

THE CLASSIC BESTSELLING SERIES

# meditations

*for single moms*

*A book of inspiration for single moms*

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*Revised Edition*

SUSANNE COALSON DONOGHUE



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## Saying Yes

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You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

—*Luke 1:31-32*

It occurred to me once that in the eyes of those around her, Mary's virginity was probably dubious. Never mind them, we say. The angel never spoke to them. We know the truth.

However, Mary probably had to deal with their doubts anyway. I thought of this because at the time I became pregnant, the Lord had highlighted Luke 1:31-32 for me in a special way, and I was resisting the idea that these words might apply to my child, too. Unlike Mary, I had sinned.

I was brought to understand that these verses point to the importance of every birth. God has a name for every child even before birth—and not only a name but a special assignment.

Each child born is intended by God as a gift to the world. Each child is handpicked and custom-designed to bless the receiving world. It is not the child's fault, but the world's, if the

gift is rejected, and it is the world's loss as well. If received, every child is necessary to the wellbeing of its parents and the planet. It seems to me that a good deal of what is wrong with the world comes from children (and adults) believing they are not really needed. This is a *lie*.

I have never liked the term *illegitimate child*—as if the child were at fault for being born. God was saying to me through this verse, “I legitimate this child; I have chosen her to be born and to be the one to bless you and, in a special way, the earth.”

My friend, Anne, an African American single parent, says that she was raised in small-town Mississippi to believe it was her job to “prepare myself to advance the race.”

What if every child knew without question that he or she was born to be great, to be the child of the Most High, and to “get ready to advance” the human race?

## SAYING YES

Child within,  
Memory of the child that was,  
You still hurt;  
You still grieve alone  
That the beauty of you was never seen,  
That the miracle of you was never shared.

Child within,  
You are the life-seed,  
The God-seed,  
Sent into the world  
Which knew you not  
Nor wanted to,  
Locking you up in the cold and dark  
To die.

Little one,  
I hold you.  
Come into the warm light.  
Burrow down into my embrace.  
Sprout, little one, grow.  
I protect you.  
I will water you with my tears.  
I want to see you thrive and bud,  
Bloom and cast your seeds  
Into the mothering earth.  
I do love you so.

"This classic Meditations series has already spoken to millions of readers, helping parents prayerfully welcome children into their lives."

—Dr. Kevin Leman, author of *Have a Happy Family by Friday*

## Meditations for Single Moms

*Part of the classic and bestselling Herald Press Meditation series*

**S**ingle. A woman of faith. Pregnant. With touching truthfulness and healing honesty, author Susanne Coalson Donoghue delivers joyous confidence to beleaguered and often hurting or lonely single mothers like herself.

*Meditations for Single Moms* opens by reflecting on biblical women who struggled with pregnancy or childbearing. This thirty-one-day guide includes the author's heartfelt poetry, daily Scriptures, and stories and wisdom from years of single parenting. Donoghue rises above her situation while striving to convey to her daughter that she is a precious gift from God to the world.

Donoghue speaks as a trusted friend, telling of the painful struggles she and other unmarried mothers experience, about getting over embarrassment, and learning to rely on extended family and a vibrant faith community. Her own powerful story starts with feeling hurt, lonely, and desperate as a single mother and moves to being a confident and love-filled Christian. This book of devotionals gives single mothers encouragement and assurance of God's good plan for them.

"This series has been around for a number of years . . . and captures the spirit of Christian love."

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