

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 5: God, the Good Creator

Unit 5 Big Question and Answer:

Can You Tell What God Made?

God Made All Things Good!

PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 3,4

Unit 5 Bible Verse: Genesis 1:1,31, NIV 1984

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."
PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God Created People Perfectly Good in the Beginning

People were God's last creation when He created the world. In some ways, God made people like the other earthly creatures. He gave them wonderful, perfect bodies. They were just right for all He wanted them to do and to be--just like He had done for the other creatures.

But in another way, God made people very different from everything else. You see, God created the other creatures after their own kind, but God chose to make people in His own image.

They were to be a one-of-a-kind reflection of who He is. So God gave to them alone a mind that could learn about the world and see how it showed what He was like--a bit like His great mind. And, He gave them alone a everlasting spirit that could know and love Him and each other--a bit like His Spirit. And because God created them good, they could know and love Him and each other without any sin or sadness. How wonderful that must have been!

God put these first people He made--Adam and Eve-- in charge of the earth. They and their children were to enjoy it, care for the creatures in it, explore it and fill it with people until they made all of it their home."

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

CASE STORY

Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 4-8; John 1:3

Our story is:

The Case of the Twelve-year-old Troubles.

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

1. What were the twelve-year-old troubles? Why did they seem impossible to fix?
2. Who fixed the troubles and why could he fix them?

This story is a New Testament story. It takes place when Jesus lived on earth. It is the story of a woman and a man who lived in Capernaum, a fishing town on the shores of the great Sea of Galilee.

With about two thousand people, Capernaum wasn't a very large town. Most people knew each other by name. And even if people might have forgotten the name of an old man here or a little girl there, everyone would have known the man and woman at the center of this story.

The man was Jairus, the synagogue ruler. He was one of the most important men in town.(A synagogue is a Jewish worship house.) He took care of the synagogue and chose men to read and preach from God's Word. So you can see, Jairus was a very important man, known by all.

The woman in our story was well known, too. Some people knew her because she was rich, but most people knew her for another, not so nice reason: she had a twelve-year-old trouble that no one wanted anything to do with.

What was her trouble? For twelve, long years, this woman had an illness that made her bleed. Her bleeding wasn't enough to kill her, but it was enough to make her sick and weak. And most importantly, it made her what the Old Testament laws called "unclean." That meant that anything she wore, or sat on, or slept on, or even touched had to be thrown away, or kept away from others--until she had been healed for seven days.

Everyone stayed from her, for by the law of Moses, if they touched anything or sat or slept anywhere she had been, they became unclean, too. They would have to take a bath, scrub their clothes and stay away from the synagogue and from everyone else for the rest of the day. The LORD gave these rules to His people not to be mean, but so the sick could rest and wouldn't spread their illness to others.

Now maybe it wouldn't be so bad to be sick or unclean for twelve hours or even twelve days, but twelve years would be terrible! That's what life had been for this lady.

lady. All those years she had never been healed. She lived alone. She ate alone. She sat alone. People cringed when she came near, afraid she might touch them and make them unclean, too. This poor woman couldn't even go in the synagogue or the Temple to hear the Bible read and to worship God! Her sickness would make it--and the people in it-- unclean!

How this woman wanted to be healed! She spent all the money she had on doctors and medicines. Each doctor had his own idea of what would cure her. Some believed if they made her bleed a lot more, then the sickness would leave her body with the blood. Others came up behind her and tried to scare the bleeding into stopping. Yet others gave her mixtures of spices and plants to drink. After each treatment they told her to say, "Arise, bleeding and be gone," but never did the bleeding stop.

But the woman was not the only one with a twelve-year-old problem. Jairus, the synagogue ruler had one, too. The very same year that the woman's bleeding problem began, the synagogue ruler's wife gave birth to a little girl. She was their only child and they loved her very, very much. All those twelve years that the woman had been suffering, they had been enjoying their dear daughter. But just lately, the little girl had become very sick, She lay on her mat, about to die.

