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Eric Liddell: Are You Ready? (Little Lights)



Synopsis

'On your marks, get set, Go!' The race begins and Eric Liddell thunders down the track. The crowd cheers him on. Eric Liddell has spent months preparing himself for the Olympics. But he has also spent years getting ready to serve God. Which is more important - winning a gold medal or honouring Jesus Christ? Can Eric do both?

Book Information

Series: Little Lights

Hardcover: 24 pages

Publisher: CF4Kids (May 20, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1845507908

ISBN-13: 978-1845507909

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,217,828 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Olympics #158 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #371 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious

Age Range: 4 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

Customer Reviews

MacKenzie tells the story of Eric Liddell, running in the Olympics while holding to his conviction not to run on Sunday. And tells the story through his traveling to China as a missionary and ultimately dying in the Japanese prisoner of war camp. My daughter doesn't like this story as much as the others, but I don't think that's the problem of the way that the story is told. It's just that standing up for the conviction of not running on Sunday (which our family doesn't believe the Bible teaches for a Christian anyway) isn't as exciting of a story of missionaries risking their lives, Corrie Ten Boom avoiding Nazi's, etc. Nevertheless, the Eric Liddell story including standing for what he believed even when it was hard and a successful man moving to China for the gospel and ultimately dying has generated good conversation. I recommend the book if you are making a collection of Little Lights books, but it isn't my first Little Lights recommendation.

This early reader edition tells the story of Eric Liddell. Eric was an excellent athlete who loved to run, but more important to Eric was honoring his God. He became well-known for his refusal to run on a Sunday during the 1924 Olympics in Paris. While Eric enjoyed running and knew that he ran to give God glory, he was more concerned for the souls of lost people. He spent years in China as a missionary where he eventually died during World War II.

Positives: It is clear that Jesus Christ was important to Eric. He sacrificed much to honor and serve his Lord and Savior. The easy language is great for early readers and the illustrations help tell the story well.

Negatives: There were a couple of sentences that were confusing in the book, they didn't seem to express a complete thought. This could be confusing for young readers.

Talking Points: Eric Liddell lived what he proclaimed. He was passionate about telling people about Jesus and his life reflected his belief in the gospel. II Cor. 5:17 tells us that Christians are new creations and that they live in a different way as a result of their heart being changed by the gospel. Talk to your kids about their own hearts, do their actions reflect what they profess? We also see that Eric counted the cost of following Christ. He sacrificed much for the gospel, ultimately dying as a missionary in a prison camp while sharing the gospel with other prisoners. Matt. 16:24-26 and Luke 14:28-33 calls us to count the cost. Don't be afraid to teach your children about the sacrifices Christ calls us to. If you continue to share the gospel as the pearl of great value, they will understand that the cost is worth it.

Age Level: 2-8 years of age (6-8 year olds can read this independently)

I received a free copy of this book from CF4K Publishing in exchange for this review.

My youngest enjoyed reading this, along with the other books in the "Little Light" series. I believe this to be well written for the targeted ages. I like the content focus, the print, the illustrations and the captions to go with the illustrations. I'm so excited to find hardcover, well-written & captivating illustrated biographies through the "Little Light" series for our church library.

Eric Liddell - Are you Ready? is book number nine in the Little Lights biography series published by Christian Focus 4 Kids. The book briefly touches on different points in Eric's life beginning with his time at boarding school. While he enjoyed athletics and using his gift of running, he longed to return to China one day as a missionary like his parents. As Eric grew to adulthood, he was considered by some to be the "fastest man in Scotland." There was even talk of him competing in the Olympics. While the Olympics was certainly something Eric would have to train for, he continued to train for another calling on his life, which was to tell people about Jesus Christ. Eric would go on to win the 400 meter event at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris. In 1925 Eric would return to his beloved

China. Eric married his wife (Florence Mackenzie) in 1932. They were blessed with three daughters. During World War II, Eric sent his wife and children to Canada, so they would be safe. Eric continued his work in China and was eventually imprisoned. During his time in prison he continued telling others about Jesus Christ. Eric would be called to be with the Lord on February 21, 1945. I enjoyed sharing Eric Liddell - Are you Ready? with my young children. The reading level of the book is appropriate for parents to read aloud to children ages 4-5 and for kids to read to themselves at ages 6-7. This would be a great book to share with your children ages 4-7 in relation to the upcoming 2012 London Olympics. As the title suggests, the book focuses on Eric being ready, contrasting his preparation for the Olympics and his preparation to serve God. This theme in the book would serve as a good catalyst for discussion on life's priorities, especially things that may get in the way of serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Author Information: Catherine Mackenzie has written several biographies for young teens in the Trailblazers series as well as other titles for younger children. She lives in Scotland and has several nieces and nephews - a perfect practice audience! Disclaimer: This book was provided by Christian Focus 4 Kids for review. The reviewer was under no obligation to offer a favorable review.

Good book!

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