



Unit 10 Prontos--NIV
The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling God



Curriculum for preschool and elementary age children,
training tools, music and other Resources
are available for download or to order at:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About PFI Prontos	5
Other Praise Factory Resources	5
Unit 10 Prontos	7
BIBLE TRUTH 1: The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People	9
The Case of the Watchful Waiters <i>Acts 2 NT</i>	13
The Case of the Unbelievable Boldness <i>Story of the Saints</i>	17
The Case of the Big Thaw <i>Exodus 19:1-7; Ezekiel 36:24-37:14; Acts 2 OT</i>	
Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19	
BIBLE TRUTH 2: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage	21
The Case of the Speaking Rain <i>1 Kings 17:1-18:46 OT</i>	25
The Case of the Wonderful Deliverance <i>Story of the Saints</i>	29
The Case of the Mysterious Messengers <i>Acts 14:8-23 NT</i>	
Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31	
BIBLE TRUTH 3: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom	33
The Case of the King and Queen Who Were Warned <i>1 Kings 21 OT</i>	37
The Case of the Drummer Boy <i>Story of the Saints</i>	41
The Case of the Wilderness Man <i>Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; Luke 3,9; John 1 NT</i>	
Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17 NIV 1984	
BIBLE TRUTH 4: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church	45
The Case of the Burning Hearts <i>Luke 24:13-35 NT</i>	49
The Case of the Ragged Bible <i>Story of the Saints</i>	53
The Case of the Forgotten Book <i>Deuteronomy 4,5,27-30,34; Jeremiah 1-2,4,11,25,36 OT</i>	
Bible Verse: Acts 9:31 NIV 1984	

The PFI Companion Resources

While all the PFI resources are available for download at praisefactory.org, many of the resources are available for purchase as hard copies, too.

There are three companion resources for each of the sixteen PFI units:

PFI Core Curriculum Book (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit

The PFI Core Curriculum book contains the curriculum introduction, the lesson plans, stories and the activities for each Bible Truth in a unit. There are three stories and resources per Bible Truth: an Old Testament, New Testament and church history/missions story. All three reinforce the key Bible truth concept.

PFI Song Book (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit

The PFI Unit Song Book provides lead sheets and sign language for every song used in the unit. The audio music is available online for download.

➔ PFI Prontos (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit

The PFI Prontos book provides all of the unit's take home sheets. They are offered separately from the rest of the curriculum because they are usually photo-copied. These take-home sheets include the key concepts, lyrics to the songs, the session story, some review questions, a prayer and an activity sheet.

All of these materials may be photocopied for non-commercial church, classroom or school use by licensed users.

About the PFI Prontos

The PFI Prontos are the take-home devotionals for each session of PFI.

They include the Bible Truth, its related Bible verse, the lyrics and meaning blurb for the hymn and Bible verse song, three quiz questions, a prayer and two activity sheets for every story in the curriculum.

While the Prontos are designed as a reinforcement tool for parents to use with their children after session, the resources are so substantial as to be used as a curriculum by themselves. Additional activities can be downloaded online with each Bible truth.

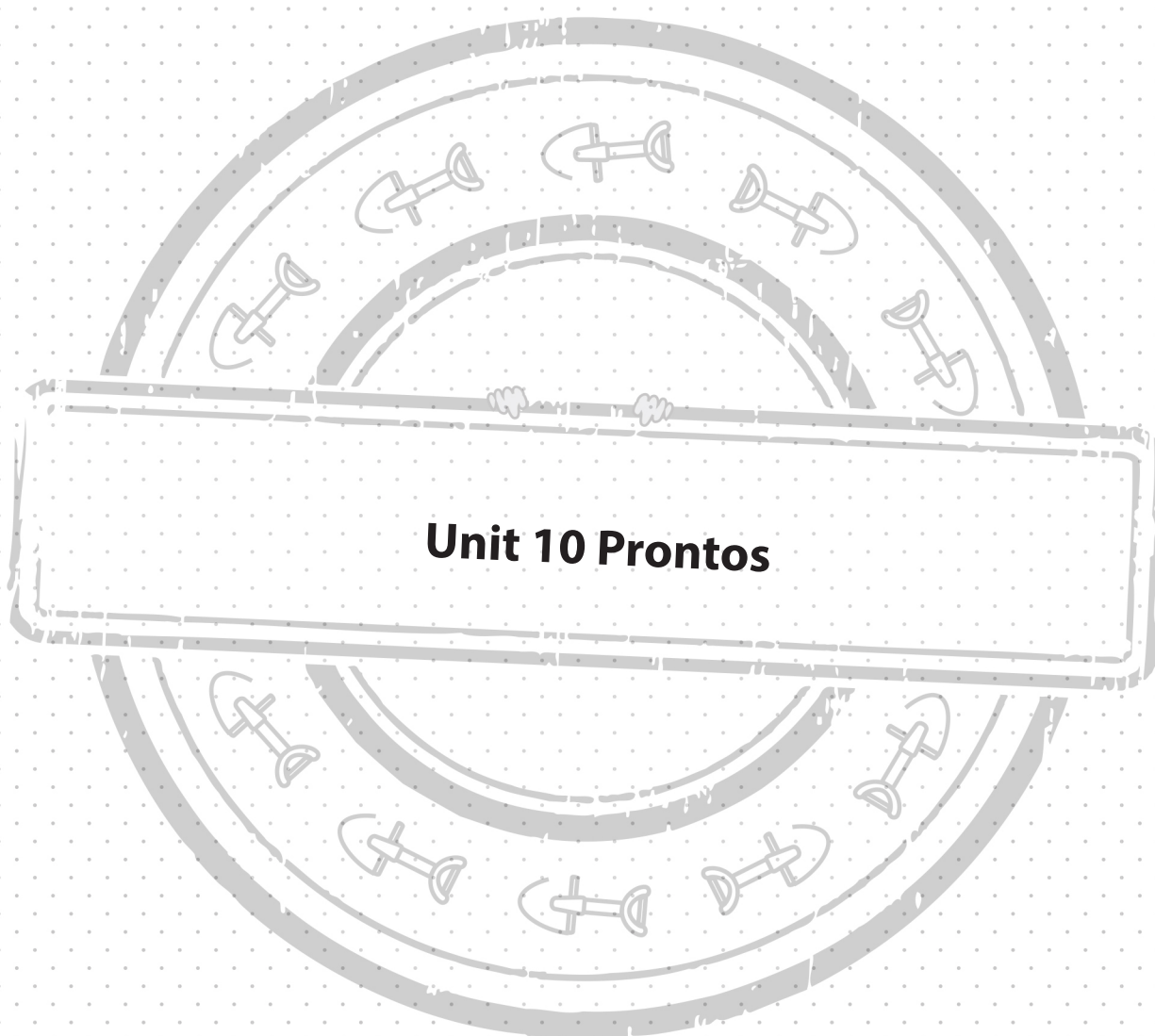
Other Praise Factory Resources

PFI: Praise Factory Investigators is the third in a family of three, inter-related curriculums:

- Hide 'n' Seek Kids (focus group: ages 2-4; adaptable range: ages 2-pre-K 5's)
- Deep Down Detectives (focus group: ages 4--6's; adaptable range: ages 3-2nd grade)
- PFI: (focus group: grades K-5th grade; adaptable range: pre-K 5's-6th grade)

Each curriculum teaches the same biblical themes, but are presented in greater depth as the children grow and develop. Together, the curriculums work like an expanding spiral of truth that returns to reinforce the same truths with each curriculum, yet leading the children to deeper understanding with each step up.

Learn more about these curriculums as well as other resources and ideas for reaching children with the gospel at: www.praisefactory.org.



Unit 10 Prontos

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:
The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

God is one God, but three persons: God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit. Together they have always existed, delighting in wonderful fellowship together and working out the perfect plans of God. This is a wonderful truth, even though it is very hard to understand.

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He spent time with His disciples and taught them many things. He told them He would be going back to reign in heaven, but He promised His disciples that He would not leave God's people all alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and make them new. The Holy Spirit would help them know God and His Word. He would comfort them. He would change their hearts so that they would love and serve God more and more.

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of those first believers, as Jesus said He would. He comforted and helped them to live as God wanted them to live.

And God continues to give His Holy Spirit to His people--all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He gives them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He comforts them and helps them live for God, too. God can do this in our hearts, too!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

CASE STORY

Acts 2

Our story is called:

The Case of the Watchful Waiters.

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

1. Who were the Watchful Waiters? Who were they watching and waiting for?
2. When did He come? What did He do?

This story takes place in Jerusalem, in New Testament times, not long after Jesus rose from the dead.

Have you ever had a hard time waiting for your birthday? Why is that? Maybe it's because you know someone will cook you a favorite meal and dessert. Maybe it's because of other ways you are specially treated that day. But I wonder, perhaps more than anything, if it's because of the gifts you might receive?

Maybe you've been hinting for some special gift you hope your parents will get you. Or, maybe you saw something wrapped up in a closet or accidentally overheard your parents whispering about their present to you, and you are so excited! "How many days is it TODAY until my birthday?!" you might ask over and over, waiting for the day when you finally get to open what you've been waiting for.

If this has ever been your experience, then maybe you can understand how the disciples were probably feeling, those days right after Jesus died, rose again, then went to heaven. You see, they were expecting a gift from Jesus. A really big gift; a really exciting gift. A gift so amazing that no one had ever received a gift just like it ever before. And it was so amazing that they didn't really even know exactly what it was. It was a present from that He was sending them from heaven!

What was this gift? It was the Holy Spirit, Himself!

Jesus had told them, "Don't leave Jerusalem. Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses of my death and resurrection here in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to all the nations, even to the ends of the earth."

The disciples didn't know exactly what that meant to receive the Holy Spirit or to be baptized with the Holy Spirit; but, Jesus had told them that the Holy Spirit would

live in them, comfort and guide them. He promised them that the Holy Spirit would give them power to do everything He wanted them to do. So whatever this gift was, it was very, very good!!!

News spread quickly about the gift that was to come. Together 120 of Jesus' followers gathered together in Jerusalem, waiting and praying, praying and waiting. For how long? No one knew, but it must be soon.

Day 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 passed-- a whole week-but still no Holy Spirit.. They kept on waiting and praying there in Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to. Some days they would go to the Temple to pray and worship God. Some days they would meet together in the Cenacle, the large upper room where the eleven disciples were staying. But still no Holy Spirit.

Was God running late in giving the Holy Spirit? Had He changed His plans? No, sir! He had a perfect plan all along. He knew exactly what day He would send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

Day 8 passed. By Day 9, it was getting harder and harder to meet together. Hundreds of thousands of God-fearing Jews and Gentiles were pouring into the city for the annual feast of Pentecost. Pentecost was the celebration of God giving them the Ten Commandments. God's laws were such a great gift to them! They told the people how to love God and love others. It was hard for them to imagine a greater gift.

Every adult Jewish man was to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost and they obeyed. They came flooding in from all over--even many far away places like Africa, Europe and Asia--all to celebrate the great gift of God's Law. Jerusalem burst to the seams with the hundreds of thousands of visitors. So many people in such a small space!

Perhaps that is why by Day 10--the Day of Pentecost, itself--the 120 believers did not meet early that morning in the Temple to pray, but in the house called the Cenacle. Perhaps it was simply too difficult to make their way through the crowded streets and into the even more crowded Temple courts.

Whatever the reason, it was there in the Cenacle, that Pentecost morning, that the long-awaited gift of the Holy Spirit came. All of sudden, a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. The disciples 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 He

made them each able to speak in foreign languages—languages they had never learned in school or maybe ever even heard before!

Yes, the gift had come at last! The Holy Spirit had come to dwell inside of them and already was beginning to work changes in their hearts! They were all filled with joy and peace and power from on high. What an amazing gift!

But there was more to this gift that they knew. It wasn't just a gift for THEM. It was for ALL PEOPLE, as they were about to find out. The streets outside the Cenacle had been filled with the noisy bustle of thousands of Pentecost visitors, but when the mighty sound of the Spirit roared from heaven and the 120 believers burst from the house speaking in foreign languages, a curious hush silenced the crowds of people in the streets.

"What is this I hear?" they asked each other. "Do you hear those people? They are speaking OUR language!" said people from Egypt and Africa and Asia and Europe. "But look at them! They aren't from our country. They are from Galilee! How is it that they are speaking our language? What gift is this?" they asked in curiosity.

"Perhaps it's no gift at all, maybe they are drunk from too much wine," laughed one person. Others laughed with him.

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven disciples. He silenced the crowd and spoke: "These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is the Holy Spirit poured out upon His people, just as God had promised it would happen."

Then Peter shared the good news about Jesus. He told how God had sent His Son Jesus to the world to save His sinful people. How Jesus had lived a perfect life and offered up His life on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart: "What should we do, they asked?"

Peter gladly told them, "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."

Many people in the crowd listened and obeyed. About 3000 of them became followers of Jesus on just that one day! They, too, received the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by God.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten

days the disciples had waited and wondered about this wonderful gift, but now they could see what perfect timing God had in giving it to His people on the Day of Pentecost. For now those 3000 believers from all parts of the world would go home and tell others the good news of Jesus. They had come to Jerusalem to celebrate God's great gift of the Law; but they went home with a far greater gift: the gift of faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit living inside their hearts to change them and to give them power to love and live for God, more and more each day.

Many people call this special Day of Pentecost the birthday of the Church. And if you want to know what day that birthday is? It's the seventh Sunday after Easter. And what a celebration we should have on that birthday for the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit given to God's people! That God would save His sinful people--all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior-- and would give them the gift of a new heart, filled with the Holy Spirit!

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

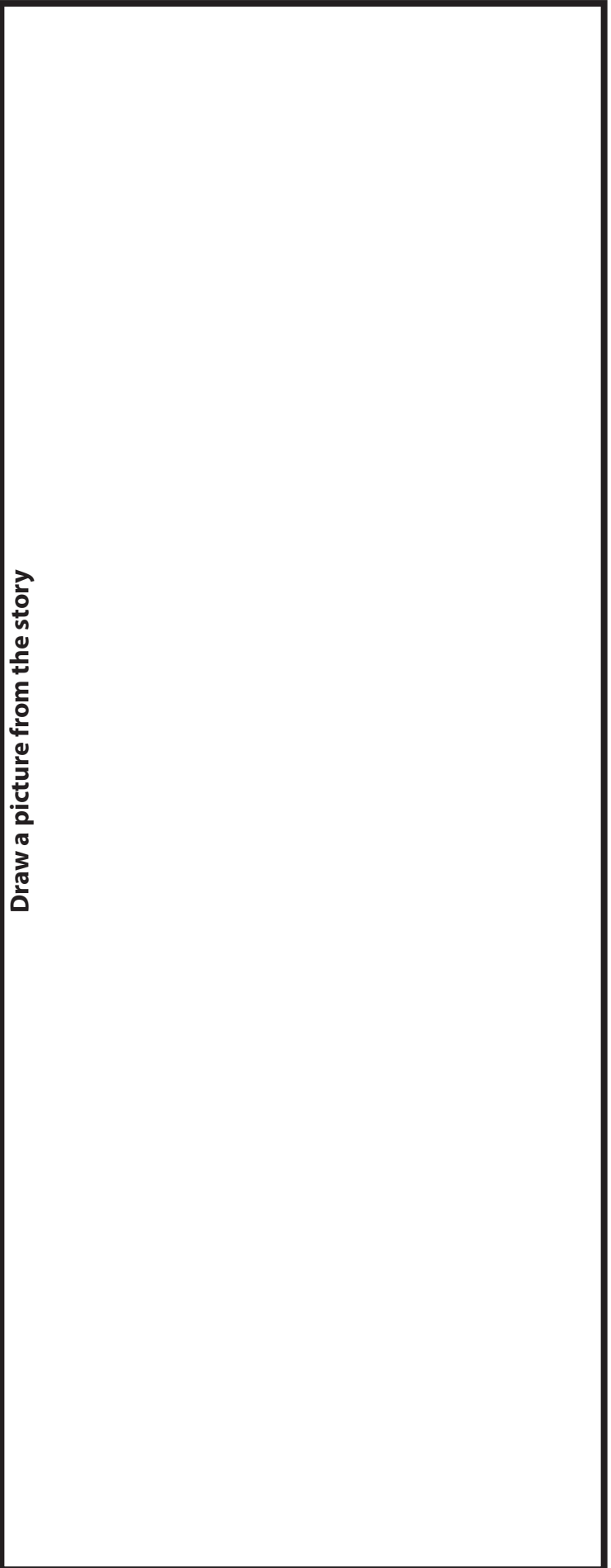
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

But what about you and me? Could this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, given long ago to those first believers be even for us? Yes, it can be.

It is God's promise to all of His people, to all who confess their sins, turn away from sinning, and trust in Jesus as Savior. It is His promise to us, if we do this. And who will come to live in our hearts? Why God's Holy Spirit! There will not be a mighty wind when He comes to live in us. That was to make it clear to the disciples that the Holy Spirit was coming. But nonetheless, He will come and do the same powerful work in our hearts, changing them so that we love God and want to live for Him, more and more each day.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 After Jesus rose from the dead, He told them He was going to heaven to reign and they would have to take care of themselves.
 Answer: False! Jesus told them that He would send the Holy Spirit to live inside them, to comfort and to help them.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who were the Watchful Waiters? Who were they watching and waiting for?
 Answer: The first believers in Jesus. They were watching and waiting for the Holy Spirit.

b. When did He come? What did He do?
 Answer: He came on the Day of Pentecost. He came to live in their hearts.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 Corinthians 6:19
 "Do you not ___ that your body is a ___ of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you ___ received from God?"
 Answers: know; temple; have.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 7,8

Verse 1
 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
 Fill me with life anew,
 That I may love what Thou dost love,
 And do what Thou wouldst do.

Verse 2
 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
 Until my heart is pure,
 Until with Thee I will Thy will,
 To do and to endure.

Words: Edwin Hatch Music: Robert Jackson

We are all sinners. We were made to love and obey God, but we have all turned away from that most wonderful of lives. Only God can change us and He can, by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is nicknamed the "Breath of God." Our breath fills our body with the air that it needs to live. The Holy Spirit fills God's people with Himself so that they can know and love God and have His eternal life. God will send His Holy Spirit to work this way in us when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This song is a prayer asking Him to do this.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so merciful to sinners, that You would make a way through Jesus, for the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts.

C God, we confess that just like the people gathered to hear Peter speak, we are sinners who do not deserve Your Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts. It is only by faith and forgiveness through Jesus that we can receive Your Holy Spirit.

