

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

Our story is called:

The Case of the Needy Kneeler.

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

1. Who was the Kneeler? Why was he kneeling?
2. What did he need? What did he hope to show others by kneeling to get his needs met?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1830's, in Bristol, England.

In a dark room, lit only by candle and the glow of his fire, George Muller sat at his desk and wrote in his journal. "The number of poor at the door of the church hoping for bread keeps growing," he wrote. "Today there were sixty to eighty people. Our neighbors are getting annoyed at all the beggars standing around in the streets. Sadly, we have no choice but to send these needy people away! How I long to help them all, especially the parent-less children. With yellow fever and cholera killing so many, there are a growing number of children are left with no parents to care for them or feed them. Cold, lonely, and hungry, they walk the streets looking for someone to help them."

"Some of these children are taken to the poor houses, where they at least have a roof over their head, clothes and food. But that's little comfort. Bad men go and tempt these children to rob and do other bad things. They go from bad to worse. I want something better for these children! I want to give them a place where they can be taken care of and they can go to school. Most of all, I want them to grow up hearing God's Word. I want them to know that God is the living God who will not forsake His people, even in the hardest times. He is the faithful, prayer-answering God. I will pray and ask God what I can do for these children," George wrote.

And pray George did—for hours at a time. If there was one thing that George knew, it was that God was faithful. He would be faithful to hear his prayers on behalf of these children. And faithful to help George do whatever He would have him do, no matter how big it was.

Before long, George's prayers were answered. "I believe it's time to start the orphanage," he wrote in his journal on another night, "It's time to start asking God to give us the building, the people and the things we need. Right now, I only have fifty cents in my pocket!"

It will take thousands of dollars to get everything we need," he wrote.

George was right. An orphanage was a very expensive thing to start and to keep running. He would need a building big enough for schoolrooms, as well as space for the children to sleep and eat. Each child would need clothing and a bed. The schoolrooms would need desks, books and writing supplies. The teachers and helpers would need to be paid. And of course, everyone would need to eat.

Many people wouldn't even dare to dream this big, let alone pray this big. But not George Mueller. He knew the Lord was faithful to answer even big prayers. He knelt down and began to pray through the list, item by item. "And Lord, don't just provide these things, but do it in a way that shows everyone how faithful You are," George prayed.

Before long, George's prayers were answered again. Many Christians heard about George's orphanage and began to give "Here is two hundred dollars for your orphanage" said one very poor woman who only made a few dollars a week sewing clothes. "My father died and left this money. I want you to have it. They need it more than I. The Lord will take care of me."

"We have come to serve at your orphanage however we can and we don't want you to pay us. We will help you for free," one woman and her brother said. "We also want to give us all of the furniture and kitchen things in our house to your orphanage."

Blankets, fabric, dishes, clothes, furniture, even a house, were offered. Poor people gave George their pennies. Richer people, gave him their dollars. Soon, thirty orphans had a home at George's orphan house.

How different was life for George's orphans than what the poor house or the streets of Bristol offered! Each night they would put on pajamas and sleep in soft, warm beds. Each morning at six they would get up early and put on nice clothes. Every boy got three shirts, three pairs of corduroy pants, a navy-blue jacket, and a nice-looking cap. Every girl got three, navy blue, cotton dresses, a shawl and a bonnet tied with a pretty ribbon.

After getting dressed, it was off to the dining hall for a good breakfast of steaming hot oatmeal or some other hearty food before a day full of activity. At eight o'clock there was a Bible reading and a time of prayer, followed by

school. In the afternoon, the children had all sorts of duties. The boys learned to knit and darn socks, make beds, clean shoes, scrub rooms, work in the garden and run errands. The girls helped with the cooking, the laundry and cleaning the houses.

At dinner time the children enjoyed meat, soup, or rice with raisins, along with lots of fresh fruit and milk. With every meal there was bread. They called the bread "toke"-short for "token of the Lord's love", in honor of the prayer they said at each meal: "We thank Thee, Lord, for these tokens of thy love!" These children knew that each meal truly was the gift of the Lord, the faithful God.

