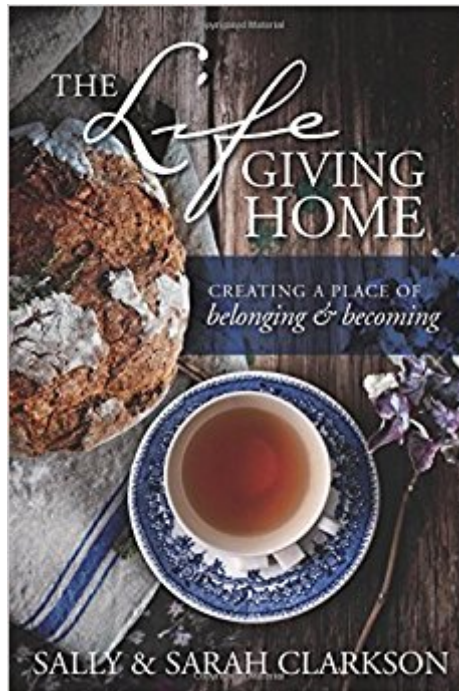




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The Lifegiving Home: Creating A Place Of Belonging And Becoming



Synopsis

How to make home your family's favorite place to be . . . all year long. Does your home sometimes feel like just a place to eat, sleep, and change clothes on the way to the next activity? Do you long for home to mean more than a place where you stash your stuff? Wouldn't you love it to become a haven of warmth, rest, and joy . . . the one place where you and your family can't wait to be? There is good news waiting for you in the pages of *The Lifegiving Home*. Every day of your family's life can be as special and important to you as it already is to God. In this unique book designed to help your family enjoy and celebrate every month of the year together, you'll discover the secrets of a life-giving home from a mother who created one and her daughter who was raised in it: popular authors Sally and Sarah Clarkson. Together they offer a rich treasure of wise advice, spiritual principles, and practical suggestions. You'll embark on a new path to creating special memories for your children; establishing home-building and God-centered traditions; and cultivating an environment in which your family will flourish. (Don't miss the companion piece, *The Lifegiving Home Experience*.)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Secrets to making home the place your family longs to be In our deepest hearts, we want home to be a place where our spirits are filled. A lifegiving haven of warmth, rest, and joy that will encourage everyone who enters it; a welcoming respite in an isolated culture. Join beloved authors Sally and Sarah Clarkson to discover the path to a lifegiving home from a mother who's known for creating one and her daughter who was raised in it. This is their story: a story about a

home where a real family learned to flourish, grow, and belong. Together they offer a treasury of wise advice and spiritual principles to help you create a place for all that is beautiful, good, holy, and foundational to life. The Lifegiving Home will lead you on a new path to creating special memories for your children; establishing God-centered traditions; and cultivating an environment your family will cherish their whole lives long.

Sally Clarkson is involved in ongoing discipleship and teaching ministries to women, parents, homeschooling mothers, and Christian mothers and their children. She is the author of numerous books and articles on Christian motherhood and parenting and leads WholeHearted Mother Conferences. Sarah Clarkson grew up in a family committed to discipleship and personal ministry and began a personal walk with God at the age of sixteen. She is passionate about passing on the great ideas of literature and Scripture through writing and discipleship. Currently a freelance writer and editor, Sarah has spent the last few years working with Whole Heart Ministries at their conferences, speaking in the United States and overseas on such topics as beauty, literature, and loneliness. She has also served as a writer and editor for Whole Heart Press publishing projects and Whole Heart blogs. She is a passionate lover of literature and has conducted an intense study of children's literature that has resulted in Read for the Heart, a guide to the best children's stories. When she isn't traveling to exotic places, reading fascinating books, or sharing coffee and ideas with friends, she can be found at home in the beautiful foothills of Colorado.

I am in the middle of reading this book. I haven't always been a Sally Clarkson fan. Ten years ago, a group of ladies and I studied her book, The Mission of Motherhood. At the time, I found it to be too touchy feely and artsy. Now, with many more years of motherhood under my belt, I realize that I could have stood to be a lot more touchy feely myself. Alas, you live and learn. Thank goodness it's okay that we are all just works in progress. The Lifegiving Home is a lovely book. Sally speaks to us in her usual genuine, down-to-earth, humble way. Sally and Sarah begin with explaining that home isn't just the physical structure, it's creating a sanctuary for all who enter, no matter where you live. She offers direction and suggestions for how to breathe life into your home. To give you an idea of the topics Sally addresses, there are chapters titled "Creating a Framework for Home: Rhythms, Routines, and Rituals", "A Culture of Love: Lifelong Relationships", and "The Art of the Ordinary: Finding Beauty in Your Own Backyard".