T God, we thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside Your people. How wonderful it is that they can know You in close fellowship inside their hearts!

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, that we might know Your close fellowship in our own hearts.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

A Temple of the Holy Spirit
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 9

Do you not know? Do you not know?
 Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
 Do you not know? Do you not know?
 Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
 A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
 A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
 Whom you have from God,
 Whom you have from God.
 First Corinthians Chapter Six, verse nineteen.

Words: 1 Corinthians 6:19, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2015

God created every person with a body and a special heart, made to know and love God. When we become God's people, God fills that heart with His Holy Spirit. That makes their bodies like a temple--a special place of God's presence-- inside their bodies. What an amazing gift from God that we all can have!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:
The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

God is one God, but three persons: God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit. Together they have always existed, delighting in wonderful fellowship together and working out the perfect plans of God. This is a wonderful truth, even though it is very hard to understand.

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He spent time with His disciples and taught them many things. He told them He would be going back to reign in heaven, but He promised His disciples that He would not leave God's people all alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and make them new. The Holy Spirit would help them know God and His Word. He would comfort them. He would change their hearts so that they would love and serve God more and more.

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of those first believers, as Jesus said He would. He comforted and helped them to live as God wanted them to live.

And God continues to give His Holy Spirit to His people--all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He gives them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He comforts them and helps them live for God, too. God can do this in our hearts, too!

BIBLE VERSE

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"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Unbelievable Boldness .

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

1. Who had Unbelievable Boldness? What did that boldness give them courage to do?
2. Where did the boldness come from? What did the boldness show others?

This story does not take place in Bible times. It starts out in 1945 in the United States.

Two young men stood slightly crouched, face to face. As the whistle blew, they leap at each other with all their strength. On and on they fought, sweat covering their bodies. At last one young man, the one with brown hair, flung his opponent to the ground. A roar went up from the crowd of hundreds watching them. That brown-haired young man, named Jim Eliot, was their school's champion wrestler and he was starting to get the better of his opponent!

But the contest wasn't over. Jim still had to get his opponent over on his back and pin his shoulders to the mat. Jim flung himself on top of the other man. The man underneath twisted his shoulders this way and that, trying to avoid contact with the mat under him. Jim pushed on and on, until at last the other man was forced to let both of his shoulders touch at once. A loud whistle blew and the referee announced Jim the champion. Everyone cheered!

Jim Elliot was Wheaton College's star wrestler; but he was a lot more than that. He was handsome, smart, very popular, a hard worker and a great student. He even had a wonderful girl named Elizabeth that he loved. With all of that going for him, Jim could have done anything he wanted to after college. But Jim did not want to do just anything. Jim wanted to leave everything behind—even that wonderful girl, if he had to—and go to a wild, unexplored part of Ecuador to find the fierce Auca Indians and tell them about Jesus.

The real name of the Aucas was the "Huarani," which means "people," but the other tribes called them "Aucas," which means "savage." No one wanted anything to do with the Aucas, not even the Jivaros, the head-hunting tribe that lived near them. They were such vicious people that they killed all strangers at first sight. They were even quick to kill each other. Every Auca expected to die one day—at the hands of another Auca!

Aucas lived very simple lives. They had no electricity, only fire. They had few -- if any-- metal tools or weapons. They wore almost no clothes. They gathered roots and berries, they speared fish and killed monkeys with their poisonous blow-darts. They traveled down the rivers of Ecuador in long dugout canoes.

There were only a tiny number of Aucas-- only about 500 in all. No one knew exactly where their villages were; and, because they were such vicious people, no one had really wanted to know. No one, that is, until Jim Elliot. But WHY would he want to do that? Because Jim Elliot was a Christian.

The Holy Spirit lived inside Jim's heart. He helped Jim love God most of all and He placed in Jim's heart a love for the Aucas that made him want to tell the Aucas about Jesus, even more than be a famous wrestler or rich, successful businessman, or even marry Elizabeth, the wonderful girl he loved.

When Jim finished school, he went to Ecuador to seek out the Aucas. Jim knew it would be very hard to find the Aucas. After all, they lived hidden somewhere deep in the wilds of the Ecuador's huge rain-forest. But as it turned out, it was even harder than Jim or the other men traveling with him had thought. They had to tramp through mud up to their knees, swatting mosquitoes with one hand and swinging a machete with the other to cut a trail through the thick jungle growth. They were always on the look out for poisonous snakes and other dangerous animals. It would be easy to want to give up and go home, but Jim and the others kept going. Why did they do that? Because the Holy Spirit lived deep inside their hearts, giving them strength to keep going and even risk their lives to tell others about Jesus.

Deep, deep, deeper into the rain-forest they went until at last they came to Quito, a village of Quechua Indians. The Quechua were the Indians who lived closest to the Aucas. Jim would help the missionaries working there and try to find out more about the Aucas, too. Work was hard and lonely. How glad Jim was when Elizabeth, the wonderful girl he loved and other people joined him in Quito! Together they helped the Quechuas and searched for the Aucas.

Finally one day, Nate Saint and Ed McCully, two of the men who worked with Jim Elliot, spotted a tiny clearing with little huts of wood and banana leaves while soaring

over the jungle in their little plane. They had found the Aucas at last! Jim and the others were so excited. Now they could try to reach the Aucas!

Trip after trip Nate Saint and the others worked to make to the clearing they called Palm Beach. They dropped buckets of presents for the Aucas: cooking pots, machetes and other things the Aucas could use. Over a loud speaker, they would yell, "We are your friends. We want to meet you!" The Aucas filled the buckets with gifts for the men in the "wooden bee", as they called the airplane: parrots, peanuts, and best of all, smoked monkey tail. Yum? Crowds of Aucas now would wait and watch for the airplane to return with its treasures.

At last Jim and the other men decided that it was time to meet the Aucas face to face. Nate Saint landed the plane on Palm Beach. The men got out and set up camp near the plane on the sandy beach. Each night the men radioed back to the women what happened that day. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Each night the men radioed back to the women what happened that day. The women were excited to hear the latest news: they had seen a few Aucas, but no one would come up and talk to them. That was all. They were hopeful, but would need to be patient.

Sunday, the sixth night, came. The woman gathered around the radio again. But tonight, no one signaled them. Monday came. Still no word. Had something happened to the men? A search plane was sent out to Palm Beach to find out. Not long after it set out, it brought back the sad news: there had been a surprise attack of Aucas and Jim and all the other men with him had been killed!

The women and children wept. They had lost their husbands, brothers and fathers! Yet hadn't they been warned?! The Aucas were vicious. They killed all strangers. What had they expected?! The men were buried right on Palm Beach. The women and children went home to the United States.

What that the end of the story? The end of trying to reach the Aucas? No, it was not! Only two years later, Jim's wife, Elizabeth, his little two year old daughter, Valerie, and Nate Saint's sister, Rachel, were back to try to reach the Aucas themselves! Can you imagine? What would make them do that? There was only one answer: the Holy Spirit living inside them! He gave them the strength to forgive the Aucas for killing their men. He filled them with love

for the Aucas, and a strong desire for them to know about Jesus.

The women met a young Auca woman, named Dayuma, who had run away from an Auca village. A man who was angry with her father, killed him and was trying to kill her, too. Dayuma knew that she must never return to the village if she wanted to stay alive. Men would be waiting to kill her. Elizabeth and Rachel took care of Dayuma and loved her. Dayuma helped them to learn her language and when they told her about Jesus, she became a Christian.

Now the Holy Spirit started working in Dayuma's heart. Even though she was very scared that she might be killed, she wanted more than anything else to tell her people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave her great courage and love for her people. She knew He would give her the strength she needed.

Dayuma bravely left Elizabeth and Rachel and headed into the jungle to her village. The women waited day after day for Dayuma to return. Finally after two weeks she came back. Her people had not killed her. They had listened to the good news of Jesus and wanted Elizabeth, Valerie and Rachel to come live with them to tell them more!

But would they really go with Dayuma? What if the Aucas were just planning another surprise attack? Could they really be trusted? The Holy Spirit living inside of Elizabeth and Rachel gave them strength. They went to live with the Aucas and it was not long until many of them came to know the Lord-- including the very man who had lead the attack on Jim Elliot and the others! As the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, many of the Aucas turned away from their hateful, killing ways and loved God and each other. How powerful is the Holy Spirit's work inside His people!

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19

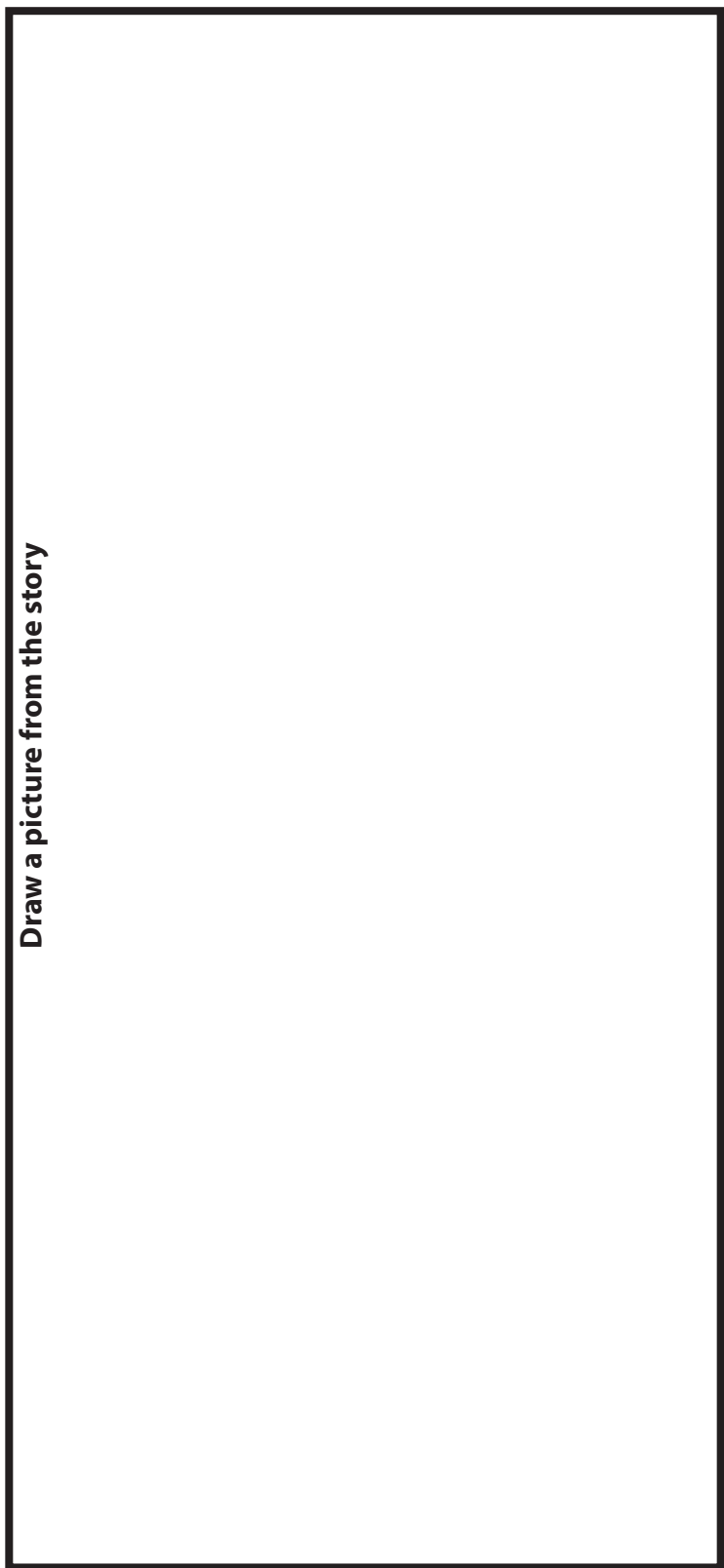
"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

But what about you and me? God did mighty things through His Holy Spirit in all these people, but can He do something mighty in us? Yes, He can!

Yes! Jesus promises that He will through the Holy Spirit living deep inside. Yes, if we are His people. Those who

confess our sins to God and trust Jesus as our Savior, then He will fill US with His Holy Spirit, too. He can give us strength to do mighty things for Him.

Let's praise God who sends His Holy Spirit to live in His people. Let's pray that He would make us His people and fill us with His Holy Spirit and give us the strength and courage to do even great things for Him.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of the first believers, but not to anyone else after them.

Answer: False. God sends His Holy Spirit to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He lives inside all of God's people!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who had Unbelievable Boldness? What did that boldness give them courage to do?

Answer: Jim Eliot, and the men; Jim's wife Elizabeth and the other wives; and Dayuma. To try to tell the Aucas about Jesus, even though they would probably be killed.

b. Where did the boldness come from? What did the boldness show others?

Answer: The Holy Spirit living in their hearts gave them courage to do what God wanted them to do, even though it might cost them their lives. God used their boldness to help the Aucas believe that the good news of Jesus was really true.

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

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you ___ know that your body is a temple of the ___
___, who is in you, whom you have received from ___?"

Answers: not; Holy Spirit; God.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 7.8

Verse 1

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Verse 2

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will Thy will,
To do and to endure.

Words: Edwin Hatch Music: Robert Jackson

We are all sinners. We were made to love and obey God, but we have all turned away from that most wonderful of lives. Only God can change us and He can, by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is nicknamed the "Breath of God." Our breath fills our body with the air that it needs to live. The Holy Spirit fills God's people with Himself so that they can know and love God and have His eternal life. God will send His Holy Spirit to work this way in us when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This song is a prayer asking Him to do this.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for Your powerful Holy Spirit that could even give Elizabeth and the other women love and courage to go to the Aucas to tell them about Jesus.

C God, we confess that just like the Aucas, we are sinners. We have disobeyed You in how we live and how we treat others. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for loving the Aucas, even though they had done such terrible things. It was You who sent His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of Jim Eliot and the others to risk their lives to tell them the gospel.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, that we might know Your close fellowship in our own hearts. Give us love and courage to tell others about Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

A Temple of the Holy Spirit

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 9

Do you not know? Do you not know?
Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
Do you not know? Do you not know?
Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
Whom you have from God,
Whom you have from God.
First Corinthians Chapter Six, verse nineteen.

Words: 1 Corinthians 6:19, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2015

God created every person with a body and a special heart, made to know and love God. When we become God's people, God fills that heart with His Holy Spirit. That makes their bodies like a temple--a special place of God's presence-- inside their bodies. What an amazing gift from God that we all can have!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

God is one God, but three persons: God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit. Together they have always existed, delighting in wonderful fellowship together and working out the perfect plans of God. This is a wonderful truth, even though it is very hard to understand.

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He spent time with His disciples and taught them many things. He told them He would be going back to reign in heaven, but He promised His disciples that He would not leave God's people all alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and make them new. The Holy Spirit would help them know God and His Word. He would comfort them. He would change their hearts so that they would love and serve God more and more.

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of those first believers, as Jesus said He would. He comforted and helped them to live as God wanted them to live.

And God continues to give His Holy Spirit to His people--all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He gives them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He comforts them and helps them live for God, too. God can do this in our hearts, too!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

CASE STORY

Exodus 19:1-7; Ezekiel 36:24-37:14; Acts 2

Our story is: The Case of the Big Thaw .

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

1. What was hard and cold? How did this show?
2. Who could bring about the big thaw? Why could He do it?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Three month earlier, the people of Israel had been slaves, living under the hard laws the Pharaoh, the powerful king of Egypt. Now, at the bottom of Mount Sinai, the LORD had gathered the Israelites to give them His good laws. Moses told them how the LORD would bless them if they kept His laws: "This is what the LORD your God says to you: You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep the laws of my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession."

"We will do everything the LORD has said," the people all responded in one voice. After all they had seen this God do for them, what could be better than following Him?!! In their hearts they knew this. No one had ever seen a god do what the LORD had done for them.

But it did not take long before the Israelites were breaking God's laws and their promise to Him. "Do not make any idols. Do not worship any god, but Me" were God's laws they promised to keep. And at first they did bring their offerings and sacrifices of wheat grain and sheep to Him....but then they turned to make a golden calf idol. They started worshipping the terrible, pretend gods of the people who lived around them: Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech and many others. They worshiped the sun, the moon and the stars, too. What hard hearts the Israelites had! How quickly they forgot the LORD and His good ways! Could anything change their hard hearts? We will see.

The LORD loved His hard-hearted people and so He disciplined them that they might turn their hard hearts away from those evil, pretend gods and return to Him. He sent enemy soldiers to come and attack Israel. Each time, the Israelites were conquered, their hearts would change towards the LORD. They would cry out to Him and He would rescue them and drive the enemy soldiers out of

Israel. Then the Israelites would turn back and praise the Lord and worship Him...for awhile.

But did this really fix their hard hearts? Sadly, no, it did not. All too soon, they would forget the LORD and His laws again and turn back to worshiping the idols. Over and over, this happened again and again.

Could anything thaw Israel's hard hearts? It didn't seem so. Finally, after about 1000 years, the LORD told His people, "You honor Me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me. Turn from your sinful ways and turn back to me and I will forgive you. If you do not, then I will send some really, really big armies to wipe out most of you and your cities. The rest of you, will be carried far away from your home and you will be their slaves for 70 years."

This was serious! To be in a terrible war, to have your home destroyed and be dragged off to be slaves in a faraway land! Could this warning be enough to change Israel's hard hearts? Would they turn back to the LORD and love and obey Him now? Sadly, no. It was not enough. The people did not change.

So, the LORD did just what He said He would. He sent two really, really big and fierce armies: the Assyrians and the Babylonians. And they did just what the LORD said they would do: they wiped out most of the Israelites and destroyed their homes and cities. The Babylonians snatched all the beautiful things of gold and silver from the glorious Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and then smashed the Temple to pieces. They put rings in the lips and noses of the people and led them away as slaves across the hot, dry desert back to Babylon.

At last the people's hearts were broken. How sad the people were in Babylon! They wept and mourned. They could see how hard-hearted they had been. They knew the LORD was right to have punished them. They wanted their hearts to know and love God. But how? Could anything change their hard hearts? They cried out to Him.

But would the LORD be merciful to them after all they had done? Yes, He would! How great is the mercy of the LORD for His people! He sent His special messenger, the prophet Ezekiel, to give them a message of comfort and hope.

Ezekiel told them, "The LORD gave me a special dream to tell you. In this dream, He set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of the dry bones of dead men who had been in

a great battle."

The LORD said to me, "Ezekiel, can these bones become alive again?"

