

Woman at the Well

It was a time not unlike today where confusion about God and how to worship was debated everywhere in her land. The many men and the broken promises from each weighed heavy on her heart that day as she brought her water jug to the well. When a stranger sitting at the well asked her to draw some water for him, events began to unfold that would change her life - forever.

Thus begins the history recorded in the Bible about The Woman at the Well and her encounter with Jesus Christ. This quilt pattern will tell the story of that woman by relating each block element to a portion of the story. A Bible study is included that discusses not only the Woman at the Well's situation and life, but her response and how applicable the same truths are today. The pattern makes a stunning quilt that when finished will remind a woman of today of the promise of Jesus to provide "living water" to a thirsty soul.

-Kathy Myrick

The quilt measures 126cm x 176cm (50 in x 70 in). Each block is 25cm square (about 10 in). It lends itself to rotary cutting with its straight forward traditional shapes.

Included in the pattern are the fabric requirements, templates, a Bible study of *The Woman at the Well* for individual or group study, and a copy of the gospel of John.

Living Water Quilts[™]
www.LivingWaterQuilts.org

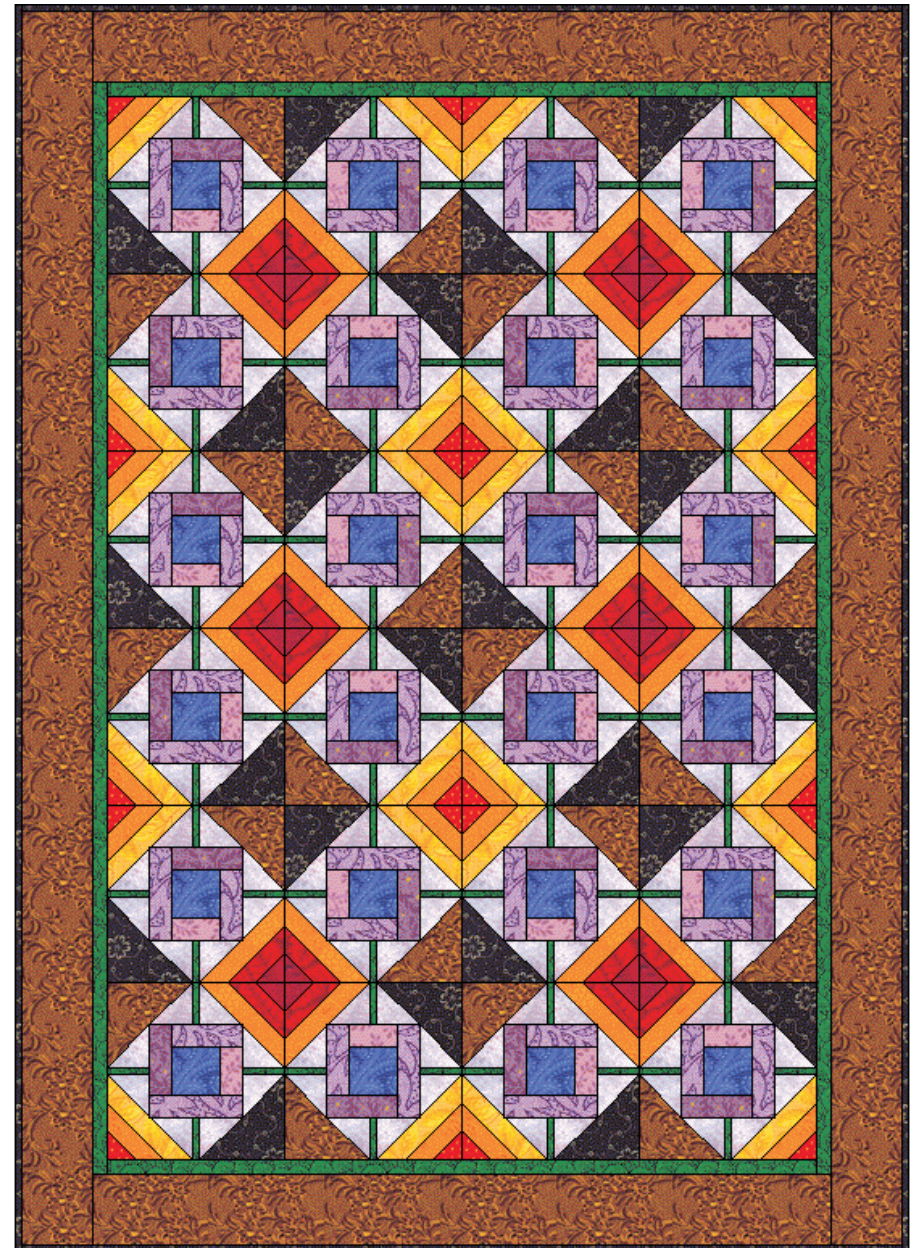
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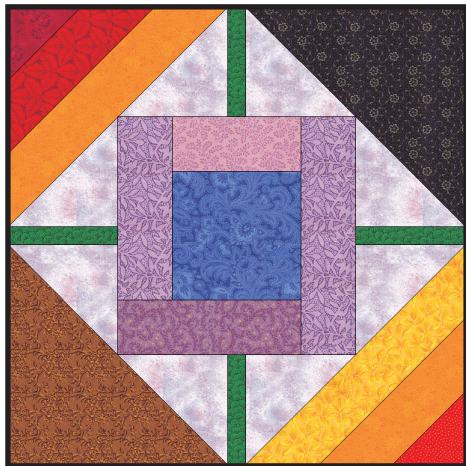
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Woman at the Well



