Pastor Mike's Bookshelf
Set Adrift: Deconstructing What You Believe Without Sinking Your Faith
Sean McDowell and John Marriott

What is "deconstruction"? It is the process of analyzing, evaluating, and reassembling the content of your faith. It's being more intentional with your doubts and questions regarding what you believe, and seeking new answers. Sometimes it might lead to a renewed appreciation of your current faith, or adopting a different version of expressing and living the faith. Sadly, for some, their process of deconstruction leads them to de-convert from the Christian faith altogether. You can find many deconstruction and deconversion stories online.

Deconstruction seems to be a trend among some younger believers. McDowell and Marriott have written this book as a guide and resources for those who are in the process of deconstruction. Their goal is to assist youth believers in adopting a more intentional faith, which may very well be different from what they were raised with (i.e. a different denomination or style of church, or way of worshiping), yet still within the fold of orthodox Christianity, which they define as adhering to the Nicene Creed. A different flavor of Christianity is the goal, rather than de-converting.

While I may not agree with everything the authors say, I think this is a very good resource for someone who wants to remain a Christian, but is struggling with aspects of the Church or tradition they grew up with. The authors point out the importance of having "guard rails" for this process by being clear what belongs to essential Christianity.

And as a side note, one of the authors, Sean McDowell, will be one of the main speakers at the California-Nevada-Hawaii District All Workers Conference in November, which most of our ministry, church and school, will attend. Look for this book, along with most of the previously recommended books on the Church Library cart. Previous recommendations can be found here: https://stjohnslutheran.net/pastor-mikes-bookshelf/