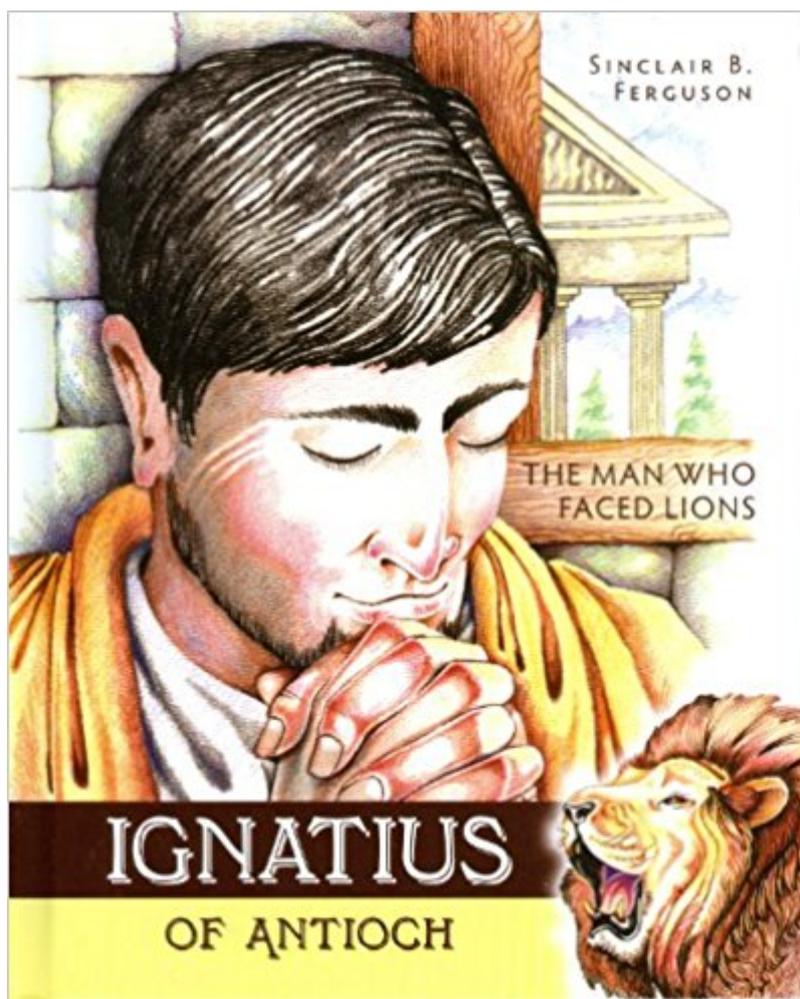


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# Ignatius Of Antioch (Heroes Of The Faith)



## Synopsis

There are lots of 'idols' these days. But do you have any heroes? What's the difference? Idols are people we say we 'adore' because they are famous, or rich, or good looking, or because they have amazing talents, or special abilities perhaps we wish we could have. Heroes are people who are willing to live and die for what they believe. **IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH - THE MAN WHO FACED LIONS** is the story of a hero. He was a follower of Jesus Christ. He was prepared to live and die for his Lord. And one day - he faced lions. This large hardback book for children, from the pen of Sinclair Ferguson, is beautifully illustrated by Allison Brown. A wonderful start to a wonderful series that currently includes this, and two other titles:-- Irenaeus of Lyons: The Man Who Wrote Books-- Polycarp of Smyrna: The Man Whose Faith Lasted.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book gives a brief story of the life of Ignatius of Antioch. Though brief, it is good and well-illustrated. However, I am not totally convinced that the story content and reading level go well together. Particularly, it is a rather short and easy-to-read book, and with the number of illustrations it comes across almost more as a picture book than a real biography. At the same time, the emotional content is fairly advanced -- we learn about how he went knowingly to his death, what advice he gave other Christians, and so on. To be more specific, the book is brief enough that it is not divided into chapters, and can be read in its entirety by a distracted adult in perhaps 20 minutes. So from that perspective it would be good for a relatively younger reader who hasn't yet moved on

