

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

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 7:
The LORD Is Omnipotent

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5,6
"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made... The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

adapted from Spiritual Stories for the Young and Old, Joel Beeke, editor

Our story is called:
The Case of the Heavenly Hopeful Boy.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
1. Who was the Heavenly Hopeful Boy? What did it mean that he was heavenly hopeful?
2. Why was he so heavenly hopeful? What kinds of things did heaven provide?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place around 1800, in France.

A young boy named Peter sat quietly by the bed of his dying father. This poor boy had lost his mother and now he was losing his father, too. With no brothers or sisters or even aunts, uncles, or grandparents to take care of him, what would happen to him? Back then, the French government didn't do much to take care of orphans (children with no mother or father) like Peter. How would this little boy get food or clothes? Who would take care of him when he was sick? Who would be with him when he was lonely or scared?

The boy's father knew his son's mind must be filled with worried questions like this, so he spent his last moments reminding his boy about God, his Heavenly Father. "Little Peter, you will soon be alone in this world and you will have to face many troubles. But remember: 'All things come from above.' This will make it easier for you to endure all the hard times," he said.

What did Peter's father mean: "All things come from above"? Peter's father was a Christian. He believed that God was omnipotent. He always took care of His people's needs and He made all things in their lives work for their good. He wanted Peter to put his trust in the Lord to take care of him. If he did, then everything could be truly trusted as coming from the good and holy God above.

Little Peter was very little. He couldn't understand everything his father told him, but he understood enough to trust the Lord to take care of him. He repeated the words "It comes from Above" over and over to himself so he wouldn't forget them.

After his father died, Little Peter began to do what he could to survive. He had a beautiful voice and would often go door-to-door or stand in the street, offering to sing in return for food or money. Each time someone gave him something, he thanked them and said, "It comes from

Above," as his father had told him to remember.

When Little Peter became older, he better understood the meaning of his father's words. He began to truly believe that he could trust God to take care of his needs. He believed God's promise to use all things for his good, since he trusted in Him as his Savior.

Not only did Peter just understand the meaning of the words, but he began to see God's omnipotent power and good plan at work in all things in his life. One day, as Peter walked through a town, suddenly a clay roof tile was snatched from a nearby house by a gust of wind. The wind lifted it through the air and then down, hitting Little Peter's shoulder and knocking him down to the ground. The first words he spoke after recovering from the blow were, "It comes from Above."

The people who had gathered around Peter laughed at his words, "Why, of course it came from above. The wind brought it down upon you!"

But Peter wasn't talking about the direction from which the tile came. He was talking about Who had allowed it to happen to him. Peter had learned to trust God to take care of him. He knew that God was in control of all things and at work in all things. He only used His omnipotent power to work all that His good and holy will desired. He knew that whatever the troubles came to him— even this painful one—the Lord allowed

and somehow always used them for Peter's good and His own glory. Everything could be truly trusted as coming from the good and holy God Above.

Only a few minutes later, Little Peter was to see just how true this was. Suddenly another, far bigger gust of wind swept across the rooftops causing some houses only steps down from where Peter lay to crash down onto the sidewalk and in the street.

"Truly the tile did come from Above! God even used it for my good!" Peter exclaimed. "If it hadn't knocked me down, then I would have been caught in the middle of that house when it fell down! The tile hurt me, the house could have killed me!" Peter thanked God once more for His omnipotent power used for his good.

As Peter grew up, sometimes he was hired by businessmen as a messenger boy. One day a gentleman asked him to take a letter to another town for him. "You must hurry. This letter contains very important business that must be taken care of right now! Much depends upon this letter. Take it

safely! Take it fast! Make sure that it gets in the hands of the businessman in the other town," the businessman told Peter.

"I will go as fast as I can," Little Peter.

So, rather than taking the road to the other town, Little Peter took a short cut across the countryside. Past farmers working their fields, over the water ditches, Little Peter went as fast as he could go, tightly onto the important letter the whole time. Peter sped along until he went to leap one particularly wide ditch. Instead of reaching the other side, he fell into the mud. When finally he had pulled himself out and up the other side of the ditch, he was one, big, muddy mess. Worst of all, Peter had lost the letter!

