

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 NIV Songs 8, Tracks 3,4

Unit 8 Bible Verse and Song: 1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV 1984

"Give thanks to the LORD for He is good. His love endures forever."

PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons, but just one God. God could live forever happy, in the wonderful, perfect fellowship of love He has within Himself. He has never needed anything or anyone to be complete.

No, God didn't need anyone else to love, yet He chose to create people with a heart to know and love Him. He wanted to share Himself with these people--especially His people: all those who would ever turn and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

But even before He created the world, even before He created them, God knew that His love would be very, very costly. All people--including His people-- would rebel against Him. They would break fellowship with Him. They would deserve His punishment, not His love. Only a huge act of love on His part would rescue them. And right then, before the beginning, God chose to make it!

He chose to give His one, dear Son Jesus to take the punishment for their sins. So at just the right time, Jesus left the wonderful, perfect fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit in heaven and came to earth to live as a man. He lived the perfect live needed to please God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He took all the terrible punishment for the sins of God's people so they could be forgiven. Because of Jesus, they would get to know God and delight in His wonderful love.

God has shown His love for His people in many ways, but the greatest way He has shown His love is by giving Jesus to save them. We can become God's people when 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 3 Bible Verse: 1 John 4:10

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Peace-Maker.

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

1. Who was at war? How did they make peace?
2. How did Don use the tribes' peace maker to tell the people about Jesus?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1960's in Irian Jaya, the home of the Sawi peoples.

The Sawis lived very simple lives. They wore almost no clothes. Their tools and weapons were made from sticks, stones and bones. They lived in huts of cane pole and straw built on stilts high up off the swampy jungle ground. They ate beetle grubs, sago palm tree bread, and wild pig...and sometimes they even ate their enemies! Yes, the terrible truth was that the Sawis were cannibals—people who eat people!

There were many Sawi tribes in Irian Jaya, but this story is about the Sawi of Haenam village. These Sawi were fierce warriors. Many proudly wore grass skirts--the symbol that they had killed a man in battle. They wore long necklaces of teeth from the crocodiles, wild pigs and dogs they killed. They took delight in tricking their enemies with lies. In Haenam village, no one was honored more than Mahaen, Kani, Maum, Giriman, Nair, and Warahai. These warriors were feared by the other Sawi for their many terrible, deadly tricks.

The other Sawis had another reason to honor Haenam village. They had Tuans living among them! What are Tuans? Tuans were large beings like them, but with dazzling, white skin, the Sawis said. Their hair wasn't dark and curly hair like the Sawis. It was straight or wavy, and many different colors. They covered their bodies in colorful skins. No one had ever seen a female Tuan, so maybe there were only males, some said.

Tuans seemed to be friendly. They didn't want to hurt others, but they carried powerful weapons that could kill and made a very loud noise. They had strong, shiny tools, too, that could easily cut through the trunk of a sago palm tree. They even had magical powders that when rubbed on skin could make it come clean; and others, when eaten, could heal sores and sicknesses. What were Tuans? Monsters? No, they were white-skinned people from

the United States, who had come to Irian Jaya with guns, modern tools and medicines.

One day, a Tuan man named Don came by dugout canoe to Haenam. At first everyone hid in their huts in fear; but then using the few words of Sawi he knew, he greeted the people and told them he had come to live with them as friends. He was bringing his wife and little boy to live there, too. He promised he would give them some of his wonderful shiny tools if they would help him build a house for his family. His wife would come and bring powders to heal their sicknesses. First the warriors, then the women and children came out of their huts. Fear quickly turned to excitement as they eyed the Tuan's shiny tools.

The warriors and Don built the house quickly, then Don went to get Carol and Stephen, his wife and son. "So there were Tuan females after all...and little boys, too!" the Sawis thought. "And this Tuan female had the special powders to heal sicknesses!" The people whooped and danced around them in excitement. They had Tuans and none of the other villages did!

Tuan Don and Carol were glad to heal the sick Sawi people and give them iron tools to make their lives easier, but they had come to tell them about Jesus. Day after day they learned more of the Sawi language so they could tell them this best of news.

Tuan Don knew enough Sawi to tell them. Early one morning, he climbed up the notched pole and entered the man-house (the long cane pole house where all the men held meetings). All the warriors of Haenam waited for him: even great Mahaen, Kani, Maum, Giriman, Nair, and Warahai. And there, in that room filled with weapons, grass mats, smoldering, smoky fires and cobwebs, Tuan Don began: "I have a true story about the Myao Kodon "the greatest Spirit. Myao Kodon is the great God who is everywhere, all the time," Tuan Don told them. "He knows everything there is to know. He even knows everything you are thinking inside your head. He keeps everything going: the sun, the moon, the wind, the growing plants... even you. There would be no life without Him."

The warriors were amazed at Tuan Don's story. They had never heard anything like this!

