

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 ESV 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 ESV Songs 6, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

Adam and Eve did not just disobey God once and stop. They had become sinners with sinful hearts that rebelled against God again and again. But sin didn't stop with Adam and Eve. They passed down the consequences of their sin to all their children.

Each and every one of us come from Adam and Eve's family--we are all their children. And because we are their children, we are all born sinners with sinful hearts and with bodies that will suffer and die. And also like Adam and Eve, we all deserve eternal punishment for our sins, too.

Yet God, in His great mercy, always planned to send His Son Jesus to save His sinful people by taking the punishment for their sins upon Himself. Jesus did this when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death.

God promises to forgive all who confess their sins to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He will give them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit--a heart that knows and loves Him more and more. And one day, when they die, they will not receive the eternal punishment they deserve for their sins, but eternal life with God forever. How great is God's mercy through Jesus to sinful people like us!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Romans 5:17

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Joel 2:28-32; Mark 16; Luke 24:36-49; Acts 1,2, 8,9,14,19,28

The Case of the Show and Tellers.

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

1. Who were the show and tellers?
2. How did they show? What did they tell? Why?

This story takes place in New Testament times, right after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Watch and wait! Watch and wait! That's what God's people had been doing for years and years, since the day Adam and Eve rebelled against God. What had they been watching and waiting for? For God's promises to send a Savior to crush Satan and bring salvation. Oh, how they longed for their enemies of sin and death to be defeated!

Now, at last, it seemed that the day they had been watching and waiting for had come. Jesus had died on the cross three days earlier, and now today--on the day we call Easter Sunday--there were all sorts of amazing stories that Jesus had risen from the dead. The disciples gathered together to eat their fish dinner and to talk about all that had happened. There was the empty tomb where Jesus' body had lay. There was the angel who told the women Jesus had risen. There was Mary Magdalene and Peter and Cleopas who all saw Him. Yes, as incredible as it was, it seemed true!

Then, while they were still talking about this, Jesus himself suddenly stood among them. "Peace be with you," He said to them all. "It's the ghost of Jesus!" the terrified disciples thought.

"Why are you worried? Why do you doubt," Jesus asked them. "Look at my hands and my feet. It's me!! Touch me and see; a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, I have," He said, holding out his hands and feet. 'Do you have anything to eat?' Jesus asked them.

They gave him a piece of the broiled fish. He took it and ate it. No, this was no ghost! This was Jesus! He was really alive! They were filled with joy and amazement! But Jesus didn't just drop by to eat. He came to teach them. He came to show them all the Scriptures said about Him. "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in God's Word," Jesus reminded them. Then He led them through the Bible, explaining all the promises about His coming. Yes, it was true! He had fulfilled them all! He was the one God's people had for years been watching for and waiting to come. At last Satan had been crushed.

At last the way out of sin and death and the way into fellowship with God forever had been opened up. It was God's free gift to all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Yes, now the years of watching and waiting were over. Now God was giving His people something new to do. Now it was time to show and tell the world the good news of salvation.

"Be My witnesses Show God's power! Tell others the good news of salvation! Tell them how to be My followers!" Jesus told His disciples. "Start here in Jerusalem, then keep on going: to Samaria, Judea and even the ends of the earth, that the whole world might know," Jesus said.

And how would they have the power to do this? Jesus told them that, too. "God, My Father, will send you the gift of the Holy Spirit inside your heart to help you. He will give you boldness to tell others about Me. The time of waiting and watching is over. Now is the time to show and tell so that God's people, the Church, will be built among all peoples on earth."

The disciples were overjoyed. This was wonderful! It was really true! Jesus died on the cross, but now He had risen from the dead! He, the Son of God, had crushed Satan! He had broken the power of sin and death that had held all people captive since the time of Adam and Eve. Now He was building His Church--God's people, from every people on earth. He was calling them to show and tell the world this good news!

Just six week later, on the day of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the waiting disciples just as He had promised. "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:2-4)

Now it was time. Time to show and time to tell the world the good news of Jesus. The disciples poured out of the house and into the street, and began telling the good news in Latin, in Egyptian, in Arabic, in Greek, in Persian, and in many other languages the disciples all began to tell the good news:

"Jesus died on the cross, but now has risen from the dead! Jesus, the Son of God, has crushed Satan!" disciples

told all who would listen. "He has broken the power of sin and death that had held all people captive since the time of Adam and Eve. He is doing a new thing. He is setting up His Kingdom; His building His Church from every people on earth. Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus will be saved!"

