

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 NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

God is spirit. God the Father has no body for us to see, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. No human look upon God in all His glory. He is too holy for us to see.

Jesus is God's Son. He is spirit, like His Father, but He became human to live on earth and to die for God's people's sins. He is completely God AND completely man. God's people will live face to face with God in heaven. There, they will see Jesus. He will still have a human body; but there, He will shine with magnificent glory because he is God.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Hidden Help.

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

1. Who needed help? Why?
2. Who helped? How was their help hidden? How was it not hidden?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1950's in the Belgian Congo, in Africa.

"Seeing is believing." That's what many people think. If they can't see something or touch something, then how do they know if it is really true or real? That's one reason why many have a hard time believing in the LORD. After all, He is spirit and we can't see Him.

But Dr. Helen Roseveare was one person who didn't have to see to believe. The Holy Spirit had worked her heart, giving her faith to believe in this great God she couldn't see. And not only did she believe in Him, but she was willing to leave her nice, safe home in England to go to a not very safe place at all, to tell others about Him and to care for their medical needs-- the Belgian Congo in Africa.

There were many things that made the Belgian Congo a dangerous place when Helen went there. There were lots of mosquitoes that carried a sickness called malaria that medicines couldn't always cure. There were huge, poisonous snakes hiding among the thick undergrowth; there were crocodiles in the rivers. Even leopards and other wild animals roamed in the jungles. Could Dr. Roseveare really trust this great, invisible God of hers to take care of her amidst such dangers? Would He be there with her, even though she couldn't see Him? She believed He would be.

But when Dr. Roseveare arrived in the Congo, she found there was another great danger that she had to face that she had not known about: LIONS! Oh, I don't mean "ROAAAARRRR!" lions, with big teeth and huge claws, furry manes and long tails. I mean the "Lions of the Army of Liberation." These were men who had rebelled against the government in the Belgian Congo and taken it over. They armed themselves with spears, guns, clubs, and machetes and went around the country robbing, looting and even killing anyone they thought were their enemies. Unfortunately, this included people who came from

people who from other countries, like Dr. Roseveare.

Could Helen trust this great invisible God of hers to take care of her, even against these "Lions?"...or should she go back home to England? She believed she could trust Him and so she stayed right there in the Belgian Congo so she could tell the good news Jesus and give the people medical care.

"Bang, bang, bang!" The quiet Sunday afternoon was interrupted by a sudden, loud hammering at Dr. Roseveare's back door. Then came the familiar shout of the Lion soldiers: "Open up in the name of the Army of Liberation!"

"You stay here with your baby while I try to keep them out," whispered Dr. Roseveare to the Greek woman whom Dr. Roseveare had helped give birth to her first child the night before. Dr. Roseveare was but a little English lady, what could she do against the likes of the great Lions of the Army of Liberation? Very little on her own, but ANYTHING was possible with her great, invisible God who was always with her.

Dr. Roseveare stumbled to the door and somehow forced herself outside, pulling the door shut behind her. She would try to keep the soldiers from coming in the house and getting to the worried mother and her baby. Dr. Roseveare turned around and faced three, fierce soldiers. The one in the Middle was the leader, the man to her right carried a spear, and the one to her left had a gun slung over his shoulder and a large club at his waist.

The soldiers began shouting demands at her. "Give us your money or else!"

"I am not going to part with my money or anything else!" thought Dr. Roseveare. She stood her ground, blocking the door and refusing to let them inside.

The soldiers' tempers flared. "Look at this defenseless, little English woman! How dare she treat us like this! There's no one to help her. Doesn't she know we can easily handle her. She's no match for us! We're the Lions!" they said.

The leader standing in the Middle turned to the man on his left and commanded: "Strike her down!" The man raised his spear. He wasn't more than three feet away from her. If he hit her, the blow would kill her. Dr. Roseveare raised her arm to protect herself, but knew it would do no good.

"Will I live or die? Please, God, if I'm to die, may it be quickly, by this soldier's first blow!" she gasped a prayer to her great, invisible God.

Dr. Roseveare waited for the spear to hit her body, but nothing happened. At last she opened her eyes and what did she see? There was that soldier, his arm upraised, spear poised to strike, eyes filled with anger...yet unable to move! The great, invisible God who they couldn't see was indeed with her. He had frozen that terrible soldier and his spear in place with His mighty power that this man could neither resist nor overcome. God was more powerful than this Lion!

"Strike her down!" roared the leader to the second man. He raised his gun to crash the end of it down upon Dr. Roseveare's head. Again, Dr. Roseveare raised her arm and braced herself for the blow, prepared to live or die, turning her head away, holding her breath, her mouth dry.

