

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 NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 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 NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 14:
God's People Delight in God's Glory**

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 14 Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

CASE STORY

by Connie Dever key source: Grace B. Cutts for "Weak Thing in Moni Land"

Our story is called:

The Case of the Bent-Bodied Boy.

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

1. Who was the Bent-Bodied Boy? How did people treat him?
2. How did he use his bent-body to bring glory to God?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the early 1940's and 50's, starting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"Brring! Brring!" sounded the school bell. The children what up excitedly. It was recess--everyone's favorite time of day! Everyone, that is, but Bill. With the help of his cane, Bill rose slowly to his feet and limped out of the classroom.

"Hey, you, crooked boy!" Some boys yelled at him when they saw him. "Go some place else! We don't want you near us!" So Bill turned and went another direction. Soon another group of children were teasing him, making fun of his misshapen head and eye. And so it went, thirty minutes of torture, until the bell rang again and classes started again.

Even the teachers showed him little sympathy. On the day of the school parade, all the other children dressed up and marched in front of their parents, but the teachers wouldn't let Bill join in. "We can't let Bill be in the parade. He won't be able to keep up with the others and his limping will ruin how are parade looks," they told each other.

"Why doesn't anyone understand?" wondered Bill. "Do they think I chose to be born with a crooked spine, a deformed head, and a bad eye? I would love to be like everybody else. What can be done with a good-for-nothing body like mine? Nothing!" Bill sadly thought.

While Bill was still in school, World War II started. Like most young men his age, Bill wanted to sign up to fight. All they had to do was fill in paperwork and pass the doctor's exam. The doctor took just one look at Bill and said, "There's no way I can pass you, son. I'm sorry, but there's nothing that someone like you can do."

Once more Bill felt useless. And the more he thought, the sadder he became. He got so sad that he didn't want to live anymore. Often he would just wander the streets, lonely and hopeless. As he walked, Bill started to think

about God. "God, if you are there, I want to know You," he prayed.

Soon God answered Bill's prayer. One Saturday, as he was walking with his niece, he came to a church with the words, "Jesus saves" printed in large letters on it. Has he read those words, Bill decided, "I'm going to go to church there tomorrow."

The next day Bill went to church, unsure of what he was fine. "What will these people think when see me? Will they reject me like everyone else?" he wondered.

But Bill had nothing to worry about. everyone was so friendly. They didn't care what his body looked like. Bill watched how they loved and cared for each other, too. He listened to the message of the words they sang in their songs and the pastor spoke from the Bible. For the first time in his life, Bill heard the good news of Jesus. Bill could see that there was something very different about these people. What was it that made them so different? They were Christians! They lived to glorify God with their whole lives and it showed. As Bill watched and listened, Holy Spirit began to work in his heart. He repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.

Bill became a different person! Yes, he still had a crooked back, a deformed head, and a bad eye, but the Holy Spirit now lived in his heart. He gave Bill joy and hope. "God, all my life I've been fighting against this body of mine," he prayed. "It isn't much, but it's yours to use for your good purposes. God, please glorify your self through my body," Bill asked.

God answered Bill's prayer and in a most remarkable way. As Bill grew in his faith, he felt sure God was calling him to be a missionary overseas. With the help of his church, he filled out the paperwork and sent it in. Next would come the medical exam. Missionaries often lived in very hard conditions and the mission board needed to make sure that its missionaries could bear up under them.

It only took one look at Bill's medical exam for the mission board to see how very unfit he was to be one of their missionaries. "We're sorry, but with your body we can't send you overseas. The Lord must have plans for you here in the United States," the mission board wrote him.

But Bill wasn't convinced! "Lord, I am sure that You are calling me to go overseas to tell others about Jesus," Bill prayed. "I think this is how you plan to glorify Yourself through my body. Please, change the hearts of the people

on the mission board, if this is Your will."

Bill had been right. It was God's will. The mission board finally accepted his application and sent him to the island of Irian Jaya, on the other side of the world. He would go there to share the gospel with the Moni, a little group of people who had never heard about Jesus before.

How different Irian Jaya was from Philadelphia! No electricity! No running water! Mountain upon mountain of thick, jungly undergrowth. Giant wasps, huge beetles, spiders the size of crabs, cockroaches everywhere. Huts of mud, grass and sticks for homes. No roads, only trails with mud so deep that sometimes it was up to your waist. Often there were not even bridges to cross the rushing mountain rivers. Then there were the Moni people, themselves. They were murderers, haters, fierce warriors. They worshiped evil spirits who they believed wanted them to kill people.

