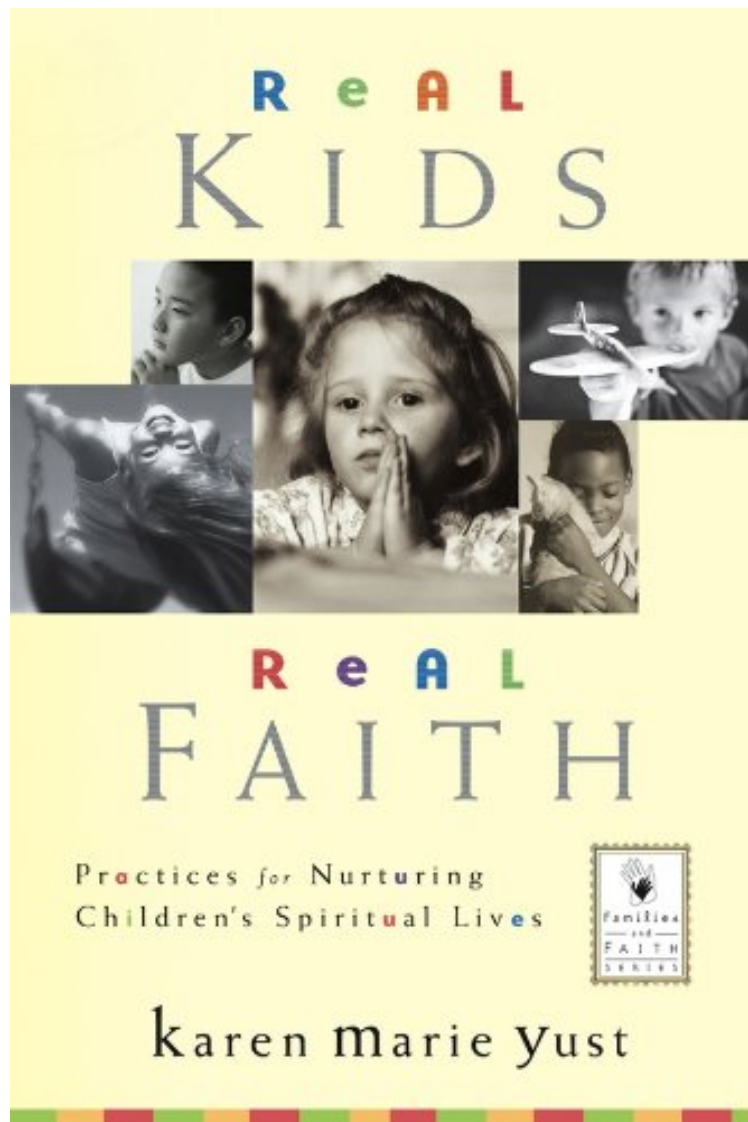


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Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives (J-B Families and Faith Series)

Von Karen Marie Yust
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Von Karen Marie Yust : Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives (J-B Families and Faith Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives (J-B Families and Faith Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Real

