

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

### We're in... Unit 7: The Law-Giving God

#### Unit 7 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"What Are God's Laws Like?

God's Laws Are Perfect!" PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 3,4

#### Unit 7 Bible Verse and Song: Psalm 19:7,9,11

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 5

## BIBLE TRUTH

### We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

#### God Created Us Perfect Law-Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers

God created Adam and Eve without sin. They kept God's laws perfectly. They loved Him as they should; and, they loved each other as they should. They pleased God with their "works." That is, they pleased God with how they lived because they loved Him perfectly in their hearts, and they obeyed Him and His good laws perfectly in their lives.

But when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their hearts and lives became sinful. No longer could they please God with their works, because no longer could they live perfectly. They were spoiled with sin.

Sin didn't stop there. It spread down to all of Adam and Eve's children, too. It even spreads down to us, too. Yes, just like Adam and Eve, we have sinful hearts. We break God's good laws with our thoughts, words, and actions.

God is good and He hates sin. God would not be good if He did not hate it. But, oh, how terrible is God's fair punishment for breaking His laws! It is death: separation from Him and His good ways forever! This is what we all deserve.

Yet, God is so merciful to sinners like us! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life here on earth and offer it up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can have eternal life with God!

## BIBLE VERSE

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

#### Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 14:2-3

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

## CASE STORY

Genesis 1-2, 6-9; Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26;

Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:10; 2 Peter 3:3,4

### Our story is called:

#### The Case of the Great Griever.

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

1. Who was the Great Griever? What sadness caused him to grieve?
2. Who deserved punishment for this sadness? Who received mercy instead? Why?

This story is an Old Testament story that starts out at the beginning of time.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He filled them with an amazing variety of creations. Light, darkness, sun, moon, stars. Seas filled with sea creatures. Skies filled with birds. The earth filled with plants and all sorts of animals. And most special of all, God made humans.

What was special about these humans? The LORD created them in His own image, with an spirit to love Him and each other perfectly. A spirit that would never die. He gave them the whole earth lovingly rule over.

"I give you the earth to fill and subdue," the LORD told Adam and Eve.

What a wonderful present! And oh, how wonderful life would be in God's world, under God's good rule! If they obeyed God's commands, they would live there happily forever, caring for it, exploring it and filling it until the whole world was like one big Garden of Eden. Filled with special beauty and with their children, and with close fellowship with God, life would be perfect!

But that's not how things turned out, is it? Adam and Eve rebelled against God. They ate from the one tree the LORD told them not to eat from and sin entered their perfect world. Out from their hearts went perfect love for God and each other, too. Now they were sinful and selfish. Out went perfect health from their bodies. Now they would die. And out of the Garden and into the wilds of the world, God sent Adam and Eve. They could no longer live in special closeness with Him. He was the holy God and they were sinful lawbreakers. They could no longer stand in His presence by their own pure lives. Oh, how life changed when Adam and Eve rebelled against God!

Yet God was full of mercy even then to those lawbreakers. He allowed Adam and Eve to live, instead of punishing them with death right then, as they deserved. He even

He even promised to send a Savior, one day. He would come and crush the Evil One who had tempted them to sin. By faith, Adam and Eve looked forward to that day.

Life went on outside the Garden. Adam and Eve carried out God's plan to subdue the earth and to fill it, but because of sin, nothing was like it would have been in the Garden. Yes, Adam and Eve worked the soil and raised animals, but they suffered with bad crops and sickly animals. Yes, Adam and Eve worked the soil and raised animals, but they suffered with bad crops and sickly animals. Yes, Adam and Eve had children and filled the earth with them, but the children were every as sinful as they were. There should have been cities of people filled with love for each other and for God. But instead, there were cities full of sinful people. Murder, idol worship, thieving, envy, hatred, sickness and death was everywhere. And even though the promise of the Savior had been passed down through the years, fewer and fewer people looked forward in faith to the day He would come. It seemed as if there was no one who chose to struggle against the sin and tried to please God.

The LORD saw how corrupt and full of violence the earth had become. He saw how people's hearts, once full of love for Him and for each other, were now so wicked that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts were only evil, all the time. And the LORD was grieved that He had made [people] on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain.

