

How's everyone doing today?
Shout it out or type it in the chat.

TODAY I'M FEELING...



HAPPY



CAREFREE



RELAXED



EXCITED



FOCUSED



STRESSED



ANGRY



BEES!!!

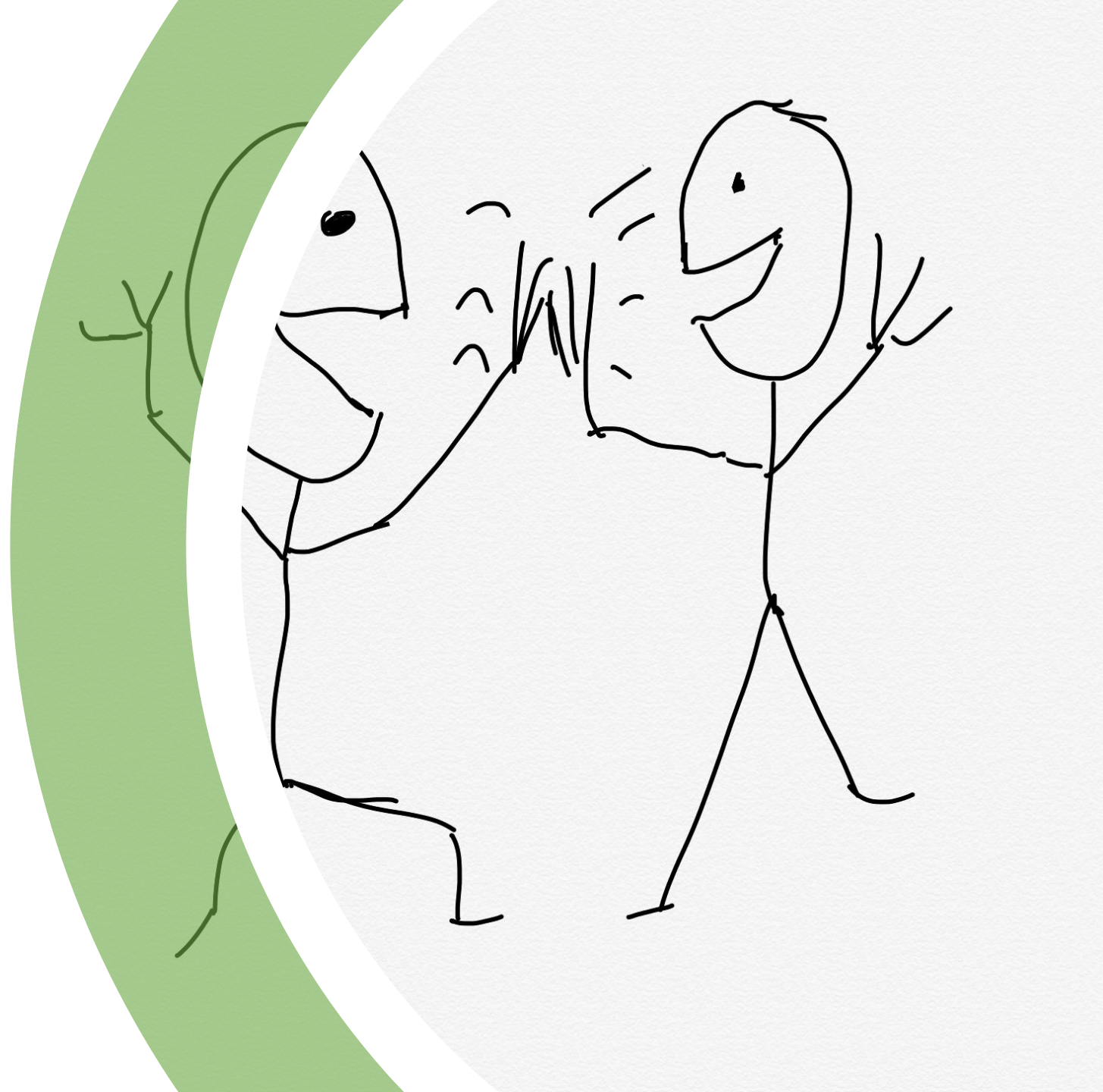


MEH

Personally, I'm **EXCITED!**

I've been loving this series we're doing on *stories: stories from the Bible and our own life stories.*

The title of today's story I'm bringing you is called "**CAN I GET A WITNESS?**"



What do you think of when
you see the word "witness"?



A couple dictionary definitions:

1. a person who sees an event, typically a crime or accident, take place.



Also:

2. VERB: to have knowledge of something from personal observation or experience.



Witnesses are important because they give us an account – or a version- of something that takes place. They give us a unique perspective or vantage point.





