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The Monk Who Grew Prayer



Synopsis

A monk prays deep in the forest. It looks like he is just doing simple, ordinary tasks, such as chopping wood and tending to his garden. But as he works he is really growing prayer. The monk prays continually throughout the day and night, and as the seasons pass, he becomes a holy man. This delightful, beautifully-illustrated book teaches children that no matter what they are doing, or what hour of the day it is, they too, can pray.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #503,586 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #211 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Orthodoxy #977 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Prayer #1379 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

Although ostensibly a children's book, *The Monk Who Grew Prayer* appeals to a wide variety of ages and literary tastes.. -- Essays and Notes, Volume 10, No. 1

A fine artist turned children's book writer and illustrator, Claire received a BFA in art and education from the University of New Mexico. Working in a variety of different art forms for over thirty years she has shown her work in galleries and museums and has received numerous awards. Author of *Daniel and the Lion*.

We LOVE this book! It is perfect for lent, for introducing your kids to not only the formal prayers that religious have done for centuries, but also the idea of praying at ALL times, when you awake, when

you work, etc. the actual prayers of vespers, etc are not in this book, just the names, as you are taken through his day and what ways he connects with God throughout: for protection, in memorial, in closeness. You can tell he is perfectly drawn to Christ and walking simply in constant prayer while it appears he is plowing, etc. A great book that we keep on the regular shelf year round!

This children's book is printed on heavy, glossy stock paper and is staple bound. I thought the book would be boring for my religious ed class (1st and 2nd graders). But, the kids loved it. They were really engaged by the illustrations. It also got a good conversation going about monks, a life of prayer and material simplicity and people who dedicate their lives to God.

You'd think I'd have realized that a monk praying would involve specific prayers (like the prayers of Compline), but I just hadn't realized that it would be like that. There is a good little glossary at the back explaining the prayers. The illustrations really suit the text and are attractive/different. It shows well how to cultivate prayer in daily life, it also shows simple living. It is NOT a general book about how prayer grows in a person's life, and had I realized how it was structured (just mentioning the prayers of matin or the 3rd hour, etc.) I likely wouldn't have bought it. It is a good book and well done for what it is, but just make sure you understand it is about a MONK and the specific prayers that go with his type of living.

This book has charming illustrations and a wonderful depiction of religious life for young children. I would recommend it to any church library, or home where you may have a family member in the religious vocation. The monk in the book is Eastern Orthodox, but the message transcends Christian denominations.

Recommended for parents and teachers who'd like to teach children about prayer and the spiritual life. Charming, accurate and accessible. It's simple enough that my two year old enjoys it but it was also a hit in my First Holy Communion CCD class.

Not really suited for children, not informative enough for adults. Better than nothing, but not much.

A great book, with a good message, to introduce children to monks and Christianity. I ordered this book to read with our homeschool history curriculum. It was the perfect length for my young boys and complimented our curriculum nicely. The boys enjoyed the illustrations, too.

I bought this book for my 9 year old who loves God and wants to know more about Him. The book is quite thin, and several pages are about monk's work. However, it shows that a person can pray all day long, no matter what he is doing. I love that it has Jesus prayer in it, and that was the reason I purchased this book. It is beautifully illustrated. But Jesus prayer is not a prayer for the world, which this monk grew. It might seem like a no big deal, however, Jesus prayer leads to humility, but prayer for the world does not. Without humility there is no salvation. People who feel good about themselves are far from God. And then half of the book is about praying at different times: Vespers, Compline, Midnight service, Matins, First Hour, Third Hour, Sixth Hour and Ninth Hour, with their thorough explanation. Fasting is only mentioned but not explained. Such a strict schedule of what monks pray for at the different hours of the day and devoting a half of children's book to it left me disappointed. I do not want my son to think that to thank Jesus for His sacrifice for us he has to wait until the Sixth Hour. God is always there to hear. While rigid structure is appropriate for the monastery, it has no place in a children's book. Structure in Orthodox Christianity is only a mean to an end, but there is way too much emphasis on it in the book. In the end the monk becomes "a very holy man" whatever it means. And the back cover suggest that librarians file it under "JUVENILE FICTION / Religious / Christian / General".

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