What does it mean for God to grieve of making the world? Does it mean that He thought it was all a mistake? No, it does not, for God doesn't make mistakes. From before the creation of the world, God knew what would happen and chose it. He knew people would rebel and how terribly painful it would be when they broke the wonderful, close fellowship they had with Him. He knew how awful their sins would be to Him. And He always knew He would suffer far more than any of them to save them through the death of His Son. Yet God's glorious plan to save these sinful lawbreakers, far outweighed the pain He would feel. Yes, from before the beginning, God chose the pain rebellious people would give Him. But chosen pain hurts no less than any other pain. The LORD grieved when they rebelled. He hated their sin, yet He patiently endured it for hundreds of years, as it grew worse and worse. But at last, came the time for judgment.

The LORD said, "I will send a flood to destroy all the

creatures of the earth for I am grieved that I have made them." Well, not quite all. For God had promised to send a Savior to crush the Evil One and save His sinful people. He would never break His promise. He chose to save one Noah and his family through whom would come the Savior one day. How amazing is the LORD! People deserve His punishment, but He still shows them mercy!

Why Noah? Wasn't he a sinner just like everyone else? Yes, he was. But unlike the other people, Noah was a righteous, blameless man. He loved the LORD and lived his life to please Him. He looked forward in faith to the promise of a Savior. God counted Noah righteous and blameless not because he was a perfect law keeper, but because of Noah's faith in Him. So Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. Make an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. Build it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth. All the creatures will die, but I am making a covenant with you. Enter the ark, taking with you seven pairs--male and female-- of all the clean animals (animals that could be eaten and sacrificed as worship offerings) and two pairs of every other kind of creature. Take enough food for you and all the creatures to eat," the LORD told Noah.

Noah did everything just as God commanded him...and that is saying a whole lot! There were no stores to go and get the supplies he needed to make this huge ship. They had to cut down and saw hundreds of trees. They had to make their own nails to nail the wood together and their own gallons and gallons of sticky, black tar to seal it with. Then there was all the food that must be gathered for the hundreds and hundreds of creatures. It is no wonder that it took Noah up to 100 years to build and prepare the ark!

Can you imagine how curious people became as the ark took shape! "What are you doing, Noah?" they surely asked. "Why are you building this huge boat? Noah told them about God's coming judgment that they might turn away from their sins and trust in Him.

I wish I could say that the people who listened to Noah

repented of their sins and looked forward in faith to the promised Savior; but it did not. No one turned away from their sins and trusted in God.

Finally, the ark was finished. "It's time to load the ark with your family and the creatures," the LORD told Noah. "Seven days from now the rain will come and it will not stop for forty days--until all the land is covered and all the creatures are destroyed." God's promised judgment was coming at last.

Into the ark went Noah, his family and all those creatures. The LORD shut them in safe and dry. Then it was time. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—the rain burst upon the earth and didn't stop for forty days—a month and a half of rain! Streams turned into rivers. Rivers into lakes. Lakes filled up valleys. Valleys swelled up and up until even the tallest mountain was covered. And with all the water, went all of the living creatures. God's sad--but just--judgment had come. Only Noah and those huddled with him in the ark remained. They were safe and no doubt grateful for God's mercy. Only by God counting Noah's faith as righteousness had they been spared.

After forty days, the rain stopped. How lonely and quiet the world must have seemed, floating on that endless sea! How glad Noah and his family must have been when the LORD sent a strong wind to dry out the earth. They must have celebrated the day that the ark's hull settled on Mt. Ararat; and eagerly watched as the mountains seem to grow each day as the winds evaporated more and more of the watery blankets from their steep sides.

For four months the winds blew until at last the earth was ready for its new start. God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you, your family and all the creatures. Come out and begin again. Fill the earth with life!" He told them all. They were all happy to obey. Dry land at last, after over five months on that ark!

The first thing Noah did was to worship God. He thanked the LORD for being merciful to him and his family, even though they were sinners, too. He was grateful that the LORD had chosen his family to be the new beginning for people. Noah made a sacrifice to God to show that he wanted to love and obey Him always.

