

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 9:

The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am. It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4, ESV

"For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

CASE STORY

Matthew 1,12; Mark 3; Luke 1-2,8; John 7,8;12-59; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7

Our story is:

The Case of the Heavenly Light on Earth.

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

1. Who was the Light? Why made the light heavenly?
2. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

"He's here!" the shepherds exclaimed. "Here's the baby in the manger, like the angel said! Sure enough, there was Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the little animal shelter.

"How did these shepherds find us here?" Mary and Joseph must have wondered.

"We were outside of town, watching our sheep when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared! The sky and everything around us was filled with the beautiful, blazingly bright glory of the Lord and we were terrified!" the shepherds said. "But then the angel said: 'Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the peoples of the earth. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord. You will find Him wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

"Suddenly hundreds of heavenly angels appeared. They praised God saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' We watched them until they went back into heaven. As soon as they left, we hurried here to Bethlehem and started looking for you...and for Him. And here we are," they told Mary and Joseph.

This baby, the Messiah, the Lord? Both Mary and Joseph had known it for months. An angel had appeared to each of them. "Your child will be God's Son," he had told Mary. And to Joseph he had said, "You are to give Him the name Jesus, which means 'Yahweh saves,' for He will save His people from their sins." And now it seemed this amazing news was being announced to the world: Here was the Messiah, God's Son, that Israel had been waiting for! He was "Immanuel, God, Himself, living among us," promised long ago.

The shepherds left the shelter rejoicing. They spread the good news about Jesus, and all who heard it were amazed. Mary, herself, had much to think about. The Bible tells us that she treasured up all these things and thought

about them in her heart. This son of hers, this Son of God, what would His life be like? How would He save His people? She had many questions, and so few answers. Only time would reveal the LORD's plan.

Thirty years passed from that night in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph took Jesus and settled in Galilee. Mary and Joseph had children together, little half-brothers and sisters for Jesus. There was James, Jude (Judas), Simon and Joseph, and others whose names we don't even know. They played and grew up.

But, while the half-brothers and sisters grew up to live very regular lives, big half-brother Jesus grew up and began doing things that were not regular at all! He started preaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God, like He was some great teacher. He did amazing miracles. He healed sick people and even a raging storm with just His word. He fed over five thousand people with just a few fish and bread. He raised dead people back to life! He even forgave people's sins, like He was God, Himself!

No, Jesus was not being a regular man at all! In everything He said and did, Jesus was showing people He was exactly who His name said He was: He was Jesus: 'Yahweh saves.' He had come to save His people from their sins. He was Immanuel, God, Himself, living among them. He was God's Son. Jesus had come to bring the light of salvation to sinful men. He had come to put an end to the darkness of sin and death. He was Jesus, the Light of the World.

What did people think of Jesus when He began to do all these amazing thing? Some believed He really was the Messiah. But others followed Him thinking He was just a great prophet, like Elijah, from the old days. The jealous Jewish leaders even called Him a devil!

Even Jesus' mother and half-brothers was confused about what Jesus was doing. Sometimes they thought He was crazy. His half-brothers thought he was just trying to make himself into a big leader and made fun of Him. "Jesus, it's time for the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem—one of the biggest feasts of the year. Everyone will be there," they told him. "Surely you're coming with us and the rest of town to celebrate. You could do some of your 'miracles' there and really make a big name for yourself then," they said joked. But Jesus didn't listen to them. He would do everything in God's perfect timing as part of God's perfect plan.

Everyone loved the Feast of Tabernacles and for good reason. There were so many wonderful parts to it, each

having its own nickname. They called it 'the Season of Great Joy,' for the Israelites all came together in Jerusalem to celebrate the day the Lord brought the Israelites into the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the desert. Everyone joined joyous parades, carrying lulabs (palm branches), etrogs (a kind of fruit), and myrtle and willow branches, singing songs of praise to the LORD as they walked.

They also called it 'the Feast for All Peoples,' celebrating the day when peoples of every nation would come and worship the LORD together, as the LORD had promised through the prophets. The priests brought into the Temple courts a long parade of seventy bulls, representing all the nations of the world. The priests offered them all up on the altar at the Temple as worship gifts to the LORD.

