A guide to using this curriculum

The curriculum is divided into multiple modules, each of which will build on top of the ideas found within the previous module. Each module is made up of several sections, and within each section, I have listed resources which have been the most helpful and formative *for me* with respect to my approach to understanding LGBTQ+ issues. I'm not claiming that these are the best resources, or that these resources cover all sides of the debate fairly—only that these are the resources which have permitted me to see LGBTQ+ inclusion, equality, and liberation as part of my faith.

In each section, I have listed resources roughly in the order in which they should be read. Typically, resources will be listed in order of their accessibility to a lay reader from your average Christian background, from most to least familiar. I'm sure that the many dozens of resources I have listed will seem very overwhelming to go through. The curriculum represents the nearly five years of study it took me to go from being anti-gay to being fully affirming. Anything worth learning is worth learning slowly, I feel, and our task of learning to love will take a lifetime. As such, please don't feel like you must rush through the entire curriculum. You may take as much time as you need to study as many resources as you'd like, and pick, choose, skim, and skip as you wish.

If you are already very open to the idea that queerness and Christianity can go together but are wondering how this might be the case (or just want to skip to the resources pertaining directly to LGBTQ+ issues for whatever reason), you may begin with Module 4. Otherwise, begin with Module 1.

Legend:

+ = This symbol indicates that a resource is optional. On one hand, I encourage you to look into resources even when they're marked as optional, especially if you feel like you need to spend more time on certain ideas. On the other hand, don't feel the need to go through every resource that isn't optional—especially if they are books you do not own. You can always return to any resource later.

OR: = This symbol indicates that you have a choice between multiple resources which overlap in their content, which means you can choose whichever one you prefer. You might, for example, rather watch a video or listen to a podcast than read an article, or vice versa.

Module 1: Basics

What is God like? (God and love)

"Compelled: Speaking and Living the Gospel - Tim Mackie (The Bible Project)." Tim Mackie Archives. August 14, 2017. https://youtu.be/qwNfH_SOWKA.

"Brad Jersak - The Gospel in Chairs - Session 1 (FGC 2016)." Early Church Faith. June 29, 2017. https://youtu.be/N7FKhHScgUQ.

Michael Reeves. Delighting in the Trinity. IVP Academic, 2012.

Bradley Jersak. A More Christlike God. Plain Truth Ministries, 2016.

What is the Bible?

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"John Walton: Interpreting the Creation Story." Seedbed. April 22, 2015. https://youtu.be/IKWVPVp_GZQ. OR: John Walton. *The Lost World Of Genesis One*. IVP Academic, 2009.

Ben Witherington. "NT Rhetoric-- a Handbook." *Ben Witherington* (blog). https://benwitherington.blogspot.com/2008/04/nt-rhetoric-handbook.html.

Peter Enns. The Bible Tells Me So. HarperOne, 2014.

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What is God like? (God and holiness, anger, and judgment)

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Chris Marshall, "Divine Justice as Restorative Justice."

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Derek Flood. Healing the Gospel. Cascade Books, 2012.

- + Eddie Chu. Seeing God Differently. Word Alive Press, 2013.
- + "Resources." Christians for the Abolition of Prisons. https://christiansforabolition.org/resources/.

How should we read the Bible?

Melissa Florer-Bixler. Fire by Night. Herald Press, 2019.

Peter J. Gomes. The Good Book. HarperOne, 2002.

Peter Enns. The Sin of Certainty. HarperOne, 2016.

OR: "The Sin of Certainty." The Bible for Normal People. December 24, 2018. https://youtu.be/hO8qyRe qW4.

Peter Enns. How the Bible Actually Works. HarperOne, 2019.

Marc Zvi Brettler, Amy-Jill Levine. "The Bible With and Without Jesus." *Biblical Archaeology Society* (blog). March 22, 2021. https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/the-bible-with-and-without-jesus/.

OR: Amy-Jill Levine, Marc Zvi Brettler. *The Bible With and Without Jesus*. HarperOne, 2020.

Dirk-Martin Grube. "Christian theology emerged by way of a Kuhnian Paradigm Shift." *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 79, no. 1-2 (2018): 178-193. https://doi.org/10.1080/21692327.2017.1422988.

Bradley Jersak. A More Christlike Word. Whitaker House, 2021.

- + Angela Parker. If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I? Eerdmans, 2021.
- + Matthew J. Korpman. Saying No to God. Quoir, 2019. https://www.quoir.com/saying-no-to-god_preview
- + Rob Bell. What Is the Bible? HarperOne, 2017.

Module 2: God and the Bible in our world

What does the Bible say about power and the powerless?

