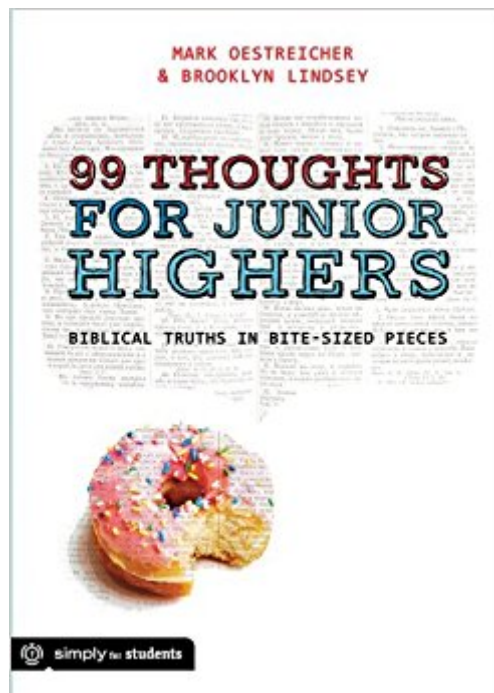




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# 99 Thoughts For Junior Highers: Biblical Truths In Bite-Sized Pieces (Simply For Students)



## Synopsis

Life for a typical junior high is awesome. And hard. And fun. And exciting. And boring. And crazy, right? Basically, it's a blur of all those things—and more! Junior high truly is a season of ups and downs, of possibilities and confusion, of amazing memories and embarrassing moments. To survive it all, you sometimes just need a little help—or 99 bite-sized bits of help! Mark Oestreicher and Brooklyn Lindsey—youth pastors who've worked with people your age for a long, long time—have teamed up to create this insider's guide for this wild ride. They'll help as you examine the changes in your life, figure out what you believe, see where God and church fit into the picture, choose how to interact with family and friends, and decide what matters most in life. And you'll read some true stories about the authors' own junior high years! 99 Thoughts for Junior Highers will entertain, engage, and encourage you during this crazy season of life!

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Mark Oestreicher (Marko) is a veteran youth worker and founding partner in The Youth Cartel, providing resources, training, and coaching for church youth workers. The author of dozens of books, including Youth Ministry 3.0, Marko is a sought-after speaker, writer, and consultant. Marko

lives in San Diego with his wife, Jeannie, and two teenage children, Liesl and Max. Marko's blog: [whyismarko.com](http://whyismarko.com). Brooklyn became a youth pastor in 2001. She's authored six books, and shares with thousands of students and youth workers every year. Likes: 🍕 🍰 pizza, dessert, bike riding, dressing up, and treasure hunting. 🏰 She leads the middle school ministry at Highland Park Church of the Nazarene. 🧒 Her greatest joy is raising her two little girls with her husband Coy.

I was excited to get this resource as a ministry friend recommended it. When I received it I can see why many people liked it for work with junior high students... it is short, simple, to the point, written in a fun and engaging tone - the output of people who have experience engaging with actual jr high students. I gave it three stars because it does not point students to the Bible (less #78 and #82 which do include scripture). The advice is fun, on track, helpful, but it becomes self-contained in the author's wisdom and experience. I'd expect two knee jerk reactions to this review. On one side one may think "what a silly filter to use", and that is OK, I know many people don't see a necessity to point back to scripture (or perhaps better yet use scripture to point forward). On the other hand I could see someone who thinks we should pretty much use scripture and nothing else, and I'm not saying that either. This book would have really hit the spot for me if it simply had a reference after each thought that said... "Read more here..." But that is what I see in most resources, they need to be tuned to the needs of the group, especially to make them a dialog and not a monologue, and ideally point students to the Word of God.

99 Thoughts for Junior Highers by Mark Oestrieher and Brooklyn Lindsay is a fresh and fun new book just FOR your Junior High (and middle school) students that is filled full of 99 huge truths that every Junior Higher needs-- broken down into tasty little bite-size pieces. Each of the 99 thoughts contained in this book is a basic and essential truth that every young teen needs to understand. No word or space was wasted in this very short, easy-to-read 133 page book. Written with an absolute heart for Junior Highers, as each thought will be sure to speak love and truth into the life of it's young teen readers. The book is broken down into 11 chapters with 7-10 thoughts in each, covering the full range of topics connected to the life of a Junior Higher. From identity to body change to topics of faith and of course some wisdom on the opposite sex, I can not honestly think of anything that was not covered. In addition to the great ideas and instruction, each section ends with a personal, real-life story from either Brooklyn or Marko from their own Junior High years, that makes this already well written book even more personal. I am sure Marko, Brooklyn and many of the rest of us working with 6th-8th graders in our ministry will agree with me when I say, I wish there was a

book like this when I was going through these years. Working with this age exclusively, I know how hard my 6th-8th students struggle and the questions I process with them on daily basis. This is a book that is going to be SO valuable to them, but also to anyone working with or in the life of young teens. It is an easy hand-off, a tool to use in discipleship, and just an all-around great resource to have. It is pretty much a basic handbook to being a Junior High and also a Christ-Follower during the young adolescent years. A final thought... Personally, I was very excited to finally get my back-ordered physical copy, as this book almost immediately sold out on the day it came out. I am also strongly considering after the New Year, when my new church budget starts, seeing if I can beg, steal, and even borrow so I can somehow order a copy for every single student in my ministry. Not to over-sell this book, but that is honestly how much I like this book. I hope that Christian publisher sit up and take notice and start getting more great books written for Junior Highers like this out there.

If I had three thumbs, I'd give this a three thumbs up! Written in bite-sized, but power-packed chunks, this little book is full of wisdom and insight from two of the leading voices in junior high ministry. Junior high students won't be able to put it down! Simply Youth Ministry is known for its commitment to high quality resources, and this book my Mark and Brooklyn keeps the tradition going strong.

Mark and Brooklyn have successfully reminded all of us that there's a lot we can do to engage kids in middle school. This is an important book to keep in your library. And I'm so thankful that these authors have done a lot thinking to help the rest of us win in ministry.

I wish this book had existed when I was junior high student. And while I'm now far from junior high, the truths in this book still rang true and hit home for me. It's funny, honest, engaging and an easy read. Grab it. Read it. And let each thought sink to the depths of your heart. An incredible read for any junior higher who wants to know more about who they are and who God has created them to be!

My favorite thought is Thought #88 "Kill Some Dragons". Good Stuff. These are the experts folks. It's a solid book and laid out perfectly for a middle school student to read. Great job to the authors! I loved it!

This is a bullseye for Jr. High students. They can flip through to find the areas that are most interesting, or read it from cover to cover. It's full of insights that'll make sense to middle schoolers, and encourage them with truth! Thanks to Marko & Brooklyn for putting together a great resource (and also for having super-cool names).

Brooklyn and Marco have written something to capture the attention of middle school students. This is authentic, engaging, and written in a way that any middle schooler can connect with it quickly and on their own terms. What a fun way to keep positive truth in front of kids on a regular basis.

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