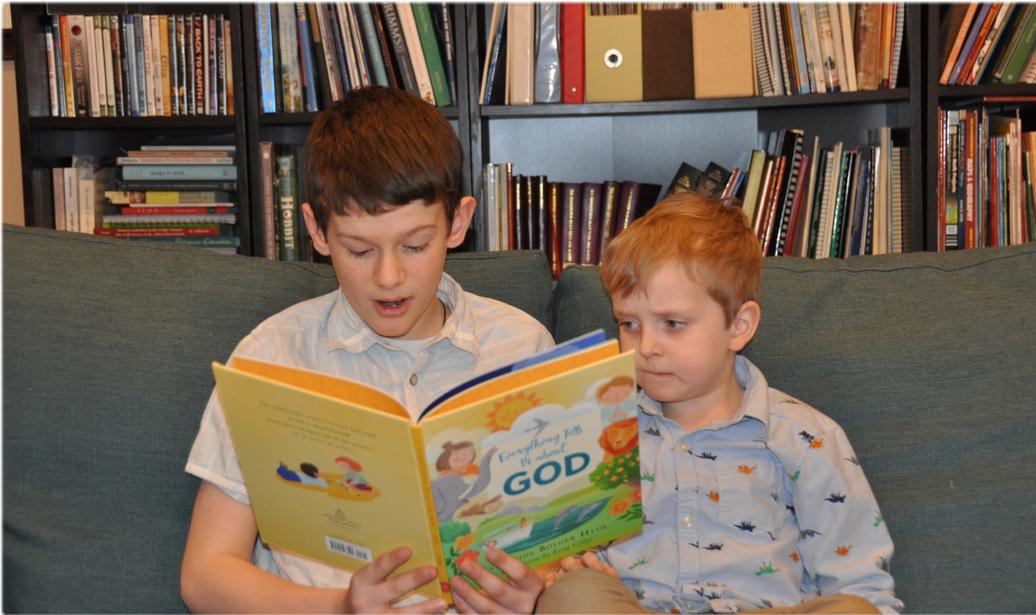


EVERYTHING TELLS US ABOUT GOD

BY KATHERINE BOLGER HYDE ~ ILLUSTRATIONS BY LIVIA COLOJJI



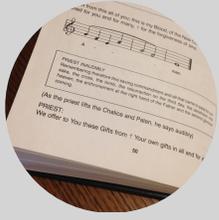

BIBLE

But who am I, and who are my people, that we are able to be zealous in offering to You? For all things are Yours, and of Your own we give to You.

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

CONNECTIONS

This book can be used to explain to our children, that all around us, we can marvel at God’s Creation. God has given us many gifts with such beauty, and in return, we offer praise and thanksgiving to God in the gifts we offer back to Him. “We offer to You these Gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all.” God gives us the wheat of the field and we offer it back to Him as prosphora. God gives us grapes and we offer it back to Him as wine. He



DIVINE LITURGY

We offer to You these Gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all.

1

WORSHIP

Praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He has given to us

2

TEACHING

Worship, “Teaches us how this wonder should be focused.”

3

PRAXIS

The tilling of the soil for wheat, the kneading of the dough for prosphora

gives us children, born of our flesh or adopted in love, and we offer them back to Him. We embrace the children in our homes and the ones who need a home. We teach them that everything we do should be for the glory of God. We guide and nurture them in such a way that they will always know of God's love from our own love of God.

Discussion Questions with Our Kids:

- **Why do we go to church?** "When we look at the worship of the Orthodox Church, one of the first things we notice is that it affirms our sense of wonder as a proper response to creation. But it goes further: it teaches us how this wonder should be *focused*, as an offering of praise to the Creator. Wonder and praise are themes that reverberate through the daily cycle of worship, above all in the words of the Psalms" (Theokritoff)
- **What can I offer to God as a gift of thanks for all that He has given to me?** We offer Him our love in all that we do. Everything that we do should be for the glory of God - the jobs we choose, how we raise our children, how we treat other people, how often we go to church or say our prayers at home.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, as You welcomed the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah and Abraham, the incense of Aaron and Zechariah, do Thou welcome also from the hands of us sinners these offerings, so that in clear conscience we may always offer to You gifts and resources from our labor for Your glorification, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, for the ministry to Your people, for the forgiveness of our transgressions and atonements of our people. By the grace, mercy, and philanthropy of Your only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed for ages and ages. Amen."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Yiayia and the Proskhron* by Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis
- *The Woman and the Wheat* by Jane G. Meyer
- *A Special Gift to God* by Iakovina Theodore
- *Living in God's Creation: Orthodox Perspectives on Ecology* by Elizabeth Theokritoff
- *The Divine Liturgy: A Commentary in the Light of the Fathers* by Hieromonk Gregorios

