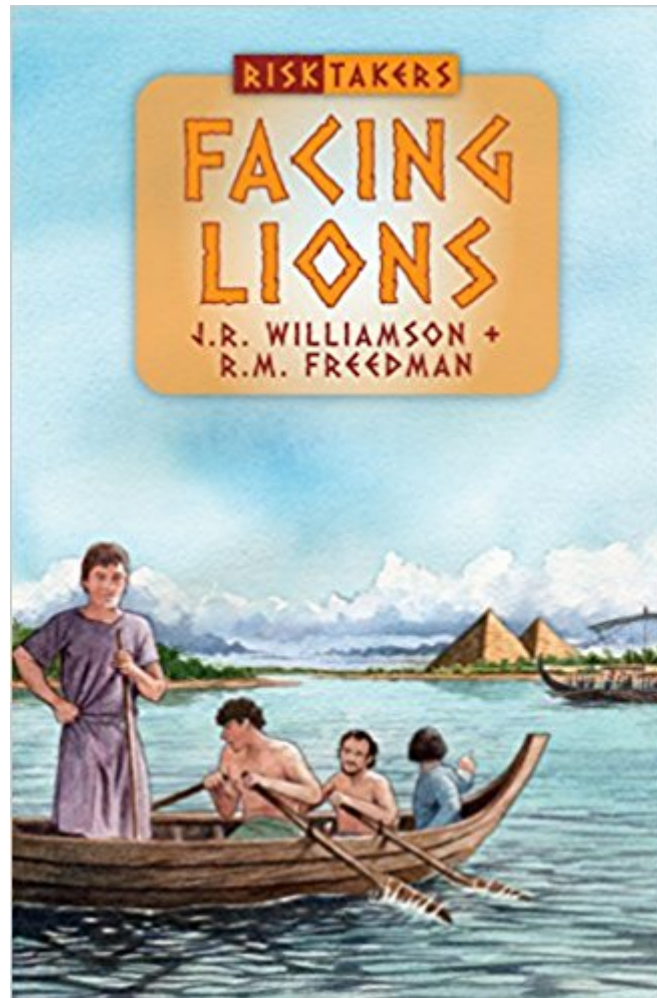




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# Facing Lions (Risktakers)



## Synopsis

The Bible says that the devil, who is the adversary of all Christians, prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. He wants to bring down God's people whenever he can. So let's meet some men and women of the early church who stood up to this lion and his followers. They faced down persecution and stood up for the truth of Christ. Characters included: Apostle John; Polycarp; Blandina; Constantine; Arius; Athanasius; Anthony

## Book Information

Series: Risktakers

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: CF4Kids (May 20, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1781911533

ISBN-13: 978-1781911532

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #648,958 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #553 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Devotional #4184 in Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity

Age Range: 5 - 6 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 1

## Customer Reviews

Accounts of the early Christians

James Williamson lives in Lusaka, Zambia and is married to Megan. They have six children ' three boys and three girls. James loves watching movies with his kids and exploring nature.

I take care of my church's library and one of my challenges has been finding biographies for children that emphasize God's grace and that are honest about the imperfections of God's people. This book is one I was happy to put in our church library because it gives an honest account of the people it talks about. Facing Lions gives the stories of six men and one woman from the ancient church (John the apostle, Polycarp, Constantine, Arius, Athanasius, Anthony and Blandina- there is

a sister book called *Fighting Wolves* which covers other characters in the ancient church). Each chapter is followed by a devotional thought from the person's life and a fact file with a map or something related to the person. A chapter could probably be read in about 10 minutes. At the end of the book there are some quizzes based on the chapters, which I was not crazy about because they focus more on unimportant facts than on the truths we should take away from these stories. The writing is engaging and simple. The back of the book says that it is for ages 5 to 6 if it is being read to them and ages 7 to 11 if they are reading it themselves. However, I think the average seven-year-old might struggle a bit with reading it themselves and I also think young teens would enjoy it as well. *Facing Lions* also has a number of pencil sketches that are well done and add interest to the book. But my favorite thing about the book is that it shows both the good and the bad of these men and women and does not set them up on a pedestal. In fact, one of the chapters is about a man who was simply bad and not a Christian at all, but a heretic (Arius). Just like the Bible gives us both good and bad examples and we can learn from both, so our children can learn from both. Giving children unrealistic pictures of Christians and the Christian life will only set them up for disillusionment later on, both as they try to live up to those ideals and as they expect parents and Christian leaders to live up to them.

This book is great for young children and adults. There are no "made up" adventures but as God's word always supplies there are many real ones to keep the reader's attention. This author brings the ever important truth to reading time. An excellent idea for parents who are new believers to read with their children.

I have recently read through *Facing Lions* with my 8- and 11-year old on Sunday afternoons. We actually finished half the book in one sitting because the children kept asking for "one more chapter." The authors do a good job of writing in a manner that holds the attention of young ones, but the tales are neither glamorized nor "sanitized." Some of the early Christians in the book faced severe persecution as a result of following Christ, and their difficulties are portrayed honestly yet appropriately. While the book is geared toward children, their parents would profit from it as well, and I recommend reading it aloud together. My own weak knowledge of the early church era has been bolstered, and though the writing is simple, it is by no means "dumbed down." Topics included are Gnosticism, Arianism, and the Council of Nicaea. I appreciated the use of direct quotations from some of the characters, as well as Scripture references, to support the text. A few organizational/editing weaknesses prevent me from giving a five-star rating, but *Facing Lions* is a

refreshing addition to quality Christian children's literature.

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