

Author	Book	Comments
Adams, Khristi L	<i>Parable of the Brown Girl</i>	We are introduced to Brown and Black girls, their stories, the stereotypes they face, and why we need to understand each
Allison, Jay	<i>This I Believe</i>	Based on the NPR series of the same name, This I Believe features eighty Americans and their own personal beliefs.
Armstrong, Karen	<i>The Case for God</i>	Drawing on the insights of the past in order to build a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age.
Armstrong, Karen	<i>A History of God</i>	Traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God, from the time of Abraham to the present.
Aslan, Reza	<i>Zealot</i>	“provocative, meticulously researched biography challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth.”
Aslan, Reza	<i>No god but God</i>	A good history of the Muslim religion from a moderate voice - quiet optimism in a world of shouting
Backman, Fredrik	<i>Beartown</i>	Hope can bring a community together, secrets can tear it apart. It takes courage to go against the grain!
Bailey, Kenneth	<i>Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes</i>	Emphasis on the concrete world presupposed in the New Testament. Context, culture, place, and time.
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	<i>Life Together</i>	This about fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi yrs w/advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups.
Borg, Marcus	<i>Evolution of the Word</i>	The NT in the order in which they were written allows us historical context. Core ideas of Christianity took shape and dev over time.
Borg, Marcus	<i>The Heart of Christianity</i>	“Emerging paradigm” is about loving God & loving what God loves, rather than earlier paradigm of a punitive God, and belief only for heavenly reward.
Borg, Marcus	<i>Speaking Christian</i>	Why Christian words have lost their meaning and power, and how they can be restored.
Borg, Marcus; Crossan, J	<i>The First Christmas</i>	Peeling away the sentimentalism that’s built up over 2,000 yrs in this well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the gospels actually say.
Brooks, David	<i>The Road to Character</i>	How various people in history have used internal struggle and a sense of their own limitations in building their own strong inner character.
Brueggemann, Walter	<i>Praying the Psalms</i>	Psalms written by human w/in their own lives. Presents the drama and the constructs used to express the truths they experienced in their daily lives.
Brueggemann, Walter	<i>The Prophetic Imagination</i>	Imagining a different world. A different way of doing things. A different order, through the lens of prophetic imagination.
Brueggemann, Walter	<i>Truth Speaks to Power</i>	Bible presents a "sustained contestation" over truth, in which established institutions of power do not always prevail.
Brueggemann, Walter	<i>From Whom No Secrets are Hid</i>	While a comprehensive intro to the Psalms, this presentation is less about technical info such as types, settings, etc..but more by beautiful expositions of individual Psalms. Master interpreter of the Psalms.
Buechner, Fredrick	<i>Son of Laughter</i>	We see a living, human Jacob, feuding brothers, a story of family and fear, and a tale of a living God with whom Jacob wrestles.
Claiborne, Shane	<i>The Irresistible Revolution</i>	This book invites believers to change the world with Christ’s radical love, a movement of the Spirit to bring to our broken world.
Collins, Francis	<i>The Language of God</i>	Belief in God can coexist w/a scientific picture of the world that includes evolution. “Science isn’t threatened by God; it’s enhanced”
Cox, Harvey	<i>When Jesus Came to Harvard</i>	Theology professor designs a course to consider the significance of Jesus and his teachings today, Jesus and the Moral Life. Life affirmi

Crouter, Richard	Reinhold Niebuhr	Placed in context of religious & cultural history, N's theological views deepen & challenge contempt. expertise on war, peace, econ, and personal security.
Duncan, Lenny	Dear Church...	An unlikely pastor, formerly incarcerated, homeless, and unchurched, he is now a black preacher in the ELCA. Part manifesto and confessions, and all love.
Dungan, David	Constantine's Bible	A view of the 1st 3 c's of Christian history: how the players, ecclesiastical and civil, contributed to defining the works making up the New Testament
Durant, Will & Ariel	The Lessons of History	"The celebrated collection of essays compiling over 5,000 years of history by tow of the greatest thinkers of our time."
Ehrman, Bart D.	Misquoting Jesus	Ehrman reveals the truth behind the many mistakes and changes that can be found throughout the Bible (deals mostly w/New Testament).
Eiseley, Loren	The Immense Journey	"An imaginative naturalist explores the mysteries of man and nature." The story of man, A blend of scientific knowledge and imaginative vision.
Feiler, Bruce	Walking the Bible	As a pilgrim during this journey, Feiler's previously abstract faith grew more grounded.
