

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, ESV

Bible Verse: "O LORD...there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath."

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 6,7

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:

The LORD Is Faithful

Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do.

Many times people are not faithful to the promises they make to each other or to God. They do not do what they promised to do. But even though people are often unfaithful, God is always, completely faithful. He always keeps His promises, no matter what.

The Bible is full of God's many promises. He promises to forgive the sins of all turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to take care of them, to help them, and to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. He promises to work in their hearts so that they will love God and live for Him more and more. Best of all, God promises to bring these, His dearly-loved people, to live with Him in heaven to enjoy Him forever.

Because God is always completely faithful, His people can fully trust Him and all the promises He makes to them. Thinking about these promises gives them peace and joy for every day of their lives—no matter what happens.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 86:15, ESV

"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

CASE STORY

Numbers 13:28-14:10; Joshua 1-4

Our story is called:

The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer.

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

1. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy?
2. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Kadesh Barnea was crammed with thousands of men, women, children, and their sheep and goats! These were the Israelites whom the LORD had freed from slavery in Egypt by amazing miracles, then brought them safely across the Sinai Desert to this oasis.

The people enjoyed the oasis' shady, date palm trees and the cool water of the underground streams, but they were restless for more. At the LORD's command, Moses had sent out twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to sneak into the Promised Land that lay not far to the north. The men were to check it out and bring back news of what they found. The people were eager to hear more about this "land flowing with milk and honey," as the LORD called it. How they longed to go there and get out of that hot, dry wilderness for good!

After six, long weeks, the spies returned with quite a report. "The land grows rich crops," the spies told. "But it's also filled with big, powerful people who live in big cities with high, strong walls."

The people didn't like the sound of this at all! How could they ever defeat enemies like this! They grumbled against Moses and Aaron. They even talked of getting rid of them and choosing new leaders to take them back to Egypt!

All the spies but two agreed with the people. Joshua and Caleb had faith in God. "Don't say these terrible things! Trust the LORD! He will be faithful to give us the promised land. He can easily defeat these enemies!" they urged. But the people refused to trust. They even thought about stoning Joshua and Caleb!

The LORD would not allow this. Suddenly the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tabernacle before all the Israelites. "How long will these people refuse to trust in Me, in spite of all the miracles I've done! Because of their unending grumbles against Me, they will not get to enjoy

the Promised Land. For forty years, they will wander out here in the wilderness until they have all died. Only Joshua and Caleb will survive. Their children, will be the ones I lead into the Promised Land," the LORD proclaimed. "These people will not enter in."

Oh, how the Israelites hated to hear this! They knew how faithful the LORD had been to them. "We have sinned," they said. "We will follow the LORD into the promised land now," they told Moses. But it's was too late. There would be no Promised Land for them.

Forty years passed. The Israelites spent it never more than a few days' walk from the Promised Land, but they never were allowed to enter it. All those thousands of adults grew old and died out in the wilderness. Finally Aaron and Moses died, too. Caleb and Joshua were the only old men left among all the young Israelites.

The LORD chose Joshua to be the Israelites' new leader. "Joshua, get the people ready. It's time to lead them into the Promised Land," the LORD told him. "I will give it all to you and no one will be able to stand up against you. Be strong and courageous. Don't be terrified. Don't be discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, will be with you wherever you go," the LORD promised. Joshua took the LORD at His word. He knew He would be faithful.

"Tell the people to get their supplies ready. Three days from now we will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD is giving us," Joshua ordered the other leaders.

As the people prepared, Joshua sent two spies ahead of them into the Promised Land. They snuck into Jericho and returned to Joshua with their report. "The LORD has surely given us the land! All the people have heard of His great deeds and are afraid," they told him.

What great news! The LORD indeed was with them! It was time to cross the Jordan River and step foot on the promised land at last.

On the banks of the Jordan River the people camped one last night. "Prepare your hearts before the LORD for tomorrow He will do amazing things among you," Joshua told them. "The priests will carry the Ark of the Covenant ahead of you. When they step foot in the waters of the river, The LORD will hold back the waters for you to cross on dry land, just like He did long ago when you crossed the Red Sea. The LORD will do this to show you that He is the living God and He is among you. You can count on Him to

drive out the peoples before you." Joshua told them.

