



**Unit 12 Prontos--NIV
God's People Live for Him**



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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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.

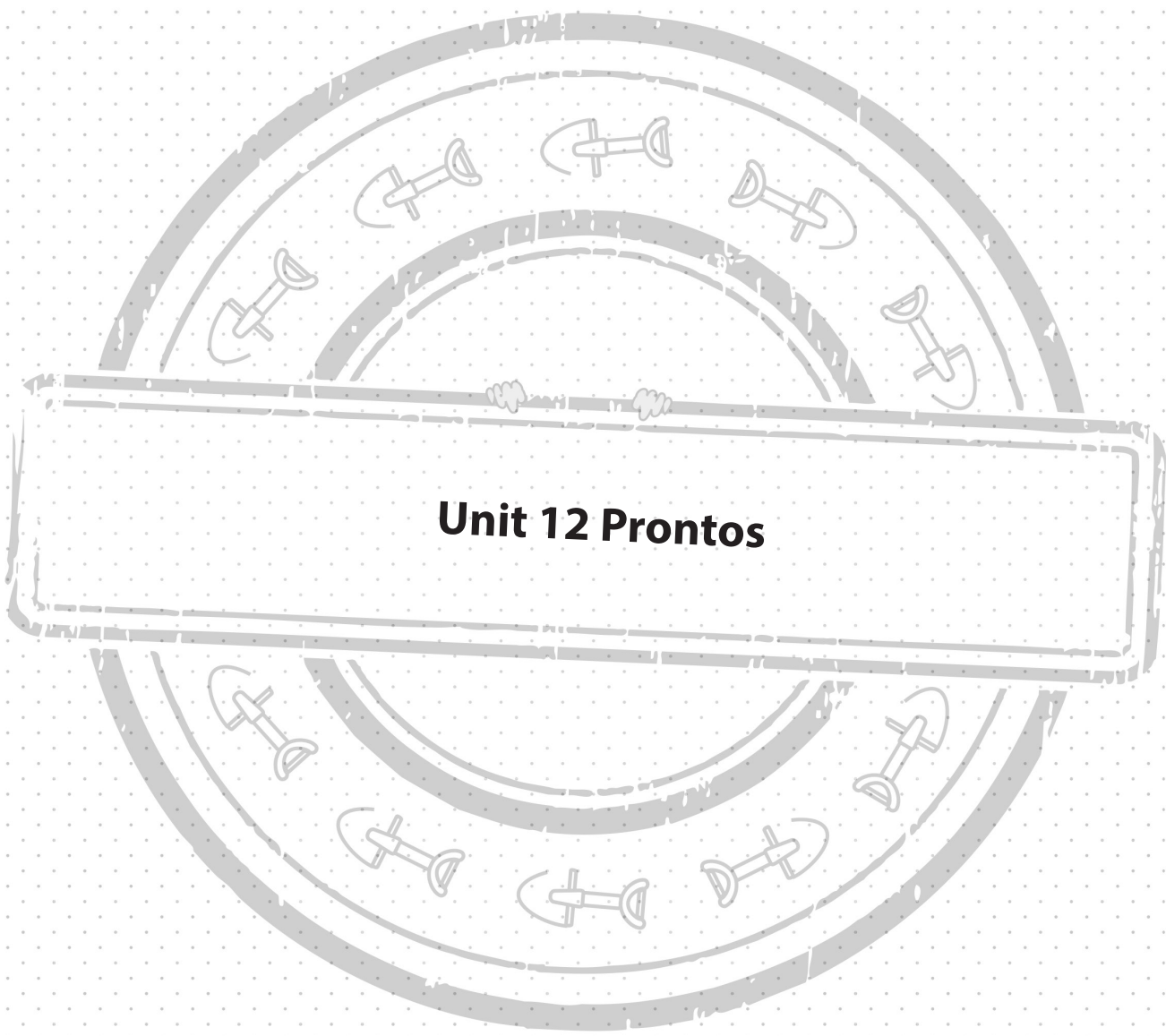
Other Praise Factory Resources

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 12 Prontos

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION**We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him****Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:**

"How Should God's People Live?"

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4***Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song:** Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

*PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5***BIBLE TRUTH****We're learning... Bible Truth 1:****God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them, is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE**How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!****Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

CASE STORY*The Book of Philemon***Our story is called:****The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Sneak-Away Slave? Why did he sneak away?
2. What happened that caused him to go back?

Our story today takes place during New Testament times, about 30 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Tired and dusty, Philemon arrived in Ephesus. Philemon was a rich man from Colossae, an important city on the Lycus River and in the shadow of great Mt. Cadmus. He had traveled 120 miles up the trade route to the even bigger city of Ephesus to do business. What exactly Philemon planned to sell in Ephesus, we don't know. It might have been wool or purple cloth, since Colossae was famous for these. But whatever it was Philemon had come to Ephesus to get a little richer from selling on that trip, he certainly went home far richer than he could have imagined and from something far different and totally unexpected. From Paul, he came to know what true riches were.

Paul had come to Ephesus to share about Jesus. Every day Paul preached in the Hall of Tyrannus and it was probably here that Philemon heard the gospel. "All people are sinners who deserve God's eternal punishment for their sin," Paul would have said. "But God in His great mercy, sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross as complete payment for the sins of all who would ever repent and turn and trust in Him. Come, repent, come, believe!" he urged the listening crowd.

The Holy Spirit was at work in Philemon as Paul preached. He gave him the gifts of repentance and faith. Here were true riches! To know God and to be forgiven from his sins. Philemon was a new person, with the Holy Spirit living in his heart.

But that was only the beginning of the changes to happen to Philemon. The Holy Spirit was at work, helping him live more like Jesus. Now Philemon wanted to tell others about Jesus and help them live like Jesus, too. When he returned back home to Colossae, he told his wife, Apphia, and his son, Archippus, about Jesus and they became Christians, too. He told many others about Jesus and before long, a whole little church of believers

CASE STORY**P.2**

met each week at Philemon's villa. How happy Philemon and this little church was! Here were true riches! Knowing God and having the Holy Spirit at work in each of their hearts!

And the more the Holy Spirit worked, the more all these believers lived like Jesus-- especially Philemon. He became well-known for his great faith in God and his love for all of God's people. Word even reached Paul, far, far away, about the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in Philemon's life.

But even despite all these wonderful things that were happening, not everyone was happy at Philemon's. A man named Onesimus, in particular was very unhappy. The big reason Onesimus was unhappy was he was a slave. In case you don't know, a slave is a person that is bought by another person and forced to work for them for no money. A few people were slaves by choice. But most slaves were forced to become slaves when the Romans defeated them in war. During Onesimus' time, the Romans bought and sold about 500,000 new slaves a year.

Like many slaves, Onesimus wanted his freedom, but it cost a lot of money and few could ever afford it. And besides, he didn't want to wait year to save up enough money. He wanted his freedom now! He was so unhappy and he didn't do his work well. Onesimus means 'useful' in his language, but 'useless' would be a better name for him.

Onesimus decided to take things into his own hands. "I am tired of this life as a slave! I am going to runaway!" thought Onesimus. And that was just what he did.

"Philemon, Onesimus is missing...and so is some of your money. Sir, I think he's run away," one of the others soon reported.

"Go after him. Try to find him!" Philemon replied.

But Onesimus was nowhere to be found. Onesimus ran and hid. On and on he went, always on the lookout. He knew the penalties for runaway slaves! Perhaps his master had changed and was known far and wide for his love for God and others. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was transforming his heart; but, according to Roman laws, masters had to right to severely punish their runaway slaves--, even put them to death! Onesimus would take no chances. Onesimus would take no chances. No, there would be no catching him!

Onesimus traveled 1200 miles through the mountains of Turkey, Greece and Italy, until he reached Rome. This was a huge city. He could hide easily here. But even there,

Onesimus never felt free. He was a hunted man. There was always a chance that someone might find out he was a runaway slave and arrest him. "I can't go back, but I can't keep living like this!" Onesimus thought. "How can I get out of this terrible situation?"

Onesimus didn't know the answer, but the Lord did. The Lord loved Onesimus and all along had a plan for rescuing him using the same man who had shared the good news of Jesus with Philemon, his master--the apostle Paul!

Like Onesimus, Paul wasn't in Rome as a free man. He had been arrested in Jerusalem and sent to Rome to face trial. He was being carefully guarded by Roman soldiers but had been allowed to live in a little house instead of in a prison cell.

When Onesimus heard that Paul was in Rome, he got an idea: "I will go to Paul and ask him for help. Perhaps there is something he can do for me."

Onesimus went to Paul and said, "Sir, my name is Onesimus. I am Philemon's runaway slave. You helped him. Perhaps you can help me, too?"

Paul listened to Onesimus' story. "I believe I can help you, but perhaps in a different way than you were thinking. Your real problem is much bigger than being a runaway slave. Your real problem is your sin. You need to repent of your sins. You need to believe in Jesus as your Savior," Paul told him. "In Him you will find true freedom you really are looking for."

The Holy Spirit was at work in Onesimus' heart as he heard about Jesus. He repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Now it was Onesimus who was a changed man. He was free at last from the worst kind of slavery in his life: the slavery of sin.

The Holy Spirit began to work the same kind of changes He had worked in Philemon's heart. Now Onesimus began to love God. Now he wanted to live a different life. He wanted to live like Jesus did. Onesimus began to live up to his name "useful." He stayed in Rome and served Paul every way he could, and Paul taught him more about Jesus. Soon Paul loved Onesimus as if he were his very own son.

But as the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, it became clear to Onesimus that he had wronged his master. He knew he must go home and take whatever punishment he deserved. That was what would please God. Paul agreed that this was what Onesimus must do, even though it might be very hard and he might face great punishment.

CASE STORY

"I've written a letter to Philemon so that he can understand everything that has happened to you, Onesimus. I've told him that I will pay him back for anything that you took from his house and have asked him to set you free," Paul said. "I am sending Tychus to go with you on your journey, to carry this letter and give it to Philemon. I will be praying for you. But Onesimus, remember that whether Philemon releases you or not, you are always to live for God for you do not just serve an earthly master, but God who is in heaven."

They said goodbye, then Onesimus was on his way.

We don't completely know what happened when Onesimus went home, but surely the Holy Spirit was at work in each man's heart. Some say that Philemon freed Onesimus and that Onesimus went on to become the pastor of the church in Ephesus. It was there, when told to choose to stop following Jesus or die, that Onesimus chose death. He could never turn away from His Savior who had died on the cross to bring him true freedom--freedom from sin.

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus****Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

What about us? Can the Holy Spirit do this kind of work in us? Yes, He can! If we confess and turn away from our sinful lives and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, the Holy Spirit will cleanse our hearts. Then He will begin to transform our hearts so that we will love Him and live for Him more and more. Let's praise this God who does not just save His people, but who keeps working in their hearts by the Holy Spirit; and let's ask Him to do that work in us so that we will become more and more like Him.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we become one of God’s people. God forgive our sins and He puts His Holy Spirit in our heart to live. Answer: True!</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions</p> <p>a. Who was Sneak-Away Slave? Why did he sneak away? Answer: Onesimus. He did not want to be a slave.</p> <p>b. What happened that caused him to go back? Answer: Paul shared the gospel with him and he became a Christian. He went back home because as he grew as a Christian, he knew this was the right thing to do.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled ___ all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his ___ with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the ___, who is the Spirit.” Answers: faces; likeness; Lord.</p>	<p>The Church’s One Foundation <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 6</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.</p> <p>Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley</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 Freer of People from their slavery to sin.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Onesimus and Philemon we are sinners. Like Onesimus, we want to live life our own way and are willing to do things the wrong way to get what we want. Like Philemon, we think a lot about the good, rich things we enjoy more than You. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by You. Thank You for working out Your good plans to save Your people, even when they least expect it.</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 change our hearts so that we love You and live to please You with our lives, more and more.</p>	<p>We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 7</i></p> <p>We who reflect the Lord’s glory, Are being transformed into His likeness, Which comes from the Lord, With ever-increasing glory, Which comes from the Lord, The Lord who’s the Spirit, Who is the Spirit, Who is the Spirit. Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.</p>

PFI PRONTO

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them, is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Drunken Soldier.

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

1. Who was the Drunken Soldier? What problems did his drunkenness cause?
2. What changed him? How did this show?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in New South Wales, Australia around 1800.

When you think of Australia perhaps you think of strange animals such as kangaroos, koala bears and platypus, and you would be right. But if you were to ask English people 200 years ago what they thought of when they thought of Australia, they would have said, "Criminals!"

Why criminals? Because some time after Australia was claimed by English explorers sailing the South Seas, the English government got the idea to ship out most all of the English criminals from the crowded prisons in England and leave them far away on the other side of the world in Australia. And that's just what they did. They sent them to Australia to live together in a settlement. They got to work during the day and didn't even have to be in a prison cell at night, but they could never return home to England!

As you might guess, a land filled with criminals wasn't a very law-abiding place.. People kept on doing the kinds of things they had been put in prison for back in England. Not only that, but there wasn't the right kind of metal to make Australian money, so they made rum (a kind of very strong alcohol) to be their money. Many people wound up just getting drunk on their rum "money," especially the soldiers who guarded it.

Where could change come for a place filled with people like this? Only through the good news of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. Yet few of the criminals had heard this good news and few Christians were brave enough to move there to tell them.

This story is about a man named John Lees. John was a soldier in the New South Wales Corp. He was given the job of guarding the rum money, but all too soon he was drinking it.

After three years, John quit the army and married Mary, one of the lady criminals who had been sent to Australia. John bought some land in the unexplored forests of

CASE STORY

Castlereagh for Mary and him to live on. He hoped they could clear it of trees and turn it into a nice farm.

At first life together were good for John and his wife John worked hard on the farm while Mary raised their ten children. But with each passing year, John started to drink more and more, until at last he couldn't stop. Rum cost money and the Lees didn't have much, so John began to take what few valuable things they had and sell them for money to buy rum.

Soon everything was gone, except for a pig fattened and ready for market. Mary didn't know what to do! How could she and the children live? What would John do next after he had sold that pig? She didn't know. Was there nothing that could change John's life?

But there WAS something—or rather Someone—who could change John Lees. God, by His powerful Holy Spirit, could change John Lees into someone like Jesus, with a heart of love for God and a life lived to please Him. And that's just what God planned to do.

One night while John was outside getting a log of wood for the fire, a deadly snake leapt out and bit him on the wrist. John thought for sure that he would die from the bite.

