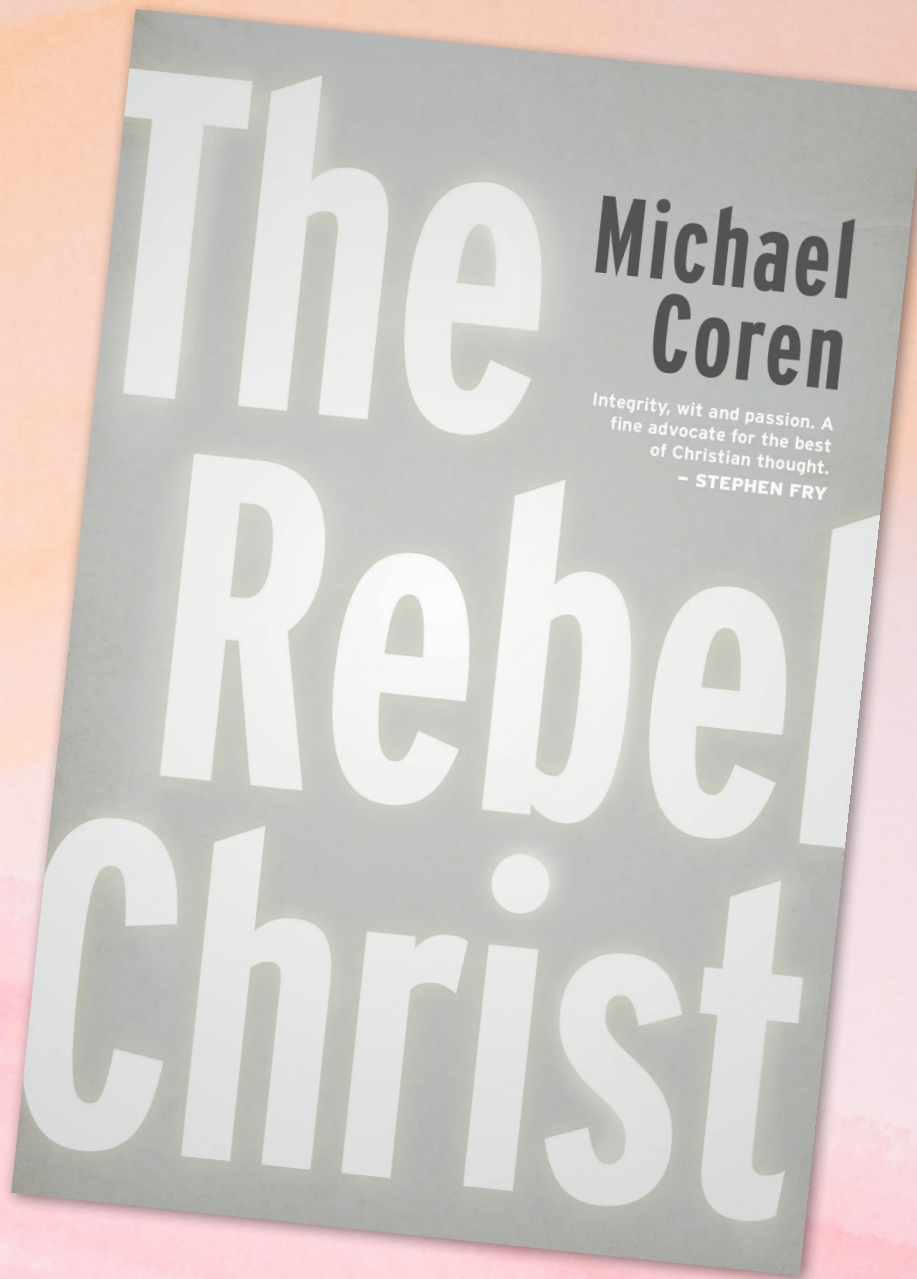
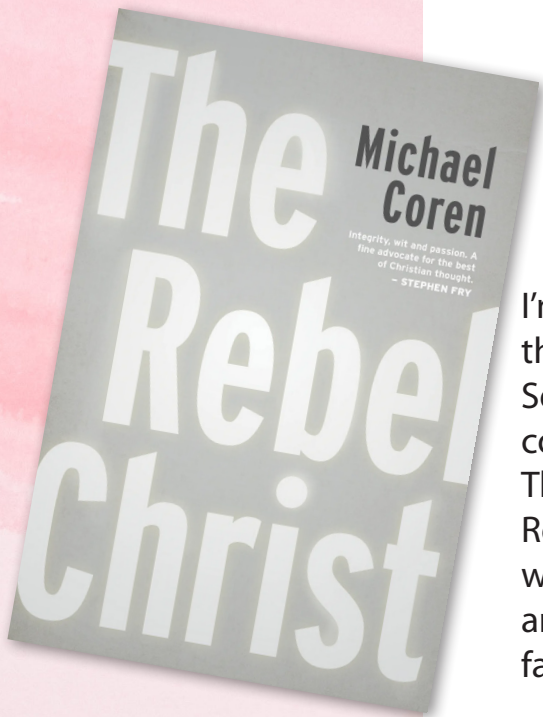


