



I Love to Tell the Story: Faith Stories of Three Women

By Deaconess Sylvia Johnson

It happens every time! We get together at family reunions and hear “Remember when?” We bring out the pictures, and the stories begin to flow. Storytelling helps us to stay connected as a family and lets the younger generation know who we are and who came before them.

Take a moment to open with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study of the Word.

Let’s take a look at the faith stories of three women of the Bible. These were real women who filled a place in their world and in God’s plan.

RAHAB

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient (Hebrews 11:31).

In James, we find Rahab’s faith is placed alongside that of the eminent Abraham. James says that her faith was living, for it was proved by her works. Read **James 2:14–26**.

She dared to stand alone for she knew she was secure with the Almighty. Read **Joshua 2; 6:17–25**. Tell what you found out about Rahab’s background and life. How much did she know about God before the spies came? What kind of faith did she have?

She helped the spies and kept their secret for God's sake. That is the lesson of Rahab, the story she had to tell to family, neighbors, and future generations. She was already a missionary, for she wanted her family to be saved also. *As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead* (**James 2:26**).

Rahab was taken into the fellowship of the Israelites and became one of them. She married Salmon and became the mother of Boaz who married Ruth, and they were the grandparents of David. Do you see where this story is going?

Rahab was a convert; how does her story shed light on what our attitude should be toward converts? When outsiders come into our church, do we really take in the Rahabs? How can we reach out to them? Do you tell them the story?

ANNA

[A]nd spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem (**Luke 2:38b**).

Anna of Jerusalem was a prophetess. Her family roots were in Asher, one of the dispersed tribes of Israel. Read **Luke 2:36–38** and **2 Chronicles 30**.

We read of Anna only in Luke's account. In his brief description he tells us that she had been a widow for about sixty years. At age 84, she was steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, instructing others in the work of the Lord and sharing her story. She spoke to others of the coming of the Redeemer and of the restoration of Israel's glory.

Having seen the Messiah, unlike Simeon, who was ready to "depart in peace," Anna was stirred to action. She laid aside her prophetic robes and put on the garb of a missionary and proclaimed far and near the advent of the desire of nations. Imagine her radiant face as she told the story!

Anna was certain that the child of Mary was the promised Savior because she was familiar with God, with grace, and with redemption. So, beginning at Jerusalem, Anna became the pioneer of a great company of women who have told the story, who proclaimed the glad tidings. Read **Psalms 40:9–10**.

Anna serves as an example of how to begin at home and tell the glad story that we have been saved by grace through faith in Christ. How can every one of us be a missionary?

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ? (**John 4:29**).

At the same time that Jesus, footsore and parched from the burning eastern sun, walked toward the well, a disreputable

woman from Sychar found it was time to refill her water jar. She walked alone at midday and met the One who changed her life completely.

Read **John 4:1–42**. How would this woman have been viewed by Jewish people of Jesus' time? How would she have been viewed by her fellow townsfolk? What is the living water Jesus offers to her? What does Jesus reveal about Himself in their discussion? What is the result of this woman coming to know Jesus is the Messiah?

The woman hurried home. In her ardor she even forgot her precious water pot! She forgot, too, that she was shamed and despised, because she had made an amazing discovery — she had met the Messiah, and He had changed her life completely! She walked in newness of life and made haste to tell others about Jesus. She told her story! What approach to sharing our faith can we learn from the story of the Samaritan woman?

She had come to the well alone, cut off from her community. She returned, bringing her community with her to Christ.

Scripture contains the accounts of many women who shared their stories. If time permits, read **2 Kings 5:1–15** (the story of the young servant girl who shared her faith with Naaman) and **2 Chronicles 34:22–33** (the story of Huldah who knew the Word of God and freely encouraged other people with it). Go to **2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14–17; and Acts 16:1–3** and read how Lois and Eunice showed Timothy, through their lives, how faith is to be applied in practice, laying the groundwork for his future ministry. What mother, what grandmother could expect richer fruit of her teaching?

Each of us has a story to tell. Don't be afraid to share it. Tell your faith story! Let this be your daily prayer:

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Your tone;
As you have sought, so let me seek
Your erring children lost and lone.
O, use me Lord, use even me,
Just as You will, and when, and where;
Until Your blessed face I see,
Your rest, Your joy, Your glory share. Amen.

Frances Havergal

Deaconess Sylvia Johnson is retired from full-time parish work and presently serves as LWML Vice President of Human Care. Sylvia and her pastor-husband, Keith, live in New Berlin, Wisconsin, and have been blessed with three children and their spouses, six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. As a daughter of the King, she has a story to tell.