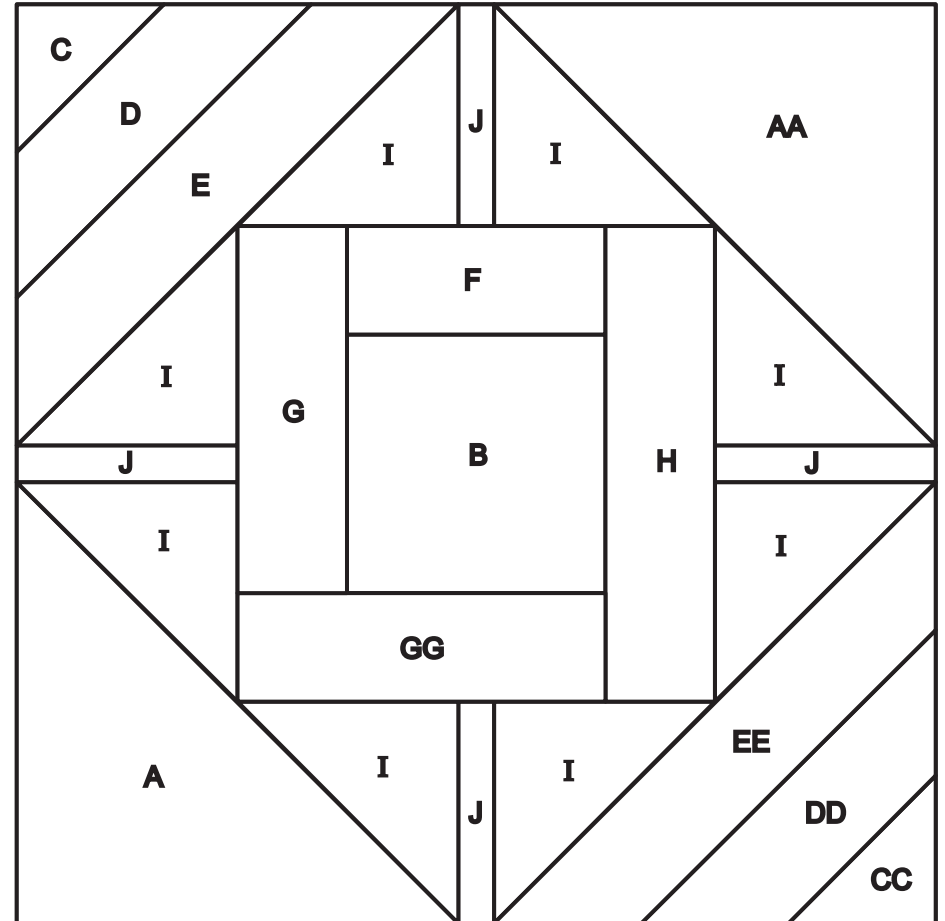
Living Water Quilts[™]

