

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 11: The God Who Saves

Unit 11 Big Question and Answer:

How Can We Be Saved?

It is God's Free Gift!

PFI NIV Songs 11, Tracks 3,4

Unit 11 Bible Verse: Romans 6:23, NIV 1984

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:

The Holy Spirit Changes Our Hearts So We Can Be Saved

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, each of us have been born with a spirit dead with sin. That means that on our own, none of us can know God or choose to live for Him, just like a dead person can't bring his body back to life.

But God can do what we cannot do. He can bring dead hearts to life, so that we can know Him and want to live for Him. He does this by sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. As we hear God's Word, the Holy Spirit can help us see our sins and help us want to turn away from them. He gives us faith in God. Faith to trust that Jesus died on the cross for sinners and rose from the dead in victory. He gives us a new heart that can know God and want to live for Him.

Jesus called this being "born again, born of God." He calls this being born again because this change in heart is so radical that God actual makes us into a new creation--a brand-new person on the inside! He calls this being born of God, because this change comes from God. And with it, He makes us a part of His family forever.

We can ask God's Holy Spirit to work in our hearts like this. God delights to answer this prayer. He loves for sinners to ask Him to change them and make them into His people.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Titus 3:4-7, NIV 1984

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Scorpion House.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Why was it called the Scorpion House? Who lived there?
2. What did God use who lived there to show and to tell others? What did God begin to do in these other people?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people obeying Jesus' command to spread the good news of salvation to the whole world. It takes place in the 1880's in China.

China is a huge country with big, roaring rivers, tall, majestic mountains, and lush, green valleys. At the time when this story takes place, most of the many millions of Chinese people knew nothing about Jesus but worshiped idols and spirits instead. And that's why the two main people of our story—C.T. Studd and Priscilla Stewart—chose to leave their comfortable homes and families in England and Ireland and traveled thousands of miles away to China. Someone needed to tell these people about Jesus!

In a tiny mission house, way up the mighty Yangtze River in the little city of Ta-Ku-Tang, a small Chinese man named Pastor Shi stood reading from an opened book to the English man and Irish woman before him.

"Do you Charles, take Scilla to be your wedded wife.. to have and to hold...for better or for worse...in sickness and in health....?" the pastor asked the man.

"I do!" responded the English man who looked like a giant compared with tiny Pastor Shi.

"Scilla, do you take Charles to be your wedded husband... to have and to hold... for better or for worse..in sickness and in health...?" he then asked the woman.

"I do!" eagerly replied the lively, blond-haired, blue-eyed young Irish woman.

"I now pronounce you man and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Studd," Pastor Shi announced.

"And now together," Charles and Scilla added, "we want to make another vow: a vow to work together for Jesus. We promise to never hinder each other from serving Jesus however He might call! More than anything else we want the Chinese people to hear about Jesus and to be saved. We want them to know God's change of heart by the

power of His Holy Spirit.”

As soon as the wedding ceremony was over, Charles, Scilla and their friend, Miss Burroughes, set off with only five dollars and some bedding to start a brand-new mission outreach station in Lungang-Fu. All over China, people needed to hear about Jesus, but perhaps nowhere more than in Lungang-Fu. It was in the far north of China where no missionary had ever gone before. The trip to Lungang-Fu was far from a relaxing honeymoon! The newlyweds had to cross rushing rivers, hike narrow, dangerous mountain ledges, and slog through mud up to their knees.

And as difficult as the trip to Lungang-Fu was, life in that faraway city was even more difficult! The people of Lungang-Fu weren't happy to see Scilla, Charles and Miss Burroughes and certainly not eager to hear their message about Jesus. No one would even give them a house to live in, except for the one they thought was haunted by evil spirits.

CT, Priscilla and Miss Burroughes gladly took the house. They weren't worried about any evil spirits. They knew that the Lord was the only true God and He was more powerful than any evil spirit. But even so, the house was in terrible shape. It was old and run-down. Its beds made of old, uneven bricks and had thin mattresses with only inch of padding in them. Worst of all, the house was infested with lots of deadly scorpions!

If the house was miserable to live in, life in the village were even worse for them! As soon as people saw the Studds or Miss Burroughes, they would throw glass and bricks at them and would curse them saying: “You are foreigner trouble-makers! You aren't our people. You call our gods, idols. You tell our people to turn from them to worship your God. All of our problems are your fault because you make our gods unhappy and bring their anger down upon us. Go home!”

But CT, Priscilla and Miss Burroughes wouldn't go home. “We will stay right here in Lungang- Fu. These people have hard hearts full of sin, but the Holy Spirit can change them. We will pray for these people. And, perhaps if we keep on loving them, invite them into our house and let them see how God has worked in us, then they will begin to listen to our message.

And that is what they did. God blessed their prayers and their work. “There is something different about you and your God that is more than just that you are not Chinese.

What is it?” some Chinese people began to ask.

“Come to our house and we will tell you,” they said.