What an amazing promise! The Jordan was a swirling mass of rushing water that time of year.. It was over 10 feet deep and 300 feet wide! It could sweep the priests and the Ark downstream, never to be seen again. Would the Israelites trust in the LORD's faithfulness or would they doubt Him again?

This time, they chose to trust Him! The priests picked up the Ark of the Covenant and headed straight down to the banks of the Jordan. As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. As the priests stood in the Middle of the dry river bed, the people crossed over into the Promised Land--forty thousand armed men and all their families!

When everyone had crossed, the LORD told Joshua, "Choose twelve men, one from each of the twelve tribes, to pick up twelve stones from where the priests are standing in the Jordan River and carry these with you into the Promised Land, then have the priests and the Ark come up out of the Jordan River, too."

Joshua and the people watched as the twelve men picked up and carried huge stones on their shoulders from the river bed and up the bank. The priests and the Ark followed behind them. As soon as everyone was out, the waters of the Jordan River whooshed back in place.

At Gilgal, Joshua took the twelve stones and set them up as a monument. "These stones will be a reminder of the LORD's faithfulness to you. You and those after you will point to them and tell your children that this is where the LORD dried up the Jordan and lead the people of Israel across on dry ground," Joshua told the people. "The LORD did this so that the whole world might know that He is powerful and so that you might always worship and obey Him."

The LORD wanted not just the people of Israel, but everyone to know of His great faithfulness.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Faithful

"Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 18:15

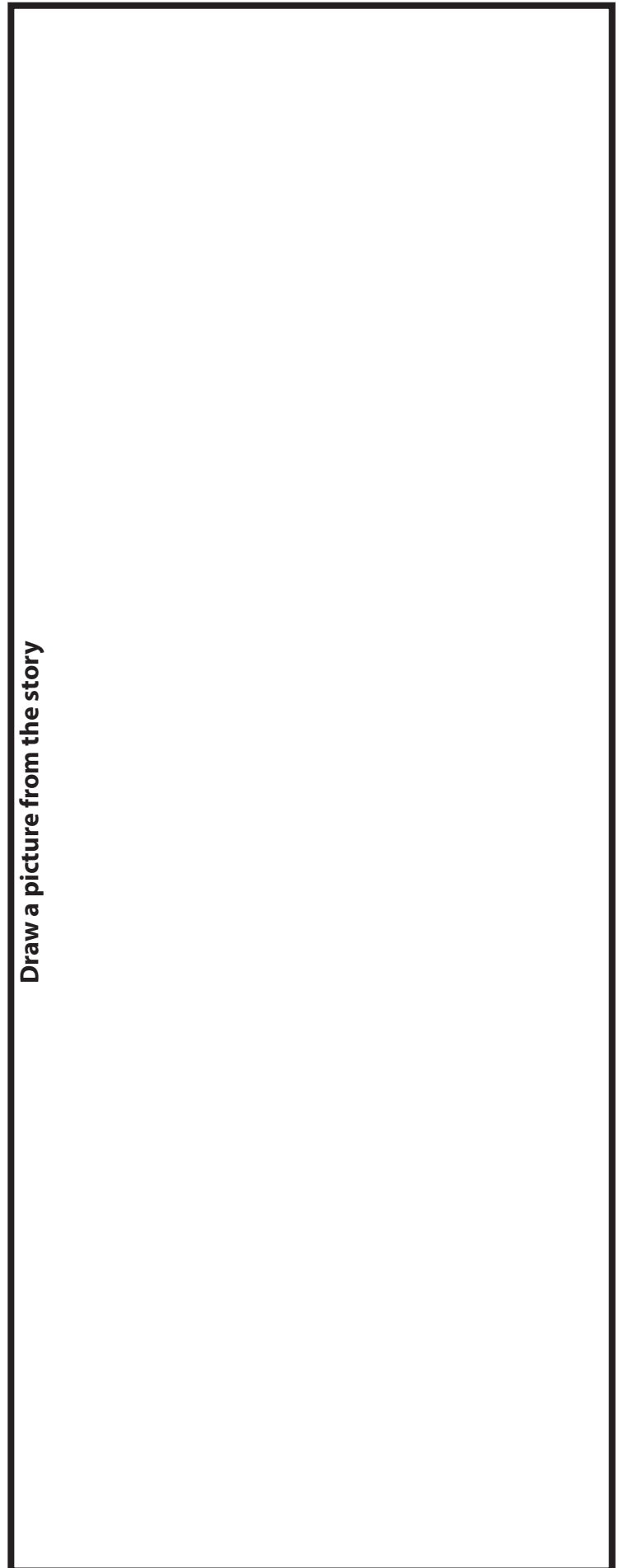
"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

