Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional

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INTRODUCTION: A DEVOTIONAL THAT SPEAKS TO THE HEART

In a world filled with noise, distraction, and constant demands for our attention, finding a quiet moment to connect with God can feel like an impossible task. Yet millions of believers around the globe have discovered a resource that transforms their daily quiet time: the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional**. Since its first publication in 2004, this unassuming book has touched countless lives, sold over 40 million copies worldwide, and continues to be a trusted companion for those seeking a deeper, more intimate relationship with Christ. But what makes this devotional so different from the hundreds of other daily devotionals on the market? The answer lies not only in its content but in its unique approach to prayer, Scripture,

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Sarah Young, a missionary and counselor with a graduate degree in biblical studies, wrote *Jesus Calling* from a place of deep personal longing. She wanted to hear from God in a way that felt immediate, personal, and relevant to her daily struggles. Her response was not a theological treatise or a scholarly commentary, but a series of first-person writings that she believed were inspired by her time spent in prayer and Scripture meditation. This article explores the origins of the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional**, its structure, its spiritual impact, and why it remains a powerful tool for both new believers and seasoned Christians.

STORY BEHIND THE DEVOTIONAL

Sarah Young was not a celebrity pastor or a bestselling author when she first began writing what would become *Jesus Calling*. Born in 1946, she grew up in a Christian home but felt a deep hunger for a more personal encounter with God. After earning a degree from Wellesley College and later a master's in biblical studies from Covenant Theological Seminary, Sarah and her husband, Stephen, served as missionaries in Japan and later in Australia. It was during this time of cross-cultural ministry that she began to feel an overwhelming need to quiet her own heart and listen for God's voice.

Sarah began keeping a journal of what

she believed God was speaking to her during her prayer times. She was careful to ground every entry in Scripture, often reading passages from the Bible and then writing what she sensed God was communicating in response. The result was a collection of short, intimate devotions written from the perspective of Jesus speaking directly to the reader. These were never meant to be additions to Scripture, but rather personal reflections that pointed back to biblical truth.

After years of sharing her writings with friends and fellow missionaries, Sarah felt led to compile them into a book. *Jesus Calling* was initially published by a small press and quickly gained traction through word of mouth. Readers reported feeling as though the words jumped off the page, meeting them exactly where they were in their spiritual journey. Today, the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** has expanded into a full series, including editions for children, teens, and those facing specific life challenges.

WHAT MAKES THE JESUS CALLING DEVOTIONAL SO DIFFERENT?

At first glance, *Jesus Calling* looks like many other daily devotionals. It offers a reading for each day of the year, accompanied by a Bible verse. However, the format is what sets it apart. Each entry is written in first person, as though Jesus is speaking directly to the reader. This personal, conversational tone creates an immediate sense of intimacy

and presence. Readers often describe feeling as though God is speaking directly to their unique situation, offering comfort, guidance, and gentle correction.

Another distinctive feature of the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** is its emphasis on stillness and listening. In a culture that prizes productivity and busyness, Young consistently directs readers to slow down, be still, and rest in God's presence. She encourages a posture of receptivity rather than striving. This message resonates deeply with people who feel overwhelmed by the demands of modern life.

Each entry is short enough to read in just a few minutes, making it accessible for even the busiest schedules. Yet the content is rich enough to provide material for extended meditation throughout the day. Many readers use the devotional as a starting point for their own journaling, prayer, or Scripture study. The combination of brevity and depth makes it a versatile tool for spiritual growth.

KEY THEMES IN THE SARAH YOUNG JESUS CALLING DEVOTIONAL

While each daily reading stands on its own, several recurring themes weave throughout the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional**. These themes form the backbone of its spiritual message and explain why so many readers return to it year after year.

Trusting God in Every Circumstance

One of the most prominent themes in the devotional is the call to trust God completely, even when life feels uncertain or painful. Young repeatedly emphasizes that God is in control, that He is good, and that He can be trusted with every detail of our lives. This message is especially powerful for those going through seasons of grief, loss, or transition. The devotional invites readers to release their fears and anxieties into God's hands and to rest in His faithfulness.

Resting in God's Presence

Another central theme is the importance of abiding in Christ. Young encourages readers to cultivate a habit of quietness and to make space for God in their daily routines. She writes about the peace that comes from simply being with Jesus, rather than constantly striving to earn His approval. This theme of rest is a countercultural message in a world that values achievement and busyness.

Identity in Christ

Many entries in the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** address the

question of identity. Young reminds readers that their worth is not based on their performance, their appearance, or the opinions of others, but on their status as beloved children of God. This theme is particularly meaningful for those struggling with insecurity, comparison, or self-doubt.

Surrender and Obedience

While the devotional emphasizes grace and rest, it also calls readers to a life of surrender and obedience. Young writes about the importance of following Jesus wholeheartedly, even when His path leads through difficulty. She encourages readers to say yes to God's will, trusting that His plans are always for their ultimate good.