So the Studds started holding little meetings for anyone interested. “Our God is the one true God who loved the sinful people of the world so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to die for the sins of all who believe in Him,” they explained to the Chinese. “We are different because His Holy Spirit came to work in our hearts, giving us faith to believe in Jesus, cleansing our hearts of sin and filling them with His Holy Spirit so that we might know and love God. You can know this one true God, too. He will cleanse your heart and fill you with His Spirit, too.”

After one of these meetings, a Chinese man came up to CT and said, “I'm a murderer, an adulterer and drug addict. I've broken all the laws of my village, over and over again. Your God can't do anything to change me. I'm too bad!”

“You're wrong!” the Studds told the man. “There is no one who has sinned too much to be forgiven by Jesus. There is no heart too full of sin that the Holy Spirit can't cleanse it and make it new. You, too, can be one of His people, if you will turn away from your sin and trust in Jesus as your Savior,” they promised him.

The man heard these wonderful words of hope and believed. The Holy Spirit changed his heart and he became one of God's people. He was a changed man!

“What good news this is! It is as you said!” the man exclaimed. “I am a new person. I must go at once back to my village where I did all those evil things and tell them about Jesus and the work of Holy Spirit in my heart.” And so he did.

Crowds came to hear what he had to say. “You know what an awful man I have been. You know what terrible things I've done. I thought there could never be any change for me. But I'm here to tell you about the true God who offers salvation through His Son Jesus. He changed my heart by His Holy Spirit. I can't believe in Him and now he has made me like a new person.”

The people listened to the man and said, “This is no foreign trouble-maker speaking! We know this man and all the wicked things he used to do. He is truly a changed man. We must know more!” they exclaimed.

But the village leaders didn't want the people to know more. They arrested the man and beat him with a bamboo cane 2000 times and left him for dead. “That will stop the talk about this foreign god!” they thought.

But it did not! The man hadn't died and as soon as he could walk again, he went back to the village and started telling them about Jesus again: "Come and let me tell you about the true God's salvation through Jesus. Let me tell you about the change of heart that He gives through the Holy Spirit," he told them again.

The village leaders were furious! They grabbed the man again and this time threw him in jail. But even in jail, the man found a way to shout the good news of Jesus through the cracks in the prison walls to the crowds that gathered outside his cell.

"There is no stopping this man. He causes problems even when we put him in jail. We might as well let him go," the village leaders decided and released the man. Soon many Chinese people became Christians. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they heard this man's message and saw his changed life.

CT, Scilla and Miss Burroughes were overjoyed at how God had heard their prayers and answered them. They praised God for melting the stony, hard hearts of the Chinese people by His Holy Spirit and bringing them to faith in Jesus.

In a few years, bad health forced CT and Scilla to leave China completely and go back home to England. They were sad to go, but they knew that thanks to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, they were leaving behind a little church of believers with such strong faith that no persecution could stop them.

Our Bible Truth is:
The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God
Our Bible Verse is Titus 3:4-7:

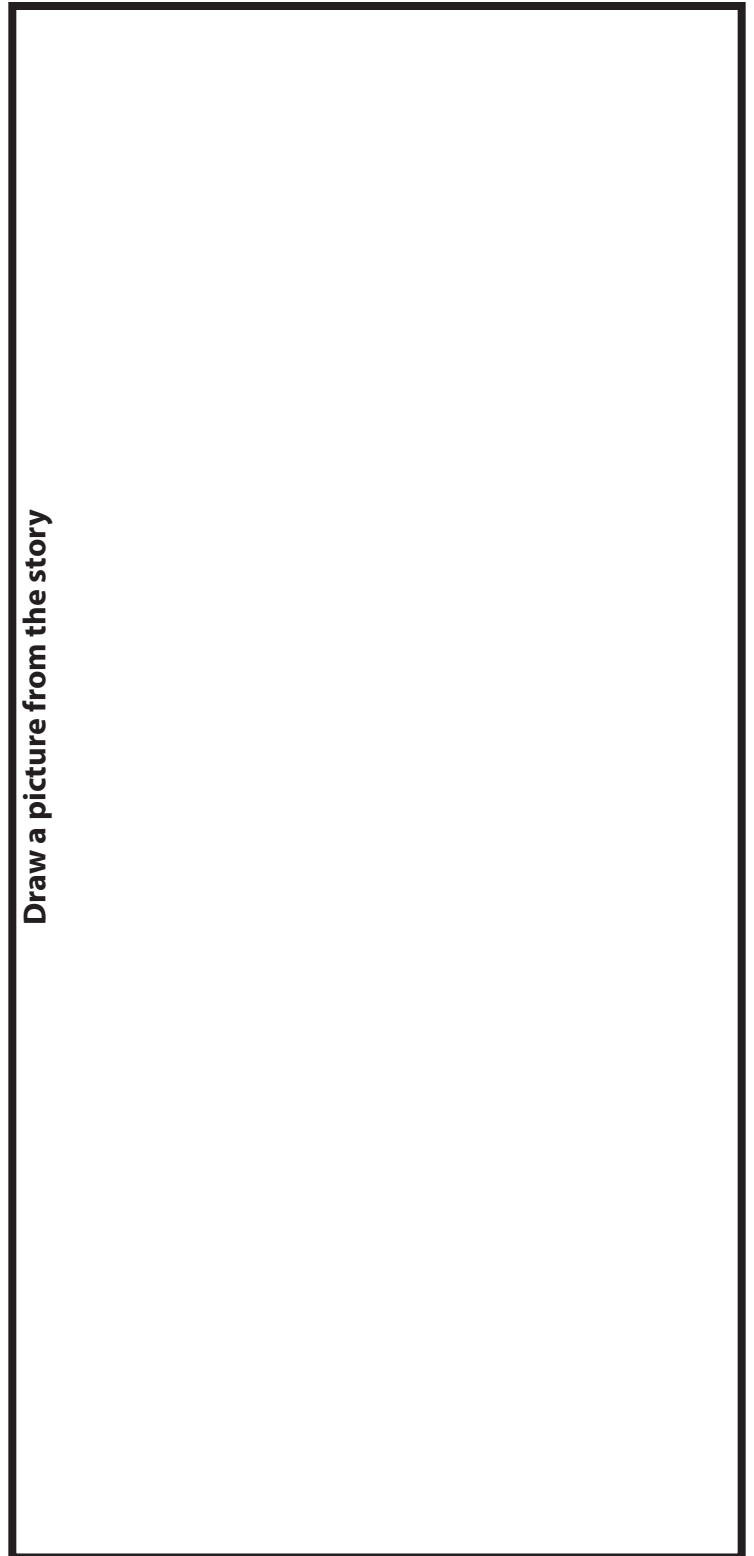
"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

