

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful

Unit 6 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?"
Bad Things Came Through Sin!"

PFI NIV Songs 6, Tracks 3,4

Unit 6 Bible Verse and Song: Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they received the terrible consequences of their sins, just as God had warned them they would. They had enjoyed a life without sin. Now all that changed. Their hearts used to be full of peace and love. Now they were afraid and selfish. Their work used to be a complete pleasure. Now it became frustrating and unsatisfying, filled with troubles. Their bodies had been full of health and life. Now they grew weak and sick. One day they would die. Worst of all, they used to enjoy wonderful fellowship with God, and now that fellowship was broken. This is what the Bible calls being dead in sin. How Adam and Eve and all God's creation groaned under sin!

Adam and Eve deserved no relief from their punishment, but God treated them better than they deserved. He gave them hope, even that day. He promised them that a son of Eve's would come to defeat Satan and bring salvation.

Who was that son? Jesus, the Son of God! He would live the perfect life that Adam and Eve should have lived, but did not. On the cross, He would offer it up as the perfect payment for the sins of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. God, Himself, would satisfy His justice so that He could show us mercy!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

CASE STORY

from Genesis 2,3

Our story is called:

The Case of the Horrible Hiders.

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

1. Who were the Hiders? What made their hiding horrible?
2. What hope did the horrible hiders receive?

Our story today takes place thousands of years ago, not long after the creation of the world, on the most terrible day of history.

Life had been wonderful in the garden God had planted for Adam and Eve. And why wouldn't it have been? For this was a garden, like none other; made perfectly for people, like none other. As you might expect, this garden included lots of green, growing plants. Some were beautiful to look at, others were loaded with delicious, juicy fruit. There was a river that wound through the garden that provided the plants and Adam and Eve with refreshing water. Adam and Eve never needed to be hungry or thirsty in their garden home. God had provided all that they needed.

Life in the garden wasn't boring for Adam and Eve either. The Garden was home to many of God's other creatures, too. Animals, birds, and bugs frolicked and nested there, too. God gave the animals and garden to Adam and Eve to take care of. What wonderful work it was for Adam and Eve! All the plants and the animals lived happily under their care. They could look forward to years of making the garden bigger and bigger until all the world God had given them came under their skillful care—just as God had commanded them. What a pleasant future that was to look forward to!

But the best part of the Garden was nothing you could see, smell or touch. It was the perfect fellowship Adam and Eve enjoyed there with each other and with God. Adam took perfect care of Eve. Eve loved obeying and helping Adam. And they together, they both were satisfied in the amazing love of God. Good food! Good work! Good fellowship! How wonderful it all was! The Bible describes the wonderful fellowship that Adam and Eve had with each other and with God in a way that might sound funny to you. It says that when Adam and Eve lived in the Garden, they were "naked and unashamed."

Now when we think of naked, we think of someone who doesn't cover up their body with clothes. And while it's true that Adam and Eve wore no clothes, that's not really all there was to that funny description. It's also talking

about a nakedness of their hearts.

What in the world does that mean? Well, it means that their hearts were so completely good, completely honest and completely loving, that they never had anything to hide from each other or from God. That's why the Bible calls the fellowship they had with each other "naked and unashamed." And perhaps it wouldn't surprise you to know that it is the most wonderful way imaginable to live.

God offered this incredible kind of life to Adam and Eve, not just for seventy or a hundred years, but for forever! In the middle of the Garden He placed two very special trees: one called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; and the other called the Tree of Life. God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, or they would die. But, if they lived in obedience to Him, He would give them the gift of eternal life. There would never be a time when they would not enjoy wonderful, perfect fellowship with Him and with each other. They would have children, too, who would get to enjoy and fill the earth with their love for each other and praise of God. How great was God's love for His people! He had offered them such a delightful life!

But something very terrible happened on the day of our story. Adam and Eve were no longer naked and unashamed, neither in their bodies nor in their hearts. They had cut the large leaves off of a fig tree and sewn them together as clothes to cover their bodies. And then, instead of eagerly awaiting fellowship time with God when He came to the Garden in the cool of the day, they hid themselves among the trees, hoping He would not find them.

How do you hide from someone who sees all and knows all? You can't! It's impossible! God had seen everything that had happened that day. He had watched them listen to the tempting lies Satan spoke to them through the serpent. He had felt dissatisfaction and rebellion grow in their hearts. He saw as they each chose to disobey Him and eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He watched as their eyes opened to sin and they felt its pain for the first time. He knew that Adam and Eve had put on clothes of fig leaves and hid from Him because He was holy and they had become sinners. They were ashamed and afraid. They knew they deserved to die.

The LORD came to the Garden and called out to Adam: "Where are you?"

