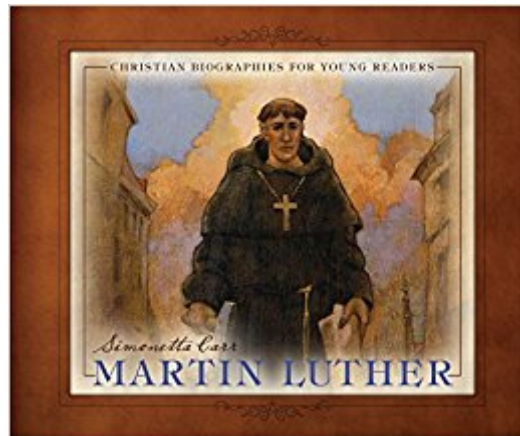




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Martin Luther - Christian Biographies For Young Readers



Synopsis

Five hundred years ago, a monk named Martin Luther wrote ninety-five questions, hoping to start a discussion about sin and repentance at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. In a few months those questions had stirred the nation; a few years later, the continent. Today we know that those questions changed the course of both the Western church and world history. In this volume for children, Simonetta Carr tells the compelling story of this father of the Protestant Reformation, tracing his quest for peace with God, his lifelong heroic stand for God's truth, and his family life and numerous accomplishments. The Reformer's greatest accomplishment, she writes, 'has been his uncompromising emphasis on the free promise of the gospel.' Table of Contents: Introduction 1. From Law Student to Monk 2. Looking for Peace with God 3. A Powerful List 4. A Reluctant Rebel 5. Starting a Reformation 6. Raising a Family 7. Ready to Die in the Lord Time Line Did You Know? Series Description The Christian Biographies for Young Readers introduces children to important people in the Christian tradition. Parents and school teachers alike will welcome the excellent educational value it provides for students, while the quality of the publication and the artwork make each volume a keepsake for generations to come. Furthermore, the books in the series go beyond the simple story of someone's life by teaching young readers the historical and theological relevance of each character.

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Customer Reviews

Carr leads readers into the world in which Martin Luther grew up and then served the church and his society with sensitivity to the times and places where his life unfolded. The adventure of bringing the gospel to his people and the drama of his testimony to the truth come alive as we follow his footsteps into the heart of the German government, when he stood up to an emperor, and into his home and the joys he had in raising his family. An excellent introduction to the life of the great Reformer. --Robert Kolb, professor of systematic theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis I am a big fan of both Martin Luther and Simonetta Carr, so this book is a dream come true, an author-subject marriage made in heaven. Simonetta beautifully captures both the life and the key thoughts of Dr. Martin and does so in a manner which is fast-paced and exciting. Parents will love reading this book to their children, and children will love reading it for themselves. --Carl Trueman, Paul Woolley Professor of Church History, Westminster Theological Seminary, and pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (OPC), Ambler, Pennsylvania

Five hundred years ago, a monk named Martin Luther wrote ninety-five questions, hoping to start a discussion about sin and repentance at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. In a few months those questions had stirred the nation; a few years later, the continent. Today we know that those questions changed the course of both the Western church and world history. In this volume for children, Simonetta Carr tells the compelling story of this father of the Protestant Reformation, tracing his quest for peace with God, his lifelong heroic stand for God's truth, and his family life and numerous accomplishments. The Reformer's greatest accomplishment, she writes, "has been his uncompromising emphasis on the free promise of the gospel." "Carr leads readers into the world in which Martin Luther grew up and then served the church and his society with sensitivity to the times and places where his life unfolded. The adventure of bringing the gospel to his people and the drama of his testimony to the truth come alive as we follow his footsteps into the heart of the German government, when he stood up to an emperor, and into his home and the joys he had in raising his family. An excellent introduction to the life of the great Reformer." Robert Kolb, professor of systematic theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis "I am a big fan of both Martin Luther and Simonetta Carr, so this book is a dream come true, an author-subject marriage made in heaven. Simonetta beautifully captures both the life and the key thoughts of Dr. Martin and does so in a manner which is fast-paced and exciting. Parents will love reading this book to their children, and children will love reading it for themselves." Carl Trueman, Paul Woolley Professor of Church History, Westminster Theological Seminary, and pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (OPC),

