

PFI PRONTO**BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION****We're in... Unit 8: The God Who Loves****Unit 8 Big Question and Answer and Song:***"What Is God's Love for His People Like?"*

PFI ESV Songs 8, Tracks 3,4

Unit 8 Bible Verse and Song: 1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV*"Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever."*

PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH**We're learning... Bible Truth 1:****God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts**

God has given many good gifts to all people--whether they love and obey Him or not. He made this beautiful world for all to enjoy. He has given each of us a heart to know and love Him and others. He has given each of us a body to do many different, wonderful things. He provides the sun and rain, the hot and cold, to grow the food we need. He keeps all living things alive each day. These are just some of the many good gifts God has blessed us with.

Why did God give us these good gifts? To enjoy them, to understand what He is like, and to glorify Him for giving them to us. Everyone should glorify God for His many good gifts given to them, but especially God's people. They enjoy the same good gifts as everyone else and far, far more. God is their Heavenly Father and they are His dearly loved children. Jesus died to save them from their sins. The Holy Spirit lives inside them and helps them to love, obey and enjoy God. And one day, they will get to live with Him forever. These are the very best gifts of all. They are gifts that can be ours even today, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE***How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!*****Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Psalm 145:9-10,13,15-17**

"The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works...The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all His works."

CASE STORY**Our story is called:****The Case of the Father-like Love.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who showed the Father-like love? Which father was her love like?
2. Who did she show this father-like love to? How was her love like God's?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts out in 1944, in Haarlem, Holland.

Corrie had been sick with flu all night. How good it would have been to stay in bed all day! But instead, Corrie dragged herself out of bed and down the three flights of stairs of the ten Booms' house to help with morning chores.

Betsy, her sister, and Caspar, her old, grey-haired father, were already up and about. There was much to do in the ten Boom house. Caspar ten Boom together with his daughters ran a clock shop out of the front of their home. People came to buy a new clock or to fix a broken one. What a wonderful room that shop was! There were watches and clocks of every size on display and the room was filled with the sound of them each tick-tocking, cuckooing and chiming out the seconds, minutes and hours. It was music to Corrie's ears.

But the ten Booms took care of some very different "watches" in their home, too. These "watches" weren't in the clock room, but upstairs hidden behind the bookshelf in Corrie's room. "Watches" was the code name for the small group of Jewish people the ten Booms were protecting from the German soldiers. Why were these Jews in trouble? Because the wicked German leader, Adolf Hitler, wanted to get rid of them. Hitler had a plan to take control of the world. He thought his people, the Germans, were the best and smartest people in the world. He planned for them to be in control of everything. Certain other people he thought were so useless that they should be made slaves or should just be killed. The Jews were some of these people. So, as Hitler sent his army to take over country after country, one of the first things he had the soldiers and police do was to get rid of the Jews.

When Hitler's army took over Holland, where the ten Booms lived, he gave orders to get rid of the Jews who lived there and to punish anyone who tried to help them. Most people were too scared to help the Jews, but there

were a few brave people who decided to secretly help them anyway. They were called "The Underground;" and the ten Booms were part of it.

Why would the ten Booms risk their lives for these strangers? Because the ten Booms were Christians. They loved God and lived for Him. Love your neighbor as yourself... Love your enemies...Do to others as you would have them do to you....Be merciful just as your Father is merciful," Jesus had said. Surely these Jews were the neighbors they should love by protecting them, the ten Booms thought. Surely this was being merciful like their Heavenly Father.

God blessed all people with good things. Everyone: neighbors, enemies and everyone in between! He used His people to bless others with some of these good things: to show His love and mercy...and to tell the good news of salvation through Jesus. For this, the ten Booms risked their lives. This is how their Father in heaven loved people; this is what they would do, too.

So every day, Betsy and Corrie took care of their house and helped their father in the clock shop, and also took care of the Jews who lived in the hidden room. No wonder sick Corrie felt she had to get out of bed with all this work to do!

