

"I WILL GO..."

Tell someone
about Jesus.

Witnessing is a special way we share the love of Jesus with others. It's about telling people what God has done for us and showing His love through our actions. Think of it as being a messenger for Jesus, spreading good news wherever you go! Just as you get excited to tell your friends about a fun game or your favorite activity, witnessing is sharing the amazing story of Jesus and how He changes lives.

Sometimes, witnessing means being kind and helping someone in need. Other times, it's being brave enough to talk about Jesus, even if you feel nervous. No matter how you do it, God can use your words and actions to touch the hearts of others. The Bible is full of stories of people who witnessed God's love and power. They weren't perfect, but they trusted God and made a difference in the lives of someone else.

During the next week we will look at seven examples of witnessing from the lives of Bible characters. Each story is a reminder that no matter your age, you can share God's love and make an impact in someone's life!

Beth Thomas

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MUGI KINOSHITA



A WITNESS OF GRACE

Zacchaeus meets Jesus.

Scripture Basis: Luke 19:1-10, NIV

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the city of Jericho. Tax collectors were disliked because they collected money for the Roman government and sometimes took more than they were supposed to, keeping the extra for themselves. Zacchaeus was no exception. Though he had great wealth, he didn't have many friends. People saw him as greedy and dishonest.

One day Zacchaeus heard some exciting news: Jesus, the famous teacher and miracle worker, was coming to Jericho! Crowds of people gathered to see Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to see Him too, but there was a problem. Zacchaeus was very short, and the large crowd blocked his view. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't see over the people in front of him.

Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus. He didn't let his small stature or the crowd stop him. Looking around, he noticed a sycamore tree near the road where Jesus would pass by. Zacchaeus quickly climbed the tree. From his perch he had a perfect view of the road below.

As Jesus walked through Jericho, He came to the spot where Zacchaeus was sitting in the tree. To everyone's surprise, Jesus stopped, looked up, and called out, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus couldn't believe his ears! Of all the people in the crowd, Jesus noticed him. Why would Jesus want to spend time with someone like him, a man everyone else avoided?

Overjoyed, Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree and eagerly welcomed Jesus into his home. But not everyone was happy about this. The people in the crowd began to grumble and whisper, saying, "Why is Jesus spending time with a sinner like Zacchaeus?"

During their time together Zacchaeus experienced Jesus' kindness and love. For the first time, Zacchaeus felt truly seen and cared for. This love changed his heart. Zacchaeus stood up and made an incredible promise: "Look, Lord! I will give half of my money to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times the amount!"

Jesus smiled and said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

From that day forward Zacchaeus' life was completely transformed. He was no longer the greedy, lonely man he had been. Instead, he became someone who shared generously and loved others, showing how much Jesus' love had changed him.

So the first step in witnessing to others is to remember how much Jesus loves you. When we know and feel His love, it becomes easier to share that love with others. Think about how Jesus saw Zacchaeus, even when everyone else avoided him, and how that changed Zacchaeus' life. Just like Zacchaeus, we can share with others how Jesus has made a difference in our lives!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What can we learn, from the way Jesus treated Zacchaeus, about how we should treat others?

THE COMPASSIONATE WITNESS

Loving your neighbor as yourself

Scripture Basis:
Luke 10:25-37, NIV



One day a man approached Jesus with a big question: “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus responded with another question: “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.”

But the man, wanting to justify himself, asked, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply, Jesus told a story.

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, a dangerous journey through rocky, desolate areas where robbers often hid. As he walked, a group of thieves attacked him. They stole everything he had, beat him badly, and left him lying on the road, hurt and unable to move. The man was in desperate need of help.

Soon a priest came walking down the road. The priest worked in God’s temple, leading worship and teaching people about God. Surely he would help! But when he saw the injured man, the priest crossed to the other side of the road and hurried past, pretending not to notice. Perhaps he was afraid the robbers were still nearby, or maybe he didn’t want to get his hands dirty. Whatever his reasons, he chose not to stop.