Tuan Don went on: "Myao Kodon is all loving and good. He created people to obey Him and delight in His love, but they rebelled against Him. They chose to do things their own way. Hate has filled their hearts. As Myao Kodon's

enemies they deserved to die. He could have put them to death right then, but He did not. He chose to send His Son Jesus to deliver them instead."

"Jesus came to earth," Don told them. "He taught people about Myao Kodon and the work He gave Him to do to save people. He never did anything wrong. He would be the perfect payment for His people's sins."

"When the time came for Jesus to die, God allowed Judas, one of Jesus' closest friends to play a big trick on Jesus so that wicked men could catch him and kill Him," Don told them. "These men had Jesus nailed to a tree to suffer and die. And while He suffered and died, Jesus took the punishment for all the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He was buried in a tomb, but on the third day, Myao Kodon raised Jesus back to life! Now He would live and reign forever in heaven with Myao Kodon. He had won His victory!"

"This is the message Myao Kodon has sent us to tell you," Don exclaimed. "You are living as enemies with God. You deserve His punishment, but if you confess your sins to God and trust in Jesus, He will forgive you and you can know and enjoy Him forever. Come! Turn away from your sins! Trust in Jesus, Myao Kodon's Son!"

The warriors laughed and clapped when Don finished. "Good story! Judas played a great tuwi asonai-- treacherous trick!--on Jesus! We like him!

Tuan Don was so disappointed! How would the Sawi ever hear the good news of Jesus? Only God knew! So Tuan Don and Carol prayed: "Lord, please show us how to tell these people the good news of Jesus."

God answered Tuan Don and Carol's prayers in a very unexpected way: through a terrible Sawi war.

The women were sounded the war alarm. "Boom, boom, boom" they beat on trees with long sticks. A Haeman boy called a man named Ama, from the Sawi village of Kamur, a "lizard skin." Ama was furious. Soon the air was filled with war cries and arrows. It was war!

The war went on for months. Many men were hurt and killed. Don and Carol cared for the injured men and prayed that God would bring an end to the war. They begged Mahaen, Kani and the other warriors to stop the war, but each time the answer was "no."

At last Tuan Don threatened to leave Haemen if the war did not end. Mahaen did not want his village to lose the medicines, tools and honor Tuan Don gave them.

"Tomorrow, Tuan Don, the war will stop. We will have "cool water" (peace) tomorrow. I promise," Mahaen told him. "Now I must go. There is much to do."

Tuan Don watched Mahaen go, little guessing how much it would cost him to stop the war. He would have to give his son as a tarop tim---a peace child.

The next day, the warriors from each tribe faced each other in two long lines. The women and children gathered around, too. They all watched as Mahaen took Mani, his little baby son from his wife's arms. She wailed and fell to the ground in sobs of sadness. A man named Kaiyo from Kamur brought his little son Biakadonm, too. The villagers from Haenam laid hands on little Mani. The villagers from Kamur laid hands on little Biakadon. Then the babies were given to a chosen man of the enemy tribe.

"As long as these peace children, Mani and Biakadon live, there will be peace between our tribes," the warriors promised. A great cry of joy went up. The war was over. Peace had come at last.

Don and Carol were amazed at what they heard: fathers who gave their own, dearly loved sons to make peace with their enemies. Didn't that sound like what God had done by giving Jesus? God had answered their prayers at last. He had given them the key to telling the Sawis the good news of salvation.

Tuan Don gathered warriors together in the man-house again, but this time He told them of Jesus, the peace child: "Myao Kodon loved His Son more than anyone else," Don explained. "But He gave Him up to be the peace child for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Come! Turn away from your sins! Trust in Jesus as your peace child!"

This time the warriors understood. The Holy Spirit worked powerfully in the Sawi who lived in Haenam and many other villages. Hundreds of Sawis, including Mahaen and Kani and the two peace children from the war, Biakodon and Mani, confessed their sins to Myao Kodon and trusted in Jesus as their own peace child (Savior). Today, many Sawis now travel to other parts of Irian Jaya and even other parts of the world to share the message of the God's love for sinners in sending His Son Jesus to save them.

Our Bible Truth is:

God Showed the Depths of His Love

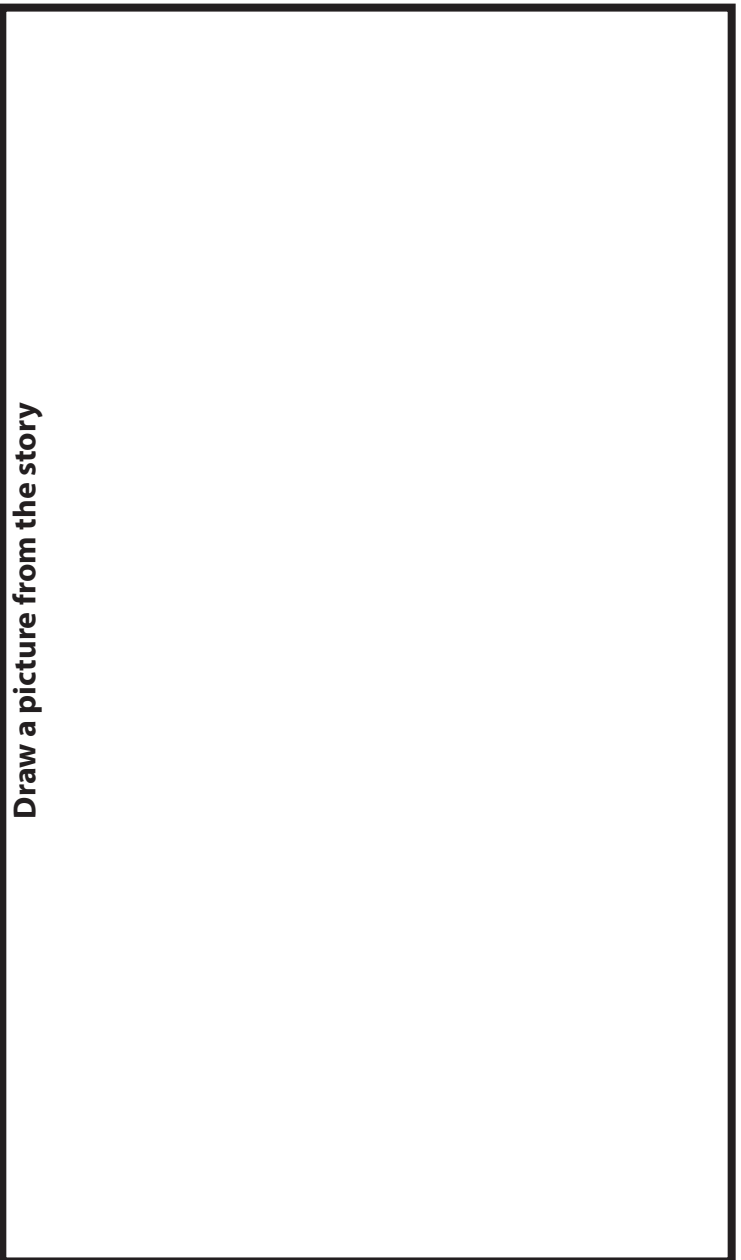
By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People

Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 4:10:

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

What about you and me? It is easy to see how different we are from the Sawis, but do we see we are very much like them, too? Don't we have hearts that rebel against God? Don't we need Jesus to be the peace child that brings us to God? We do! Let's praise God for giving us His Son to make peace between Him and us. Let's ask Him to help us to see our sins and turn and trust in Jesus. Let's ask Him to help us bravely spread this wonderful message to others.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Even before the beginning of the world, God knew that His people who rebel against Him and need to be saved by Him. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was at war? How did they make peace? Answer: Two Sawi tribes. They made peace by giving a son from the tribe to the other tribe. As long as the son lived, the peace was kept.</p> <p>b. How did Don use the tribes' peace maker to tell the people about Jesus? Answer: He told them that Jesus was God's Son, the peace child sent to make peace between sinful people and God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 John 4:10 "This is love: ___ that we loved God, but that ___ loved us and sent his Son as an atoning ___ for our sins." Answers: not; he; sacrifice.</p>	<p>To God Be the Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 10</i></p> <p>Verse 1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the lifegate that all may go in.</p> <p>Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He hath done</p> <p>Words: Fanny Crosby Music: William H. Doane</p> <p>We give glory to God for giving us His Son who He loved so much to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the Great Lover and Savior of Your undeserving people. People who were at war with You by being sinners, but whom You have loved and wanted to make Your dearly loved people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we all are enemies with You, by nature. We all deserve Your punishment for rebelling against You and Your good ways. We need a Savior to make peace between You and us.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for answering Your people's prayers to help them tell others the good news of Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus to make peace and forgiveness of sins possible.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send out Your people to every part of the world, that all might hear and believe the good news of Jesus.</p>	<p>This Is Love <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 11</i></p> <p>This is love, Not that we loved God, But that He, that he loved us, He sent his Son, And He sent His Son, An atoning sacrifice for sin. He sent his Son, And He sent His Son, An atoning sacrifice for sin. First John, Four, ten.</p> <p>Words adapted from 1 John 4:10 Music: Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>We are all sinners who have rebelled against God, yet God chose to love us and do it in the deepest way possible: He sent Jesus to save us. Yes, He sent His dearly loved Son, to come to earth to be the atoning sacrifice that would pay for our sins. He would live a perfect life then offer it up as the payment that would bring the forgiveness we needed. And He chose to do this while we still were rebelling against Him! How wonderful is this free gift of God! How deep is His love! This atoning sacrifice is for us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p>