Corrie helped Betsy with the chores, tended to a stranger in the clock shop and then went back to bed. How she longed to rest! But this was not to be. The stranger at the shop had been a spy. He figured out that the ten Booms were hiding Jews and told the German soldiers. Soon the house was filled with soldiers. They brought the ten Booms to the living room. They beat down doors and cupboards looking for the secret room, but they couldn't find it. They took Corrie aside to question her.

"Where are the Jews!" they demanded. Corrie felt so sick that she thought she would faint, but God kept her strong. No matter what the Nazis said or did, she did not tell them anything about their Jews. At last the soldiers gave up. Nail up the door of this house and set a guard outside. If there is anyone hiding in there, they will not last long without help," the officer said.

The ten Booms were sent to prison while the Germans decided on their punishment...and in hopes of finding out where the Jews were hidden. Because Corrie was so sick, she was put in a cell by herself. For four months she lived in that lonely, dark, little space, with only a dirty, straw mattress and a blanket that someone had been sick on. It was

bitterly cold. She hardly had enough to eat each day: just a plate of thin oatmeal in the morning and one piece of black bread in the evening.

Yet even in that terrible prison, the Lord blessed her with good gifts. The Lord was with her each day, giving her strength to endure each hard day. Little by little, Corrie's sickness went away. A nurse who cared for her gave her a toothbrush, some soap and tiny copies of the four Gospels. Someone sent her news that her sister Betsie was still alive in the prison, too. The other ten Boom sister, Nollie (who had not been arrested), managed to give her a little package of cookies, a towel and a wonderful, secret message hidden under a stamp: "The watches left the cupboard safely"—all the Jews hidden in their secret hiding place had escaped without being captured! Corrie thanked God for these good gifts. She knew that He was the one who gave them to her.

Finally, one cold morning in May, Corrie was called before the Gestapo officer. She expected the worst. These men would do anything to get information about the Jews and the Underground. As they led her into the room, Corrie prayed, "Lord Jesus, you were once questioned, too. Please show me what to do."

The officer questioned Corrie for hours. "What do you spend your days doing, Miss ten Boom?" the officer asked, looking for a clue that would lead him to the Jews or other people who worked with the Underground. Corrie cleverly avoided tell him any information that would lead them to the Jews or other members of the Underground. Instead, she used his questions as a way to tell him about God.

"I run clubs for teenage girls. They come to have fun and learn about Jesus. I also have one for mentally handicapped young people. They need to hear about God's love, too," she told him.

The officer listened in amazement at all Corrie told him about the clubs. "Why would anyone spend so much time caring for unimportant people like young girls and mentally handicapped people?" he said. "You're wasting your time helping people like that."

"Oh, no!" Corrie told the officer. "God loves everyone, even the weak and the feeble. You see, the Bible tells us that God looks at things very differently from us."

The officer cut her off as soon as she started talking about God and the Bible. "That will be enough for today,"

he told her.

Back in her cell, Corrie thought about her conversation with the officer and wondered what he would do when they met together the next day. Did her talk about God and the Bible make him angry? Would he hurt her to get more information from her as many of the officers did? And how would she treat this man tomorrow, especially if he hurt her? Certainly if ever she had faced an enemy it was Nazis like this man! It would be easy to hate him and say mean things to him, but Corrie knew that wasn't God's way.

She was a Christian. She loved God and lived for Him. Wasn't she supposed to love her enemies and be merciful to them? God blessed all people with good things. Everyone: neighbors, enemies and everyone in between! He used His people to bless others with some of these good things. To show His love and mercy...and to tell the good news of salvation through Jesus--even to men like this Nazi officer.

The next day when Corrie appeared before the Gestapo officer for questioning, he didn't ask her about the Jews or the Underground. He asked her about God and the Bible. He told her about his life, too. He hated the work he had to do. He was worried about his family back in Germany because their town was being bombed every night. Corrie kindly listened, then told him the good news of salvation through Jesus. From then on, this enemy became the ten Boom's friend while they were in prison. He didn't have the power to free her or her sister, but he did all he could for them.