How wonderful was the work the Lord did in the Chinese people through the Studds! Yet sadly, still today, many today in China still have not heard how they can be saved from their sins through Jesus.

Let's pray that God would send out more people to tell the Chinese people about salvation through Jesus. Let's pray that as they hear, that God's Holy Spirit would work

in their hearts and bring many Chinese to know Him. Let's pray that God would give courage to the Chinese Christians to keep on sharing about Jesus, even though they still might be arrested or suffer for it.

And let's ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to maybe even send us to the Chinese people to tell them about Jesus, one day!



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: As we hear God’s Word, the Holy Spirit can help us see our sins and help us want to turn away from them. Answer: True! God delights to do this. Let’s ask Him to work like this in us today!</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Why was it called the Scorpion House? Who lived there? Answer: It was infested with scorpions. C.T. Studd, his wife ‘Scilla, and Miss Burroughes. b. What did God use who lived there to show and to tell others? What did God begin to do in these other people? Answer: The difference the Holy Spirit makes when He lives in our heart. As the Chinese saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the Studds and Miss Burroughes, they came to their house to hear more about God’ Word and salvation through Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit began to work in the house of the Chinese and bring them to faith in Jesus, too.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Titus 3:4-7 “But when the kindness and ___ of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things ___ had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the ___, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his ___, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” Answers: love; we; Holy Spirit; grace.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the Great Builder of the Church, Your people, from every tribe and nation, even tiny tribes in faraway places like Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we are not like the people of the neighboring tribe who were so hungry to worship You and hear Your Word that they built a church building, even before someone came to tell them. Many times we are lazy and do not care to think about You or read Your Word, the Bible.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for the great work You chose to do through C.T. Studd. Thank You for the many other missionaries who have gone out after seeing his example.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know and love You. Keep strengthening Your people to go out and tell all the peoples of the world about Jesus that they might be saved.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>Amazing Grace <i>PFI NIV Songs 11, Tracks 12,13</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind but now I see.</p> <p>Verse 2 ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Words: John Newton Music: Virginia Harmony: arr. Edwin O. Excell</p> <p>We would all be lost in our sins and rebellion forever, if it were not for God sending His Son Jesus. Jesus kept God’s laws perfectly and offered up Himself as the perfect sacrifice needed for sin. Then He gives to all who repent of their sins and trust in Him the amazingly gracious gift of salvation. He first gives them “sight” to make them aware of their sinfulness and to fear His judgment, then as they turn to Him, He relieves their fears by taking away their guilt the hour they believe.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>He Saved Us <i>PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 14</i></p> <p>He saved us, he saved us, Through the washing of re-birth And renewal by the Spirit. He saved us, he saved us, Through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit whom he poured out, On us generously, Through Jesus Christ our Lord, The Holy Spirit whom he poured out, On us through Jesus Christ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Words adapted from Titus 3:4-7 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>We could never please God with our own good works. Only through Jesus’ perfect life offered up in the place of sinners can we be saved. And what a salvation it is! God, Himself, sends His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His people. He gives them the gift of faith. He helps them turn away from their sins. He makes them clean of their sins and all new on the inside. This is how we become God’s people--His heirs, that is, His children who will receive eternal life with Him forever.</p>