"O Sovereign LORD, who rules over all, you alone know."

"Speak to the bones and say to them: "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!" This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make skin come upon you and make muscles come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

So Ezekiel spoke to the bones as the LORD told him and as he was speaking, these was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. Ezekiel looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in the body.

"Speak to the breath, Ezekiel, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these dead, that they will live.' So Ezekiel spoke as the LORD commanded him, and breath entered the bones; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then the LORD said: "Ezekiel, these bones are like my people. They feel lifeless and hopeless like these bones. They think nothing will ever free them from the Babylonians, but that is not true. I see their sadness and I care. I see they are sorry for how they rebelled against me. I will rescue them from Babylon and take them back to their homeland."

"Their hearts are hard as stone, like these dry, dead bones. You may think nothing can change your hearts of stone that keep disobeying God, but that is not true. I will put my spirit inside their hearts. Then they will no longer have hearts that are hard and dead and rebellious. One day, I will send my Spirit to live inside them. He will change their hearts and make them love me and want to obey me more and more each day."

Did the LORD keep His promises to the Israelites? Yes, He did! After seventy years of slavery, the Israelites were freed to return to their homeland, just as the LORD had promised they would.

And what about the promise to put His Spirit in their hard hearts and change them, did He keep that promise, too? Yes, He did. About 630 years later, God sent His Son Jesus to come to earth. as their Savior. He lived a perfect

life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of His people. Jesus died on the cross and on the third day, He rose from the dead in victory. He paid for their sins so that by faith in Him, they could receive the gift of salvation! And with this gift of salvation, their hearts could be made clean. God's Holy Spirit would work in their cold hearts and thaw them. He would fill them with faith and a growing love for God and His good ways.

And so it began, on that wonderful day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down with the sound like a roaring wind, and what looked flames of fire and came to dwell in the hearts of Jesus' disciples as they waited and prayed. By the end of just that first day, 3000 more people had come to believe in Jesus and have the Holy Spirit come to live inside their hearts. What could change the hard hearts of the Israelites? The Holy Spirit living inside of them could, just as God had promised.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People

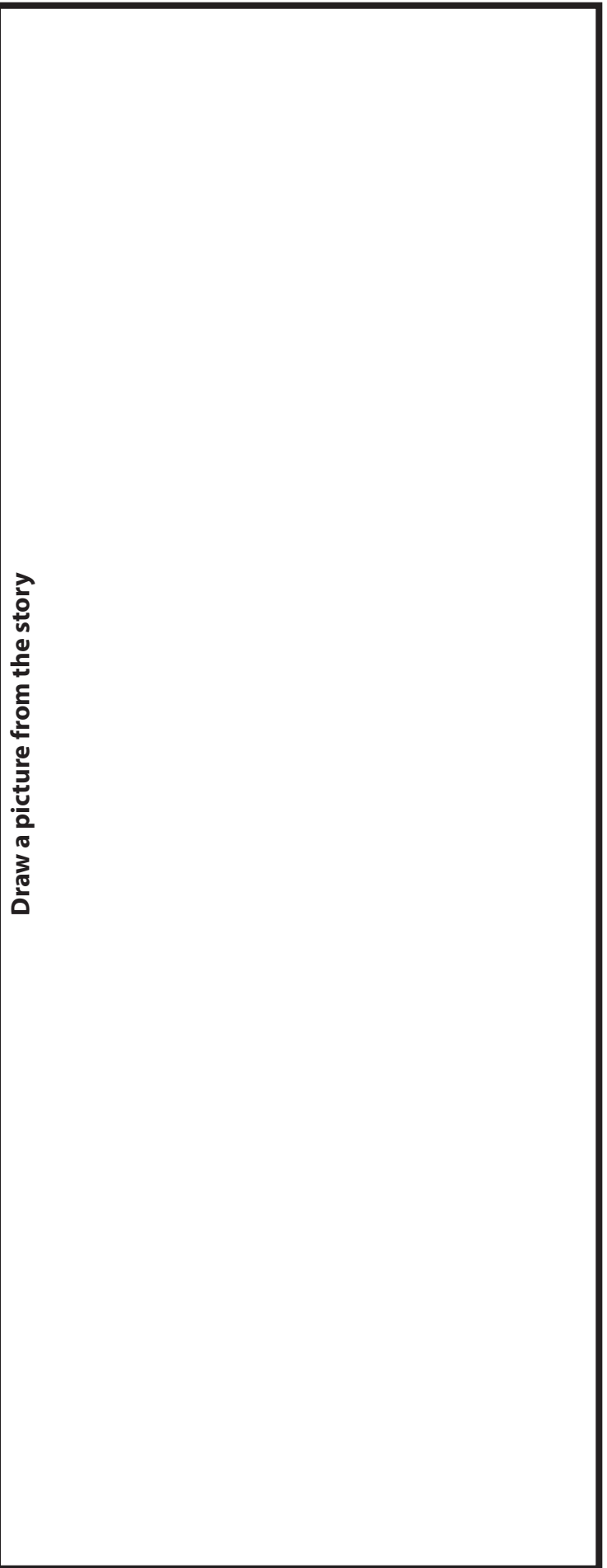
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

What about us? We have hard hearts that choose to disobey God. Could anything change our hard hearts? Yes, the Holy Spirit can change our hearts, too. To all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, the Holy Spirit will be given to them to live in their hearts and help them to love and live for God more each day. That can be you and me, too!

Let's praise God for keeping His promise and sending the Holy Spirit to live inside His people. Let's ask Him to change our sinful hearts and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work deep inside us so that we will love and obey Him more and more each day.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Holy Spirit lives inside God's people, comforting them and helping them to live for God. God can do this in our hearts, too.

Answer: True. When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. What was hard and cold? How did this show?

Answer: The hearts of God's people to God and His good laws. It showed in how they broke His laws and turned away from His to worship other gods.

b. Who could bring about the big thaw? Why could He do it?

Answer: Only God Himself could bring the big thaw to their hearts. He did it by sending Jesus to pay for their sins so that by faith they could be saved and the Holy Spirit could live in their hearts.

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

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your ___ is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is ___ you, whom ___ have received from God?"

Answers: body; in; you.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 7,8

Verse 1

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Verse 2

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will Thy will,
To do and to endure.

Words: Edwin Hatch Music: Robert Jackson

We are all sinners. We were made to love and obey God, but we have all turned away from that most wonderful of lives. Only God can change us and He can, by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is nicknamed the "Breath of God." Our breath fills our body with the air that it needs to live. The Holy Spirit fills God's people with Himself so that they can know and love God and have His eternal life. God will send His Holy Spirit to work this way in us when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This song is a prayer asking Him to do this.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for always keeping Your promises to Your people. We praise You for being so patient and forgiving with Your sinful people.

C God, we confess that just like the Israelites we have hard hearts that choose not to love You or live by Your good ways. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Your people the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and truly change them.

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, that we might know Your close fellowship in our own hearts.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

A Temple of the Holy Spirit

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 9

Do you not know? Do you not know?
Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
Do you not know? Do you not know?
Do you not know, that your body is a temple?
A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
Whom you have from God,
Whom you have from God.
First Corinthians Chapter Six, verse nineteen.

Words: 1 Corinthians 6:19, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2015

God created every person with a body and a special heart, made to know and love God. When we become God's people, God fills that heart with His Holy Spirit. That makes their bodies like a temple--a special place of God's presence-- inside their bodies. What an amazing gift from God that we all can have!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

God gives His people many good things to enjoy, but He also calls them to do difficult things. God does not expect His people to do these things on their own. He gives them His Holy Spirit, to live inside of them and help them do everything He calls them to do.

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own. He gives them the courage to tell others the good news of salvation. He gives them the courage to obey Him, even when they are tempted not to. He gives them courage to keep trusting in God and to joyfully endure any hard things God may have them go through. He even gives them courage to boldly face their enemies who want to hurt or kill them.

Not only does God's Holy Spirit give them the courage to do whatever God calls them to, but He also reminds them of God's promises to use everything that happens to them for their good and God's glory. And, He reminds them that one day God will bring them home to live with Him in heaven, where there will be only joy and happiness in God's presence forever.

God's Holy Spirit can give us courage to live for God, too, 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 2 Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

CASE STORY

Matthew 16:13-20; Acts 2-4

Our story is called:
The Case of the Rock Man.

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

1. Who was the Rock Man? Who gave him this nickname? What did it mean?
2. How did Rock Man not live up to his nickname? Who changed him to fit his nickname?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

Jesus and his disciples had been traveling north for a few days. Behind them lay the hills of Galilee. Now they climbed up into the mountains to Caesarea Philippi. How beautiful it was, with its waterfalls and pools of clear, cool water, straight from the melted snow of Mt. Hermon, the tallest mountains near Israel.

For years, people had come to Caesarea Philippi to honor idols. They left their worship offerings to them by the springs of water, nicknamed the Gates of Hell. Now Jesus brought His disciples to this same water to reveal Himself as the Son of God.

"Who do you same that I am?" Jesus asked them.

Peter—called Simon back then-- spoke up right away. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," Peter blurted out.

Jesus was pleased. The Holy Spirit had revealed this to Peter. Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Your name is no longer Simon. I call you 'Peter'" the Rock. And on this Rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:13-20)

Peter was pleased. Jesus said he had faith like a big, strong rock! He would build His Church on faith like Peter's and chose this place, called the Gates of Hell, to tell them that nothing would ever defeat His Church.

But time passed. Jesus' enemies, the Jewish leaders, grew stronger. They made plans to arrest and kill Him. One night, down in Jerusalem, they sent soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane and captured Him.

Peter the Rock crumbled into Peter the Pebble, a man of little faith and even less courage. Three times that night, Peter was accused him of being with Jesus and all three times he denied Jesus. He was so afraid of being arrested and maybe killed!

And where was Peter the Rock after Jesus died on the

cross? A rock would have helped Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and the women take Jesus' body and prepare it for burial. But Peter the Pebble hid with the other disciples, in fear of the Jewish leaders.

Peter the Pebble was ashamed. He loved Jesus, but he had chosen to deny His dear Master. Could Peter the Pebble ever become Peter the Rock, who bravely trusted God? It would take a miracle!

On Pentecost day, that miracle, that act of God, happened. With a great roar, the Holy Spirit came down to live inside the hearts of Peter and Jesus' other followers. He worked in Peter's heart, giving him courage to live for Jesus. He was no longer Peter the Pebble. By the Holy Spirit, he was Peter the Rock.

Immediately, Peter went out to speak to the crowd of thousands of people who had gathered. He told them how Jesus, the Son of God, had died as the perfect sacrifice for sinful people. All who confessed their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior would receive forgiveness and new life through Him. Thousands received Peter's message and were saved.

And that was just the beginning of what God did through Peter the Rock! These thousands of new believers met together in the temple courts to worship and praise God. And who led them? None other than Peter the Rock and the other disciples. The Holy Spirit had changed them. He had given them courage to STOP fearing the Jewish leaders and START trusting God. Every day, new people were saved as they heard the gospel and saw the disciples' changed lives. The Jewish leaders noticed the disciples' changed lives, too. They watched as thousands of Christians gathered in the Temple courts to. They listened to praise Jesus, the Son of God... and they did NOT like it!

"This problem with Jesus is just getting worse!" they told each other. "Now there are thousands worshipping Jesus as God's Son. Something must be done, but what?" they wondered.

They watched for a chance to arrest the Christians, especially the leaders, like Peter.

At last the Jewish leaders had their chance.(from Acts 3): "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter

and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, Peter helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into Solomon's Colonnade in the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder."

The Temple courts were in an uproar as people ran to see the healed man with Peter and John. The Jewish leaders came, too. What would Peter do? He was right in the courts of the Temple, the very headquarters of the Jewish leaders! Here was their chance to catch Peter. Would he be Peter the Pebble and run away? Or could he be Peter the Rock, and speak to the crowds about Jesus—even in front of the Jewish leaders?

He stayed Peter the Rock! Peter did NOT run. The Holy Spirit living inside of him gave him rock-like faith. Peter saw the crowds and said: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? He was healed through Jesus. He was crucified by you, but God raised Him from the dead. There is forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins, turn from them and trust in Jesus." The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many and about two thousand people believed and became followers of Jesus that day.

The Jewish leaders were furious! They seized Peter and John and put them in jail. What would happen to Peter now? Would he be Peter the Pebble again; or, would he stay Peter the Rock even now?

The next morning, soldiers led Peter, John and the before the Jewish leaders. "Yesterday you healed a man more than 40 years old. This is unheard of. By whose power did you do this?" they asked him.

The Holy Spirit gave Peter courage to say: "Know this: It is by the name of Jesus Christ, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by

which we must be saved.”

The Jewish leaders were amazed. Peter and John were simple men, who had never even gone to school, yet they spoke so well and with such courage!

“What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “We cannot deny the miracle, but we must stop this thing from spreading any further. These men must stop speaking!”

“This time we are releasing you,” they warned Peter and John, “but stop teaching about Jesus....or we will punish you.”

“Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God,” Peter and John replied. “For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

When the Jewish leaders released Peter and John, they went to tell the other believers what had happened. Everyone praised God and prayed. And what did they pray? Was it, “Lord, don’t let us be hurt. Get us out of this trouble!”? No, those would be prayers of Pebbles. The Holy Spirit lived in these people and made them brave. He gave them all rock-like faith.

They prayed, “Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miracles and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Did God answer this prayer? Yes, he did. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was SHAKEN! And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God’s People Courage

Our Bible Verse is: Acts 4:29,31

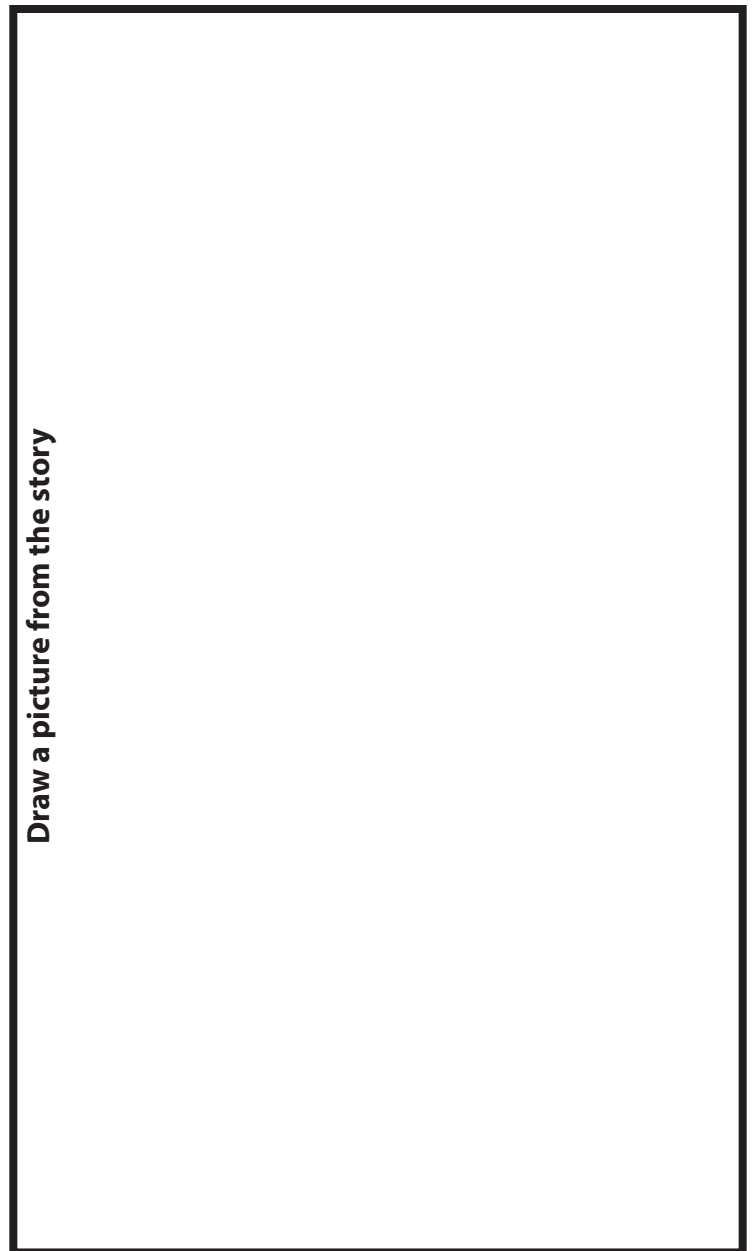
“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

The Holy Spirit made Peter the Pebble, into Peter the Rock, full of courage and faith. Only Him, living inside God’s people’s hearts that could give them the courage they would need to spread the good news about salvation through Jesus.

But what about you and me? Do you think that the

Holy Spirit only was for Peter, John and those other first followers of Jesus? No, He was not! Could the Holy Spirit make even us with little faith and lots of fear like pebbles, be turned into ROCKS with big faith and big courage like Peter? Yes, He can. Like our Bible Truth says, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of ALL who confess their sins to Jesus and turn to trust in Him. He will even come to live in us, if WE turn from our sins and trust in Jesus! You and I do not have to be Pebbles, either. The Holy Spirit can work in us to give us courageous, rock-like faith to live for Him.

Let’s praise God for sending His people the Holy Spirit, God who dwells inside His people. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to live inside us, changing our hearts to to love and obey God, and giving us great boldness to tell everyone about Jesus.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

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

God calls His people to do difficult things sometimes, but He gives them His Holy Spirit to help them do them all.

Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Rock Man? Who gave him this nickname? What did it mean?

Answer: Jesus nicknamed Cephas "Peter," which means "Rock." Jesus meant that upon the faith like that which God gave Peter in Jesus, would the church of God's people be built.

b. How did Rock Man not live up to his nickname? Who changed him to fit his nickname?

Answer: Peter's faith crumpled when Jesus was arrested. He chose to deny he even knew Jesus rather than risk getting arrested, too. But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He forgave Peter. When the Holy Spirit came upon all the believers, He filled Peter's heart, too, making his faith strong like a rock so that he boldly told all that Jesus was the Christ.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their ___ and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.... After they ___, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all ___ with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Answers: threats; prayed; filled.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear for God has willed,
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, For lo' his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth,
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth,
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Words and Music: Martin Luther

We do not have to look very far to see signs that God's good world and good ways are challenged by a powerful enemy called Satan. He and other angels rebelled against God long ago. No wonder his nickname is the "Prince of Darkness" and these rebel angels are called demons! They love to oppose God. These enemies also want to cause trouble for God's people. This may sound very scary. No one wants to have powerful enemies like these. But the good news is that they are not even close to a match for God. He is so much more powerful than they are. He will always win over any of their wicked plans. And thanks to Jesus, God gives His people powerful gifts to fight these enemies, too. He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to make them bold. He gives them other abilities that help them fight, too. Yes, with Jesus on the side of God's people, it doesn't matter what Satan might have planned. God will always win. His kingdom is forever.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit to Your people. Through Him, You make them courageous to tell others about Jesus.

