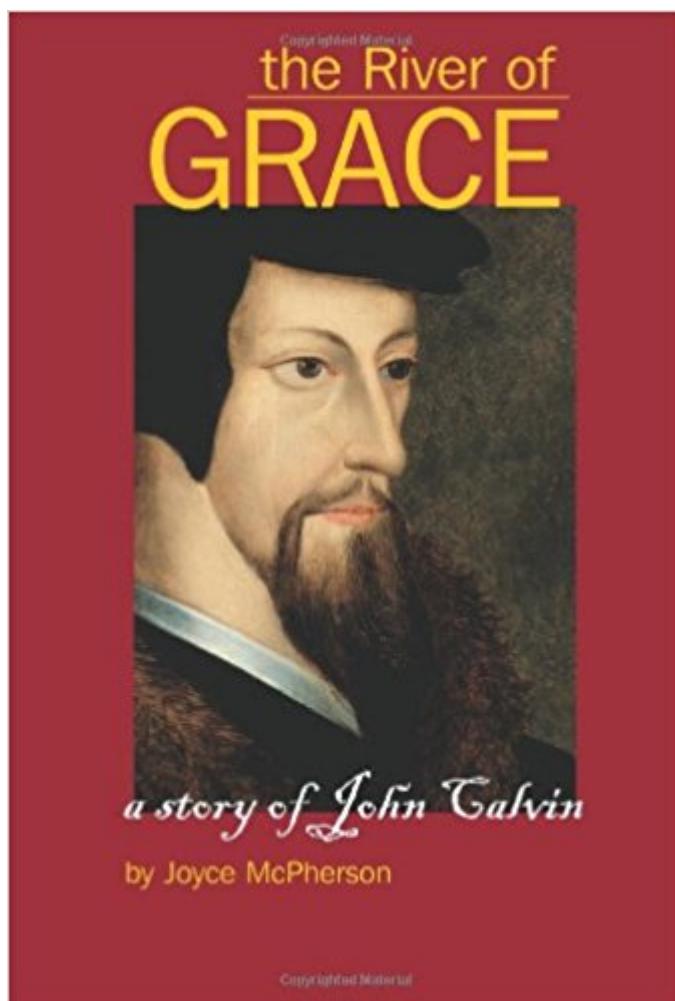


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# The River Of Grace: The Story Of John Calvin



## **Synopsis**

This is the only biography of Calvin available for young people. Joyce focuses on Calvin's childhood and youth, tracing his days at the university and the circumstances of his conversion. She traces his early and precocious leadership of the Protestants in France, and his flight to Basel, Strassburg, and Geneva when King Francis I began executing Protestants. The result is a warm and affectionate picture of the leader of the second generation of the Protestant Reformation. This is a book worth reading out loud to younger students; older students and adults will find it a valuable introduction and aid in understanding the author of the Institutes of the Christian Religion.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 159 pages

Publisher: Greenleaf Press; 2nd edition (1998)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,526,428 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Renaissance #418 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #711 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance

Age Range: 10 - 17 years

Grade Level: 5 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

Joyce McPherson is the author of five biographies for young people. She has a BS from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia State University. She has written about the vibrant faith of famous men in a variety of fields. Her lively biographies illustrate the impact of the Christian worldview in Western Civilization. She is also the mother of nine children. In her spare time she enjoys reading history, working with young people, and directing Shakespeare plays. Check out her free sites at "Homeschool Tools" at <https://sites.google.com/site/homeschoolingtoolbox/> and "Shakespeare Tools" at <https://sites.google.com/site/shakespearetools/>

Written to be accessible for younger readers. The River of Grace provides an engaging and informative overview of John Calvin's life.

We read a great many books for our homeschool history program. I enjoyed this book and think my 7th grade son will as well, because it is such an easy and pleasant reader. This is a pleasant change from some of the very technical and detailed history books we read. Although it is an easy read, it quite adequately gives a summary of Calvin's life and well expresses many of his beliefs.

Like most protestants of my generation (at least the ones that I know), my knowledge of church history is...dismal. Anything that happened between the book of Acts and 1980 is a fuzzy area for me. So although The River of Grace: The Story of John Calvin is written for young readers, I still learned a lot. The River of Grace traces Calvin's life from his boyhood to his death in Geneva in 1564, from his early studies for the Catholic priesthood to his conversion and his eventual leadership in the Reformation. Calvin's beliefs and his objections to Catholicism are incorporated into the story but not belabored. I'm sure this was to keep younger readers from getting bogged down. Readers will still walk away with a better understanding of the peril Calvin and his friends were under in their work to teach and make the Scriptures available to the people. Learning about church history gives me a greater appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made by others to advance the Kingdom of God. My faith is strengthened as I am reminded to never take my freedom to worship for granted.

I was delighted with this sensitive biography of John Calvin. McPherson writes simply to children, not down to children. She begins in John's childhood, and touches on the events and issues of his life. She shows his thoughts with frequent quotes him from his letters and other writings. This book is a great introduction to the life and heart of a great reformer, and an excellent work.

After reading two of Joyce McPherson's other books, I knew I was in for a treat when I picked up River of Grace, the biography of John Calvin. While the language is easily understandable for a child, it holds the interest of the adult. I have even seen my husband, who rarely picks up a book, reading this one. John Calvin is famous as a theologian, but I found out lots of things that I didn't know about him. It made his life come alive for me.

My 8 year old read the book in two days lots of great history of the Reformed Faith. Highly

recommend it.

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