"God, help me! I have been a terrible man and I know I deserve to die, but please spare me!" John prayed. "If You do, I will live for You the rest of my life!"

The Lord heard John's prayer and John didn't die from the snake bite. And John kept his promise to God. He turned away from his drinking and his sinful way of life and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. The Holy Spirit worked in John's heart, cleansing it of sin and growing his love for God and desire to please Him with his whole life.

When Mary and the children saw the changes in John, they became Christians, too. Every night they would sit together and read the Bible and pray. The more they read and prayed the hungrier they became to learn about God. "What we need is a teacher to come and teach us the Bible," John said.

"But we are way out here in the middle of the wilderness! What would ever bring a teacher way out?!" Mary despaired.

"I don't know, but God does. Let's pray every night that God will send us a missionary preacher to come right here to Castlereagh so we can know more about Him." The Holy Spirit had been working such powerful changes in John Lees, giving him faith like Jesus to ask for seemingly

impossible things.

So every night they prayed and every day they hoped. Three years passed and still no missionary came. Yet John kept on praying.

One night they gathered as usual around the table for evening devotions. John began their time with prayer. "Lord, we praise You for Your goodness to us. Thank you for our crops, our family and most of all for Jesus. Thank you for the way You work changes in our hearts. Thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Lord, we ask that You help us understand it tonight as we read it and we ask that one day You would send us a missionary preacher to come here and teach us more. Amen."

Suddenly, there was a crack of a whip at the door. Who could it be at this hour of the night? Few people wandered out in these wild parts after dark. In a country of criminals, you never know what a stranger might plan to do.

"Is there anyone here who would receive a tired missionary?" the stranger asked. The Lees' could not believe their ears! The door flung open and there before them, too tired to even get down from his horse, was the answer to their three long years of prayers—a man named Samuel Leigh. One of John Lees' boys ran out to Samuel Leigh. "Sir, my father would be honored to help you," he said. He led the missionary into the house and invited him to join them at dinner. He was delighted to have a home-cooked meal and even more delighted to see the family's open Bible.

"Sir, we've been praying for three long years that the Lord would send us a missionary preacher to teach us more about Him," John Lees said. "Perhaps you would be willing to start tonight? The Bible passage we are studying is Isaiah 35. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

What a fitting verse! That very night the Lord had brought them a man who could teach them more about Jesus to their "wilderness" and "solitary place," of Castlereagh so that by the Holy Spirit might use what they learned to powerfully work to make them more like Jesus—with hearts and lives blossoming with love and good works pleasing to God, every bit as beautiful as roses bursting into bloom.

Samuel Leigh stayed with the Lees for quite a while. Together they built a little chapel on the edge of Lees' farm

so that not just the Lees but everyone from all over Castlereagh could hear God's Word. And as they did, the Holy Spirit worked in hearts of many, giving them faith in Jesus as their Savior and changing their lives to look more and more like Jesus.

And what happened to John Lees? The Holy Spirit continued His work in his heart. He became one of the most loved men in all of Castlereagh; and, became known far and wide for his love and good works.

Who could transform a sinful man like John Lees from a drunk who didn't take care of his family to someone who loved God so much that he would pray three years that God would send them a missionary? Only the Holy Spirit could do such a wonderful, powerful work!

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus****Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Maybe you think you are nothing like John Lees at all. But there are at least two ways that we are ALL just like him: we are all sinners whose only hope is Jesus. We need to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And, we need God to send His Holy Spirit to make us like Jesus: with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him.

Let's praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His people. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts to believe and to grow in Him, so that we might love and live for Him more each day.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The Holy Spirit lives inside God’s people, but He doesn’t do much. Answer: False! The Holy Spirit is powerfully at work inside of God’s people, changing them, helping them to live like Jesus did, in how they think, speak and act. He helps them leave behind their old, sinful ways of living.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Drunken Soldier? What problems did his drunkenness cause? Answer: John Lees. He spent his family’s money on drink instead of spending it on food and other things they needed.</p> <p>b. What changed him? How did this change show? Answer: John became a Christian. The Holy Spirit came to live in his heart. John read God’s Word and prayed. The Holy Spirit used these things to change him. He left behind his drink. He was a good and godly father and husband. He worked hard to tell others about Jesus.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s ____, are being ____ into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the ____.” Answers: glory; transformed; Spirit.</p>	<p>The Church’s One Foundation <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 6</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.</p> <p>Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley</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 Changer of sinful people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we, like John Lees, are sinners. We all need to confess our sins to You and ask Your forgiveness! We need a Savior! We need You to change us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for saving and changing all who come to You, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. No one is too bad for You to save them! There is no one You cannot change.</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 into our hearts and change us, just like You changed John Lees.</p>	<p>We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 7</i></p> <p>We who reflect the Lord’s glory, Are being transformed into His likeness, Which comes from the Lord, With ever-increasing glory, Which comes from the Lord, The Lord who’s the Spirit, Who is the Spirit, Who is the Spirit. Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.</p>

PFI PRONTO**BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION****We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him****Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:**

"How Should God's People Live?"

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4***Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song:** Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

*PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5***BIBLE TRUTH****We're learning... Bible Truth 1:****God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them, is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE**How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!****Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

CASE STORY*1 Samuel 1-3***Our story is: The Case of the Boy Who Did What Men Did Not.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the boy? Who were the men who didn't do what the boy did?
2. What did the boy do that the men did not? Who helped the boy live this way?

This story takes place in Shiloh, a little town in the grassy hills of Ephraim, Israel. It takes place in Old Testament times during the days of the judges of Israel, about 1100 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Hannah sewed busily on the ephod made of fine Egyptian cloth. What's an ephod, you might be wondering? It was special apron that only worn by the men who served in the Tabernacle—the Tent of Meeting of the LORD. When the special apron was done, Hannah would make a beautiful robe to go with it.

There was something very strange about this ephod and the robe that went with it. They were very tiny. Yet the priest Eli and his sons who served in the Tabernacle were grown men! Why would they need such a small ephod and robe as this?

The truth was, this little ephod and robe weren't for them at all. They were for Hannah's little, three-year-old son, Samuel, who would soon be joining Eli and his sons in service at the Tabernacle.

How did Hannah explain to her little son what was about to happen to him? The Bible doesn't tell us, but perhaps it went something like this:

"Why do I need an ephod, Mama? I live here with you, not at the Tabernacle?" Samuel asked his mother.

"Because you are going to serve before the LORD at His Tabernacle!" she replied. "You see, long ago, I wanted a son but could not have one. Then I prayed to the LORD to give me a son. I promised Him that if He did, that I would give that little boy back to the Him to serve Him all the days of his life. Then the LORD gave me you! So you see, Samuel, the LORD has chosen you to do something very special."

"What is it like at the Tabernacle?" Samuel asked.

"The Tabernacle and its courtyard are kept inside long walls, 150 by 75 feet, all made of fine, linen cloth," Hannah told him. "The first thing you see when you go inside the entrance on the east side is a big, open courtyard with

CASE STORY**P.2**

a huge bronze altar. This is where the priests sacrifice all the offerings of birds, sheep, and bulls to the LORD. The priests are never supposed to let the fire go out, (so that it is always ready for the sacrifices, just as the LORD is always ready to receive our praise and confessions of sin). Behind the huge altar is a big bronze basin of bronze where the priests do their special washing so that they will be seen as pure before the LORD. But best of all, is what is behind the altar and the basin: the Tabernacle, itself, with the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place!" Hannah said.

"What are they, Mama?" Samuel may have asked.

"Well, I've never been inside. Only priests get to go in." his mother answered, "And it is covered with thick coverings of goat hair, sheep skin and sea cows, so you can't see in from the courtyard," she replied. "But I am told that it has beautiful curtains of blue, purple and scarlet with cherubim woven all through them on all sides. In the Holy Place there are just three things, all covered in pure gold. On the left is a tall golden lampstand with seven candle holders, each that look like the branch of an almond tree with buds. It is to remind the people that God is always present. On the right there is an altar where priests burn sweet-smelling incense every morning and every evening as a reminder of the prayers of God's people going up to God. And in between them, is a golden table on which each day twelve loaves of bread-- one for each tribe of Israel-- are put out, as a reminder of the fellowship (special friendship) that God has with His people."

"But what about the Most Holy Place, where's that, Mama?" Samuel asked.

"The Most Holy Place is behind a beautiful curtain at the back of the Holy Place," Hannah explained. "Inside it is the important thing of all: a golden box called the Ark of the Covenant. It has two huge angels bending over its cover; and, inside the box are the Ten Commandments of the covenant the LORD made with our people through Moses long ago. It is a room so holy that only the most important priest, called the high priest can go in that room....and he can only go in there once a year. It's where he takes the special offering to ask God to forgive the people's sins."

"Will I get to go inside the Holy Place?"

"Yes, you will, Samuel. You are going to get to do many very special things when you go to the Tabernacle."

It was not long before it was time for Hannah and Elkanah, Samuel's father, to take Samuel to Shiloh to live at

the Tabernacle. They gathered up Samuel's few things, his little ephod and robe, plus three bulls, grain and wine to offer up to the LORD as a sacrifice.

After two days of walking, the smell in the air told them they were close. It was the smell of smoke and the offerings from the Tabernacle's altar. Soon Shiloh came into view and behind it on a hill, were the curtains of the Tabernacle's courtyard.

With worshipful hearts, Elkanah and Hannah brought their offerings to the priests. Eli and his sons were amazed at this huge offering! It was three times bigger than the biggest offering (one bull) suggested in the Bible! "Who are these people? Why are they making such a big offering?" the priests probably wondered.

Hannah explained it to the high priest Eli. "Three years ago I stood before you praying to the LORD," Hannah told him. "He gave me this son in answer to my prayer. I am now bringing him here to the LORD to be His for his whole life, just as I promised I would that day." Hannah handed Samuel's things to Eli.

How could such a little boy go and live with strangers at the Tabernacle? Surely he would cling to his parents in fear! But the LORD was with Samuel already, working inside his heart and helping him want to love and serve Him in this way. Instead of pleading to go home with his parents, Samuel bowed down and worshiped the LORD. Yes, God can do great things, even in the heart of a very young boy.

Eli took care of the Samuel and taught him all the duties of being a priest, just as he had been teaching his sons Phinehas and Hophni. He learned how to fill the lampstand candle holders with oil, how to place incense on the altar of incense, how to make the special loaves of bread for the golden table, how to wash himself to stay pure before the LORD, how to make sacrifices and what prayers to say for each one, and many other things. Eli taught Samuel the right way to do things and Samuel tried hard to serve the Lord just as he had been told.

But Phinehas and Hophni, Eli's sons, were not like Samuel. They were wicked men with greedy hearts. They didn't worship the LORD. When their father wasn't looking, they spoiled the people's sacrifices by snatching the best part of their sacrifices for themselves, instead of offering it to the LORD.

Samuel saw what Phinehas and Hophni did, but he

CASE STORY

didn't copy them. The LORD, by His Holy Spirit, was working in Samuel's little heart, already giving him a desire to please Him. He was preparing Samuel for the special job He had planned for him. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very young boy.

One night Samuel lay sleeping on a little mat beneath the golden lampstand in the Holy Place when he heard someone calling him. It was almost daybreak and the oil of the lampstand was almost all used up.

"Samuel, Samuel!" the voice said.

Samuel ran to Eli and answered, "Here I am."

"I didn't call; go back and lie down," Eli said.

So Samuel went and lay down. Twice more the voice called and twice more Samuel went to Eli. Then Eli understood. The LORD was calling Samuel!

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, if you hear the voice again, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'"

Samuel lay down again, and this time the LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

That night was but the first of eighty years worth of messages the LORD would give Samuel for the people of Israel. The people knew Samuel was the LORD's prophet and listened carefully to the words the LORD gave him.

The LORD had planned to do great things for His people through Samuel and every one of them happened. Why? Because God does great things in His people, even in a very young boy, thanks to His Holy Spirit at work in their heart.

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus****Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

What about you and me? God did great things, even in the heart of a very young boy. Could God have plans to work in our lives, too? Could He grow our love and desire to serve Him? Yes, He could. It is His promise to all who turn away from their sins and trusts in Jesus. Not only will He save them, but He will put His Holy Spirit in their hearts giving them growing love for Him and a desire to serve

Him. Then, like Samuel, we can also reflect God's glory as He uses His Spirit to transform them.

Let's praise this God who saves His people and grows their hearts by His Holy Spirit. Let's ask Him to send His Spirit to work in us, even today.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The Holy Spirit will work and work inside of God’s people until they are perfect in this life. Answer: False! None of God’s people will ever be perfect in this life, but the Holy Spirit is always at work in them, transforming them to live more and more as God wants them to live. It is not until they go to live with God that He will finish transforming them and make them perfect, never to sin again.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the boy? Who were the men who didn’t do what the boy did? Answer: Samuel. Phineas and Hophni, the sons of the high priest, Eli.</p> <p>b. What did the boy do that the men did not? Who helped the boy live this way? Answer: Samuel worshiped the LORD and offered the people’s sacrifices the right way. Eli taught Samuel how God wanted him to serve. Samuel listened to God when He spoke and wanted to obey. The Holy Spirit worked in Samuel’s heart, helping him obey.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we, who with ___ faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ___ glory, which ___ from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” Answers: unveiled; ever-increasing; comes.</p>	<p>The Church’s One Foundation <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 6</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.</p> <p>Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley</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 God who speaks Your words to Your people. We praise You for working in Your people that they are able to do what You have planned for them to do.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we, like Eli’s sons, are sinners. We have learned Your good ways yet many times we choose to rebel against them. We need to confess our sins to You and ask Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for speaking to Your people throughout the ages, both long ago through Your prophets, like Samuel, and still today, through Your Word, the Bible.</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 love You and obey You more and more—and even when it might be very difficult, like it would have been for Samuel at times.</p>	<p>We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 7</i></p> <p>We who reflect the Lord’s glory, Are being transformed into His likeness, Which comes from the Lord, With ever-increasing glory, Which comes from the Lord, The Lord who’s the Spirit, Who is the Spirit, Who is the Spirit. Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory—they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song:

Ephesians 5:1-2
"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

CASE STORY

Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21

Our story is called:

The Case of the Three Questions.

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

1. What were the Three Questions? Who asked them?
2. Who answered the questions? How did he show his answer with his life?

