

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 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, ESV

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

CASE STORY

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Our story is:

The Case of the Forbidden Visitor.

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

1. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something?
2. What was he forbidden to do? Why?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on the earth, in the Galilean town of Capernaum.

A strong man dressed in the glittering, bronze breastplate and red cape of a Roman centurion, knelt near the mat where his dearly-loved servant lay. The centurion had watched as the man grew sicker, day after day. Now he was about to die.

How saw was the centurion! How he loved this servant! By Roman law, centurions were not allowed to marry. So, for many of these officers, their servants became more like family than workers. This is how was with this centurion and his servant. He treasured his servant not just for his work, but also for his close friendship.

The centurion was desperate to save this man's life! But what could he do?! "Here I am a centurion. I'm in charge of sixty men who run to obey my least command. When I say go, they go. When I say come, they come. Yet here I am completely powerless over the sickness of my dear servant!" he exclaimed.

"This is not a matter for men. It's one for the gods," his Roman friends would have likely told him. "Only the gods have the power to make sickness and death come and go in the same way that you command your soldiers," they would have said. "Ask the gods for help! Make an offering to Apollo, the god of healing. Perhaps he will accept your offering and heal your servant. That is your only hope."

While this centurion would have completely agreed that his servant's life was a matter needing the power of a god, he knew better than to ask the Roman god, Apollo who was thought to have command over sickness and death. This centurion had the beginnings of faith in the one true God, the LORD, the God of Israel. Perhaps he had been raised as a Roman, but he had come to love Israel. By himself, he given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. He worshiped Him, too. So it was to the LORD, not any Roman false god, that he turned

to for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

Suddenly the centurion's face lit up with an idea, "Jesus, the Jewish teacher! He's the one who can help my dear servant! Why, the townspeople can hardly stop talking about the powerful way He teaches and the amazing healings He does! He has the power of God to heal. No sickness seems to stand against His power!" the centurion decided.

"Somehow I must bring Jesus here to heal my servant, but how? I am a Roman and He is a famous and powerful Jewish teacher. By their laws He should have nothing to do with me. How can I ever expect Him to help me or even speak to Him," he thought. "But still, my servant is near death. Jesus is his only hope. Perhaps I can think of some way..." the centurion thought.

As a plan came to mind, the centurion leapt up and left the house in a rush. "Maybe Jesus wouldn't come with me if I asked Him and maybe I don't deserve to speak to Him, but what if Jews asked Him to help my servant? Perhaps then He would come. It's certainly worth a try."

Before long, the centurion had gathered together some of the Jewish leaders of Capernaum. "Listen, I need your help," he told them. "My dear servant is near death and only your teacher, Jesus, can possibly save him now. As a Roman, Jesus surely would not want to have anything to do with me, but you are Jews. Perhaps if you ask Jesus would come and help my servant.

Would you please do this for me?" he pleaded with them.

Now if it had been most any other Roman, these Jews would have quickly refused to help. The Jews hated the Romans, especially the Roman soldiers, and with good reason. After all, hadn't it been the Roman soldiers who had fought their people and taken over their land? Didn't they make their lives miserable? Why would the Jews ever want to help a Roman—especially a Roman soldier?

But there was something very different about this Roman centurion. For he had the beginnings of faith in the one true God: the LORD, the God of Israel. This man had come to love Israel and had, by himself, given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. They could see that it wasn't to Roman gods, but to the LORD he turned for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

"We will do what we can for you," they told him. "Go home and wait with your servant while we go talk to Jesus."

It didn't take long for these leaders to find Jesus. As usual, a large crowd swarmed around Him, many of them seeking Jesus' commanding power to heal their own sicknesses. As quickly as they could, the elders made their way through the crowd and up to Jesus. "Jesus, come with us. There is a centurion who begs You to come and heal his servant," they pleaded earnestly. "Yes, it's true, he is Roman, not a Jew," they continued, "but we urge You to help him and his servant. There is something very different about him. He has come to love Israel and has, by himself, given us, the Jews of Capernaum, enough money to build our synagogue where the Bible is preached and the LORD worshiped. He isn't turning to the Roman gods, but to the LORD for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death," they told Jesus.

Jesus listened and agreed. He followed them down the streets of Capernaum towards the centurion's house, the crowd of people trailing after Him.

Back at his house, the centurion waited hopefully by his servant's side, listening for the sound of voices and approaching footsteps. As he waited, he thought more and more about Jesus and what he was asking Jesus to do. "Only God has the power over sickness and death; yet, Jesus orders them about just as easily as I order my soldiers. Surely it is only by God's power that He can do this. I am not worthy to have someone as great as Jesus come to my house! I must send word to stop Him from coming here!" he decided. He quickly sent of some of his friends to find Jesus and give Him his message before it was too late.

They soon ran into Jesus as He, the Jewish leaders and the crowd neared the centurion's house. "Our friend, the centurion asks You not to come to his house, Sir," they told Jesus. He says to tell You, 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

How shocked the Jews were! Here they had urged Jesus to come help this Roman and now he refused to even let him come into his house!

Jesus was also amazed at the centurion's words, but for

a very different reason. Jesus could see that this centurion had more than a love of Israel and the beginnings of faith in the LORD. This centurion had the greatest faith in Him and His omnipotent power over sickness and death, than even any of the Jews! Many might have believed Jesus had power to heal them when He was with them, but to believe that, like God, He had the power to Simply give the word to heal wherever He was, was absolutely astonishing—even to Jesus, the very Son of God!