C God, we confess that many times, like Peter, we are fearful and choose to avoid suffering for Jesus, even though we know all that He suffered to save sinners like us. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts!

T God, we thank You for giving Your people the Holy Spirit to change them into the people You want them to be. You know that they cannot do it on their own. You give them Your Spirit to be their powerful helper.

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 work in our hearts, making us courageous to live and to speak and even to suffer for You and for the gospel.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Now, Lord, Consider Their Threats

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14

Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
With great boldness, With great boldness.

After they prayed,
The place where they were meeting was shaken,
And they were all filled,
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
And they spoke boldly, And they spoke boldly,
And they were all filled, They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Words: Acts 4:29,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012
These words are a prayer of some of God's people that's in the Bible. There are times when the enemy they face is too powerful for them, on their own. But, they know that they never have to face anything on their own. God has given them His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them be bold to do whatever He wants them to do. He delights to answer this prayer!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

God gives His people many good things to enjoy, but He also calls them to do difficult things. God does not expect His people to do these things on their own. He gives them His Holy Spirit, to live inside of them and help them do everything He calls them to do.

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own. He gives them the courage to tell others the good news of salvation. He gives them the courage to obey Him, even when they are tempted not to. He gives them courage to keep trusting in God and to joyfully endure any hard things God may have them go through. He even gives them courage to boldly face their enemies who want to hurt or kill them.

Not only does God's Holy Spirit give them the courage to do whatever God calls them to, but He also reminds them of God's promises to use everything that happens to them for their good and God's glory. And, He reminds them that one day God will bring them home to live with Him in heaven, where there will be only joy and happiness in God's presence forever.

God's Holy Spirit can give us courage to live for God, too, 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 2 Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

CASE STORY

adapted from Religious Stories for Young and Old, vol. IV
editor Joel Beeke

Our story is called:

The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder.

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

1. Who tried to scare the gardener? What did they want to take from him?
2. What did the gardener use as gunpowder? Who helped the gardener with the thieves and then helped the thieves?

This story does not take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1600's in England.

During those days there was an old man who lived all by himself. Everyone called him, "The Old Gardener" because it was by gardening that he made his living. All day he would tend to his plants.

But at night, the old gardener was not just an old gardener. He would go down to the barn, not with his rake and hoe in hand, but with his Bible, to do what he loved most of all: preach the Word of God. Having no where else to meet, a small group of people came to the barn many nights...and THREE TIMES on Sunday to hear the old gardener read and preach from the Bible.

The Old Gardener was an even better preacher than he was gardener. The Holy Spirit worked in his heart, giving him wisdom and boldness to preaching God's Word well. More and more people came to hear the him preach, and soon his barn was full to bursting. So, even though everyone was very poor, they decided to save enough money to build a church building big enough to fit them all. Each meeting, people would bring their little bits of money to the Old Gardener until at last they had collected enough to build their church building.

News traveled around the area about the Old Gardener's growing church and the money they were collecting to build a church building. Most people heard and were happy for the Old Gardener and his congregation. But there were three, young students--Jack, Tom and Charles--who heard the news, and looked for a chance to steal the church's money. They came up with a trick to frighten the Old Gardener during the night, then grab the money for the church building.

One night, Jack, Tom and Charles painted their faces black and dressed themselves with some strange clothes

so no one would recognize them. At midnight they snuck up to the Old Gardener's house. Seeing the candlelight glowing in one of the rooms, the young men knew that the gardener had still not gone to sleep. Now was their chance!

The three young men threw the door to the house open very roughly and noisily entered the big hallway. In a corner stood a big table and upon it a bag partly opened and filled with a sort of black kernels. Some of those black kernels had split out and were lying on the floor. On the wall hung a hunting gun.

The old man, who by the light of his candle, was reading the Bible, turned around in surprise when he heard the noise behind his back. Jack, the leader of the three rascals, called to him with a loud voice, "I am the devil!" Thinking he could scare the old man.

Those words might have scared many men that dark night, but the Old Gardener was not just any man. Here was a man who loved God, who read His word and had the Holy Spirit at work in his heart. He knew enough of the Bible to know these were bad men, not the devil. Would the Holy Spirit give him courage to face these men? Yes, He would! The Holy Spirit was working in the Old Gardener's heart to give him courage to face these bad men without fear.

The old man moved his glasses down his nose a little and looking over them, he said, "No, you are not the devil, I see that; but you are a friend of him." This was not at all the response they expected!

The two other young men thought it was their time now to say something too, and they shouted, "We have come to take the money which you folks have saved to build a little church!"

Now the eyes of the gardener began to gleam with courage. With a strong voice he answered, "If the Lord shall be my Shield and Help (and that He is), what shall man do to me? That money does not belong to me, it belongs to the Lord. Never will I give it to you. If you dare, you will have to take it by force!"

When he spoke those words, an idea came to mind. With a quick move of his hands he took the burning candle and set it in the midst of the black kernels on the floor. The three students did not expect the old gardener to put up such a fight. He seemed like just an old gardener to them before. Now they saw that he had a courage they had

never expected. They hadn't known what boldness the Holy Spirit could bring to the hearts of God's people's!

Tom followed the move of the gardener, in a moment he turned pale with fright. With a trembling voice he cried, "Boys, that black stuff is gunpowder!" Soon it will explode and we all will fly up in the air!"

The three boys were terribly frightened and wanted to run away, but the old man called to them and said, "Halt! Fall down on your knees, or...I'll..." when he spoke those words, he shook the candle to and fro through the black kernels.

The rascals threw themselves down on their knees, and Jack, pleaded, "Sir, please be careful and take the candle away from that gunpowder. If one spark falls, we are perhaps all dead. I ask you for forgiveness. We have done a great evil to trouble you this night as we have. We will gladly make it good by giving you a large amount of money for the building of your new church."

"We will, too," the other two boys said with trembling voices.

The Holy Spirit had given the Old Gardener courage to stand up to these young men, but now He gave him courage to speak to them about Jesus: "Bad men run away in fear as if they will be harmed, even when there is no one seeking to harm them," the Old Gardener told them. "Your money will I accept, but before you get up off your knees, there is something I must tell you about what happens to rebellious people who do not change their ways," he told them.

The old gardener opened his Bible and read it to the young men. Looking at them earnestly he told them about the holiness of God, the eternal punishment that we all deserve for our sins against Him and about the gift of salvation to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

"Boys, we all need God's mercy through Jesus. Without it there is no hope for any of us. Come, let us sing a song of praise to Him for all that. Here, have this little hymn book."

He told them what verse to sing, and with a loud voice the Old Gardener started to sing. To his delight, the three students joined him with trembling voices.

When the hymn ended, the Old Gardener picked up the money which the boys had laid down on the table, Ashamed and puzzled, Jack, Tom and Charles ran off to their homes as quickly as possible.

After about five months, the little church building was finished. All of the church gathered in its own little building for its very first meeting. And who of all people should have sneaked in among them but Jack, Tom, and Charles, the three burglars.

When the old gardener's sermon came to an end, he thanked all the people who gave the money to build the church. Then he added, "A big amount of the money for this church building came from three young men who one night came to scare me and take the money one night. They, however, made a great mistake when looking upon a heap of black kernels of rapeseed, believing it was a dangerous heap of gunpowder," he told the congregation. "I didn't show them their mistake, but accepted the money they offered me for the trouble they caused me that night." The three young men were again ashamed and puzzled. The whole time it had never been gunpowder, only seeds!

Because of these three young men, the church became known as "The Little Rapeseed Church. They had come to do harm, but the Lord used their sinful plan to tell them about the good news of salvation through Jesus. These young men praised God for His goodness to them; and they, too, became Christians and regular members of the The Little Rapeseed Church.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

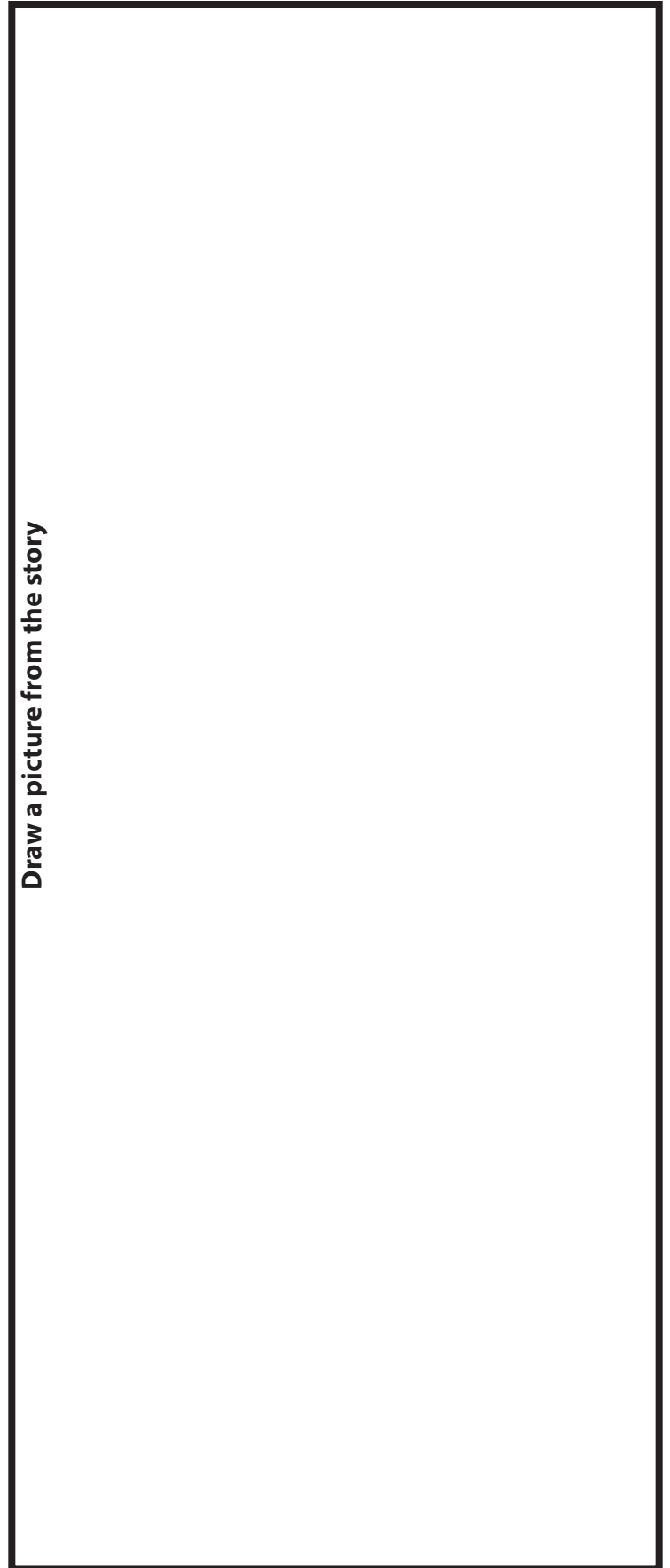
Our Bible Verse is: Acts 4:29,31

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

Our Bible Verse reminds us of how the Holy Spirit made Jesus' first disciples brave to speak God's Word, even when other threatened to hurt or arrest them. Our story shows us that in just the same way, the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of the Old Gardener to make him brave to face the three burglars and even speak God's Word to them.

And what about you and me? If we turn from our sins and believe in Jesus, will the Holy Spirit live in our hearts? Will He give us courage to boldly stand and be strong for Jesus? Will He give us courage to tell others about Jesus,

no matter what? Yes, He will! Let's praise God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to make them brave to do His will, no matter what!



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who tried to scare the gardener? What did they want to take from him?

Answer: Some boys tried to scare the gardener and take the money for the church building.

b. What did the gardener use as gunpowder? Who helped the gardener with the thieves and then helped the thieves?

Answer: Rapeseed that looked like gunpowder in the darkness. The Holy Spirit living in the gardener's heart gave him courage to face the thieves and to encourage them towards the Lord. The Holy Spirit later worked in the boys' hearts. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your ___ to speak your word with great ____....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and ___ the word of God boldly."

Answers: servants; boldness; spoke.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear for God has willed,
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, For lo' his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth,
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth,
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Words and Music: Martin Luther

We do not have to look very far to see signs that God's good world and good ways are challenged by a powerful enemy called Satan. He and other angels rebelled against God long ago. No wonder his nickname is the "Prince of Darkness" and these rebel angels are called demons! They love to oppose God. These enemies also want to cause trouble for God's people. This may sound very scary. No one wants to have powerful enemies like these. But the good news is that they are not even close to a match for God. He is so much more powerful than they are. He will always win over any of their wicked plans. And thanks to Jesus, God gives His people powerful gifts to fight these enemies, too. He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to make them bold. He gives them other abilities that help them fight, too. Yes, with Jesus on the side of God's people, it doesn't matter what Satan might have planned. God will always win. His kingdom is forever.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Holy Spirit to Your people, to make them courageous to tell others about Jesus.

C God, we confess that many times, like the young men, we are greedy for money and other things that others have that we want. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to live inside Your people. Thank You that He works in them and changes them into the people You wants them to be. He could even change people like those young men! He can even change us!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Make us courageous to live and speak and even suffer for You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Now, Lord, Consider Their Threats

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14

Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
With great boldness, With great boldness.

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Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

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The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

God gives His people many good things to enjoy, but He also calls them to do difficult things. God does not expect His people to do these things on their own. He gives them His Holy Spirit, to live inside of them and help them do everything He calls them to do.

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own. He gives them the courage to tell others the good news of salvation. He gives them the courage to obey Him, even when they are tempted not to. He gives them courage to keep trusting in God and to joyfully endure any hard things God may have them go through. He even gives them courage to boldly face their enemies who want to hurt or kill them.

Not only does God's Holy Spirit give them the courage to do whatever God calls them to, but He also reminds them of God's promises to use everything that happens to them for their good and God's glory. And, He reminds them that one day God will bring them home to live with Him in heaven, where there will be only joy and happiness in God's presence forever.

God's Holy Spirit can give us courage to live for God, too, 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 2 Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

CASE STORY

1 Samuel 17

Our story is: The Case of the Small Man with the Big, Secret Weapon. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Small Man? Who thought he was too small to fight?
2. What was the Small Man's big, secret weapon? What difference did this make?

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and filled the disciples' hearts powerfully and gave them new hearts, filled with courage to share the good news about Jesus and live for God.

But even before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was at work in God's people. He has always been at work, doing the Father's will in the lives of His people.

This story is about David. It takes place about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth and that Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to fill the hearts of the disciples. And it takes place in the hills of Judah, not too far from Bethlehem.

David was the shepherd-on-duty for the family flocks. All his brothers were off at war with the Philistines, Israel's hated enemies. That left him at home sheep-watching, for any time the sheep were out, a shepherd must guard them from wild animals.

David knew this well. How many times had he been watching the flock when suddenly there was the loud, panicked bleating of a sheep caught in a lion's mouth. Quickly David would spring to his feet, load his sling with a stone, then hurl it towards the fleeing beast.

"ROOOOAAAARRRR!" The lion would shriek as the rock struck him, forcing him to drop the sheep. Sometimes the lion would run, but sometimes the lion would turn and attack David. David would seize it with his bare hands, strike it and kill it.

Who gave David the courage to fight a ferocious lion like this? David knew. it was God! As he returned the poor, terrified sheep to the flock, David would thank God for rescuing the sheep and for delivering him from the paw—and teeth!—of the lion once more!

Many times David had been the sheep's champion, but he knew that God was His champion every time. God made him quick and strong. He gave him courage to fight, and the victory over lions or any other enemy he might

face. So David stayed alert, watching the sheep. But he rested in God, not himself, to give him the courage he needed to protect the sheep.

While David guarded the flocks near Bethlehem, King Saul, David's three oldest brothers and the other men of Israel stood on guard about fourteen miles away against an even more powerful enemy: the great Philistine Army! The Philistines were the fierce enemies of the Israelites. They lived nearby, in the dry flatlands next to Judah. For years they had attacked the Israelites again and again, hoping to steal some of Israel's green, hilly land.

Now both armies faced each other across the Valley of Elah: the Israelite army stood armed on one hill and the Philistines stood armed on another nearby hill. For a month and a half now, no one had moved. No one would lead the attack against the other army. So, the Philistines had decided to settle the war by a fight to the death of champions. They challenged the Israelites to choose their one, best warrior to fight their one, best warrior...to the death! Whichever warrior won, would win the whole war for their army without anyone else having to fight.

That might sound like a good plan, until you saw the size of the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath. He was 9 ½ feet tall...taller than two of you put together! He had a thick, bronze helmet on his head and thick, bronze armor for his body. The armor alone weighed about 125 pounds, the weight of a small woman! On his legs he wore bronze leggings and on his back was slung a large, curved, bronze sword called a javelin. He carried a long spear with a heavy, sharp, iron tip in his hand and a shield bearer carried Goliath's shield in front of him as protection.

Each morning and evening of that month and a half Goliath faced the Israelites and shouted to them, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of King Saul? Choose a champion and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us," he said. "This day, I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other!" Goliath challenged.

But who had the courage to face Goliath? He was almost twice as tall as any of the Israelites, not to mention far more powerful. Who would be that crazy?

"How can we fight this giant of a man!" the Israelites said

to each other. "We have no warrior to match Goliath. Surely we will lose our land and be forced to serve the Philistines," they worried. And so the two armies stood day after day. Facing each other and doing nothing.

One day, David was sent by his father to take grain, bread and cheese to his brothers on the battle front. As he arrived in camp, he heard the sounds of marching feet and war cries as the Israelite army got into battle positions. David left his supplies and ran to his brothers on the battle lines.

Once more Goliath stepped out from his lines and shouted his challenge, "I defy you, Israelites! Give me a man and let us fight each other!" Once more, the Israelites heard it and ran away, terrified.

David was shocked! "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Why should he be allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" he asked.

"That is Goliath, the champion of the Philistines," they answered. "Look at the size of him! The king promises a great reward to any man who is willing to be our champion, but no one dares step forward. Surely no one could match the strength of that giant!"

