



Mission-Shaped Reading List

Christian Missionary Biographies for Families

If you've ever wanted your children to see that faith isn't just something we believe, but something we *live*, missionary stories are one of the best places to start. These books tell true stories of ordinary people who trusted God in extraordinary circumstances—often at great personal cost—and followed Him to the ends of the earth.

This list is intentionally short and carefully chosen. These are books that shape perspective, spark conversation, and invite readers of all ages to think bigger about faith, obedience, and God's work in the world.



Younger Readers (Upper Elementary–Middle School)

These books are written in an engaging, story-driven style and work well for read-alouds or independent readers.

- [**Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime**](#) – Janet & Geoff Benge
A gripping true story of a determined woman who followed God's call to China against all odds.
- [**Mary Slessor: Forward into Calabar**](#) – Janet & Geoff Benge
A powerful account of courage, compassion, and standing up for the vulnerable in West Africa.
- [**Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold**](#) – Janet & Geoff Benge
The inspiring story behind *Chariots of Fire*, showing how faith matters more than fame.
- [**David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer**](#) – Janet & Geoff Benge
A wonderful introduction to missions, exploration, and perseverance in difficult places.
- [**Amy Carmichael: Rescuer of Precious Gems**](#) – Janet & Geoff Benge
A moving story of compassion, courage, and lifelong service among vulnerable children in India.



Trailblazers Series Favorites

Faith-Filled Stories of Courage & Obedience

The **Trailblazers** series is a longtime favorite among Christian homeschool families—and for good reason. These books read like adventures while staying grounded in real history and strong faith. They're especially great for middle school readers but are engaging enough for family read-alouds, too.

- [**C.T. Studd: From Cricket to Christ**](#) – David Luckman
A powerful, accessible introduction to Studd's radical faith and his decision to give everything for Christ.
- [**Hudson Taylor: An Adventure Begins**](#) – Catherine MacKenzie
An excellent missionary biography that highlights humility, cultural respect, and trusting God daily.
- [**Amy Carmichael: Rescuer by Night**](#) – Kay Walsh
A story of compassion, courage, sacrifice, and rescue.
- [**Jim Elliot: He Is No Fool**](#) – Irene Howat
A challenging and inspiring story that helps readers understand what it means to live fully surrendered to God.

Trailblazers are especially helpful for young readers who are ready for chapter books but still benefit from clear storytelling, strong role models, and faith-forward themes.

Family Read-Alouds & Adults

(These work beautifully for family reading, teens, and adults alike.)

- [**The Chocolate Soldier**](#) – C.T. Studd
A compelling, accessible autobiography by **C. T. Studd**, whose radical faith still challenges believers today.
- [**C.T. Studd: Cricketer and Pioneer**](#) – Norman Grubb
A classic missionary biography that goes deeper into Studd's faith, sacrifices, and legacy.
- [**Through Gates of Splendor**](#) – Elisabeth Elliot
A beautifully written account of faith, obedience, and surrender that continues to shape generations.
- [**Peace Child**](#) – Don Richardson
A fascinating true story that shows how the gospel connects across cultures in unexpected ways.

💡 How to Use This List

- Read together as a family and talk about *calling, obedience, and faith in action*
- Pair stories with geography lessons or map work
- Use missionary biographies alongside prayer for unreached people groups
- Let children see that following God has always required courage—and still does today

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