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

Peter, James, John and the other fishermen left their boats and headed for shore with their fishing nets. All night they had thrown out and heaved those heavy nets, but they hadn't caught even one, measly fish! Now they had to clean the nets and inspect them for tears before putting them away and heading home to sleep. It was the last thing those weary, discouraged men wanted to do, but they knew they had to do it.

As the fishermen worked on their nets, Jesus and a crowd of people came down to the shore. Jesus climbed into Peter's boat and sat down.

"Would you push the boat out from shore a little way?" he asked Peter. Peter did as Jesus asked, then Jesus began to preach to the crowd. Peter and the other fishermen listened as they worked.

"This Jesus is something special! He talks about God like no other teacher we've heard!" they thought.

When Jesus had finished preaching, He told Simon, "Take your boat out into the deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

What was Jesus thinking? Didn't He realized they had just finished cleaning their nets? They would have to clean them again if they did as He asked! Besides, every fisherman knew that you fish at night, not during the day! "We've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything," Peter told Jesus, "but I will do what you ask."

They cast out their nets and immediately they were filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. The other fishermen scrambled out to help them and soon both boats were filled so filled that they were about to sink!

Peter knew this wasn't just a lucky catch! This was God at work! He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

But Jesus didn't go away. He had plans for Peter and

his partners. "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men," Jesus told them. "Come, follow me."

What? Leave behind their way to make money and be Jesus' disciples? It would cost them everything! But that was just what they did. They pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.

For three, whole years, Peter and the others followed Jesus, With amazement they watched Him calm stormy seas, give sight to blind people, even raise the dead to life. And, oh, how they loved to listen to Him speak! He spoke with authority the very words of God. What power, what wisdom, what love!

"Jesus is no ordinary teacher, He is the Messiah, the Son of God," Peter confessed. And the more he saw, the more he believed and the more he loved Jesus.

But life with Jesus was not going to always be like this. Jesus' love for God's people was taking Him to the cross to suffer and die for their sins. The disciples' love for Him would waver. "One of you will betray me and hand me over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will arrest me and you will all leave me. Then they will kill me. But, on the third day, I will rise," Jesus told them as they sat together eating the Passover Feast the night before Jesus was to die.

Peter disagreed. He loved Jesus and believed He was God's Son. "No, Lord. Even if everyone else leaves you, I won't. I will die with You!" he insisted.

But Jesus knew better. "Peter, your love for Me is not what you think it is. By the time the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny you even know Me three times!" Jesus warned.

Later that night, everything began to happen just as Jesus said it would. Judas Iscariot--one of the twelve disciples--led Temple soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. As the soldiers grabbed Jesus, the disciples ran away. Peter was braver than most of the others. He followed secretly behind and waited in the courtyard to see what happened to Jesus. But by the time the rooster crowed in the morning, even Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times.

How Peter cried over his weak love for Jesus, then cried even more as Jesus was crucified later that day. But on the third day, the weeping changed to rejoicing when Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He had risen from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's

people!

Yet even as Peter rejoiced and worshiped Jesus, something wasn't right. He couldn't forget what he had done: "I knew He was the Messiah, the Son of God. I boasted that I loved Him so much that I would die for Him; yet, I left Him when He was arrested. How could my love for Jesus have been so weak?" Peter thought.

But Jesus wasn't finished with Peter. He knew all about the poor love of his heart and He had plans for Peter. "Tell the disciples and Peter to go to Galilee and I will see them there," Jesus had told the women, the day He rose from the dead.

So that's what they did. They went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited. One night they decided to go fishing, like they did in the old days. Surely it was nice to throw out the nets and hopefully pull it in, full of flip-flopping fish.

But the nets came in empty each time, just like they had on that strange night three years earlier. Just as they were about to give up for the night, a man called to them from the shore: "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they shouted back.

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some," the man said. They cast out their nets and caught so many fish that they didn't even have strength to haul them in!

Immediately Peter, James and John knew who the man was. "It's the Lord!" John exclaimed.

Simon Peter jumped into the water and swam towards Jesus standing on the shore. The others followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish.

Waiting for them was bread and a fire with fish cooking on it. "Bring some of the fish you have just caught," Jesus told them.

So Simon Peter went to the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

"Come and have breakfast," Jesus invited them, taking the bread and fish and giving it to them.

After eating breakfast, Jesus pulled Peter aside. It was time to talk. "Do you truly love Me more than these?" he asked Peter.

"Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love You."

"Feed my lambs," Jesus told him. (Lambs was Jesus' name for all who would trust in Him as their Savior.)

"Peter, do you truly love me?" Jesus asked again.

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," Peter replied.

"Then take care of my sheep, God's people."

A third time Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt that Jesus had asked him three times, but he understood. He had denied Jesus three times, now Jesus was giving him three chances to tell he loved him. "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you," Peter replied.

"Then feed my sheep," Jesus told him.

Perhaps Peter's love for Jesus had been weak, but even so it was true love for Him. And nothing would please him more than to live the rest of his life taking care of the new believers in Jesus.

Do you wonder what happened to Peter after that day on the beach? Did he take care of Jesus "sheep", His new followers, or did he deny Jesus again?

The Bible tells us that with the help of the Holy Spirit, Peter did take care of the new believers in Jesus. Many times he chose to suffer rather than to give up living for Jesus and loving His people. And do you know how many say Peter died? They say he was crucified as punishment for believing in Jesus. But because he did not think he deserved to die just as Jesus did, he asked to even be crucified upside down! Here was a man who God had helped to love Him with all of himself!

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

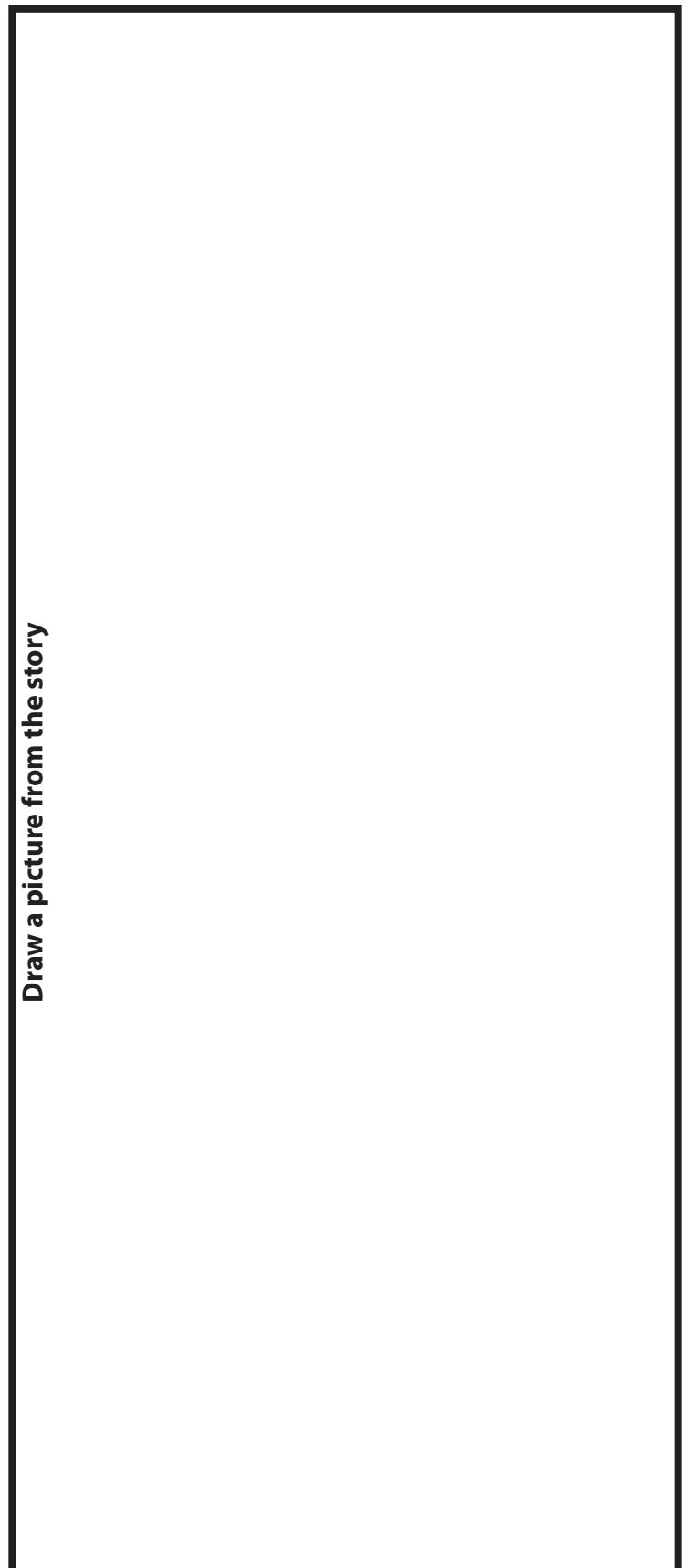
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

What about you and me? Can we ever love God with all of ourselves? Never on our own! There is only one way we can even begin to love God as He calls us to: by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will give us a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He will work powerfully in our hearts, helping us to love Him more and more.

But what a wonderful day it will be when God's people live together with God in heaven. For then, they will be completely changed and will truly love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength forever.

Let's praise God for sending Jesus to save sinners like us and like Peter. Let's praise Him for promising to send

the Holy Spirit into the hearts of His people, helping them to love God as He wants them to. And let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we might love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God has loved His people so deeply. He loved them before they loved Him. He saved them through Jesus. Oh, how His people want to respond to Him by loving Him with their whole life! <i>Answer: True!</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. What were the Three Questions? Who asked them? Answer: Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times. b. Who answered the questions? How did he show his answer with his life? Answer: Peter told Jesus he loved Him, even though he had denied he knew Him before He was crucified. Peter showed that he really did love Jesus by boldly telling others about Him and dying for the sake of His name.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel: The ___ our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our ___ with all your heart and with all your ___ and with ___ your strength." Answers: LORD; God; soul; all.</p>	<p>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 8</i></p> <p>Verse 4</p> <p>Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.</p> <p>Words: Isaac Watts Music: Lowell Mason</p> <p>God's people want to love God most of all. They want everything that they are and they have to be a gift of love back to Him. Even if the whole realm of nature--that is, the whole world--was theirs to have and to give, it would be too small a gift of love to give back to Him for all He has done for them. He loved them while they were still sinners. He loved them enough to send His own dear Son to suffer and die for their sins. Nothing less than their soul, their life, their all, is a big enough present to offer back to Him in thanks!</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 so worthy of all our love.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Peter, we are tempted to avoid doing hard things for You, instead of loving You as we should. We all need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that would even forgive Your people when they choose to avoid doing hard things for You. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside Your people, giving them greater love for You and courage to do hard things for You.</p> <p>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, giving us love for You and helping us to do even very hard things for You.</p>	<p>Hear, O Hear <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9</i></p> <p>Hear, O hear, O Israel, Hear, O hear, O Israel, The LORD your God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart, Love the LORD our God with all your soul, Love the LORD our God with all your strength. Deuteronomy Six, verses four through five.</p> <p>Words adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He's the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for all who want to be God's people. He wants His people to love Him with their heart, soul and strength--that means all of themselves.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Lively-Learning Lad.

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

1. Who was the Lively-Learning Lad? How was he lively in his learning?
2. Who did he use his learning for later? What did he want to use it to do?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about William Carey, one of God's people, who grew up in the little village of Paulerspury, England in the 1760's.

Paulerspury was a wonderful place for a boy like William Carey to grow up. He loved nature and the hills, woods and streams around the little village gave William lots to discover. He learned names of all the plants. He scrambled into holes looking for wild animals and insects. He crept up trees after birds. And when he found something, he often it back to his room—alive! He watched them, drew pictures of them, and wrote down what he learned about them.

When William loved something, he tried to love it with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. And when he set his mind to do something, he was determined to do it. One time there was a bird's nest high up a tall chestnut tree that William really wanted. Three times William climbed up the tree to grab it, and three times he fell all the way to the ground without it. And the third time he fell, he broke his leg!

William's leg was bandaged and he was sent to bed for a long time. But even a broken leg wasn't enough to stop William. "I've just got to get that nest!" William thought. So he sneaked out of bed and up that tree again --broken leg and all—and got the nest!

William's mother couldn't believe her eyes when she saw that nest. "William, you don't mean to tell me that you climbed that tree again!" she exclaimed.

"But mother, I just had to get it," When I begin a thing I must go through with it!" William replied.

William was a very quick learner. He did really well in school, especially in learning foreign languages. One day, he decided to learn French. He bought a French book and learned it all in just three weeks!

When he was seventeen and began to learn how to be a cobbler—a man who makes shoes by hand. Soon, he

became best at this, too. The cobbler he worked for even kept a pair of shoes William made to show everyone what a perfect pair of shoes should look. These were just a few of the things William was good at! There seemed to be nothing that William couldn't learn and do better than everyone else!

But there was something that William couldn't do well. It was knowing and loving the Lord. He had never heard the good news of Jesus. And, to make matters worse, he was so full of pride in himself that there was little room for loving God.

But God, in His great mercy, had other plans for William and that heart of his. Another young man named John Warr came to learn to be a cobbler along side William. John knew and loved the God. He shared the good news of Jesus with William.

At first William's proud heart refused to believe. But the Lord kept on working inside him, helping him to confess his pride and trust in Jesus as his Savior.

When William loved something, he tried to love it with all his heart, mind, soul and strength and that how he began to try to love God. "What can I do to know and love God better?" William thought as he worked on shoes. "I can learn the whole Bible; I can even learn to read it in Hebrew and Greek, the languages that it was first written in. That's what I will do!"

And so he did. William studied hard to learn the Bible as well as Hebrew and Greek. He shared what he learned his cobbler boss and all shoe customers so they could also know and love God more.

This made William happy, but soon even this wasn't enough. William wanted to do more to love God and help others love Him, too.

"It is not enough to just be a cobbler and help others learn about God in little bits here and there," William decided. "I want to be a preacher so I can study God's Word and help others love God all the time."

So William became a preacher; and, just as he hoped, many began to come to his little church and their lives were changed as they heard the Word of God.

But even being a preacher in England didn't satisfy William. "It's not enough to just preach to people here in England," he decided. "There are lots of other good preachers here to teach people how to know and love God. But there are millions of people in other parts of the

world who live and die without ever hearing about Jesus. They need to know and love Him, too. Jesus told us to go into all the world and tell them about Him. Isn't that command for me, too?" William thought.