-  **A** Jesus Christ traveling to Samaria and sitting at the well
-  **AA** The Woman at the Well who has come to draw water
-  **B** The Well (Jacob's Well)
-  **C** Husband 1
-  **D** Husband 2
-  **E** Husband 3
-  **CC** Husband 4
-  **DD** Husband 5
-  **EE** Man she was living with
-  **F** Confusion: How do I worship?
-  **G** Confusion: Who can I believe?
-  **GG** Confusion: Where should I worship?
-  **H** Confusion: What culture is right about God?
-  **I** The Woman's Community
-  **J** The Cross of Jesus Christ



Block Layout

See Block Diagram to right -->



The Woman at the Well

We won't know her name this side of heaven, but I can just imagine her sandaled feet stepping down the path toward the well outside of town. She carried her jug alone at the noontime hour. The other women of her village would have come in the cool of the morning to draw water. Not her. She would rather avoid the looks and the whispers ...

As she approached the well she noticed a man sitting there. He was a Jew. She could tell from his garment and the way he wore his hair. "Best leave this sort alone" she thought as she began to draw the water. It startled her when the silence was broken by the man asking her for a drink!

A little embarrassed, she had to respond and the first thing she thought to say was "how is it that you being a Jew can ask a Samaritan woman for a drink?" You see, she was used to the hate between her culture and the Jewish culture that had existed for over 1,000 years after the kingdom was ripped in two by rebellion. Even though both her culture and this stranger's culture thought they worshipped the same God.

He answered her with a very unusual statement: "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." She was taken aback and wondered how this man could even get water since he had nothing to draw water with. The next thing he said bordered on amazing. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst". In fact, he continued, "the water I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Now this gave her pause, what a profound pronouncement. Eternal life? Never be thirsty? -- Just what could he be offering her? She did what I would have done, practical woman that she was, she asked him for this water so that she would not have to make this trip to the well every day!

There! Never a wall-flower, she came right out and asked him. Now what would he do about it? Unexpectedly there came a catch he asked her to first go and get her husband! A bird fluttered in a bush nearby. In the distance she could hear the bleating of a lamb in the otherwise still air. Now what was she going to say? This was a source of great hurt in her life. She was very ashamed of her relationships with men. She simply lowered her head and answered, "I have no husband."

The silence was deafening. But when she looked up, the stranger didn't pry, but responded with something that took her breath away. He said "You are right. In fact, you have had five husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband."

It couldn't be! "How could he know?" she wondered as her secret shame came crushing down on her once again. This had to be a man of God. "How can I respond?", she pondered. "I can't talk about my life it hurts too much".

**Refer to the quilt block instructions
Section 1: "The Men"**

At this point we see the woman, quietly inquire about one of the most confusing matters of her time and one that was hotly debated. She asked the stranger if they should worship God on the hill above her town or up in Jerusalem, where the Jews claimed worship should occur.

I can feel the sincerity in her questions. Filling her water jug was long forgotten. She knew that something was not right in her heart and her life. And somehow, she was beginning to think that maybe this man could help her get it right. When he did answer, he didn't even name a place to worship; he simply said that God was spirit, and that he must be worshipped in spirit and truth.

This struck a chord with her. Something was beginning to make incredible sense. Worship of God didn't have to do with how her culture had defined it, or anyone's culture for that matter. She left her jug on one side of the well and slowly walked around to stand in front of him. As they both stood and faced each other, she said with a clear expression of hope, "I know that Messiah, called the Christ, is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Here is where I can come to tears as I look at this encounter many years after the fact. The man looked intently into her eyes and with an authority she had never heard from any man, he said, "I who speak to you ... am he."

