



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

An encounter with

LIVING
Water

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

The Curse &
The Cure

02

The Cross

03

The Cisterns

04

The Cravings

05

The Confession

06

The Crop

07

The Call



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever started watching a movie from the middle instead of the beginning? Perhaps it was so captivating that it swept you all the way to the end, but once it was over you were left with the feeling that you *missed* some key parts of the movie?

Sometimes Christians experience their faith journey in the same way. Jesus is, in fact, the primary and central theme of God's story, so it is appropriate for us to start right in the middle! However, without intentional study we can miss some key truths from the beginning of God's story that help us stitch together a solid understanding of all the major elements of our faith.

As a young adult facing unforeseen life challenges, I quickly realized I had neglected to nurture my childlike faith into maturity, and it affected how I dealt with adversity. I leaned into my faith, but it became clear to me that some of the parts I had always accepted as truth just didn't make sense. At the very top of the list were the Old Testament sacrifices!

I was astounded once a comprehensive picture of God's heart towards mankind was shown to me from Genesis to Revelation. Instead of relying on someone else to spoonfeed me, I dug into His word and let Him reveal the infinite symbolism of His grace and truth throughout the pages of Scripture. It was an experience that left me in awe and with a much bigger view of who He really is. It will continue to awe me as long as I study His word!

So, I now know that to fully understand the end, you must go back to the beginning and develop some foundational building blocks of faith. Without these, you miss a whole lot of truth: about God, about man, about the enemy, and the way we are redeemed back to God through faith in Jesus.

We are all on a journey and it's in His time that the unspeakable truth of His grace is unveiled to us. Perhaps this study will be part of your journey in learning more about Him. While we cannot change the beginning of our stories or any parts that we regret, it really is the good news of the gospel that through the marvelous grace of Christ we find healing.

How do you handle life in a broken world? Maybe you've been burned just enough so that it has stunted your ability to comprehend the goodness and grace that God has in store for you? If you can relate, then this study is for you. It is my prayer that the woman at the well and her encounter with the Living Water will douse the flames of any shame or regret holding you back and inspire you with fresh perspective of who Jesus *really* is.

Andrea GEHRETT

01: THE CURSE & THE CURE

"But He needed to go through Samaria."

John 4:4

READ JOHN 4:1-42 Familiarize yourself with this passage before we make a detour and develop some foundational building blocks of faith. This guide is not designed to spoon-feed you, but rather have you dig into His word and let the Holy Spirit teach you truth. Ready? Let's go!

- Why did Jesus "need" to go through Samaria?
 - Not sure? That's ok. Let's get the 30,000 foot big picture!
 - **READ GENESIS 1:** When life was "good"
 - In Genesis 1:1 the original Hebrew word used for God is a word in plural form: *Elohim*. What does this tell you? Who was there in the beginning? **READ JOHN 1:1-5**. What does this teach you about Jesus?
 - What did the earth look like in the beginning?
 - Who was hovering?
 - What is created? How was it created? What does this tell you about God's spoken word?
 - In days 1-5, what two specific things does God do after each created thing? What does naming and evaluating each created thing tell you about God?
 - Where are the seeds located? In the NKJV, the phrase "according to its kind" is repeated throughout chapter one. What does this teach you about God's plan for reproduction? How does this reveal God's concern for the future?
 - Describe God's purpose for the created system of the sun and moon. How is this significant? What other systems does He establish at creation?
 - Why do you think God created over six days instead of in a single moment? What is significant about how one created thing precedes another?

01: THE CURSE & THE CURE

- What happens in **GENESIS 1:26**? What is interesting about this verse as it pertains to **GENESIS 1:1**?
- For a moment go back to our text in **JOHN 4:24**. What do you learn about God and the similarity in which He made man? Read also **ECCLESIASTES 3:11**. How is man different from the other created things? Why is this significant?
- What authority was given to man? What command was given? How did man know these things? What does this tell you about God?
- What provision was made? What does this tell you about God?
- What did God say after He created and evaluated mankind (male and female)? How does this differ from what He said about other created things? What does this tell you about God?
- **READ GENESIS 2:** The original plan in the garden
 - What did God do on the seventh day? Read **ISAIAH 40:28**. What is the real purpose for Him setting this day apart? What do you learn about God's care and concern for man?
 - How was the earth watered in those days? This is significant when we fast-forward to Noah...so hold that thought.
 - How did God make man? **READ ISAIAH 42:5** and **JOB 33:4**. How was woman made? Why was woman made? Who brought woman to man? Who named her? What does this tell you about God?
 - Where did God place Adam? Describe the garden. How was the garden made? What is different about how the garden was created in **GENESIS 2:8** compared to the rest of the things spoken into existence? What do you think is significant about God planting vs. speaking?
 - What command does God give Adam concerning the garden? What does this tell you about man's work responsibility?
 - Similar to the reproduction process, we see limits being placed by God. What boundary did God establish for Adam in the garden? Why was it placed? What did God promise would happen if that boundary was crossed?