And they also called it 'the Festival of Light.' Each night, four gigantic candelabras each with seven, giant wicks made from the priests' white robes, were raised up the top of the towering Temple, and lit. It was so bright that it lit up every part of Jerusalem, as a reminder of the brilliant glory of the LORD.

Down in the Temple Courts, the Jewish leaders held torches as they danced. The music of the trumpets, horns, cymbals, flutes and harps of the Temple orchestra played while they sang: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD...The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the feast parade, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you." (Psalm 118: 25-29)

The Feast lasted for seven, wonderful days. At the very height of the celebrations, Jesus came to Jerusalem to make a big announcement. Standing right next to the Temple, beneath the glorious light of those candelabras, and in the Middle of all those thousands of people, Jesus proclaimed: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me not keep living in the darkness of sin and death, but will have the light of eternal life. I am the good news of great joy for all people. I am just exactly who My name says I am: Jesus, 'Yahweh saves.' I have come to save My people from their sins. I am God's Son. I am Yahweh, Himself, living among you," He said.

The Jewish leaders were furious! Not only had Jesus spoken the name "Yahweh" which they believed was too

holy to be spoken aloud, but He was using that name for Himself! What blasphemy! To think a man would call himself by God's name! They picked up stones and tried to kill Him. But Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the Temple grounds.

Jesus escaped, completely unharmed that day, but not too many months later, it was the leaders who got their way—or so it seemed. They arrested Jesus, accused Him of doing bad things He didn't do, then put Him to death on the cross. "Jesus is dead," the Jewish leaders rejoiced. "Now we will hear no more from this man who says He is Yahweh. We have put out the supposed 'Light of the world,' once and for all."

But of course those Jewish leaders were wrong. God had always meant to use their evil plans to bring great joy for all of God's people. For Jesus hung on the cross that day, He was fulfilling the promise of His name: Jesus: 'Yahweh Saves.' He took upon Himself God's punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior. He, was Immanuel, God, Himself. He had lived among them and now He was dying for them on the cross.

Jesus' sad friends took His body and buried in the grave that day. They thought this was the end of Jesus, but how wrong they were! For on the third day, God raised Jesus up from the dead, proving that He really had beaten sin and death for all of God's people. Now here was good news of great joy for all people, the angels had sung about long ago. But no, this was not really just good news. This was the BEST news of great joy! For Jesus had brought the Light of Salvation to the world, for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

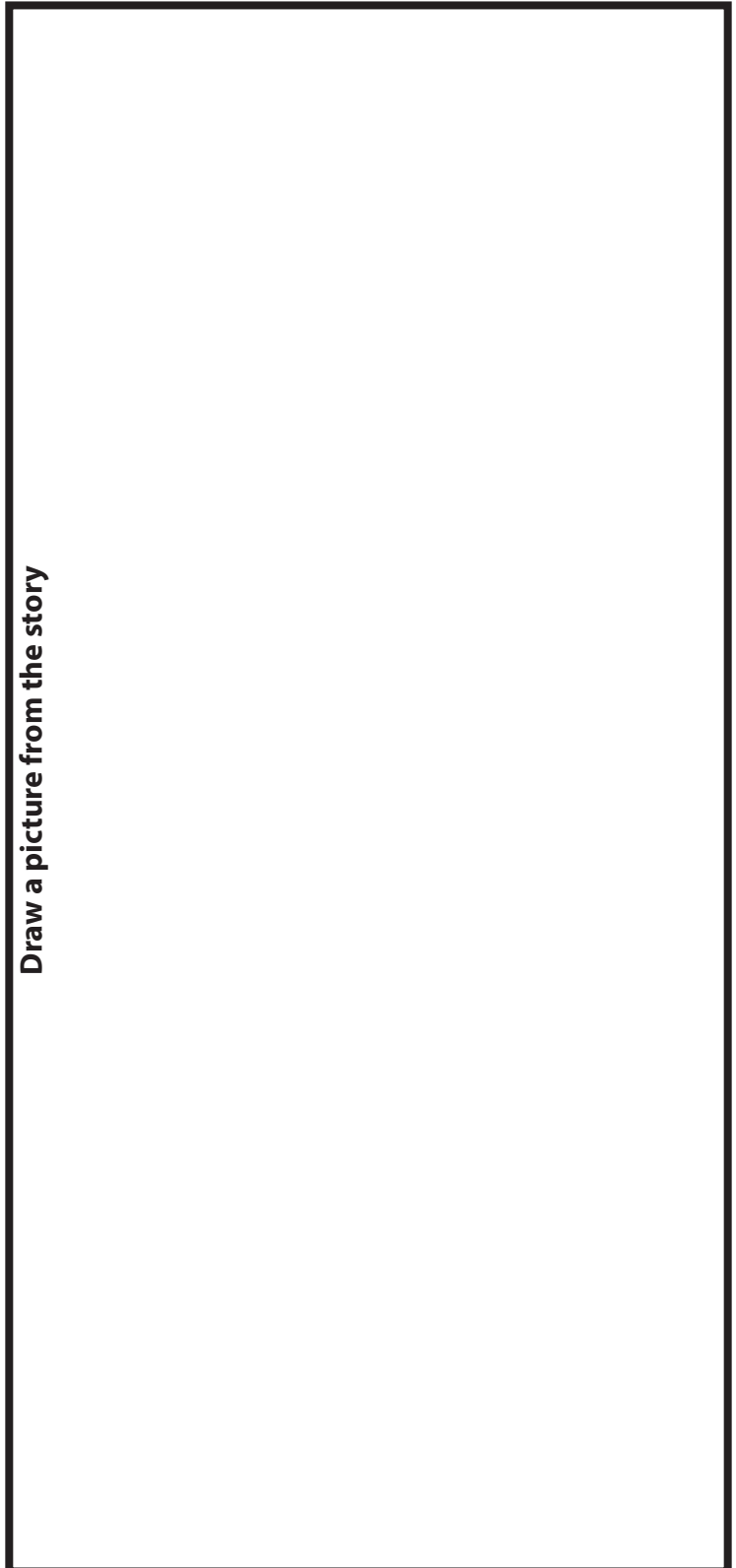
Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