# A LENTEN STUDY GUIDE

for use with *The Rebel Christ*



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA



**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

I'm delighted to commend three books from three homegrown authors for our Lenten Book Series in 2023. The wisdom and witness contained in the writings of Dr. John Bowen, The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic, and The Reverend Michael Coren will be a blessing to all who turn their pages and will help us be the face and hands of Christ more authentically and more faithfully.

The Reverend Michael Coren's *The Rebel Christ* (Dundurn Press, 2021) asks the question, "What did Jesus say about the pressing issues of his and our day?" To explore this question, Michael engages in historical and literary analysis of controversial Biblical passages and invites readers to embrace Jesus as a rebel Christ.

Through multiple examples, Michael demonstrates that Christ did not remain silent in the face of pain and injustice, and reminds us that, to truly follow Him, we need to commit to exposing, condemning, and transforming injustice through love.

Blessings on this Lenten journey.

Sincerely,

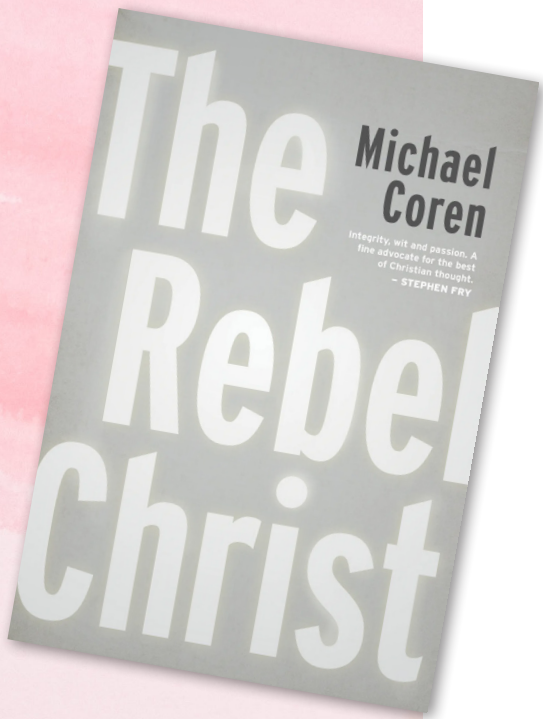
*+ Susan Niagara*

The Right Reverend Susan J.A. Bell  
Bishop of Niagara



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

**A Lenten Study Guide**  
written by the author  
**The Reverend Michael Coren**

## **READING OUTLINE**

**Week 1 – Chapter 1**

**Week 2 – Chapter 2**

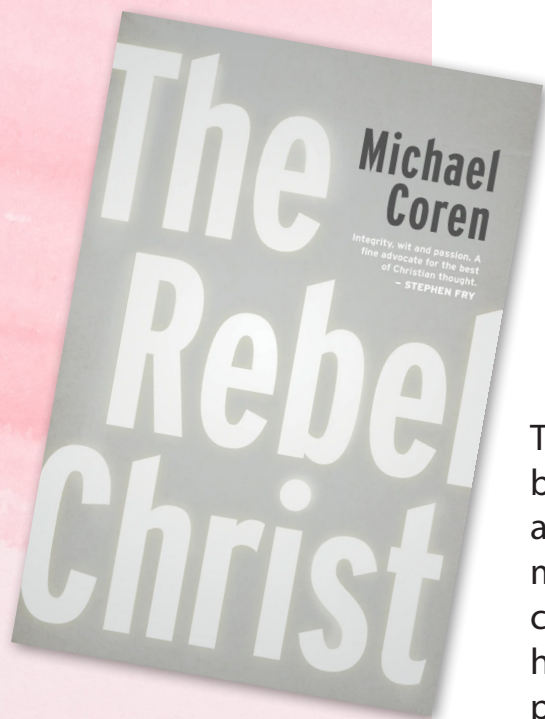
**Week 3 – Chapter 3**

**Week 4 – Chapter 4**



**ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA**





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The Rebel Christ sets out a particular pattern of belief based on theological and ethical arguments. While not everyone will agree with my arguments, I hope that my book will be a catalyst for conversation rooted in respect and honest sharing. Think of the readings as a starting point for thought and discussion.

