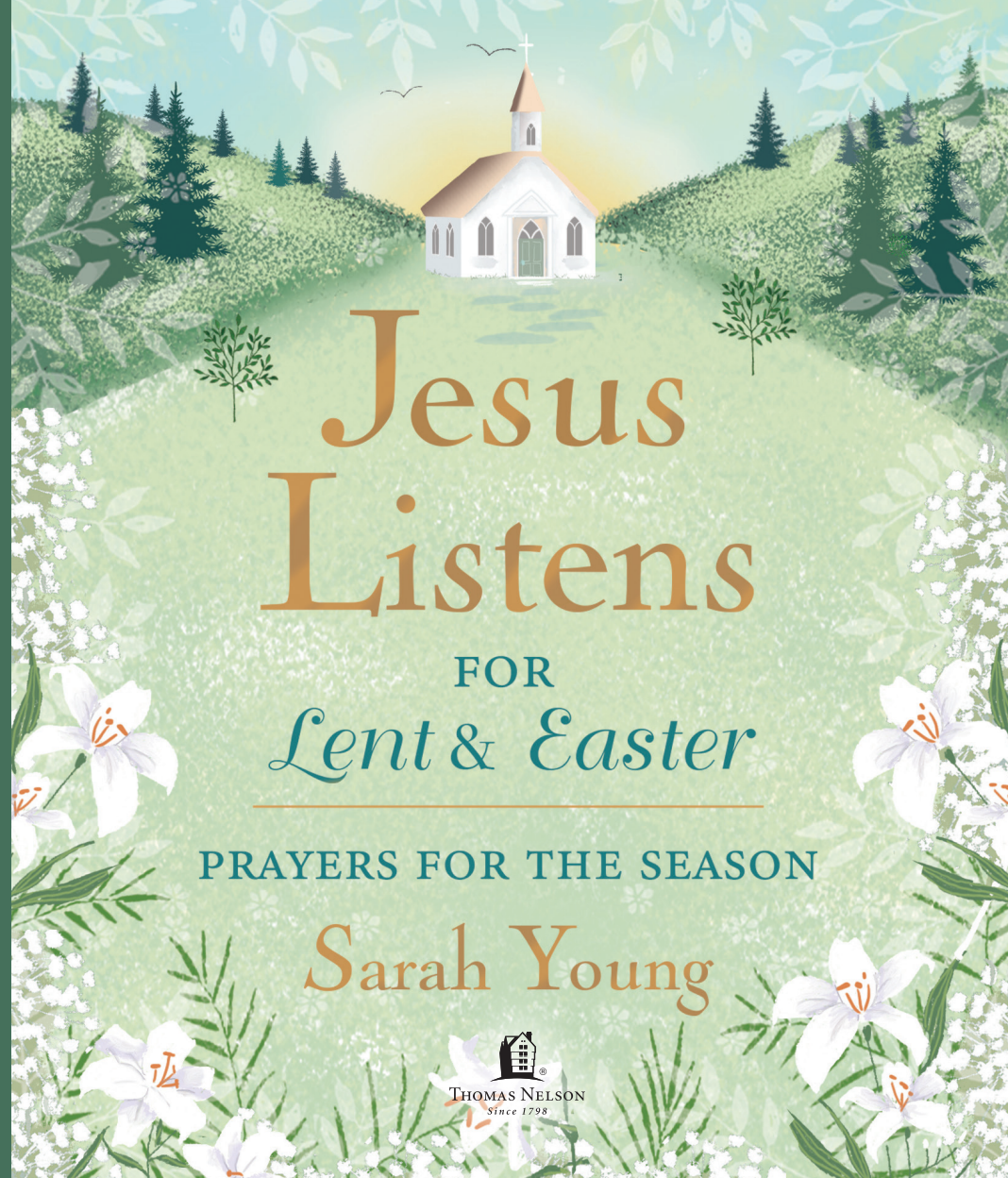


The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light orange or yellow flowers and leaves. The flowers are simple, five-petaled shapes, and the leaves are elongated with pointed tips. The pattern is scattered across the white background.

