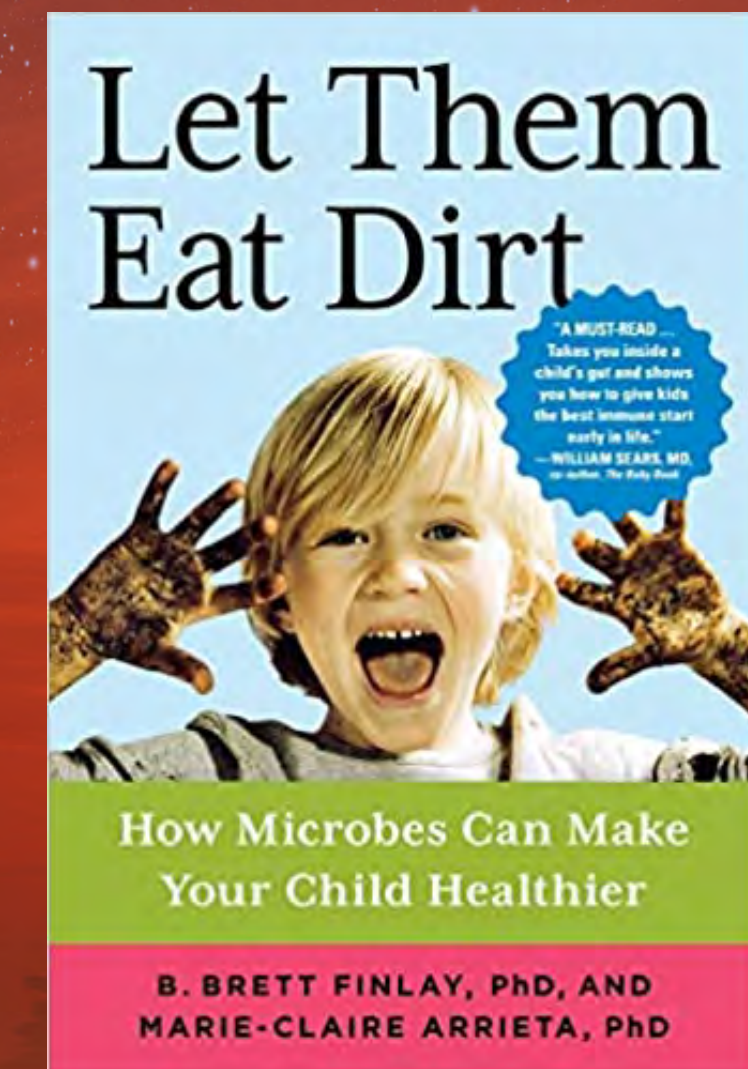
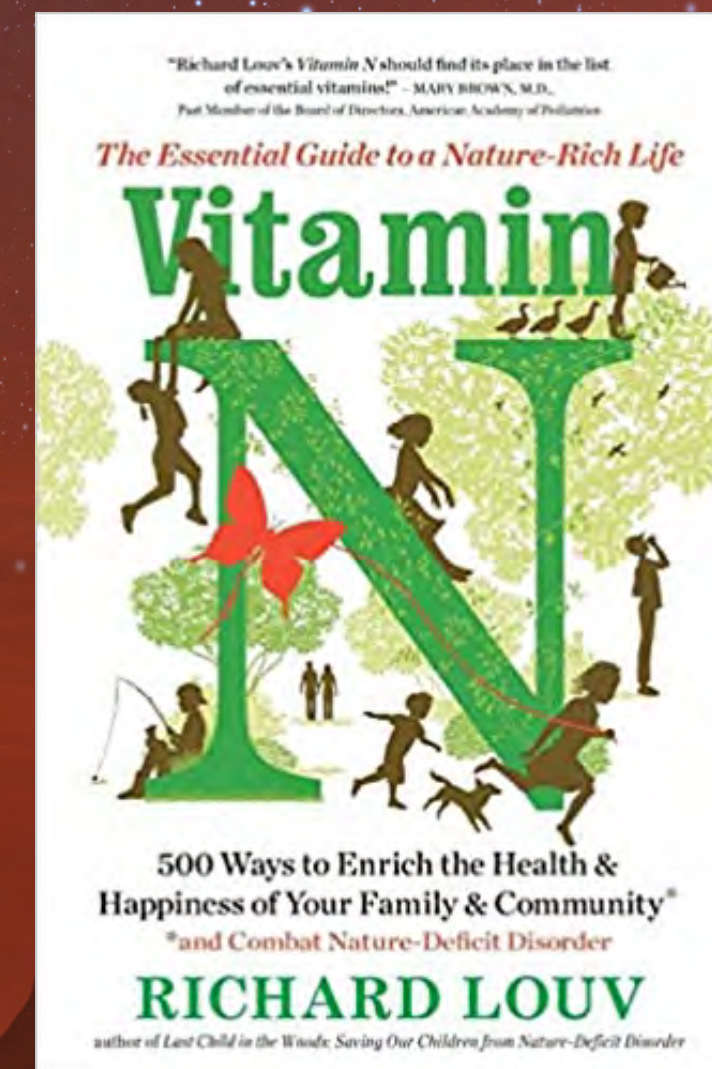