Later a Levite came along. Levites also worked in the temple, helping with important duties. Like the priest, you might expect the Levite to offer assistance. But when he saw the man lying there, he too crossed to the other side and kept walking. The injured man remained alone and helpless.

Finally a Samaritan came by. Samaritans and Jewish people didn’t get along; in fact, they often avoided each other completely. No one would have expected a Samaritan to help a Jewish man. But when the Samaritan saw the injured man, he

felt deep compassion. He didn’t think about the differences between them or the potential danger. Instead, he acted.

The Samaritan went to the injured man and gently cleaned his wounds with oil and wine, using what he had to prevent infection. Then he tore strips of cloth to bandage the man’s injuries. After that, he lifted the man onto his own donkey, walking beside him as they traveled to an inn. The Samaritan stayed with the man through the night, caring for him.

The next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper enough money to cover several days’ expenses. He told the innkeeper, “Take care of him. If you spend more than this, I’ll reimburse you when I come back.”

When Jesus finished the story, He asked the man who had questioned Him, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The man replied, “The one who showed mercy.”

Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”

The good Samaritan didn’t let fear or prejudice stop him from helping someone in need. You too can be like the Samaritan! Whether it’s sharing your toys, including someone who feels left out, or offering a kind word, small acts of kindness can make a big difference. When you help others, you reflect God’s love and bring His light into the world—and that’s witnessing!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Who is a “neighbor” in your life you can help, even if they seem different from you?

SHINING BRIGHT

Witnessing through kindness

Scripture Basis:
2 Kings 5:1-17, NIV



A long time ago a young girl lived in the land of Aram. She had a simple, peaceful life with her family. But one day something terrible happened. Soldiers from a foreign country came and took her away. They brought her to a new land and made her work as a servant for the wife of a powerful man named Naaman.

Naaman was the leader of an army. He was a strong, respected man, but he had a serious problem: he had leprosy, a terrible skin disease. Naaman's skin was covered in sores, and nothing the doctors tried helped him get better. His wife was very worried, and so was everyone around him.

Even though the little servant girl was far from home, she didn't forget about God. She remembered the stories her parents had told her about God's love and power. And one day she saw how sad Naaman's wife was about her husband's illness.

"I know someone who can help him," the little maid said quietly.

Naaman's wife looked at her, surprised. "Who?" she asked.

"There's a prophet in Israel named Elisha," the little maid said. "He serves the one true God, and I know He can heal Naaman."

Naaman's wife hurried to tell her husband. Naaman wasn't sure, but he was willing to try anything. He gathered some gifts and set out for Israel to find the prophet. After a long journey Naaman arrived at Elisha's house. But Elisha didn't even come out to see

him. Instead, Elisha sent a message, telling Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times.

Naaman was shocked. "What kind of healing is this?" he grumbled. "I thought the prophet would come out, wave his hand over me, and I'd be well. The rivers back home are better than the Jordan River!"

Naaman was angry and ready to leave. But his servants spoke to him gently. "Sir, if the prophet had asked you to do something difficult, wouldn't you have done it? Why not try this simple thing?"

Naaman thought about it and decided to obey. He went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself in the water once, twice, three times . . . seven times. When he came out of the water, something amazing happened: his skin was clean! The sores were gone, and his skin was as soft and smooth as a young child's.

Naaman was so happy. He knew it wasn't the water that had healed him—it was God. He went back to Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except the God of Israel." From that day on, Naaman promised to worship only God.

The little maid was so glad to hear that Naaman was healed. Even though she was just a young girl, far from her home, God used her to change Naaman's life forever.

Like the little maid, you might not always know why things happen or understand the hard times you face, but God can use your experience to help others!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Have you ever felt as if you were too small or young to share with others? Why do you think the little maid didn't give up, even though she was far from home and in a difficult situation?

A WITNESS IN THE DEN



Living boldly for God

Scripture Basis:

Daniel 6:1-23, NIV

Daniel was a faithful servant of God, living in a foreign land under the rule of King Darius. Even though Daniel was far from home, he stayed close to God. He prayed three times a day, thanking and praising God for His goodness. Daniel's faithfulness earned him great respect, and the king appointed him as one of the top officials in the kingdom. But not everyone was happy about this.