"Oh, no! What will the businessman say?" Peter couldn't help but wonder. "What will happen if the letter is not delivered? Surely the man won't pay me for this job." Would Peter be without money to buy food now?

But as quick as these thoughts came to mind, so did the words of his father: "Remember: it comes from Above." Once more Peter trusted the Lord, even with this terrible situation.

Peter went straight back to the businessman and told him everything that had happened. The man was furious, especially when Peter tried to encourage him by telling him that "It comes from Above."

"How could something like this come from God, as if some good could come from it?" the man told Peter.

He chased Peter out of the room. Peter would not be hired by this man again, that was certain! But nonetheless, Peter kept trusting the Lord.

Sure enough, the next day but that very same gentleman found Little Peter and said: "Little Peter, I want to pay you well for what you did yesterday. It has turned out for the good that the letter was lost yesterday! Some things in my business changed so much from yesterday to today that I would have been ruined if that letter had been delivered. Thank you!"

Little Peter gratefully took the money and said once more to the man, "It comes from Above." And now even the man could see that it had.

Many more things like this happened in the life of Little Peter. As he grew to be a young man, Peter's trust in the Lord grew as he kept seeing the Lord's omnipotent hand at work in his life for his good. Not only that, but the Lord got great glory as more and more people watched Him

work in Little Peter's life and could see how worthy He was of all Peter's trust.

One day a certain rich Englishman visited the town where Little Peter lived. He also had heard the story of this boy who trusted in God. He had come to see and meet him, himself. "Could it really be that such a young man who had lived such a hard life could really trust God to take care of him?" the rich Englishman thought to himself. "Could he really know that God was in control of all things and at work in all things for his good? "If Little Peter is truly like this, then I would love to help him," he decided.

When the Englishman met Little Peter he asked him, "Little Peter, why do you think I've asked to meet you?"

Little Peter had no real idea what to answer. How could he ever have guessed what the Englishman had in mind? But he trusted that somehow it must be part of God's good plan, so he answered, "It comes from Above."

How pleased the Englishman was with this answer! Everything he had heard about Little Peter was true!

"I agree!" he replied. "Peter, will you come home with me to England? I want to take care of you like you were my son," he asked. Little Peter happily agreed.

So the Englishman took Peter home with him to Birmingham, England. He took care of him and paid for him to go to school. He taught him how to be a good businessman. And what good friends the two became!

The rich Englishman grew old and died. He left a lot of his money to Little Peter, making Peter one of the richest business men in Birmingham.

But even though Peter became a very great man, he never thought of himself as Great, Important Peter--only Little Peter. Why? Because he knew that everything he had came from Above. It was always God who gave him everything he needed. It was His omnipotent power that had worked all things for his good.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

