

Endorsements

“David Lose has written a compelling, accessible book that will provide fresh entry into the Bible for folk who want to know and understand, but who are too shy or intimidated to ask. His book, offered as a series of questions and answers in a conversational tone, is an attractive pedagogical exercise that eases the anxiety of the novice learner, and invites attention to deep wonderments about faith.

The premise of the book is indeed ‘faith seeking understanding.’ Lose’s would-be conversation partner in the book is a serious church member who has long entertained deep pondering about the Bible, but has never before dared to ask. At many points, like the good teacher that he is, Lose helps to formulate the question so that the response can be careful, honest, and coherent.

The exchange offered here ducks none of the important issues. On the one hand Lose probes in careful and understandable categories the hard interpretive questions of ‘fact and value.’ But beyond hermeneutical issues, on the other hand, he pushes to the central questions of faith. Among these his exposition of ‘theories of atonement’ in response to John 3:16 is sure to be helpful. And his comments concerning a ‘canon within the canon’ that focuses upon God’s grace is enormously helpful. In the latter case, the author makes good use of the figure of the ‘Rosetta Stone’ in order to identify the ‘key’ that helps read the Bible faithfully and intelligently. He honors pluralism in the several traditions of interpretation, and shows both the variation and the constancy among them.

The tone of the book is without authoritarian insistence, respectful of the learner and welcoming of questions that frequently are stated inchoately. In a church context where we must increasingly ‘begin at the beginning’ with folk who want to understand, Lose’s book is a welcome one, sure to be widely used and richly valued. He makes clear that responsible interpretation can be enjoyed, not unlike the ancient ‘joy of the Torah.’”

—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary, May 28, 2009

“David Lose’s *Making Sense of Scripture* offers a thoroughly engaging, often humorous, and frequently incisive exploration of what the Bible has to offer everyday people in today’s complicated world. The set-up for the book is as enjoyable as it is unique, allowing its reader an opportunity to engage a top biblical scholar in no-holds barred conversation about the meaning and significance of Scripture. We get to interview Lose, interrogate him, interrupt him, and hold his feet to the fire concerning questions that any honest and curious Christian would want to ask. The issues are all here—things that any “beginning Bible reader” wonders about—and matters that the PhD’s still haven’t solved. You will find questions you always wanted to ask someone, but didn’t dare...and questions you would have wanted to ask, but didn’t know how. Anyone serious—or simply curious—about how the Bible can still be Scripture for people today will benefit from this fun and insightful book.”

—Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

“Grab a tall glass of refreshing water and pull up a chair. Lose invites you to join a conversation engaging the Bible as a story-filled witness that points to an unyielding, tenacious and tireless God who loves the world. In this conversation you will gain greater understanding of your encounter with Biblical stories and rituals, songs and rules that paint a picture of God’s relationship with God’s people.

Lose addresses big questions about Biblical truth and authority, inspiration and understanding, and in the meantime addresses our ultimate concern for meaning and significance around these stories.

You will feel more confident approaching the Bible after reading this book. Lose has written a rich leader’s guide with engaging conversation starters and activities to encounter the Scripture’s witness. The DVD features Lose describing the main points of the text and encouraging further reflection. With these resources alongside you, you can invite others to pull up a chair and join in the conversation. You won’t be disappointed.”

—*Jessica Krey Duckworth*, Assistant Professor, Christian Formation and Teaching, Wesley Theological Seminary