The other officials and advisors became jealous of Daniel. They wanted to find a way to get rid of him, but Daniel was honest and trustworthy, and they couldn't find anything wrong with him. Finally, they realized that the only way to trap Daniel was through his faith. They came up with a plan and went to the king with a suggestion. "O King Darius, we think you should make a law that says no one can pray to any god or person except you for the next 30 days. If anyone disobeys, they should be thrown into the lions' den."

The king, not realizing their true intentions, agreed and signed the law. According to the custom, the law could not be changed once it was signed. The jealous officials were pleased because they knew Daniel would continue to pray to God no matter what.

When Daniel heard about the new law, he didn't panic or hide. Instead, he went to his room, opened the windows that faced Jerusalem, and knelt down to pray, just as he always did. He thanked God and asked for His help. The officials were watching and quickly reported him to the king.

King Darius was heartbroken when he heard the news. He respected Daniel and didn't want to punish him, but the law couldn't be undone. Reluctantly the king gave the order for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you," the king said as Daniel was lowered into the den.

That night King Darius couldn't eat or sleep. He worried about Daniel and hoped his God would save him. Meanwhile, in the lions' den, something miraculous was happening. God had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. The hungry lions didn't touch Daniel at all! He spent the night safe and unharmed.

At the first light of dawn the king hurried to the lions' den. "Daniel, servant of the living God," he called out, "has your God been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel's voice came back, strong and clear. "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel, and He shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I done any wrong before you, O king."

The king was overjoyed and ordered Daniel to be lifted out of the den. There wasn't a single scratch on him, because he had trusted in God. King Darius then made a new decree, declaring that everyone in the kingdom should honor the God of Daniel, for He is the true and living God who rescues and saves. Daniel's unwavering faith was a witness to the king he worked for!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

How do you think Daniel felt when he was thrown into the lions' den? What gave him the courage to trust God?

LOVING OTHERS THE WAY JESUS DOES

Jesus heals a man with leprosy.

Scripture Basis: Mark 1:40-45, NIV

One day, as Jesus was traveling from town to town teaching and healing, a man with leprosy approached Him. Leprosy was a serious disease that caused painful sores on the skin and made people stay far away from those who had it. In Jesus' time, people with leprosy were often sent away from their families and friends because everyone was afraid of catching the disease. They were lonely and treated as outcasts.

The man, who was desperate for help, knelt before Jesus and pleaded, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." His voice trembled with hope and fear. He had heard about Jesus—how He performed miracles and helped those in need. This might have been the only chance for him to be healed.

Jesus looked at the man with compassion. He saw not just the disease, but the loneliness and pain the man carried in his heart. While others would avoid someone with leprosy, Jesus did something unexpected. He reached out and touched the man. "I am willing," Jesus said gently. "Be clean!"

The man's skin immediately became smooth and healthy. His sores disappeared, and he was healed completely. Imagine his joy as he looked at his hands, realizing he was no longer sick! The man's heart overflowed with gratitude and amazement.

Touching someone with leprosy was unheard of in those days. It wasn't just dangerous because of the disease; it was also against the rules of the time. But Jesus didn't let fear or rules stop Him from showing love. By touching the man, Jesus not only healed his body but also reminded him that he was valuable and loved.

After healing the man, Jesus gave him specific instructions. "Don't tell anyone about this," He said. "Instead, go to the priest and show him that you are healed. Offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded as

a testimony to your healing." This was an important step because, in those days, a priest had to confirm someone was healed before they could rejoin their community.

But the man was so overjoyed that he couldn't keep the news to himself. He told everyone he met about what Jesus had done for him. Soon people from all over came looking for Jesus, hoping to see miracles and hear His teachings.