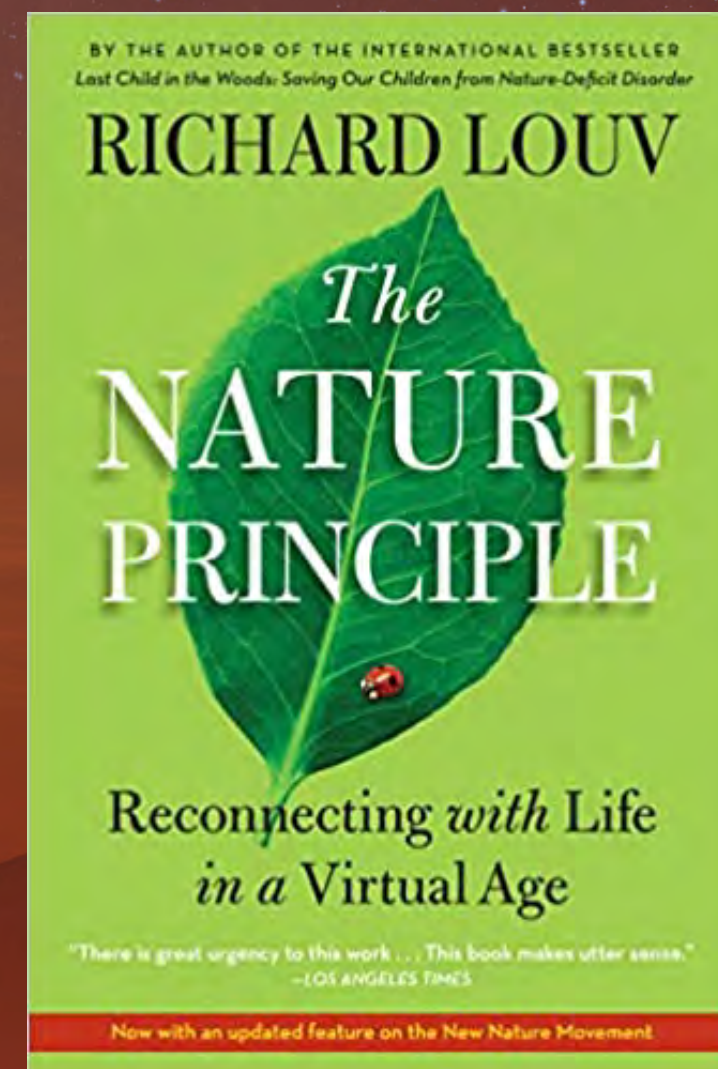
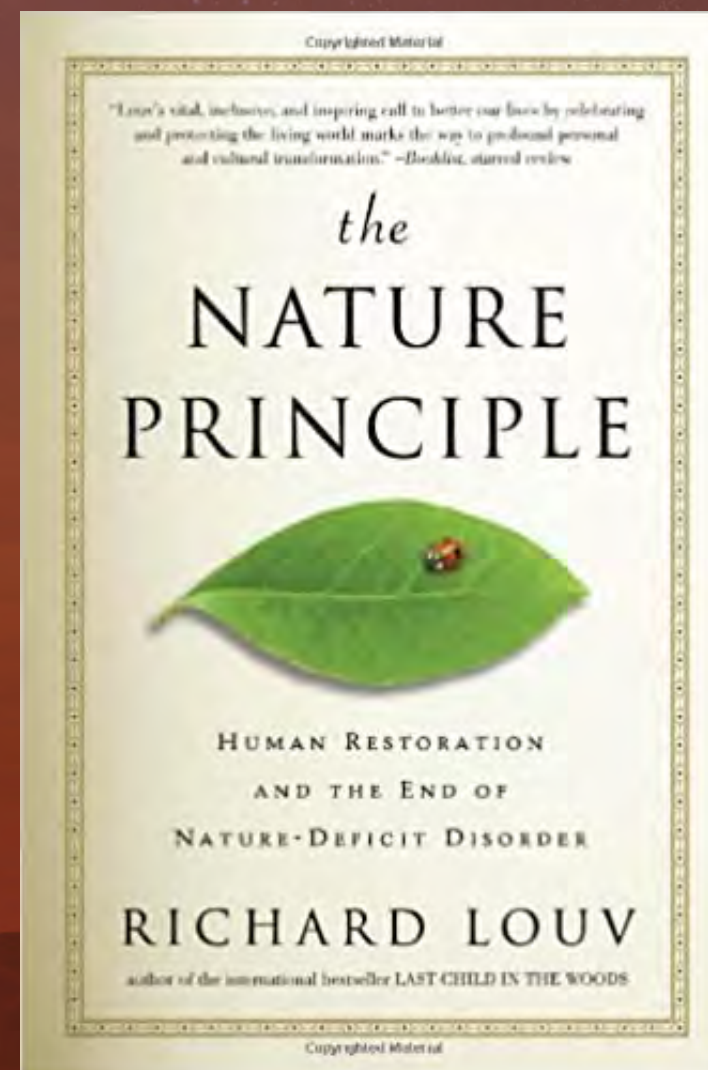
3. Additional important reading:

