**From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian** Sept. 2025 featured item:

# The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories DifferentlyThe Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, 2025.

# *New to the District Library this fall!*

In *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, noted Biblical scholars Levine and Brettler focus on why Jews and Christians read many of the same Biblical texts – including passages from the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Psalms – differently. Exploring and explaining these diverse perspectives, they reveal more clearly Scripture’s beauty and power.

The Study looks at the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts. Passages include the creation of the world, the role of Adam and Eve, the Suffering Servant of Isiah, the book of Jonah, and Psalm 22, whose words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,” Jesus quotes as he dies on the cross.

Comparing various interpretations – historical, literary, and theological - of each ancient text, Levine and Brettler offer deeper understandings of the original narratives and their many afterlives. They show how the text speaks to different generations under changed circumstances, and so illuminate the Bible’s ongoing significance.

*The Bible With and Without Jesus* , is a 6 session study, can be found in the **Bible / Bible Studies** section of the District Library. The library has the Book, Leader’s Guide, and DVD.

**Stop by the Shenandoah River District Office and “check out” the Library. Please remember to check out library items by signing the book card in pocket with your name, church, and date – you may keep as long as you need – but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow. Thanks, Sue**