So William gathered a group of men and women to pray and think about how to reach all those other peoples who didn't know about Jesus, especially the people in India.

"We want you, your family and your friend Dr. Thomas to go to India, William" the others told him. "We will send you out with our prayers and with money."

William, his family and Dr. Thomas agreed. They set sail and five months later arrived in Calcutta, India. As they walked the streets of the huge city, they were so upset with what they saw. There were so many starving people! There were so many idols! And oh, some of the terrible things people thought they needed to do to please these gods! Some men thought they should lay on beds of nails, walk on fiery hot coals, or at the sun until they lost their sight for these gods. Some people even threw their babies into the Ganges River as sacrifices, hoping that all these things would please them. Still others believed women should be put to death with their dead husbands to go serve them in the next world.

Oh, how these people needed to hear about the Lord, the one, true God, and of the salvation He offered them through Jesus! Oh, how they needed a Bible in their languages so they could learn about Him, themselves!

"This is horrible! Something must be done! What can we do to help them?" William and the others exclaimed.

William loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength. He would use everything God had given him to help these people live better lives and to bring them the good news of Jesus, so they might know and love God, too.

So William used all he learned about nature to teach the Indian people to grow better crops. He built a paper factory to make paper, and a printing company to print books—especially Bibles. He used all his mind to learn forty different languages of India and write the Bible so that people could read it in their own language.

Before William died, more than 200,000 Bible had been printed and given out to the people. He built schools so that the people could learn how to read and be able to read the Bible on their own. He helped set up the first trains in India so that people could travel all over India and tell others about Jesus more easily. He even helped pass

laws to stop babies being sacrificed to idols and women being put to death along with their dead husbands.

William Carey loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength and shared that love with the people of India forty-one years. Because of him, many, many people came to hear about this wonderful God of William's and turned to know and love Him, themselves.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

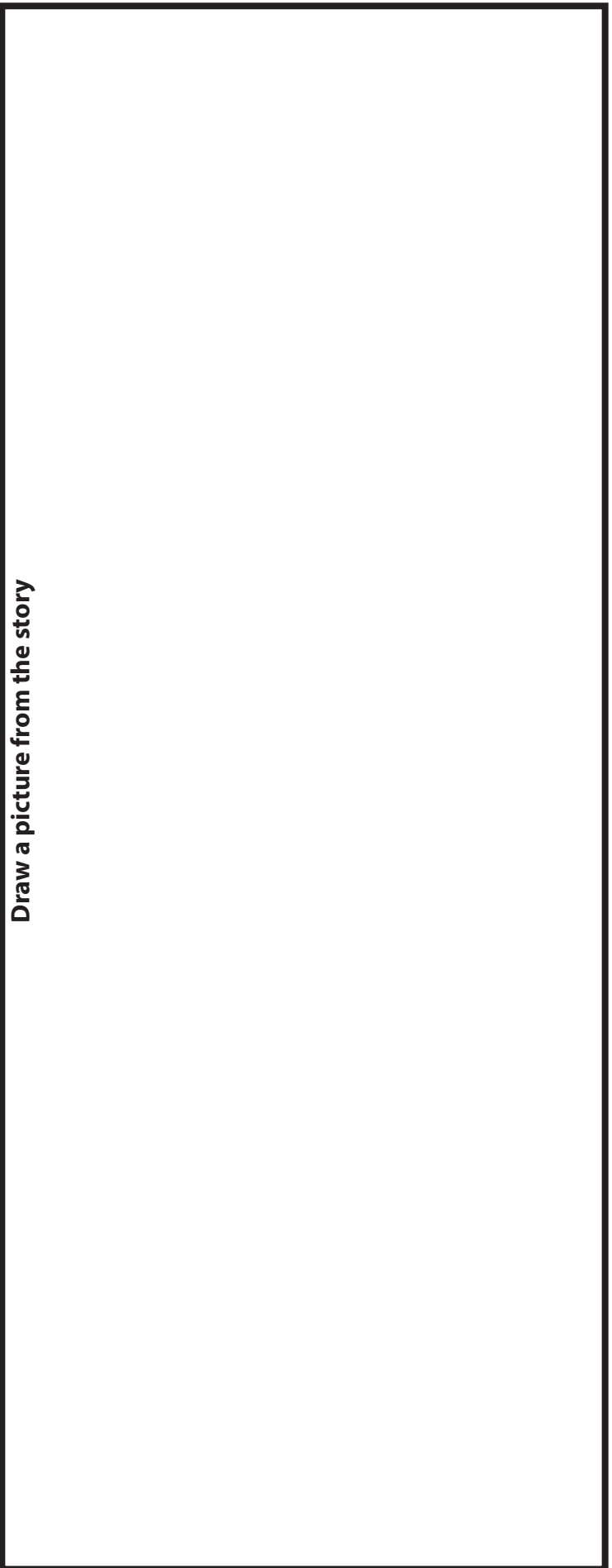
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

William Carey tried to love God with all of himself. He understood what an incredible gift God gave His people by giving up His Son as the sacrifice to pay for their sins. He wanted to use his whole life to love the Lord and say thank you for what He had done.

William Carey is most famous for saying, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." That means, have faith in our powerful God to do mighty things and show your love for God by trying to do great things for Him.

What about you and me? What can we do to know and love God more? What can we do to help others know and love God more? Perhaps we are not as smart or able to do so many things as William Carey was. But, if we think each day about loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength like William Carey did, the Lord will use us to do the great things He has planned for us to do. Let's praise this great God who is worthy of all our love. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us love Him with all of ourselves and even to attempt great things for Him.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: It's very easy for God's people to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. He's forgiven their sins. There's nothing left get in the way. <i>Answer: False! Yes. He has forgiven their sins, but they are still sinners. The temptation to sin is still very strong. They need the Holy Spirit to help them to love God most of all.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Lively-Learning Lad? How was he lively in his learning? <i>Answer: William Carey. He was a very quick learner. He loved to learn about everything, especially animals and languages.</i></p> <p>b. Who did he use his learning for later? What did he want to use it to do? <i>Answer: William later used his gifts as a quick learner for the Lord's work. He wanted to love the Lord with everything he did. He learned the Bible, languages and many other things. He went to India and used all his gifts to love God. He told the people about Jesus. He wrote down the Bible in their language. He helped do good things for the people that would make their lives better and give them more chances to turn to Jesus to be saved.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O ____: The LORD our God, the LORD is _____. Love the LORD our God with all your ____ and with all your soul and with all your _____." <i>Answers: Israel; one; heart; strength.</i></p>	<p>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 8</i></p> <p>Verse 4</p> <p>Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.</p> <p>Words: Isaac Watts Music: Lowell Mason</p> <p>God's people want to love God most of all. They want everything that they are and they have to be a gift of love back to Him. Even if the whole realm of nature--that is, the whole world--was theirs to have and to give, it would be too small a gift of love to give back to Him for all He has done for them. He loved them while they were still sinners. He loved them enough to send His own dear Son to suffer and die for their sins. Nothing less than their soul, their life, their all, is a big enough present to offer back to Him in thanks!</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 Changer of Your people's hearts so that they are filled with love for You and want to give their whole lives to serve You, even in very hard places.</p> <p>C God, we confess that even though we have heard the good news of Jesus, we often to do seek to love You with all of ourselves like William Carey did.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your Holy Spirit that You put in Your people's hearts to give them love for You.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit, that we might love You with all of ourselves.</p>	<p>Hear, O Hear <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9</i></p> <p>Hear, O hear, O Israel, Hear, O hear, O Israel, The LORD your God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart, Love the LORD our God with all your soul, Love the LORD our God with all your strength. Deuteronomy Six, verses four through five.</p> <p>Words adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He's the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for all who want to be God's people. He wants His people to love Him with their heart, soul and strength--that means all of themselves.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

CASE STORY

Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7; Daniel 1,6

**Our story is: The Case of the Man Who Lived "No."
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the man? What did he say "no" to?
2. Why did he say "no"? Who did he love?

This story takes place in Old Testament times during the times of the last kings of Judah, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Rest and riches. That's what life in Jerusalem was like during King Jehoiakim's day. And why not? Seated high upon Mount Zion, surrounded by thick, tall walls what enemy could touch Jerusalem? And if that wasn't enough, there was Baal, to protect them. The king, as well as most of the people of Jerusalem sacrificed to him in those days. Everyone knew this mighty god of rain was the one who gave them all the rest and riches they enjoyed, right?

Wrong! The LORD, not Baal, was the giver of the good things the people of Jerusalem enjoyed! They should have been taking their worship gifts to Him, not Baal. Yet all but a few still worshiped the LORD. One of these was a young man named Daniel.

Daniel was from one of the most important families in Jerusalem. He was handsome, rich, and very smart. He served in King Jehoiakim's palace. It would have been easy to worship Baal like the king and the others did, but Daniel never forgot the LORD. Every morning, noon and night, he would face the LORD's Temple and say the words of the Shema, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength," as the LORD's faithful followers had for years. "How can I love you today, LORD?" is how we might say it. But either way, every word was the prayer of Daniel's heart. He truly longed to live out his love for God with all of himself, every day.

The rest and riches of King Jehoiakim was soon to end. The Lord had warned the king through the prophet Jeremiah that unless he and the people stopped worshiping Baal and turned back to Him, that He would send the mighty chariots, the fierce horsemen of Babylon to destroy Jehoiakim and all Jerusalem with him. Jehoiakim refused to listen and King Nebuchadnezzar and his mighty army attacked and destroyed Jerusalem.

They stripped the Temple of all its gold, killed many

people and then took King Jehoiakim and more than 3000 of those who remained alive from the finest families of Jerusalem as captives—including Daniel.

Every morning, every noon, every evening, no matter where Daniel was he remembered to pray “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength’ How can I love You today, LORD? How can I love you even chained like a slave and forced to walk all the way to Babylon. I’ve lost my home, my family, my beautiful things, everything that I’ve ever known.”

Maybe Daniel remembered what the prophet Jeremiah had told them to do: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.” Jeremiah 17:7 It may take all of his heart, mind, soul and strength to do it, but even on that terrible day as he walked in chains to Babylon, the young man could love the LORD by trusting Him.

After the long, six hundred mile journey across wilderness, the long line of captives came to Babylon. It was a magnificent city with a gigantic temple and ziggurat tower dedicated to the god Marduk with its gigantic temple and ziggurat tower rising hundreds of feet in the air from the middle of the city.

“Ashpenaz, bring in the best of the captured men from Judah,” Nebuchadnezzar ordered his chief court official. “I want only the smartest, best educated, handsomest and strongest young men from the captives. Take them and train them for service in my kingdom.”

“Yes, sire,” Ashpenaz responded. Ashpenaz searched through the captives and handpicked the young men who fit the King’s requirements. And who was among them, but none other than Daniel.

“Congratulations, young men of Judah,” Ashpenaz welcomed the men. “You have been especially chosen to be prepared for the service before the great King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. By his orders you are all to receive a special three-year training to learn to speak Babylonian and learn all about the Babylonian customs, literature and gods. You will get to eat the best of food right from the King’s table. When the three years are up, you will serve before the King in his lavish palace as his advisers.”

What should Daniel do? “These people worshiped terrible idols like Marduk, Anu and Enlil. Was he really supposed to learn about them? How could he be an adviser who is supposed to seek these idols and even do magic,

yet still be loving the LORD? The king ate horse, pig and all sorts of other animals the LORD told them not to eat. How can he do that and still love the LORD?” Daniel wondered.

What was it that the LORD had told the captives to do through the prophet Jeremiah? “Seek the peace and prosperity of Babylon when I send you into exile there,” he had told them. “Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

“I will love the LORD by not eating the meat, but I will also love Him with all my heart, mind, soul and strength by doing my very best to serve the Babylonians. I will consult the LORD, not their gods or use magic for advise. I will trust that this is what He wants me to do,” Daniel decided.

Daniel did just that: he studied hard and the LORD blessed him. He helped him to understand everything he was supposed to learn. The LORD even gave him a special gift that the advisers wanted most of all: the gift of understanding dreams.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so pleased with Daniel that he made him chief adviser over all—even the advisers from Babylon. For sixty-six long years, Daniel served first King Nebuchadnezzar, then King Darius after him, but never did he forget to love the LORD. Now he was an old man, but still every morning, noon and evening, he would get up and face east, towards where the Temple had been, and say the words of the Shema. “How can I love You today, LORD?”

Daniel’s love for the LORD pleased the LORD, but it angered the king’s other advisers. They wanted to get rid of Daniel and decided to use Daniel’s love for the LORD to do it.

“King Darius, you should be honored most of all. Make a law that everyone should worship only you for the next thirty days or else be thrown to the lions,” they suggested.

The king was pleased and agreed to the idea. The advisers waited and watched for what Daniel would do. To their pleasure, he did exactly what they hoped: he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem and prayed three times a day, giving thanks to the LORD, his God, as usual. Daniel knew these prayers might lead to his death, but if this was how the LORD wanted him to love Him this day, then so be it.

Before long, Daniel had been arrested and thrown to the lions. The king was distressed at what had happened to his chief adviser, but could not break his own law. “May your

God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" the king said to Daniel as a stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the hole. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so show this was a law that couldn't be broken. Then he returned to his palace and spent the night doing nothing but worry about Daniel.

At sunrise, the king got up and hurried to the hole with the hungry lions. "Daniel, servant of the living God, whom you always serve, has your God saved you?" he called out.

"O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions," Daniel answered.

The king was overjoyed! "Lift Daniel out of the lions' pit!" he ordered. And sure enough, there was Daniel completely safe without even a single scratch mark on him! He had loved His God and His God had rescued him!

Then King Darius wrote out a new law for all to obey: "Everyone in my kingdom must worship the LORD, for he is the living God and the great king who rules forever. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has even rescued Daniel from the lions."