The very same God who went to no ends to show the Israelites His great faithfulness, is the same God who calls us to trust in Him. How much more of His faithfulness do

we know now than even what those Israelites knew! Perhaps we have never seen Him suddenly stop the flow of a roaring river, but WE know God's amazing faithfulness to His promise to save all who confess their sins and call upon Him for salvation. We know that He kept that promise by sending His One and Only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and then offer it up on the cross as the one and only perfect sacrifice for their sins. And if that were not a great enough display of His faithfulness, did you know that for all who do trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, not only does God promise to faithfully take care of them as His beloved people, but He also promises them that one day they will all enter His Promised Land, too. Not a land of milk and honey anywhere to be found in this world, like He gave the Israelites, long ago, but something far better. He will bring them to live in Heaven, itself, where God's people will get to live in perfectly wonderful fellowship with Him forever and ever, never to again know any pain or sin or any kind of evil.

Let's praise our completely faithful God. Let's ask Him to help us always to praise Him and never to stop trusting in His faithfulness to us; to quickly and joyfully obey Him, matter what we go through.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy? Answer: The LORD. Every difficulty they faced! He freed the Israelites from their powerful enemies the Egyptians with amazing miracles. He had feed them with manna from heaven every day out in the wilderness. He even kept their sandals from falling apart over forty years!</p> <p>b. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties? Answer: That He was always faithful. They could always trust Him, no matter how big the difficulties they faced.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalms 86:15 "But you, O ____, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to ____ and abounding in steadfast love and ____." Answers: Lord; anger; faithfulness.</p>	<p>Day by Day <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 32</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Day by day and with each passing moment, Strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, Gives unto each day what He deems best, Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, Mingling toil with peace and rest.</p> <p>Words: Caroline V. Sandeel-Berg Music: Oscar Ahnfelts</p> <p>God's people can testify to God's faithfulness to take care of them, helping them and allowing only what is for their good and God's glory, every hour of every day. He gives them strength to go through whatever trials (hard times) they must go through in their life. They may not like them. They may even wish they didn't have to go through them. But, they know that the LORD is wise and powerful. And, if He has allowed them, then they are part of His wise bestowment (His perfectly good choices, even gifts) to them. They do not have to worry or fear. They can trust in their Heavenly Father who loves them so much. He is faithful to give them all they need in life, through all of life-the pleasure of each day and the pain of each day. Both peace and rest, and even one day. Perfect peace and rest with Him in heaven, forever.</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 so faithful to Your people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that too many times we doubt and grumble against You, like the people of Israel.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for continuing to be so faithful, even when Your people are unfaithful to You.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us like Caleb and Joshua, who kept believing in Your faithfulness and Your power, even when everyone else doubted You.</p>	<p>Incline Your Ear <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 33</i></p> <p>Incline your ear, O LORD, And answer me, For I am poor and needy. Turn to me and be gracious to me; Give your strength to your servant. You, O Lord, are a God, merciful, Merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, abounding in love, Steadfast love and faithfulness. You're a God, merciful. Merciful, Gracious, Slow to anger, Abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. You, O Lord, are a God, merciful, Merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, abounding in love, Steadfast love and faithfulness. You're a God, merciful. Psalm Eighty-six, one, fifteen and sixteen.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 86:1,15,16, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2014</p> <p>This verse reminds us that the Lord is always faithful to His people. He is merciful and gracious to them. He is slow to anger and abounding in love that never ends. Even when they are unfaithful to Him and deserving of punishment rather than kindness, the Lord goes on being faithful to them. How amazing is the Lord!</p>