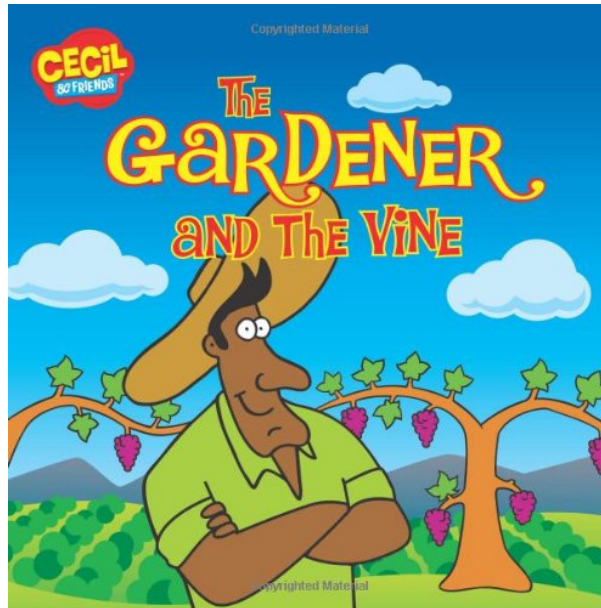
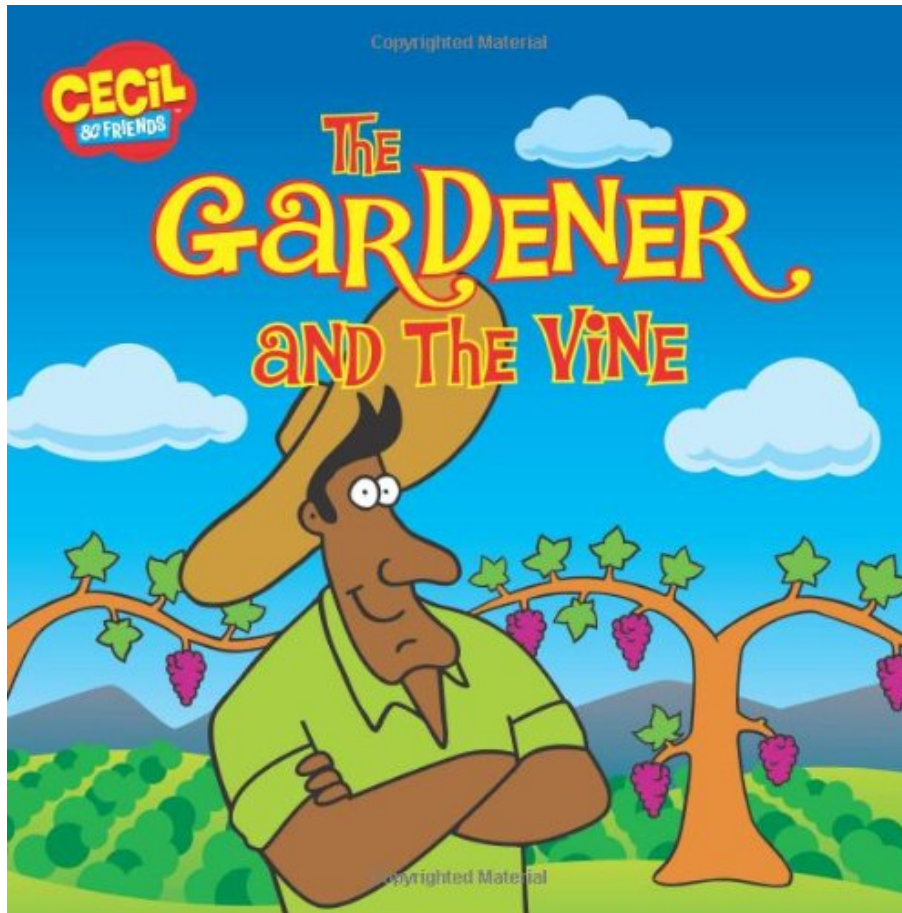


THE GARDENER AND THE VINE (CECIL AND FRIENDS) FROM ZONDERVAN



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Review

'Fresh, vivid and attention-grabbing. These stories touch the heart and illuminate the mind' -- --Max Lucado, Pastor and Bestselling Author

(--Max Lucado, Pastor and Bestselling Author)

From the Back Cover

Just like Basil the small branch trusts the gardener to take care of him and bring him to a new home, we must trust God to take us in to his loving care. In The Gardener and the Vine we read about the new life that comes from being a part of Jesus' family.

