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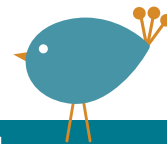
From:

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Jesus Calling[®]



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

100 DEVOTIONS FOR FAMILIES
TO ENJOY PEACE IN HIS PRESENCE

Sarah Young



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Families,

You can get to know Jesus by praying and reading your Bible. It's important to understand how much Jesus loves you—and to enjoy Him as the Friend who is always with you.

The devotions in this book are written as if Jesus is speaking right to you. So “I,” “Me,” “My,” and “Mine” are always about Jesus. I wrote the devotions this way to help you know that Jesus is with you all the time. He knows everything about you, and He loves you more than you can imagine!

Each entry in *Jesus Calling® Family Devotional* includes an adult devotion from *Jesus Calling®* and a corresponding children's devotion from *Jesus Calling®: 365 Devotions for Kids*. Parents and children can read their devotions separately or together and then come together to read Scripture aloud to dig deeper into the day's entries. The Bible is the only perfect Word of God, and each entry includes multiple Scripture verses. The “Talk Together” sections are questions designed to draw you closer to the Savior who is always with you as you spend time together in His presence.

Jesus loves you so much that He died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins. If you have never asked Him to be your Savior—forgiving all your sins—I hope you will do that very soon. It's the most important decision you will ever make! All the promises of the Bible are for you when Jesus is your Savior.

I hope you will find a quiet place and read these devotions slowly each day. Remember, Jesus is Immanuel—God with us. So He is God with you. I pray that you will enjoy His Presence and His Peace as you spend this time with Him.

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS,

Sarah Young

You will seek Me and find Me when you
search for Me with all your heart.

—Jeremiah 29:13 NASB

FOR ADULTS



A RENEWED MIND

I AM RENEWING YOUR MIND. When your thoughts flow freely, they tend to move toward problems. Your focus gets snagged on a given problem, circling round and round it in attempts to gain mastery. Your energy is drained away from other matters through this negative focus. Worst of all, you lose sight of Me.

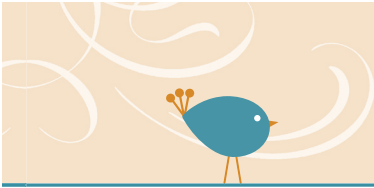
A renewed mind is Presence-focused. Train your mind to seek Me in every moment, every situation. Sometimes you can find Me in your surroundings: a lilting birdsong, a loved one's smile, golden sunlight. At other times, you must draw inward to find Me. I am always present in your spirit. Seek My Face, speak to Me, and I will light up your mind.

READ TOGETHER

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

—ROMANS 12:2

READ MORE: HEBREWS 3:1; PSALM 105:4



FOR KIDS

A New Way of Thinking

I want to give you a new way of thinking. When you just let your thoughts wander, they tend to wander to your problems. Your mind swirls around and around, trying to solve them. You waste time and energy. Worst of all, your mind is so filled with your problems that you lose sight of Me.

Train your mind to look for Me wherever you are. I want your thoughts to be so filled with Me that you lose sight of your problems. I am all around you. Do you see Me? That bird singing, that smile from a friend, that ray of sunshine peeking through the clouds? I send each one your way. That feeling of safety and peace? That's from Me too. I'm always thinking about you. So think about Me.

TALK TOGETHER

Do your thoughts ever get stuck on your troubles? How can you “train your mind” to think about Jesus instead of those problems? What can you think about instead of your troubles?



A THANKFUL ATTITUDE

A THANKFUL ATTITUDE opens windows of heaven. Spiritual blessings fall freely onto you through those openings into eternity. Moreover, as you look up with a grateful heart, you get glimpses of Glory through those windows. You cannot yet live in heaven, but you can experience foretastes of your ultimate home. Such samples of heavenly fare revive your hope. Thankfulness opens you up to these experiences, which then provide further reasons to be grateful. Thus your path becomes an upward spiral: ever increasing in gladness.

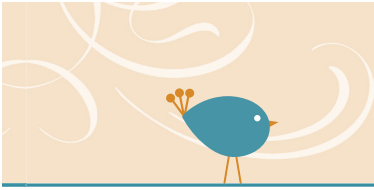
Thankfulness is not some sort of magic formula; it is the language of Love, which enables you to communicate intimately with Me. A thankful mind-set does not entail a denial of reality with its plethora of problems. Instead, it *rejoices in Me, your Savior*, in the midst of trials and tribulations. *I am your refuge and strength, an ever-present and well-proved help in trouble.*

READ TOGETHER

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

—HABAKKUK 3:17-18

READ MORE: EPHESIANS 1:3; PSALM 46:1 AMP



FOR KIDS

Windows of Heaven

When you come to Me with a thankful heart, it opens up windows of heaven. Spiritual blessings fall freely through those windows and down into your life. A thankful heart opens you up to these blessings, and then you have even *more* reasons to be grateful.