to chapter books, or has barely done so. But at the same time, kids in this age group probably wouldn't yet grasp the import of the content. Kids who are ready for the content may find it too brief. On the other hand, this may be a plus if you have kids who, while more advanced readers, may not like reading very much -- the brevity may be something they appreciate. I have a seven and a five-year old, both of whom read almost constantly and are fairly advanced readers (the older reads chapter books up to a few hundred pages). She really liked it, she said, but finished it in a very short amount of time. I wouldn't be comfortable having the younger read it on her own yet - not because of difficulty (she's read far more advanced books) but because I'd want to help her understand what's going on - but if we can find the time I'll sit down and read it with her. So, on the whole, a bit mixed -- I really like the idea, but I'm not sure the balance is right for the cost.

"A 'hero' is someone who is much more than a 'personality' about whom we may know little or nothing," writes Sinclair Ferguson. "A hero is someone who has shown moral fibre, who has overcome difficulties and opposition, who has been tested and has stood firm." Such are the qualities of the subjects of Ferguson's Heroes of the Faith series published by Banner of Truth Trust. Ignatius was no exception. Ferguson tells the story of this first century bishop of Antioch whose name literally means "on fire." Because he refused to worship the gods of Rome, Ignatius was forced to stand trial before the Emperor Trajan, where he defied the idols and confessed the Lord Jesus Christ. For this, he was sent to the Colosseum in Rome where he was thrown to the lions. Ferguson writes in a way that children can understand, while the adults benefit, too. The gospel is presented clearly, and the truth that following Christ may lead to persecution and martyrdom is handled well. For a children's book, Ignatius of Antioch is quite serious. My six-year-old continued asking questions for a quarter hour after we read it. It is also educational and edifying for parents, though it may not hold the attention of very young children. Heroes, the Gospel, serious thinking: all good for a six-year-old and her dad. I'm pleased with this book, and other parents will be, too. I received a review copy of this book from Banner of Truth Trust.

The initial Series Set includes: Ignatius, Irenaeus, and Polycarp. These three, compellingly written and illustrated books, will captivate the attention of the child in your life. What a wonderful way to spend storytime with them. There are few other stories more worthy of telling children. Learning about the early Church Fathers from these brief, colorful, books will stick with your child or grandchild over their lives. They will know how these men lived out what they believed. I recommend the entire set. Sinclair Ferguson manages to condense his vast knowledge down into

stories that will edify children, and the adults reading to them. The gospel message is proclaimed so simply that your children will hear it and see how it was lived out by these Church Fathers, Heroes of the Faith. The illustrations are colorful and skillfully done. Alison Brown's illustrations will help bring history to life. Each hardcover book has a Timeline in the back, and a, "Personal Word to the Parents About Heroes of the Faith" from Sinclair Ferguson. The books are printed in the U.S.A. and the font size is 15/18pt in size. These books are well made and should last for years properly taken care of. I hope you enjoy reading them to your kids and grandchildren as much I enjoyed reading them for the review.

"Ignatius of Antioch" is a youth-oriented story of a Christian hero from a series called The Heroes of the Faith, which are intended to build an album of portraits of men and women who have been heroic members of the family of God, who have implemented their faith in their lives. Ignatius was a bishop in Antioch in the first century A.D., around or before 117 A.D. Ignatius was martyred by Trajan for his refusal to sacrifice to the Roman gods and deny his faith. There are many interesting excerpts and quotations of the letters of Ignatius from the time period after he was condemned by Trajan but before his eventual martyrdom in Rome. One of his last letters, just before he was given to the lions to destroy, is quoted as follows: "I am the wheat of God. So let me be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ....Let fire and the cross come; let the crowd of wild beasts come; let tearings and breakings and dislocation of my bones come; let cutting off of my limbs come; let shatterings of my whole body come; and let all the dreadful torments of the Devil come upon me. Only let me attain to Jesus Christ." Ignatius believed to the end that his death was a doorway to eternal life with Jesus. Additional facts about Ignatius' life and writings are presented and a timeline is included that extends from the birth Jesus Christ to 2000 A.D., with additional dates for other biographies of heroes of the faith. "Ignatius of Antioch" is an inspirational biography of an early church hero who believed steadfastly in Jesus Christ and his teachings.

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