So Daniel lived well during the rest of reign of King Darius and King Cyrus after him. And he kept on loving the LORD his God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength every day of his life.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

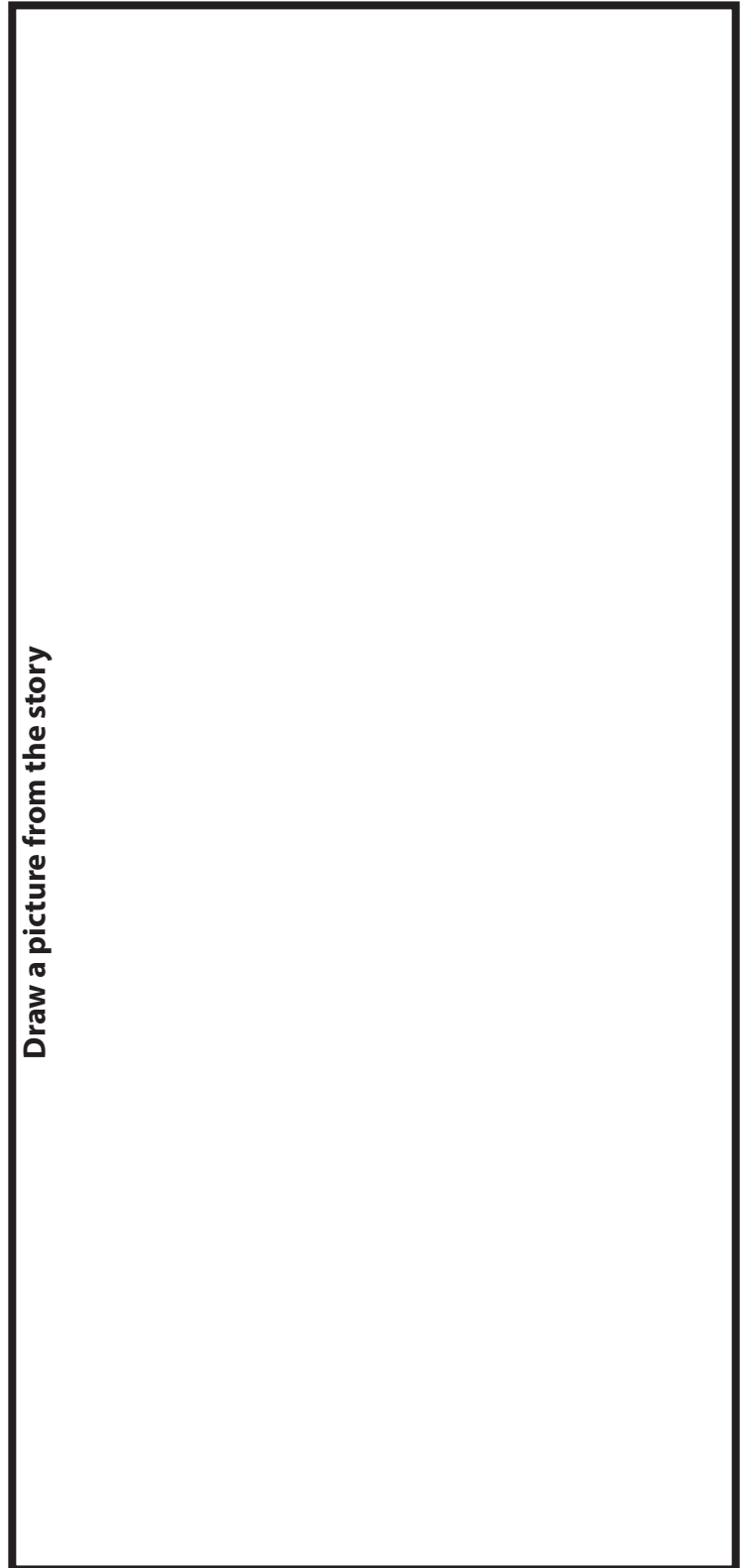
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Even though Daniel lived six hundred years before Jesus, he knew God's promises to send a Messiah to save His people, and looked forward in faith to that day. Daniel truly did try to love the LORD his God every day of his life, no matter how difficult it was.

Daniel loved the LORD like that without ever even knowing how Jesus would choose to die on the cross for the sins of God's people! How much more should we, who know the good news of Jesus in full. Don't we have even more reason to love the LORD with all of ourselves? How can we do this? By turning from our sins and trusting Jesus as our own Savior. By asking God's Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more and more love for God. Every

moment of every day is a chance to love Him in everything we think, feel, say and do. Like Daniel, we can ask Him to show us how to love Him and ask Him to help us to.

Let's praise this God who is worthy of all our love. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength each day, in everything we do.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The Holy Spirit lives inside God’s people, helping them love God more and more. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the man? What did he say “no” to? Answer: Daniel. He said no to do anything that would be worshipping anyone but the LORD.</p> <p>b. Why did he say “no”? Who did he love? Answer: He knew the LORD was the one, true God. He loved the LORD. He wanted everything he did to show the love he had for Him. He would rather die than stop worshipping and loving the LORD.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our ____, the LORD is one. ____ the LORD our God with ____ your heart and with all your soul and with all ____ strength.” Answers: God; love; all; your.</p>	<p>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 8</i></p> <p>Verse 4</p> <p>Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.</p> <p>Words: Isaac Watts Music: Lowell Mason</p> <p>God’s people want to love God most of all. They want everything that they are and they have to be a gift of love back to Him. Even if the whole realm of nature--that is, the whole world--was theirs to have and to give, it would be too small a gift of love to give back to Him for all He has done for them. He loved them while they were still sinners. He loved them enough to send His own dear Son to suffer and die for their sins. Nothing less than their soul, their life, their all, is a big enough present to offer back to Him in thanks!</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 one true God, alone worthy of our worship.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we too many times we choose to not love You when things are hard. We want to please and protect ourselves, instead of pleasing and depending upon You. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for giving Your people the courage to live for You and to love You, even when it is very hard.</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 so that we would love and live for You, even when it is very hard.</p>	<p>Hear, O Hear <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9</i></p> <p>Hear, O hear, O Israel, Hear, O hear, O Israel, The LORD your God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart, Love the LORD our God with all your soul, Love the LORD our God with all your strength. Deuteronomy Six, verses four through five.</p> <p>Words adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He’s the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for all who want to be God’s people. He wants His people to love Him with their heart, soul and strength-that means all of themselves.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

God's People Love Others

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

CASE STORY

Matthew 18:21-35

Our story is called:

The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply.

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

1. To multiply means to make something get a lot bigger, just like in math we multiply numbers together to get big numbers quickly. Who was the Man who needed to multiply? What did he need to multiply?
2. Who told him to multiply? How many times? Why was this so important?

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

Capernaum: an important fishing town on the north side of the great Sea of Galilee that was the hometown of Jesus' three closest disciples, Peter, James and John.

Walking, teaching, and healing. That's what Jesus had been doing for the past six months, His disciples following along. Not only around their hometown, Capernaum, but far to the north in the foreign lands of Tyre, Sidon, and Caesarea Philippi. It was spring when they left. Now it was autumn and surely it felt good to be home!

The desert winds of September swept down the hills and across the Sea of Galilee, ripening the dates, figs, pomegranates, and juicy clusters of grapes. Harvest time! It was a wonderful time of year!

But while the autumn air was full of dry, desert heat, there was perhaps something more like a chill in the heart of Peter that day. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about what to do when someone sins against you and Jesus' words stirred up something inside of Peter.

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?" Peter asked Jesus. Was Peter's question just a question of a curiosity or was it more? Had someone--maybe even one of the other disciples--wronged Peter so many times that he didn't want to forgive them? We don't know. But whatever the reason for the question, Peter wanted to know Jesus' answer.

"Lord, the rabbis (Jewish teachers) say that after forgiving someone three times for the same thing, you don't have to forgive them any more. What do you say? Would seven times be enough?" Peter asked Jesus.

"Seven times! Far from that!" Jesus answered, "Seventy-seven times would be more like it! There should never be an end to how much you forgive someone!"

Jesus could see that Peter still had so much to learn about love. God's love was a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs. A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they have sinned against Him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart. And God's people were to love each other like this, too.

"Let me tell you a story about the kingdom of heaven, Peter. What life looks like when people love God's way," Jesus told him.

"Once there was a king," Jesus began, "who had servants who collected tax money for him. From time to time he would call them in and have his bookkeepers check that they had really collected and turned in the money for him that they were supposed to. As each of the servants' records were checked, it was found that one of the servants had failed to give him millions of dollars that he had collected.

"Bring this thief to me!" the king ordered.

Soon the servant was dragged in, and stood trembling before the king. He knew he had done terribly wrong and deserved a terrible punishment," Jesus told.

"Where are the millions of dollars you collected for me?" the king demanded. "You must pay me back! Guards, go to this man's house, take everything he has and sell it. Then take this man—even his wife and children—and have them all thrown in jail! Keep them there until all of his debt to me has been paid off or until the day they die!" he ordered.

The servant fell to his knees before the king and said. "O king, be patient with me. I will pay back everything I owe you, just give me time."

The king knew this was impossible. This servant could work every day of his life and still not pay back all the money. But this king was a loving king. He had a patient, enduring kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs; love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart. So he said to the servant, "You deserve punishment, but I have decided to forgive you. You never have to pay me back the money you owe me. You and your family don't have to go to jail. You don't even have to sell your things. You are completely forgiven. Now

go. Your debt is canceled," he told the man.

The tax collector could hardly believe his ears. Could it really be that the king would forgive so large a debt as his? What king had ever acted so mercifully as this! "Thank you, thank you, sire," the grateful servant said. and left the king's throne room rejoicing.

Yet hardly had that servant left the presence of the king when he ran into another servant who owed him some money. "Hey, you! I've been looking for you! Do you remember those thousands of dollars I loaned you? It's long past time that you pay me back. Give it to me, now!" the servant demanded as he grabbed the other man by the neck and began to choke him.

"I can't! I don't have it yet!" the servant fell to his knees and pleaded. "Please be patient with me. I will pay you back as soon as I can. I promise."

Hadn't these been the very words the servant had spoken to the king? He had asked the king for patience and the king had shown him mercy and forgiven his debt.

Would this man remember to be like his king who had treated him so lovingly? Would he have a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others? A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs? A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him, that forgave others completely, from the heart?

No, he would not! The king had just forgiven him that huge sum of money; yet all that greedy, selfish man could think about was the much smaller amount of money that this servant had not paid him.

"Why should I show you mercy? You will get what you deserve for how you've treated me. The money is due now and you can't pay it. You know the punishment. It's off to prison for you. And there you will stay until you can pay me back every bit that you owe me. Guards, throw this man in jail!" And so they did.

News of what happened reached the king and he was furious! Once more, the king's men dragged this servant before the king, but things didn't turn out as they had the first time.

"You wicked servant," the king said. "I canceled your huge debt because you begged me to. How could you forget that? You should have shown mercy on your fellow servant for the little debt he owed you!"

'Guards, take this man to the prison. He is to be punished

and left in prison until he has paid back every penny he owes me!’ The guards grabbed the tax collector and carried him away.”

As Jesus finished the story, He looked at Peter and said, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Now Peter could see. Like the first servant, we have a huge debt that we each owe to God, our great King. It is even worse than a huge debt of money: it is a huge debt of sin. And it is a debt so big that we can never pay it off. As a punishment for our sins against God, we deserve a punishment even worse than being thrown into jail with our families and having all of our things sold. We deserve to receive eternal punishment in hell.

Yet God, like the king in the story, has chosen to treat all who confess their sins to Him with love and forgiveness. He calls His people to be like Him, loving others far better than they could ever deserve.

“If I don’t keep forgiving someone who wrongs me, then I am being just like that wicked servant!” Peter thought. “God has forgiven me my sins, Now I must love others the same way that God has loved me: with unending mercy and patience, kindness and forgiveness, even if they treat me badly over and over.” Peter understood Jesus’ lesson. Now he would need to go and live it out.

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Love Others

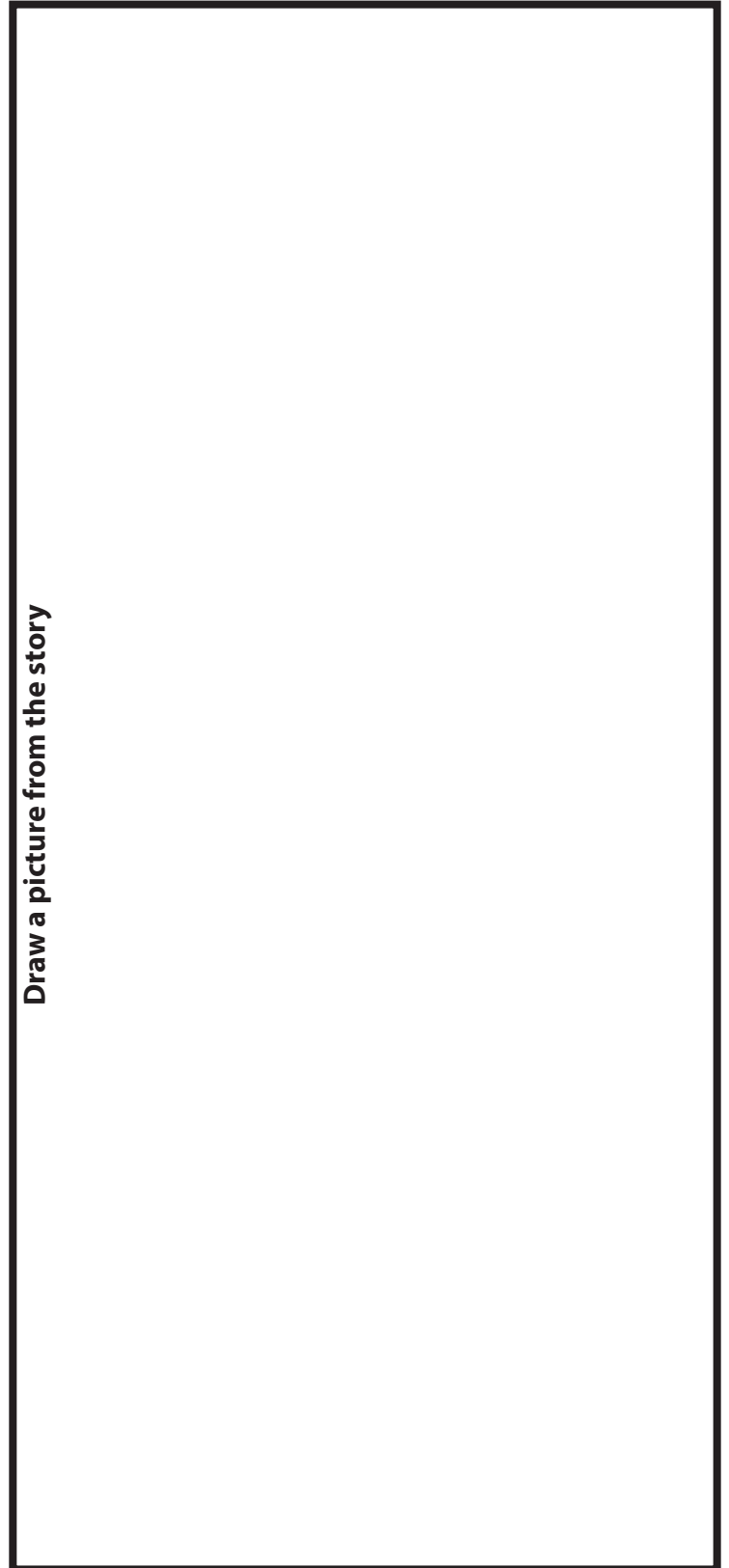
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

What about you and me? Can we ever love God with all of ourselves? Never on our own! There is only one way we can even begin to love God as He calls us to: by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will give us a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He will work powerfully in our hearts, helping us to love Him more and more.