This book isn't just for moms, it's for women all ages and stages. If you are in the season of redefining like I am, *The Lifegiving Home* is a must-have book!

This book had a strong and promising beginning about welcoming others into your home and creating a strong sense of peacefulness and acceptance for your children. But then it devolved into a mere summary of the Clarkson Family traditions, month by month. I got a few great ideas from what they practiced as a family, but found myself overwhelmed by the end of it, mostly because I do not operate like these people at all. The Clarkson family is highly idealistic (in the sense of personality type) and very creative, artsy people (all musicians, writers, artists). It also appears that they love to plan and host parties quite a lot! This would be a really great book for parents who are similar to them. Sally is obviously a person who loves to connect emotionally with each person in her life through verbal affirmation and drawing them out. What a wonderful skill! But for me, a more "thinker" type who doesn't have a well of artistic understanding or even aesthetic-making skills to draw from, and someone for whom those "heart conversations" don't come easily or without great expense of energy, it became frustrating and overwhelming. I wish there were more ideas from the opposite end of the personality scale. I felt as if I needed to become someone else in order to pull this off! And I know the authors don't believe that, but they didn't offer very much in the way of curbing that mentality. Every now and then they'd give a nod to those who prefer to do a project together or give love through touch, but mostly it was an explanation of how their family life went as a group of creatives. If that's your family, you'll love this book and the wealth of ideas it holds. That said, I've taken a few of the ideas from the book to incorporate into my family routines, because though my husband and I are not a creative-types, we do have at least two children who are more artistically and aesthetically inclined (ages 6 and 3). We've already seen a difference in the ways we can help them settle down into quieter conversation at mealtimes by changing the atmosphere a bit (candlelight and soft classical music) and I intend to take their need for aesthetics more into consideration because they do truly need it. I appreciate what the Clarkson women have poured into this book; but I wanted to caution those who are more like me to not feel overwhelmed or that you have to become a Clarkson to make a life-giving home.

Well written book by Sally and Sarah. While many of us look up to Sally and where her kids are today, her response is always to not compare! Instead, for us to see our kids as specially created by God to live their own adventure with the special gifts they have been given. I love the biblical truth and encouragement in this book.

As a book lover, I have read a countless amount of books in my life from exciting fantasy to wild west and Christian self-help books. However, despite my adoration for reading, I have never, EVER preordered a book until The Lifegiving Home was announced. I had not read a previous book of Sally's so the only reason I even knew about her was because of an interview I heard on a Podcast. Sally was being interviewed about her new book that was going to be released after Christmas and she was explaining the idea behind the book. I feel in love with Sally through the Podcast and that night I preordered her book. The Lifegiving Home is a FANTASTIC book! So fantastic that I finished this book within six hours of receiving it. However, I am going to have to read the book again because there is so much great information about family and values that I should probably take some notes. Because of the title "Lifegiving Home", it's fairly easy to assume this book is about creating the perfect, ideal American home but that's like the opposite of what this book is truly about. Sally's book is about creating a welcoming home environment wherever you are. She talks about the struggles of living overseas and how she did her best with creating an atmosphere of peace and love in her home while living in a crowded apartment. Sally talks about the importance of creating a supporting/loving environment for our children and the lasting impact it has on them. After all, as a parent, we want our children to feel completely at ease and relaxed when they come home after a stressful day at school. She also gives practical advice for creating meaningful habits, rituals, and traditions in a home and why it's important. The other neat part about this book is that it's coauthored with Sally's daughter, Sarah. Sarah adds a child's perspective on how her mother's homemaking impacted how she saw the world and how she grew up! There is just something about Sally's writing that captivates you. She writes with such a loving ease; it's as if she were sitting right next to me while I'm reading. Thank you Sally and Sarah for the wise words and encouragement! You are both greatly loved and appreciated.

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