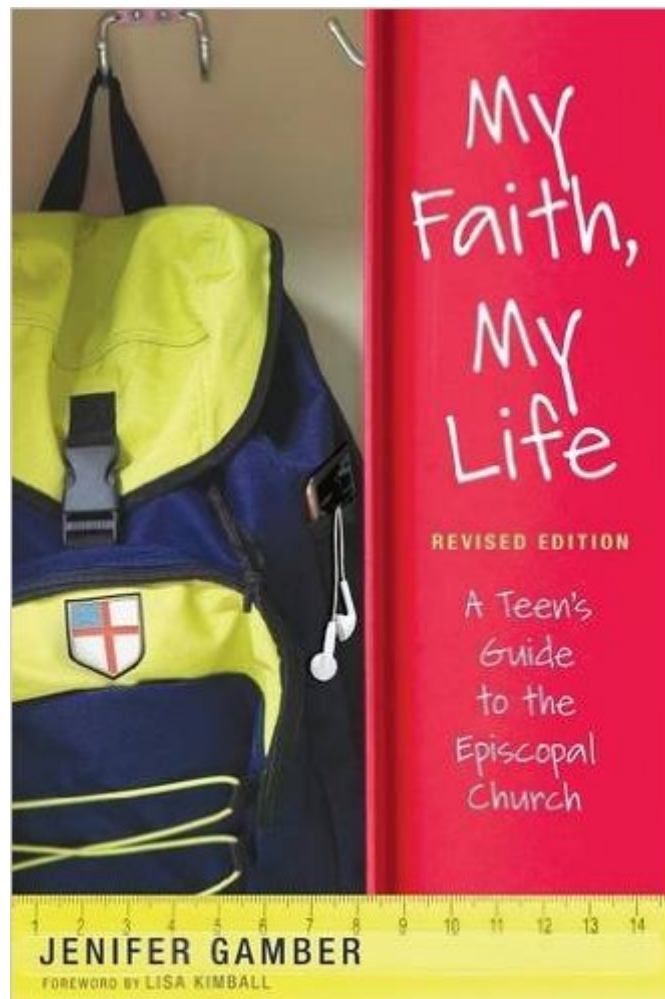


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# My Faith, My Life, Revised Edition: A Teen's Guide To The Episcopal Church



## Synopsis

This revised edition of the best-selling 2006 title now includes end-of-chapter questions for the readers as well as updated material sprinkled throughout to reflect what has occurred in the past 10-years in the church and world. The Five Marks of Mission and what it means to be a disciple of Christ will be a focus of this new version, which also models student-centered learning as opposed to teacher-driven instruction. For teen study and confirmation preparation, this book can serve as a curriculum for helping teens discover Scripture, church history, sacraments, the meaning and practice of prayer, and what ministry means in the lives of real teens today. A framework for small-group gatherings for each chapter is included as a new section in the back of the book. Bestseller revision to release in time for Confirmation season and in advance of the 2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church Includes study guide questions, plus a new companion Leader's Guide Foreword by Dr. Lisa Kimball, Virginia Theological Seminary

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my 16 year old Godson. Kevin has spiritual depth, has been steadily involved with the Episcopal Church for about five years, and has a jumble of knowledge about the Church. My Faith, My Life is just right for Kevin. It sorts out the Christian faith, as understood in the Episcopal Church, the role of Scripture, the centrality of the Trinity for Episcopalians, the history of the Church, and the common practices of Episcopal liturgy. The language is clear and concise, written with teenagers in mind, in a friendly, easy style. It will be a pleasure to give the book to

Kevin. At 183 pages, *My Faith, My Life* is a well-written, complete, and understandable introduction to the Episcopal Church. While right as an introduction for teenagers, it should prove just as valuable for adults seeking to understand the Episcopal Church. It provides the basics, a clear framework for understanding both the spiritual church and the organizational church. The framework should make it easier to integrate the sermons, lessons, readings, and other experiences in the Church into a consistent theology and sense of mission.

This book is really perfect as a preparation for confirmation, but it is by no means for teens only! It is a very readable, comprehensive and well-organized introduction to the Episcopal Church. I very much enjoyed reading it, and the adults in confirmation classes also praised it highly. I certainly recommend it to anyone who wants to know about the Episcopal Church--from whence we came, how we worship, what we believe, how the church is organized, and how we see our place in the Anglican Communion.

As preparation for my confirmation into the Episcopal church, my priest made this book required reading. "Do not be put off by the teen guide part of the title", he cautioned. How correct he was! In some ways, some concepts in the book might prove to be too difficult for a young teen to grasp. As a fledgling Episcopalian, I learned not only about the liturgy and sacraments, but also the origins and meanings of the various rituals that differ substantially from those I had been raised with in the Presbyterian church. As a lifelong Christian, I learned more about the Bible and how best to study it. I also came away with new feelings about prayer, that are not unique to the Episcopal church. The book was not only educational, but it fascinated me. Having just experienced Holy Week, for example, I learned why the Great Easter Vigil is the most important day in the Episcopal faith. The service itself is magnificent, but understanding its meaning made it even more dramatic and moving. Jennifer Gamber made the Episcopal church come alive for me. Her writing style made what could have been a dry subject fascinating. *My Faith, My Life* would make a great gift to new Episcopalians and to those who need a refresher course. Father Lou advised me well.

I purchased this book for the four teenagers in my youth confirmation class at an Episcopal Church in California. As I was reading the book, I reflected on my own confirmation class many years ago and discovered the only thing I remember about the class was the teacher's name - not that Holy Confirmation had anything to do with continuing a spiritual journey begun at Holy Baptism. It is my hope that the youth in my class will discover and appropriate for themselves a working language of

faith that will sustain them on their spiritual journey. Although much of the content of the book is historical and factual, it also presents the faith journey as a living reality - one to be embraced and lived in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Teenagers have a great hunger for the spiritual life but often flounder in the modern trivia of life that consumes so much of their time and energy. This book will engage their minds and hearts, encourage them to live out their Baptismal Covenant in meaningful ways, be actively involved in the life of the congregation, and be a useful resource for them for years to come.

My wife and a good friend and I are leaders for the J2A group at our parish, and we have been working with these fine young folk for almost three years. Our great desire is that they find or strengthen their faith by attending worship services regularly, even in churches; by communicating and communing with the others in the group at church and at school; and that they build for themselves a strong foundation from which they can take that leap into faith, not necessarily onto which they may fasten themselves and become hidebound. Ms. Gamber's book has turned out to be a wonderful resource for us, both the young people and their leaders in the group, with the great help of our Rector. We have every hope that they will all make the decision to go through confirmation this summer.

I heard about this book over the summer, ordered one for myself and after looking at it, ordered one for each teen in our church. The teens are enjoying it, learning a lot and so are their parents who have read it! The teachers like it too! All of us are learning things we never knew before. I highly recommend this book for teen Sunday School or as an aide in Confirmation classes for Episcopalians.

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