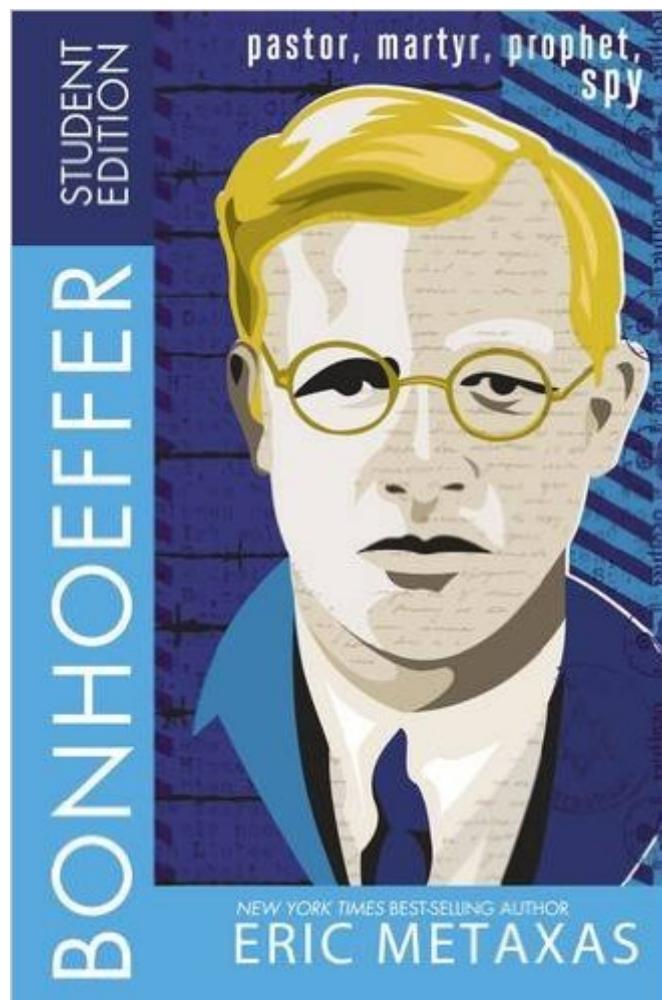


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Bonhoeffer Student Edition: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy



Synopsis

What would you do if your faith could cost you your life? The fascinating story of one of Christianity's most courageous heroes, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, is now abridged and adapted for students. This compelling account of Bonhoeffer's remarkable testimony "combined with historical, theological, and political elements and enhanced with photos" "brings the story to life. How did Bonhoeffer become someone who would defend God's truth, even when it was a matter of life and death? How did he endure the hardships that came with his faithfulness? How might we respond similarly to injustices today? New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas vividly portrays the struggles and faith of Bonhoeffer, a man who had the courage to follow his convictions into Nazi Germany and stand up for the truth of God.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (32 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 9

Customer Reviews

I was a little skeptical when I saw that a student edition of the book was coming out--it's not uncommon for book publishers to take a successful book and churn out special edition after special edition to squeeze as much profit as they can out of it. But when I saw that Metaxas himself had written it, I had to take a look. As I expected, this edition is exceptional. It goes way beyond being a "Reader's Digest condensed version", it captures the most important facts and stories in Bonhoeffer's life from the main book using language and a narrative that is understandable by students without talking down to them. While the publisher isn't clear about the age range of who

should be reading this, personally I'd say anywhere from grade 6 to grade 9; anything after that and they probably could be reading the regular edition. Something else I appreciate are the call-out boxes--unlike in other books they're not just pedantic filler but really interesting definitions and facts that are relevant to the text; things like the lyrics of Luther's "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", juxtaposed with a passage describing how the faithful in Germany defiantly sang the hymn as bishop Ludwig Muller started to impose Nazi rules into the German church. Another call-out box describes grocery prices in 1923 in the USA compared to Germany after Versailles. I also appreciate the questions at the end of each chapter. They're not just there to test reading comprehension, but to inspire thought, introspection, and ultimately life application on what was just read. One of the questions, for example, asks students, "Niemoller said, 'No more are we ready to keep silent at man's [request] when God commands us to speak.'

[Christians] must give up . . . the very two questions that led them to deal with the ethical problem: "How can I be good?" and "How can I do something good?" Instead they must ask the wholly other, completely different question: "what is the will of God?" . . . All things appear as in a [warped] mirror if they are not seen and recognized in God. (179) Several years ago Eric Metaxas published the bestseller Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy. The book was considerably large which made the success puzzlingly. Prior to its publication, most could not pronounce Bonhoeffer, let alone tell his story. The opposite can be said now. Due to the book's success, Thomas Nelson has released a student edition of the book entitled Bonhoeffer Student Edition: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy. Though I am a fan of the German theologian, I must admit my hesitancy of picking it up. Like most "student edition" books, I assumed it would have been the same book just shorter. Yet it is anything but that. When it comes to reading biographies, it has been my experience to start off with a simple book on someone who know very little about before digging into the more detailed accounts. Though I was familiar with Bonhoeffer's story, I had not invested in a full biography of the man. Thus when I read Metaxas's larger work, I was a bit overwhelmed. For those new to Bonhoeffer, this is a helpful book to invest in. It is a much simpler book to read and follow. Almost every page has side bars which guide the reader even further in the narrative. Most of the names and events are in bold which are further explored in the back. Given that most of the names are German, this is helpful to every American reader unfamiliar with the territory.

Bonhoeffer Student Edition: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy is a great book that would impact students and adults. I love how Eric Metaxas modified this book for students. His book, Bonhoeffer: Pastor,

Martyr, Prophet, Spy, is a must read for pastors, and adults. I doubt that students in your youth ministry would be willing to pick up a 650 page book just because you said it was good. This is a book that I want to introduce to my student leaders next year. It is written in an accessible way, that anyone could get an idea of who Dietrich Bonhoeffer was, and what he stood for. The write up for Bonhoeffer Student Edition: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy states: The fascinating story of one of Christianity's most courageous heroes, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, is now abridged and adapted for students. This compelling account of Bonhoeffer's remarkable testimony "combined with historical, theological, and political elements and enhanced with photos" "brings the story to life. How did Bonhoeffer become someone who would defend God's truth, even when it was a matter of life and death? How did he endure the hardships that came with his faithfulness? How might we respond similarly to injustices today? New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas vividly portrays the struggles and faith of Bonhoeffer, a man who had the courage to follow his convictions into Nazi Germany and stand up for the truth of God. Some quotes that stood out: "Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will." When someone asked Bonhoeffer whether he shouldn't join the German Christians in order to work against them from within, he answered that he couldn't.

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