Martin Luther by Simonetta Carr is a nice overview of the life of Luther for children. It starts with Luther's birth and moves on through his life as a child in schooling and then on to his college days, where the thunderstorm happens that scares him into a monastic life where perhaps he could earn his way to Heaven. As a Monk we learn that Luther was very meticulous and very much into examining his own thoughts and motives for sin; his ritualistic confession of his sins grew so frequent (sometimes happening just moments after he had confessed other sins) that it irritated his superiors who then "told him to confess only big sins." Luther ultimately is promoted to higher positions, moving on to the city of Wittenberg to be a professor of Bible studies. Ultimately he also ends up preaching in the city church as well as "supervising ten monasteries". Tetzel comes into Germany with his indulgences and as a consequence Luther writes his "ninety-five questions" (I like how Carr simplifies much of the language for children). He simply wanted to discuss them on a scholarly level, but they end up being translated into the common language of the people and causing a big stir in the nation and around Europe. And then of course the famous 'Diet of Worms' happens, Luther gets taken away to a Castle etc. etc. etc. Ultimately Luther ends up marrying and having several children. We see how generous Luther and his wife are, they help many people during hard times. They also go through hard times themselves, losing some of their children in death, but they still trust God. The book comes to a close with Luther's death followed by a quick summary of his influence. There are pictures scattered around the book: old and new paintings and drawings of Luther in various events God ordained that he would go through. There are also pictures of some of his relatives and other historical people mentioned in this book. Also included throughout the book are photographs and old drawings of the various towns and buildings Luther frequented, as well as a few photographs of objects, such as a lute and a chest used to "collect money from the sale of indulgences". Carr writes in a way that I think children will easily understand and also manages to simplify explanations of erroneous beliefs of the day as well as important Biblical concepts. As Examples, Carr talks about people thinking that they could earn their salvation or the salvation of others, and that many believed that Christ and God were both angry judges of sinners to be appeased by 'saints' (described as "godly people who had died") . She also conveys Luther's struggle with what "the righteousness of God" (as discussed in the book of Romans) actually means and his final realization that in this verse (Rom 1:17), "this is not a righteousness God demands, but a righteousness God gives in Jesus Christ." At the end of the book there is a Did You Know? section and after that a selection of excerpts from Luther's small

catechism. I found the "did you know" section especially interesting. I did not know (or at least I didn't remember) that Luther's last name at birth was actually Luder but he changed the spelling to Luther, "as a wordplay on the Greek eleutherius, which means "free man". I think that kids (and adults) will both enjoy that section as a potential discussion prompting conclusion to the book. All in all, I really liked this book. I really appreciated that she does not make Luther come across as a hero to be worshiped but rather as a man, saved by God's grace and not his own merit, who was used by God to bring people to a correct knowledge of the Gospel and to point them to the Word of God as the only authority. Many thanks to the folks at Cross Focused Reviews for sending me a free review copy of this book (My review did not have to be favorable)

One area which I think tends to get neglected in Christian circles is church history. I don't know whether it is because some do not like history in general or if they do not see the history of the church as important. The truth is church history has much to teach the current church in being faithful to the Word of God and standing firm for it. In reaching and raising the next generation, I think it is beneficial to point them to figures in church history who have boldly stood for the Word of God. That is why I am excited to share with you Simonetta Carr's new addition to the Christian Biographies for Young Readers series. In this work, she teaches children about the life and work of Martin Luther. Carr begins by informing the reader why it is important for Christians in general and for children in particular to know about Martin Luther. She writes, "Today, Martin Luther is considered one of the most influential leaders of the Protestant Reformation, and his words are still impacting Christians all over the world" (Carr 5). From there, she takes the young readers on a journey starting with his upbringing (chapter 1), then onto his search of finding peace with God (chapter 2), culminating in his contribution to starting the Reformation (chapters 3-5). Simonetta does not end the story there, though. She ends the book with chapters on Luther's family (chapter 6) and his death (chapter 7). The appendices feature a timeline of Martin Luther's life, a portion of Luther's small catechism, and a very informative section entitled "Did You Know?" While this book is targeted at children, adults will enjoy reading it too. Some of the stories Carr shares about Martin Luther I did not know about. She includes other details which helped clarify thoughts I had before. For instance, one might ask why Martin Luther did not come to his conclusion of justification by faith alone sooner than he did. In chapter 2, Simonetta states regarding Luther entering the monastery that "the monastery was the first place where Martin could seriously study this book" (Carr

13). Simply put, this book for young readers will inform adult and child alike. Simonetta Carr's Christian Biographies for Young Readers: Martin Luther is an excellent resource for teaching children about a key contributor of the Protestant Reformation and is a great conversation starter on what it truly means to be a Christian, justified by faith in Christ alone. I received this book for free from Reformation Heritage Books via Cross Focused Reviews for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own and are my honest review of the book.

It is not only important to be able to follow, but also to be able to resist if it makes sense. Thus, Luther is an extremely important figure in religious education, in which attention is sometimes paid to obedience. Simonetta Carr's book is a nice introduction to the work of Martin Luther for young readers, especially lovingly everything is illustrated by Troy Howell. What I still did not know (although I studied theology): Luther even played the guitar (lute)!

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