

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 2:

The LORD Is the Only True God

To worship means to love, honor and testify to the worth of someone. It usually means that we choose it to be more important than anything else in our lives. Sometimes it is a god that people worship. Sometimes it is other people or things that they love. Sometimes, they really just worship themselves.

But God created people to worship Him. He is the only, true God. He is our Creator and our king. He deserves for us to worship Him. He deserves for us to choose loving and obeying Him over everything else in our lives.

Not only does God deserve our worship, but only when we worship Him, will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be. Seeking His glory is also for our best good!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."

CASE STORY

adapted from *Wedding Drums and Other Stories*

by Nigerian Missionaries

Our story is called:

The Case of the Curious Children.

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

1. Who were the Curious Children? Who did they want to meet?
2. Who else did they meet? How was he different from Shango?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in Nigeria, Africa, in the 1940's.

It was sunrise and the villagers had begun to stir inside their huts. Today was the biggest day of the year and there was much to do! It was the Day of Shango's Visit to the Yoruba people. Shango was their mighty god of Thunder and Lightning, who they believed lived high up in the sky. From there, he watched all things, they were told. There were many gods the Yoruba worshiped, but Shango was the one they paid closest attention to. He demanded their worship and obedience and could get very upset, very quickly, if he did not get it. The Yoruba believed he had special ways of knowing things and hurled down lightning "stones" to punish people. If a lightning "stone" struck someone's house, Shango's priests would come and take everything from the house they wanted as part of Shango's punishment.

The Yoruba feared Shango and did whatever they thought would make him happy. This was especially true on the Day of Shango's Visit, when Shango came to visit the Yoruba in the form of one of his faithful priests, the Yoruba believed. He visited every village, receiving the people's praise and sacrifices...and punishing anyone who didn't worship him as they should.

All the Yoruba waited with fear and excitement to see Shango that day, but perhaps no one more than a four-year-boy named Adeoti. Now before we go on with our story. I want to tell you something about Shango that Adeoti and many of the Yoruba people didn't know. Shango was just a fake! Far from the mighty god of Thunder and Lightning they believed him to be, Shango was really just one of the priests dressed up in what looked like a scary Halloween costume. And the great Day of Shango's Visit that Adeoti and the others were waiting for? Why, it was just a chance for that priest to scare the people into doing

what they wanted them to do...and to take some of their things! So, don't be scared as you listen to the story of Shango. You know the truth: Shango is a big, ole fake! Ok, now let's go back to the story and hear what happened with Adeoti and the others on the Day of Shango's Visit.

When the men began to beat the village drums and the women began their fast-stepping worship dances in the market square, Adeoti knew it was almost time to see Shango. Faster and faster beat the drums, faster and faster twirled the dancers. Then, just when it seemed that they could not beat harder nor twirl faster, Shango appeared! What a sight he was! Shango did not have a shaved head like the Yoruba men. He had long black hair braided closely to his head. He stood proudly in front of them, bare-chested and with his face covered with a white powder. He looked scary! Priests came forward with sacrifices to honor Shango and the people chanted, "Great Shango, You take in your hand your fiery stones of lightning, to punish the guilty. We worship you!"

But words weren't enough for Shango. He wanted true worship and obedience. So this man, dressed up like Shango, punished anyone he thought didn't honor him as he deserved. Adeoti bowed low to the ground before Shango. He wanted to make sure Shango knew that he worshiped him.

Some time after the Day of Shango's Visit, news reached Adeoti's ears of another curious visitor who had come to the land of the Yoruba. He had a white face, too, but it wasn't powder like Shango's had been-- it was white skin! And, while the white man didn't say he was a god, he did say that he had come to them to give them a special message from God.

Now if you live in a country where there are people of many different skin colors and nationalities, it may seem strange to hear of someone who has never seen people with white skin. But this story took place long ago and Adeoti's village was in a far away part of Nigeria where everyone had dark skin and few visitors came. That's why Adeoti was so curious about seeing white skin.

"I wonder if he is scary-looking like Shango?" Adeoti thought, longing to see what this visitor looked like. One day when his family had gone to market to sell their goods, he finally got his chance, for there in the market square was the white man! Adeoti stared at him in curiosity and wonder. "No, he doesn't look anything like Shango. He has

a kind, loving face," Adeoti thought. "I wonder what he's like? I wonder if his god is like Shango? I wish I could talk with that man and hear about his god's special messages."