But what a wonderful day it will be when God’s people live together with God in heaven. For then, they will be completely changed and will truly love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength forever.

Let’s praise God for sending Jesus to save sinners like us and like Peter. Let’s praise Him for promising to send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of His people, helping them to love God as He wants them to. And let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we might love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God only is loving towards His people.

Answer: False! God is loving in so many ways to all people, even His enemies. But, He does have a special love for His people.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. To multiply means to make something get a lot bigger, just like in math we multiply numbers together to get big numbers quickly. Who was the Man who needed to multiply? What did he need to multiply?

Answer: Peter. He was to multiply (greatly increase) the number of times he forgave someone who wronged him.

b. Who told him to multiply? How many times? Why was this so important?

Answer: Jesus told Peter to forgive someone seventy-seven times, not just seven. He meant to not stop forgiving someone. He said that we need to forgive others, if we want God to forgive us.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is _____. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not _____, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always _____, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never _____."

Answers: patient; self-seeking; patient; fails.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so merciful to sinful people. We praise You for being the Forgiver of Your people's sins.

C God, we confess that like the first tax collector in the story, we often do not forgive others as You want us to. We all need a Savior! We need You to help us forgive, too!

T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can receive Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live in Your people's hearts so that they can forgive others as You want them to.

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 help us to forgive others as You want us to.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred
minds,
Is like to that above.

Verse 2

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent pray'rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for
each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be
joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Refrain:

Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds,
Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds.

Words: John Fawcett. Refrain & Music: Constance Dever

Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God's people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. God's people are to love everyone, but they have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God's family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God's family here on earth. It is a little taste of the perfect fellowship and love they will know up above in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Love Is Patient

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11

Love is patient, love is kind,
Love doesn't envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, it always trusts and hopes,
It always perseveres.

Love never fails, love never fails,
love never fails, love never fails!
First Corinthians Thirteen, four through eight.

Words adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Constance Dever © 2011

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

God's People Love Others

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Needy Newborn.

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

1. Who was the Needy Newborn? What did she need? Why?
2. How did God give the Newborn what she needed? How did He use His people to give her this?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in the 1950's in England and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Africa.

A young woman named Helen sat in her little room with piles of thick school books spread out around her. She sighed as she thought of all the facts she needed to learn. "I always knew I wasn't especially smart, but I didn't think it would be this hard to learn medicine! How will I ever get through all of this?!" she thought to herself. Another thought broke through her discouragement: "If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." That's what C.T. Studd, the famous missionary to Africa said, years before," Helen remembered. "I would give up this medicine if it were just for me, but now that I've become a Christian, I know that I'm doing this for Jesus. He will help me keep going; and one day, perhaps he will use me as a doctor to love others and tell them about Him," she hoped. So Helen kept on studying.

After lots of hard work, Helen finally finished medical school and became Dr. Helen. Dr. Helen began to think more and more about how she might use medicine to love people and tell them about Jesus. "I love England. It has always been my home," Helen thought. "But there are so many people in other parts of the world who don't even know about Jesus or have doctors to heal their sicknesses. Maybe I should go help them."

Once more, C.T. Studd's words came back to her. "If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." "Jesus loved people so much that He was willing to leave His perfect home in heaven to come to earth to be their Savior. Why shouldn't I be willing to leave my beautiful home in England to help people in another part of the world and tell them about Jesus?" she thought. So it was decided. Dr. Helen would be a missionary doctor.

south to what is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo. She traveled far into the jungly forests to a place where there was no doctor or hospital. Together with the Africans first she made a "hospital" hut out of branches and wood. Then she made bricks out of clay, hardened them in a kiln (outdoor oven fueled by fire), and then laid them brick by brick and built a proper hospital building.

"Why would this white woman come from far away and take care of our sick people and even help build with her own hands this hospital?" the people wondered.

"If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him," was Dr. Helen's answer. "Jesus wants me to love others as He has loved me--even build bricks out of mud to show His love to you."

Soon, hundreds of sick people came from miles around to Dr. Helen's little hospital to get help. Dr. Helen took care of everything snakebites to malaria to birthing babies.

Sometimes sick parents died and the children were left with no one to take care of them. "Look at these poor children without parents!" Dr. Helen thought. "I have so much to do taking care of this hospital, how could I possibly have time to take care of them, too?" "What were C.T. Studd's words? 'If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.' Jesus was even busier than I was, yet He took time to love the children. I must love them, too," she decided. "We will build a special house for these children to live right here near the hospital. We will take care of them and we will tell them about Jesus." So Dr. Helen and the Africans worked together to make a special house for the children.

One sad night, a woman died leaving a little tiny baby who had been too born early (premature) and her little two-year-old sister. The baby was so tiny that it needed special machines that Dr. Helen's little hospital in the jungle didn't have.

"There's not much we can do," Dr. Helen told her helpers. "The night air is so cold and we don't even have heat. This baby will die if it gets cold. Wrap up the baby best you can and fill up the hot water bottle with water and put it in with the baby," she said.

While one helper wrapped up the baby, another one went to fill the hot water bottle. But, as the helper went to fill it up, the bottle broke!

"That was our last hot water bottle! What can we do now, Dr. Helen?" they exclaimed.

"This is very serious. That baby will die if it's not warm enough," Dr. Helen admitted. "I know! Go build up the fire in the fireplace and place the baby next to you on the floor as close to the fire as you dare. Your body will block the wind from getting to the baby and giving it a chill," she told them.

This was a lot to ask of a helper. Can you imagine sleeping on a hard, dirt floor all night with a cold wind hitting your back? Can you imagine trying to stay awake, keeping the fire going and watching the baby to make sure it's doing ok? Why would the helper do this? Because this helper loved Jesus, too, just like Dr. Helen. Wasn't what this what Jesus had done for us? 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have trees, yet the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.' (Matthew 8:20)

"When Jesus lived on earth, He spent many nights sleeping on the ground as he traveling from town to town to tell people how they could be saved. He wants me to love people the way He did. Surely I can sleep on this hard floor for one night for this baby," thought the helper.

The helper's love was well rewarded, for the next day the baby was still alive. Dr. Helen went to the children who lived in the special house and told them everything that had happened with the mother and the little baby and the little two year old girl.

"There is something we can do to love that baby, too," she told them. "When Jesus was on earth, He spent many hours praying for people because He loved them. Sometimes He even stayed up all night just to pray. He wants us to love people the way He did. did. Let's pray that God will keep the baby alive, even though we have no hot water bottle," she urged them.

The children gathered around Dr. Helen and they began to pray. One little girl named Ruth prayed, "Please, God, send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, the baby will be dead; so, please send it this afternoon...and while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?" she asked.

Dr. Helen hardly knew what to think. Would God really answer this prayer? There were no stores to buy dolls or water bottles! They were in the middle of a jungle! The only way for a water bottle and dolly to come would be by a package that came from England...and no one from England had even sent them a package of any kind for months! What was worse, it took five whole months for

packages to get from England to them. God would have needed to answer that prayer five months earlier, before there was even a little baby or a little girl. But Ruth didn't think of that. She was only thinking about how to love those little children as God had loved her.

Yet what should be delivered to the little village that afternoon, but a large cardboard box addressed to Dr. Helen from England. Dr. Helen gathered the children around her and excitedly opened the box. She pulled out.....brightly colored sweaters for the children. Then.....boxes of raisins.....then....what was this? Could it really be? Yes, it was! Dr. Helen grasped it and pulled it out. "The hot water bottle!" she exclaimed.

Ruth now rushed up to the box and said, "Dr. Helen, if the bottle was there, then the dolly must be there, too!" She reached her arm down in the box and burst out in a smile as she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. "Dr. Helen, can I please go over with you, and give this dolly to the little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

"Yes, Ruth, of course you can," Dr. Helen told her.

Ruth hurried away to give the dolly to the little girl. For her, this dolly was just the beginning of how she planned to love that little girl as Jesus had loved her.

Our Bible Truth is:

Bible Truth: God's People Love Others

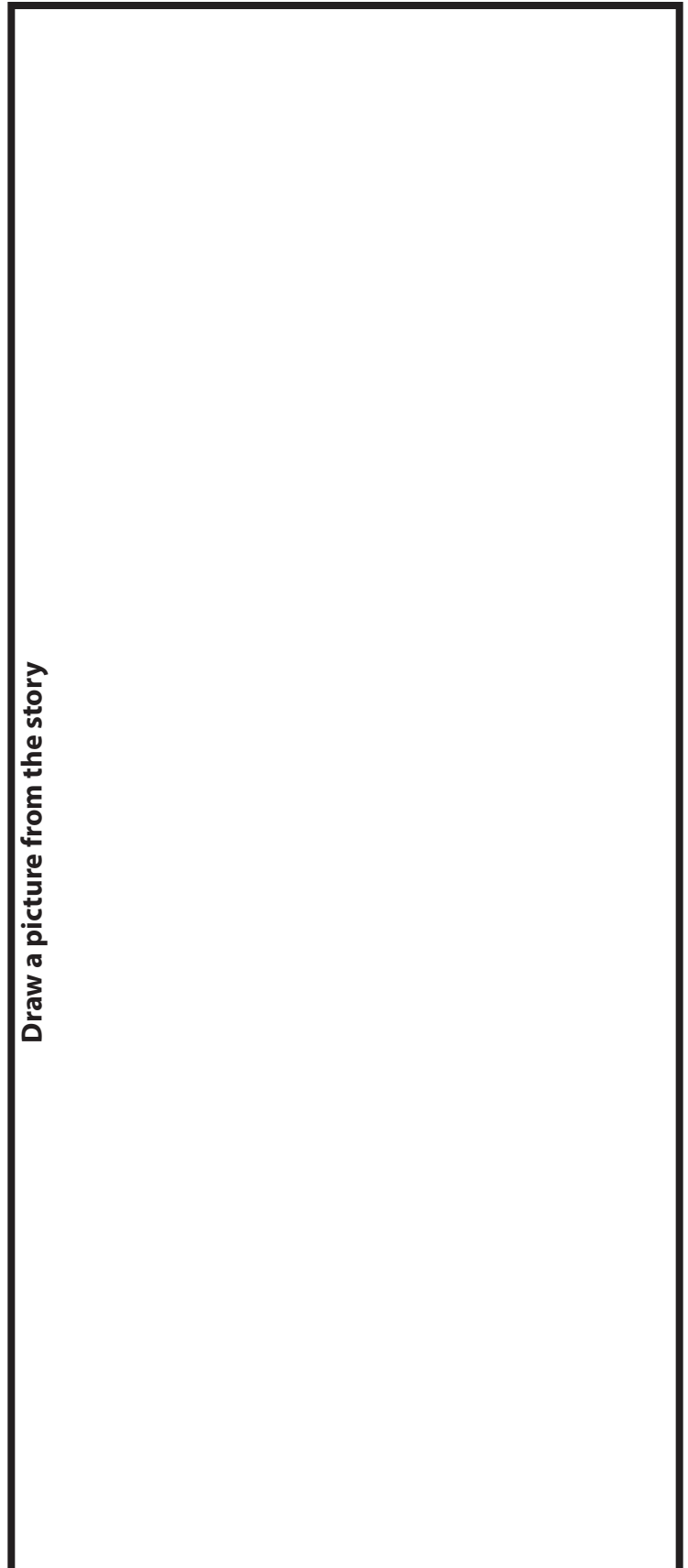
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

We saw today in our story how Dr. Helen, the helpers, and the children loved others the way that Jesus had loved them. But what about you and me? Did you know that the Bible talks about good works that God has prepared in advance for His people to do? Every single one of those good works that God has prepared for His people have to do with loving God by loving others as He loved them. It's God's promise to all who turn and confess their sins to him and trust in Him for forgiveness, that He will have good works of loving others for them to do.

Let's praise this amazing God who has planned good works of loving others for His people to do. Let's ask Him

to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to give us good works prepared for us to do, help us to see what they are and rejoice in doing them. Then He will be using us to love others as He has loved us.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God wants His people to treat people, even their enemies, in the same loving way as He does.

Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Needy Newborn? What did she need? Why?

Answer: A little baby girl who was born too early and who had no parents anymore. She would easily die if she was not taken care of carefully and kept very warm.

b. How did God give the Newborn what she needed? How did He use His people to give her this?

Answer: He kept her alive. He sent the water bottle from England and timed it to get to Africa at just the right time. He used the love of His people to pray and care for her.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not ____, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily ____, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the ____. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love ____ fails."

Answers: boast; angered; truth; never.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being All-knowing and the Perfect Planner of All Things.

C God, we confess that like Dr. Helen, many times we do not have the faith to believe that You can do incredible things when we ask for them. We forget how great You are and that You are able to do more than we can imagine.

T God, we thank You for preparing good works for Your people to do, wonderful good works, like those that Dr. Helen and Ruth did.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Prepare good works for us to do, help us to see what they are, and help us rejoice in doing them.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred
minds,
Is like to that above.

Verse 2

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent pray'rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for
each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be
joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Refrain:

Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds,
Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds.

Words: John Fawcett. *Refrain & Music:* Constance Dever

Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God's people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. God's people are to love everyone, but they have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God's family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God's family here on earth. It is a little taste of the perfect fellowship and love they will know up above in heaven one day.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Love Is Patient

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11

Love is patient, love is kind,
Love doesn't envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, it always trusts and hopes,
It always perseveres.

Love never fails, love never fails,
love never fails, love never fails!
First Corinthians Thirteen, four through eight.

