



P.O Box 22317, Lexington, KY 40522-2317
859.327.1047 info@fortunatefamilies.com

Book Reading List

This is a basic reading list for LGBTQ+ persons, families, friends, and for those who minister with them. *Their being listed does not necessarily mean that Fortunate Families agrees with all of the views presented in these materials.*

AUTHOR	TITLE	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	READING LEVEL
Alison, James	<i>Faith Beyond Resentment: Fragments Catholic and Gay</i>	Theology, Scripture, Spirituality	Discrimination against gays and lesbians extends from the highest echelons of the Catholic Church to the pews. For James Alison, a gay Catholic theologian, the key to moving beyond resentment is a radical re-conversion to the gospel message of God's love and understanding that even those in power are our brothers and sisters. (New York, NY: The Crossroad Publishing Company. 2001)	Advanced
Beardsley, Christina and O'Brien, Michelle	<i>This is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians</i>	Theology, scripture, spirituality, testimonials	Much has been said and written about trans people by theologians and Church leaders, while little has been heard from trans Christians themselves. As a step towards redressing the balance, this book offers a grounded reflection on people's experience of gender dissonance that involves negotiating the boundaries between one's identity and religious faith, as well as a review of the most up-to-date theological, cultural and scientific literature. (London, UK: Darton Longman & Todd. 2016)	Intermediate

Chu, Jeff	<i>Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America</i>	Testimonial, Spirituality, Church	This book is part memoir and part investigative analysis that explores the explosive and confusing intersection of faith, politics, and sexuality in Christian America. The quest to find an answer is at the heart of <i>Does Jesus Really Love Me?</i> —a personal journey of belief, an investigation, and a portrait of a faith and a nation at odds by award-winning reporter Jeff Chu. From Brooklyn to Nashville to California, from Westboro Baptist Church and their “God Hates Fags” protest signs, to the pioneering Episcopalian bishop Mary Glasspool—who proclaims a message of liberation and divine love, Chu captures spiritual snapshots of Christian America at a remarkable moment, when tensions between both sides in the culture wars have rarely been higher. (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers. 2014)	Beginner
Edman, Elizabeth	<i>Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity</i>	Ethics, Spirituality, Church	In <i>Queer Virtue</i> , Edman posits that Christianity, at its scriptural core, incessantly challenges its adherents to rupture false binaries, to “queer” lines that pit people against one another. Thus, Edman asserts that Christianity, far from being hostile to queer people, is itself inherently queer. Arguing from the heart of scripture, she reveals how queering Christianity—that is, disrupting simplistic ways of thinking about self and other—can illuminate contemporary Christian faith. Pushing well past the notion that “Christian love = tolerance,” Edman offers a bold alternative: the recognition that queer people can help Christians better understand their fundamental calling and the creation of sacred space where LGBTQ Christians are seen as gifts to the church. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press. 2016)	Intermediate

Godfrey, Donal, S.J.	<i>Gays and Grays: The Story of the Gay Community at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church</i>	Pastoral Ministry	Most Holy Redeemer was changed from a dying parish to a vital place where gay and straight people together created something new. Father Donal Godfrey shows how this parish became prophetic and compassionate, through conflict and compromise at times; despite opposition from many sources, including the institutionalized homophobia of the church and society. Rather than becoming embittered, the parish opened up to be a place of healing and indeed sanctuary for many. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2007)	Beginner
Gushee, David	<i>Changing Our Mind</i>	Theology, Ethics, Church, Scripture	“Every generation has its hot-button issue,” writes David P. Gushee, “for us, it’s the LGBT issue.” In <i>Changing Our Mind</i> , Gushee takes the reader along his personal and theological journey as he changes his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the Church. (Canton, MI: David Crumm Media. 2014)	Intermediate
Helminiak, Daniel A., Ph.D.	<i>What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality</i>	Theology, Sexuality	Does God's word in the Bible really condemn homosexuality? A top scholar shows that those who perceive Bible passages as condemning homosexuality are being misled by faulty translation and poor interpretation. Danial A. Helminiak, Ph.D., a respected theologian and Roman Catholic priest, explains in a clear fashion the fascinating new insights of these scholars. (Tajique, NM: Alamo Square Press. 2000)	Intermediate
Johnson, Luke Timothy	<i>The Revelatory Body: Theology as Inductive Art.</i>	Theology, Sexuality	Scripture points to the human body and lived experience as the preeminent arena of God's continuing revelation in the world, says Luke Timothy Johnson. Attentively discerning the manifestations of God's Spirit in and through the body is essential for theology to recover its nature as an	Intermediate

