

Don't give the false impression that because of God in your life, your entire life is all sweet and perfect. Share your current struggles. Share your warts, your vulnerability.

If you do this, not only will you feel better, you'll feel that people actually appreciate your authenticity. They will believe you more.

Step #3: Merge Your Stories

After sharing your story, invite him to journey together. Invite him to regular coffee time with you, so you can continue to build the friendship. You can also invite him to your prayer gathering like the Feast. Or a small group or caring group. Or a spiritual retreat.

You can give him an inspirational book. Or forward him an article that you have read which you think will help him grow closer to God.

What's your story? What's your experience of God? Use it to share God to others.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. Why did you choose to attend the Feast regularly? Do you think other people would have the same reason?
2. What kind of guide do you think you are: a pointer or a bringer?
3. If you've already begun "friending" someone, consider having coffee with them, get to know their story and prepare to tell them your story.

LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

AUG 12,13,14.....LIVE-IN YOUTH JESUS ENCOUNTER, LA CONSOLATA
AUG 20..... FEASTS, 1:30 PM, MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM
AUG 27.....PICNIC AT KELSO CONSERVATION PARK
SEPT 10..... FEASTS, 1:30 PM, HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM
SEPT 17..... LOJC 15TH ANNIVERSARY, MISSISSAUGA VALLEY CC, 5:00 PM, HOSTED BY WEST FEAST
OCT 1 & 15.....FEASTS, 1:30 PM, HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM
OCT 29 & 30.....LIVE-IN MARRIAGE DEEPENING RETREAT (MDR), LA CONSOLATA RETREAT HOUSE

Prophecies: July 16, 2011

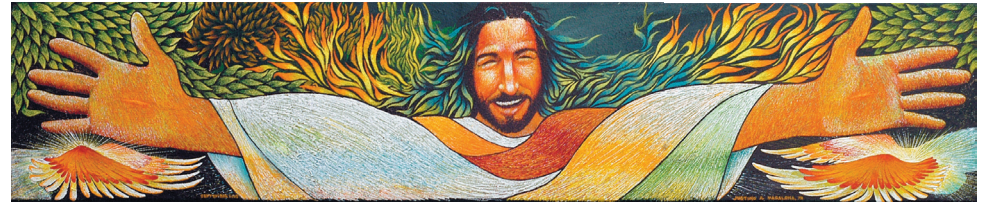
My child, as you start to draw closer and closer to Me, you will start to look at life's daily events and experiences from My eyes, no longer from the eyes of the world. Many questions and doubts you will still have, and many of these, no one will ever be able to answer and satisfy you. Many of My ways you will not understand but do not be disheartened... such is life with me... always a mystery. And herein lies the need for faith, hope and trust... the need for you to completely depend on Me. I love you.

My children, I am the Lord your God. I myself will pasture you. Yes, as the shepherd searches and tends his flock, so I will look for you. I will put together the broken pieces of your life, of your heart. Trust in me, my children, and follow me.

The Feast Bulletin

www.lojcanada.com

Aug 6, 2011



Series: J1NI (Jesus in Everyone)

Talk 3: Guide Them

Our Story Will Change The World

Long time ago before this technology called GPS was created, whenever people get lost, the first thing they do is ask someone for directions. Some would respond by **pointing** them to the directions that they should take while a few would actually **bring** them to the place they want to go. This shows that there are two types of guides; the POINTER and the BRINGER.

The truth is, many people around us are lost. They're seeking for happiness but they don't know how to go there. They've got huge problems but they don't know how to solve them. And they want to grow closer to God but they don't know what to do. God calls us to be their guide. But we can do it in two ways. We can be a **pointer** or we can be a **bringer**.

God is asking us today: Will you be their guide?

Jesus Guides A Woman To Faith

John 4:5-41 (Selected Verses)

In Samaria he came to a town named Sychar, which was not far from the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. And a Samaritan woman came to draw some water.

If you were drawing water from the well, would you do it at noon? I don't think so. Obviously, this woman was hiding something. She didn't like people to see her or talk to her. She was an outcast, an ostracized person.

Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." The woman answered, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan — so how can you ask me for a drink?" (Jews will not use the same cups and bowls that Samaritans use.)