Words adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Constance Dever © 2011

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 3:
God's People Love Others**

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

CASE STORY

1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9

Our story is: The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail.

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

1. Who was the Friend Who Didn't Fail? Who did he love so well?
2. What was so selfless about his love for his friend? Who helped him love this way?

This story takes place in Old Testament times in the days of the first kings of Israel, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

King Saul and the Israelite army looked in fear across the Valley of Elah. There on the other side stood the fierce Philistine army. Armed with iron swords and led by giant 9 1/2 foot Goliath, the Israelites knew their little swords of wood and stone were hardly a match. Only King Saul and his son, Jonathan had iron swords, yet they were too afraid to face the Philistines, too. Things looked hopeless, were it not for a young man named David. He trusted in the LORD to give them the victory. With a single stone, David struck Goliath in the head and killed him. The Philistines fled in terror. Israel was saved from its enemy once more.

General Abner presented David presented before King Saul. "For your bravery and skill in battle I am making you one of my soldiers," Saul told David.

Prince Jonathan stood to the side, as Saul honored David. It would be easy to be envious of David. The soldiers used to talk about Jonathan's great deeds in battle--or King Saul's--but now they only talked about David's. And here was his father was honoring him!

But Jonathan wasn't envious, he loved David for his faith in God and the great things God did through him.

"Let's make covenant of unfailing friendship," Jonathan said to David. "Let's promise to always love each other."

David agreed. To seal the covenant, Jonathan took off the special belt and tunic of his war uniform and gave them to David. He handed his very own bow and his priceless, Philistine-made, iron sword and to him, too. Then, he took off his exquisite robe--made only for the Crown Prince of Israel—and put it on David. David humbly received these priceless gifts and swore his friendship to Jonathan.

King Saul was quick to use his new soldier in battle. Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it. David became famous. As the men marched back home from their battles with the Philistines, women came out from each

town to meet King Saul and his men with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

Jonathan was happy to see how God blessed David, but not King Saul. He was envious and angry. He wanted the people think he was the greatest. "The people love David more than me. They think he's a better soldier, too," Saul thought angrily. "Before long they will want him to be king instead of me."

As the LORD gave David more victories over their enemies, King Saul's hate grew. He must get rid of David! Twice he threw his spear at David and barely missed him. Then he had soldiers sneak up on David in bed to kill him, but David found out about his plan and fled.

Later, David snuck back to King Saul's palace to see Prince Jonathan. "Jonathan, your father has tried to kill me four times now, and I don't even know what I've done to make him mad! I need your help!" he exclaimed.

"What are you talking about?" Jonathan answered in surprise. "My father tells me everything! He hasn't said anything about wanting to kill you."

"Your father saw us make our friendship covenant after the battle with Goliath and the Philistines. He knows not to tell you about his plans to kill me. He knows that you love me and would faithfully protect me from harm," David answered. "Jonathan, swear to me, as my covenant friend that you will find out if your father still plans to kill me."

"David, you know that I love you as much as I love myself. By the LORD, the God of Israel, I promise to find out my father's plans in the next two days! If he speaks favorably of you, I will let you know. If not, I promise to send you safely away," Jonathan promised "David, I know you will be the next king--not me--and I'm happy about that. May the LORD will be with you as He has been with my father. There will be a day when as king you will have the power to kill me and my family along with all your enemies," Jonathan told David. "Please renew your covenant with me again. Promise that you will never stop loving me or showing kindness to my family, even after you become king," he asked.

"Go and hide, David. Meet me in the field by the stone Ezel in two days. I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, then I will send my servant boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,'

that is my signal to you that you must go, because the LORD has sent you away."

Two days later, David waited in the field by the stone Ezel. Jonathan and his servant boy came out to the field, carrying his bow and a quiver full of arrows. Jonathan skillfully strung the bow with one, two, three arrows and sent each of them zinging into the air towards Ezel. "Run and find the arrows, my boy," he told his little servant. When the boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, "Isn't the arrow beyond you?" Then he shouted the secret signal words, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!"

After the arrows were found, Prince Jonathan dismissed the boy and waited for David. David came and bowed before him three times, with his face to the ground.

"It is all true," Jonathan told David. "When I spoke to my father about you he got furious and said, 'I know you have sided with David against us. Don't you understand that as long as he lives you will never be king? Bring him to me! He must die!' But I refused. Then when I asked why you should be put to death, he threw a spear and tried to kill me! David, you must go!"

Then they kissed each other on each cheek (common in the Middle Eastern cultures, even today) and wept together—but David wept most of all. How grateful he was for his friend, Prince Jonathan! His friend truly loved him. He had been unfailingly faithful to him. He even stood up to his father, the King.

"Go in peace, David," Jonathan said, "for we have promised in God's name, that our families will be friends forever." Then the two friends parted.

David and Jonathan were to see each other only one more time in the rest of their lives. For about ten years, King Saul kept chasing David, trying to kill him. One time Jonathan snuck out to Desert of Ziph where David was hiding. Once more they promised each other to be unfailingly faithful friends.

One day, King Saul and his sons (including Prince Jonathan) were killed in a great battle with the Philistines. The people chose David to be the next king of Israel. Now David had the power to get rid of all his enemies. Saul's family feared David would hunt them down and kill them.

But all through those years, David never forgot his promises to love Jonathan and his family. "Is there anyone still left of Saul's family I can be kind to, for Jonathan's

sake?" David asked Ziba, an old servant of Saul's.

"Yes, there is still a son of Jonathan who is alive. His name is Mephibosheth. He is crippled in both feet," Ziba replied.

"Bring him to me," David ordered.

So Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, came to David and bowed down to pay him honor. He was trembling with fear. Would the new king have him killed?

"Don't be afraid," David said to him, "I will be kind to for the sake of your father, Jonathan. I will give you back all King Saul's lands and I want you to be like my own son, eating with me and my family at the king's table the rest of your life," David promised. And that is what he did.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Love Others

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

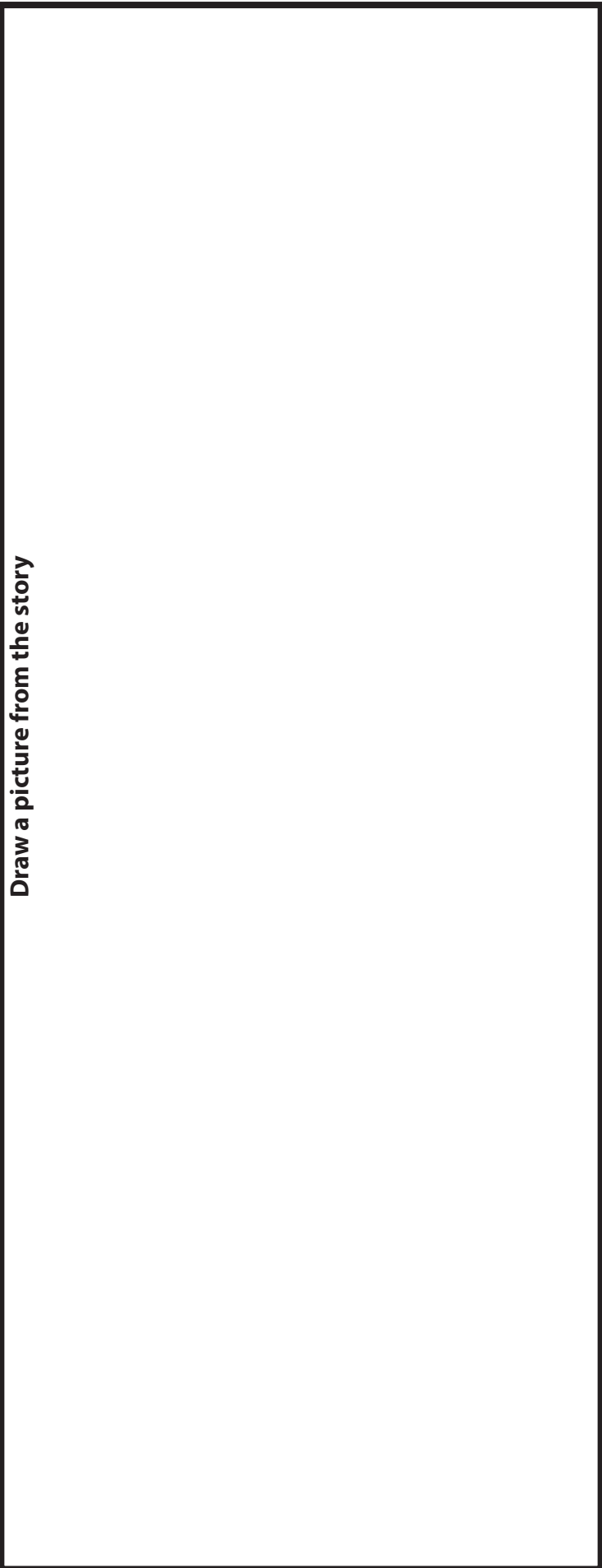
What new things about loving others did you learn from Jonathan and David? Jonathan and David loved each other by not being proud or envying others, but rejoicing in the good that the Lord did in their lives. They persevered with an unfailingly faithful, even in the hardest times.

And what about you and me? What is our love like? Do we envy others when something good happens to them that doesn't happen to us; or when they are good at something that we are not? Do we have a love for others that is unfailingly faithful, even through very hard times?

God knows how hard it is to love others as He wants us to. He knows that it is impossible for us to do this without His help. And help of the most powerful kind is what God promises to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. To all who do this, He will save from their sins and send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts, helping them even to love others as He wants them to.

Let's praise God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to work love in their hearts. Let's ask Him to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. Let's ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit so that we might love unfailingly faithfully, without envy, rejoicing in the good the Lord does in their lives, like Jonathan and David. He is the only one who can give us this kind of love for others.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's people have to love all by themselves. There is no one who helps them.

Answer: False! God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts. He will help them love like God wants them to. He can help them love in ways they could never love on their own.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Friend Who Didn't Fail? Who did he love so well?

Answer: Jonathan was the friend who didn't fail David.

b. What was so selfless about his love for his friend? Who helped him love this way?

Answer: Jonathan was the king's son. If David became king, it would be instead of him. Most men would not want to help someone else become king instead of themselves. The LORD helped Jonathan His good plan to make David king. He helped Jonathan love David and protect his life.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not ____, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not ____, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but ____ with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always ____, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Answers: envy; rude; rejoice; hopes.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Faithful Love to His People, helping them to love, even when it is very hard.

C God, we confess that we are not like David and Jonathan. We choose not to faithfully love others. We are sinners! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sustaining the love of His people for each other, just like He did with Jonathan and David.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit that we might faithfully love each other, just as David and Jonathan did.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred
minds,
Is like to that above.

Verse 2

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent pray'rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for
each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
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Refrain:

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Words: John Fawcett. Refrain & Music: Constance Dever

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BIBLE VERSE SONG

Love Is Patient

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11

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Love doesn't envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, it always trusts and hopes,
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Love never fails, love never fails,
love never fails, love never fails!
First Corinthians Thirteen, four through eight.

Words adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Constance Dever © 2011

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?"

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
God's People Trust Him**

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plans. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, wise, and good. They know His plans are perfect and they are always for their good and His glory. They know that God always takes care of them and helps them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard.

God's people know that they won't trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. And so here, they will sometimes struggle to trust God, even though they know He has never failed them. They are grateful for God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts. He can help them to trust God more and more here on earth. They are even more grateful for the day when they will go to live with God in heaven forever. There, they will know and trust Him perfectly.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

CASE STORY

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

Our story is called:

The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't.

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

1. Whose wedding almost didn't happen? Why?
2. Who had to trust God in order for it to take place after all? How did God bless their trust in Him?

This story takes place in New Testament times, around the time Jesus came to live on earth.

Mary and Joseph stood with their fathers in front of their eagerly watching families. Mothers, grandparents, brothers, and sisters. Everyone wanted to be there for Mary and Joseph's day of Erusin--Betrothal Day.

Joseph's father gave the "mohar" of fifty shekels of silver to Mary's father as a promise that Joseph would marry her within a year. Joseph gave Mary a "mattan" of gold and silver jewelry as his promise to take her as his wife. In return, Mary and her father made promises to get Mary ready to be Joseph's wife and save her just for him.

The promises, called a Ketubah, were written down and agreed upon. Mary drank a special cup of wine to seal her promise to wait for Joseph, then the fathers' signed the Ketubah. Joseph and Mary were now engaged to be married! Everyone cheered and enjoyed a big feast together, celebrating the day. How happy Joseph and Mary must have been! Not just to be getting married, but to be getting married to someone who trusted and loved the Lord so much!

Both Mary and Joseph had special things to do to get ready for the wedding. Joseph had to add his huppah (a special room) onto his family's house and get it ready for his future wife. He had to build it, then decorate it beautifully. He filled it with lots of food and drink. Jewish custom was that Mary and Joseph would stay in it together without coming out for anything for the first, seven days of their marriage. For most young men, it took a whole year to get the huppah ready. And how did he know when it was ready? Only when his father said it was beautiful enough, would the young man know it was done and he could get his bride.

Mary and her family were busy, too. First of all, a special veil had to be made for Mary to wear every time she went out of her house. This veil showed everyone that she was promised in marriage. Then there was Mary's 'shiluhim' to

get ready. These were the things she would take with her for her new home. And there were the oil lamps used in the wedding parade to Joseph's house where the wedding would take place. Mary needed to have her shiluhim packed and the lamps ready for whenever Joseph might come and send for her. She didn't know what day or what hour he would come. Joseph wouldn't know what day or hour it would be either. He would wait until his father told him. Mary only knew that it would be whenever Joseph's father decided that the huppah was ready.

If Joseph was like most men, he would surprise Mary by coming at midnight for her. Everyone would be long asleep in their beds, when there would be a knock at the door at Mary's family's house.. They would open the door to a whole crowd of musicians, family, friends and relatives. Mary would be dressed like a queen, with a beautiful dress and jewelry, and even a crown. They would pick up all her things and carry them and her to Joseph's family's house, singing, cheering and playing music all the way, by the light of the oil lamps Mary had prepared.

At Joseph's family's house, they would present Mary to Joseph, who would be dressed as a handsome king. They would read and sign the final covenant promising before God to treat each other well, and then they would be married! What a wonderful night that would be!