There seemed to be no hope for this woman and Jairus' daughter! But then came the good news: Jesus had come! His boat had been spotted coming to shore there in Capernaum that very day! When both the woman and Jairus heard this, they began to hope. They had heard how Jesus healed terrible diseases at His word. The deaf left hearing, the blind left seeing, the paralyzed left walking, even the dead raised from the dead, some said. He forgave sins, too—something only God was supposed to do!

Jairus, himself, had probably asked Jesus to read the Bible and preach at the synagogue. He had probably Jesus' powerful preaching. One Sabbath, he may have even seen Jesus free a man from bondage to an evil spirit right there in the synagogue! Jesus healed people no ordinary man could heal. He taught things no ordinary teacher taught. He promised things no ordinary man had ever promised. Who was Jesus? They must have wondered.

The woman and Jairus did not completely know, but we do. Jesus was the very Son of God through whom all things in heaven and earth had been created in the

beginning. Through Him, human bodies were created and given the breath of life. Through Him, they received an everlasting spirit that could know and love God. He knew humans inside and out. He had power to create their bodies and spirits, and the power to heal their bodies and spirits. That's why He could do these amazing things.

The woman and Jairus headed straight for the shores of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus was. A large crowd surrounded Jesus already, but Jairus pushed his way through. His daughter was dying! He must act quickly!

When at last he got to Jesus, Jairus fell on his knees and pleaded, "My daughter is dying at home! Please come with me. Put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." Jesus turned to followed Jairus to his house; the great crowd of people tagging along, curious to see what Jesus would do.

At the same time, the unclean woman also made her way to Jesus. She slipped unnoticed among the crowd. Her clothes brushed against others, making many a man and woman unclean as she snuck through them. Like Jairus, she was desperate for Jesus' help. Now was her chance to see Him and she wouldn't miss it!

At last she stood right behind Jesus. She watched as the beautiful white and hyacinth-colored (reddish-purple) tassels on the four corners of his tallith--a large, rectangular rabbi's cloak--swayed with His footsteps. "If I just touch the hem of his cloak, I will be healed," she thought as she stretched out and lightly touched the tassles. Instantly her bleeding stopped. Her body was freed from suffering for the first time in twelve, whole years! She was healed!

Now if Jesus had been an ordinary man, perhaps that woman could have snuck away unnoticed. But, of course, Jesus was no ordinary man. He was the very Son of God through whom all things in heaven and earth had been created in the beginning. He had power to create their bodies and spirits, and the power to heal their bodies and spirits. At once Jesus knew that power had gone out from him to heal that woman. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"What a silly question," Jesus' disciples thought. "You see the people crowding against you," They said to Jesus, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus kept looking around to find the one who had done it. He knew He had healed her body, but He wanted

to care for her soul, too. He wanted to speak to her about her faith in Him that she might be saved. The woman, came and fell at his feet. Trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

He tenderly said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you," He encouraged her. "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

While Jesus was still speaking to her, some men came from Jairus' house with bad news. "Your daughter is dead," they told him. "Why bother the teacher any more?"

Was it really too late for Jesus to help Jairus' little girl? No, it was not. Jesus turned to Jairus and encouraged him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Leaving the rest of the disciples back with the crowd, Jesus took Peter, James and John and followed Jairus the rest of the way to his home. When they got there they were met with a great commotion of wailing women and flute dirges from inside the house--the professional mourners had already begun the customary seven days of mourning.

Jesus went into the house and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."

"What! Are you crazy!" the mourners mocked Jesus. "We know what a dead person looks like when we see one!"

But Jesus, the Son of God, had power to wake someone from death as easily as we might wake someone from a nap. "Leave the house and leave us alone," Jesus ordered them. Then Jesus, Jairus, his wife, Peter, James and John went into to where the dead child lay.