I wish I could say that Betsie, Corrie and Father ten Boom were freed from prison and allowed to go home, but I can't. Father ten Boom died in prison. Betsie and Corrie went on to suffer terribly along with thousands of Jews in Hitler's slave camps. Only Corrie lived to return home. But even through those horrible days, Corrie saw God's many good gifts to them,

Many times He provided for their needs in miraculous ways. Always He was there, helping them endure all their suffering. Always He was there, helping them love others and do good to them—even their enemies. Many, many people who suffered along with Corrie and Betsie knew a bit of God's good blessings as He reached out to neighbors, enemies and everyone in between through Corrie and Betsie. And best of all, were those who heard

and received God's greatest gift to them: salvation through Jesus.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 145: 9,15-17

"The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works...The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all His works."

God used Betsie and Corrie to give His good gifts of love and kindness to all kinds of people: neighbors, enemies, and everyone in between. What about you and me? How does God want us to treat our neighbors, enemies and everyone in between? Does He not want us to love them and give His good gifts of love and kindness to them, too? He does. Sometimes this is very, very hard to do, just like sometimes it was very, very hard for Corrie and Betsie. But we do not have to do this on our own. When we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior, not will He save us from our sins and put His Holy Spirit in our hearts to know and enjoy Him, but He will give us strength to love all people with His love and kindness, just as He did Corrie and Betsie. Let's praise God for being the Giver of good gifts to all people. Let's ask Him to work in us that we might be like Him, giving the good gifts of love and kindness to everyone, even our enemies.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**

God gave us good gifts to enjoy them, to understand what He is like and to glorify Him for giving them to us.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who showed the Father-like love? Which father was her love like? Corrie ten Boom (and her family). Her Heavenly

Answer: Father: God.

b. Who did she show this father-like love to? How was her love like God's?

Answer: She showed it to the Jews who needed a safe place to hide as well as to the Germans who took her prisoner and treated her and her family so cruelly. God gives good gifts to all, even those who do not love or obey Him. Corrie treated the Germans, who were so cruel to her, with kindness and love. She wanted them to come to know Jesus as their Savior, too.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:**Psalm 145:9-10,13,15-17**

"The LORD is ___ to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you!

The LORD is ___ in all his words and kind in all his works...

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their ___ in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is ___ in all his ways and kind in all His works."

Answers: good; faithful; food; righteous.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**Be Thou My Vision**

PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 7

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne; versified, Eleanor H. Hull

Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

Riches are a good gift from God. We use them to buy many good things that we enjoy. When people praise us for good/important things we do, that is a good gift from God, too. We all like to be encouraged and valued. These are good gifts, but they are not the best gift. The best gift we can have is when we become one of God's people and God, Himself, is our treasure and inheritance. That makes riches and people's praise worth almost nothing ("empty") in comparison.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being compassionate and being the Giver of compassion to Your people--and even to their enemies.

C God, we confess that many times, we do not act like the ten Booms. We would rather not help someone in need if it means we might suffer somehow. Many times we just want to do what is easiest or best for us.

T God, we thank You for sending Your powerful Holy Spirit to work in Your people so that they love others for Your name's sake, even their enemies, and even when it might mean they suffer.

S God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Work in our hearts that we might be like You, who shows mercy and compassion on all, even Your enemies. Use us to bless others with some of Your many good gifts, especially the gift of hearing about salvation through Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE SONG**The LORD Is Good to All**

PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 8

We all with unveiled face,
Beholding the glory of the Lord,
Are being transformed,
Into the same image,
From one degree of glory to another,
For this comes from the Lord,
The Lord, who is the Spirit.
For this comes from the Lord,
The Lord, who is the Spirit.
The Lord, who is the Spirit.
Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.

Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God's glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God's glory when he was with the people. Moses' face may have sometimes shown with God's glory, but God's people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn't want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.