This was spellbinding. This was it. This was the Messiah!

Refer to the quilt block instructions
Section 2: "The Well and Cultural Questions"

They were interrupted as some other men came to the well, and with a look at the Messiah, and completely forgetting her jug, she turned and hurried back to her town.

I don't know just what she was thinking on this trip back to town but I can imagine her hurried pace and the tears welling up in her softened eyes. Her heart was so full it felt like it could burst at the thought of this awesome encounter she had just had. She wondered how she, a woman who in her own eyes thought she had done "everything wrong" in life could have just met and talked with the Christ, the hope of all mankind. "That was it!" hope had come to her. Her darkest fears could be cast aside.

Ah the town at last. There were people everywhere she would normally avoid, but she started telling everyone who would listen what had happened and told them the stranger had told her everything she had ever done. She challenged everyone who would listen to believe that he was the Christ.

Refer to the quilt block instructions
Section 3: "The Community and the Cross"

It didn't take long for the word to spread and it appears that the whole town came out to the well to meet the Christ and invite him to stay with them.

The account closes with us hearing the townspeople saying: "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."

A town, adrift in the religious arguments of culture, had found nothing less than the Savior of the world. A lone woman, burdened with the weight of shame, was set free. She had found living water at her well water that had welled up to eternal life.

Refer to the quilt block instructions
Section 4: "The Christ and the Woman"

Putting it all together...

I chose this historical account from the 4th chapter of John in the Bible to illustrate that women are the same today as we were 2,000 years ago in Jesus' time. We have the same needs the need to be loved and forgiven of our mistakes.

Let me spend just a little time discussing this wonderful revelation that The Woman at the Well discovered and that I have discovered in my own life.

It's a simple plan, this plan of the "Living Water" that Christ offers to us. It starts with us understanding that God exists. We all feel the "pull" or "gentle tug" toward this belief. We can't help it. The Bible says "He has set eternity in our hearts", and "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". "I will be found by you," declares the Lord. (Ecclesiastes 3:11; Jeremiah 29:13 & 14)

We also have to realize we have a need to be forgiven of what the Bible calls our sinful nature. Yes, I know the words sound "*biblical*". But let's face it, we do wrong things at times. Some of us have done really wrong things, like the Woman at the Well and the many, many men in her life. She knew she was wrong but kept moving to another man to try and satisfy some unquenched thirst in her life. Little sins or big ones they are all treated as sin in God's eyes. The Bible says "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". (Romans 3:23)

But let me talk a second about a popular myth that's been around since mankind was created. The myth is buried deep inside every culture, including ours. It's the mistaken thought that if we "do good things" we can balance out the "bad things" in life. Don't believe it it's a lie. In fact, the Bible says "No one will be declared righteous in his sight (God's sight) by observing the law (God's laws)". (Romans 3:20)

Now that's downright scary! "How can I ever be right with God?" Well thanks be to God himself, He sent us his son, Jesus Christ, to take away our sins for us. That's precisely why he died on the cross, his sacrifice put the guilt of my sin on himself. (see Isaiah 53:5) And his resurrection from the dead proved he had the power to do the hardest thing in the world forgive me for my sin. How did I receive this *forgiveness* of sin? Here's the fantastic part - I asked him for it! The Bible talking about Jesus Christ says "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"; and "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name". (Acts 4:12; Acts 10:43)

Woman at the Well rejoice! Woman of the world rejoice! This is the greatest news in all of history! Right now, today you can ask him for this forgiveness. In fact you could pray to him something like this:

"God, I know I've done wrong in my life and I need your forgiveness. Please take away my sin and help me to live a life you want me to live. I believe you will do this for me through your son Jesus."