Jesus turned to the crowd following him and said, "I tell you the truth, I've not found such great faith among any of the Jews." Then the men who had been sent returned to the centurion's house and found the servant well.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6**

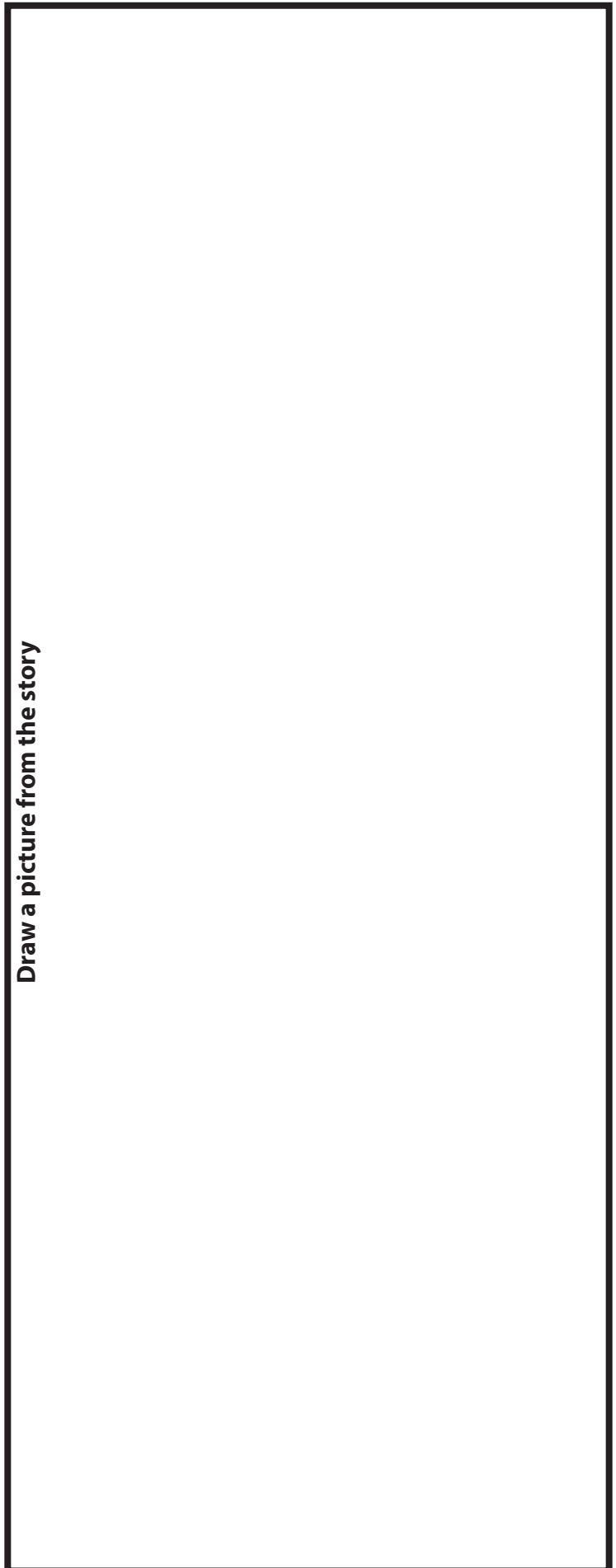
"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

The centurion heard about Jesus' powerful teaching and amazing miracles and he recognized that this was the LORD's omnipotent power at work in Him. He believed that Jesus had to the power to do Simply speak His will and it would come about. No wonder Jesus was amazed at his faith! It was a great gift, indeed!

What about you and me? We have heard far greater things about Jesus than this centurion had. We know that not only did He command sickness and death, but He had the power to endure on the cross all God's just and eternal punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He had the power to conquer death by rising from the dead. And one day, He will come back and with just the power of His word, bring an end to sin, evil and death, and reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Knowing all these things about the power of Jesus, do we not have even more reason to put our faith in Him?

Let's praise Jesus, the all-powerful Son of God. Let's ask Him to help us to give us the gift of great faith in Him. Let's ask Him to help us trust Him with our whole lives.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God is all-powerful there is nothing that He cannot or will not do. Answer: True and False. God is all-powerful, but He will never do anything evil. His own holiness limits what He will do to only what is good and holy.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something? Answer: Jesus. The centurion with the sick servant.</p> <p>b. What was he forbidden to do? Why? Answer: He was forbidden to come to enter the centurion's house to see his sick servant. Because the centurion believed it was too great of an honor for Jesus, the Messiah, to enter his house. And, because he believed that Jesus had complete power over sickness and death. He did not even need to come to his house to heal his servant. He only needed to speak the word and it would happen.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6 "For I know that the ____ is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in ____ and on earth, in the ____ and all deeps." Answer: LORD, heaven, seas.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>This Is My Father's World <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 29</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard</p> <p>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.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being all-powerful over sickness, sin and death.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we don't respond in faith, like the centurion did. Many times we doubt whether God is able to help us or others.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for caring about our needs. Thank You for all the ways You use Your omnipotent power to do good to us and others.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us greater faith in You and Your omnipotent power. Give us faith like the centurion had.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>I Know that the LORD Is Great <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 30</i></p> <p>I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord's above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and on earth, The seas and all deeps. Whate'er the LORD pleases He does. I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord's above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and on earth, The seas and all deeps. Whate'er the LORD pleases He does. Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 135:5,6, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>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.</p>