The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder, Richard Louv (2011)

The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Nature in a Virtual Age, Richard Louv (2012)

Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life, Richard Louv (2016)

Let Them Eat Dirt: How Microbes Can Make Your Child Healthier, Finlay and Arrieta (2017)



Discovery 6



Elementary grades

- ✦ Go outside
- ✦ Emphasize observation, sketching, and journaling
- ✦ Emphasizing the actual over textbooks
- ✦ Gardens, aquariums, animals (even mating and birthing)

Discovery 6



Middle School Grades

- ✦ Go outside
- ✦ Microscopes and telescopes
- ✦ Aquariums and terrariums
- ✦ Annual science trips and astronomy parties

Discovery 6



Middle School Grades

- ♦ Observation, sketching, and journaling
- ♦ Show your fascination, not your routine
- ♦ Take time on vacation to play and explore in parks

Discovery 6



High School Grades

- ♦ Go outside
- ♦ Slow down
(be countercultural, abandon idolatry, study obeying God rather than man)
- ♦ Practice meditating (Psalm 104) and praying in nature
- ♦ Be willing to discuss everything
- ♦ Study (2 Tim 2:15)

Transition

When we first met, love was a feeling.
But making it last, that's a decision.

—Andy Gullahorn

“Any Other Way” from *Law of Gravity*



Discipleship I

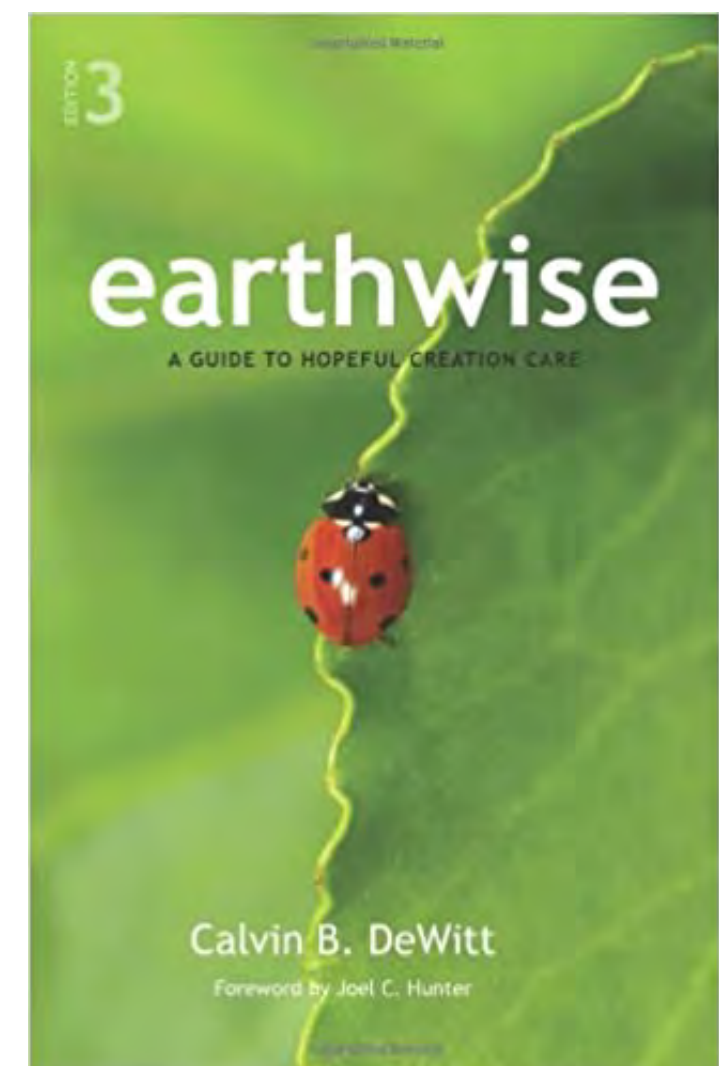


Prioritize
practicing
creation
care.

Discipleship I

Prioritize
practicing
creation
care.

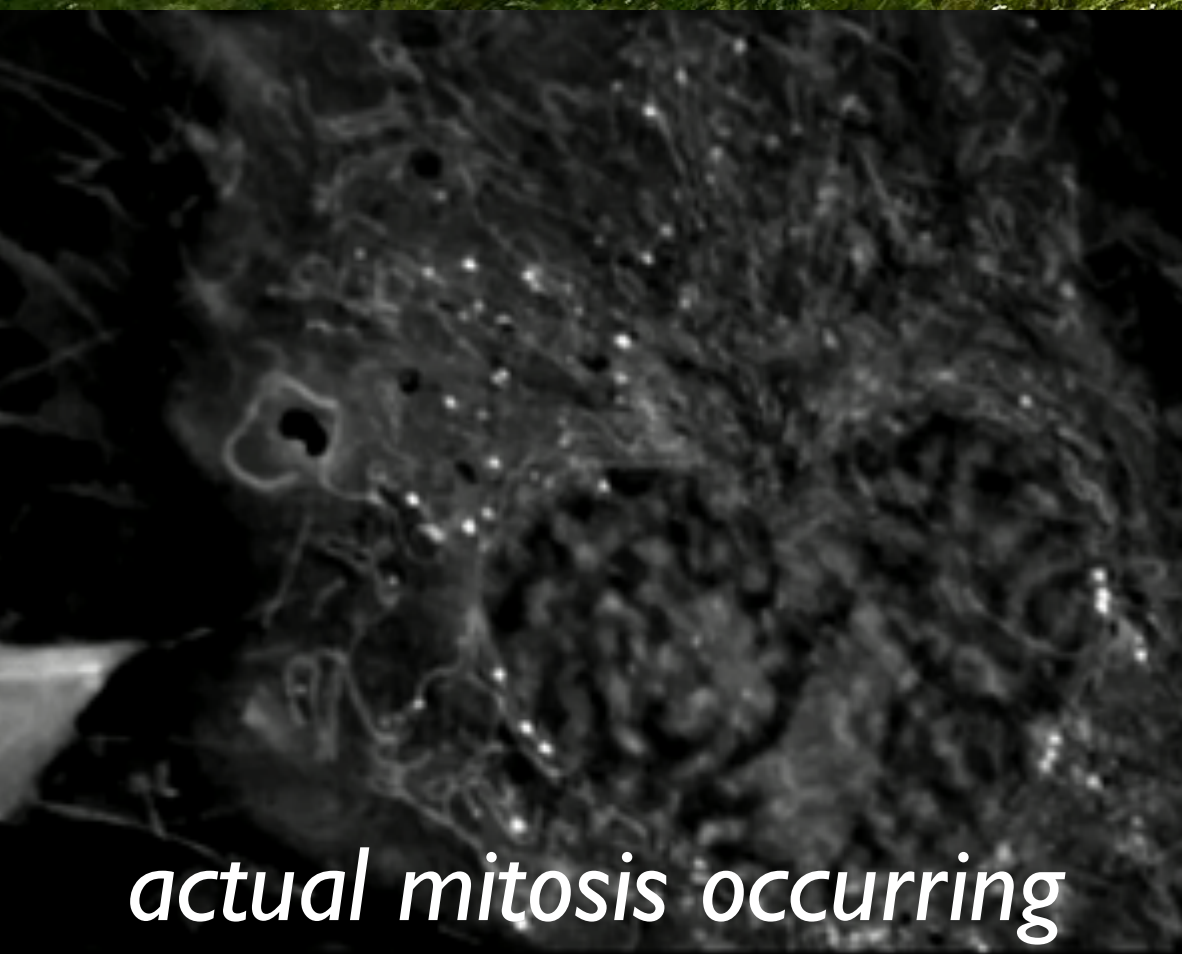
Read
*Earthwise: A
Guide to
Hopeful
Creation
Care*, by
Calvin
DeWitt