If you have prayed this prayer, either today or in the past, it is a time of great rejoicing! Jesus himself says in the Bible "For this is the will of my Father, that he who sees the son and believes in him shall have eternal life. And I myself will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:40) This is nothing less than the living water that The Woman at the Well found. This will quench our thirst forever.

Refer to the quilt block instructions
Section 5: "Block Assembly"

If you have just asked God for the forgiveness above, I want to urge you to do a couple things right away. First, find a church where you can share and grow in your faith with other believers. Also, begin to read the Bible. You will find that it is the living words from God himself. A very good place to start is in the book of John itself where we found the record of the Woman at the Well (John 4 verses 1-42 are included in this packet for you to see the exact words from scripture). Another good thing is to talk over your decision with the person that may have shared this quilt pattern with you. If you have a minute it would sure be great to hear from you too (my email and address are on the back of the pattern). I'd love to celebrate with you!

-Kathy Myrick

Refer to the instructions
Section 6: "Quilt Assembly"

To make the 126cm x 176cm (50 in x 70 in) quilt you will need to make 24 blocks. On all templates, be sure to include seam allowance (The outer dashed line around each template is the offset for the seam allowance. The solid line will be the actual stitching line).

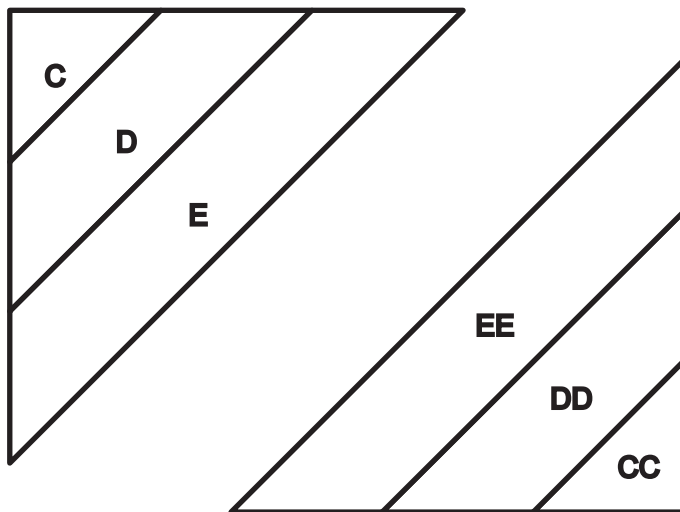
Section 1: "The Men"

Each of these shapes represent one of the men in the Woman at the Well's life. Five of them are former husbands and the 6th is the man she was living with.

To make one block:

Cut One each of templates C, CC, D, and DD, E, EE from 6 different fabrics.

Sew Piece units C, D, E together, and separately piece CC, DD, EE together.



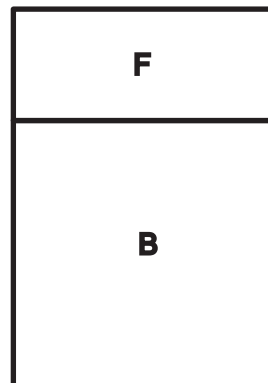
Section 2: "The Well and Cultural Questions"

Template B, the Well, is the focal point of the story. The irregular shapes of Templates F, G, GG, H represent the cultural confusion about spiritual things.

To make one block:

Cut One each of templates B, F, G, GG, H.

Sew Assemble this unit "Log Cabin" style. First piece together B and F. Then using your iron, press the seam toward F.