Being thankful brings you many blessings, but it is not a magic formula. Thankful words are really just the language of Love, and they help you grow closer to Me. When you thank Me, it makes a love-connection between your heart and Mine. Just as a telephone connection lets you talk to another person, a loving, thankful heart helps you talk to Me—and Me to you.

Being thankful doesn't mean you close your eyes to the many problems in this world. It means you find Joy in Me—your Savior—in the midst of a messed-up world. I am your hiding place and your strength. And I'm always ready to help you!

TALK TOGETHER

Can you name five things you're thankful for? Can you name ten?
Can you name twenty? Why do you think being thankful makes you feel closer to God?

FOR ADULTS



REST IN MY PRESENCE

REST IN MY PRESENCE WHEN you need refreshment. Resting is not necessarily idleness, as people often perceive it. When you relax in My company, you are demonstrating trust in Me. *Trust* is a rich word, laden with meaning and direction for your life. I want you to *lean on, trust, and be confident in Me*. When you lean on Me for support, I delight in your trusting confidence.

Many people turn away from Me when they are exhausted. They associate Me with duty and diligence, so they try to hide from My Presence when they need a break from work. How this saddens Me! As I spoke through My prophet Isaiah: *In returning to Me and resting in Me you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.*

READ TOGETHER

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning [to Me] and resting [in Me] you shall be saved; in quietness and in [trusting] confidence shall be your strength. But you would not.

—ISAIAH 30:15 AMP

READ MORE: PSALM 91:1; PROVERBS 3:5 AMP



FOR KIDS

Plug into Me!

Come to Me when you are tired and exhausted. Come to Me when you just need a break. Rest in My Presence. *Rest* is one of My gifts to you. It is not just being still. And it is *not* being lazy. Resting in Me shows that you trust Me enough to relax and lean on Me.

Some people actually run away from Me when they're tired. They think spending time with Me means more work, more responsibilities. So they hide from Me. But the truth is that I am the only place they can truly be recharged. It's a lot like plugging in your cell phone or your video game when the battery is low. Your phone or game waits quietly and then, after a while, it is ready to be used again. When you are tired and your battery is running low, plug into Me by resting in My Presence—and I will give you new strength.

TALK TOGETHER

How do you know when your “battery” is running low? What do you do to recharge? Have you tried resting in Jesus? What is the difference between sleeping and resting in Jesus?

FOR ADULTS



SUFFERING FOR ME

BE PREPARED TO SUFFER FOR ME, in My Name. All suffering has meaning in My kingdom. Pain and problems are opportunities to demonstrate your trust in Me. Bearing your circumstances bravely—even thanking Me for them—is one of the highest forms of praise. This sacrifice of thanksgiving rings golden-toned bells of Joy throughout heavenly realms. On earth also, your patient suffering sends out ripples of good tidings in ever-widening circles.

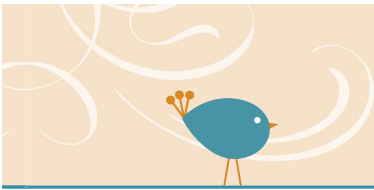
When suffering strikes, remember that I am sovereign and that I can bring good out of everything. Do not try to run from pain or hide from problems. Instead, accept adversity in My Name, offering it up to Me for My purposes. Thus your suffering gains meaning and draws you closer to Me. Joy emerges from the ashes of adversity through your trust and thankfulness.

READ TOGETHER

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

—JAMES 1:2-4

READ MORE: PSALM 107:21-22; PSALM 33:21



Tough It Out

“Tough it out.” “Stay strong.” “Endure.” You hear these words a lot when people are talking about sports. But they don’t sound so great when you’re talking about your life. And yet, that is what you must do: Tough it out, stay strong, and endure.

It’s just a fact. You are going to have troubles in this life. The devil is your enemy. So he is going to throw everything he has at you. Problems at school, home, and with friends. Fear, loneliness, and doubt. Expect these troubles, and stand strong. And when the evil one attacks, give thanks.

Yes, give thanks! Thank Me for being able to bring good out of everything. Praise Me for the chance to see My Power in your life. Worship Me—the God who always has a purpose, and who will not let the evil one snatch you away. And thank Me for the spiritual strength you gain by enduring your troubles bravely.