In the evenings before bed, guests would often come in and tell the children special stories about their lives and about Jesus. They would close with prayers, then the children would be off to bed.

Everyone loved it when there were special celebration days. Like Papa Muller's (as the children called George) birthday, when everyone enjoyed birthday cake and a piece of an enormous, steaming hot apple dumpling. Or Christmas, when everyone would help decorate Christmas trees, sing carols, and give presents, perhaps much like your family does.

When boys were fourteen, they were apprenticed by local tradesmen to learn how to make a living, such as a blacksmith, a carpenter or a teacher. Girls stayed until they were seventeen and then found good jobs as housemaids, nurses or teachers. No one left the orphanage without somewhere good to go next. As they left, Papa George prayed for them and gave them some new clothes, some money and a Bible.

Yes, life in Papa Mueller's orphan houses was much better than the poor houses and streets of Bristol. How well they were cared for! But as Edith Larby, one of Papa Muller's orphans said, "The greatest thing that I was given at the orphan House was getting to hear about the Lord Jesus. I put all I learned about Him in my heart and one day I gave that heart to Him, and I have never regretted it."

Edith and the others didn't just learn about the Lord Jesus from they read in the Bible or heard from their teachers. They learned about Him in every day life, as they saw His faithfulness to provide for their needs in amazing ways. One morning the plates and cups and bowls on the table were empty. There was no food in the pantry, and no money to buy food. The children were standing waiting

for their morning meal, when Papa Muller said, "Children, you know we must be in time for school." Lifting his hands in prayer he said, "Dear Father, we thank You for what You are going to give us to eat."

Just then, there was a knock on the door. The baker stood there, and said, "Mr. Muller, I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt you didn't have bread for breakfast and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So I got up at two a.m. and baked some fresh bread, and have brought it." Mueller thanked the man. No sooner had this [occurred] when there was a second knock at the door. It was the milkman. He announced that his milk cart had broken down right in front of the orphanage, and he would like to give the children his cans of fresh milk so he could empty his wagon and repair it.

God regularly showed His faithfulness in these wonderful ways since was almost always some great need at George's Orphan House. And as the children saw the Lord meet their needs each time, George's greatest prayer was answered: that the Lord use their daily needs to show the children and everyone else that He is the living God. He does not forsake, even in hard times, those who rely on Him. He is the faithful, prayer-answering God. They could count on Him to take care of them, even after they left the orphanage. They learned to get down on their knees pray for each and every thing they needed, then wait upon their faithful Lord to provide.

And provide the Lord most certainly did! By the time George died, at the age of ninety-two, the Lord had richly answered all his prayers for the orphans of Bristol. He had made George, "Papa Muller" to over 18,000 orphans and given him more than three million dollars to provide for their needs. Best of all, thousands of these orphans saw the faithfulness of the Lord to meet their every need and turned in faith to believe in Him as their Lord and Savior, just as George had hoped and prayed that they would.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Faithful