substance Von Fr Kurt Messick The author, Karen-Marie Yust, was a professor in charge of the Christian education programme at my seminary. A person of skill and accomplishment in both practical and academic aspects of ministry and education, she brings a lot of knowledge and resources to the task of looking at the spiritual development of children. This volume is part of the larger series on Families and Faith, looking at different aspects of faith formation in family settings, published by Jossey-Bass. The purpose of this series, according to Diana Garland and J. Bradley Wigger, is to help make love and grace real in family, congregational and community settings. The idea of education for children, in secular and religious settings, is far from new, but the idea of formation for spirituality in children is relatively uncharted in the modern world. Spirituality is one of the ways in which we as human beings, adults or children, make sense of the world and where we belong in relationship to each other, and all others. Children have a sense of discovery and exploration, an appreciation for mystery and the unknown that is a vital part of spiritual formation - many is the adult who tries to recapture this sense in their own journey. Finding appropriate resources for guiding children is not an easy task. Yust discusses the almost paradoxical situation of living in a society that purports to love and support children, but is lacking in resources appropriate to vital tasks - Happy Meals and Dr. Seuss books abound (and, in some ways, are valuable), but the tools for helping children exist as spiritual beings and grow into spiritually aware adults are lacking. She references John Westerhoff's text, 'Will Our Children Have Faith?' drawing a similar conclusion that children will have faith so long as adults make the spiritual journey with them. Yust's book is a practical one; it presents theory and observational data as appropriate to the task, but it is really a how-to guide in many respects. In one chapter, she likens the American culture in some ways as a 'foreign' culture to the religious culture, and compares the struggle to co-exist in both to the way that immigrant families learn to co-exist with elements of the 'old country' and their new home, developing a bi-cultural identity. In other chapters, she looks at the use of narratives and storytelling, as well as adaptation to language use (even if the same language of English is spoken in both home/secular culture and religious culture, the real 'language' of meaning can be different). The fifth chapter deals with prayer practices, and how to make these real and meaningful for children, including centering prayer and guided meditations. This is a useful guide for adults, too, as the chapter goes through in a clear and organised fashion the various types of prayer (supplication, confession, intercession, etc.) that we often forget. The next chapter deals with the introduction of theology for children - what they can know and grasp, and in what ways (which is often more than adults think!). The next chapter deals with action and expression of faith by children - social justice concerns, helping others, being aware and accepting of diversity. Yust's conclusion deals largely with finding and fitting in with a community of worship. Not all congregations are created equal, even with denominations. There are various aspects to note, including availability of activities and opportunities for participation - this is not limited to who has the best Sunday School or who has the best youth group programming. There are many nice touches here. Yust begins the introduction and ends the conclusion with reference to Maya Angelou's journeying poem, drawing the text full circle. There are reflection and discussion questions appropriate to each chapter; these can be for self-reflection or used as part of small groups and congregational/leadership events. The book would serve well a congregation that wanted to devote an eight-week study session to the subject of children, spirituality and their place in the community. Each chapter has pull-boxes with highlighted concepts, questions or activities for further consideration. Yust's reference list is nicely annotated, making further readings easily identified. A wonderful text in many ways, it should find a home in the hands of every minister of a congregation with children, every Christian educator and parish leader, and every parent concerned with their children's spiritual development.

Kurzbeschreibung In a culture that has lost touch with love, compassion, and meaning, how can parents be intentional about building a spiritual foundation for their children's development? In looking to their own upbringing for guidance, parents often feel even more at a loss they don't want to make the same mistakes their parents did, so they either become too strict, or they take a completely hands-off approach. A pastor, a teacher, and a mother, Karen Marie Yust offers a refreshing array of resources and provisions to guide and sustain parents and children on their mutual journey. Drawn from a three-year study of children's spirituality, as well as the best in theological tradition and literature, *Real Kids, Real Faith* provides insight and a variety of helpful tips for nurturing children's spiritual and religious formation. Yust challenges the prevailing notion that children are unable to grasp religious concepts and encourages parents to recognize children as capable of authentic faith. Rezension With gentle wisdom grounded in solid theology and child development theory, Karen Marie Yust provides parents practical ways to help their kids grow in faith. I highly recommend it. Michele Borba, author, *Building Moral Intelligence*, and *No More Misbehavin* *Real Kids, Real Faith* is thoughtful and practical, affirming and challenging, steeped in traditions and grounded in contemporary life. By avoiding pat answers on the one hand and abstract philosophy on the other, Karen Marie Yust offers the inspiration and tools needed to nurture life-shaping faithfulness in children Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Search Institute This is the most balanced and useful guide to the spiritual growth of children that I know. Written by a wise professor and loving mother, this book will enrich the spiritual lives of children as it deepens the spiritual lives of parents. Don Browning,

University of Chicago and author, *Marriage and Modernization* Parents interested in how children incorporate a spiritual worldview will find this book illuminating. Drawing on child psychology, anthropological and theological perspectives on acculturation, and development of a spiritual system, Karen Marie Yust offers an explicit understanding of how children can be encouraged to incorporate spirituality into their lives. Personal anecdotes help to illustrate her insights." Cyndie White, comanager, Harvard University Office of Work/Life and Family Resources

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