"Why have you come down here, David? Who did you leave those few sheep in the desert with? You came down here to watch the battle, didn't you?" accused David's brother Eliab, angrily. Eliab thought David was all talk. He was too little to fight.

But there was more than talk to David. He knew that it was never just one man against another when you believed in the LORD, the living God. The Holy Spirit gave him faith and courage to believe he defeat even Goliath with the LORD's help.

David's brave words reach the ears of King Saul and Saul sent for him. "What's this talk, boy?" Saul asked.

"I will fight Goliath," David replied.

"You are only a boy. What makes you think you could defeat this giant?" Saul asked.

But David didn't think he could defeat this giant on his own. God, the Holy Spirit, was at work in his heart, giving him faith and courage to believe that God would help him, just as He had before. "I have killed both lions and bears while protecting my father's sheep," David told King Saul. "Goliath will be no different. The LORD who delivered me from the lion and bear will deliver me from Goliath."

“Then go, and the LORD be with you,” Saul replied.

Saul armed David with armor, helmet, and sword, but they were too much for him.

He took them off and picked up his shepherd’s staff, and five smooth stones from the stream. With his sling in hand, David faced Goliath on the battle field.

Goliath, with his shield bearer in front of him, came towards David. He looked David over and saw that he was only a shepherd boy. “Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?” he said, looking at David’s wooden shepherd’s staff. Then he cursed David by his gods.

Goliath was right, David was no match for him by himself. But David wasn’t alone. God’s Holy Spirit was working inside him, giving him faith and courage to trust God to deliver him.

“David said to Goliath, “You come against me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, whom you have defied. The LORD will hand you over to me. I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. He will help us defeat your whole army and the world will know of the living God of Israel.”

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

As Goliath moved in to attack, David ran to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face-down on the ground, dead. David picked up Goliath’s huge sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw Goliath dead they turned and ran. The Israelites surged forward with a shout and chased the Philistines to their cities of Gath and Ekron.

What no man could have done on his own, the Holy Spirit gave David courage to trust God to do these great things, that day.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God’s People Courage

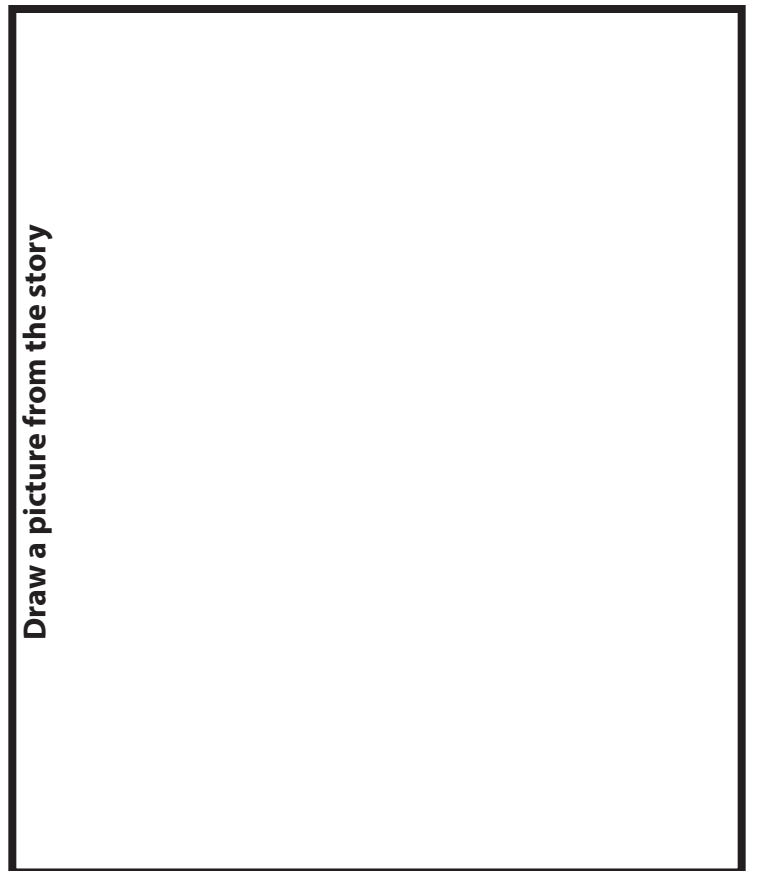
Our Bible Verse is: Acts 4:29,31

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

The Holy Spirit also made David brave to fight this enemy who dishonored the LORD’s name. Through David, the LORD showed both the Israelites and the Philistines that He really was the mighty, living God. Yes, the mighty living God who could, by His Holy Spirit, put faith and courage in a young man’s heart to trust God to help him defeat a huge 9 ½ foot giant, swinging a massive spear and sword with just a sling, some stones and a shepherd’s staff! How amazing is our God!

But what about us today? If we are God’s people, will the Holy Spirit give us courage? Yes, He will. God promises to give the Holy Spirit to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. ...and to do so in even a far greater way than even David knew. For it wasn’t until after Jesus came and died on the cross for God’s people that the Holy Spirit would come to live and stay forever in the hearts of God’s people. From in their hearts, the Holy Spirit helps God’s people do even more incredible things in God’s name and bravely tell others about Jesus. He can make them brave and bold like David....and even more!

Let’s praise God for sending His people the Holy Spirit to give them courage to do whatever He wants them to do. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts, that we might trust Jesus as our own Savior and have the Holy Spirit live in us, making us brave to do whatever God would have us do.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

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

God's Holy Spirit reminds God's people of His promises to use everything that happens in their lives for His glory, but not necessarily for their good.

Answer: False! God's Holy Spirit reminds them that everything that happens in their lives is for their good and God's glory.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Small Man? Who thought he was too small to fight?

Answer: David was the Small Man. Everyone! Goliath, his brothers, King Saul.

b. What was the Small Man's big, secret weapon? What difference did this make?

Answer: The Holy Spirit working in David's heart, helping him have faith in the LORD to speak out against Goliath and to proclaim Him as the one, true, God, full of greatness and power. It made all the difference! He might have been too small to defeat giant Goliath alone, but the LORD gave him courage to stand up to Goliath and He helped David defeat him. Everyone could see how great the LORD was!

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your ___ with great boldness.... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was ___. And they were all filled with the ___ and spoke the word of God boldly."

Answers: word; shaken; Holy Spirit.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear for God has willed,
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, For lo' his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth,
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth,
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Words and Music: Martin Luther

We do not have to look very far to see signs that God's good world and good ways are challenged by a powerful enemy called Satan. He and other angels rebelled against God long ago. No wonder his nickname is the "Prince of Darkness" and these rebel angels are called demons! They love to oppose God. These enemies also want to cause trouble for God's people. This may sound very scary. No one wants to have powerful enemies like these. But the good news is that they are not even close to a match for God. He is so much more powerful than they are. He will always win over any of their wicked plans. And thanks to Jesus, God gives His people powerful gifts to fight these enemies, too. He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to make them bold. He gives them other abilities that help them fight, too. Yes, with Jesus on the side of God's people, it doesn't matter what Satan might have planned. God will always win. His kingdom is forever.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit to Your people, to make them courageous to tell others about You to do great things for the glory of Your name.

C God, we confess that many times, like the Israelites and the Philistines that we look at our own strength and do not think about You and having faith in You to act. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit working in our hearts!

T God, we thank You for working so powerfully in Your people, by Your Holy Spirit. Even though they are so weak and small against their enemies, Your Spirit works powerfully inside of them, giving them courage say and do great things in Your name, for Your glory.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, making us courageous to live and to speak and even to suffer for You. Make us like David, with a desire to show how great is Your name is when others dishonor You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Now, Lord, Consider Their Threats

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14

Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
Now, Lord, consider their threats,
Enable your servants to speak Your word,
With great boldness, With great boldness.

After they prayed,
The place where they were meeting was shaken,
And they were all filled,
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
And they spoke boldly, And they spoke boldly,
And they were all filled, They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Words: Acts 4:29,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012
These words are a prayer of some of God's people that's in the Bible. There are times when the enemy they face is too powerful for them, on their own. But, they know that they never have to face anything on their own. God has given them His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them be bold to do whatever He wants them to do. He delights to answer this prayer!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

The Holy Spirit gives God's people the wisdom they need to know God and to live for Him.

How does the Holy Spirit give God's people wisdom? He works in their hearts as they read the Bible, when they listen to Bible teaching, when they talk with other Christians, and when they pray.

This is one of the reasons why God's people set aside time to regularly read God's Word and pray. They know this keeps their heart open to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is also one of the reasons why God's people gather together in churches: so they can learn God's Word from godly leaders; and, so they ask each other for help understanding what God's Word means and how to live it out. The Holy Spirit especially uses these things to help them understand God's truths and how God wants them to live them out.

There may be many things about God and His plans that God's people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him. They only need to ask, and He promises to give it to them.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

CASE STORY

Acts 7-8

Our story is called:

The Case of the Abandoned Highway.

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

1. Where was the Abandoned Highway? Who was told to go there?
2. Who did this person find on the Abandoned Highway? What was he doing? How did the Holy Spirit work in him and in the person sent to him?

This story takes place in New Testament times, not long after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

What a great day Pentecost had been! On that day, God sent His Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His people in a new way. He gave the disciples courage to stand up and tell others about Jesus. And so they did! Thousands heard and thousands believed! The church was growing rapidly!

As the number of people who believed in Jesus grew, so did the number of people who persecuted them! Many Christians in Jerusalem were arrested, beaten, and put in prison. Before long, almost all except Jesus' first eleven disciples had left town and scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Had something gone wrong? Why would God let this happen to them? No, nothing had gone wrong. The opposite was true! God was fulfilling the plan He had always had for the world. What had been Jesus' last words to his disciples before He went into heaven?: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

No, this was no mistake. God was using this persecution to send His people out to tell the gospel of Jesus to the whole world, beginning right there with the towns of Judea and Samaria!

Philip was one of the disciples who fled Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, he had been one of seven men chosen to be deacons. He made sure that the needs of the believers in the Jerusalem church were properly taken care of. He was a man full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, with a humble servant's heart.

But now the persecution, Philip was leaving Jerusalem. Where would he go, what would he do? Philip was a man full of the Holy Spirit: he would seek God's wisdom and would go wherever God wanted him to go.

And where did God want Philip to go? To Samaria-- one of the last places Philip probably would have chosen! Samaria was the home of the Samaritans: a group of people who disgusted Jews. The Samaritans were Jews who had long ago broken God's command to marry only people who worshiped Him. The Samaritans married their sons and daughters to people who worshiped Baal and golden bulls and other idols. And then, before long, they became worshipers of those idols, too. The Jews believed it dishonored God to have anything to do with Samaritans. Many believed Samaritans were so sinful that they could never be forgiven by God.

But Jesus had shown this was not true. He had gone into Samaria and urged them to believe in Him, the Messiah, come to save sinners. Many had already turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus. And now, God was sending out Philip to share the good news of Jesus with even more Samaritans. How amazing is the Lord! How kind He is to all sinners!

So Philip left Jerusalem and went north to a city in Samaria and began to tell the people about Jesus. Crowds would gather around Philip as he told them the good news of Jesus. People with all kinds of sicknesses and problems came to Philip and God healed them through him. The Holy Spirit gave Philip wise words to say and He opened the hearts of the Samaritans to understand and believe in Jesus. Soon there was great joy in the city as many people turned from their sins, believed in Jesus and were baptized. Yes, it was clear: the Holy Spirit had wisely guided Philip to Samaria and had blessed Philip's words to bring many Samaritans to know Him!

With hundreds of Samaritan people becoming Christians, why would Philip ever think of leaving? Yet, one day, an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

What a strange command! Here Philip was in Samaria, where he could tell hundreds and hundreds of people about Jesus. Was he really to leave Samaria and start walking south, fifty miles down some road? Especially THAT road! Why almost no one traveled THAT road out of Jerusalem. It only led past a deserted town called Old Gaza. Now everyone took the other, the new road, south to New Gaza. It didn't make sense! But Philip was a man full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. He obeyed the angel and trusted the Holy Spirit's wisdom.

Philip set out from Samaria and walked and walked and walked. After about four days of walking, Philip made it to Jerusalem and started down the road to Old Gaza. This walk seemed useless. There was no one in sight as far as the eye could see! But Philip was a man full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. He would believe the angel's words and keep trusting that God was guiding him.

At last, Philip picked up a faint, clattering noise behind him. It was a chariot coming towards him! "A chariot! No one but very, very rich and important people have a chariot!" Philip knew. "What is it doing coming this way on THIS road? Perhaps this is why the Lord guided me to this road."

It was! "Go to that chariot and stay near it," the Holy Spirit guided Philip.

As the chariot neared, Philip could see a richly dressed, African man reading a scroll aloud to himself, as his servants drove the chariot's horses. This was none other than one of the most important men in all of Ethiopia. He took care of all the money of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia!

Ethiopia! Why that was so far away that people in Jerusalem called it 'the ends of the earth!' It was a good sixty-day (2-month) journey by chariot to get to Jerusalem from there!

What would bring this important Ethiopian so far away from his home and his Queen? One reason only: this man was a seeker of the LORD who had traveled all that way from Ethiopia to Jerusalem just to worship Him at the Temple in Jerusalem in the Temple courts.

And now, as he was making the long trek back home, he read aloud the scroll of the Bible he had. The man read: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

Philip could hear the man reading. "I know that Bible passage!" Philip thought to himself. "This man is reading from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. He's reading the part that tells how Jesus would be the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed to pay for His people's sins!" Philip could see that God had indeed been guiding him down this dusty, deserted road for a very good reason: to tell this man about Jesus!

Philip ran up to the chariot and said, "You're reading from Isaiah. Do you understand what you are reading?"

"How can I," the man answered, "unless someone

explains it to me? If you can explain it to me, please join me up here in my chariot."

Philip most certainly could. The Holy Spirit had given him wisdom to understand. Philip climbed up in the chariot and beginning with those verses, he shared the good news of salvation through Jesus.

The Ethiopian official had never heard such things before, but the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, too. He gave him wisdom to understand and faith to believe Philip's words, as they traveled along the road.

"Stop this chariot!" the Ethiopian suddenly said to his servant. "Look, here is water," he said to Philip. "Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

So Philip and the Ethiopian official went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away: He was guiding Philip to other work, in a far away place called Azotus.

And what of the Ethiopian official? He didn't see Philip again, but went on his way rejoicing back home to the "ends of the earth." Now the good news of Jesus would spread out to peoples in even more, far away places through this man. God was fulfilling His plans!

Philip was a man full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. What wonderful things the Lord did through Philip because he listened and obeyed.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

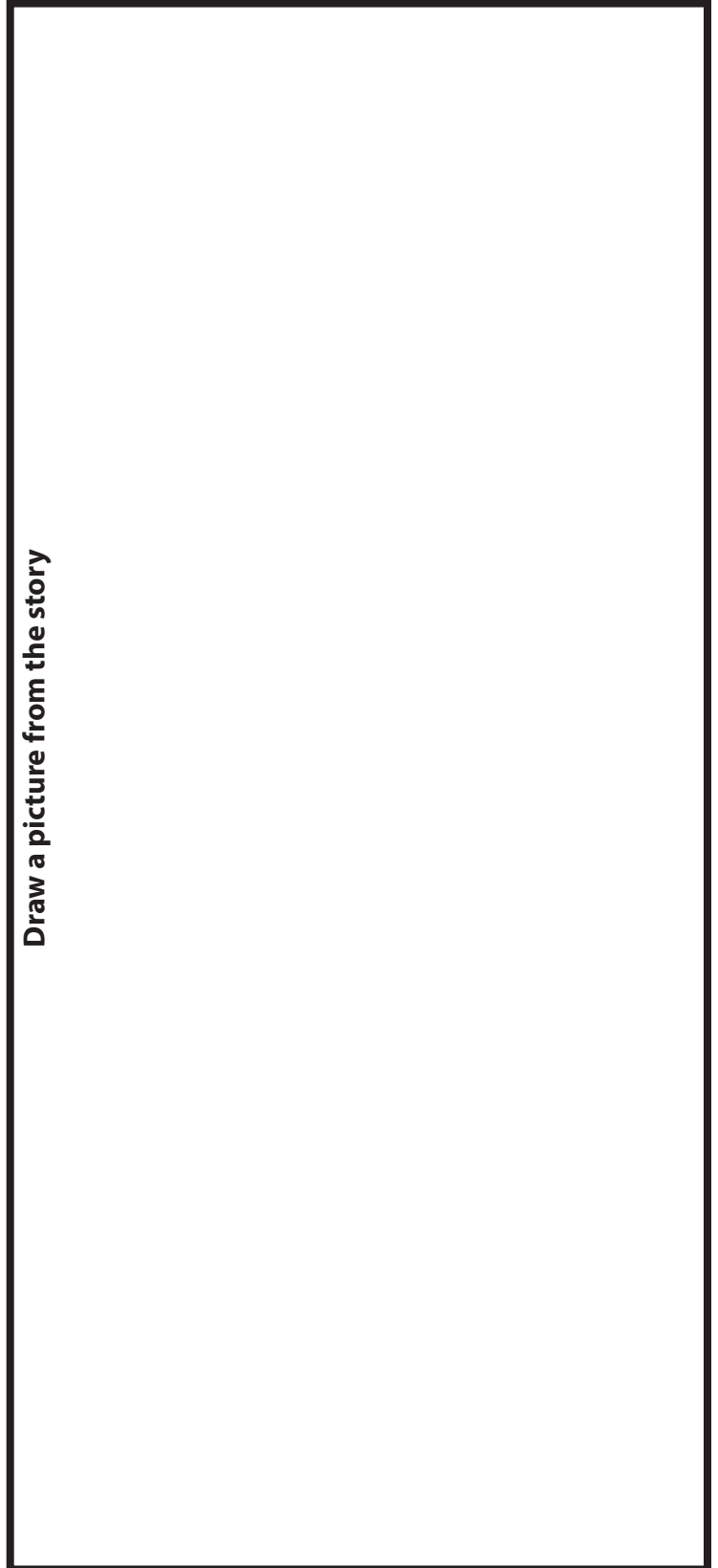
Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 1:17

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

In those early days of the church, God used the Holy Spirit to lead the disciples in some amazing ways. But what about us, today? Will God give us wisdom, if we are His people? Yes, He will! To all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to send the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts. And by that Holy Spirit, fellowshiping with them in their hearts, He will give them wisdom as they pray, read God's Word and speak with other Christians.

Let's praise God for giving His people His Holy Spirit so that they might have the wisdom they need to live for Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn

from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, that we might receive wisdom from Him to know and love God, and to live for Him.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Holy Spirit gives God's people the wisdom they need to know God and to live for Him.

Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Where was the Abandoned Highway? Who was told to go there?

Answer: It was the old road that lead south through Gaza.

b. Who did this person find on the Abandoned Highway? What was he doing? How did the Holy Spirit work in him and in the person sent to him?

Answer: Philip found the Ethiopian official riding in his chariot and trying to understand God's Word. The Holy Spirit helped Philip explain the passage about Jesus and He helped the Ethiopian official understand it, repent of his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17

"I keep ___ that the God of our Lord ____, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of ___ and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Answers: asking; Jesus Christ; wisdom.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit to Your people.

C God, we confess that like the Samaritans, we have all chosen to disobey You. Perhaps not by marrying people who aren't worshipers of You, like they did. But still, we all choose to do things our own way instead of Your good way....even when we know them. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Your people out into all the world so that all might hear the good news of Jesus and be saved!

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 and give us wisdom. Send out Your people to all the earth, that all may hear and believe in Jesus as their own Savior.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 15

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free,
High surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old,
He speaketh still.
Established is His law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea or land.

Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann

Music: Meyer Lyon

God's Holy Spirit is powerful to teach us and give us wisdom. Whether it is the words of the prophets or the laws or the words of the Psalms in the Old Testament; or, the words of Jesus in the gospels or the letters of people like Paul in the New Testament, God's Holy Spirit uses God's Word, the Bible, to give us His wisdom. And the wonderful thing is, He doesn't just help us understand it with our minds. We can ask Him to "write it on our hearts"--which means, change us by His wisdom that we love and live for God.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Keep Asking

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 16

I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
So that you may know Him,
You may know Him,
That you may know Him, better.
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
Ephesians One, seventeen.

Words: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God's people pray many things for each other. One of the best things they can pray for each other is for God to give them more of the Holy Spirit. He lives inside them and can give them God's wisdom. He reveals God's truths to them so they can know how to live. He reveals God, Himself, to them so they can know Him better.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

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How does the Holy Spirit give God's people wisdom? He works in their hearts as they read the Bible, when they listen to Bible teaching, when they talk with other Christians, and when they pray.

This is one of the reasons why God's people set aside time to regularly read God's Word and pray. They know this keeps their heart open to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is also one of the reasons why God's people gather together in churches: so they can learn God's Word from godly leaders; and, so they ask each other for help understanding what God's Word means and how to live it out. The Holy Spirit especially uses these things to help them understand God's truths and how God wants them to live them out.

There may be many things about God and His plans that God's people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him. They only need to ask, and He promises to give it to them.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Hungry Cannibals.

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

1. Why was it so risky to go to live with cannibals? What are they known to eat?
2. Who went to live with the cannibals in our story? How did the Holy Spirit give him wisdom?

This story starts out around 1910 in England.

"CANNIBALS WANT CHRISTIANS!" the sign said. "Do they want to meet them or just eat them?" thought C. T. Studd. C.T. had come to Liverpool, England to speak about his years in India and China, but this sign made him curious about these cannibal's tastes for Christians. He went inside, sat down and listened as the speaker, Dr. Kumm, told more.

"I have explored all of Africa," told Dr. Kumm, "but I want to tell you what I saw in the middle, most unknown part. I saw tribes of pygmies, dark-skinned people so short that the tallest is not five feet tall!"

"These people need to hear about Jesus!" the Dr. told. "They live sad lives in fear of evil spirits. Many of them are cannibals who kill strangers and enemies and eat them! There is little love in their families."

"Their country is wild and dangerous," he continued. "Few have dared travel there: only big game hunters, explores and scientists. But none have gone for Jesus! Why? Why should these people not know about Jesus? Is He not their Savior as much as ours? Will no one love Christ or these people enough to endure hardship or even death so that they might hear about Him? You there...why don't you go?" Dr. Kumm asked.

Dr. Kumm's question went straight to C.T.'s heart. Could the Lord be wanting him to go to the pygmies?

"But, Lord, how could I go there?" C.T. thought. "I'm fifty years old! My health has never been good in hot, humid climates. I get terrible asthma in places like that. I could never survive there."

Yet the Spirit of God working in his heart. As C.T. read God's Word, the Holy Spirit gave him wisdom: "Who can stop you, if I have given my disciples the command to go into all the world? I am the Great Physician and I can keep you healthy even in the deepest part of Africa, if I want to. I can supply all your needs." God seemed to be saying to him.

C.T. listened to the Spirit speaking to his heart and he believed. "All right! I WILL go to Africa! Cannibals want Christians and I shall give them some. Perhaps I am an old man, perhaps I will die there. If God is guiding me, then I shall go!"

C.T. went to the committee of men who had given him money to go to China and India as a missionary and asked them to for money to send him to Africa. "We are sorry, Mr. Studd, someone needs to go to Africa to tell these pygmies about Jesus, but can't be you.

Your health is too bad. You'll never survive. We're sorry, but you will have to give up your plans."

No money or supporters. How could C.T. go to Africa without these? Yet C.T. did not give up hope. Hadn't the Holy Spirit guided him to go? Yes, He had!

"Who can stop me, if God has given me wisdom to go?" C.T. reminded himself. He would not give up when God had told him to go! He would trust God to provide what he needed.

"Priscilla," he said to his wife, "We have lost the support of these men, but there is another committee of three: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and they have said 'yes' to me. The Bible tells me that they clothe the fields with grass, preserve the sparrows, and count the hairs on our head. Will He not be able to give me all the money, health and anything else I need to go? Whether or not I have supporters on earth, God will see to it that I will go to Africa anyway."

C.T. prayed and waited to see how God would work out His plans. It did not take long. Only a few days later, a stranger gave C.T. some money, for no reason at all. "This money is from God! Who can stop me, if the Spirit has guided me?" C.T. thought.

With the money, C.T. reserved a room on a ship sailing for Africa in three weeks' time. Over the next three weeks, God provided the thousands of dollars more he needed in equally amazing ways.

God didn't just provide the money C.T. needed for the trip. He prepared his heart, too, giving him wisdom as he prayed and read his Bible. "This trip is not just for the pygmies," he believed the Lord was telling him, "it is for the whole world that has never heard of my Son. Every place your foot shall tread upon, people will come to know Jesus because of your work."

"Thank God I have big feet!" C.T. eagerly responded. "I

will go everywhere I can for God!"

A young man, Mr. Buxton, decided to go with C.T, too. Mr. Buxton's family didn't want him to go that dangerous land, but he knew the Holy Spirit was telling him to go. "Who can stop you, if my Spirit is telling you to go?" were the words that came to Mr. Buxton as he read the Bible and prayed. So Buxton chose to go with C.T. anyway.

C.T. and Buxton sailed to Africa and began their trip into the very heart of Africa. Deep into the jungles they went. They cut their way through thick vines and fought off leopards. Hungry crocodiles lurked in the rivers. The mountainous paths were steep, windy and made slick with moss. One wrong step and they could slip over the side and fall to their deaths.

Would they stop or go back? Did God really lead them to do this? "Who can stop you, if I have told you to go?" the Holy Spirit whispered into their hearts. "Can crocodiles, leopards or dangerous paths? No!"

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, none of this things would stop them. "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him," C.T. exclaimed. So on they went. Nine months later, they made it into pygmy country. Would they be welcomed or eaten? They would soon know.

The pygmies were hungry, all right, but it wasn't to kill and eat the two thin men who risked their lives to find them. These pygmies were hungry to hear about Jesus. So right there among the grass-thatched huts and groves of banana and palm trees, C.T. and Mr. Buxton began to make friends with the pygmies and tell them how they could be saved.

Before long, people began to confess their sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness. They turned away from being cannibals, from being afraid of evil spirits and from living selfish lives. One new believer told them, "My father killed a man and I helped eat him. When I was three years old I remember my father killing a man, and because he had killed my brother, I shared in eating the stew." But now Jesus had forgiven this man and the Holy Spirit had filled his heart. He was a changed man, living a changed life!

C.T. baptized the first pygmy Christians in a crocodile-infested river. One man would shoot off his revolver to scare away the crocodiles long enough for the other man to quickly baptize the new Christians.

C.T. Studd stayed in Africa for over 20 years. Each year he got sicker and sicker. He got so sick that sometimes he had to be carried in a chair with poles attached to the bottom. Four men would take each end of the poles and carry him on their shoulders. Many people thought C.T. was too sick and should go home.

C.T. prayed and asked for wisdom. "God, are You telling me to leave Africa?"

God gave C.T. the wisdom he asked for, "No, I will provide for your needs," was the whisper of the Holy Spirit to C.T.'s heart. "Trust Me. Who can stop you, if my Spirit is telling you to go?"

So C.T. Studd stayed and worked, even though he was so sick. Each morning he would get out of his bed of wood and goat's skin at 3 a.m.. He stirred up the fire for light, then prayed and read His Bible for hours. He prayed that God would help him to speak with the Holy Spirit's wisdom and power to whomever he would meet that day. All day, until late at night, C.T. would go and tell more people about Jesus. It did not matter how sick he was, he kept going.

Many years ago Holy Spirit had whispered a promise into C.T. heart: "This journey is not just for the pygmies, but for all peoples who had never heard about Jesus?" He had promised C.T. Now at the end of his life, C.T. saw how God fulfilled that promise. Many thousands of pygmies and others from that hidden part of Africa came to believe in Jesus. God had used him to bring the gospel to these people who had never heard before. But that was only the beginning. Other Christians joined together with C.T. to form a new missionary group who planned to go anywhere in the world where the good news of Jesus was unknown--just like C.T. had done. And did you know that even today, this missionary group (called the World Evangelism Crusade) is still sending out missionaries to many parts of the world where people have never heard of Jesus.

"Who can stop you, if My Spirit is telling you to go?" Surely the answer of C.T. life was "No one!"

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 1:17

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

What about us? Could God use even people like us to tell people who have never heard about Him? Could He want us to go to places like where the pygmies lived in Africa? Yes, He could. How will we know if He wants us to go? We can start by confessing our sins to God, asking Jesus to save us from our sins and turning to live for God. We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom and show us what He wants us to do and where He wants us to go. We can read our Bibles, listen to the pastor preach, talk to other Christians, and pray. These are the things that the Holy Spirit uses to give God's people wisdom. And if we become God's people, we can know --just like C.T. Studd did--that God will guide us and give us wisdom through His Holy Spirit, just as God has promised.

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to His people to guide them and give them wisdom. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us wisdom and hearts that long to obey what He tells us to do, like C.T. Studd.

<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: The Holy Spirit especially uses our times reading the Bible, praying and going to church to give us wisdom. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Why was it so risky to go to live with cannibals? What are they known to eat? Answer: They are known to eat people! Enemies and strangers, particularly, would be the kind of people they would choose to eat.</p> <p>b. Who went to live with the cannibals in our story? How did the Holy Spirit give him wisdom? Answer: C.T. Studd went to live with a tribe of cannibals in Africa. The Holy Spirit confirmed his desire to risk his life to take the gospel to these people. Every day, C.T. prayed and read His Bible, seeking the Holy Spirit to give him wisdom to teach these people about Jesus.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17 "I keep asking that the ___ of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious ___, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may ___ him better." Answers: God; Father; know.</p>	<p>The God of Abraham Praise <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 15</i></p> <p>Verse 2 His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will: In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still. Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand, Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.</p> <p>Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann Music: Meyer Lyon</p> <p>God's Holy Spirit is powerful to teach us and give us wisdom. Whether it is the words of the prophets or the laws or the words of the Psalms in the Old Testament; or, the words of Jesus in the gospels or the letters of people like Paul in the New Testament, God's Holy Spirit uses God's Word, the Bible, to give us His wisdom. And the wonderful thing is, He doesn't just help us understand it with our minds. We can ask Him to "write it on our hearts"--which means, change us by His wisdom that we love and live for God.</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 the Great Sustainer and Provider for Your people. You took care of C.T. Studd, even when many others doubted that C.T. could survive in Africa.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we doubt whether You could take care of us, if You were to call us to do something very difficult like what C.T. Studd did. We can confess that we are often lazy about praying and reading the Bible. We do not care enough to seek You and Your wisdom.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for the great work You chose to do through C.T. Studd. Thank You for the many other missionaries who have gone out after seeing his example.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us wisdom. Send Your people out, even today, to all the earth, that all may hear and believe in Jesus as their own Savior.</p>	<p>I Keep Asking <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 16</i></p> <p>I keep asking, that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you, The Spirit of wisdom, I keep asking, that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you, The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation. So that you may know Him, You may know Him, That you may know Him, better. I keep asking, that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you, The Spirit of wisdom, I keep asking, that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you, The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation. Ephesians One, seventeen.</p> <p>Words: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God's people pray many things for each other. One of the best things they can pray for each other is for God to give them more of the Holy Spirit. He lives inside them and can give them God's wisdom. He reveals God's truths to them so they can know how to live. He reveals God, Himself, to them so they can know Him better.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:

What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?

He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

The Holy Spirit gives God's people the wisdom they need to know God and to live for Him.

How does the Holy Spirit give God's people wisdom? He works in their hearts as they read the Bible, when they listen to Bible teaching, when they talk with other Christians, and when they pray.

This is one of the reasons why God's people set aside time to regularly read God's Word and pray. They know this keeps their heart open to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is also one of the reasons why God's people gather together in churches: so they can learn God's Word from godly leaders; and, so they ask each other for help understanding what God's Word means and how to live it out. The Holy Spirit especially uses these things to help them understand God's truths and how God wants them to live them out.

There may be many things about God and His plans that God's people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him. They only need to ask, and He promises to give it to them.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

CASE STORY

1 Kings 1-3; 2 Chronicles 1

Our story is: The Case of the Wonderful Wiseman. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Wonderful Wiseman? Why did he want to be wise?
2. Who gave him wisdom? How did he use his wisdom? How did he not use it?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, in palace of King David in Jerusalem, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

David was a great king who loved God. During his reign God gave him great courage to do what He wanted David to do. When David was a very old man and about to die, he crowned his teenage son Solomon the next king of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded him to.

What a great day was Solomon's crowning day! David ordered the royal robes be put on Solomon, then had him placed on the royal mule. (Yes, that's right, mule! Mules were worth many times more than horses because they cannot reproduce) Escorted by none other than the high priest Zadok, Solomon was taken to Gihon, the place of anointing and crowning of the kings of Israel.

The Bible tells us, the people of Israel cheered for him so loudly that the ground shook with the sound! Can you imagine being only a teenager and receiving this kind of praise from thousands of people? Can you imagine walking up to the royal throne, wearing the royal crown and being expected to make good decisions for your whole country? That was what Solomon had to face the day he was crowned king.

What was going through Solomon's mind as all this was happening? Was he thinking about how splendid he looked or how powerful he would be? No, he was not! Solomon was praying! He prayed: "How young I am, Lord, fill my heart with your wisdom. How can I ever rule over these people? I do not know anything about being a king. I need wisdom that I do not have. I need Your wisdom, God. Help me, please!" he pleaded.

Solomon didn't just pray on his own about this. He wanted all the people to ask God answer this prayer. He called together all his generals, his judges and all the leaders of the people and ordered them to go with him four miles up beyond Gihon to Gibeon to make offerings

to God at the bronze altar in front of the Tabernacle.

Now usually when someone made an offering to the LORD it would be a couple of birds, a lamb or maybe, every once in a while, a bull. But Solomon went up to Gibeon and offered one thousand burnt sacrifices to the LORD! Solomon meant business!

After making all these offerings, Solomon and all the others with him prayed to the LORD: "God, fill Solomon with your wisdom!"

Would the LORD answer him? Would He give Solomon the wisdom he needed? How would Solomon know?

That night everyone—even King Solomon—camped out at Gibeon instead of going back home to Jerusalem. As the king slept that night, the LORD appeared to him in a dream. "Solomon, ask of Me whatever you want Me to give you," He said.

Solomon answered, "LORD, you have shown great kindness to my father David, because he was faithful to You and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day," Solomon said.

"Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king in place of my father David," he continued to pray. "But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. I am here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. God, fill my heart with your wisdom! I am Your servant, please give me a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?" Solomon prayed.

The LORD was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have you asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in how to be a good and just king, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life," the LORD told him. Then Solomon awoke—and he realized that God had spoken to him through a dream.

Solomon was so thankful! The LORD promised to give

him not just some wisdom, but more wisdom than anyone had ever had! Solomon went back to the altar and made more sacrifices—this time they were offerings of thanks to the LORD. Then, Solomon took all the leaders back home and gave them all a great feast to celebrate. How happy Solomon was! He did not have wisdom to rule the people of Israel, but the LORD promised that He would give Solomon all the wisdom he needed! That was indeed a lot to be thankful for!

It wasn't long before Solomon's great wisdom was tested. Two women came to the king and stood before him. One of them said, "My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us."

"During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him," the one woman told the king. "So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her side and put her dead son by my side. The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne.

"No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours!" the other woman blurted out.

But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued back and forth before the king.

How would King Solomon solve this problem? There were no witnesses. How would he decide which woman lied and which one told the truth. There was only one way, "God, fill my heart with your wisdom!" Solomon prayed. And just as the LORD promised, He gave Solomon with wisdom he needed, by His Holy Spirit.

The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

"Bring me a sword," King Solomon commanded. So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him: she is his mother." When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to rule justly. (1 Kings 3)

This was just the beginning of the wise things Solomon did and said. Solomon became known all around the ancient world for his wisdom and many of his wise sayings are written in the book of the Bible we call Proverbs. God was good to his promises. He promised to give Solomon godly wisdom to be a good ruler and by His Holy Spirit, that's just what God did for him.

