

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

The Holy Spirit gives God's people the wisdom they need to know God and to live for Him.

How does the Holy Spirit give God's people wisdom? He works in their hearts as they read the Bible, when they listen to Bible teaching, when they talk with other Christians, and when they pray.

This is one of the reasons why God's people set aside time to regularly read God's Word and pray. They know this keeps their heart open to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is also one of the reasons why God's people gather together in churches: so they can learn God's Word from godly leaders; and, so they ask each other for help understanding what God's Word means and how to live it out. The Holy Spirit especially uses these things to help them understand God's truths and how God wants them to live them out.

There may be many things about God and His plans that God's people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him. They only need to ask, and He promises to give it to them.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

CASE STORY

1 Kings 1-3; 2 Chronicles 1

Our story is: The Case of the Wonderful Wiseman. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Wonderful Wiseman? Why did he want to be wise?
2. Who gave him wisdom? How did he use his wisdom? How did he not use it?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, in palace of King David in Jerusalem, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

David was a great king who loved God. During his reign God gave him great courage to do what He wanted David to do. When David was a very old man and about to die, he crowned his teenage son Solomon the next king of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded him to.

What a great day was Solomon's crowning day! David ordered the royal robes be put on Solomon, then had him placed on the royal mule. (Yes, that's right, mule! Mules were worth many times more than horses because they cannot reproduce) Escorted by none other than the high priest Zadok, Solomon was taken to Gihon, the place of anointing and crowning of the kings of Israel.

The Bible tells us, the people of Israel cheered for him so loudly that the ground shook with the sound! Can you imagine being only a teenager and receiving this kind of praise from thousands of people? Can you imagine walking up to the royal throne, wearing the royal crown and being expected to make good decisions for your whole country? That was what Solomon had to face the day he was crowned king.

What was going through Solomon's mind as all this was happening? Was he thinking about how splendid he looked or how powerful he would be? No, he was not! Solomon was praying! He prayed: "How young I am, Lord, fill my heart with your wisdom. How can I ever rule over these people? I do not know anything about being a king. I need wisdom that I do not have. I need Your wisdom, God. Help me, please!" he pleaded.

Solomon didn't just pray on his own about this. He wanted all the people to ask God answer this prayer. He called together all his generals, his judges and all the leaders of the people and ordered them to go with him four miles up beyond Gihon to Gibeon to make offerings

to God at the bronze altar in front of the Tabernacle.

Now usually when someone made an offering to the LORD it would be a couple of birds, a lamb or maybe, every once in a while, a bull. But Solomon went up to Gibeon and offered one thousand burnt sacrifices to the LORD! Solomon meant business!

After making all these offerings, Solomon and all the others with him prayed to the LORD: "God, fill Solomon with your wisdom!"

Would the LORD answer him? Would He give Solomon the wisdom he needed? How would Solomon know?

That night everyone—even King Solomon—camped out at Gibeon instead of going back home to Jerusalem. As the king slept that night, the LORD appeared to him in a dream. "Solomon, ask of Me whatever you want Me to give you," He said.

Solomon answered, "LORD, you have shown great kindness to my father David, because he was faithful to You and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day," Solomon said.

"Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king in place of my father David," he continued to pray. "But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. I am here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. God, fill my heart with your wisdom! I am Your servant, please give me a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?" Solomon prayed.

The LORD was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have you asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in how to be a good and just king, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life," the LORD told him. Then Solomon awoke—and he realized that God had spoken to him through a dream.

Solomon was so thankful! The LORD promised to give

him not just some wisdom, but more wisdom than anyone had ever had! Solomon went back to the altar and made more sacrifices—this time they were offerings of thanks to the LORD. Then, Solomon took all the leaders back home and gave them all a great feast to celebrate. How happy Solomon was! He did not have wisdom to rule the people of Israel, but the LORD promised that He would give Solomon all the wisdom he needed! That was indeed a lot to be thankful for!

It wasn't long before Solomon's great wisdom was tested. Two women came to the king and stood before him. One of them said, "My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us."

"During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him," the one woman told the king. "So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her side and put her dead son by my side. The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne.

"No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours!" the other woman blurted out.

But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued back and forth before the king.

How would King Solomon solve this problem? There were no witnesses. How would he decide which woman lied and which one told the truth. There was only one way, "God, fill my heart with your wisdom!" Solomon prayed. And just as the LORD promised, He gave Solomon with wisdom he needed, by His Holy Spirit.

The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

"Bring me a sword," King Solomon commanded. So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him: she is his mother." When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to rule justly. (1 Kings 3)

This was just the beginning of the wise things Solomon did and said. Solomon became known all around the ancient world for his wisdom and many of his wise sayings are written in the book of the Bible we call Proverbs. God was good to his promises. He promised to give Solomon godly wisdom to be a good ruler and by His Holy Spirit, that's just what God did for him.