Was this really the place to send a man with a crooked back, a deformed head and a bad eye? A man who could hardly walk on sidewalks with a cane? Yes, it was! Bill had prayed for God to glorify Himself through his body; and that is just what God did. Bill talked and talked with the Moni people. He learned their language and wrote down the Bible for them.

The Monis listened to the message Bill and the other missionaries sang in their songs and spoke from the Bible. For the first time in their lives they heard the good news of Jesus. They heard of the great love of Great God, the Chief of the Skies, who sent His Son, Jesus to live a perfect life and die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who will ever turn and believe in Him as their Savior. They heard how all who do believe in Jesus are not just forgiven of their sins, but are filled with the Holy Spirit so that they will have power to live out the wonderful special plan that God has for them. He planned to use each of them to glorify Him with their lives. As God worked in their hearts, they began to know that these were not just words, they were the truth. Why else would a man with such a broken body endure such hardship? They had seen it in Bill and the other missionaries who reflected God's glory in their love for God, for each other and even for them. Bit by bit, God worked in their hearts and gave them a hunger to know and follow God, too.

"Hazi ndona! Hazi ndona! We are hungry for eternal life," they chanted and danced in front of the missionaries' huts. "Teach us a Bible story! Tell it again. Listen to see if I have

understood it correctly," the Moni would plead. They would stop Bill as he limped up difficult trails, sometimes in mud up to his waist! They would wake him up in the middle of the night. They would tug at his sleeves while he was working. They came by the hundreds. They came from many miles away, from different tribes. They always said the same thing, "We are hungry—hungry for God." The Lord had indeed glorified Himself through that man with the crooked back, deformed head and bad eye. Hundreds and hundreds of Moni looked at him and saw the glory of the great God he believed in, and they believed, too.

For forty years, Bill Cutts, who had once been thought too fragile to work overseas, lived among the Moni people. He slogged his way through muddy trails, crossed dangling vine bridges across deep mountain crevasses, hiked high mountains, built air strips and houses, and taught them about Jesus—limping all the way. How did he do this? By the strength God gave him. Why did he do this? Because more than anything else, Bill believed this was what God wanted him to do and delighted to bring glory to Him by doing it.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Delight in God's Glory

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

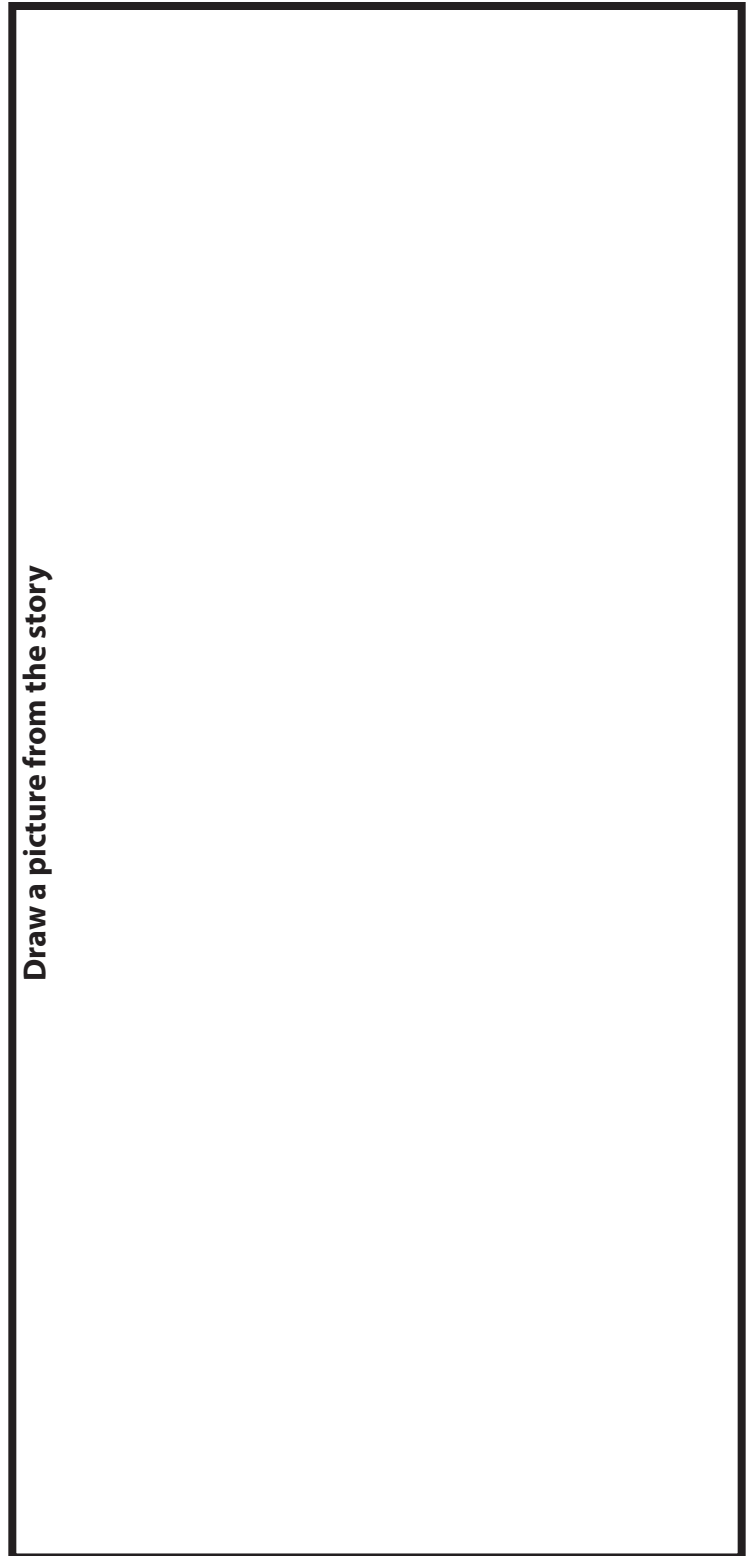
"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