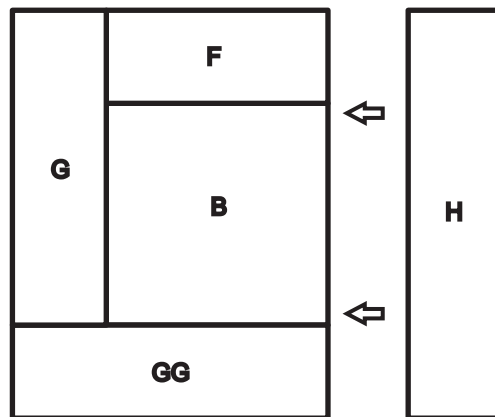
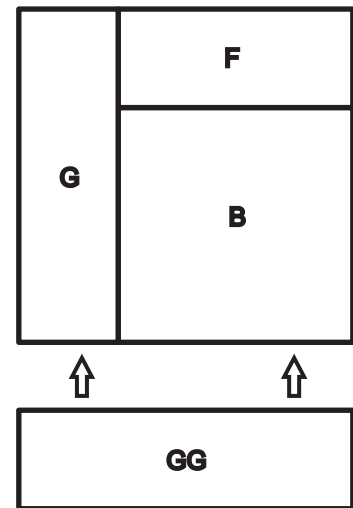


Section 2 continued:

Piece G onto the B/F unit. Press the seam toward G.

Piece GG onto "G/B" side. Press the seam toward GG.

Piece H onto "F/B/GG" side. Press the seam toward H.



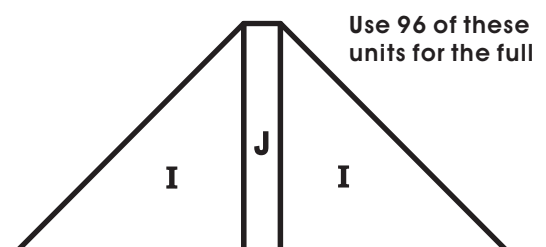
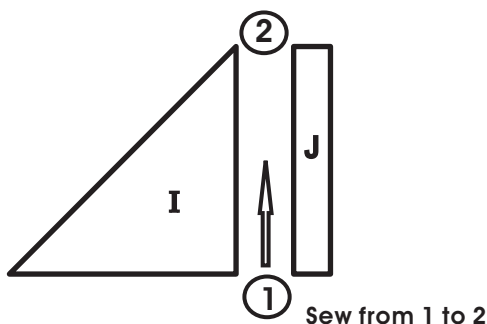
Section 3: "The Community and the Cross"

Choose a light background fabric for the triangles. These represent the woman's town which she hurried to tell that she had found the Christ. Choose a darker fabric for the rectangle "Cross" pieces. Note the Cross appear throughout the block and the quilt, a stumbling block for some but the power of forgiveness for others.

To make one block:

Cut (8) each of templates I and (4) each of template J.

Sew Piece (2) triangles I on either side of rectangle J. Note: If machine piecing, sew from corners 1 to corners 2.

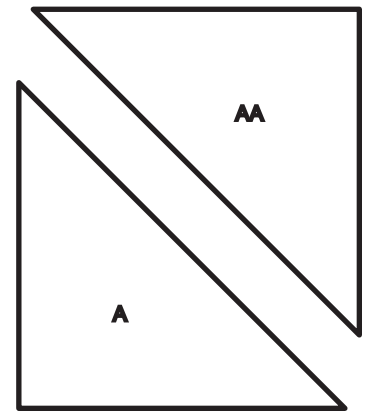


Section 4: "Christ and the Woman"

It all comes down to this, Christ the Savior of the World and the Woman represented by the two different fabric triangles.

To make one block:

Cut One each of templates A and AA.

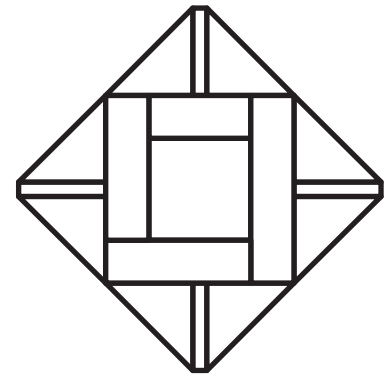


Section 5: Block Assembly

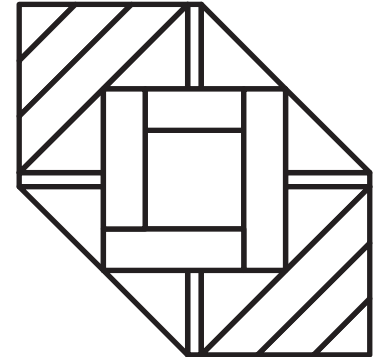
The exciting part has arrived! Let's put it together.