Are you curious what were some of the wise things the Holy Spirit taught King Solomon? You can read some of them for yourself, even today. Solomon wrote down many of them and they are the part of our Bible called the book of Proverbs.. Ask God to help you learn them and obey them, then you, too, will be blessed by the wisdom of God, given to Solomon long ago through the Holy Spirit.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom

Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984

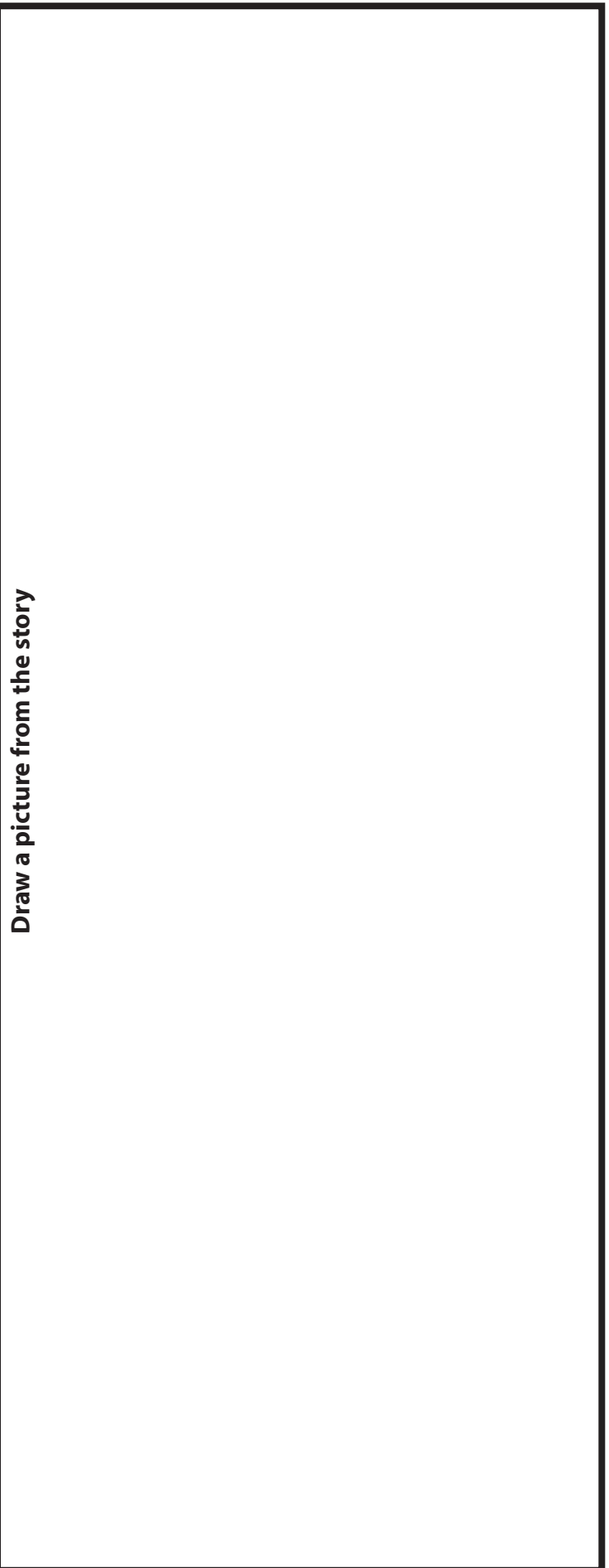
"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

God gave wisdom to Solomon but what about us? Could He give wisdom to us? Yes, God promises to give wisdom, by His Holy Spirit, to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as Savior.

And maybe we don't need the wisdom to rule like a king or queen or president, but there are many things we still need wisdom for. But, our prayer should be like Solomon: God, fill my heart with your wisdom!" And if we are those who trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can know that He will answer our prayers!

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to His people to guide them and give them wisdom. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our own Savior Let's ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us give us wisdom and hearts that long to obey what He tells us to do.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Holy Spirit will help God’s people always understand everything about God and His plans.

Answer: False. There may be many things about God and His plans that God’s people do not completely understand, but God will always give them the wisdom they need to live for Him.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Wonderful Wiseman? Why did he want to be wise?

Answer: David was the King Solomon. He knew he could not rule Israel on his own. He needed God’s wisdom to rule well.

b. Who gave him wisdom? How did he use his wisdom? How did he not use it?

Answer: The Holy Spirit gave him wisdom. The Holy Spirit gave Solomon an especially wise mind. But, He also used Solomon’s reading of God’s Word and learning from the wisdom of others. Solomon used his wisdom to rule the people well in many ways and to teach others wisdom. He did not always live out what he learned. It was as he went against the wisdom God gave him that many troubles came to him and to Israel.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:17

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the ___ of wisdom and ___, so that you may know him ___.”

Answers: Spirit; revelation; better.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being our good Creator and King.

C God, we confess that many times we choose to forget You and forget to praise You. We choose to praise other things and people, even ourselves. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising to one day bringing an end to all sin and sadness. Thank You that You will bring the Great Day of Praise when all Your people are gathered together to praise You. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us that we might be able to take part in that Great Day of Praise.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to bring all of our troubles to You. Make us praisers of Your name even now!

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 15

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free,
High surging where it will:
In prophet’s word He spoke of old,
He speaketh still.
Established is His law,
And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart,
On sea or land.

Words: Daniel ben Judah Dayyan, Translated by Newton Mann

Music: Meyer Lyon

God’s Holy Spirit is powerful to teach us and give us wisdom. Whether it is the words of the prophets or the laws or the words of the Psalms in the Old Testament; or, the words of Jesus in the gospels or the letters of people like Paul in the New Testament, God’s Holy Spirit uses God’s Word, the Bible, to give us His wisdom. And the wonderful thing is, He doesn’t just help us understand it with our minds. We can ask Him to “write it on our hearts”--which means, change us by His wisdom that we love and live for God.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Keep Asking

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 16

I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
So that you may know Him,
You may know Him,
That you may know Him, better.
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom,
I keep asking,
that the God of our Lord Jesus will give you,
The Spirit of wisdom, and revelation.
Ephesians One, seventeen.

Words: Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God’s people pray many things for each other. One of the best things they can pray for each other is for God to give them more of the Holy Spirit. He lives inside them and can give them God’s wisdom. He reveals God’s truths to them so they can know how to live. He reveals God, Himself, to them so they can know Him better.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Many people think that a church is a building, but it's not. Church is the name for all of God's people.

God's Church is built by the Holy Spirit, one person at a time. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people, giving them the gift of faith as they hear God's Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps them believe God's Word, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God has always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people, the Church. The Bible tells us that the Church will be made up of people from every single people group and language in the world.

Every week, groups of God's people meet together to worship God in gatherings all over the world. This is what we call going to church. But in heaven, the whole Church--all of God's people, from everywhere and every time--will gather together to worship God forever. What a gathering that will be! The Bible tells us that it will be so many people that we won't even be able to count them.

We can be part of God's Church--God's people--too, 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 4 Bible Verse: Acts 9:31, NIV 1984

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

CASE STORY

Genesis 1-3,9; Ephesians 1; Revelation 7, 19

Our story is called:

The Case of the Big, Brickless Building.

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

1. Who planned the Brickless, Big Building? When did He plan it?
2. What did He make His building out of? How big is it to be?

This story starts out before the beginning of time.

From before the beginning, God has been a builder with a grand plan. He planned to build something that to Him, was lovelier than the loveliest sunset, more precious than all the rubies and diamonds, more beautiful-sounding than the most melodious bird song, and more colorful than all the colors of creation. What was He planning to build? His Church! Yes, His Church!

Now this was no brick building, as you might be thinking. God's Church is actually made up of people! The Church is the name that Jesus used to stand for all of God's people. Yes, the Church is God's people from every time, every place, every nation, every language, every kind of person, with hearts full of love for Him and mouths full of His praise. And before the beginning, God planned to build His Church so that one day they would all live with Him and enjoy Him forever.

From the first days of creation, God did things to build His Church. God is spirit. If people were to know God, they would have to have a spirit, too. So when God created people, He created them with a spirit inside their bodies so that they could know and love Him. God was building His Church from people of every nation and language, people who would worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Then came another part of God's plan to build His Church: "Be fruitful and fill the earth," He commanded Adam and Eve. Later He told Noah and his family to do the same thing after the flood. If His Church were to be made of people from every part of the world as He planned, then they would need to spread out to the ends of the earth.

Some made ships and sailed to far away islands; some climbed tall mountains and made their homes near snowy peaks; others settled in thick jungles and forests. The peoples God created were filling the earth.

After awhile, people lived in about every part of the world there is to live, just as God planned. One day, His

beautiful Church would include people with every skin color, every language, every nation, and they would all lift up their praises to God.

But the people of the world, even though they had spread out far and wide into tribes and nations, did not look very much like the beautiful building of God's Church. You see, from the very first, starting with Adam and Eve, all people have rebelled against God. They turned away from Him and made their own idols. People who lived on islands worshiped gods of the sea and sky. People who lived in the mountains worshiped gods of the mountains. People who lived in the jungles and forests made gods of the trees and animals. There was little beautiful about these people now! Their --and our--hearts were ugly, broken and well, dead to God, because of sin. Every one of us deserve to be shut out from God's presence and never ever know Him. Could God make a beautiful Church out of people like these? Did sin ruin His plans?

No, it did not! From even before the beginning, God knew that all people would rebel against Him. So right then, even before the beginning, God planned to make His Church, His people, beautiful Himself, through His Son, Jesus. He would send Jesus, the very Son of God, to come to earth as a man. He would live a perfect life. One that was perfectly beautiful to God because there was no sin in anything Jesus thought or did or said. God planned that Jesus would offer up His perfect life on the cross as the perfect offering for the sins of all God's people--all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior, Through Jesus, God would forgive all of His people's ugly sin. He would fill their hearts with the Holy Spirit, making them beautiful and clean. Yes, it would be because of Jesus that God's people, the Church that God was building would be beautiful.

And that was just what God did! At just the right time, Jesus came and saved His people as He suffered and died on the cross. Then He rose in victory over sin and death. Now it was time for the next part of God's plan to build His Church.

"Go into every part of the world, making disciples of all people," Jesus told His followers. It was time to begin to bring the good news of salvation to the world so that God's Church would be from every people, just as He had planned.

How could eleven little men--those first disciples of

Jesus-- do such a big, God-sized job by themselves? Well, they couldn't--and God never planned them to. God's Holy Spirit would do the building as He worked in the hearts of God's people.

"I will send the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to speak," Jesus told them. "I will teach you everything you need to know." The disciples remembered how Jesus had told them that the new life of forgiveness of sins and faith in Jesus comes through the Spirit. They trusted that the Holy Spirit would work as they obeyed Jesus' command to tell others the good news of salvation.

So the disciples went further and further away from their home, telling everyone who would listen the good news of salvation through Jesus. As they spoke, the Holy Spirit worked in hearts, just as Jesus had promised. He stirred the hearts of many to see that they were sinners and deserved God's punishment. He helped them turn away from their sins and gave them faith to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. One person at a time, the Holy Spirit changed ugly, broken, sinful hearts of rebellious sinners into the beautiful, Spirit-filled, God-loving hearts of God's people. God's Church was being built.

Dozens, hundreds, thousands, were saved by God, by Holy Spirit working in hearts as the disciples spoke. These new believers joined the first disciples in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus. Further and further away God's people traveled. They went out into all the world. And as they went, the Holy Spirit worked. God was building His Church from people of every nation and language.

Some got in ships and sailed to far away islands. They urged people to turn away from their sea and sky gods and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. Others climbed over tall mountains and went to tell those who made their homes on snowy peaks. They urged them to turn away from their mountain gods...and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. Still others made their way through thick jungles and forests and shared the gospel with the people who lived there. They told them to stop worshiping their gods of trees and animals and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. This is how the Holy Spirit has been building God's beautiful Church, all according to His plan, from before the beginning.

On and on, for thousands of years now, Jesus' followers have kept going into all the world, telling people

throughout the world about Jesus. On and on for thousands of years now the Holy Spirit has worked in the hearts of those people, building God's Church.

But one day, God will be finished building His Church. When will that be? When the good news of Jesus has been spread to every nation and every language--to every people on earth. Then Jesus will return to gather all God's people--all God's Church-- before the throne of God and together they will sing the most wonderful praises to God.

What will it look like? God gave John, one of Jesus' first disciples, a little glimpse of it: "I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.' (Revelation 7:9-10)

And what will it sound like? John tells us that there will be so many people in God's Church that the sound of their voices will be like the roar of rushing waters and like loud claps of thunder as they praise God saying: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church
Our Bible Verse is: Acts 9:31

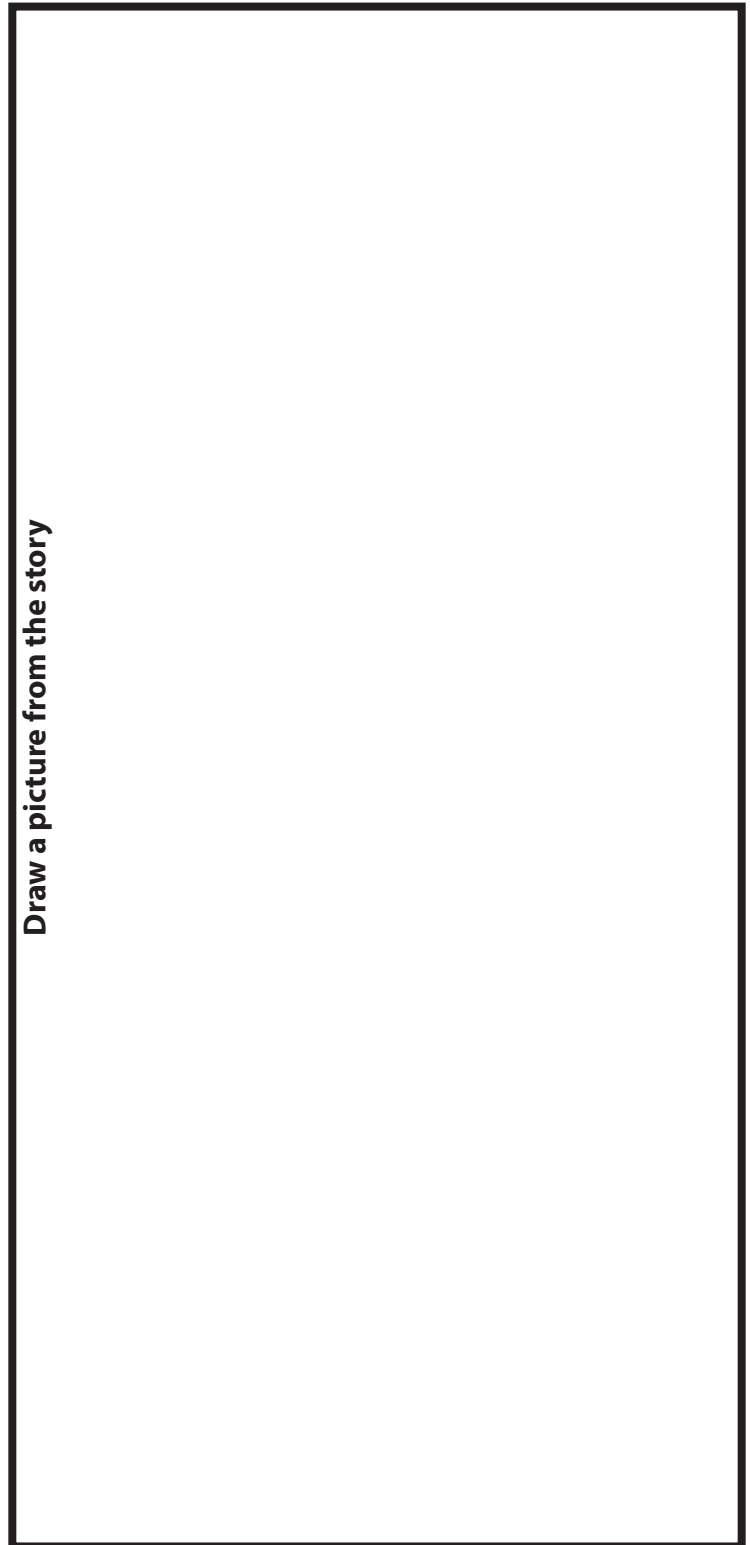
"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

It will be a magnificent thing to see this Church that God built through the Holy Spirit. And you and me, can we be a part of this most beautiful of buildings, God's Church? Yes, we can! The offer of salvation is for us, too. God promises to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. He will send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He will make our hearts beautiful and new, changed and forgiven of our sins. And we will become a part of His Church, too. Then on one marvelous day, we will get to stand among all of God's people, who will praise and enjoy God forever. What a day that will be!

But you know, God's people don't have to wait for that day to enjoy praise God with His people. Even right here on earth, each time believers gather together to worship God, it's a little picture of that great day. It's a tiny taste of

that wonderful worship God's people will have when all the people of God gather together in heaven before their amazing, marvelous God.

Let's praise God sending His Holy Spirit to build His Church and ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and make us part of His Church, God's people.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The church is a building where God’s people worship.
 Answer: False. That’s a church building! The church is the name for all of God’s people.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who planned the Brickless, Big Building? When did He plan it?

Answer: God is the planner. He planned it even before He created the world.

b. What did He make His building out of? How big is it to be?

Answer: People. Only God knows. But it is so big that it is made up of more people than we can count.

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

Acts 9:31

“[The ___] was strengthened; and encouraged by the ___, it grew in numbers, ___ in the fear of the Lord.”

Answers: church; Holy Spirit; living.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The Church’s One Foundation

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 19

Verse 1

The Church’s one foundation
 Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
 She is His new creation,
 By Spirit and the Word:
 From heav’n He came and sought her
 To be His holy bride,
 With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore Music William B. Bradbury

Church is the Bible word for all of God’s people. Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God’s people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God’s people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God’s Word.. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Great Builder of the Church, Your people.

C God, we confess that like all people, we have chosen to rebel against You. Our hearts, like everyone else, are ugly and broken with sin. We cannot worship You, the one, true God as You created us to, unless You work in our hearts. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit to work inside of us!

T God, we thank You for choosing to make Your people into the beautiful Church. Thank You for sending Jesus to save Your people and for sending Your Holy Spirit to live inside them, encouraging them.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins, trust Jesus as our own Savior, and be Your people. Send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know and love You. Keep strengthening Your people to go out and tell all peoples about You that many more might be saved.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

The Church Was Strengthened

PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 20

The church was strengthened,
 and encouraged,
 By the Holy Spirit,
 by the Holy Spirit,
 It grew in numbers,
 it grew in numbers,
 Living in the fear of, the fear of the Lord.
 Acts Nine, thirty-one.

Words: Acts 9,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

The Holy Spirit strengthens and encourages God’s people, the Church. He works in their hearts, giving people faith to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Savior as they hear God’s Word. He fills their hearts and helps them to grow in understanding God’s Word and in loving God. He helps them to live in the fear of the Lord-- that is, He helps them want to honor and obey God most of all.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Many people think that a church is a building, but it's not. Church is the name for all of God's people.

God's Church is built by the Holy Spirit, one person at a time. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people, giving them the gift of faith as they hear God's Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps them believe God's Word, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God has always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people, the Church. The Bible tells us that the Church will be made up of people from every single people group and language in the world.