This story teaches us a powerful lesson about love and kindness. Jesus didn't just heal the man's disease; He treated him with dignity and compassion when others wouldn't. In the same way, we can love others the way Jesus does. Sometimes people around us might feel lonely, left out, or different. They might be sitting by themselves at lunch or not have anyone to play with at recess. What can you do to show them love? You can invite them to join your game, share a kind word, or simply smile and say hello. Small actions can make a big difference. Just as Jesus' touch brought healing and hope, your kindness can help others feel valued and loved. Remember, loving others the way Jesus does means treating everyone with compassion and care, no matter who they are.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Why do you think the man couldn't keep his healing a secret?
How do you feel when you have exciting or good news to share?

THE WITNESSES WHO COULD NOT STAY SILENT!

Peter and John share about Jesus.

Scripture Basis: Acts 4:1-20, NIV

After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter and John were filled with joy and a burning desire to tell everyone the good news. They went from town to town, boldly proclaiming that Jesus was alive and offering forgiveness and hope to all who believed in Him. Many people listened and decided to follow Jesus because of their message.

One day Peter and John healed a man who had been unable to walk since birth. The man was overjoyed and began walking, jumping, and praising God. This miraculous healing attracted a large crowd. Peter seized the opportunity to explain that it was not their own power that had healed the man, but the power of Jesus Christ, who had risen from the dead.

The religious leaders, however, were not happy about what Peter and John were doing. They were upset because people were starting to believe in Jesus, and they felt their authority was being challenged. These leaders had Peter and John arrested and brought before the high council, called the Sanhedrin. The council asked them sternly, "By what power or in whose name have you done this?"

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered boldly, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands healed. Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

The leaders were amazed at Peter and John's courage. They knew these men were ordinary, uneducated fishermen, yet they spoke with great confidence and wisdom. The leaders realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. Even though they wanted to punish them, they couldn't deny the miracle, as the healed man was standing right there with them. So they warned Peter and John to stop speaking or teaching in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John replied firmly, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the

judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

The leaders, frustrated but unable to find a reason to keep them imprisoned, let them go. Peter and John immediately returned to their friends and shared everything that had happened. Together they prayed for even more courage to continue speaking about Jesus boldly.

Despite the dangers they faced, Peter and John kept sharing the good news. They knew that telling others about Jesus was far more important than their own safety. Their bravery and faith inspired many others to believe in Jesus.

You can be brave like Peter and John when you talk about Jesus. It might feel scary at times, but remember that God is with you, just as He was with Peter and John. You could invite a friend to church, share a story about Jesus, or simply explain why you love Him. Even small acts of courage can make a big difference in someone's life. Trust God to give you the words and the bravery you need!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What do you think it means to listen to God rather than people when making tough decisions?



WITNESS AT JACOB'S WELL



The Samaritan woman's story

Scripture Basis: John 4:1-42, NIV

One day Jesus was traveling through Samaria on His way to Galilee. Tired from the journey, He stopped at a well called Jacob's Well around noon, when the sun was high and hot. While He rested there, a woman came to draw water. Jesus asked her, "Will you give Me a drink?"

The woman was surprised. In those days Jews and Samaritans didn't get along, and men didn't usually speak to women they didn't know. She said, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus answered, "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."

The woman was confused. "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well?"

Jesus explained, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."



"Sir," the woman said, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus then told her something remarkable. He said, "Go, call your husband and come back."

The woman replied, "I have no husband."

Jesus said, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true."

The woman was amazed. "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus replied, "A time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. True worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am He."

The woman was so excited that she left her water jar and ran back to her town. She told everyone, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" Her excitement was contagious, and many people from the town came to see Jesus. They listened to Him and believed in Him because of the woman's testimony. They even invited Jesus to stay with them, and He stayed for two days, teaching and sharing the good news.

Because of Jesus' words and the woman's story, many more people believed. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this Man really is the Savior of the world."

Sharing what Jesus has done in your life can help others believe in Him. Even if you think your story is small, it can make a big difference. You can say things like "Jesus helped me when I was scared" or "Jesus answered my prayers." Just like the Samaritan woman's story, your story can help others see how amazing Jesus is and lead them to believe in Him.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

How would you have responded to Jesus at the well if you had been the Samaritan woman?

Beth Thomas is assistant editor of *Adventist Review* and content editor for *KidsView*.



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