Again, nothing happened. Slowly, Dr. Roseveare turned and looked. There the second soldier stood, as the first one, held in the iron grip of her great, invisible God, totally unable to move. The Lord once more showed that He was more powerful than these Lions. Hatred, anger, and moved across the soldier's face. Dr. Roseveare's eyes gazed steadily into his for a long moment; then, her heart was flooded with peace and safety and power.

She turned to the leader and said, "You're wasting your time! My God is stronger than yours. You'd better go round to the front of the house and we'll calmly discuss this matter there."

Dr. Roseveare backed into the house, shut the door and then collapsed to the concrete floor.

"Thank you, Lord, for rescuing me!" she prayed gratefully to her mighty, invisible God who had been with her and saved her. As soon as Dr. Roseveare shut the door to her house, the invisible God who had held the soldiers frozen in His grip, now released them. They stood there deeply afraid. They had not seen this God, but now they knew that He existed. That English woman was not just a defenseless little lady as they had thought. She had a great, invisible God with her protecting her. They would not try harming her again. They wanted to know more of her God.

Dr. Roseveare graciously invited these same men who only minutes before had intended to kill her, to sit down on her front porch with her. She served them coffee and cookies and shared with them about her great, invisible God. She told them about Daniel and how this same God had protected him from hungry, ferocious lions by shutting their mouths. Most of all, she told them about Jesus, God's

Son, nicknamed the “Lion of Judah.” He was God Himself, come to earth as a human—yet still completely God, too. He came to offer up His life as the perfect payment for sins of all who confess their sins to Him and turn to trust in Him for salvation. This Jesus would even forgive these terrible “Lions”, if they would ask Him to be their Savior.

We don’t know what happened to those soldiers that day after they left Dr. Roseveare’s house. Did they decide to turn in trust in this great, invisible God they had seen protect Dr. Roseveare that day? I hope that they did! But one thing is for sure: they never forgot Him--the great, invisible Lion of Judah--who loved and protected His people, according to His good plans.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: John 4:24

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

What about you and me? We cannot see the LORD, the great, invisible God who is spirit. What will we do? Will we decide to forget Him when we want to do things we know He wouldn’t want us to do? Will we decide to act like He doesn’t see us or that He isn’t really here with us always? It’s easy for us to forget what we don’t see, just like it was for those soldiers.

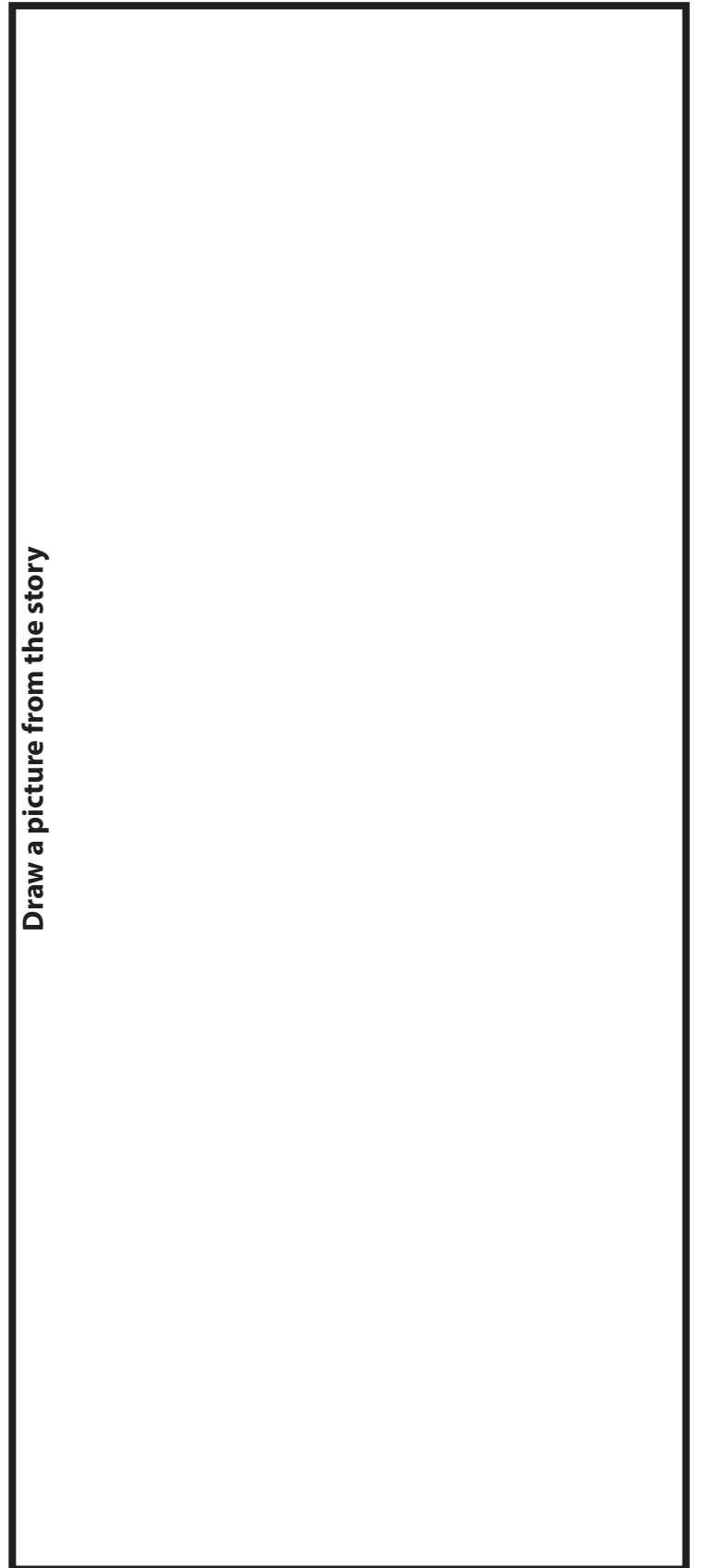
Or, will we be like the true worshipers of God who know Jesus and have His Spirit live in their hearts? They remember Him in everything they do: trusting Him, obeying Him, loving Him, like Dr. Roseveare did; even though they can’t see Him.