Every week, groups of God's people meet together to worship God in gatherings all over the world. This is what we call going to church. But in heaven, the whole Church--all of God's people, from everywhere and every time--will gather together to worship God forever. What a gathering that will be! The Bible tells us that it will be so many people that we won't even be able to count them.

We can be part of God's Church--God's people--too, 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 4 Bible Verse: Acts 9:31, NIV 1984

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Banana Leaf Carving.

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

1. Who made the Banana Leaf Carvings? Where was she from? Where did she go to live?
2. For whom did she make the Banana Leaf Carvings? Why did she travel there to make the carvings for them?

This story starts out around 1910 in England.

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts out in Indiana, in the United States, in the 1950's.

Sweat was something most farmer's daughters got used to in Valpariso, Indiana. Farming was hard work! Marilyn glanced behind her tractor to see that the plow was working properly. Good. The sharp, metal plates were making deep furrows in the dark soil. They would plant seeds in these furrows which would grow into the corn and wheat her family grew for a living.

But while Marliyn's body was hard at work making furrows for corn and wheat, her mind was thinking about a completely different "crop" that Jesus urged His followers to help with. "The hearts of people are like soil to God," Jesus had taught. "God's Word is the seed. When people hear it, the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and grows those little seeds of truth into a crop of people who love and obey God—God's Church. Look around you. There are so many people who are eager to hear about God, like a crop of wheat is ready to be harvested. But there are so few people to tell others about Him, like farmers harvesting their corn and wheat. Ask God to send out more workers so that everyone will hear and all God's people be gathered together," He told them.

"There are so many people in far away places that have never heard about Jesus. Why don't I go and be one of those workers that Jesus said are needed?" Marilyn said to herself. "God is building His Church from people of every nation and language. I want tell others the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit will build God's Church among people who have not yet heard of Him," she decided. "I want to be a missionary."

Marilyn worked hard at school and took special classes to prepare her to work as a missionary. She learned how to make an alphabet and write down languages that had never been written down. The people she longed to tell

about Jesus wouldn't have a written-down language and they would need one, if they were to read the Bible. She would have to write it down for them and teach them to read it. If people could read the Bible, the Holy Spirit would use it to build God's Church, Marilyn knew.

Finally it was time for Marilyn to go. She said goodbye to her family in Indiana and flew thousands of miles away to Hauna Village on an island in the South Pacific Ocean called Papua New Guinea--on the other side of the world! Up the Sepik River Marilyn and her teammate paddled in their dug-out canoe until they came to Hauna Village.

Nothing could have been more different from Indiana than Papua New Guinea! Indiana had four seasons: summer, spring, winter and autumn. Papua New Guinea had two: dry season and rainy season. And I mean really rainy season, with more than 25 feet of rainfall! People in Indiana lived in houses with running water and electricity. In Papua New Guinea, they only had huts for houses and streams for running water. Indiana was farm country with cows, pigs and fields. Papua New Guinea was jungly rain forest, home to beautiful tropical birds and...lots of giant crocodiles, snakes and large, biting insects! People in Indiana went to school and knew how to read and write. In Hauna Village, no one even knew what a school was or that spoken words could be written down.

Why would Marilyn want to go to a place like this? Didn't Indiana sound much more comfortable? Yes, it did. But Marilyn wasn't going to Hauna Village to be comfortable. She was going there because there was no one to tell these people about Jesus.

Yes, oh, how the Sepik Iwam needed to hear! They worshiped the spirits of people in their family who had died long ago. They believed these spirits lived in everything—even in rocks and trees-- and had control over their lives. They depended upon men they called "witch doctors" to tell them how to keep the spirits happy so that they wouldn't harm them. The people lived in fear of these spirit. How wonderful it would be to bring them the truth of God's Word and free them to know the one, true God through Jesus! They needed to have the Bible in their own language. Then the Holy Spirit could work in their hearts, making them His people. This was part of God's plan and He had called Marilyn to be a part of it.

Marilyn and her teammate soon made friends with one of the men in the village, a man named Nokiyan. They

would point to anything they saw and Nokiyan would tell them their names in Sepik, his language. Then they would write down the sounds and add the words to their dictionary.

Slowly, Marilyn and her teammate began to learn the language. After six months of pointing to things and saying their names in Sepik, Nokiyan asked, "Every day you walk through the village, pointing and listening, what are you carving on that banana leaf with that thorn? (carving, banana leaf and thorn are their words for writing, paper and pen)"

"I'm carving your talk," Marilyn told him.

"My talk? You mean the words that are coming out of my mouth, you're carving on that banana leaf like the white man's talk? I thought only white man's talk could be written down?"

"No, Nokiyan, your talk can be written down, too. God created your talk," Marilyn explained.

Marilyn and her teammate began to write the Bible into the Sepik and read it first to Nokiyan. Like little seeds sprouting in the good soil, the Holy Spirit used the words of the Bible to grow faith in Jesus in Nokiyan's heart. God, through the Holy Spirit, was building His Church in Hauna Village, Papua New Guinea!

Soon, many in Hauna village became Christians. They built a school to teach everyone how to read and write. They wanted all to be able to read the Bible themselves. They built a little church building so that they could meet together and praise God. How happy Marilyn was to see how God was building His Church!

But there was much more work to do! Now the Sepik Iwam people knew about Jesus and had a Bible in their own language, but there were 100's of other tribes in Papua New Guinea. They needed someone to learn each of their languages and write down the Bible for them. They needed to hear about Jesus.

One day a canoe load of fifteen people from a faraway village came to Hauna Village for some of Marilyn's "white man's" medicine. They watched all two hundred of the villagers go to school to learn to read and write! They went to church and heard the people joyfully singing to God and the pastors teaching them about Jesus, in their own language!

"Marilyn, do you think you could come to our village and put our talk on the banana leaf so that we might know

about God, too?" the visitors asked. "Please will you come and teach us in our language about Jesus?"

But Marilyn sadly said, "I'm sorry, but I cannot come right now. I have to finish my work here first. But I will visit your village as soon as I can."

A few weeks later, Marilyn kept her promise. She, her teammate, and some of the villagers made the four-day canoe trip up the river to the man's village. Their friend greeted them excitedly. As they walked around, the little village of huts seemed much like other villages they had seen, except for a strange new building that stood in the very center.

"My friend," Marilyn asked the man, "what is that building there in the center of the village?"

He said, "Oh, that is God's house. That's our church building."

"Your church building? Who build it for you?"

"No one did. We built it ourselves."

"Did you find someone to come to tell you about Jesus in your language so that you can learn about Him?" Marilyn asked.

"No, there is no one," the man sadly said.

"Then what is that building for?" Marilyn wondered.

"We saw the little church building in your village and our people decided to build one, too," the man explained. "Now we're waiting for someone to come and tell us about God in our talk—in our language."

Even in that little village, seeds had been planted in the hearts of people. They were waiting for someone to teach them the Bible and tell them about Jesus. Waiting for the Holy Spirit to grow the tiny seeds of truth they had heard and make them into people who loved God--part of God's Church.

Has someone gone to that village yet, to put their talk on the banana leaf so that they might know God? I do not know. But one thing I do know is that God, through His Holy Spirit, is building His Church, from people from every tribe and language. In heaven when all God's people are gathered together, there will be people from every tribe and language standing before God's throne, even people from that little village that Marilyn visited. That is the unfailing plan of God.

Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Our Bible Verse is: Acts 9:31

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

But, what about you and me? Could there be a calling for us like there was for Marilyn Laszlo? Could God be calling us to help build His Church by telling others about Him: others who live next door to us or go to school with us; or even others like the people in that little village who built a church building and were waiting for someone to come and tell them about Jesus? If we are Christians—those who have turned from our sins and have trusted in Jesus as our own Savior--God does have a part for us to play in building His Church.

The Harvest of God's Church is not complete. He still calls for more workers! He wants us to tell about Him so that the Holy Spirit can work in their hearts and bring them to be part of God's Church, His people.

Let's praise this God who through His Holy Spirit is building His Church of people from every tribe and language. Let's ask Him to send out more of His people to help build His Church by spreading the good news about Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and to use even us to help build His Church, by telling others about Him.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people. <i>Answer: True.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who made the Banana Leaf Carvings? Where was she from? Where did she go to live? <i>Answer: Marilyn Laszlo. She was from Indiana and she went to Papua New Guinea, on the other side of the world.</i></p> <p>b. For whom did she make the Banana Leaf Carvings? Why did she travel there to make the carvings for them? <i>Answer: The Sepik Iwam people who spoke their language. Because she was part of God's plan to bring the good news of Jesus to this people group so they would be part of His Church, too.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 9:31 "[The church] was ____; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it ____ in numbers, living in the ____ of the Lord." <i>Answers: strengthened; grew; fear.</i></p>	<p>The Church's One Foundation <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 19</i></p> <p>Verse 1 The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation, By Spirit and the Word: From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride, With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died. Words: Joseph H. Gilmore Music William B. Bradbury</p> <p>Church is the Bible word for all of God's people. Jesus Christ is the Church's foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God's people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God's people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God's Word.. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!</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 Builder of the Church, Your people, from every tribe and nation, even tiny tribes in faraway places like Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we are not like the people of the neighboring tribe who were so hungry to worship You and hear Your Word that they built a church building, even before someone came to tell them. Many times we are lazy and do not care to think about You or read Your Word, the Bible.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for the great work You chose to do through C.T. Studd. Thank You for the many other missionaries who have gone out after seeing his example.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know and love You. Keep strengthening Your people to go out and tell all the peoples of the world about Jesus that they might be saved.</p>	<p>The Church Was Strengthened <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 20</i></p> <p>The church was strengthened, and encouraged, By the Holy Spirit, by the Holy Spirit, It grew in numbers, it grew in numbers, Living in the fear of, the fear of the Lord. Acts Nine, thirty-one. Words: Acts 9,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>The Holy Spirit strengthens and encourages God's people, the Church. He works in their hearts, giving people faith to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Savior as they hear God's Word. He fills their hearts and helps them to grow in understanding God's Word and in loving God. He helps them to live in the fear of the Lord-- that is, He helps them want to honor and obey God most of all.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling

Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?
He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!
PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984
"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Many people think that a church is a building, but it's not. Church is the name for all of God's people.

God's Church is built by the Holy Spirit, one person at a time. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people, giving them the gift of faith as they hear God's Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps them believe God's Word, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God has always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people, the Church. The Bible tells us that the Church will be made up of people from every single people group and language in the world.

Every week, groups of God's people meet together to worship God in gatherings all over the world. This is what we call going to church. But in heaven, the whole Church--all of God's people, from everywhere and every time--will gather together to worship God forever. What a gathering that will be! The Bible tells us that it will be so many people that we won't even be able to count them.

We can be part of God's Church--God's people--too, 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 4 Bible Verse: Acts 9:31, NIV 1984
"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

CASE STORY

Acts 2,10

Our story is: The Case of the Forbidden Soldier. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
1. Who was the Forbidden Soldier? Who thought he was forbidden? Why?
2. How did God show that he wasn't forbidden? What were God's plans for this soldier and others like him?

This story takes place in New Testament times, very soon after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of the 120 believers in Jesus gathered for prayer at the Cenacle. They burst out of the Cenacle and by the power of the Holy Spirit, began to speak in the languages of the visiting Jews. Thousands of curious Jews gathered before Peter to understand how it was they could hear about Jesus in their own language.

"Long ago God promised: in the last days I will pour out my spirit on all people and all who call on the name of the LORD will be saved. This is what you see. Turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior and you, too, will receive the Holy Spirit."

How powerfully the Holy Spirit worked that day as over three thousand Jews from all over the world heard Peter's message and believed that day!

But God's promise was to save all people--that is, peoples from every nation-- not just Jewish people...and this was news to Jesus' disciples. Not even Peter, who quoted God's promise understood. He was a Jew and like other Jews, believed that people had to become Jews if they were to be God's people. The Jews called all other peoples "Gentiles", or "Goyim." What does Goyim mean? It means dogs. Dogs were dirty, no good animals and that's just how the Jews felt about the non-Jews. Have nothing to do with them!

The Jews had many rules about the Gentiles: Don't eat or drink with them. Don't touch them or their stuff. Don't talk with them. Don't let them in your house...and certainly don't go in their house. If you did these things, you might become "unclean," which doesn't mean you were dirty, but that you wouldn't be allowed to worship in the Temple area without first making a sacrifice for your uncleanness. One thing was clear: Jews and Gentiles should not mix!

But God's plan for His Church was clearly different from what these Jews understood. And when we look around our church, not many of us were ever Jewish. Most of us are...well....Goyim!--Gentiles! What happened? This story is about just that.

Our story starts in Caesarea, the magnificent city the Romans named after Caesar Augustus. As Roman headquarters in Israel, it was filled with luxurious, Roman palaces, huge government buildings, and an Olympic stadium with seating for four thousand. There even was an enormous temple dedicated to Rome and Caesar, with a forty foot statue of Caesar in it!

Caesarea was not just a city filled with Roman buildings. It was filled with Romans! Hundreds of Roman soldiers and their leaders--centurions--were stationed here until they were sent out to other parts of Israel or the world. There were some Jews who lived in Caesarea, but most wanted nothing to do with it or the Roman Goyim living there.

But God had other plans. By His Holy Spirit, He was building His Church and He had always planned that it would include many Gentiles in it as it was about to make clear to the disciples. At Caesarea there was a centurion named Cornelius, a member of the Italian Regiment. Cornelius and his family were different from most Romans. They worshiped the LORD and lived for Him. Cornelius was known as a man of prayer and as someone who helped those in need, but Cornelius did not know about Jesus... yet.

One afternoon, about 3 pm, Cornelius had a vision. An angel of God, said to him: "Cornelius!"

Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?"

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been noticed by God. Send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying near the sea with Simon the tanner," he said.

Cornelius called two of his servants and one of his soldiers who also loved the LORD, and told them everything that had happened. He sent them to Joppa, a about thirty miles south, to find Peter.

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he had a special dream. He saw heaven opened and something like a large linen sheet being let down to earth by its four

corners. It contained all kinds of unclean animals, reptiles and birds. Not DIRTY creatures but the kinds the Gentiles ate, but the Jews thought it was wrong to eat.

Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything unclean." Peter wanted to be a "good" Jew. He did not want to be like the Gentiles.

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything unclean that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering about this special dream, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at Simon's house. They stood at the gate and called out, "Is Simon Peter staying here?"

The Holy Spirit prepared Simon for what was about to happen, "Simon, three Gentiles men are looking for you. Go downstairs to them and go with them, for I have sent them."

Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. An angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

Then Peter did something unthinkable for a Jew. He invited the men into the house to be his guests.

The next day Peter and some other Jews who had become Christians went with the men to see Cornelius in Caesarea.

When Peter and the others came to Cornelius' house Cornelius fell at Peter's feet to honor him, but Peter said, "Stand up, I am only a man myself."

Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of Cornelius' friends and family, eagerly waiting to hear what Peter had to say....and they were ALL Gentiles, just like Cornelius! God was indeed building His church bigger than anything Peter or the other Jews could have imagined!

Peter said to them: "You know that it's against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man unclean. So when I was sent for, I didn't hesitate to come. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Cornelius told Peter the message the angel had given him a few days earlier, then said, Now tell us everything the Lord has given you to say."

Then Peter began to speak: "God has showed me that He accepts not just Jews, but people from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

God sent the Jews the goods news of peace through Jesus, who He anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by death on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen...by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of all those present, giving them each faith to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, as God made quite clear as by the Holy Spirit, God gave these Gentile believers the same gift of speaking in many languages as He had on Peter and the other Jewish believers on the Day of Pentecost.

Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days."

What were the words from the Bible that Peter had spoken to the crowds on Pentecost? They were: "In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people and everyone who believes in the name of the LORD will be saved." Now Peter knew the truth of those words. God, through His Holy Spirit, was building His Church. He was gathering in people from every nation, every language, every kind of Gentile.

And that is why even today, in our church, there are so many Gentiles. The LORD's mercy upon all peoples, first shown to Cornelius and his family, has continued on and on to many others, through the thousands of years since that day in Joppa.

Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Our Bible Verse is: Acts 9:31

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

What about you and me? Can the Lord's mercy extend even to us? Could God really plan to build His Church even with you and me? Yes, the Lord promises us that if we confess our sins to Him and turn from them to trust in Jesus, He will fill us with His Holy Spirit and we can be part of His People, His Church, just like Cornelius and his family.

Let's praise God for choosing to build His Church from all peoples, even people like you and me. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn from our sins and trusting His as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to live inside us and make us part of His glorious Church.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: In heaven, all of God’s people will gather together. There will be so many people that we cannot even count them. Answer: True. At last all of God’s Church will be together!</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Forbidden Soldier? Who thought he was forbidden? Why? Answer: Cornelius. Peter and all the first believers. They were all of a Jewish background and mistakenly thought that God’s people would all come from the Jews or people who first became Jews.</p> <p>b. How did God show that he wasn’t forbidden? What were God’s plans for this soldier and others like him? Answer: God gave Peter a special vision and then explained to him what it meant when he met Cornelius. For them to be part of His people, too. His Church would come from every people, not just Jews.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Acts 9:31 “[The church] was strengthened; and ___ by the Holy Spirit, it grew in ___, living in the fear of the ___.” Answers: encouraged; numbers; Lord.</p>	<p>The Church’s One Foundation <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 19</i></p> <p>Verse 1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation, By Spirit and the Word: From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride, With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died. Words: Joseph H. Gilmore Music William B. Bradbury</p> <p>Church is the Bible word for all of God’s people. Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God’s people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God’s people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God’s Word.. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!</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 holy, yet providing the way through Jesus for unacceptable sinners (like all of us!) to be accepted by You as Your own, dear people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we are sinners who have chosen to disobey You and Your good ways. We are unacceptable to You, on our own. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for choosing to include people from every tribe, nation and language—not just Jews– as Your people.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know and love You. Keep strengthening Your people to go out and tell everyone about Jesus that they might be saved</p>	<p>The Church Was Strengthened <i>PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 20</i></p> <p>The church was strengthened, and encouraged, By the Holy Spirit, by the Holy Spirit, It grew in numbers, it grew in numbers, Living in the fear of, the fear of the Lord. Acts Nine, thirty-one. Words: Acts 9,31 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>The Holy Spirit strengthens and encourages God’s people, the Church. He works in their hearts, giving people faith to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Savior as they hear God’s Word. He fills their hearts and helps them to grow in understanding God’s Word and in loving God. He helps them to live in the fear of the Lord– that is, He helps them want to honor and obey God most of all.</p>