TALK TOGETHER

Does it seem odd to be thankful when things are going wrong? Think of a trouble you’ve had to go through. Do you know Jesus was with you through every step of that trouble?

FOR ADULTS



LET MY LIGHT ENVELOP YOU

WHEN YOUR SINS WEIGH HEAVILY upon you, come to Me. Confess your wrongdoing, which I know all about before you say a word. Stay in the Light of My Presence, receiving forgiveness, cleansing, and healing. Remember that *I have clothed you in My righteousness*, so nothing can separate you from Me. Whenever you stumble or fall, I am there to help you up.

Man's tendency is to hide from his sin, seeking refuge in the darkness. There he indulges in self-pity, denial, self-righteousness, blaming, and hatred. But *I am the Light of the world*, and My illumination decimates the darkness. Come close to Me and let My Light envelop you, driving out darkness and permeating you with Peace.

READ TOGETHER

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

—1 JOHN 1:7

READ MORE: ISAIAH 61:10; JOHN 8:12



FOR KIDS

Live in My Light

When you carry around sins, it is like carrying a backpack filled with rocks. The rocks are called *shame*, *guilt*, *self-pity*, *jealousy*, and even *hatred*. As time goes on, your pack gets heavier and heavier, pulling you down.

Give it to Me, all of it. Tell me your sins and hand over that backpack. I want to dump out all the heavy rocks. Then I want to fill your backpack up again with *love*, *mercy*, *forgiveness*, *joy*, and *peace*. Instead of weighing you down, these things will lift you up and make your journey easier.

Don't be embarrassed to bring your sins to Me. I already know all about them, and I'm just waiting to forgive you. That is why I died on the cross—to take the punishment for your sins. Don't live in the darkness of sin. Live in the Light of My forgiveness.

TALK TOGETHER

If you think about sins like heavy rocks, what are some of the “rocks” you are carrying around? Why do those sins feel heavy? How can prayer help you get rid of them? What would you like Jesus to fill your backpack with instead?



DEPEND ON ME

LIVING IN DEPENDENCE ON ME is a glorious adventure. Most people scurry around busily, trying to accomplish things through their own strength and ability. Some succeed enormously; others fail miserably. But both groups miss what life is meant to be: living and working in collaboration with Me.

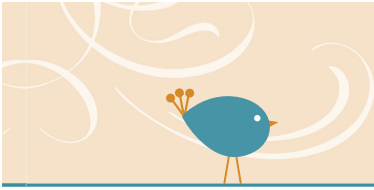
When you depend on Me continually, your whole perspective changes. You see miracles happening all around, while others see only natural occurrences and “coincidences.” You begin each day with joyful expectation, watching to see what I will do. You accept weakness as a gift from Me, knowing that *My Power plugs in most readily to consecrated weakness*. You keep your plans tentative, knowing that My plans are far superior. *You consciously live, move, and have your being in Me*, desiring that I live in you. I in you and you in Me. This is the intimate adventure I offer you.

READ TOGETHER

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

—JOHN 14:20

READ MORE: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10;
ACTS 17:28; COLOSSIANS 2:6–7



FOR KIDS

An Adventure with Me

Living your life while depending on Me is a great adventure. Most people—grown-ups and kids alike—scurry around trying to do things their own way. Some are huge successes; others fail miserably. But both miss out on what life is supposed to be—*an adventure with Me*.

When you give control of your life to Me, I open your eyes so that you can see Me at work in the world. Where others see “coincidences,” you see My wonderful work—even miracles at times. And where others see only an everyday happening, you see Me.

Live each day just watching for what I will do next. You are in Me, and I am in you—and through Me you learn to truly live. This is the amazing adventure I offer you.

TALK TOGETHER

For any great adventure, you need a guide. Are you letting Jesus guide you? How can you make sure He is your Guide through this adventure of your life?

FOR ADULTS



PATHS OF PEACE

I AM THE *PRINCE OF PEACE*. AS I said to My disciples, I say also to you: *Peace be with you*. Since I am your constant Companion, My Peace is steadfastly with you. When you keep your focus on Me, you experience both My Presence and My Peace. Worship Me as King of kings, Lord of lords, and Prince of Peace.

You need My Peace each moment to accomplish My purposes in your life. Sometimes you are tempted to take shortcuts in order to reach your goal as quickly as possible. But if the shortcut requires turning your back on My peaceful Presence, you must choose the longer route. Walk with Me along paths of Peace; enjoy the journey in My Presence.