Feiler, Bruce	Where God Was Born	Readers will effortlessly learn a lot about antiquity and also about recent history, today's headlines and Feiler's own spiritual journey.
Felten and Procter-Murphy	Living the Questions	What does it mean to be a progressive Christian? An alternative to the dominant ideology of "American Christianity."
Gawande, Atul	Being Mortal	"Medicine and What Matters in the End" Live a life with meaning as rich and full as possible no matter the circumstances.
Gulley and Mulholland	If Grace is True	God's gracious arms are wide enough to hold every person, regardless of shortcomings or sins (authors didn't always feel this way)
Gustafson, Scott	Biblical Amnesia	Bible records struggle between 2 world-views: the dominator system and partnership ways. God favors partnership ways, unlike us.
Hall, Douglas John	Why Christian?	In these dialogues w/doubt, an earnest search with a young inquirer on the edges of Christian faith, asking, "Why be Christian?"
Hanh, Thich Nhat	Living Buddha, Living Christ	Explores the crossroads of compassion and holiness at which the 2 traditions meet, helps our understanding of both.
Hultgren, Arland J	The Parables of Jesus	Christ is the Revealer of God and the Redeemer of humanity. His parables are the primary medium of revelation.
Jacobs, AJ	The Year of Living Biblically	Jacobs, a New York Jewish agnostic, decides to follow the laws and rules of the Bible, beginning with the Old Testament, for one year.
Jones, Rachel Pieh	Pillars	The author shows that it's possible to learn from people of other religions (in this case Muslims) with humility, without compromising one's own faith. The book is based on her own story of moving to Somaliland and then Djibouti.
Joshi, S.T,	Atheism, A Reader	Assembly of best writings on atheism, agnosticism, and skepticism by some of the world's great thinkers past + present.
Keller, Timothy	The Reason for God	Using literature, philosophy, anthropology, pop culture + intellectual reasoning, belief in a Christian God is a sound and rational one.
Kendi, Ibram X.	How to be an Antiracist	Kendi dissects why in a society where so few people consider themselves to be racist, the divisions and inequalities of racism remain so
Kittelson, James	Luther the Reformer	Traces the evolution of Luther's theology, from conforming monk, to loyal reformer, to opponent of the Roman Catholic Church.
Kushner, Harold S.	The Lord is My Shepherd	"God's promise was never that life would be fair. God's promise was that, when we had to confront the unfairness of life, we would not have to do it alone for He would be with us."
Lehane, Dennis	The Given Day	End of WWI, Boston, political and social unrest as seen in story of two families - one black, one white.

Lewis, C.S.	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	Christianity isn't a religion of flitting angels & blind faith, but of free will, an innate sense of justice & grace of God
Lewis, C.S.	<i>Miracles</i>	"C.S. Lewis is the ideal persuader for the half-convinced who would like to be a Christian but finds his intellect getting in the way."
Lindberg and Wee	<i>The Forgotten Luther</i>	Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation. Economic equity has been lost.
Loewen, James W.	<i>Lies My Teacher Told Me</i>	Not just a critique of textbooks and teaching, but also a counter textbook that retells the story of the American past.
LLoyd, Rachel	<i>Girls Like Us</i>	Arguments for recognition and protection give a voice to the thousands of girls all around us who work and suffer in near invisibility.
Mann, Charles C.	<i>1491</i>	An impressive summary of how people lived before the "discovery" of America, with very many illustrative details documenting that impressive cultures existed long before Europa reached a similar level of sophistication.
McConaghy, Charlotte	<i>Migrations, a Novel</i>	Parallel stories of a woman and a world on the brink of devastation, but never without hope. Deeply moving, haunting, and important.
McLaren, Brian D	<i>Why Did Jesus, Moses, The Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?</i>	Can you affirm other religions and not water down your own? Benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility. Be friends!
Menakem, Resmaa	<i>My Grandmother's Hands</i>	Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies
MN Council of Churches	<i>This Much I can Tell You</i>	Stories of courage and hope from refugees in MN. Powerful sample stories of our 70,000 refugees!
Murphy, Larry G	<i>Sojourner Truth a Biography</i>	Born into slavery, escapes. Becomes a voice for abolition, women's rights, racial reconciliation and more.
Nayeri, Dina	<i>The Ungrateful Refugee</i>	Nayeri combines her own experience with those of refugees she meets as an adult, telling their stories with tenderness and reverence.