Adeoti's parents noticed how curious he was and warned him, "Don't have anything to do with that white man or the god he talks about. You know how Shango is. He is quick to punish anyone who doesn't worship and obey him. Do you want him to get angry and hurl a lightning stone at us?" they said. Adeoti remembered Shango's terrible face. He had seen what the priests did to families when Shango hurled a lightning stone at their hut. He knew his parents were right. It would be better to keep away from the white man and the God he told about. Yet deep down inside, he longed to know more.

Adeoti's older sister, Oke Oreokin, was as curious about this visitor as Adeoti. She found out everything she could about him and told Adeoti in the evenings. "Adeoti, guess what I saw today," she told him one evening with a gleam in her eyes. "I saw the visitor Babaegbe's wife and little baby as they went to the House of their God (the church building)," Oke Oreokin told him. "Oh, Adeoti, you've just got to see them! Tomorrow is their Ojoisimi (Day of Rest). They will be at the House of their God, she said. "We'll visit grandmother, then sneak over and see them there."

The next morning, Adeoti and his sister went to see their grandmother, then joined the other people gathering at the mud-walled, grass-thatched church. This was not at all what Adeoti had planned! He had wanted to see the white people and go. Now he had to sit and listen to them talk about the white man's god! Now what would Shango think? But Adeoti soon stopped thinking about Shango as he listened to the beautiful songs the others sang and then to the words the white man read them from the book of his God.

"I know that many of you are worshipers of Shango, the god of Thunder and Lightning," he told them. "You live in fear of him and his terrible temper. You tremble as you try to please him. I have come to tell you that neither this Shango you fear nor any of the other gods you worship are really gods. They are just idols. But there is another God, you've not yet heard of. His name is the LORD. He is the one, true God. He's the creator of the whole world. He's completely good and loving. He's all-powerful. And He has sent me to tell you about Him and how you can worship Him."

Then Babaegbe told them the gospel. He told them how the LORD created us to know and love Him, yet we have all chosen to rebel against Him and deserve His punishment. But that in His mercy, He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay for the sins of all who would ever repent of their sins and trust in Him as their Savior will be saved. He rose from the dead in victory.

“Babaegbe’s God isn’t anything like Shango,” Adeoti and his sister exclaimed. “He’s wonderful and good. We want to hear more about Him.”

Adeoti and his sister went back again and again to hear more. At first Adeoti feared Shango would punish him for being curious about another god, but as God worked in his heart, Adeoti began to truly believe that Shango really wasn’t anything but a fake god.

“The LORD, He is the one, true God. I want to leave Shango and turn and believe in the Him,” Adeoti told Babaegbe one Sunday. “I want to live my life for Him.”

Adeoti was making a big decision. He knew that his family would be terrified that Shango would punish him and his family. He had seen how on the Day of Shango’s Visit, the man dressed up like Shango punished the other Yoruba who had become Christians. But Adeoti knew the LORD was the one, true God, not Shango. He would choose to worship him, even if it meant being hurt.

The LORD was good to Adeoti. He had used his curiosity about people with white skin to bring him to know and worship Himself, the one, true God. He helped Adeoti to keep growing in his love and obedience to Him, despite opposition from people around him. When Adeoti grew up, he went to school to become a pastor and started his only little church among the Yoruba people, so that others might turn from their fear of Shango and turn instead to know and worship the Lord, too.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the One, True God