A gift for

From

Date



Jesus Listens

FOR
Lent & Easter

PRAYERS FOR THE SEASON

Sarah Young



Introduction

I love Jesus' beautiful invitation to us: "*Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28 NASB). My hope is that this book will encourage you to approach Him confidently and joyfully—finding peaceful rest in His Presence. It's such a blessing to know that Jesus listens to every one of our prayers! He loves us perfectly and is constantly caring for us, whether we're aware of His Presence with us or not.

All of my devotional books, including this one, are designed to help you grow closer to Jesus. This quest is my deepest longing—for you and for me. As you may know, I wrote my previous books from the perspective of Jesus speaking to you, the reader. But *Jesus Listens* is written from the vantage point of you praying to God. I hope you will not only read these prayers but make them your own—using them to guide you as you express your heartfelt longings to the Lord.

IN YOUR GRACIOUS NAME, JESUS, AMEN

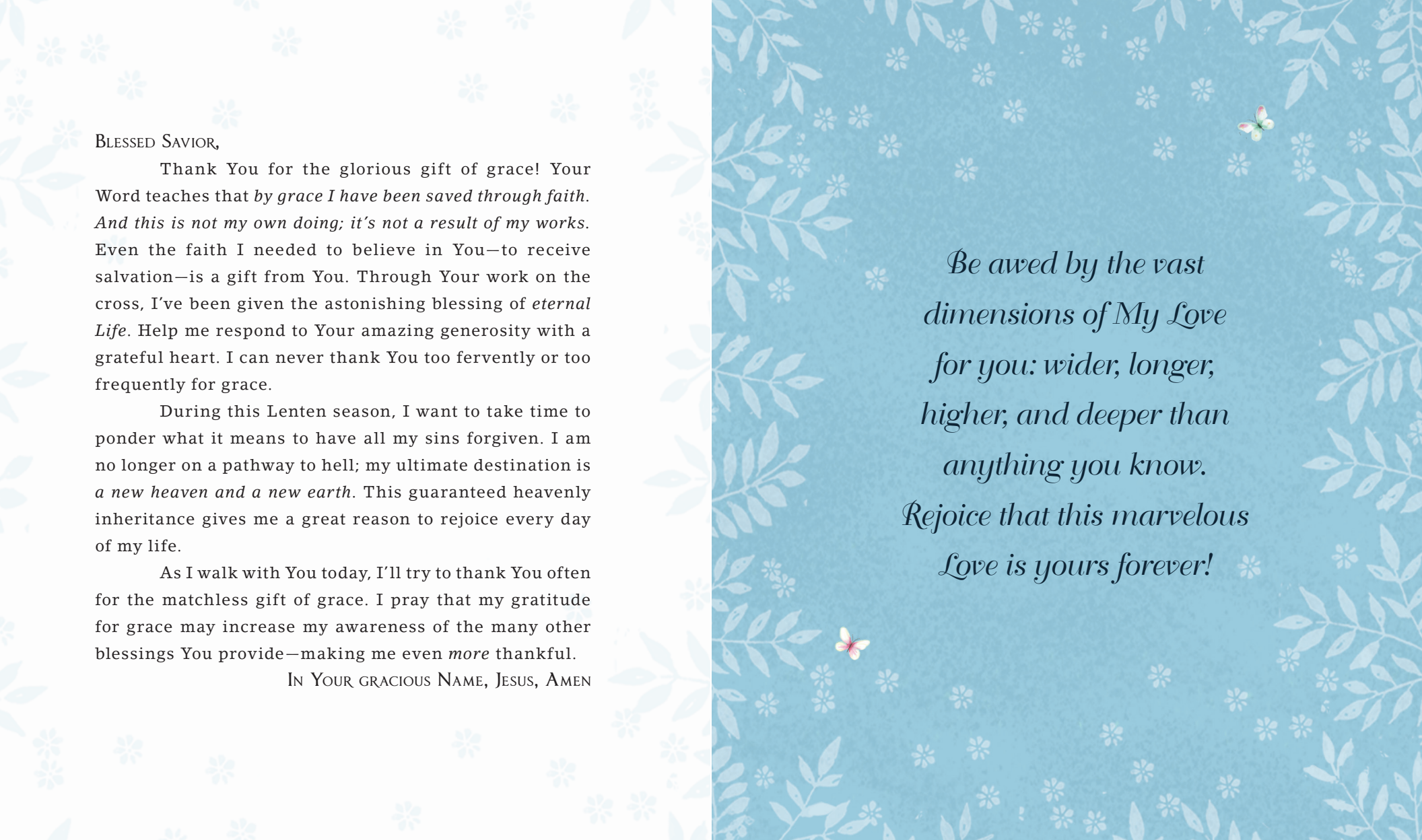
BLESSED SAVIOR,

Thank You for the glorious gift of grace! Your Word teaches that *by grace I have been saved through faith. And this is not my own doing; it's not a result of my works.* Even the faith I needed to believe in You—to receive salvation—is a gift from You. Through Your work on the cross, I've been given the astonishing blessing of *eternal Life*. Help me respond to Your amazing generosity with a grateful heart. I can never thank You too fervently or too frequently for grace.

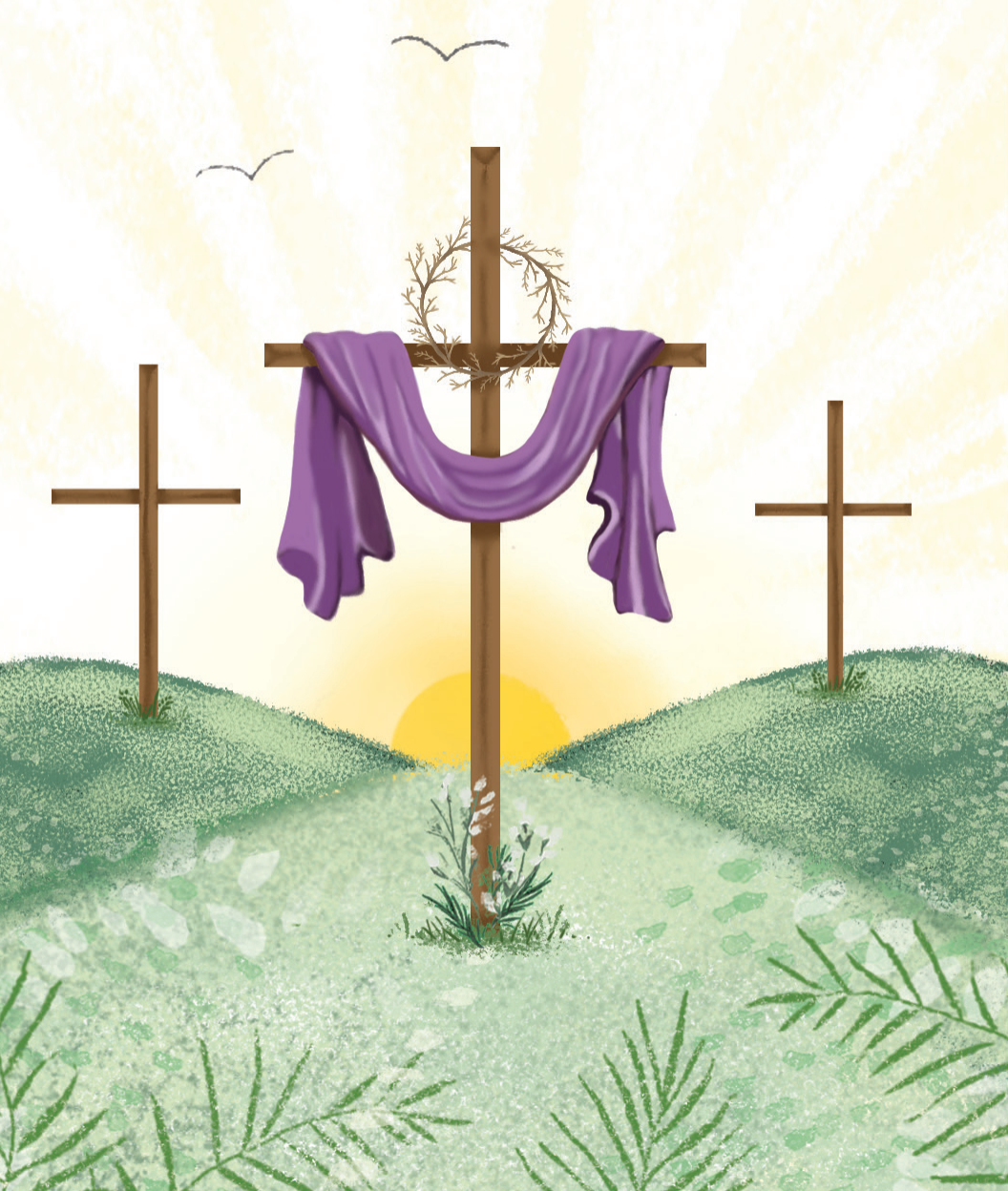
During this Lenten season, I want to take time to ponder what it means to have all my sins forgiven. I am no longer on a pathway to hell; my ultimate destination is *a new heaven and a new earth*. This guaranteed heavenly inheritance gives me a great reason to rejoice every day of my life.