READ TOGETHER

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

—ISAIAH 9:6

READ MORE: JOHN 20:19–21; PSALM 25:4 NKJV



FOR KIDS

Prince of Peace

I have many names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, King of kings and Lord of lords. But in this messed-up world, it is perhaps as Prince of Peace that you need Me most.

Because I never leave your side, My Peace is always with you. You need this Peace each moment to live out My plan for your life. Sometimes you may want to take shortcuts—to reach your goal as quickly as possible. But if taking the shortcut means you turn your back on My peaceful Presence, then don't do it. Keep walking with Me along paths of Peace—even in this crazy world.

TALK TOGETHER

Jesus has many names, and one of them is Prince of Peace. How does Jesus' Presence make you feel peaceful? How do you spend time with Jesus?

FOR ADULTS



TRUST IN ME ALWAYS

STRIVE TO TRUST ME in more and more areas of your life. Anything that tends to make you anxious is a growth opportunity. Instead of running away from these challenges, embrace them, eager to gain all the blessings I have hidden in the difficulties. If you believe that I am sovereign over every aspect of your life, it is possible to trust Me in all situations. Don't waste energy regretting the way things are or thinking about what might have been. Start at the present moment—accepting things exactly as they are—and search for My way in the midst of those circumstances.

Trust is like a staff you can lean on as you journey uphill with Me. If you are trusting in Me consistently, the staff will bear as much of your weight as needed. *Lean on, trust, and be confident in Me with all your heart and mind.*

READ TOGETHER

Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.

—PROVERBS 3:5–6 AMP

READ MORE: PSALM 52:8



FOR KIDS

Hidden Blessings

Learn to trust Me in all situations—the tough ones, as well as the easy ones. Trust Me when you don't understand what's going on. Trust Me when everything seems to be spinning out of control. Trust Me when you feel like you are all alone and no one understands. *I understand.*

Don't waste your time thinking about how things should have been. Don't try to run away. Start right this minute—accepting things exactly as they are—and search for My way through your challenges. Learn to look for the blessings and the opportunities I have hidden in those difficulties. Trust Me and lean on Me. I love you, and I will never let you down.

TALK TOGETHER

Trust is a big thing. What does it mean to trust someone? What does it mean to trust Jesus? How does your life show that you trust Jesus?

FOR ADULTS



POTTER AND CLAY

I AM THE POTTER; you are My clay. I designed you before the foundation of the world. I arrange the events of each day to form you into this preconceived pattern. My everlasting Love is at work in every event of your life. On some days your will and Mine flow smoothly together. You tend to feel in control of your life when our wills are in harmony. On other days you feel as if you are swimming upstream, against the current of My purposes. When that happens, stop and seek My Face. The opposition you feel may be from Me, or it may be from the evil one.

Talk with Me about what you are experiencing. Let My Spirit guide you through treacherous waters. As you move through the turbulent stream with Me, let circumstances mold you into the one I desire you to be. Say *yes* to your Potter as you go through this day.

READ TOGETHER

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

—ISAIAH 64:8

READ MORE: PSALM 27:8; 1 JOHN 5:5–6 NKJV



FOR KIDS

I Am the Potter

Have you ever watched a potter form a piece of art from a lump of clay? Before the potter even begins to shape the clay, he has a plan in mind. It will be a bowl, a vase, a pitcher. He knows exactly what he is going to make and how he is going to use the finished piece. Every detail is formed with love.

You are My clay, and I am your Potter. Before the world was made, I designed you. I have a plan for you in My kingdom. You will be an encourager, a good friend, a sharer of My Word. I shape every day, every event of your life, with Love.

As you go through your day, talk to Me. Let Me show you how this day—with all its joys and troubles—can shape you into the masterpiece I designed you to be.

TALK TOGETHER

Think about how a potter shapes the clay. Sometimes he smooths it gently, but sometimes he pushes and molds it into the shape he wants. How does Jesus mold and shape you?



I AM ALL AROUND YOU

I AM ALL AROUND YOU, hovering over you even as you seek My Face. I am nearer than you dare believe, closer than the air you breathe. If My children could only recognize My Presence, they would never feel lonely again. *I know every thought before you think it, every word before you speak it.* My Presence impinges on your innermost being. Can you see the absurdity of trying to hide anything from Me? You can easily deceive other people, and even yourself, but I read you like an open, large-print book.

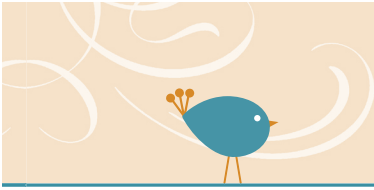
Deep within themselves, most people have some awareness of My imminent Presence. Many people run from Me and vehemently deny My existence because My closeness terrifies them. But My own children have nothing to fear, for I have cleansed them by My blood and clothed them in My righteousness. Be blessed by My intimate nearness. Since I live in you, let Me also live through you, shining My Light into the darkness.