I have provided two questions for each week. The questions are meant to help start conversations, but feel free to go in any direction the Spirit leads. I recommend praying after you read each chapter and before you start each week's discussion. Ask God for wisdom, openness, and compassion as you discuss, share, and learn as a group.

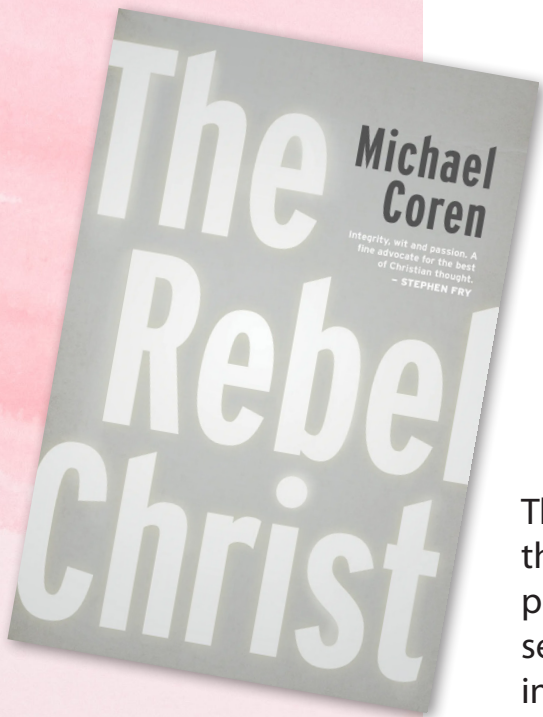
Each person in your discussion group will have their own life experiences that have shaped their beliefs. Some of the content of this book will be intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally challenging. As you gather to discuss the book, remember to engage with each other in loving and respectful ways.

As you journey through Lent reading this book, remember the ultimate journey of the rebel Christ, from death on a cross to resurrection and new life. Are we rebels like him? Are we willing to let go privilege and power to pursue God's will? Are we willing to sacrifice for the sake of others?



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

## WEEK ONE

Please read pages 13-32

This chapter begins with a question: “Why is it that the purest, most supremely liberating philosophy and theology in all of history is now seen by so many people around the world as an intolerant, legalistic, and even irrelevant religion embraced only by the gullible, the foolish, and the judgmental?”

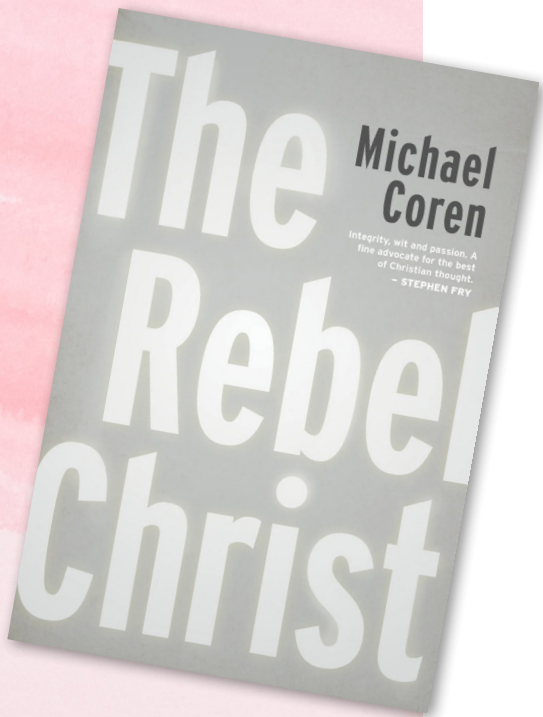
What do you think of this statement? How can we remedy this image of the church? How do we change the public image of the faith and Christianity?