Thousands of people, from many nations, listened to the disciples that day and were amazed. "How is it that each of us hears them declaring the wonders of God in our own language? What does this mean?" they wondered.

Peter stood up and told them: "These are all signs that the promised Savior we have watched and waited for has come. Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the LORD our God will call."

Then God did something even more powerful than the signs that day. He worked in the hearts of many and about three thousand people turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus.

How the disciples rejoiced that night! God was working powerfully through them as they showed and told the good news of Jesus.

But Jesus had told His disciples not to just stay in Jerusalem, but to go out into Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth; and so they did, each time showing and telling the good news of salvation.

In Joppa, a city in nearby Judea, Peter went to show and tell. He showed Jesus' power over death as he raised Tabitha from the dead in Jesus' name. He told the gathered crowd the good news of Jesus and God again worked in hearts and many turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus.

Philip went further away to the Jews' hated neighbors, the Samaritans, to show Jesus' power and to tell the good news of salvation. In the name of Jesus, Philip healed many people, showing them Jesus' power over sin and evil. "These things that I do are signs from God that show Jesus is God's Son, the Savior, come to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus-- even you Samaritans," he told them. Many saw the signs and heard Philip's words, and again many believed on Jesus and were saved.

Further and further away from Jerusalem believers traveled, just like Jesus told them to. The whole world needed to hear about salvation through Jesus! Paul traveled to Turkey, to Malta, to Greece to Italy and even Spain. Everywhere he went he showed Jesus' power through miracles and he told the people the good news of salvation through Jesus.

In Lystra, Turkey, Paul healed a lame man who had never walked, in the power of Jesus' name. On the island of Malta, the LORD healed Paul from a poisonous bite of a deadly viper hiding in firewood. In Ephesus, God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured. Again God worked in hearts and many were saved. And In Rome, Italy Paul even got to tell the good news of Jesus to Caesar, the Roman king, himself.

On and on since then, God's people keep on obeying Jesus' command to Show and Tell. And on and on, God keeps working through His Holy Spirit and His people to free people from the terrible bondage of sin and death passed down to us all through Adam and Eve.

These days, God does not choose to use the great fireworks of incredible miracles to show His mighty power as much as He did in those first days of the disciples (though He is just as able to). But He does work still, every bit as powerfully in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

And on one, amazing day, Jesus will come again and bring an end to all sin and death forever for God's people. On that day, the sin that began with Satan and Adam and Eve long ago, will be completely and finally done away with, never to spread again! Then, for God's people, there will only be eternal life, enjoying God and each other forever. How wonderful that will be!

**Our Bible Truth is: All People Are Born Sinful,
All People Need God's Mercy**

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 5:17

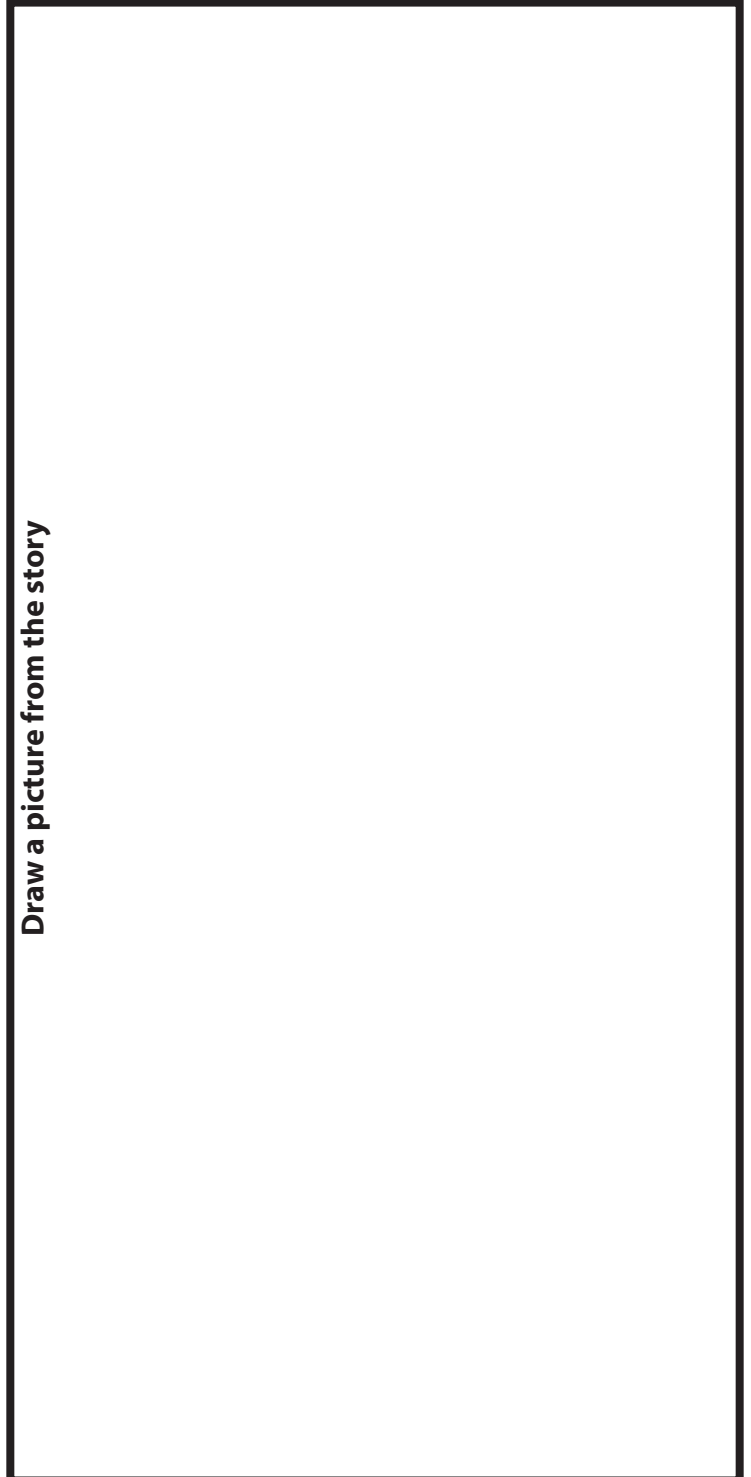
"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