To assemble one block:

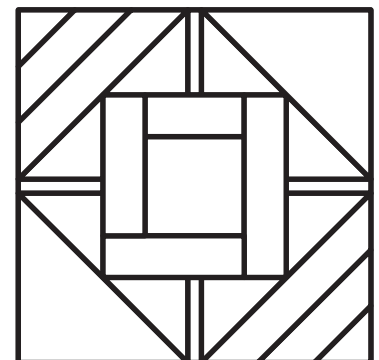
Sew a background triangle unit (from Section 3) onto each side of the "Log Cabin" center (from Section 2).



Similar to the picture of the block, sew a group of 3 men (from Section 1) onto two opposite sides.



Sew the remaining large triangles (Section 4) onto the remaining sides.



Note: For each block assembly, be sure and keep the identical layout. The blocks will be rotated as a whole in the final quilt assembly. You will need 24 blocks for the total quilt.

Section 6: Quilt Assembly

The beauty of the woman's new life will unfold as we put the quilt together.

To assemble the quilt:

First lay out all 24 blocks on a large surface in a 4x6 setting. Using the picture of the finished quilt as a guide, rotate the blocks until the overall pattern emerges.

Sew the blocks together as rows first (4 blocks across). Then sew the six rows together.

Cut the inner border strips to 3.3 cm (this includes the seam allowance (about 1-1/4 inches). This inner border strip is 2 cm wide in the quilt (about 3/4 inch) when finished. Sew strips end-to-end into one long strip. This will be just over 5m in length (about 16-1/2 feet). This technique helps stagger the seams around the quilt. Cut two pieces that are the width of your quilt and sew them onto the top and bottom edges of your quilt. Next, cut two pieces that are the length of your quilt. Sew these onto each side of your quilt.

Cut the outer border strips to 11.3 cm (this includes the seam allowance (about 4-1/2 inches). This outer border strip is 10 cm wide in the quilt (about 4 inches) when finished. Repeat the inner border technique above to make one long strip. This will be just over 5.2m in length (about 16-3/4 feet). Sew the outer border strips in the same manner as above for the inner border.