The LORD accepted Noah's sacrifice because of his faith in Him. He made a covenant--a solemn promise--with them all: "Never again will all life be cut off by the waters

of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. And this is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and all the creatures of the earth: a rainbow set in the clouds."

So into the beautiful, clean, new world, Noah went--his family and the creatures with him-- to fill it with life again. If only the hearts of people had been clean from sin, too! But no! Sin still lived in their hearts. It would multiply as the earth was filled again. The only hope for people was to look forward in faith to God's promised Savior, who would one day bring all lawbreaking to an end and crush the Evil One forever.

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God Created Us as Perfect Lawkeepers,  
But We Are All Lawbreakers**

In many ways, our world is not that different from Noah's. Most people care little that they are sinners who have broken God's good laws. Many people do not even believe in God at all. And just like in Noah's day, God has already promised a day when He will bring final judgment upon all people for their lawbreaking ways. This time there is no wooden ark to save people from this Day of Judgment. But none is needed. For this time, God provided a wooden cross on which His Son, Jesus, died to save all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him. This was the Savior to whom Noah looked forward in faith. He is the only hope for any of us lawbreakers.

What about you and me? How will it be with us? Will we be like the people in Noah's day that ignored God's warnings; or will we, like Noah, turn and through faith in Jesus be saved? Let's praise God for His mercy in providing a way for lawbreakers like us to be saved. Let's ask Him to give us repentant hearts that long to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior.

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

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

Before sin came into the world, Adam and Eve lived perfect lives that pleased God.

Answer: True!

**2. Crack the Case Questions**

**a. Who was the Great Griever? What did he grieve? Why?**

Answer: The LORD. He grieved that He had made people. He grieved all of their sin.

**b. Who deserved punishment for this sadness? Who received mercy instead? Why?**

Answer: All people deserved punishment. The LORD showed mercy to all, by warning them for years before sending the flood. But He showed mercy most of all, to Noah and his family who looked to the Lord in faith. The Lord counted their faith as righteousness. He spared their lives in the ark. Through his family would one day come the promised Savior.

**3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 14:2-3**

"The \_\_\_ looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek \_\_\_. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does \_\_\_, not even one."

Answers: LORD; God; good.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**At the Cross**

*PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 9,10*

**Verse 2**

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!

**Refrain**

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day.

**Verse 3**

Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut his glories in,  
When Christ the mighty Maker died  
For man, the creature's sin. *Refrain*

Words: Isaac Watts Music: Ralph E. Hudson

Because we are all lawbreakers, we deserve God's eternal punishment. There will never be anything we can do to earn back eternal life with God. But at the cross where Jesus, the perfect law keeper gave up His life as the payment for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him, that we can find forgiveness and eternal life. By His perfect sacrifice, all of "crimes" and "burdens" can be "rolled away" forever. What amazing love! What grace-- what kindness that we never deserved! That Jesus, the very Son of God, through whom all things were made, would choose to come suffer and die on the cross to save sinful creatures like you and me. All who have Jesus as their Savior do have reason to be happy all the day, every day! There's is eternal life with God!

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

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

**A** God, we praise You for being perfectly just, yet so merciful to sinful people who turn to You in faith.

**C** God, we confess that we are sinners, just like the people in Noah's day. We need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for sending a Savior to save us.

**S** God, help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Noah, who looked in faith to You and lived to please You.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**The LORD Looks Down**

*PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 11*

The LORD looks down from heaven,  
On the sons of man,  
To see if there are any who understand,  
Any who seek God.  
But all have turned aside;  
They have together become corrupt,  
There is no one who does good,  
No, not even one.  
Psalm Fourteen, two and three.

Words adapted from Psalm 14:2-3 Constance Dever © 2011

Adam and Eve were created with hearts that sought after God. They were perfect law keepers who were not corrupt and did not turn aside from God. But after they rebelled, they and all their children after them turned aside. Yes, the LORD sees everything and knows everything. He knows what is in each of our hearts. We all have sinful hearts and do sinful things. We have all become corrupt with sin. None of us seek after God on our own. But praise God for sending Jesus to be the Savior of sinners like us! Praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts! God gives us hope! He can do in us what we could never do for ourselves!