

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them, is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Drunken Soldier.

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

1. Who was the Drunken Soldier? What problems did his drunkenness cause?
2. What changed him? How did this show?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in New South Wales, Australia around 1800.

When you think of Australia perhaps you think of strange animals such as kangaroos, koala bears and platypus, and you would be right. But if you were to ask English people 200 years ago what they thought of when they thought of Australia, they would have said, "Criminals!"

Why criminals? Because some time after Australia was claimed by English explorers sailing the South Seas, the English government got the idea to ship out most all of the English criminals from the crowded prisons in England and leave them far away on the other side of the world in Australia. And that's just what they did. They sent them to Australia to live together in a settlement. They got to work during the day and didn't even have to be in a prison cell at night, but they could never return home to England!

As you might guess, a land filled with criminals wasn't a very law-abiding place.. People kept on doing the kinds of things they had been put in prison for back in England. Not only that, but there wasn't the right kind of metal to make Australian money, so they made rum (a kind of very strong alcohol) to be their money. Many people wound up just getting drunk on their rum "money," especially the soldiers who guarded it.

Where could change come for a place filled with people like this? Only through the good news of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. Yet few of the criminals had heard this good news and few Christians were brave enough to move there to tell them.

This story is about a man named John Lees. John was a soldier in the New South Wales Corp. He was given the job of guarding the rum money, but all too soon he was drinking it.

After three years, John quit the army and married Mary, one of the lady criminals who had been sent to Australia. John bought some land in the unexplored forests of

Castlereagh for Mary and him to live on. He hoped they could clear it of trees and turn it into a nice farm.

At first life together were good for John and his wife. John worked hard on the farm while Mary raised their ten children. But with each passing year, John started to drink more and more, until at last he couldn't stop. Rum cost money and the Lees didn't have much, so John began to take what few valuable things they had and sell them for money to buy rum.

Soon everything was gone, except for a pig fattened and ready for market. Mary didn't know what to do! How could she and the children live? What would John do next after he had sold that pig? She didn't know. Was there nothing that could change John's life?

But there WAS something—or rather Someone—who could change John Lees. God, by His powerful Holy Spirit, could change John Lees into someone like Jesus, with a heart of love for God and a life lived to please Him. And that's just what God planned to do.

One night while John was outside getting a log of wood for the fire, a deadly snake leapt out and bit him on the wrist. John thought for sure that he would die from the bite.

"God, help me! I have been a terrible man and I know I deserve to die, but please spare me!" John prayed. "If You do, I will live for You the rest of my life!"

The Lord heard John's prayer and John didn't die from the snake bite. And John kept his promise to God. He turned away from his drinking and his sinful way of life and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. The Holy Spirit worked in John's heart, cleansing it of sin and growing his love for God and desire to please Him with his whole life.

When Mary and the children saw the changes in John, they became Christians, too. Every night they would sit together and read the Bible and pray. The more they read and prayed the hungrier they became to learn about God. "What we need is a teacher to come and teach us the Bible," John said.

"But we are way out here in the middle of the wilderness! What would ever bring a teacher way out?!" Mary despaired.

"I don't know, but God does. Let's pray every night that God will send us a missionary preacher to come right here to Castlereagh so we can know more about Him." The Holy Spirit had been working such powerful changes in John Lees, giving him faith like Jesus to ask for seemingly

impossible things.

So every night they prayed and every day they hoped. Three years passed and still no missionary came. Yet John kept on praying.

One night they gathered as usual around the table for evening devotions. John began their time with prayer. "Lord, we praise You for Your goodness to us. Thank you for our crops, our family and most of all for Jesus. Thank you for the way You work changes in our hearts. Thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Lord, we ask that You help us understand it tonight as we read it and we ask that one day You would send us a missionary preacher to come here and teach us more. Amen."

Suddenly, there was a crack of a whip at the door. Who could it be at this hour of the night? Few people wandered out in these wild parts after dark. In a country of criminals, you never know what a stranger might plan to do.

"Is there anyone here who would receive a tired missionary?" the stranger asked. The Lees' could not believe their ears! The door flung open and there before them, too tired to even get down from his horse, was the answer to their three long years of prayers—a man named Samuel Leigh. One of John Lees' boys ran out to Samuel Leigh. "Sir, my father would be honored to help you," he said. He led the missionary into the house and invited him to join them at dinner. He was delighted to have a home-cooked meal and even more delighted to see the family's open Bible.

"Sir, we've been praying for three long years that the Lord would send us a missionary preacher to teach us more about Him," John Lees said. "Perhaps you would be willing to start tonight? The Bible passage we are studying is Isaiah 35. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

What a fitting verse! That very night the Lord had brought them a man who could teach them more about Jesus to their "wilderness" and "solitary place," of Castlereagh so that by the Holy Spirit might use what they learned to powerfully work to make them more like Jesus—with hearts and lives blossoming with love and good works pleasing to God, every bit as beautiful as roses bursting into bloom.

Samuel Leigh stayed with the Lees for quite a while. Together they built a little chapel on the edge of Lees' farm

so that not just the Lees but everyone from all over Castlereagh could hear God's Word. And as they did, the Holy Spirit worked in hearts of many, giving them faith in Jesus as their Savior and changing their lives to look more and more like Jesus.

And what happened to John Lees? The Holy Spirit continued His work in his heart. He became one of the most loved men in all of Castlereagh; and, became known far and wide for his love and good works.