01: THE CURSE & THE CURE

- **READ GENESIS 2:19.** Who created? Who brought the animals to Adam? What did Adam do? What does this tell you about God?
- What is significant about **GENESIS 2:24**? Were there mothers, fathers, & children at this point in time? What does this teach you about God's plan?
- What word is used to describe the woman in verse 25? What does this tell you about God's original institution of marriage? How are the two described?
- **READ ISAIAH 43:7 & 10 and ROMANS 1:20.** Everything in creation points to Whom? If God made man unique with the ability to reason and with an eternal spirit, what does God desire most from mankind? How was His relationship with mankind intended to be different from other created things?

Take a moment to document what you've learned about God from the creation account. What did you learn about His intentions? His provision? His established order? His desire for mankind?

- **READ GENESIS 3:** The temptation and fall of mankind
 - Who was also in the garden with Adam & Eve? How is the serpent described?
 - **READ EZEKIEL 28:12-19, ISAIAH 14:12-15, & LUKE 10:18.** What do you learn about the serpent? Why was Satan cast down? Satan, also a created being, was cast to the ground by Whom? What does this tell you about God's authority and power? God's tolerance? God's promises?
 - Who did the serpent approach? To whom did God give specific instructions about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Based on the woman's response to the serpent, what differs from the original command? How is this significant?
 - What was the serpent's primary method used in deceiving the woman? How is this applicable today with how you are deceived?

01: THE CURSE & THE CURE

- What was mankind given dominion over? Why do you think Eve entertained conversation with this beast of the field? What does this tell you about mankind?
- **GENESIS 3:6** records a progression of things the woman did. What were those things? What does this teach you about desire? What does this teach you about how we are often tempted to sin? How does this contrast with how we are instructed to live in **HEBREWS 11:6**?
- Who was standing next to Eve the entire time? What did he do?
- What happened the moment both of them crossed the boundary? What did they do when they heard God walking in the garden? How is this significant as it relates to sin? What does this teach you about man?
- Who did God approach first about their sin? What does this tell you about God and the responsibility of Adam?
- Did God already know the truth of what had happened? Do you think God's first question had more to do with spiritual and emotional implications rather than physical location? What does this teach you about God and how He confronts sin in His children? If God values order and patiently leads His children to truth, then how should we follow this model in confronting others?
- What was Adam's response to God? What was Eve's response? What does this teach you about mankind's tendencies towards accountability?
- Had the serpent told the truth? What was his ultimate goal in the deception? Why?
- Did God keep His promise to Adam if the boundary was crossed? (**GENESIS 5:5**). What other curses and consequences were given as a result of the sin? For Satan? For Adam? For Eve? How do the consequences affect every marriage relationship across the span of time after that? Child bearing? Work?

01: THE CURSE & THE CURE

- What is the significance of the curse given to the serpent? What major prophesy is given in **GENESIS 3:15**? In the NKJV, describe the difference between "your seed and her Seed." What does this tell you about God? About Satan?
- What did Adam and Eve cover themselves with once their eyes were opened? What was God's first act after stating their punishment? Who made the tunics of skin? Why? What had God said after He created the animals in chapter 1? How do you think God felt about what He had to do?
- **READ GENESIS 9:4 and LEVITICUS 17:11.** Where is life found? What is the significance of this first sacrifice and why the fig leaves were not sufficient? What does this tell you about God's desire? Was there anything man did to reconcile himself back to God? Who did all the redemptive work? What does this tell you?
- After God clothed them, describe what happened. Why were they evicted from the garden? What was still in the garden? What had God promised? What safeguard was put in place to ensure that they couldn't enter back into the garden? Which direction were they driven? What is the significance of East?
- What have you learned about God and how He views sin? What have you learned about God's mercy even though sin entered the world? What hope did God provide to mankind in the midst of their judgment?

Life in the garden was good...until sin entered the world. With sin came the curse, the removal from God's presence, and an established process for which man would need to be reconciled back to God. Throughout the Old Testament, that process would be the sacrificial system instituted by God Himself with the very first animal sacrifice. However, they were only foreshadows of a much larger redeeming work already promised in Genesis 3:15

...the promise of a Savior
...the ultimate sacrifice
...the ultimate cure

Jesus!