Show God's power! Tell the good news! Let the whole world know that God has sent Jesus to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! That was

what the disciples did! And that's what God's people are still doing today. Why, that's what I'm doing with you today! Showing and telling you the good news of Jesus, that you might turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior!

Let's praise God for sending Jesus to free from sin and death all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to send out His people into all the world, even now, and tell all who will hear the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him, too.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God promises to forgive all who confess their sins to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He will give them a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who were the show and tellers?

The believers in Jesus who went out from Jerusalem.

b. How did they show? What did they tell? Why?

God did amazing miracles through them, healing the sick and even raising the dead. He gave them great love for each other. All these things helped point to the truth of their good news: repent and believe in Jesus and be saved! They knew all people are sinners in need of a Savior. They wanted all to know this and be saved.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:

Romans 5:17

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, ___ reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the ___ of righteousness reign in life through the one man, ___ ___."

Answers: death; gift; Jesus Christ

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PFI ESV Songs 6, Track 12

Verse 3

Come ye weary, heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the Fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.

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.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

From Adam and Eve on down to us, we are all are weary and heavy-laden with sin. Try as hard as we might, we can never get rid of our sin on our own. And, we can never make ourselves acceptable to God on our own. But God, in His great mercy, offers all who are ruined by the Fall to find forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus. We don't have to wait until we are less sinful to come to Jesus. He will take us as we are. And there, we came find not only forgiveness for our sins and rest for our souls, weary with sin. We can find wonderful fellowship with God. And that is better than even ten thousand things that charm us (that we think are delightful.)

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Conqueror of Sin and Death through Jesus.

C God, we confess that many times we do not tell others about salvation through Jesus when we could! We care more about if they get mad at us or laugh at us than their salvation! Please forgive us!

T Jesus, we thank You for Your victory over sin and death! Thank You for sending Your people out so that the whole world might know how they can be saved. Thank You for sending someone to tell US how we can be saved!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send out Your people into all the world, that all may know how they can be saved.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For If by the Trespass

PFI ESV Songs 6, Track 13

"For if, by the trespass of the one man,
death reigned through one man,
For if, by the trespass of the one man,
death reigned through one man,
Then how much more will those who receive
God's abundant grace and righteousness
Reign in life, Reign in life,
Through one man, Jesus Christ."
Romans Five, seventeen.

Words: Romans 5:17, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

Adam and Eve passed on their sinful hearts to their children--all of us! That means that we all are born sinners. How terrible! But God promised to show mercy to all who look in faith to the Savior who would crush Satan's power. Yes! All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus are saved from the punishment they deserve from God for their sins. Sin came through one man, Adam. But Jesus, the Son of God and the son of man, gives His grace and perfect righteousness--everything they need to be saved!