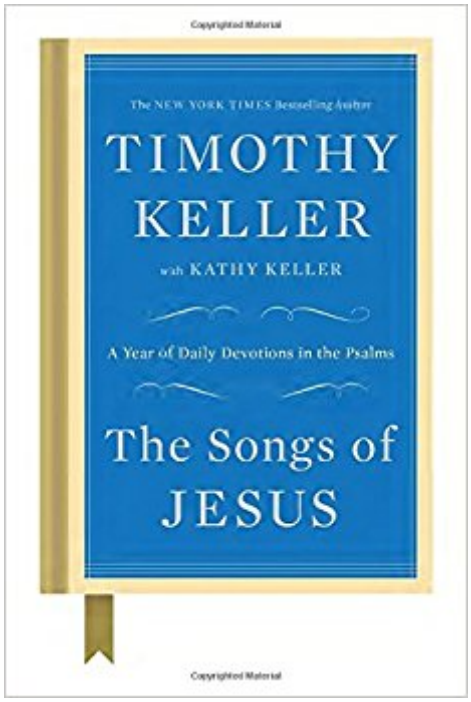
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The Songs Of Jesus: A Year Of Daily Devotions In The Psalms



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Synopsis

Renowned pastor andÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestselling author Timothy Keller writes the book his readers have been asking for: A year-long daily devotional, beautifully designed with gilt edges and a gold ribbon marker. The Book of Psalms is known as the BibleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s songbookÃ¢â ¬â •Jesus knew all 150 psalms intimately, and relied on them to face every situation, including his death. Two decades ago, Tim Keller began reading the entire Book of Psalms every month. The Songs of Jesus is based on his accumulated years of study, insight, and inspiration recorded in his prayer journals. Kathy Keller came to reading the psalms as a support during an extended illness. Together they have distilled the meaning of each verse, inviting readers into the vast wisdom of the psalms.If you have no devotional life yet, this book is a wonderful way to start. If you already spend time in study and prayer, understanding every verse of the psalms will bring you a new level of intimacy with God, unlocking your purpose within GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s kingdom.Look out for Timothy Keller's latest book, God's Wisdom for Navigating Life, available from Viking in Fall 2017.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Preaching"Superb . . . we should be grateful to Keller for his wisdom, scholarship, and humility." -The Gospel Coalition"If you want to see 'between the lines' and just 'below the surface' of our cultural moment and societal ethos . . . Which is to say, if you are any kind of Christian leader, teacher, writer, blogger, public thinker, politician, artist, media person, campus minister, youth leader, parent, Christian educator, spiritual director, or anyone with influence . . . then this is going to

be exceptionally helpful for you." -Byron BorgerPraise for Timothy Keller and his books"Tim Keller's ministry in New York City is leading a generation of seekers and skeptics toward belief in God. I thank God for him." -Billy Graham"Unlike most suburban megachurches, much of Redeemer is remarkably traditional. What is not traditional is Dr. Keller's skill in speaking the language of his urbane audience . . . Observing Dr. Keller's professorial pose on stage, it is easy to understand his appeal." -The New York Times"Fifty years from now, if evangelical Christians are widely known for their love of cities, their commitment to mercy and justice, and their love of their neighbors, Tim Keller will be remembered as a pioneer of the new urban Christians." -Christianity Today Magazine

Timothy Keller started Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City with his wife, Kathy, and their three sons. Today, Redeemer has more than five thousand regular Sunday attendees. Dr. Keller also founded Redeemer City to City, which has trained leaders to start more than three hundred new churches in nearly fifty cities around the world. He is the author of Prayer, Preaching, The Prodigal God, and The Reason for God, among others. Ã Â Kathy Keller received her MA in theological studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Kathy and Tim then moved to Virginia, where Tim started at his first church, West Hopewell Presbyterian Church. After nine years, Kathy and her family moved to New York City to start the Redeemer Presbyterian Church. Kathy cowrote The Meaning of Marriage with Tim. The Songs of Jesus is their second collaboration.

Each devotion in The Songs of Jesus begins with a portion of the Psalms (sometimes an entire psalm, but never more than a dozen verses), a devotional thought of about 150 words, and a short prayer. These prayers, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“should be seen as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœon'ramps,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ not as complete prayers. The reader should follow the trajectory of the prayers and keep going, filling each prayer out with personal particulars, as well as always praying in JesusÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s name (John 14:13).ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•The Kellers recommend using the devotional three ways:1. The simplest way is to read the psalm and the meditation slowly, and then use the prayer to begin praying the psalm yourself.2. The second way to use the devotional is to take the time to look up the additional scriptural references that are embedded in the meditation and sometimes in the prayer.3. The third way to use the devotional is to journal through it while keeping three questions in mind:--AdoreÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •What did you learn about God for which you could praise or thank him?--AdmitÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •What did you learn about yourself for which you could repent?--AspireÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •What did you learn about life that you could aspire to, ask for, and act on?The Songs of Jesus among other Devotionals