About the Author

Andrew McDonough is the creator, writer, and illustrator of the Lost Sheep series. Way back in 1989 as a young Bible college student, Andrew was asked to give the dreaded 'children's talk' at a large church. Andrew possessed one talent: he could draw sheep. He bought some overhead projector sheets and drew up the story of Cecil and the Lost Sheep. The congregation loved it, so Andrew continued to draw stories to use with kids and adults. Other student, pastors, and teachers started borrowing the stories.

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It's Nice to Belong ... and what a bonus that we all belong to God's family! In The Gardener and the Vine, we join the small branch named Basil as he meets the Gardener and makes a journey from loneliness to being a fruitful and loved part of the family of God.

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- 32 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great Writing, Great Illustrations. Great Message!

By M. Carswell

The message behind this book is excellent, not only for the children it is geared for, but adults as well.

The good news? We can bear much fruit.

The bad news? It might hurt first, due to cutting and grafting.

This is what Basil, the scraggly grapevine learns in this story about being joined to THE Vine. . . and it's the story our children will learn when we read it to them. While young minds can't fully grasp what it means, it's a book that, in our home, will be kept through the years and read often, until our daughter's mind can grasp it. Because of it's colorful illustrations, this will be easy to achieve as she asks for the book to be read repeatedly, even at the young age she is. This is one of my favorite books that we have in her collection, given both the message as well as the artwork that makes up the book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Spiritually Rich

By JenniferB

The Gardener and the Vine is another in Andrew McDonough's boldly illustrated Cecil & Friends series of Jesus' parables and life as interpreted through a modern lens for children. Andrew McDonough's vibrant, cartoon-like art keeps children engaged in the simply told story that is likewise with vivid word-imagery.

Presented as the simple adventure as a branch who was taken from his unfruitful life and grafted onto the Vine by the Gardener, this story is packed jam full of rich spiritual meaning for both children and the parents who read this story to them.

A two-page spread for parents helps give some background information and introductory lead-ins to help enjoy and teach your children from this story, making it not only a story, but a little devotional lesson complete with some simple questions and discussion points along with the Bible verses that the story is inspired by (John 15: 1,5).

Honestly, I think that I may have received more spiritual benefit from this story than my small children have. There is a lot of theological ground covered in this one simple story: being removed from our old life, being adopted into Christ, the painful sacrifice that made such an adoption possible, the only way of having true life and fruitfulness being through Him - it's really amazing how much rich depth has been built into this children's story. I'm not sure my little ones are old enough to catch it all at this point, but I trust that they are each taking as much as they can from the story at their levels of development.

The Gardener and the Vine is a powerfully transformative story presented in a simple package. I highly recommend it.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this title to review. All opinions are honest and my own.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

New entry in Cecil & Friends series is enjoyable allegory

By Christina Lockstein

The Gardener and the Vine by Andrew McDonough is another new entry in his fantastic Cecil & Friends series. First Mia's review: I like it just as much as Jesus and the Children, and I'd like to say thank you to the author for writing this book and to Christians everywhere for loving Jesus. My favorite page was the one where Basil had joined the Vine because he was a part of Jesus and once you are a part of Him you have everlasting life! The book is about how good it is to be a part of Jesus. Now my thoughts. Basil is a branch on a vine on a lonely hill until one day a Gardener appears and offers to make him grow tons of grapes, but Basil has to trust Him. He's frightened when the Gardener cuts him off of his vine, he's terrified that he's going to die, but is instead brought to a most beautiful Vine. The story is an allegory of John 15:1,5 where Jesus talks about being the vine and his followers branches who will only flourish when part of Him. The story never mentions Jesus or God and yet sticks closely to the journey of a believer learning to trust in God. When I explained the meaning behind the story, Mia was quickly able to understand the deeper symbolism, including jumping in and accurately naming some on her own. McDonough makes the story very clear for

children. The illustrations are always bright and amusing with plenty to keep little eyes happy. I appreciate how he puts a different spin on such classic stories forcing children and their parents to look at them with new eyes and gaining new understanding.

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