**JOSHUA RYAN BUTLER**

Joshua Ryan Butler loves helping people who wrestle with tough topics of the Christian faith. His breakout book *The Skeletons in God’s Closet: The Mercy of Hell, the Surprise of Judgment, the Hope of Holy War* (Thomas Nelson: October 2014), was named “New Author of the Year” finalist by the Evangelical Christian Publisher’s Association and “Best Popular Theological Book of 2014” by Christianity Today contributor Andrew Wilson. His work has achieved critical acclaim from both conservative and progressive sides of the theological spectrum, including his most recent: *The Pursuing God: A Reckless, Irrational, Obsessed Love That’s Dying to Bring Us Home* (Thomas Nelson: May 2016).

Joshua is a pastor at Imago Dei Community (Portland, OR), where in addition to preaching and teaching, he oversees the church's city ministries in areas like foster care, human trafficking and homelessness and develops international partnerships in areas like clean water, HIV-support and church planting. This perspective helps his speaking and writing “hit pavement,” connecting rich theology with the down-to-earth realities of our world.

Joshua's wife Holly, daughter Aiden, and sons Torin and Jake enjoy spending time with friends over great meals and exploring their beautiful little patch of the world in the Pacific Northwest.