HOW TO USE THE JESUS CALLING DEVOTIONAL FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

The **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** can be used in a variety of ways, depending on your personal preferences and spiritual goals. Here are several practical suggestions for getting the most out of this devotional.

- **Read the daily entry slowly.** Don't rush through it. Take time to let the words sink in and to reflect on what God might be saying to you through them.
- **Look up the accompanying Scripture.** Each entry includes a

Bible verse. Take a few extra minutes to read the verse in its broader context to deepen your understanding.

- **Journal your thoughts.** After reading, write down what stood out to you, any prayers that arise, or ways you sense God speaking to your current situation.
- **Pray the entry back to God.** Use the words of the devotional as a springboard for your own conversation with the Lord.
- **Read with a friend or small group.** Discussing the daily readings with others can provide accountability and fresh insights.
- **Use it as a night-time reflection.** Many readers find that reading an entry before bed helps them end the day in a peaceful, prayerful frame of mind.
- **Revisit past entries.** Don't feel limited to the current day's date. Go back and read entries from earlier in the year, or randomly open the book and see what God has for you.

Some readers also enjoy pairing the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** with a Bible reading plan or a study guide. Several companion resources are available, including a prayer journal and a 40-day study edition. These can help you go deeper into the themes and Scriptures that appear throughout the devotional.

IS JESUS CALLING BIBLICAL?

Despite its widespread popularity, the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** has not been without controversy. Some Christian leaders and theologians have raised concerns about the first-person format, arguing that it could be mistaken for divine revelation or even new Scripture. Young herself has been careful to address this concern, stating clearly that her writings are not meant to be equal to the Bible, but rather personal reflections that are filtered through her own understanding of Scripture.

Critics also point out that the devotional does not always cite specific Bible verses for every statement made in the name of Jesus. This has led some to question whether all the sentiments expressed are fully biblical. Young has responded by explaining that her writings are the result of her own prayer and meditation on Scripture, and she encourages readers always to weigh her words against the ultimate authority of the Bible.

CRITICISM AND CONTROVERSY:

For most readers, these concerns are balanced by the devotional's overall impact on their spiritual life. Many report that the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** has drawn them closer to God, deepened their love for Scripture, and helped them develop a more consistent prayer life. As with any devotional resource, the key is to use it as a tool for connection with God, not as a replacement for the Bible itself.

WHICH EDITION OF JESUS CALLING IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** has grown into a family of resources designed for different ages and life stages. Here is a quick overview of the most popular editions.

Jesus Calling	The original devotional for adults, with daily readings for the entire year.
Jesus Calling for Kids	A child-friendly version with simplified language and engaging illustrations.
Jesus Calling for Teens	Addresses the unique challenges and questions facing adolescents.
Jesus Calling: 365 Devotions for Peace	A special edition focused on finding peace in anxious times.
Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas	A seasonal edition that walks through the Advent season.
Jesus Calling: 50 Devotions for Comfort	Designed for those experiencing grief, loss, or hardship.

Each edition maintains the same core format of first-person, intimate devotions rooted in Scripture. Whether you are buying for yourself or as a gift, there is an edition of the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** that fits the recipient's needs.

TESTIMONIALS: HOW JESUS

CALLING HAS CHANGED LIVES

One of the most compelling aspects of the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** is the countless testimonies from readers around the world. Many describe how the devotional appeared in their life at just the right moment, offering a word of hope or encouragement when they needed it most. Others share stories of how the daily readings helped them through seasons of depression, illness, or spiritual doubt.

Readers often speak of the devotional as a gift from God, a lifeline during dark times. Some have described reading an entry that addressed their exact situation with uncanny precision, leading them to believe that God was speaking directly to them through the pages. While these experiences are subjective, they testify to the power of the devotional to create space for divine encounter.

Missionaries, pastors, and everyday believers alike have integrated the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** into their spiritual disciplines. Many have passed it on to friends, family members, and church communities. The devotional has become a trusted resource for those seeking to cultivate a more personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: A LASTING LEGACY OF INTIMACY WITH CHRIST

The **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** is more than just a book. It

is an invitation to a deeper way of living, one marked by stillness, trust, and abiding connection with the Savior. In a world that constantly pulls us in a thousand different directions, this devotional calls us back to the one thing that truly matters: sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His voice.

Whether you are a longtime follower of Christ or someone just beginning to explore faith, the **Sarah Young Jesus Calling Devotional** offers a gentle, accessible path into a more intimate relationship with God. Its daily readings provide nourishment for the soul, encouragement for the journey, and a steady reminder that you are never alone. As Sarah Young herself wrote, Jesus is always calling. The question is whether we will take the time to listen.

If you have not yet experienced this devotional, consider picking up a copy and committing to just one month of daily readings. You may find, as millions have before you, that the words on the page become a doorway to a deeper encounter with the living God. And if you are already a devoted reader, may you continue to find fresh grace and peace in its pages, day after day, year after year.