Norris, Kathleen	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Our fallible language becomes a lesson in how God's grace works despite and even through our human frailty.
Nouwen, Henri	<i>Life of the Beloved</i>	HN writes a book explaining spiritual life in terms that secular people might understand, still best for Christians.
Pagels, Elaine	<i>Adam, Eve, and the Serpent</i>	Pagels dismantles Augustine's identification of sexuality w/original sin, radical departure from both pagan and Jewish sexual attitudes
Palmer, Parker	<i>Healing the Heart of Democracy</i>	Process of involving ourselves in the maintenance of a democracy in which all who are willing to open their hearts can flourish.
Powers, Richard	<i>The Overstory</i>	A story about trees and people who understand them. Environmental "fiction," We get whittled down in size in this fable of genuine truth
Prothero, Stephen	<i>Religious Literacy</i>	Americans are deeply religious yet profoundly ignorant about religion, and it's the most volatile constituent of culture!
Saint John of the Cross	<i>Dark Night of the Soul</i>	Spanish Mystic, prison poem and how union w/God happens. Senses and spirit are purified. 7 deadly sins, etc.
Scher, Julian	<i>Somebody's Daughter</i>	The dirty little secret is most trafficked kids in our country are American-born- our daughters.
Shin, Sun Yung; editor	<i>A Good Time for the Truth</i>	16 BIPOC writers share what it is like to live in MN as a person of color. Diverse stories and experiences!
Smith, Huston	<i>The World's Religions</i>	Teachings world's faiths: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and native traditions
Soskice, Janet	<i>The Sisters of Sinai</i>	How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels; the earliest known copy of the Gospels in ancient Syriac

Spong, Shelby	<i>Reclaiming the Bible for</i>	Designed to take readers into the contemporary academic debate about the Bible. He frees readers from a literal view of the Bible.
Spong, Shelby	<i>The Sins of the Scripture</i>	Exposing the Bible's Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love
Spong, Shelby	<i>Why Christianity Must Change or Die</i>	Spong is in “exile” until Christianity is re-formed to discard all of the outdated and false tenets of Christianity.
Stark, Rodney	<i>The Rise of Christianity</i>	Anyone who’s puzzled over Christianity's rise to dominance in the Roman Empire, after four centuries, must read this
Stevenson, Bryan	<i>Just Mercy</i>	Unfairness in the justice system is a major theme of our age...Here’s the story in 2 contexts - Stevenson’s life’s work and
Taylor, Barbara Brown	<i>Learning to Walk in the Dark</i>	Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find God even in darkness, to let darkness teach us what we need to know.
Tutu, Desmond	<i>No Future w/o Forgiveness</i>	The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of S. Africa ...common pain, sorrow, hope, and confidence in the future.
Tyson, Timothy	<i>Blood Done Sign My Name</i>	A killing and its aftermath from multiple perspectives, an unflinching examination of the civil rights struggle
Wallis, Jim	<i>God’s Politics</i>	God belongs to no single political party and true faith transcends political categorization
Wallis, Jim	<i>America’s Original Sin</i>	Build a better nation by facing the sin we inherited, the sin that continues to hurt our bros and sisters today
Warner, Oliver, Idliby	<i>The Faith Club</i>	Mothers of Jewish, Muslim ,Christian faiths write on commonalities among their traditions, and discuss painful diffs
Warren, Rick	<i>The Purpose Driven Life</i>	Premise: there are no accidents-God planned everything and everyone -ask what your life can do for God's plan
West, Cornel	<i>Black Prophetic Fire</i>	In dialogue with Christa Buschendorf, a fresh perspective on 6 revolutionary African American leaders.
Wilkerson, Isabel	<i>Caste</i>	America today and throughout history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. S
Wilkerson, Isabel	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>	She chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of Black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.
Williams, Gregory Howard	<i>Life on the Color Line</i>	This book brims with insights that only someone who has lived on both sides of the racial divide could gain.
Woodard, Colin	<i>American Nations</i>	A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America
Yancy, Philip	<i>The Jesus I Never Knew</i>	Who was Jesus, why did he come, what did he leave behind, in the context of time, within the framework of history?
Yancy, Philip	<i>Soul Survivor</i>	“How 13 Unlikely Mentors Helped My Faith Survive the Church” A struggle to reclaim belief by the author.
Young, William	<i>The Shack</i>	Daughter was brutally murdered, found in an abandoned shack. 4 yrs later he receives a note, apparently from God, inviting him back.