Discipleship 2



Meditate on God's reality in creation vs. scientific knowledge.



actual mitosis occurring

DESCRIBE



SCIENCE

EXPLAIN



?

Discipleship 3



Learn from Christ.

Love—the fundamental principle of the creation

Patience—while God slowly reveals Himself

Courage—in the midst of what we don't understand

Prayer—pray for faith, faithfulness, hope

Unhurried movement—slow down, and bring your students with you

Discipleship 4

Meditate on Scripture, meditate in nature, meditate on nature.
Newsletter V5 #3, October 13, 2014

Volume 5, Number 3

13 October, 2014

To receive a copy, email
johnmays@classicalsubjects.com



MASTERY. INTEGRATION. KINGDOM.

Here Shall Your Proud Waves Be Stayed

Reflections on knowledge, science, and revelation

John D. Mays

Oh science teachers, consider the joys of your vocation! I have been thinking a lot lately about some of the amazing aspects of God's creation, and meditating on some

tually exclusive). We know why Pharaoh and his army were destroyed—we are told in the Scripture; it is not clear at all why the World Trade Center towers were destroyed, and the fact that everyone has an opinion

have put them to use in fantastic technologies. But even so, there is much we do not know. Scientifically speaking, how did we get here? How did the energy at the beginning of the universe form from nothing?

Discipleship 5

Enlarge the view by bringing in other voices.
Newsletter V5 #1. March 19. 2014

Volume 5, Number 1

19 March, 2014



MASTERY. INTEGRATION. KINGDOM.

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johnmays@classicalsubjects.com

Enlarging the View

*How Hopkins, Dillard, and van Gogh Can Help us Teach Students
About the World God Made*

John D. Mays

When I was teaching full time, each year in the spring I enjoyed showing the film *The Privileged Planet* to my 9th grade science classes (a perfect activity for the day before spring break). At a certain moment in the film, an image of Vermeer's lovely painting *The Astronomer* appeared. I thought that

Other Voices

We science teachers love teaching science. It is fascinating and fun. Scientific inquiry is an important way of responding to God's world. However, we also know that there are other ways of responding to creation

Consider the process of a child learning about fish. There are several different ways one can encounter fish. I call these ways *modes of knowing*. When children first learn about fish they should do so through a *direct encounter*. (This applies not just for children, but at every stage of



Lux,
callida gravisque
pura velut aurum,
et canunt angeli molliter
modo natum

Light,
warm and heavy as
pure gold,
and the angels sing softly
to the newborn babe

Only one publisher.
Serious about science.
Serious about faith.

A PDF of this presentation will be found at
<https://classicalu.com/lecture-hall/>