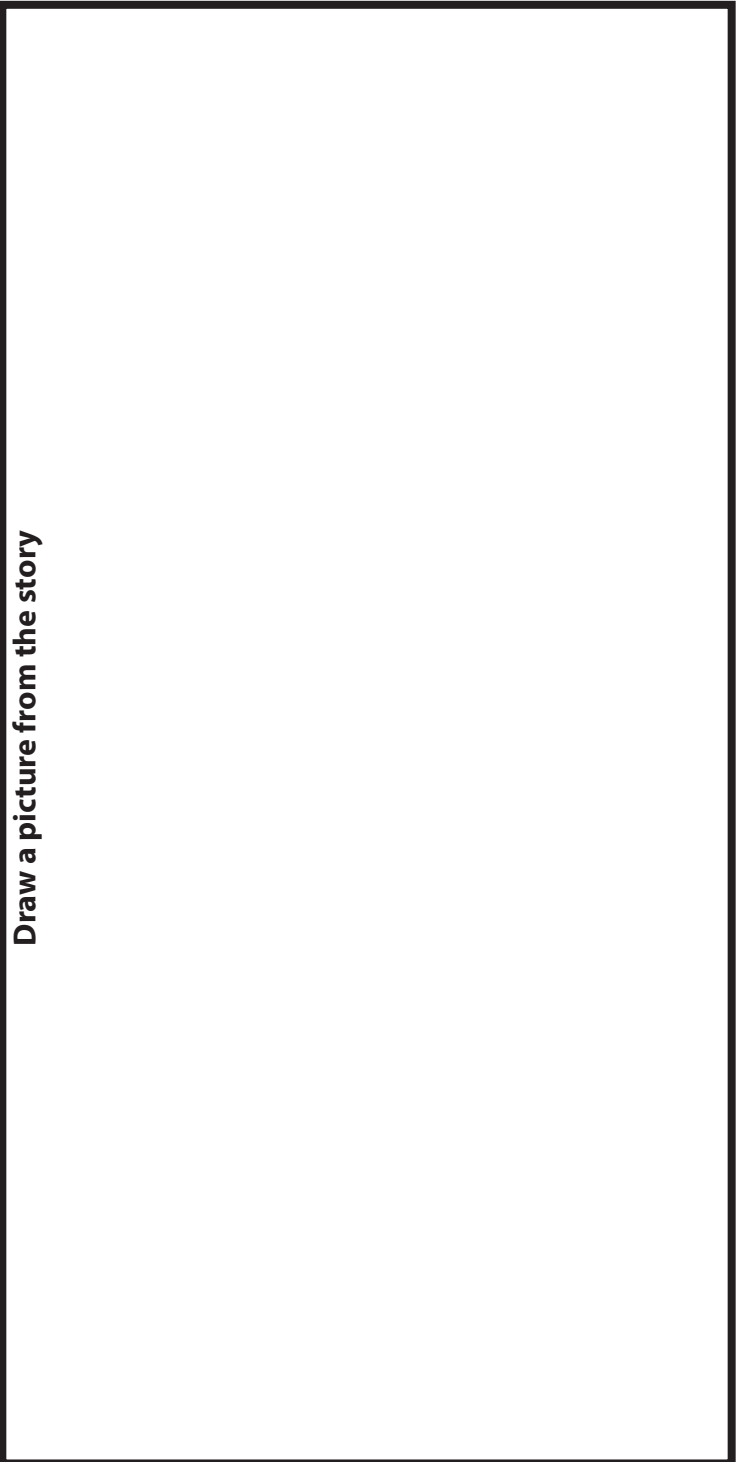
"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."

How could Little Peter trust God's power to work for his good and God's glory in all things? Because Peter knew that the Lord had already taken care of his greatest need:

He had sent Jesus to save him from his sins. If we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior, God will make us His people, too. Like Little Peter we can know that He will use His great power for our good and His glory.

Let's praise God for His omnipotent power that He always and only uses to fulfill all His good and holy will. Let's ask Him work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him help us to not complain or worry in hard times, but trust like Little Peter, that "It all comes from Above."

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God is all powerful and makes sure that His good plans work out, but He also gave us a will that makes choices. We are responsible for our own actions.
 Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Heavenly Hopeful Boy? What did it mean that he was heavenly hopeful?
 Answer: Little Peter. It mean that he depended upon God to take care of his needs.

b. Why was he so heavenly hopeful? What kinds of things did heaven provide?
 Answer: He had no father or mother. He had learned from an early age to ask God to provide for his needs and God had always answered him. The Lord provided him with food, with a job, with help in times of trouble, and even with a new father and good life.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 135:5-6
 "I know that the LORD is ____, that our Lord is g____ than all gods. The LORD does whatever ____ Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."
 Answers: great, greater, pleases.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

This Is My Father's World
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21

Verse 3
 This is my Father's world,
 O let me ne'er forget,
 That though the wrong
 Seems oft so strong,
 God is the Ruler yet.
 This is my Father's world.
 The battle is not done.
 Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
 And earth and heaven be one.

Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard

This world belongs to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being Omnipotent. You make everything to work for the good of Your people.

C God, we confess that many times we don't want God to do far more than use all things in our lives for our good and His glory. We just want Him to make everything easy for us.

T God, we thank You that always do what's best, even if it's something other than what we think we want. Thank You that You go ahead and give Your people what's best and use their lives for Your glory.

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, like Little Peter did. Help us to trust You when we go through hard things to use them for our good and Your glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Know that the LORD Is Great
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22

I know that the LORD is great,
 That our Lord is greater than all gods.
 The LORD does whatever pleases him.
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths,
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths.
 The LORD does whatever pleases Him.
 Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.

Words: Psalm 135:5,6, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.