

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 12 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 3:

God's People Love Others

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Needy Newborn.

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

1. Who was the Needy Newborn? What did she need? Why?
2. How did God give the Newborn what she needed? How did He use His people to give her this?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in the 1950's in England and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Africa.

A young woman named Helen sat in her little room with piles of thick school books spread out around her. She sighed as she thought of all the facts she needed to learn. "I always knew I wasn't especially smart, but I didn't think it would be this hard to learn medicine! How will I ever get through all of this?!" she thought to herself. Another thought broke through her discouragement: "If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." That's what C.T. Studd, the famous missionary to Africa said, years before," Helen remembered. "I would give up this medicine if it were just for me, but now that I've become a Christian, I know that I'm doing this for Jesus. He will help me keep going; and one day, perhaps he will use me as a doctor to love others and tell them about Him," she hoped. So Helen kept on studying.

After lots of hard work, Helen finally finished medical school and became Dr. Helen. Dr. Helen began to think more and more about how she might use medicine to love people and tell them about Jesus. "I love England. It has always been my home," Helen thought. "But there are so many people in other parts of the world who don't even know about Jesus or have doctors to heal their sicknesses. Maybe I should go help them."

Once more, C.T. Studd's words came back to her. "If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." "Jesus loved people so much that He was willing to leave His perfect home in heaven to come to earth to be their Savior. Why shouldn't I be willing to leave my beautiful home in England to help people in another part of the world and tell them about Jesus?" she thought. So it was decided. Dr. Helen would be a missionary doctor.

south to what is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo. She traveled far into the jungly forests to a place where there was no doctor or hospital. Together with the Africans first she made a "hospital" hut out of branches and wood. Then she made bricks out of clay, hardened them in a kiln (outdoor oven fueled by fire), and then laid them brick by brick and built a proper hospital building.

"Why would this white woman come from far away and take care of our sick people and even help build with her own hands this hospital?" the people wondered.

"If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him," was Dr. Helen's answer. "Jesus wants me to love others as He has loved me--even build bricks out of mud to show His love to you."

Soon, hundreds of sick people came from miles around to Dr. Helen's little hospital to get help. Dr. Helen took care of everything snakebites to malaria to birthing babies.

Sometimes sick parents died and the children were left with no one to take care of them. "Look at these poor children without parents!" Dr. Helen thought. "I have so much to do taking care of this hospital, how could I possibly have time to take care of them, too?" "What were C.T. Studd's words? 'If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.' Jesus was even busier than I was, yet He took time to love the children. I must love them, too," she decided. "We will build a special house for these children to live right here near the hospital. We will take care of them and we will tell them about Jesus." So Dr. Helen and the Africans worked together to make a special house for the children.

One sad night, a woman died leaving a little tiny baby who had been too born early (premature) and her little two-year-old sister. The baby was so tiny that it needed special machines that Dr. Helen's little hospital in the jungle didn't have.

"There's not much we can do," Dr. Helen told her helpers. "The night air is so cold and we don't even have heat. This baby will die if it gets cold. Wrap up the baby best you can and fill up the hot water bottle with water and put it in with the baby," she said.

While one helper wrapped up the baby, another one went to fill the hot water bottle. But, as the helper went to fill it up, the bottle broke!

"That was our last hot water bottle! What can we do now, Dr. Helen?" they exclaimed.

"This is very serious. That baby will die if it's not warm enough," Dr. Helen admitted. "I know! Go build up the fire in the fireplace and place the baby next to you on the floor as close to the fire as you dare. Your body will block the wind from getting to the baby and giving it a chill," she told them.

This was a lot to ask of a helper. Can you imagine sleeping on a hard, dirt floor all night with a cold wind hitting your back? Can you imagine trying to stay awake, keeping the fire going and watching the baby to make sure it's doing ok? Why would the helper do this? Because this helper loved Jesus, too, just like Dr. Helen. Wasn't what this what Jesus had done for us? 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have trees, yet the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.' (Matthew 8:20)

"When Jesus lived on earth, He spent many nights sleeping on the ground as he traveling from town to town to tell people how they could be saved. He wants me to love people the way He did. Surely I can sleep on this hard floor for one night for this baby," thought the helper.