"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid," Adam replied.

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" the LORD asked Adam.

Already sin had begun to multiply in Adam's heart. He quickly thought up answer that shifted the blame to Eve and God, Himself and would hopefully cover up his own, sinful choices: "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it," Adam replied.

"What is this you have done?" the LORD then asked Eve.

Eve was just as quick as Adam to blame someone else and try to hide her own sinfulness: "The serpent deceived me, and I ate it," she replied.

Adam and Eve hoped God would see them as innocent victims, but God knew what was in their hearts. He saw their sin. He knew their excuses were only poor attempts to cover up their shame and rebellion. They had chosen to rebel, and as God had warned them, that meant punishment and broken fellowship.

In justice, God gave them their punishments. To the serpent He said, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the animals! I will shame you by making you crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life."

Then God declared Satan's punishment: "You have brought hatred and rebellion into people's hearts, but not all of them will follow in your ways. Eve will have children, and her daughters will have children after her. Some of these children will turn away from their sins and will love Me, instead. One day, one of them will come and crush your power completely, Satan—once for all time," the LORD promised.

Next Eve received her punishment: "Eve," the LORD said to her, "I created you for the joys of having children and helping your husband. Now life will be much harder for you. You will have pain when you give birth to children and you will fight against your husband's leadership over you," He told her.

Last of all, the LORD spoke to Adam: "Adam, don't blame Me or Eve for what you did. You chose to listen to your wife, instead of leading her. You chose to eat the fruit I told you not to eat. Life is going to get much harder for you, too. Because of what you have done, the very ground of the earth is cursed. You will have to work hard in the field for your food, fighting weeds and thorns. You will get old and die and your body will turn back to dust, just as I

warned you would happen,” He told Adam.

God’s judgments were very big and very sad, but Adam and Eve knew they were so much less than they deserved. They had deserved nothing but death—right that very moment! Yet, God had treated them with such mercy! He had given them a promise that one day a Savior would come to destroy Satan and free from Satan’s deathly hold all who would trust in Him. How great was the LORD’s love for them, His sinful, shameful people!

The LORD pitied miserable Adam and Eve, standing before Him in their poor clothes of fig leaves. He clothed them with animal skins, the first sacrifice for sin made by God for His people. Already He was pointing to the day Jesus would save them from their sins by His own blood, shed on the cross. Then He sent them out of their garden home and away from the Tree of Life.

Perhaps that doesn’t sound very loving for God to send them out of the wonderful home He made for them, but it was. The Tree of Life was only to be eaten by those who perfectly obeyed God. If Adam and Eve were to eat it right then, as sinners, it would mean eternal judgment, right then. Perhaps that is what they deserved, but the LORD in His great mercy had far better plans for them: He wanted to give them eternal life through the Savior who was to come. This Savior—the Lord Jesus—would perfectly obey God, and take the punishment for the sin and shame of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. So the LORD placed great cherubim and a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to keep them away from that Tree of Life. He didn’t want to give them eternal judgment, but eternal life.

Neither Adam nor Eve --nor their children who would come after them—would ever again have hearts “naked and unashamed” before God or each other here on earth. But if they would look forward in faith to the promised Savior, then after they died, He would give them eternal life. Once more they would live unashamed and in perfect fellowship with Him and with each other. But this time, it would be much better than before: for then they would know the depths of God’s love for them through the Savior, Jesus. And this time their perfect fellowship with each other and with God would never, ever end! How great was the LORD’s love for them!

