Frank talk about what the Bible offers a secular, pluralistic society

SELLING POINTS

- An accessible introduction to the value of the Bible for a general education, by a noted scholar
- Emphasizes an open and dialogical approach to the Bible
- Describes the core themes of the Bible

Why read the Bible? Gerd Theissen uses the wisdom gained from decades of teaching Bible instruction at a state university to address questions of the Bible’s relevance in a postmodern, pluralistic society. He describes the core themes and enduring value of the biblical legacy for anyone seeking to be a well-informed, self-aware, and responsible citizen, and he commends the contributions the Bible can make to inter-religious and secular conversation.

Contents

What’s essential in the Bible?
Biblical essentials: the basic structure of biblical thought, a foundation for learning and life, working with biblical texts toward dialogue with the secular world, with the world’s religions, and among Christian confessions

What makes the Bible the Bible?
Core themes: Monotheism, belief in a redeemer, creation, wisdom, miracles, alienation, hope, conversion, exodus, substitution, the divine in the world, faith, love, reversal, judgment, justification

What can we talk about in a pluralistic world?
The Bible in dialogue with other religions—Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism—and with a pluralistic theory of religion