Throughout history AND the Bible,
we see the importance of
witnesses...

- They can prove something was real.
- They can confirm SOMEONE was real or present.
- They can testify at a trial and affect justice.
- Can lie, of course... so the more witnesses, the better.

Throughout the Bible, God uses witnesses to show who He is:

- Moses was a witness: He experienced God in a burning bush and on Mount Sinai. He shared with others what God revealed: *plan of deliverance, The Ten Commandments*.
- The Prophets were witnesses. --> they shared the visions, knowledge, and warnings that God revealed to them
- The Bible writers themselves were witnesses --> they wrote down and recorded what they saw of God and His Son Jesus
 - If they were lying, the people alive at the time would have ripped those writings apart ---> there were other witnesses

Today, I want to share about one of my personal FAVOURITE witnesses. Her name is...



Actually, we don't know.

... So the Gospel writers (those who witnessed the life of Jesus and wrote it down) refer to her as "the woman at the well".

Here's a clip to give you a VISUAL.



Watch The Chosen FREE
TheChosen.tv/app

What stood out to you about this or how did this scene make you feel?

- Either say it out loud, type in the chat, or write down for later.

The Breakdown: *Open your Bible to John 3:3 onwards.*

3 So Jesus left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. **4** Now he had to go through **Samaria**. **5** So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. **7** When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" **8** (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "**You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?**" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[[a](#)])



SET THE SCENE: *Location*
Where did this take place?

Samaria

Jesus had to pass through a region that belonged to his "enemies".

Jews (Jesus) and Samaritans historically HATED each other.

- Jews felt like they betrayed them by intermarrying with Assyrians. "Half breeds".

They fought over land, religion, and more.





CAST: Who
were the main
characters
here?





Jesus

- a Jewish man; human like us
BUT ALSO...
- The Son of God, the full essence of God in human form
- Came to earth to save the earth from their sins
- Had disciples/followers but (at this point) hadn't revealed who he was

Unnamed Woman at the Well

- A complicated history
- Been with many men
- Likely didn't fit in with the other women in her town (had to draw water from the well at a separate time of time)
- Abnormal that Jesus started talking to her because a) she's a LADY; b) she's technically his enemy



PLOT: *What exactly did this woman witness? What was her encounter with Jesus like?*

ACT 1: Jesus engages her in a conversation and introduces spiritual matters to her. (*John 4:7 onward*)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. **10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

(continued on next slide)

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ... **13** Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

ACT 2: *Jesus reveals who she is.*

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. **18** The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

ACT 3: Instead of judging her for who she is and what she's done, *Jesus reveals who HE is.*

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. **20** Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” **21** “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ... **23** A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks...”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

- **26** Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

EPILOGUE: *The woman goes and tells everything she sees. One of the earliest Christian witnesses.*

- **28** Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, **29** “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” **30** They came out of the town and made their way toward him. ...
- **39** Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. **41** And because of his words many more became believers.

THE MAIN TAKEAWAYS OF TODAY:

1. This woman had a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

- she wrestled through things with Him

-she didn't try to run and hide

-He brought her secrets into life and didn't reject her

2. She told people (bore WITNESS TO) the encounter she had. She was a witness.

MY STORY: *Who I was before my life-changing encounter with Jesus.*

- I'm about 22 here.
- Seemingly happy.
- Underneath, not so much...
- Shame, insecurities, loneliness, depression, much like the Woman at the Well.





The Encounter with Jesus that changed everything



How I've
continued to
experience Him
since (*tips for
building that
relationship*)

- Be present.
- Really listen.
- Ask Him to reveal Himself.
- Study His Word.
- Worship God --> in spirit and in truth.
- Surround yourself with people who are radically in love with Jesus.



Now I get to tell His story He's been writing.

QUESTIONS TO ASK OURSELVES:

1. Are there **any connections I can make to the woman at the well?** Any sins, shames, or insecurities I've faced in life?
2. **What have I personally witnessed** when it comes to God? What experiences, encounters, and knowledge do I personally have of Him?
3. Are there **any steps I can take to experience Him more deeply** and more regularly?
4. **Who in my life and world can I bear witness to?** What are some ways I can share about personal encounters I've had with Jesus?

Then... (next slide)

*Take some
time to pray
for each
other.*
There's
***POWER IN
PRAYER!***

- Maybe you feel like you've never even encountered Jesus, PRAY.
- Maybe you feel like you know who Jesus is but He couldn't embrace a sinner like you... PRAY.
- Maybe you've experienced Him but have no desire to share with others... PRAY.
- Maybe you want to share but are terrified... PRAY.
- Maybe you don't know anyone who could connect with your story... PRAY.