Jesus invites each of us to be true worshipers of Him. He invites us to be His people. How? By turning from wanting to disobey God and trusting Jesus as our own Savior. If we do, He will send His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He will make them new and full of love for Him. He will help us know Him better and better each day and He will take care of us every day of our lives.

Best of all, one day we will not have to worship who we don’t see, but who we do see. In heaven, we will gaze upon the beauty, magnificent glory of the LORD and see Jesus in all His glorious splendor. Then there will never have to be believing without seeing again!

Let’s praise this great God, who is a glorious spirit, who invites us to be His true worshipers. Let’s ask Him to work

in our hearts that we might turn from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit, that we might know Him and love Him even today! And one day, get to see Him and be with Him in all His glory in heaven.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

When Jesus came to earth, He became a man and wasn't God any more.

Answer: False. Jesus became human when He came to earth, but He still was the Son of God. He was fully God and fully human.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who needed help? Why?

Answer: Helen Roseveare. Soldiers came who wanted to hurt her and the other people who lived with her if she didn't give them what they wanted.

b. Who helped? How was his help hidden? How was it not hidden?

Answer: The Lord helped. His help was hidden in that God is a spirit and didn't show Himself to the soldiers. His help wasn't hidden in that He made the soldiers unable to even move.

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

John 4:24

"God is ____, and his worshipers must ____ in ____ and in truth."

Answers: Spirit; worship; truth.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

O Worship the King

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 7

Verse 1

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavillioned in splendor and girded with praise.

God is spirit. We cannot see spirit, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. From heaven above, He rules as King over all, reigning in the splendor of His glory. Those who see Him, like the angels cannot help but praise Him for how glorious He is. He is girded in their praise. That is, their praise surrounds Him, just like when we gird our Middle with a belt.

But not only is the LORD full of glory, but He is also full of steadfast love for all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are His people and He is their God, forever and ever. He is the Ancient of Days--He has always lived and He has always loved them. He is their shield and defender. He will take care of them every day of their lives and bring them safely home to live with Him forever. There, they, too will see Him in His glory and their praise will surround Him for His wonderful love shown to them.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the great Lion of Judah. You are spirit, hidden from our eyes here on earth, but You are more powerful than anyone or anything we can see.

C God, we confess that many times we have a hard time believing in You because we can't see You with our eyes.

T God, we thank You that You are always able to protect Your people in any situation, according to Your perfect plan.

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. Help us to worship You and trust in You, even though we cannot see You with our eyes. Work in our hearts, helping us to know You better through Your Spirit.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

God Is Spirit

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 8

God is spirit,
God is spirit,
And His worshipers worship Him
In spirit and truth.
God is spirit,
God is spirit,
And His worshipers worship Him
In spirit and truth.
John Four, twenty-four, Hey!

Words: John 4:24, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

This verse tells us that God is spirit. It also tells us that if we want to be true followers, true worshippers of God, that we will worship Him with the spirit He put inside of us. How do we do this? By turning from our sins, believing in Jesus, the Son of God, and trusting in Him as our Savior. When we do, God puts His Holy Spirit inside our spirit. He works powerfully inside us, helping us to live out our faith in Him by seeking to know Him more and more and love Him in everything we do in our lives.