As I walk with You today, I'll try to thank You often for the matchless gift of grace. I pray that my gratitude for grace may increase my awareness of the many other blessings You provide—making me even *more* thankful.

IN YOUR GRACIOUS NAME, JESUS, AMEN



*Be awed by the vast
dimensions of My Love
for you: wider, longer,
higher, and deeper than
anything you know.
Rejoice that this marvelous
Love is yours forever!*



By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8–9 ESV



“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:16



Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.


REVELATION 21:1 NKJV

BELOVED JESUS,


Your Word invites me to *taste and see that You are good*. I've discovered that the more fully I experience You, the more convinced I become of Your goodness. I rejoice that You are the living One who sees me and participates in every aspect of my life. You're training me to seek You in each moment, letting Your Love flow through me into the lives of others. Sometimes Your blessings come to me in mysterious ways—through pain and trouble. At such times I can know Your goodness only through my trust in You. My understanding fails me time after time, but trust keeps me close to You.

I thank You for the gift of Your Peace—a gift of such immense proportions that I can't begin to fathom its depth or breadth. When You appeared to Your disciples after Your resurrection, it was Peace that You communicated first of all. They desperately needed Your Peace—to calm their fears and clear their minds. You also speak Peace to me, for You know my anxious thoughts. Please help me tune out other voices so I can hear You more clearly. Lord, I come to You with open hands and an open heart, ready to receive Your Peace.

IN YOUR PEACEFUL NAME, JESUS, AMEN



*Seek My Face, and I will share
My mind with you, opening
your eyes to see things from
My perspective. Do not let
your heart be troubled, and
do not be afraid. The Peace
I give is sufficient for you.*





Taste and see that the LORD
is good; blessed is the man
who takes refuge in him.

PSALM 34:8



Then she called the name of the LORD
who spoke to her, “You are God Who
Sees”; for she said, “Have I not even
here [in the wilderness] remained alive
after seeing Him [who sees me with
understanding and compassion]?”

GENESIS 16:13–14 AMP



On the evening of that first day of the
week, when the disciples were together,
with the doors locked for fear of the
Jews, Jesus came and stood among
them and said, “Peace be with you!”


JOHN 20:19

GRACIOUS LORD,


Help me to *hope for what I do not see—eagerly waiting for it with perseverance*. Among the five senses, sight is the one I value the most. You created the world gloriously beautiful, and I delight in seeing the beauty of Your creation. However, I realize that hope, which is itself a kind of vision, is even more wonderful than sight. Hope enables me to see—through the eyes of my heart—things that are not yet. The most stunning example of this is the hope of heaven. Your Word tells me that my ultimate destination is to share in Your Glory! I can trust in this magnificent promise because it's based on Your finished work on the cross and Your miraculous resurrection.