"God, be glorified in my body!" Bill Cutts prayed every day. Who would have guessed that the Lord could use Bill Cutts' bent body to glorify Himself? God did; because, of course, it was always His plan to do so. And how much greater the glory God received because of how very weak and unlikely Bill Cutts' body was!

What about you and me? What weaknesses do we have? What things about us seem unlikely to bring God glory? Whatever they are, those are the very things God may have in mind to use to bring Him the greatest glory in our lives! And what is the first step in knowing God and bringing Him glory? It is doing just exactly what Bill Cutts did: turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our

Savior! If we do, He will forgive us our sins and make us His special people. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit and use us to bring glory to Him! What an honor!

Let's praise God for planning even to use our weaknesses to bring Him glory. Let's ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, instead of being sad about our weaknesses, let's ask God to help us delight in glorifying Him with them, just as Bill Cutts did.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's people tell others about God so they will know how great He is and want to glorify Him, too.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Bent-bodied Boy? How did people treat him?

Answer: Bill Cutts. Most people made fun of him and refused to let him do things others were allowed to do.

b. How did God use this bent-body to bring glory to Himself?

Answer: The Moni people were amazed that someone with such difficulty walking would love them enough to travel through mountains and jungles just to tell them about Jesus. Bill's love and sacrifice for them helped them to understand and believe God's love and sacrifice for sinful people like themselves.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 66: 1-3,5,9,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the ___ of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your ___!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for ___."

Answers: glory; deeds; me.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

To God Be the Glory

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 44,45

Verse 1

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;
 So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
 Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
 And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 Let the earth hear His voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 Let the people rejoice!
 O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son,
 And give Him the glory,
 Great things He hath done.

Verse 3

Great things He hath taught us,
 great things He hath done;
 And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son,
 But purer, and higher, and greater will be
 Our wonder, our vict'ry, when Jesus we see.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane

We give glory to God for giving us His Son to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You that Maker of even the hardest things in Your people's lives for their good and Your glory.

C God, we confess that many times we just feel sorry for ourselves because of our weaknesses and think we are useless instead of asking You to use them to bring even greater glory to Yourself.

T God, we thank You for never being limited by our weaknesses and even making them even greater shows of Your glory.

S We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Use all our weaknesses--as well as any strengths--for our good and His glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Shout with Joy to God

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 54

Shout! Shout! Shout with joy!
 Shout with joy to God all the earth!
 Sing! Sing! Sing the glory!
 Sing the glory of His name!
 Say! Say! Say to God!
 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds."
 Come, Come, Come and see,
 Come and see what God has done!
 Let me tell you what He has done for me!
 Psalm Sixty-six, one through three, five, nine, sixteen.

*Words: adapted from Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16
 Music: Constance Dever ©2011*

God's people delight in God's glory. He has been so good to them! He has given His Son to save them from their sins. He has taken care of every other need they have ever had. He has filled them with His Holy Spirit and they have fellowship with Him in their heart. They have never lacked any good thing and they never will their whole life. They want to praise the LORD all the time. They want others to join them in magnifying His name (praising Him) and in knowing Him, themselves. To be one of God's people is the best blessing anyone can ever have.