In the book I state that many Christians help people in need on an individual basis. I also write, “What they lack, I would argue, is an understanding, or acceptance, of the need for more systemic change.” Do you agree? What do you see as the difference between “individual” and “systemic” change? Where have you seen systemic change addressed by the church?



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

## WEEK TWO

Please read pages 33-65

The title of this chapter is meant to provoke readers to think about the church's beliefs about economic justice and Jesus' teachings about equality, wealth, and poverty.

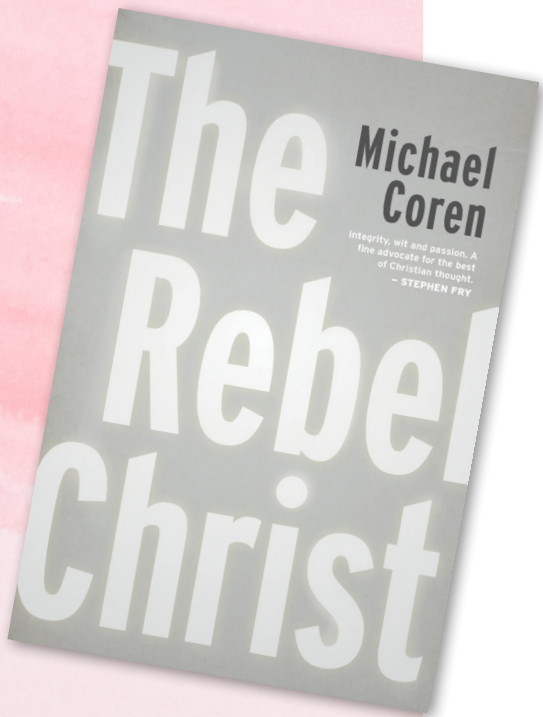
What challenges does life in the modern world pose for Christians trying to follow the economic radicalism Jesus taught in the Gospels?

As Christians work towards economic justice and face the challenges that this radical change brings, what aspects of our faith can we lean on provide purpose and direction? What areas of secular economic politics do you think God is calling us to respond to?



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***

## WEEK THREE

Please read pages 66-106

This chapter outlines the scriptural arguments for equal marriage and full affirmation of LGBTQ2 people.

What do you think of the interpretation put forward in this chapter? What challenged you in this chapter? What inspired you?

Discuss the idea of “listening in love” and “disagreeing in the divine” that were mentioned at the end of this chapter. Where and how have you seen Christians “listening in love” and “disagreeing in the divine”?



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA





**A Lenten  
Study Guide**  
for use with  
***The Rebel Christ***



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA



## WEEK FOUR

Please read pages 107-125

The topic of abortion is polarizing. The campaign to limit abortion rights has historically been connected to conservative Christianity, especially in the United States. Recent events in the Supreme Court have shown that the political decision to criminalize abortion is still supported by many groups of Christians. Yet, there are many other Christians and faith communities who are advocating for women's rights and support pro-choice values.

Abortion is often seen as a secular vs. Christian debate, however, there are differing and nuanced views in both secular society and Christian communities. Where is there space in your faith community to talk about these issues? What differing views have you heard within your personal and/or faith communities?

Many Christians have views about abortion that land somewhere between the "pro-choice" position and the "pro-life" positions. Where is there overlap—common concern and interests—in the "pro-choice" and "pro-life" positions? For example, there are ways to lower abortion rates—economic policy, education, free daycare, parental benefits, female empowerment, contraception—while still guaranteeing abortion rights. What do you think of this middle road approach?