I need to practice hoping for things I do not see—both for this life and the next. Please guide me into hopes and dreams that are in line with Your will. I want to train the eyes of my heart to “see” these blessings while praying for Your will to be done fully and only. Teach me to *wait eagerly with perseverance—*with my focus primarily on You but also on the longed-for outcome. You are my Hope!

IN YOUR GREAT NAME, JESUS, AMEN



*Find fulfillment through
living close to Me, yielding
to My purposes for you.
Though I may lead you
along paths that feel alien to
you, trust that I know what
I am doing. If you follow Me
wholeheartedly, you will
discover facets of yourself
that were previously hidden.*





If we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

ROMANS 8:25 NKJV



The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.

JOHN 17:22 NKJV



Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].


HEBREWS 11:1 AMPC

PRECIOUS SAVIOR,


I rejoice and exult in hope! I have good reason to be joyful, because I'm on my way to heaven. Thank You, Lord, for paying the penalty for all my sins and for clothing me in Your own righteousness. This is the basis of my hope—a hope that is secure, regardless of my circumstances. No one can snatch me out of Your hand. In You I have absolute, eternal security!

Your Word instructs me to be constant in prayer. I need this communication with You at all times, but especially when I'm struggling. Yet during trials, my ability to focus on You can be hampered by stress and fatigue. So I'm grateful for the amazing source of strength I have within me: Your Holy Spirit. As I ask Your Spirit to control my mind, He strengthens me and enables me to pray. I'm glad that my prayers don't have to be eloquent or organized; I can just let them flow freely out of my circumstances. Lord, please help me stay in communication with You, especially during times of adversity—so that I can be steadfast and patient in suffering, just as You were.

IN YOUR HOPEFUL NAME, JESUS, AMEN



*Rest in Me, My child.
This time devoted to Me
is meant to be peaceful,
not stressful. You don't
have to perform in order
to receive My Love. I have
boundless, unconditional
Love for you.*





Rejoice and exult in hope;
be steadfast and patient in
suffering and tribulation;
be constant in prayer.

ROMANS 12:12 AMPC



I give them eternal life, and they
will never perish—ever! No one
will snatch them out of My hand.

JOHN 10:28 HCSB



The mind of sinful man is
death, but the mind controlled
by the Spirit is life and peace.

ROMANS 8:6


PRECIOUS JESUS,

You are the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in You will live, even though he dies. You spoke this powerful truth to Martha when her brother Lazarus had been dead for four days, and she believed You. Then You commanded Lazarus to come out of his tomb, and he did!


I love pondering Your teaching that *You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.* You are everything I could ever need—for this life and the next. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in You. Believing this truth simplifies my life and helps me stay focused on You. Please train me in the joyful discipline of treasuring You above all else.

You are the answer to all my struggles, the Joy that pervades all time and circumstances. You make my hard times bearable and my good times even better. So I *come to You* just as I am, desiring to share more and more of my life with You. I rejoice as I journey with You—the Way who guides me step by step and *the Resurrection* who gives me eternal Life.

IN YOUR GREAT NAME, JESUS, AMEN



*As you follow Me, I
lead you along paths
of newness: ways you
have never imagined.
Don't worry about
what is on the road up
ahead. I want you to
find your security in
knowing Me, the One
who died to set you free.*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sarah Young, author of the bestselling 365-day devotionals *Jesus Calling*® and *Jesus Listens*, was committed to helping people connect with Jesus and the Bible. Her books have sold more than 45 million copies worldwide. *Jesus Calling*® has appeared on all major bestseller lists. Sarah's writings include *Jesus Calling*®, *Jesus Listens*, *Jesus Always*, *Jesus Today*®, *Jesus Lives*™, *Dear Jesus*, *Jesus Calling*® for Little Ones, *Jesus Calling*® Bible Storybook, *Jesus Calling*®: 365 Devotions for Kids, and more, each encouraging readers in their journeys toward intimacy with Christ. Sarah believed praying for her readers was a privilege and God-given responsibility and did so daily even amidst her own health challenges.



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