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Goodnight Jesus



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Synopsis

Goodnight Jesus is a sweet, gentle story that acknowledges all the people we know and love as nighttime draws near and bedtime kisses are given to everyone from saints to siblings. What better way than through a kiss to say goodbye to the day? This 24-page board book, beautifully illustrated by iconographer and artist Nicholas Malara, is sturdy enough for lots of use and will become the favorite of many little ones who want just one last kiss before drifting off to sleep.

Book Information

Board book: 24 pages

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Customer Reviews

About the Author: ANGELA ISAACS is a freelance educational writer and mom of two daughters. She did her undergraduate work at Berea College, where she found both her husband and Orthodoxy. In 2006 they left the Appalachian hills for the flatlands of Urbana, Illinois. When not writing or reading, Angela can usually be found knitting or cycling around the flatlands with her daughters in tow. About the Illustrator: NICHOLAS MALARA grew up in Denver, Colorado, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration. He has been blessed with a career in professional art for over sixteen years. Since his conversion ten years ago, he has also been a student of Orthodox iconography. He currently resides in Spokane, Washington, with his wife and two children.

My son LOVES kissing ALL of the icons in our home. The first thing he did was kiss the picture of Jesus in this book! Worked perfectly with the overall theme of the book, giving a goodnight kiss everyone before bed! A sweet addition to our Orthodox Library that is perfectly age-appropriate!

This review is excerpted from a review I posted on my blog, Writing Like a Mother. Our three toddlers, including our son with autism, had no trouble associating the drawings with the Gospel book at church and the regular icons in our home and church. They love hearing the book over and over and taking turns kissing the pages. Since we've started reading Goodnight Jesus, the littles have made the leap between venerating at church and venerating at home. They go looking for their little icons, kiss them, and place them back on their little shelves before playing again. Our older two like the book well enough to ask questions about the icons shown. Since my husband is an iconographer, they see and hear a fair bit about different icons. Some of their questions have been about the style of the icons, some about the people in them. The board book is targeted to the younger crowd, but I think it says a lot about the simple yet deep resonance of the story that my older children could also discuss it and not get annoyed with having the story repeated often. The parents. Okay, you know the real question here. Yes, it's pious. Yes, it's pretty. Yes, it's cute and accessible to little kids. But we all really want to know if it's annoying to read 2-4-6-8-10 times in a row. I have good news for you. It is not annoying. There isn't a cloying rhyme scheme. Everything is natural and sweet in a child-like way. The drawings are bright but tired-eyes-at-the-end-of-the-day-friendly. It's a winner. Was the book ADHD-friendly? Yes! It has built-in actions that help engage a child with wiggles. Was it sensory issue-friendly? Yes! The repetition lets our little one who takes time processing sounds take her time processing sounds, and the reinforcement in the images makes the book easy to grasp. How about autism-friendly? Yes! The picture prompts work great for our son with extreme language delay, and the illustrations hit the sweet spot on interesting/overstimulating balance. There's just enough detail for him to like taking his time looking over the book on his own AND he can follow along while we read without having a sensory overload. As you already know if you follow this blog, my son eats books he really likes. He ate it! We've been excited about Goodnight Jesus for months, so we ordered a copy right away on when it came out. Alas, it was backordered. Before our copy came in the mail, I was contacted by Ancient Faith Publishing to see if I'd be interested in writing an honest review of the book in exchange for a free copy. Of course I said yes! We always have to buy two or three copies of good books anyhow, so this was a win-win. This is a wonderful book for baby showers, godchild gifts, Christmas presents, or any other occasion in which you'd like to give a child an enjoyable gift.

We are new to the Orthodox church and have been looking for Orthodox children's book for our

kiddos. My five year-old, 3 year-old, and 2 month old are all LOVING it. Everyone wants to hold it! Excellent addition to our homeschool library.

This is a great book for kids. I can't wait to give it to my godson and his cousin for part of their Christmas. Updating to say that my godson and his cousin stopped opening their presents today because they wanted to look at this book more!

This was so beautifully illustrated and written. My toddler (2) absolutely adores this book!

Adorable Orthodox board book. 'Nuff said.

Our 2 1/2 year old daughters favorite thing to do in church is venerate the Icons. So I thought she would love this book and she adores it. We read it and kiss the pages everynight. She knows most of the words. She loves Johns scratchy clothes and blowing the fish a kiss. I sent a copy to my Godson and he loves it too. The fact that it's a boardbook makes it even better.

I'm a mom to 10 (yes 10...I know, crazy!) and I have read A LOT of books to my kids over the last 22 years. This is one of those books that is the perfect marriage between the words and the illustrations and my littlest ones (2 and 11mo.) LOVE this book. I appreciate that it's super durable and my littles love to kiss Jesus, the saints and the baby in the book. It brings a little bit of Church to the home.

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