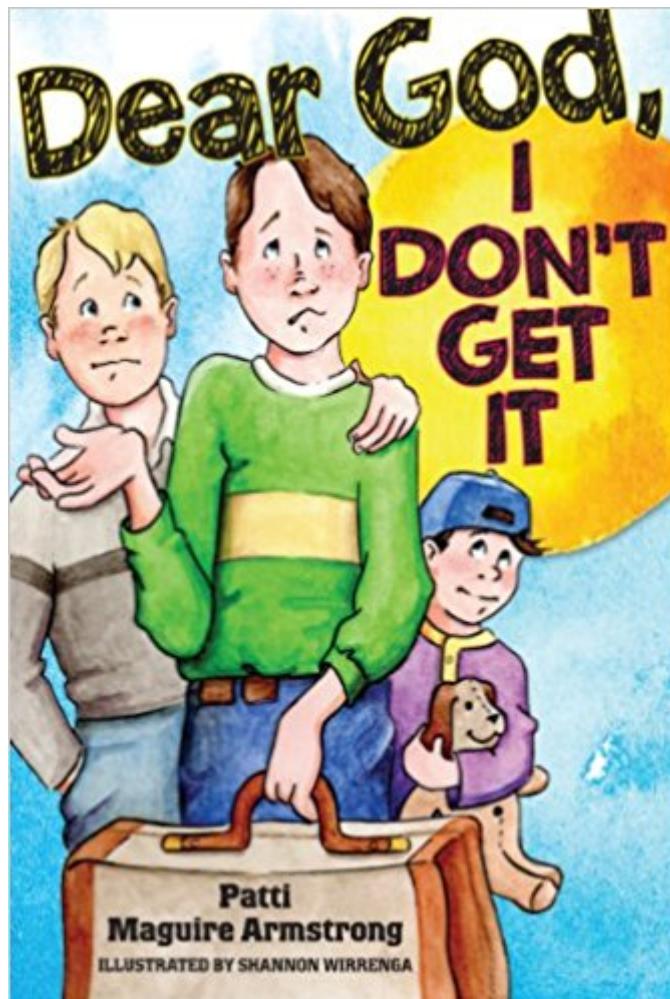


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Dear God, I Don't Get It



Synopsis

This new Catholic fiction novel introduces us to Aaron, a 6th grader who experiences a crisis in faith when his family moves. Author Patti Maguire Armstrong addresses those questions that young adults face when prayers aren't answered in a time of adversity—most importantly, "Is He even listening?" When Aaron shows compassion to an unlikely kid and risks losing his newfound friends—acceptance, he experiences the reality that being a real hero sometimes means that others will turn against you. Will God be there to save Aaron and his faltering faith?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Patti Maguire Armstrong is a wife of thirty-two years and mother to ten. She co-authored *Big Hearted: Inspiring Stories From Everyday Families*, was the managing editor and co-author of the *Amazing Grace* book series, and has appeared on EWTN and Catholic TV as well as radio stations across the country. Her articles appear on many Catholic websites, including her blog: PattiMaguireArmstrong.com

I got this book for my son as one of the Christmas gift. Some people would think books are not for Christmas gift. But my son loved it and he learned to appreciate the gifts and the blessings we have.

Cute book.

cute Catholic book your Catholic kids will love it

A great book to help children understand struggles they go through and how struggles can turn out to be blessing

Sixth grader, Aaron moved to a new town and has trouble fitting into his new school. He started doubting God's protection and decided to become a hero. His adventures prove to be disastrous until he learns that real heroes don't lie. He ends up standing up for what he believes is right and discovers that God leads us to better things than we can imagine.

As the father of three boys (Ephraim, Eli, and Ezra) - who have an uncanny resemblance to Aaron, Luke, and Tyler in this story I love the way Patti Armstrong used the themes of redemptive suffering, dying to self, and forgiveness and weaved them into a heartwarming story any young adult would enjoy and relate to. My ten year old learned valuable lessons on honesty, intent, and how heroic sacrifice is what brings true peace to one's conscience and joy to one's life. Even in the most unexpected circumstances. A must read for any young adult and a helpful way for parents to point to theological truths that can be difficult for teenagers to embrace and understand. Reading this book with your child is a great way to introduce them to the deeper beauty of the Catholic faith on their individual journey.

Why does God answer some prayers and not others? This is a question that plagues even adults. Sometimes, we pray so hard and think we know what God should do in our lives. And then, God does something else or He does nothing. What gives? For children, these questions can be even more acute. Without a lifetime of experience to rely on, God ignoring a prayer can be a faith-shaking incident. That is the premise behind "Dear God, I Don't Get It." Patti Maguire Armstrong tells the story of sixth-grader Aaron Ajax. His father just lost his job and he has to move from Montana to North Dakota as a result. He prayed and prayed that this would not happen, and God just didn't pay attention. He has to leave his friends behind and while his younger brother Luke is making new friends easily, Aaron seems to only be making enemies. Nothing is going well for him. He concocts a plan to be a "hero" in order to get some positive attention, but that blows up in his face as well. Yet, God can use even bad things for good, and by the end of the story, everything has worked out, and Aaron decides that God knows what He is doing after all. Armstrong writes with a good sense of

humor that will appeal to the 8 - 12 age group that this book is targeted toward. It is a story with an important lesson on prayer for children, and the adults who care for them (and who might read this book with them). For those interested in delving into the story on a deeper level, there are discussion questions in the back.

My eight-year-old has a sense of when I'm reading a book she'll like. This is one of them: it's perfect for her, and though I don't have a middle grade son, I think this book would work for either boys or girls. It's cute, in the "I'm an adult reading a kids' book" way, without being cutesy. The storyline is basic and yet...is there anything basic about being in sixth grade? Just thinking of those years makes my throat clench and my palms sweat and...well hey, I'm glad I don't have to go back to it. Armstrong knows her audience, and she doesn't downplay what's important. Reading it as an adult, I empathized. I'm pretty sure that, reading it as a kid, my eight-year-old will come away with the clear sense that she's loved by God, she has many opportunities for grace, and that forgiveness is freely given. And the little brothers? Absolutely priceless. I suspect Patti, as a mother of 10, has some stories she could share...and what better way than in a book that will help other kids? Good little book and definitely worth giving to the kids in your life.

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