			inductive art rather than — as traditionally conceived — a deductive science. (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 2015)	
Kiely, Robert	<i>Blessed and Beautiful: Picturing the Saints</i>	Saints	This book offers a powerful and searching meditation on the lives of the saints and the images of them painted by Renaissance artists in Italy. Robert Kiely, a distinguished scholar of modernist literature and a historian and critic of exceptional sensibility, has a keen eye and uncanny ability to capture details of significance and to prompt the reader to look again and to see with fresh eyes that the lives of saints and the Renaissance depictions of them are anything but dull, uniform, or narrowly orthodox. His beautifully written and thoughtful book treats saints seriously as human religious figures (not icons of perfection), brought to life by great Italian paintings in dialogue with scripture, legend, and poetry. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 2010)	Beginner
Martin, Colby	<i>UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality</i>	Scripture	<i>UnClobber</i> reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that breathes fresh life into outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. 2016)	Intermediate
Martin, James, S.J.	<i>Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter Into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity (Revised and Expanded)</i>	Theology, Pastoral Ministry	Adapted from an address he gave to New Ways Ministry, a group that ministers to and advocates for LGBT Catholics, <i>Building a Bridge</i> provides a roadmap for repairing and strengthening the bonds that unite all of us as God's children. Martin uses the image of a two-way bridge to enable LGBT Catholics and the Church to come together in a call to end the "us" versus "them" mentality. Turning to	Beginner

			the Catechism, he draws on the three criteria at the heart of the Christian ministry—"respect, compassion, and sensitivity"—as a model for how the Catholic Church should relate to the LGBT community. (New York, NY: HarperCollins. 2018)	
McNeill, John J.	<i>Both Feet Firmly Planted in Midair: My Spiritual Journey</i>	Theology	With the publication of his groundbreaking <i>The Church and the Homosexual</i> in 1976, John McNeill placed himself in the vanguard of scholars who were challenging long-held assumptions about the Bible and homosexuality. Through his continued scholarship, spiritual reflection, and untiring activism, McNeill has brought hope and affirmation to thousands of gay and lesbian Christians. <i>Both Feet Firmly Planted in Midair</i> is McNeill's autobiography. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. 1998)	Intermediate
McNeill, John J.	<i>Freedom, Glorious Freedom.</i>	Theology	<i>Freedom, Glorious Freedom</i> is the third volume in John McNeill's landmark trilogy on gay and lesbian spirituality. It deals with the presence of the Spirit of God, the Spirit of love in our daily experiences, and how to arrive at the glorious freedom of the children of God. McNeill shows how lesbian and gay Christians can achieve full spiritual maturity and self-acceptance. McNeill discusses freedom of conscience and discernment of spirits, ancient teachings of the Christian church that have a special urgency for lesbian and gay people who need to free themselves from all the homophobic authorities and deal with God on a direct and personal basis. The liberating process of coming out of the closet is seen as a spirit-filled effort to achieve the glory of God by becoming fully alive. McNeill offers a twelve-step	Intermediate

			spirituality as a spiritual process of liberation from all addictions in order to experience the love of God in its fullness. The epilogue expresses in detail a philosophical vision, looking both to the past and to the future, of how gay liberation fits into the Spirit-directed evolution of human history and its role in the ongoing struggle for human liberation. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press. 1995)	
McNeill, John J.	<i>Sex as God Intended: A Reflection on Human Sexuality as Play</i>	Theology	Noted biblical scholar John McNeill offers further insight into the role of sex in the Bible and how the original viewpoints by Church Fathers has been twisted by the Catholic Church over the years. This book also offers a series of essays by current scholars in honor of McNeill. (Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press. 2008)	Intermediate
McNeill, John J.	<i>Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians, and Their Lovers, Families, and Friends</i>	Theology	<i>Taking a Chance on God</i> explores how lesbians and gay men can claim both a positive gay identity and a fulfilling life of Christian faith. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press. 1988)	Intermediate
McNeill, John J.	<i>The Church and the Homosexual</i> , 4 th Edition	Theology	In this "brave and good book which shatters bad myths" (Commonweal), McNeill shows that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality, and argues that the Church must not continue its homophobic practices. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press. 1976) Note: info is a little dated, but is a classic.	Intermediate
Moore, Gareth	<i>A Question of Truth: Christianity and Homosexuality</i>	Church teaching	A Dominican priest challenges the teaching of the Catholic Church on its own grounds. He scrutinizes the Church's arguments, which are based on both the Bible and natural law, and finds them wanting. (New York, NY: Continuum. 2003)	Advanced

Owens-Reid, Dannielle and Kristin Russo	<i>This Is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids: A Question and Answer Guide to Everyday Life</i>	Parenting	Written in an accessible Q&A format, here, finally, is the go-to resource for parents hoping to understand and communicate with their gay child. Through their LGBTQ-oriented site, the authors are uniquely experienced to answer parents' many questions and share insight and guidance on both emotional and practical topics. Filled with real-life experiences from gay kids and parents, this is the book gay kids want their parents to read. (San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books. 2014)	Beginner
Scott, Laurie Suzanne	<i>God Doesn't Make Mistakes: Confessions of a Transgender Christian</i>	Transgender	Meet Laurie Suzanne Scott. She is, indeed, both an evangelical Christian and transgender. Raised in a devoutly Christian home, she endured the unbelievably difficult and complicated odyssey of finding her identity as a woman ...without losing her identity in Christ. A journey she barely survived. In her book, Laurie tells her story of growing up playing a role as unnatural to her as the body she was born with. (Austin, TX: Tek-Chic Systems. 2018)	Beginner