Jesus reached down and took the cold, lifeless hand of the little girl in His hand and then said, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

Immediately the warmth and the color of life flooded back into the little girl's body. She opened her eyes and with Jesus' help, stood up and began to walk around. Her parents gave her something to eat. Jesus had raised their little girl from the dead!

What a day it was for that woman and Jairus! In only minutes, Jesus had taken care of both of their twelve-year-old troubles. Best of all, Jesus used the healings to help them put their faith in Him. He wanted them to know that He was the very Son of God through whom all things in heaven and earth had been created in the beginning. Yes, He had power to heal sicknesses and even restore life to

dead bodies. But through faith in Him, He gave something even better: their rebellious hearts could receive forgiveness and be changed. They could become God's people and know Him forever!

Our Bible Truth is:**God Created People Perfectly Good in the Beginning****Our Bible Verse is: Genesis 1:26-28**

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

What about you and me? What should we do when we or someone we love is very sick? Should we feel hopeless? No, we shouldn't! We should pray to our good Creator and ask Him to bring healing. Nothing is too hard for Him to do. If it is His good will, He will do it. And even if He does not heal them, we know that He is not only the God who heals sick bodies. He is the God who raises the dead! Yes! God promises to bring all His people to live with Him forever!

Who are God's people? They are those who turn away from wanting to disobey God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. To all who do, God forgives them all their sins. He sends His Holy Spirit to do a wonderful work in their heart, helping them love Him and know Him more and more. And one day, He will bring them to live with Him forever...and that will be best of all!

Let's praise our wonderful Creator, who made us and knows how to heal both our bodies and our hearts. Let's ask Him to use these bodies and hearts that He has created us with to praise, love and obey Him all our lives.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God created people just like the other land animals, except that they were smarter.

Answer: False. God did give people bodies that are like other land mammals in some ways. But, only to people did He also give a spirit that can know and love Him; and, that never dies.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. What were the twelve-year-old troubles? Why did they seem impossible to fix?

Answer: A woman had been bleeding for 12 years and no one could heal her. Jairus' 12-year-old daughter was dead. Who could possible fix that?!

b. Who fixed the troubles and why could he fix them?

Answer: Jesus. He could heal the woman and raise the little girl to life because all things were created through Him, even people.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Genesis 1:26-27

"Then ___ said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; ___ and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the ___ and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Answers: God; male; sea.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

All People Who on Earth Do Dwell

PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 10

Verse 1

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Verse 2

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

Words Psalm 100; Paraphrased, William Kethes
Music Genevan Psalter, 1551 Edition, attr. Louis Bourgeois

This hymn reminds us that we, along with peoples of the earth, should serve and praise the Lord because He is our Creator. He made us to know Him and worship Him. Of all people, God's people, have reason to rejoice in God, their Creator. He saved them through Jesus. He has made them His very own, special people, who He takes special care of.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so powerful that He can even raise the dead!

C God, we confess that many times we don't act like You are our Creator. We forget You and do not ask for Your help. We live life on our own, trying to take care of our own problems. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You really are our Creator. Thank You for caring so much for our hurt bodies and our sinful spirits. Thank You that You want us to know You and will help us to know You. Thank You that no trouble we have is too big for You.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to bring all of our troubles to You. Help us to know You better and happily entrust our whole lives to You. Use them to display what a great God You are!

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Then God Said

PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 11

Then God said, "Let us make man,
Let us make man in our own image."
Then God said, "Let us make man,
Let us make man in our own image."
Male and female, He created them,
Male and female, He created them.

Then God said, "Let us make man,
Let us make man in our own image."
Then God said, "Let us make man,
Let us make man in our own image."

Words: Genesis 1:26-27, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

The Bible tells us God made people in the beginning. He made them in His image, that means, they reflect Him in a very special way. Of all the earthly creatures, they alone were created with a spirit, like God's Spirit, that can know and love God. God created people to be able to see God's glory in everything He made. And, He created them to care for the world He created as caretakers under Him.