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# Eric Liddell: Finish The Race



## Synopsis

Eric's life brought him to boarding school in England, university in Edinburgh and the fame of Olympic Stardom in Paris. But with that fame came trouble as he struggled to stand up for his Christian faith. Eric's strong belief in keeping the Lord's Day as a day of worship was challenged when his 100 metres race was scheduled for the Sunday. Eric's strength of conviction and his subsequent win in the 400 metres have made him a hero and a role model for many young men and women. But his life was so much more than winning tapes and starters' orders - his whole life was a race for God.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 9 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

## Customer Reviews

"I have just had the great pleasure of reading "Finish The Race" from cover to cover. I thought it was exceptionally well written. There were actually some details that I had not heard before which made the book even more precious to me. I am deeply grateful for the interest you have taken in my father's life and the writing that you subsequently undertook. Your labours have added a great deal to the legacy my father left me and I am enriched because of you." (Maureen Moore ~ Eric Liddell's daughter)

Famous Olympian runner

Good children's biography of a remarkable man. I'm thankful for books like this that help us remember heroes of the past.

The book was in great condition and my son and I enjoyed it. My only issue was I paid extra for faster shipping and it still took over a week. It was needed for a book report but it was a quick read and worked out ok.

I had always heard about "the guy" in the Chariots of Fire movie. It was not until signing up for this blog tour that I realized his name was Eric Liddell. Eric is known for two things: his racing and his religious conviction. His conviction was that he would not run on Sunday, for it was the Lord's Day. This decision was a difficult one for him. The author says, "He sought no praise from men...By His worthy example of faithfulness of Christ and truth he speaks to succeeding generations, calling them to follow Christ as he did faithfully in his day." John W. Keddie, the author, starts with the story of Eric's childhood as the son of missionaries to China. His parents sent him to a boarding school in England where he became a great runner and his talent took him to the Paris Olympics in 1924. After he graduated from college, he left his homeland to be a missionary in his birth country of China. There he would influence Christianity in China for years to come. During his days in China he married Florence, a daughter of missionaries, and had 3 children, one of whom he would never meet. Because of his training in running he learned perseverance. This would be a great asset to him as things became more difficult. While he was in China he was taken captive by the invading Japanese army. It was in their prison that he would spend his last days. The recommended age for this book is 7-14. There is some information that might be difficult for a younger child to process, but they would be able to get an idea of Eric's life. The discussion questions in the back are a great resource for parents to be able to converse with their children while reading this book. As a parent of a seven-year-old, I would recommend this book as a good introduction to the biographical genre. This was my first exposure to the Trailblazer series. I am eager to read some of the other stories to my children. I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

Who can resist an Eric Liddell biography, I dived in at the opportunity and my kids joined in as we read our way through it. This book is a book about the life of Eric Liddell... his whole life. What a relief to find a book about Eric Liddell that is about more than just his dash around the race track. It is definitely not just the race in the Paris Olympics, made famous by the popular movie, Chariots of

Fire. To be honest I usually give books from the Trailblazer series to my kids to read, especially those in the easy reader stage. The chapters are short and manageable, there are questions at the end of the book, which help you to highlight the main point of each chapter. Because I had signed up to write a review I had to read this book all the way through myself and I was more than pleasantly surprised!!!! I have to say I have a whole new respect for this series, the chapters may well be short and readable for the beginner reader but they are not by any means simple or written down to the younger reader. Oh no, the chapters of this book are packed with facts and interesting anecdotes. What can I say, I found it a really interesting read and I am thrilled to discover a book that treats the beginner reader with some respect. Not to mention, there is a fabulous timeline that provides hooks between the subject and other historical events that they might know about and so help them relate the book to knowledge they already have. Just because this book is marketed as a children's book don't for a moment think that an adult wouldn't enjoy the read. It was a quick read, I admit, but I so enjoyed that this book really is packed with interesting details. Eric Liddell was born in China in 1902, and spent his early years there. When he was of school going age his parents brought him and his older brother home to attend a The Boys Mission School in England. As you can imagine it wasn't an easy childhood to be split away from one's parents but he was an affable fellow and seems to have survived the rigors of boarding school with the very occasional visit from his parents. His love of sports, particularly rugby and athletics, began at school and he carried his passion through to University. He began entering races and winning. My children so enjoyed hearing about his athletics preparation and training, particularly for the Olympics, very different to the very over the top practices of today!!! As you read the book and through his remarkable racing career, you come to realize that athletics was not his life calling, but serving God with all his heart certainly was. God used a good friend and a mentor to prepare his heart and soul for returning to China. He returned to China in what some say was the prime of his athletics career, where he worked as a teacher... He married and had three children, the youngest never actually met him because just before he was put into a prison of war camp he placed his family and then pregnant wife on a ship for Canada, where they would be safer. He suffered for his belief, but never gave up, he served his fellow prisoners but eventually illness and malnutrition got the better of his strong body. He eventually died of a brain tumor and tragically his family never saw him again. My children were fascinated by this story and they were sad for his family, especially the baby that he never got to meet. But above all else they were inspired by a man that gave of his best in everything, often coming from behind he conquered all, through hard work and an incredible faith in his Savior. His life was a true reflection of a Christian hero and he ran his race for God without

faltering. This book was given to me to read for review by Christian Focus 4 Kids, and I was not paid in anyway to say that it was a great book. I provide the positive review because my kids and I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it as a great read.

I jumped at the opportunity to read and review this book because I wanted to learn more about the man, Eric Liddell, behind the movie Chariots of Fire. The author starts with the story of Liddell's childhood, growing up the son of missionary parents in Northern China. The story progresses from Liddell and his brother being sent to boarding school in England, where Liddell's giftedness as a runner eventually earns him a place in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. The author shows how Liddell's faith and religious conviction shaped his life, including his refusal to compete in athletic events on the Lord's Day (Sunday). Upon his graduation, Liddell chose a life of service as a missionary to China rather than capitalizing upon his fame from the Olympics. This simple man of conviction, ultimately influenced the spread of Christianity in China, through his life and death. This book, as the others in the Trailblazer series, is recommended for younger readers, ages 7-14. It even has suggested questions for discussion in the back of the book for parents to interact with their children as they read the book. I would easily recommend this book as a good, basic biographical book. Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Christian Focus 4 Kids as part of their Trailblazers Book Review Extravaganza. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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