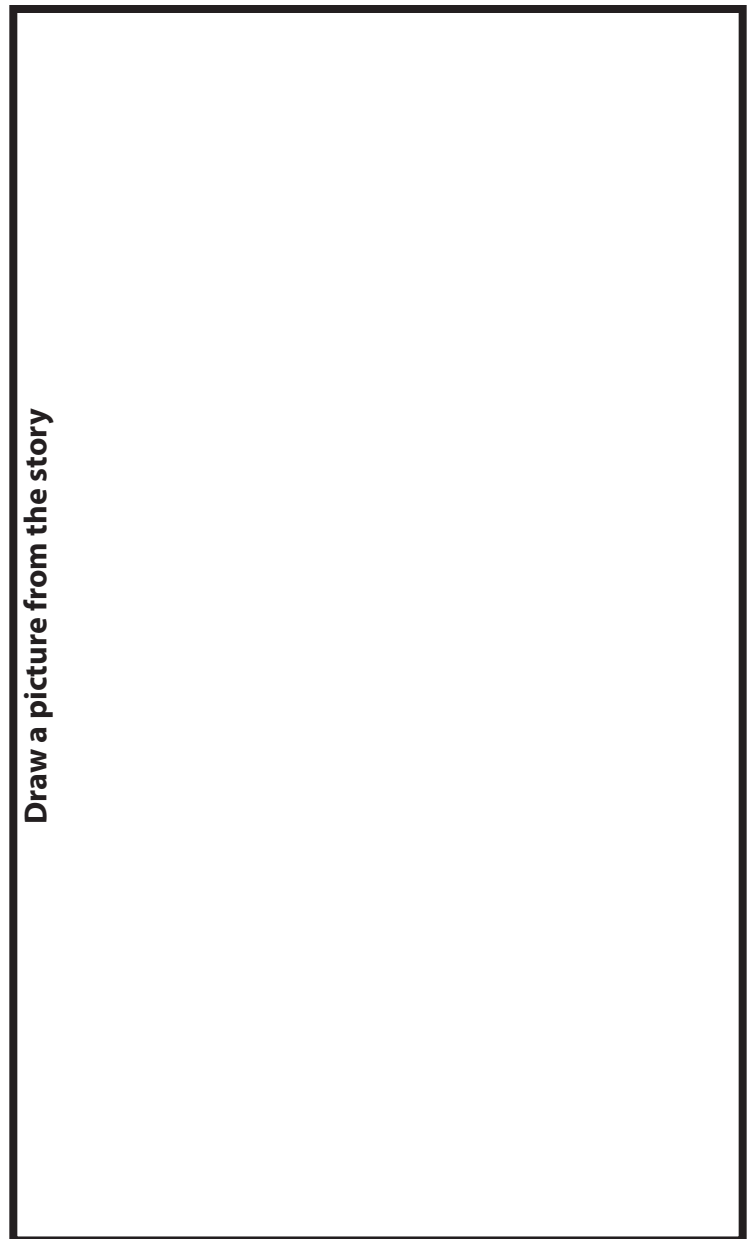
Our Bible Truth is: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 6:23

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What about you and me? Don’t we try to blame others for our own sinful choices? Don’t we try to hide the sinfulness of our hearts from God and from others? When we do this, we show that we are the daughters and sons of Adam and Eve, deserving of God’s punishment for our sins, too. But how great is God’s love for us, too. If we will turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, the Savior, He promises to forgive our sin and shame even today. Then one day when we die, He will bring us to heaven to live unashamed and in perfect fellowship with Him and each other forever and ever.

Let’s praise our wonderful God, who is so very merciful to all who turn and trust in Him. Let’s ask Him to send His Spirit to come begin to work in our hearts the nakedness of complete honesty, love and goodness before God and others, like what Adam and Eve knew in the beginning.



Draw a picture from the story

<p align="center">SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE TRUTH HYMN</p>
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, He felt sorry for them and didn't give them the consequences of their sin. Answer: False. God did treat them with great mercy by promising them a Savior, but He did give them the consequences of their sin.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who were the Hiders? What made their hiding horrible? Adam and Eve. They had become sinners and now were afraid of God.</p> <p>b. What hope did the horrible hiders receive? That while they now would suffer under sin and death because of their disobedience, God, in His mercy, promised that one of Eve's children would be the Savior who would come and crush Satan: Jesus!</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Romans 6:23 "For the ___ of sin is death, but the ___ of God is eternal life in ___ Jesus our Lord." Answers: wages; gift; Christ.</p>	<p>Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Come ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love, and pow'r.</p> <p>Refrain I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.</p> <p>Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony</p> <p>Adam and Eve--and all people after them-- suffer the consequences of their sinful rebellion. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to crush Satan. Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love.</p>
<p align="center">AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE VERSE SONG</p>
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being so worthy of all our love.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Peter, we are tempted to avoid doing hard things for You, instead of loving You as we should. We all need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that would even forgive Your people when they choose to avoid doing hard things for You. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside Your people, giving them greater love for You and courage to do hard things for You.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, giving us love for You and helping us to do even very hard things for You.</p>	<p>For the Wages of Sin Is Death <i>PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 10</i></p> <p>For the wages of sin is death, But the gift of God is eternal life, Through Christ Jesus our Lord. For the wages of sin is death, But the gift of God is eternal life, Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans Six, twenty-three.</p> <p>Words adapted from Romans 6:23 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>Because God is good and just, He punishes sin. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, He punished their sin. What is the punishment for sin? It is death--separation from God and all His good ways. Adam and Eve knew some of that separation from God that very day. When their bodies died they deserved to know complete separation from Him. But God is so very merciful. He treats sinners who repent of their sins and trust in Him so much better than they deserve! That same day God gave Adam and Eve the punishment for their sins, He also gave them the promise of eternal life through Jesus, the son of Eve who would crush Satan once and for all.</p>