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:15, ESV

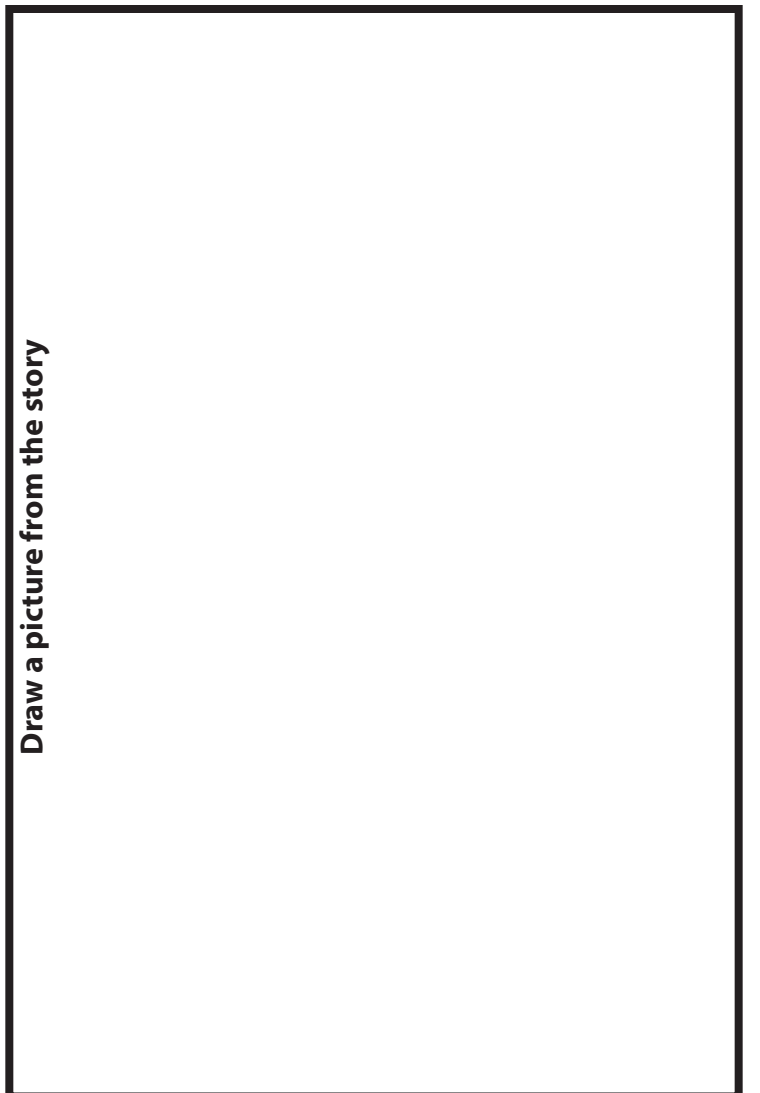
"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

George Mueller was a man who depended each day upon the faithfulness of the Lord, the living God, to fully

provide for him and thousands of others. He thought of every hard time as an opportunity to display God's faithfulness. How very faithful the Lord showed Himself to be! He never disappointed George or the orphans. He always provided for their needs.

What about you and me? What is our greatest need? To be saved from our sins. The Lord promises that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be saved. And if the Lord promises to take care of this biggest need of ours, will He not also be faithful to take care of His people in every other time? In hard times, in scary times, when we don't know what to do or where the help we need might come from? God's people can trust that the Lord will be faithful to take care of all those needs, too.

Let's praise Him for being so completely faithful to His people. Let's ask Him to help us see each difficulty we face as an opportunity to display His faithfulness to others around us that they might turn and believe in Him, too.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God is just like us. He is faithful most of the time, but sometimes He breaks His promises.
 Answer: False! God is always completely faithful. He always keeps all His promises.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who was the Kneeler? Why was he kneeling?
 Answer: George Mueller. He was praying.
b. What did he need? What did he hope to show others by kneeling to get his needs met?
 Answer: He needed many things, most of them related to providing for the orphans in the city of Bristol. He hoped to show that God is faithful to meet all our needs that others might put their faith in Him, too.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 86:15
 "But you, O Lord, are a ___ merciful and ___, slow to anger and abounding in ___ love and faithfulness."
 Answers: God; gracious; steadfast.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Day by Day
PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 32

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.

Words: Caroline V. Sandeel-Berg Music: Oscar Ahnfelts

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.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so faithful to Your people every single day.

C God, we confess that many times we doubt Your faithfulness. We don't even ask You for things that seem too difficult to answer.

T God, we thank You that You continue to be faithful to Your people, even when they doubt You. There is never a time when they will not find You faithful to them.

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. Give us faith in You, like George Mueller, to keep on asking for even impossible-looking things that will bring You glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Incline Your Ear
PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 33

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.

Words: Psalm 86:1,15,16, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2014

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!