



Crystal Kirgiss

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Crystal Kirgiss (PhD, Purdue University) earned her BA from Bethel University and Seminary (St. Paul, MN) where she studied music performance, English, psychology, and Bible, while volunteering in youth ministry in her spare time. Shortly after beginning a career in music pedagogy, she began writing for Campus Life Magazine, Youth Worker Journal, and other monthly publications. She was an award-winning newspaper columnist during the 1990s, (National Newspaper Association, Second Place for Best Column, Serious Subjects 1995; Minnesota Newspaper Association, Second Place Best Columnist 1995 and First Place Best Columnist 1997). Her newspaper and magazine articles were included in various anthologies (Chicken Soup series, Stories for the Heart series). For ten years, she wrote two monthly columns for Youthwalk teen devotional. She's contributed to a number of Bible editions, most recently as part of the core writing team for The Way (New Living Translations, Tyndale, 2012). She's written over ten books on topics ranging from classical music to Old Testament prophets to the history of adolescence. She earned her PhD from Purdue University where for 13 years she has taught in the English Department (Professional Writing, Intro to Fiction, Great Narrative Works, Bible as Literature, et al.). Her research focuses on the history of adolescence, going as far back as pre-print culture manuscripts of the Western world. A summary of her findings can be read in *In Search of Adolescence: A New Look at an Old Idea*, published in 2016. She speaks to students, youthworkers, and adults of all ages at camps, conferences, retreats, and ministry gatherings. She volunteers in ministry to middle school students and now serves as Young Life's Vice President of Discipleship. Her interests include medieval literature, J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Dorothy Sayers, G. K. Chesterton, book-making, NFL (Minnesota Vikings), and motorcycling with her husband, Mark. Crystal was appointed as Vice President of Global Discipleship for Young Life in July 2018.