

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Book Title: *Saint Ignatius of Loyola: For the Greater Glory of God*

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I chuckled a little bit while reading our Encounter book on Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Not because the content of the story was particularly funny (on the contrary, a career ending, slow-healing leg injury is not funny at all) but because I could vividly imagine Inigo's frustration with the selection of books his sister-in-law had brought him while he was recuperating in her castle after an injury in battle.

I love to read, and will read most anything that someone recommends to me, but that doesn't mean I will enjoy it. I've trudged through some recommended non-fiction, only to reinforce that I am indeed a fiction girl at heart. And like Saint Ignatius, I have been given a book that I was pretty sure I would not like (thanks for getting me hooked on *Twilight*, Mom!) and have spent the past couple of years borderline obsessed with the story. My point is that you never know how you'll feel about something until you try it.

The Life of Christ and *The Lives of Saints* changed Saint Ignatius's life forever. What if he had torn the books up or forced his sister-in-law to take them away? He would have lived a *very* different life. Try new foods, read a genre that you normally wouldn't read, explore a new park. You never know which new thing could change your life for the better. And encourage your kids to do the same.

Discussion/Written Response Questions

1. Saint Ignatius dreamed of being a knight, but his leg injury and rough recovery forced him to change his plans. Think about a time when you had to change your plans. How did you feel at the time? How did you feel about it afterward?
2. How did Ignatius feel about education? Find specific examples in the book to support your position.

Language Arts Connection

Ignatius was upset when Magdalena brought him books that were not the adventure novels that he had requested, but the books she brought ended up inspiring him to serve God, changing the course of his life forever. It is sometimes good to try new things.

Take a look at this list of genres:

- Fantasy
- Historical Fiction
- Mystery
- Realistic Fiction
- Science Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Folktales
- Poetry
- Drama
- Biography
- Autobiography

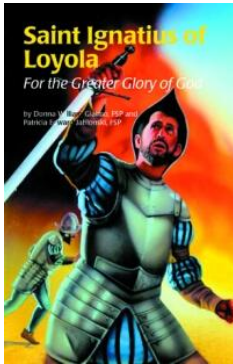
Choose a genre that you do not usually read. Ask a friend, teacher, or a librarian for recommendations in that genre. Read a book in the new genre and write a paragraph about why you did or did not enjoy it.

Geography Connection

- Spain
- Italy
- France
- Jerusalem

History Connection

Research the Spanish Inquisition.



This famous founder of the Jesuits was born in 1491. He was from a Spanish noble family. As a boy, he was sent to be a page at the royal court. There he lived with the desire to someday become a great soldier and marry a beautiful lady. Later, he did indeed win honor for his courage in the battle of Pamplona. However, a wound from a cannon ball forced him to spend months in bed at Loyola Castle.

Ignatius asked for some books to read. Only biographies of Jesus and the saints were available. Gradually, the books began to make an impression on him.

When he recovered, he made a pilgrimage to Monserrat. In the hopes of becoming a priest, Ignatius began his education. Ignatius was forty-three when he graduated from the University of Paris. With six other students, he professed religious vows in 1534. Ignatius and those of his companions who were not yet priests were ordained in 1539. They promised to work for God in whatever way the Holy Father thought best.

In 1540, their order was officially recognized by the pope. Before Ignatius died, there were 1,000 members of the Society of Jesus or "Jesuits." St. Ignatius died in Rome, on July 31, 1556. Pope Gregory XV proclaimed him a saint in 1622.

The fascinating story of Ignatius of Loyola is full of excitement, adventures and challenges both before his conversion and after. Children who read this saint's story will love the adventure while also learning the secret of his strength and happiness. Ignatius surrendered all he had to God and asked in return only God's love and grace, a central secret to authentic spirituality.

Ages 8 – 12

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