"The Emergence of Sin with Dr. Matt Croasmun." *BibleProject*. May 16, 2019. https://bibleproject.com/podcast/emergence-sin/.

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Abraham J. Heschel. "What Matter of Man Is the Prophet?" In *The Prophets*, 3-31. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2001.

John Dear. "Gustavo Gutierrez and the preferential option for the poor." *NCR*. November 8, 2011, https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/road-peace/gustavo-gutierrez-and-preferential-option-poor.

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Melissa Florer-Bixler. How to Have an Enemy. Herald Press, 2021.

OR: Melanie Springer Mock. "Redefining how to love enemies." *Anabaptist World*. December 20, 2021. https://anabaptistworld.org/redefining-how-to-love-enemies/.

When Christians disagreed (Christianity and diversity)

Phillip Jenkins. "Coming to terms." In The Next Christendom, 134-163. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Mark Humphries. "Doctrine and power: orthodoxy and organization in early Christianity." In *Early Christianity*, 142-185. Routledge, 2006.

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Florence Juma, J. M. Vorster. "Kung's Theory of Paradigm Shifts in Church History: An Evaluation." *Studia Historia Ecclesiasticae* 24, no. 2 (1998): 116-130.

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When Christians got it wrong (Christianity and slavery)

Noel Rae, "How Christian Slaveholders Used the Bible to Justify Slavery." *Time*. February 23, 2018. https://time.com/5171819/christianity-slavery-book-excerpt/.

Chris L. de Wet, "The punishment of slaves in early Christianity: the views of some selected church fathers," *Acta Theologia* (2016): 263-282. http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/actat.v23i1s.13.

Charles F. Irons. "Introduction: The Chief Cornerstone." In *The Origins of Proslavery Christianity*, 1-22. The University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

OR: Mark Noll. The Civil War as Theological Crisis. University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

God, women, and gender

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Eliza Griswold. "The Unmaking of Biblical Womanhood." *The New Yorker*. July 25, 2021. https://www.newyorker.com/news/on-religion/the-unmaking-of-biblical-womanhood. OR: Beth Allison Barr, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood*. Brazos Press, 2021.

"Women and Worship at Corinth | The Lucy Peppiatt Interview." Wipf and Stock Publishers. January 25, 2016. https://youtu.be/ojp5M5YfwAg.

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- + Rachel Held Evans. A Year of Biblical Womanhood. Thomas Nelson. 2012
- + Megan Defranza. Sex Difference in Christian Theology. Eerdmans, 2015.
- + Brittany E. Wilson. *Unmanly Men*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

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Joseph Hellerman. "Our Priorities Are Off When Family Is More Important Than Church." *Christianity Today*. August 4, 2016. https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2016/august-web-only/if-our-families-are-more-important-than-our-churches-we-nee.html.

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Module 3: Queer 101

Basics (I)

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OR: Mark A. Yarhouse. Understanding Gender Dysphoria. IVP Academic, 2015.

Mark Yarhouse, Julia Sadusky. "Recovering a Hermeneutic of Christian Hope." In *Emerging Gender Identities*, 205-212. Brazos Press, 2020.

Module 4: Queering Christianity

What is the Spirit saying to the churches? (I — Gentile inclusion)

"Jack Levison- The Spirit, Wind, & Breath of God in the Bible." *The Bible for Normal People Podcast.* June 21, 2020. https://peteenns.com/jack-levison-the-spirit-wind-breath-of-god-in-the-bible/OR: Jack Levison. *An Unconventional God.* Baker Academic, 2020.

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"Who's In? - Family of God E7." BibleProject. January 11, 2021. https://bibleproject.com/podcast/whos-in/.

Steven M. Studebaker. "A Pentecostal Approach to the Trinity." In *From Pentecost to the Triune God*, 11-52. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012.

OR: J. Lyle Story. "The Jerusalem Council: A Pivotal and Instructive Paradigm." *Journal of Biblical Perspectives in Leadership* 3, no. 1 (2010): https://www.regent.edu/journal/journal-of-biblical-perspectives-in-leadership/the-jerusalem-council-a-pivotal-and-instructive-paradigm/.

What is the Spirit saying to the churches? (II — Queering the Gentile inclusion)

Sylvia C. Keesmaat. "Welcoming in the Gentiles." In *Living Together in the Church: Including our Differences*, edited by Greig S. Dunn and Chris Ambidge, pp. 30-49. *Anglican Book Centre*, 2004. https://ir.icscanada.edu/bitstream/handle/10756/296292/Keesmaat_2004a.pdf.

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- + "OFFICIAL Preacher Phil Snider gives interesting gay rights speech." Synon. August 20, 2012. https://youtu.be/A8JsRx2lois.
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