Are you curious what were some of the wise things the Holy Spirit taught King Solomon? You can read some of them for yourself, even today. Solomon wrote down many of them and they are the part of our Bible called the book of Proverbs.. Ask God to help you learn them and obey them, then you, too, will be blessed by the wisdom of God, given to Solomon long ago through the Holy Spirit.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

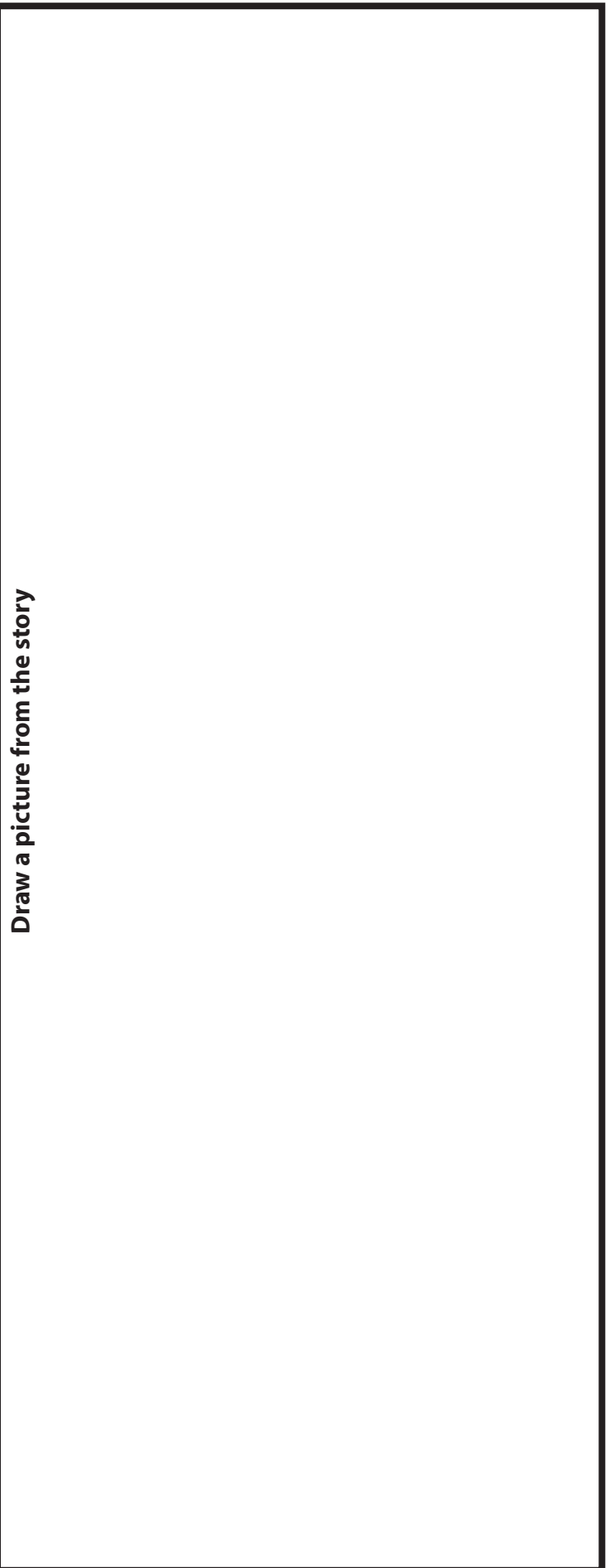
"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

God gave wisdom to Solomon but what about us? Could He give wisdom to us? Yes, God promises to give wisdom, by His Holy Spirit, to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as Savior.

And maybe we don't need the wisdom to rule like a king or queen or president, but there are many things we still need wisdom for. But, our prayer should be like Solomon: God, fill my heart with your wisdom!" And if we are those who trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can know that He will answer our prayers!

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to His people to guide them and give them wisdom. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our own Savior Let's ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us give us wisdom and hearts that long to obey what He tells us to do.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:

The Holy Spirit will help God’s people always understand everything about God and His plans.

Answer: False. There may be many things about God and His plans that God’s people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Wonderful Wiseman? Why did he want to be wise?

Answer: David was the King Solomon. He knew he could not rule Israel on his own. He needed God’s wisdom to rule well.

b. Who gave him wisdom? How did he use his wisdom? How did he not use it?

Answer: The Holy Spirit gave him wisdom. The Holy Spirit gave Solomon an especially wise mind. But, He also used Solomon’s reading of God’s Word and learning from the wisdom of others. Solomon used his wisdom to rule the people well in many ways and to teach others wisdom. He did not always live out what he learned. It was as he went against the wisdom God gave him that many troubles came to him and to Israel.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the ___ of wisdom and ___, so that you may know him ___.”

Answers: Spirit; revelation; better.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being our good Creator and King.

C God, we confess that many times we choose to forget You and forget to praise You. We choose to praise other things and people, even ourselves. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising to one day bringing an end to all sin and sadness. Thank You that You will bring the Great Day of Praise when all Your people are gathered together to praise You. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us that we might be able to take part in that Great Day of Praise.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to bring all of our troubles to You. Make us praisers of Your name even now!

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 15

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free,
High surging where it will:
In prophet’s word He spoke of old,
He speaketh still.
Established is His law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea or land.

Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann

Music: Meyer Lyon

God’s Holy Spirit is powerful to teach us and give us wisdom. Whether it is the words of the prophets or the laws or the words of the Psalms in the Old Testament; or, the words of Jesus in the gospels or the letters of people like Paul in the New Testament, God’s Holy Spirit uses God’s Word, the Bible, to give us His wisdom. And the wonderful thing is, He doesn’t just help us understand it with our minds. We can ask Him to “write it on our hearts”--which means, change us by His wisdom that we love and live for God.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Keep Asking

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 16

I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
So that you may know Him,
You may know Him,
That you may know Him, better.
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
Ephesians One, seventeen.

Words: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God’s people pray many things for each other. One of the best things they can pray for each other is for God to give them more of the Holy Spirit. He lives inside them and can give them God’s wisdom. He reveals God’s truths to them so they can know how to live. He reveals God, Himself, to them so they can know Him better.