Intro to "Speak the Truth" (Season 2, Episode 14), *Bewitched* (1965)

Bewitched was a highly successful TV show that ran for 8 seasons in the 1960's. The premise was this: A successful business man (ad executive), Darrin Stephens, gets married and moves to suburbia to raise a family with his wife, Samantha. A nice normal couple, wanting to live a nice normal life. The hitch is that Samantha is a witch, and with the twitch of her nose, can make miraculous things happen. However, she desires to live as a human, and live the relatively "normal" life as an American housewife. Her husband, Darrin, is a mild mannered, mortal man who does his best to love and cope with Samantha's eccentricities--but mostly the eccentricities of her quirky witch family who drops by whenever they please. His main problem is with his mother-in-law, Endora, who wishes her daughter had married a warlock--and because f this, is constantly playing tricks on Darrin--and never once pronounces his name correctly.

Samantha is played by Elizabeth Montgomery, and Darrin is played by Dick York. He is the "first Darrin". It is pop culture legend that there were 2 Darrins on Bewitched--and there has always been debate about "which Darrin is the best". Most people prefer Darrin #1, Dick York, and he will be in the spotlight for tonight's Encounter Culture. He played the part for 5 years and then disappeared from the role. With no explanation, Dick Sargent stepped into the role of Darrin. You can imagine the confusion and the rumors… Tonight we will dive into an episode of Bewitched called, "Speak the Truth", and then we will discuss what truth really means. Following our discussion, we will learn the truth about what happened to the first Darrin, Dick York. We will read some excerpts from his colorful autobiography and then discuss his life and transformation.

In the episode we will watch, called "Speak the Truth", Endora (the mother-in-law) forces the humans to tell the truth by using a "truth god" statue that forces the human to tell the truth if they are within 3 feet from it. Much to her dismay, it ends up doing more good than harm.

Guides for "Speak the Truth"

- ➔ Pay attention to your first impressions of the characters.
- ➔ Pay attention to your impressions of the actors playing the characters? Any judgements?
- ➔ Pay attention to the theme of truth…
  - ◆ How does the truth affect the people in the story?
  - ◆ What is human nature (as it pertains to telling the truth)?
  - ◆ How does the truth affect the relationships?
  - ◆ How do the people transform because of the truth?
- ➔ What strikes you as you watch, visually?
- ➔ What strikes you as you watch, in the dialogue?