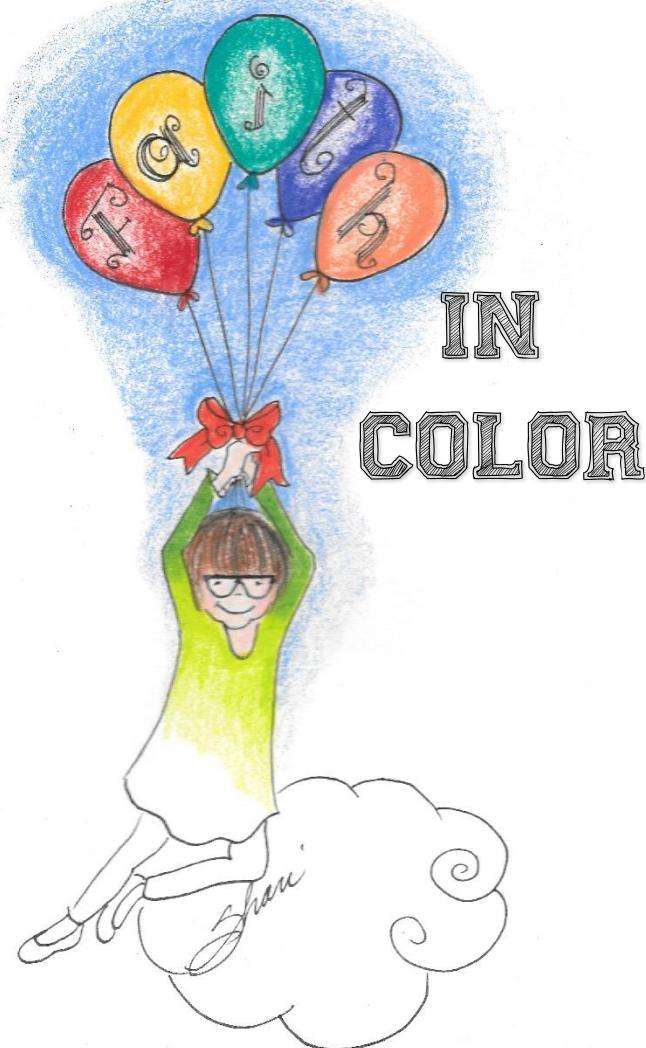
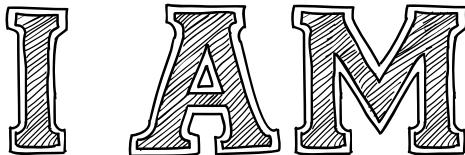

BIBLE JOURNALING CLASS



With Shari Johnson
www.theJesusChick.com

Tonight's Study:

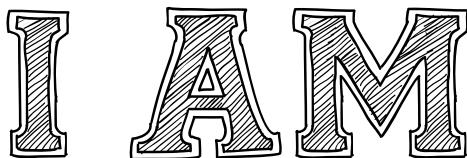
A statement in the Present Tense.

Every time I think I have my present life figured out, my past life comes crashing in front of me through the court room doors as if to say to God “Your Honor, I have some evidence I’d like to present of the person of Shari Johnson. She’s a fraud. A total fake. She’s no more the Jesus Chick, than I’m the Jesus Rooster. I have files of failures for every year since 1996, but for brevity I’ll just present to you the ones from 2010 forward. That was when you allegedly called her to pursue this persona of who she says she is. If indeed you ever did...”

And so the accusatory conversation goes. I’m not sure who the Rooster is; perhaps Satan, perhaps my subconscious, regardless it’s a worthy tactic to put me into a state of confusion and digression of what I know, when I’m in my right mind, is God’s purpose for my life. It’s who “I am.”

It’s hard to grasp hold of the notion that for seven years I’ve been on this particular journey and yet the destination seems illusive at times. Like it never really existed. What’s the destination you ask?

DESTINATION:



For the purpose of Bible journaling I'll provide the following scripture, questions and commentary to get our minds into a position for discovery.

Peter's Calling: Matthew 4:18-19

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Where have you heard the Lord ask you to follow?

In verse 20 it says that "*they left their nets.*" There is no mention of Peter prior to this verse. No history of who he was, other than a fisherman by trade. No preparatory school for the ministry, no leadership conference classes, just fisherman turned preacher. Could there be no history as an illustration for our own life? How?

Peter's Christ: Matthew 16:15-16

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Christ followed Peter's attestation of His deity with the affirmation of Peter's purpose when he said "***That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***" It was if Christ was saying, because you have faith in who "I Am" I will make you who you are."

Where has God empowered and emboldened you in your life for His service?

God's name "I Am" was first mentioned in Exodus 3:14 when God told Moses to tell the children of Israel "***I Am hath sent me unto you.***"

How awesome to know that the same God who called Moses to lead Israel is now calling us to lead the New Testament church and through the Holy Spirit "I Am" is in us, making us who we are in Him. It's awesome and it's true; so how is it that we get into a mind of doubt or confusion about who we are in Christ?

Peter's Calamity: Mark 14:72

And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

That Rooster! I've heard it too many times to count. I'm pretty sure it's the oldest Rooster in history. I've thought thereon as Peter did. I've wept and I've walked away from God's purpose because that Rooster had convinced me I was not fixable or usable. I'd just go back to being plain ol' Shari. Failure was easy to live up too. Kind of like fishing. Peter understood that.

Peter's Comeback! John 21:17-19

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

I love how Christ brings the story of Peter full circle on every aspect.

- Their relationship began with the words “Follow Me”
– Their parting words were – “Follow Me.”
- Three denials of faith – three confessions of faith.

Destination “I Am” is the realization that Christ did not mention Peter’s past, nor did He fail to use Peter when He knew that Peter would fail in the future. He chose to use Peter because “I Am” is always present tense. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we are not. We have moments of failure and moments of success and each step makes us who we are. He knows we love Him, but his plan does not change. Perhaps the path does, but not the plan.

Questions to ponder...

Have you discovered God's plan. Have you changed paths? What causes you to turn back to the old you? If you were to define who you are in Christ... what would that be?

The Journal drawing provided is a piece of luggage with stickers from various destinations (left blank) For myself I thought I would create the stickers to be the events of life that have defined me in Christ. You may take it another direction. But who are you in



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Thou art the Christ,
the Son of the living God.

MATT 16:15-16



Notes or Draw your Own!