READ TOGETHER

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

—PSALM 139:1–4

READ MORE: EPHESIANS 2:13; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21



FOR KIDS

An Open Book

I am all around you. I am nearer than you dare to believe—closer even than the air you breathe. I know every thought before you think it, every word before you say it. So you can see how silly it is to try to hide anything from Me!

You may be able to fool your parents, your teachers, and your friends. But you can never fool Me. I can read you like an open book. I know every secret, every sin. But I don't say this to make you afraid, or to make you feel guilty or ashamed. I say this so that you will *never* feel unloved or lonely again.

Listen carefully as I say this: I know everything about you—and still I will *never* leave you, and I will *never* stop loving you. I have removed all your sins so that you can be this close to Me.

TALK TOGETHER

Jesus knows every single thing about you—the good, the bad, and everything in between—and He still loves you. He will never stop loving you. Do you really, really believe that Jesus loves you?

FOR ADULTS



THANK ME FOR MY SPIRIT

THANK ME FOR THE GLORIOUS GIFT OF MY SPIRIT. This is like priming the pump of a well. As you bring Me the sacrifice of thanksgiving, regardless of your feelings, My Spirit is able to work more freely within you. This produces more thankfulness and more freedom, until you are overflowing with gratitude.

I shower blessings on you daily, but sometimes you don't perceive them. When your mind is stuck on a negative focus, you see neither Me nor My gifts. In faith, thank Me for whatever is preoccupying your mind. This will clear the blockage so that you can find Me.

READ TOGETHER

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:5

READ MORE: PSALM 50:14;
2 CORINTHIANS 3:17; PSALM 95:2 NKJV



FOR KIDS

The Gift of the Spirit

I shower blessings down on you every day. Even when you don't notice them, they are there.

One of my greatest blessings is the gift of the Holy Spirit. He lives within you, teaching and guiding you.

The Holy Spirit is like a great multiplier. In math, five plus five equals ten. But five *times* five equals twenty-five—a much bigger result. The Holy Spirit works in much the same way. He takes your faith and multiplies it. You may start with a small bit of faith in Me, but the Spirit works to multiply it so that it grows much greater.

Be sure to thank Me for the gift of My Spirit. This helps Him to work more freely in you, making you even *more* thankful—and more joyful too!

TALK TOGETHER

Every day is filled with showers of blessings. Why are those blessings sometimes hard to see? How does the Holy Spirit help you see your blessings?

FOR ADULTS



NO FEAR

I WANT TO BE CENTRAL in your entire being. When your focus is firmly on Me, My Peace displaces fears and worries. They will encircle you, seeking entrance, so you must stay alert. Let trust and thankfulness stand guard, turning back fear before it can gain a foothold. *There is no fear in My Love*, which shines on you continually. Sit quietly in My Love-Light while I bless you with radiant Peace. Turn your whole being to trusting and loving Me.

READ TOGETHER

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

—1 JOHN 4:18

READ MORE: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16;
NUMBERS 6:25–26 NKJV



FOR KIDS

When You Are Afraid . . .

I want to be the Center of your life. When you focus on Me, My Peace chases away your fears and worries.

I know . . . *everyone* is afraid sometimes. I am not saying that you will *never* be afraid. What I am saying is that you never have to face your fears alone. I am *always* with you, and My Strength is *always* there for you. I will *never* leave you.

But fear is a sneaky thing. Just when you think you've gotten it out of your life, it will creep up behind and whisper in your ear: *You're all alone*. But remember My words: *I am always with you*.

Thank Me for My Presence, and trust Me; this will protect you from fear. Spend time in the Light of My Love, while I bless you with My Peace.

TALK TOGETHER

Are there certain things that frighten you? How is God bigger than each of those fears? How does He protect you?

FOR ADULTS



LISTEN TO ME

LEARN TO LISTEN TO ME even while you are listening to other people. As they open their souls to your scrutiny, *you are on holy ground*. You need the help of My Spirit to respond appropriately. Ask Him to think through you, live through you, love through you. My own Being is alive within you in the Person of the Holy Spirit. If you respond to others' needs through your unaided thought processes, you offer them dry crumbs. When the Spirit empowers your listening and speaking, My *streams of living water flow* through you to other people. Be a channel of My Love, Joy, and Peace by listening to Me as you listen to others.

READ TOGETHER

“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

—JOHN 7:38–39

READ MORE: EXODUS 3:5; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19