Does it surprise you that people who knew so much about Jesus and saw so many of His miracles should be so slow to believe in Him? It shouldn't. For every one of us is born with hard, unbelieving hearts. Faith in Jesus is a gift that God must give each of us. Even Jesus' own mother and half-brothers—just like you and me—only believed

in Jesus by the gift of faith. The wonderful news is that faith is a gift God loves to give and promises to lavish upon all who turn away from disobeying Him and trust Jesus as their Savior.

Let's praise the name of Jesus—that He is 'Yahweh Saves.' Let's ask Him to give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God’s many nicknames don’t make any sense. They don’t really tell us much about Him at all. Answer: False! God’s nicknames tell us so much about Him! They give us many reasons to trust Him and to praise Him.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Light? What made the light heavenly? Answer: Jesus. He was the Son of God, come from His home in heaven.</p> <p>b. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth? Answer: He came to be Immanuel, God with Us. He came to tell people about God and to be their Savior so that could go to live with God forever.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 “For I will ___ the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! “The ___, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of ___ and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” Answer: proclaim; Rock; faithfulness.</p>	<p>Oh, How I Love Jesus <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 36</i></p> <p>Verse 1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing it’s worth; It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest name on earth. Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me.</p> <p>Words: Frederick Whitfield Music: Traditional American Melody</p> <p>Jesus’ name means ‘Yahweh Saves.’ It tells us that Jesus is God. He came to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is the best thing that will ever happen to us. That’s why God’s people think that name of Jesus is the sweetest name of earth. It reminds them of how God loved them before they loved Him. It reminds them of how He showed this love by coming to earth to live and to die for them, that they might be saved. That is a name worth a lot! That is a name worth most of all!</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 Yahweh, the Light of the World, who takes away the darkness of sin and death for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we want to hide from the Light of the World. We don’t want to confess our sins, but hide them from You and everyone else.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for revealing us Yourself through Your Son, Jesus--the Light of the World.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.</p>	<p>Proclaim the Name <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 37</i></p> <p>Proclaim the name, I will proclaim, I will proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe to God, Greatness to God, Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, the Rock, His work is perfect, (was: His works are perfect) The Rock, the Rock, His ways are justice. A God, a God, of faithfulness, Without iniquity, just and upright is He. Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.</p> <p>Words: Deuteronomy 32:3,4, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2014</p> <p>Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.</p>