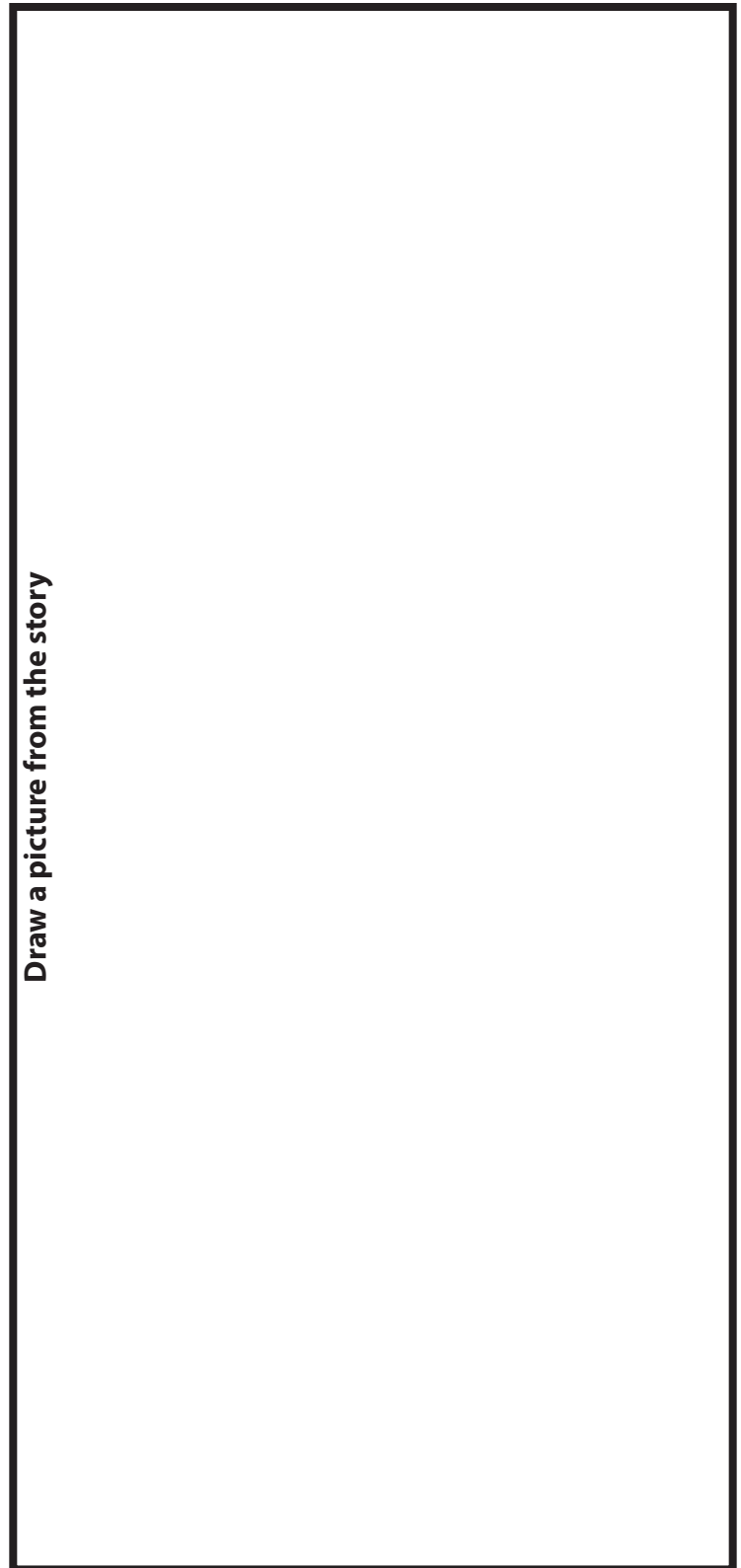
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:8-10

“There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.”

These verses remind us that the LORD is the one, true God and He alone is worthy of our worship. What about you and me? Like Adeoti, we all have to make a decision

to be a follower and worshiper of LORD. This is a big decision that changes our whole lives, but God delights to help us make that decision.

Let’s praise God for being the one, true God. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to worshiper and praise Him the rest of our lives.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Sometimes people worship gods, but sometimes it is other things or people they worship. Sometimes people even worship themselves.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who were the Curious Children? Who did they want to meet?
Answer: Adeoti and Oke Oreokin. They wanted to meet the Babaagebe's wife and baby.

b. Who else did they meet? How was he different from Shango?
Answer: The Lord. He was the one, true God. He was wonderful and good. He welcomed and forgave sinners who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 86:8-10
 "There is none like ___ among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the ___ you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall ___ your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."
Answers: You, nations, glorify.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 14

Verse 3
 Holy, holy, holy,
 Though the darkness hide Thee,
 Tho' the eye of sinful man
 Thy glory may not see;
 Only Thou art holy;
 There is none beside Thee,
 Perfect in pow'r,
 In love and purity.

Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes

"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the one, true God, who is wonderful and good...and not anything like Shango!

C God, we confess that like Adeoti, we are sinners who need a Savior.

T God, we thank You that You send out Your people to share the good news of salvation through Jesus. Thank You for sending people to tell us.

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 and obey You our whole lives. Please send out more of Your people to tell the good news of Jesus to those who have never heard.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Among the Gods
PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 15

Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord;
 Nor are there works like yours.
 For you are great
 and do wondrous things, O Lord,
 You alone are God.
 Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.

Words: Psalm 86:8, 10 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012

This verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.