(particularly Jesus Calling)Why choose the book of psalms? The Kellers share their reasoning: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Many find modern devotionals to be either too upbeat or too sentimental or too doctrinal or too mystical because they reflect the perspective and experience of just one human author. The psalms, by contrast, give us a range of divinely inspired voices of different temperaments and experiences.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•In addition to a love for the Psalter, I have a hunch that at least part of the motivation behind this book was to provide a healthy alternative to the controversial, yet immensely popular devotional Jesus Calling by Sarah Young.In Kathy KellerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s review of Jesus Calling, she called it ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“unhelpful and to be avoidedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• because Young writes from the first-person perspective of Jesus and admits to doubting ScriptureÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sufficiency (in the introduction she states: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible, but I yearned for more. I wanted to hear what God had to say to me personally on a given day.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•).Another critique was that Jesus Calling appeals too much to the experiential at the expense of the doctrinalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •which is where the book of Psalms fits in perfectly as a book that so beautifully interweaves both rich doctrine with a wide range of human emotions.
KellerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s review continues, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“If you want to experience Jesus, learn how to find him in his Word. His real Word.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The Songs of Jesus will lead readers to Jesus through His Word and through praying His Word back to Him.My recommendationMy first thought as I flipped through The Songs of Jesus was, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“This wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t what I expected.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Being a big fan of TimÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s writing, I found myself craving more Scriptural and cultural insights than the 150ish word devotional and 50ish word prayer can offer. This disappointment dissipated when I remembered the purpose of the book: to help readers meditate on the Psalms and pray them to know and experience Jesus. In other words, I was focused on the on-ramp instead of the highway.The Songs of Jesus are a rich collection of devotions that are clear and straight to the point, getting to the heart of each Psalm and helping readers think through them practically and prayerfully. Diligent readers and those who journal through it will feast on the richness of the Psalter and rejoice as they behold and commune with the Savior who so faithfully embodied the psalms.Don Whitney says inÃ Â Praying the BibleÃ Â that many Christians are bored in prayer because they pray the same old things about the same old things. If taken to heart and diligently prayed, The Songs of Jesus will fight against this boredom and fill our minds and hearts with fresh thoughts and prayers to our Lord.I expect this volume to expand KellerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s already wide readership base by offering an accessible and top-notch alternative to Jesus Calling. While I typically donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like the daily

devotional format, I will keep The Songs of Jesus close at hand for my wife and I to sing and pray the songs of Jesus together.Title: The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotions in the PsalmsAuthor: Timothy and Kathy KellerPublisher: VikingYear: 2015Rating: 5 StarsReview originally published on KevinHalloran.net

These are short and sweet, perfect to someone just starting on daily QT/Devotionals. All I have to do is open up to the page, and Tim Keller and his wife write some beautiful things to reflect upon. After using this daily, I think I have grown spiritually, and I appreciate it a lot. I would recommend this to anyone looking to start daily QT or looking to take their faith to the next level.

I had waited with anticipation for a devotional from Timothy Keller. My current experience with devotionals runs the gamut between being too mystical/experiential and/or downright glib on the one side, to being too doctrinal to the point of inaccessibility on the other side. I was so excited to receive my copy today and after taking time to really look through this thing, I am so happy to report that is it exceptional--exactly what I was looking for! If you are at all familiar with Dr. Keller, you know what you are going to get in any one of his books: excellent theology, exceptional wisdom, practical teaching, etc. and this devotional does not disappoint in these areas. Everything is all here in one lovely, solid little book, perfect size for a devotional. In the beginning, there is a really nice, succinct intro about the reason for studying the Psalms, then a plan for the book which includes some highly useful, practical tips for using each daily entry to its fullest extent. Each devotion includes a passage of the Psalms, a brief meditation on the meaning, then an applicable prayer. It goes through the Psalms in order and you will go thorough the entire Psalms in a year. I found this to be extremely helpful as a supplement to Keller's outstanding "Prayer" book and a sort of logical "next step". I love that he co-authored this with his wife, Kathy, because I know the value that he places on marriage and that he, indeed, has a strong relationship with his wife. I am so excited to start using this devotional right away. Highly recommended!

If you have not read through the Psalms, this is a good place to start. The brief devotional comments provide a great deal of food for thought. Having the scripture portion included in each day's entry is especially nice, as the book can be kept in your office desk or purse or carried in your luggage while traveling, ready to be re-read a few times while pondering Keller's comments. The brief sections covered each day make this a good addition to your other daily Bible reading too.

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