The helper's love was well rewarded, for the next day the baby was still alive. Dr. Helen went to the children who lived in the special house and told them everything that had happened with the mother and the little baby and the little two year old girl.

"There is something we can do to love that baby, too," she told them. "When Jesus was on earth, He spent many hours praying for people because He loved them. Sometimes He even stayed up all night just to pray. He wants us to love people the way He did. did. Let's pray that God will keep the baby alive, even though we have no hot water bottle," she urged them.

The children gathered around Dr. Helen and they began to pray. One little girl named Ruth prayed, "Please, God, send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, the baby will be dead; so, please send it this afternoon...and while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?" she asked.

Dr. Helen hardly knew what to think. Would God really answer this prayer? There were no stores to buy dolls or water bottles! They were in the middle of a jungle! The only way for a water bottle and dolly to come would be by a package that came from England...and no one from England had even sent them a package of any kind for months! What was worse, it took five whole months for

packages to get from England to them. God would have needed to answer that prayer five months earlier, before there was even a little baby or a little girl. But Ruth didn't think of that. She was only thinking about how to love those little children as God had loved her.

Yet what should be delivered to the little village that afternoon, but a large cardboard box addressed to Dr. Helen from England. Dr. Helen gathered the children around her and excitedly opened the box. She pulled out.....brightly colored sweaters for the children. Then.....boxes of raisins.....then....what was this? Could it really be? Yes, it was! Dr. Helen grasped it and pulled it out. "The hot water bottle!" she exclaimed.

Ruth now rushed up to the box and said, "Dr. Helen, if the bottle was there, then the dolly must be there, too!" She reached her arm down in the box and burst out in a smile as she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. "Dr. Helen, can I please go over with you, and give this dolly to the little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

"Yes, Ruth, of course you can," Dr. Helen told her.

Ruth hurried away to give the dolly to the little girl. For her, this dolly was just the beginning of how she planned to love that little girl as Jesus had loved her.

Our Bible Truth is:

