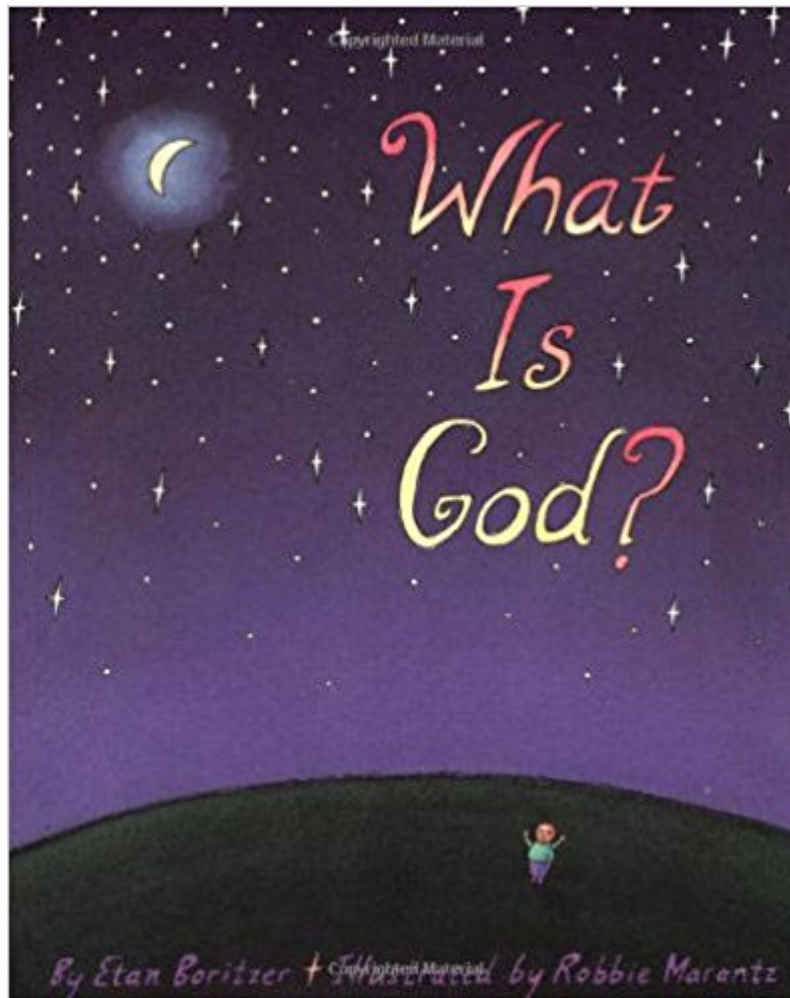




The book was found

What Is God?



Synopsis

What is God? is an eloquent introduction to the ideas behind God and religion, and brings forward complex ideas in a way children will understand. It is written with a simple clarity and beautifully illustrated with just the right blend of seriousness and humor. What is God? compares different religions -- Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism -- and their holy books, looks at misunderstandings and arguments among people of different religions, and talks about praying as well as feeling connected to everything in the world. If you want to talk about spirituality with a child, or introduce them to philosophy or religion, or just help them to begin to center themselves and their feelings about the world, this book is a great beginning.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Firefly Books; New edition edition (September 1, 1990)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 103 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #53,980 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Philosophy #332 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity #380 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens

Age Range: 6 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 7

Customer Reviews

About this provocative exploration of God in many places and many religions, PW said, "Marantz's daring, highly stylized illustrations are full of character." Ages 6-12. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr 4-6-- A provocative look at the concept of God that differs greatly from the Judeo-Christian idea of God as a person rather than as a vacuous feeling or entity. Major world religions are introduced in combination with the well-known teachers representing them (Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed), and whose words evolved into a library of Holy Books: the Bible, the Torah, the Koran, the Sutras,

and the Vedas. Similarities are drawn among these faiths, showing common strands of truth and prayer as a universal tool of communication with God. Brief discussion is given to those believing in multiple gods as well as to those who experience religious persecution. Boritzer's attempt to synthesize and make accessible the many concepts of God results in the New Age concept/belief of pantheism. Marantz' Henrik Drescher-like illustrations are bold and bright watercolors, occupying full pages that face the poetic free-verse text. At times they serve a somewhat decorative purpose, but usually expand and elucidate elements in the narrative. The reasoning process used throughout may occasionally prove too abstract for many children, making this a picture book for older readers. It will be best utilized by religious-education teachers and parents. --Celia A. Huffman, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland Copyright 1990 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As an agnostic living in a small very Christian centered town, I've struggled to explain god, religion and church to my young children. Now that one is in school he is asking a lot of questions based on the things his friends have been telling him about god and Jesus. Whenever I have trouble explaining big ideas I usually look for a book that helps impart the big ideas, but also lets my children think for themselves. On this topic, there really aren't many that fit the bill. I read this book today and it is perfect. The book describes the feeling of god, like when you are on a mountain top, or you look at the stars, but it's also when you feel connected to other people even when they aren't around, like your mom and dad. It explains different major religions and talks about how they differ very slightly and yet all aim to do good. It touches on the topic that some people fight over religion. It also explains how to pray, why people pray and names different spiritual teachers such as Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and Moses. I actually think it helped me put into words how I feel about god. If you are trying to impart a specific dogma to your children, then this may not be the book for you, but I also don't think it really goes against anything you might teach in your specific church. It just talks about how different people feel about god in the world. If you want to help your children learn about god and religion in an open minded way, this is a great resource. I also purchased a book about the life of Jesus and another about the life of Buddha to give them some context as to who some of these people were. I think every adult and child should read this book!

I absolutely love this book! It's a great open-minded, non-doctrine based view of God for children. God is a tough concept to explain to children, and this book helps a lot without introducing unwanted concepts from any particular religion. It was written by a Unitarian Universalist minister, and follows

along with the Unitarian philosophy generally. This book is not for traditionalist or fundamentalist Christians or those with specific doctrine they want their children to learn, but good for those with a broader understanding of God as a spiritual force connecting all of us. My 4 year old has responded to it well and keeps wanting to read "the God book". I have recommended this to several of my friends and have even bought copies to gift to others.

This is a fantastic book regardless of your religious affiliation or lack thereof. The general message of connectedness is perfect, and I love how it defines various aspects of different religions before moving into the philosophical stuff. My 5 year old loves this book, and it's really inspired some very cool conversations.

We love this book. Our family is Catholic and Atheist and found this to be a great middle ground. I suppose some very traditionally religious people might take issue with the loose concept of God as everything but I think it has helped my 7 year old to be more open, accepting. I also love that it addresses the similarities between major religions and emphasizes that we are all similar and human. Highly recommend.

My kids didn't care for this book when I first read it to them, but I have found them reading it on their own. It is a good book for those families that want to teach their children critical thinking and not believe what they hear from society.

Absolutely the best book for kids (and even some adults) with questions, confusion, conflicts and/or difficulties reconciling challenging views. Unbiased, fair, respectful, non-judgmental opportunity to expose kids to a variety of possible ways to explore the question without threatening convictions he/she might encounter in other venues.

This book was given to a friend whose daughter was getting a lot of information from her elementary school friend. Her mom says that it her daughter enjoyed the book. It has given her perspective about the topic of how people honor differences in spirituality.

Beautiful book that examines the question from all angles. Warning: Do not read if you don't want your child's mind to be opened.

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