In ancient Middle Eastern culture, if I use your cup, that means we're friends. By asking a drink of water from the Samaritan woman, Jesus was declaring his friendship with someone who had three things going against her. First, she was a woman, and men don't talk to women in public. Because during that time, women were property. Second, she was a Samaritan. Jews hated Samaritans. Because Samaritans were half-Jews, a result of an intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles. Third, she was an adulterer. A home-wrecker. A loose woman who

jumped from one man to another. This was the woman Jesus was befriending. At the end of the day, making disciples is friendship.

Jesus answered, "All those who drink this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life." "Sir," the woman said, "give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water."

Notice how Jesus goes straight to her need? She was talking about a physical thirst but Jesus was uncovering her spiritual need.

"Go and call your husband," Jesus told her, "and come back." "I haven't got a husband," she answered. Jesus replied, "You are right when you say you haven't got a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband. You have told me the truth."

This part is amazing! Jesus didn't say, "I'm shocked. You've got five husbands. Five, my goodness! Have you no respect for yourself? You've committed adultery not once, not twice, not three times—but five times!" But Jesus said no such thing. There was no condemnation in his voice.

What was Jesus doing? He was telling the woman, "I know you. And yet here I am, talking to you as a friend. The people of this town don't want to talk to you. They reject you. But I don't, even if I know your darkest secrets."

If we want to bring someone closer to God, we've got to know the person. Before telling our story, we've got to know their story.

This is where Jesus is ahead of all of us. By a miracle, He knew her already. But we have to go the old-fashioned way of listening to people's story.

"I see you are a prophet, sir," the woman said. "I know that the Messiah will come, and when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus answered, "I am he, I who am talking with you."

Jesus reveals who he is.

When we talk to people, we open our heart and tell them our story.

Then the woman left her water jar, went back to the town, and said to the people there, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?"

Experiencing God is like ice cream or your favorite food. When you eat ice cream, you can't help but say, "Yum!" And then you talk about it to your friends. "You've got to taste this ice cream!" When we experience God, we can't stop talking about Him as well.

Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I have ever done." Many more believed because of His message, and they said to the woman, "We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we ourselves have heard Him, and we know that He really is the Saviour of the world."

The Samaritan woman shared her story. And it led people to search for Jesus himself. This is the power of a story. It moves people to discover for themselves the truth of our story.

Big message: Our story can change the world.

How can we bring a friend closer to God? Answer: By our life story. I believe our life story can change the world. Stories are very powerful. How powerful?

Around 2500 years ago, Plato said, "Those who tell stories rule society." Why? Because we love stories so much, our hearts open up to the storyteller. Little kids love stories. And we never outgrow that love for stories.

Even Jesus preached by telling stories about a hidden treasure, a great pearl, a mustard seed, a good Samaritan, and a prodigal son.

Why do stories have power over us?

3 Reasons Why Stories Are Powerful

1. *Stories mesmerize.* They grab our attention. When we hear a good story, all of a sudden, we're ushered into a different world. We enter a different universe. Why does this happen? Because stories don't just teach the mind but touch the emotions.
2. *Stories materialize.* A message can be a nice theory floating in the air with no legs on the ground. But a story will make us see, hear, touch, taste, and smell the message.
3. *Stories magnetize.* A personal, touching story will bring the hearts of both the storyteller and the story-listener together like no other thing in the world! They say the shortest path between two hearts is a story.

To repeat: ***Our story can change the world!***

Do you have a friend or loved one you'd like to bring closer to God? Here are three steps to take...

3 Steps In Guiding People Closer To God

Step #1: Know Their Story

Step #2: Share Your Story

Step #3: Merge Your Stories

Step #1: Know Their Story

When we're trying to guide someone closer to God, we have to hear their story before we share our own story. Why? Because we need to know the person's felt need. Perhaps he needs healing. Or perhaps a family problem is the thorn in her flesh. Or perhaps she's broken hearted. Or perhaps he's angry with God for taking away his baby. It's always important to know their story BEFORE we tell them our own.

Step #2: Share Your Own Story

Share what God has done in your life. It could be a before-and-after story. Or it could be an event where you saw the hand of God in your life. One important suggestion: Expose your weaknesses.