Who could transform a sinful man like John Lees from a drunk who didn't take care of his family to someone who loved God so much that he would pray three years that God would send them a missionary? Only the Holy Spirit could do such a wonderful, powerful work!

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus

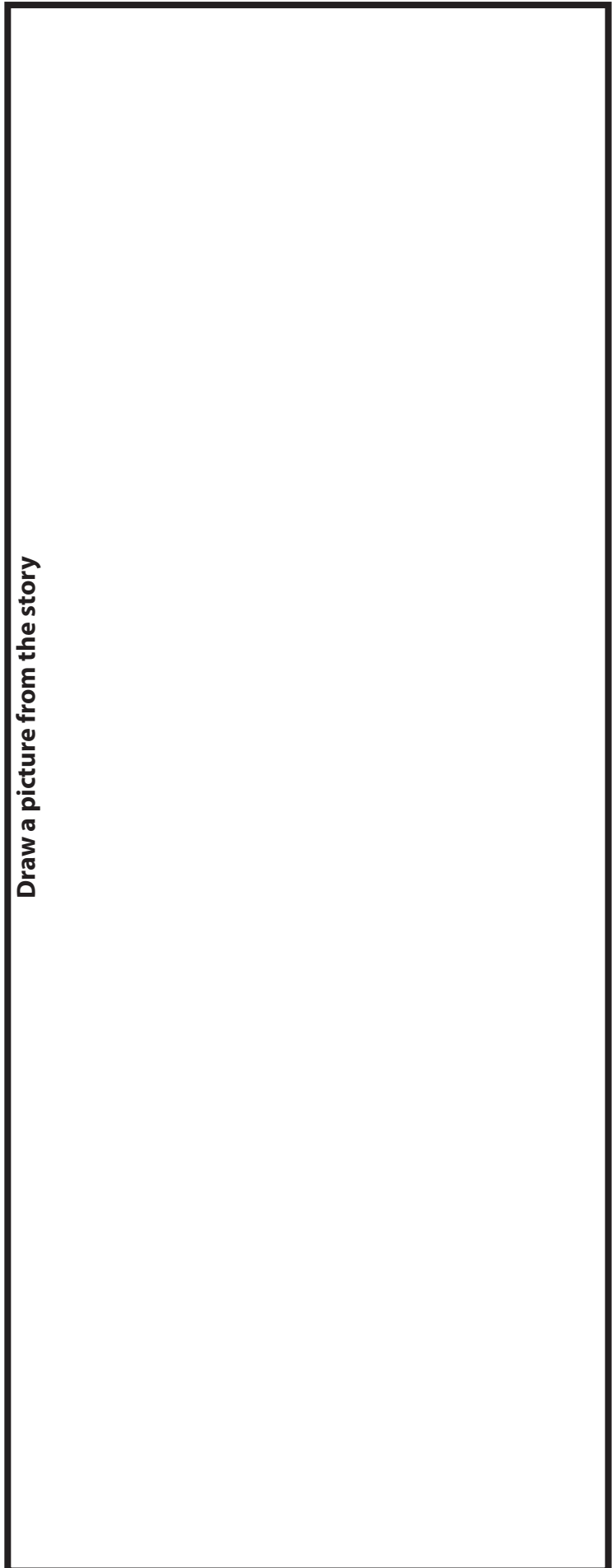
Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Maybe you think you are nothing like John Lees at all. But there are at least two ways that we are ALL just like him: we are all sinners whose only hope is Jesus. We need to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And, we need God to send His Holy Spirit to make us like Jesus: with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him.

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His people. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts to believe and to grow in Him, so that we might love and live for Him more each day.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The Holy Spirit lives inside God’s people, but He doesn’t do much. Answer: False! The Holy Spirit is powerfully at work inside of God’s people, changing them, helping them to live like Jesus did, in how they think, speak and act. He helps them leave behind their old, sinful ways of living.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Drunken Soldier? What problems did his drunkenness cause? Answer: John Lees. He spent his family’s money on drink instead of spending it on food and other things they needed.</p> <p>b. What changed him? How did this change show? Answer: John became a Christian. The Holy Spirit came to live in his heart. John read God’s Word and prayed. The Holy Spirit used these things to change him. He left behind his drink. He was a good and godly father and husband. He worked hard to tell others about Jesus.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the ___ of the Lord, are being ___ into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the ___.” Answers: glory; transformed; Spirit.</p>	<p>The Church’s One Foundation <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 7</i></p> <p>Verse 1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation, By Spirit and the Word: From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride, With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.</p> <p>Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley</p> <p>Church is the Bible word for all of God’s people. Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God’s people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God’s people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God’s Word. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the Changer of sinful people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we, like John Lees, are sinners. We all need to confess our sins to You and ask Your forgiveness! We need a Savior! We need You to change us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for saving and changing all who come to You, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. No one is too bad for You to save them! There is no one You cannot change.</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 into our hearts and change us, just like You changed John Lees.</p>	<p>We All with Unveiled Face <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 8</i></p> <p>We all with unveiled face, Beholding the glory of the Lord, Are being transformed, Into the same image, From one degree of glory to another, For this comes from the Lord, The Lord, who is the Spirit. For this comes from the Lord, The Lord, who is the Spirit. The Lord, who is the Spirit. Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.</p>