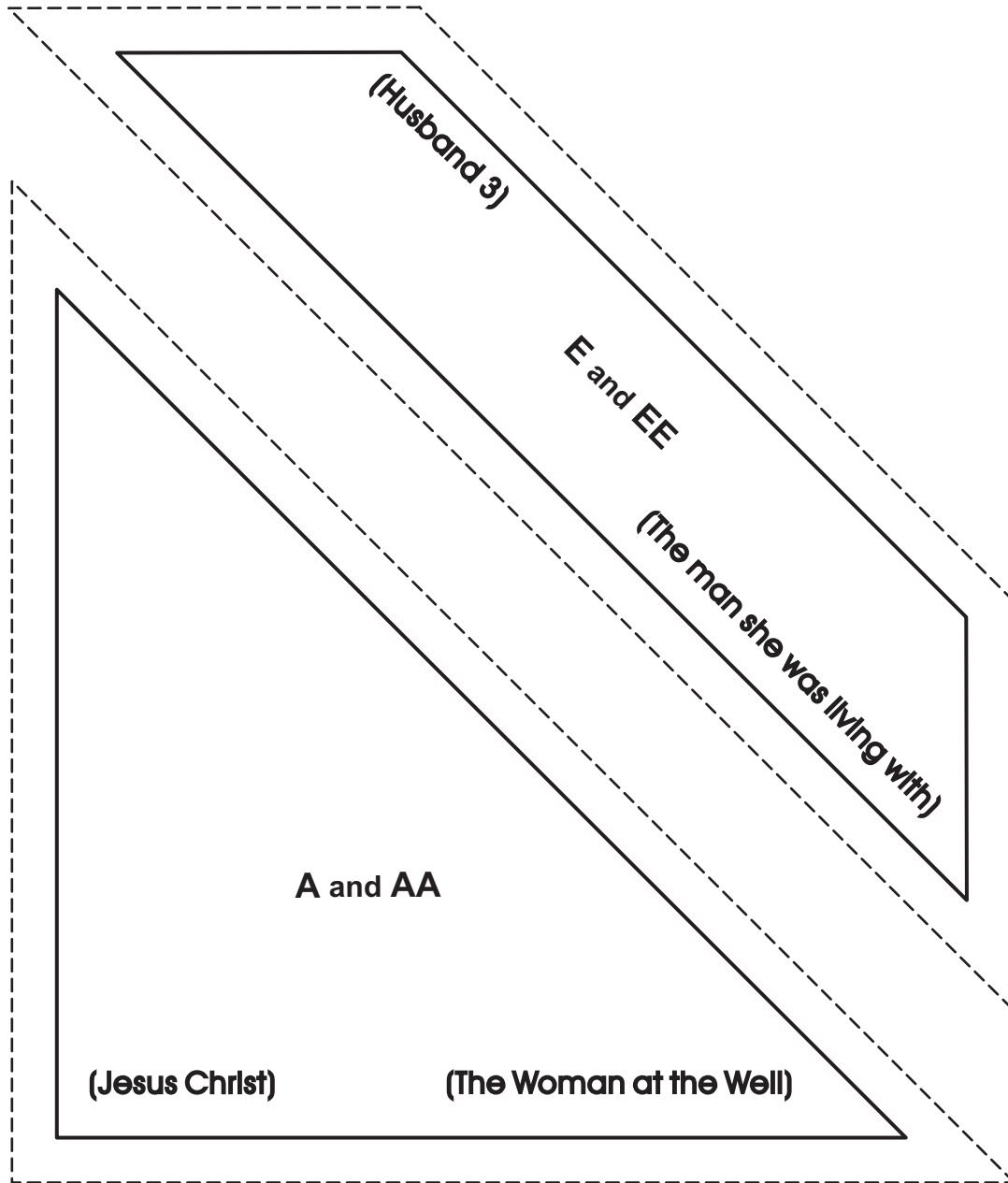
Quilt your layers (pieced top, batting and backing) in manner desired by hand or machine.

Cut the binding strips to 6 cm wide (this includes the allowance for the seam and double-fold (about 2-1/2 inches). This binding strip will be about 1 cm wide in the quilt (about 3/8 inches) when finished. Repeat the above technique to make one long strip. This will be just over 5.2m in length (about 16-3/4 feet). Sew the binding strips onto the quilt through all 3 layers in one long continuous seam around the quilt. Fold over to the back and hand-sew the fold down.

You are finished. Enjoy the work of your hands and the truth you have literally pieced together!

Woman at the Well Templates

Supply List



Fabric

| Fabric Width | Meters | Yards |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| | 106 cm | 42 inch |
| A | 2/5 | 1/2 |
| AA | 2/5 | 1/2 |
| B | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| C | 1/10 | 1/8 |
| D | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| E | 2/5 | 1/2 |
| CC | 1/10 | 1/8 |
| DD | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| EE | 2/5 | 1/2 |
| F | 1/10 | 1/8 |
| G | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| GG | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| H | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| I | 9/10 | 1 |
| J | 1/5 | 1/4 |
| Inner Border | 3/10 | 3/8 |
| Main Border | 4/5 | 3/4 |
| Binding | 2/5 | 1/2 |

Equipment

- Sewing Machine (unless Hand-pieced)
- Rotary Cutter
- Rotary Ruler
- Thread to go with your quilt colors
- Straight pins
- If Hand-piecing: Scissors, scotch tape
- Hand-sewing needles (Sharps 8 or 9)
- Marking pencils that show up on your fabric

Woman at the Well Templates