Bible Truth: God's People Love Others

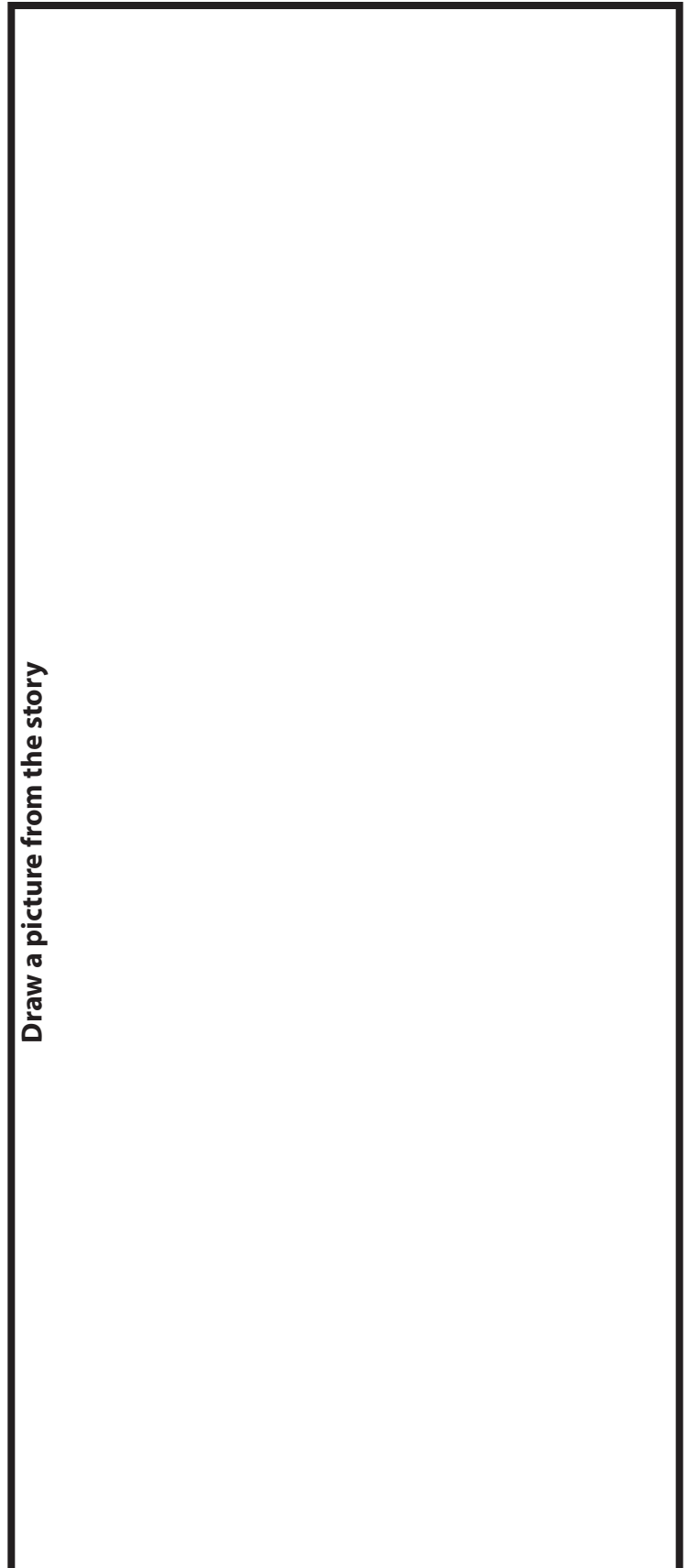
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

We saw today in our story how Dr. Helen, the helpers, and the children loved others the way that Jesus had loved them. But what about you and me? Did you know that the Bible talks about good works that God has prepared in advance for His people to do? Every single one of those good works that God has prepared for His people have to do with loving God by loving others as He loved them. It's God's promise to all who turn and confess their sins to him and trust in Him for forgiveness, that He will have good works of loving others for them to do.

Let's praise this amazing God who has planned good works of loving others for His people to do. Let's ask Him

to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to give us good works prepared for us to do, help us to see what they are and rejoice in doing them. Then He will be using us to love others as He has loved us.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God wants His people to treat people, even their enemies, in the same loving way as He does.

Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Needy Newborn? What did she need? Why?

Answer: A little baby girl who was born too early and who had no parents anymore. She would easily die if she was not taken care of carefully and kept very warm.

b. How did God give the Newborn what she needed? How did He use His people to give her this?

Answer: He kept her alive. He sent the water bottle from England and timed it to get to Africa at just the right time. He used the love of His people to pray and care for her.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not ____, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily ____, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the ____. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love ____ fails."

Answers: boast; angered; truth; never.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being All-knowing and the Perfect Planner of All Things.

C God, we confess that like Dr. Helen, many times we do not have the faith to believe that You can do incredible things when we ask for them. We forget how great You are and that You are able to do more than we can imagine.

T God, we thank You for preparing good works for Your people to do, wonderful good works, like those that Dr. Helen and Ruth did.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Prepare good works for us to do, help us to see what they are, and help us rejoice in doing them.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred
minds,
Is like to that above.

Verse 2

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent pray'rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for
each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be
joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Refrain:

Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds,
Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds.

Words: John Fawcett. Refrain & Music: Constance Dever

Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God's people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. God's people are to love everyone, but they have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God's family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God's family here on earth. It is a little taste of the perfect fellowship and love they will know up above in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Love Is Patient

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11

Love is patient, love is kind,
Love doesn't envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, it always trusts and hopes,
It always perseveres.

Love never fails, love never fails,
love never fails, love never fails!
First Corinthians Thirteen, four through eight.

Words adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Constance Dever © 2011

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.