

SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR CONTEXTUAL BIBLE STUDY

This list of resources is a starting place from which organizers, church leaders, and biblical scholars can start to explore the Contextual Bible Study methodology. It is by no means a comprehensive bibliography. Care has been taken to include resources that are, to some extent, representative of a diversity of perspectives and locations.

Anderson, Cheryl B. "Lessons on Healing from Naam (2 Kings 5:1-27): An African American Perspective," in *African Women, HIV/AIDS, and Faith Communities*, Isabel Apawa Phiri, Beverley Haddad, and Madipoane Masenya (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa: Cluster Publications, 2003), 23-43.

- This chapter explores a particular Old Testament passage within the context of the African-American community, especially the black church, and HIV/AIDS. Using interpretive frameworks behind the text, in the text and in front of the text, the biblical text is also explored in terms of age, gender, class, nationality and religion.

Aymer, Margaret P. *Confessing the Beatitudes: Ecumenical Edition*. 2011-2012 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study. Presbyterian Church (USA): 2011.

- Prepared for *Horizons*, a magazine for Presbyterian women in the United States, this Bible series encompasses an introduction and nine lessons on the Lukan and Matthean beatitudes. Included in this study is a process of group confession, or truth telling, in relationship to the Accra Confession.

Aymer, Margaret P. *Repairers of the Breach: Five Bible Studies on Social Justice in New Orleans in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina*. Prepared for the 2007 PHEWA Social Justice Biennial Conference. Presbyterian Church (USA): 2007.

- This Bible study series was prepared for the 2007 Social Justice Biennial Conference of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association, which is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA. Biblical texts in this study include Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Cardenal, Ernesto. *The Gospel of Solentiname*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1976.

- This book is the result of Sunday discussions of the gospels by *campesinos* in a community called *Solentiname*, an archipelago in Lake Nicaragua. Although not a transcription, the majority of the book reflects the *campesinos*' own words as they said them during the Somoza dictatorship in the 1970s. Cardenal considers these discussions an interpretation the gospel in light of the revolution that was underway.

Centro de Estudos Bíblicos. Centro de Estudos Bíblicos Home Page.

<http://www.cebi.org.br/>.

- Located in São Leopoldo, Brazil, the Center for Biblical Studies was founded in 1979 as an ecumenical organization committed to developing popular readings of the Bible among Christian base communities and social movements. This website includes many resources, including information about CEBI itself, blogs, publications and liturgies.

Ekblad, Bob. *Reading the Bible with the Damned*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

- Ekblad shares his experience conducting Bible studies among marginalized Latino/a communities in the United States Pacific Northwest, both in the community and in jails. Biblical interpretation by ordinary readers is interwoven with stories of doing ministry among these same readers. This book explores primarily Old Testament texts, but also includes two chapters on the gospels and Paul respectively.

Mesters, Carlos. *Defenseless flower: A New Reading of the Bible*. Translated by Francis McDonagh. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1989.

- This book is a reflection on ways of reading the Bible that have emerged from Mesters's experience working with Christian base communities in Brazil. It emphasizes the importance of the social location from which the Bible is read ("pre-text") and the social situations to which it is applied ("con-text").

Mesters, Carlos. "The Use of the Bible in Christian Communities of the Common People." Pages 119-133. *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*. Edited by Norman K. Gottwald. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1983.

- Writing from the experience of grassroots Bible study settings among Brazilian Catholics, Masters explores some of the obstacles Bible study participants face in this context and how to overcome them. As ordinary readers begin to claim the Bible as their own, he argues that dislocations or shifts in traditional interpretation can take place.

Nadar, Sarojini. "Beyond the 'ordinary reader' and the 'invisible intellectual': pushing the boundaries of contextual Bible study discourses." Pages 13-28. Edited by Roland Boer and Fernando F Segovia. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

- Nadar writes from the perspective of a South African Indian womanist. In this essay Nadar pushes understandings of methods for connecting to "the people," especially in light of the continuation of suffering and oppression forty years after the advent of liberation theology. Included are "Five C's" of Contextual Bible Study: community, context, criticality, conscientization and change.

Riches, John, Hellen Ball, Roy Henderson, Craig Lancaster, Leslie Milton and Maureen Russell. *What Is Contextual Bible Study?: A Practical Guide with Group Studies for Advent and Lent*. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2010.

- Directly influenced by the CBS methodology developed in South Africa by the Ujamaa Centre, this book reflects the experience of Riches and his colleagues in implementing and developing CBS in Scotland. This concise book is designed as a practical guide for organizing and implementing Bible studies.

Ujamaa Centre for Biblical and Theological Community Development and Research. Ujamaa Centre Home Page. <http://ujamaa.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx>.

- The Ujamaa Centre is located at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Influenced by South African Black Theology and South African Contextual Theology, the Ujamaa Centre is a pioneer of the Contextual Bible Study methodology. This website includes a variety of resources, both academic and practical, as well as information about the organization itself.

West, Gerald O. *The Academy of the Poor: Towards a Dialogical Reading of the Bible*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

- Directed primarily at biblical scholars, this book considers the role of the socially engaged biblical scholar in working with poor and marginalized communities through the Contextual Bible Study methodology. It is concerned with how to bridge the divide between trained academic and ordinary readers toward transformative readings of the Bible.

West, Gerald O., ed. *Reading Other-Wise: Socially Engaged Biblical Scholars Reading with their Local Communities*. Boston: Brill, 2007

- This anthology includes a series of essays from a variety of geographical locations (including Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and North America) that reflect explicit collaborations between biblical scholars and ordinary readers.

West, Gerald and the Ujamaa Centre Staff. *Doing Contextual Bible Study: A Resource Manual*. Online:

http://ujamaa.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/manuals/Ujamaa_CBS_Manual_part_1_2.sflb.ashx and
http://ujamaa.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/manuals/Ujamaa_CBS_Manual_part_2_1_1.sflb.ashx.

- As a critical reflection of the on-going work of the Ujamaa Centre, these resource manuals are practical guides that outline the theoretical basis of Contextual Bible Study and provide concrete instructions for implementing the CBS methodology (part one). Part two includes twenty-three Bible studies based on Old Testament and Gospel texts.