Oh, but now all Mary could do was wait and wait. When would the knock at the door come? When would it be time for this most important day of her life? It would be easy for Mary to be impatient, sad and grumpy, but Mary was a girl who had decided to trust the Lord. She could joyfully rest in God's care and plan. Mary could trust God because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. He would always be able to take care of her and help her do whatever He wanted her to do, even if it is very hard. She could even trust Him with this most important of days.

But one day something very, very surprising happened to Mary that changed all of Mary's and Joseph's plans and dreams for their wedding. An angel of the Lord named Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Hello, Mary! The Lord highly favors you! He is with you." Gabriel's words puzzled and concerned Mary. Why would an angel speak to her, a plain, ordinary girl and tell her that she was highly favored

by God?

But the angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You are going to have a baby boy. Name him "Jesus." He will be great and will be called God's Son. He is the Messiah, come to save God's people. He will reign as King forever."

Now Mary had even more questions. "How will this be," Mary asked, "I have no husband and have promised to not have babies until I do?"

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High God will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God," Gabriel explained. "You know your relative Elizabeth who everyone said could never have children. She is over sixty years old, yet she is six months pregnant with a baby who will be the special messenger for your son! Nothing is impossible with God," he told Mary.

Mary's mind must have been filled with so many thoughts and questions. "Am I to become a mother without being married to a man? Will my family or Joseph's family believe me when I tell them or will they think I'm lying? If they don't believe me, the wedding will be called off. I might even be killed, if they think I've been with a man who's not my husband. What should I do?" she surely wondered.

It would be easy for Mary to be worried and sad, but in her heart, she knew what to do. Mary was a girl who had decided to trust the Lord. She would joyfully rest in God's care and plan. If this was what He wanted her to do, she believed He would always be able to take care of her and help her do it, even though it would be very hard. Mary would even trust Him with this incredible news and whatever might happen next.

So Mary answered Gabriel, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything happen just as He desires it to." Then the angel left her.

Mary went to visit Elizabeth for three months. Together they praised God for His amazing plans to save God's people that He would use their sons to bring about.

At the end of the three months, Mary went home to Nazareth. By now the little baby had grown enough for everyone to see Mary was pregnant. Mary's family broke the news to Joseph's family...and then to Joseph, himself.

"What will happen to me? What will people say? What will they do to me?" Mary must have thought. There were many hard things she might have to go through now

that everyone knew about the baby. But even then, Mary would trust in the Lord. She would rest joyfully in God's care and plan.

When Joseph heard the news, he thought the same thing that everyone else thought. "How could Mary do this?" Joseph wondered. "She made a promise to me! So did her family! I've been working so hard on the huppah for her! All of my dreams and plans were for nothing."

Joseph had decisions to make. He had to think carefully about what was the right thing to do. "The law gives me the right to have her stoned to death for what she's done," thought Joseph. "I don't want Mary to be killed for what has happened," he mercifully decided, "but I can't marry a woman who is pregnant from another man. I will divorce her quietly. Tomorrow my father and I will go and take back our presents and tear up the Ketubah," he decided.

But that night the Lord showed Himself worthy of Mary's trust. He sent an angel to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The son she is having is of the Holy Spirit. Give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins," he explained.

When Joseph woke up, he knew just what to do. He went and brought Mary home to be his wife. Mary hadn't broken her promises to him! This baby was from the Lord. Instead of something shameful, Mary was someone to whom God had given a special honor. Joseph had known that Mary was a girl who loved the Lord and trusted Him, but never could he had imagined that the Lord had given to him a girl so special that she would be the mother of the Messiah! Perhaps the family wouldn't understand why he was marrying Mary; but he, too, would trust God to help them through whatever they would say to him or Mary. If the Lord had done this amazing thing in Mary, surely He could be trusted to help them through whatever else would come!

What happened to Mary's beautiful wedding day? How far had Joseph finished the Huppah? Did everyone come to celebrate or was it just a quiet wedding because everyone was ashamed of Mary? We don't know. But, we do know that both Mary and Joseph trusted the Lord and praised Him for choosing them to would raise the very Son of God. What was the joy of a wedding celebration in exchange for an honor like that? The Lord always knows best and does best.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Trust Him

Our Bible Verse is: Proverbs 3:5,6:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Why did the Lord choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God? The Bible never mentions if she was pretty or especially smart. It never mentions if she had many friends. Her family wasn't particularly rich. We don't know if she was really good at doing things that girls were supposed to do in those days. She certainly wasn't perfectly good--no one but God is. Many of the things we think of as really important we don't know about her at all.

What we do know is that Mary trusted the Lord. She was willing to do whatever He wanted her to do, even if she couldn't understand it, even if it was very hard. She was willing to not lean on her own understanding, but allow God to direct her path—to show her what she should do. It was her trust in Him and willingness to obey Him that made her pleasing to Him.

What about you and me? Perhaps we think a lot about whether we are smart or pretty or really good at something. Maybe we wish we had nicer things or more friends. But in this story we can see what's really important in God's eyes is what Mary had: trust in God. And that this is the best thing for us to have, too. Let's praise this God who is completely good and powerful and wise, completely worthy of our trust. Let's ask Him to help us to trust Him with our whole lives, by turning away from our sins, trusting Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to rest joyfully in His care and plan for our lives, just as Mary did.

<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: Trusting God means resting joyfully in God’s care and plans. <i>Answer: True.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Whose wedding almost didn’t happen? Why? <i>Answer: Mary and Joseph’s. Because Mary was pregnant and they weren’t married.</i></p> <p>b. Who had to trust God in order for it to take place after all? How did God bless their trust in Him? <i>Answer: Both Mary and Joseph had to trust God. God gave them the honor of raising Jesus, the Son of Mary, the Son of God, who would save God’s people from their sins.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the ___ with all your heart and lean not on your ___ understanding; in all your ways acknowledge ___, and he will make your paths ___.” <i>Answers: LORD; own; him; straight.</i></p>	<p>Trust and Obey <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 12</i></p> <p>Verse 2 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.</p> <p>Refrain: Trust and obey, For there’s no other way, To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.</p> <p><i>Words: Daniel B. Towner Music: John H. Sammis</i></p> <p>This song is about how we can trust God all the time, even when very hard things happen that we don’t understand. It reminds us that those who trust in Jesus can be happy, even in times when it’s hard to understand, because God is that good. He will always bless His people--those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! They can count on that. They can just go ahead and obey Him. They can trust that it will all turn out for our good and His glory. We can be happy in Jesus, trusting and obeying Him, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, too.</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 our Savior.</p> <p>C God, we confess that often we choose not to trust You, even though You are so trustworthy.</p> <p>T God, we thank You that You can help us trust You, just like You helped Mary.</p> <p>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 help us to trust You.</p>	<p>Trust in the LORD <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 14</i></p> <p>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, Trust in the LORD with all your heart, Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Proverbs Three, verses five and six.</p> <p><i>Words adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6 Constance Dever © 2011</i></p> <p>This verse reminds us that we can always trust the LORD and His good plans, even when we don’t understand what He is doing. He wants us not to depend on ourselves and what we see, but on Him, His Word and His good plans. And when we do, we can know that He will show us what He wants us to do, every day of our lives.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song:

Ephesians 5:1-2
"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
God's People Trust Him**

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plans. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, wise, and good. They know His plans are perfect and they are always for their good and His glory. They know that God always takes care of them and helps them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard.

God's people know that they won't trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. And so here, they will sometimes struggle to trust God, even though they know He has never failed them. They are grateful for God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts. He can help them to trust God more and more here on earth. They are even more grateful for the day when they will go to live with God in heaven forever. There, they will know and trust Him perfectly.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Impossible Task.

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

1. What was the Impossible Task? Who tried to do it?
2. Who did she have to depend on to do it? Did he come through and help her do it?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who lived in Dundee, Scotland in the 1870's.

A red-haired, blue-eyed girl bent over her loom, working furiously. She was only fourteen, but she worked as hard as any adult in the factory. As she wiped the sweat from her forehead she thought, "Ten hours a day, slaving over these looms, is exhausting! The noise from all the hundreds of machines is deafening! These mill factory owners ask too much of us. What I wouldn't give to be back in school learning about all sorts of things and all sorts of places around the world! But with father hopelessly drunk most of the time and mother home with a new baby as well as the other five children, I'm the only one who can make money for us to live on."

"This isn't at all what I thought I'd do with my life," Mary thought to herself. "Here I am working in a mill in Dundee, Scotland, but for as long as I can remember, I've wanted to go to Calabar in Africa. Calabar is one of the most remote, dangerous parts of Africa where few Christians have dared to go. I want to go there to tell them about Jesus! But how will I ever get to go there? My family needs me here and I haven't even finished my schooling—I can hardly read or add! Now it seems like an impossible dream; yet, I will trust in the Lord."

"Lord," Mary prayed, "the task is impossible for me but not for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understand. I will trust in you and let you direct my path."

So Mary kept working at the mill factory for many more years and trusted the Lord to show her the way...and so He did.

"Perhaps I cannot go to Calabar right now," Mary thought, "but I can prepare myself in case one day the Lord does lead me to go. I will teach myself what they would have taught me in school. I will learn everything I can about the Bible. And even if I can't go to dangerous Calabar and tell

people there about Jesus, I can go to the neediest, most dangerous part of Dundee where few Christians dare go, and I tell them about Jesus," Mary decided.

So Mary bought her own school books, propped them up next to her machine and taught them to herself, little by little as she worked. Then on Sundays and in the evenings, she went to the streets of the worst part of Dundee and spoke about Jesus to whomever would listen. These streets were so dangerous that only Mary and few others were brave enough to go and speak about Jesus there. Many times they came back roughed up by the gangs and pelted with mud.

One night, as Mary stood on a street corner and shared about Jesus, a gang came up and surrounded her. The leader began to swing a heavy lead weight near her face. What would Mary do? If the weight crashed into her head, she would have a serious injury; yet, would she be frightened off by this young man?

"Lord," Mary prayed, "this man needs You. Please help me reach his heart. The task is impossible for me, but not for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will trust in You and let You direct my path."

The Lord gave Mary an idea. "If you make me flinch, I'll leave; but, if you don't, then you have to come to church with me," she challenged the man.

The leader agreed, sure he would win. Round and round, closer and closer, the heavy lead weight came; but Mary never flinched, even as it grazed her brow. Mary had won!

"She's game, boys," the leader exclaimed. "Come on, let's go to this service of hers."

That night the Lord began to work in the heart of that young man and many of the other gang members. Before long, they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus. Then they helped Mary tell others in Dundee about Jesus.

As wonderful as it was to see these people from Dundee come to know Jesus, it was not enough for Mary. "Oh, Lord," she prayed, "I love these people here, but what about those in Calabar? They need to know about Jesus even more. Please, Lord, send me!"

In a few years, the Lord answered Mary's prayer. Needs at home changed and she joined the Calabar mission team. One August day, she boarded the *Ethiopia*, a huge steamer ship, and set off for Calabar.

Thirty days later, the ship arrived in Calabar. Mary quickly

saw why it was called "The White Man's Grave." There were huge swarms of mosquitoes that carried malaria. There were elephants who trampled people, and hungry lions and leopards looking for someone to attack. The rivers were full of sneaky crocodiles and grumpy hippopotamuses.

If that were not enough, there were the people, themselves. They lived in fear of the witchdoctors and their magic spells. They were taught to worship skulls and spirits. They were quick to kill each other; and, what was worse, some even ate the people they killed—they were cannibals! They didn't care about the good news of Jesus the missionaries brought. The further inland you went, the more vicious the people were. Most missionaries refused to go inland. They stayed near the coast where people weren't quite so wicked. Mary, however, was not most missionaries.

"I want to go inland as far as I can, to people who have never heard about Jesus!" Mary told the others.

"You will be killed, if you go," the others warned her. "Everyone else has been killed. You will be no different. You're just a single woman. If anything they will be quicker to kill you."

Mary listened to the scary warnings. Would she risk her life to tell the people inland about Jesus?

"Oh Lord," Mary prayed, "They're right. The task is impossible for me. But, it is not impossible for You. Lead the way and I will follow. I will not lean on my own understanding. I will not fear. I will trust in You and let You direct my path." So Mary started up the River Okoyong in a canoe with her five adopted children and her things. Danger was on every side. One day an angry hippopotamus began to attack their boat. Mary saved their lives by throwing her big, cast iron pot down its throat and paddling off quickly.

At last Mary came to the village of Ekenge. This was a village of fierce warriors and the people were not at all happy to see her. They threatened to kill her, just as they had the other missionaries. But Mary trusted in God and He gave her courage to stand up to them. Chief Edem-- saw Mary's courage and her trust in the Lord and he accepted her and her children into his village. The people began to call her "The White Ma." They would listen to her talk about Jesus and treat their sicknesses with her strange medicine. Soon they came to her to settle problems they had.

One day, messengers from another village burst into Ekenge looking for Mary. "We have run through the jungle

for eight hours to get here. We need your White Ma to come heal our dying chief with her powerful magic. If our chief doesn't get well, then many of our men will be killed to go with him into the spirit world. Come, save our chief and our men!" they pleaded.

"You mustn't go," Chief Edem said. "Warriors in the jungle will kill you."

"The streams are all flooded from the rains," Ma Eme, another villager, warned her. "The jungles are full of wild beasts that will eat you. Don't go!"

What would Mary do? Would she risk her life or stay safe in the village? Mary prayed all night. "They're right, Lord. The task is impossible for me, but not for You, Lead the way and I will follow. I will trust in You."

The next morning she told Chief Edem and Ma Eme, "I believe the Lord wants me to go, so I must go. I will trust in Him."

The journey to the other village was very hard. Heavy rains soaked her clothes and turned the jungle to mud. Her shoes fell apart and she had to walk barefoot the rest of the way. Soon Mary was sick with a terrible fever and headache. She felt like giving up.

"Lord, this task is impossible for me. I am so sick! But I know that this isn't impossible for You. I will trust in You. Help me to get to the chief," she prayed.

At last Mary arrived at the village, sick, hungry and night she worked to heal him. The next day, the chief awoke!. Each day he improved. The people celebrated. Thanks to the White Ma, not only would the chief live, but the other men would be allowed to live, too.

"White Ma," the people said, "Tell us about your magic powers! We have never seen such power. Who gave it to you?"

She said to them: "The Lord Jesus Christ did. I have come to you because I love and worship Jesus Christ. He is the Great Physician and Savior, the Son of the Father God who made all things I want you to know this Father and to receive the eternal life which Jesus offers to all those who confess their sins to Him and turn to trust in Him as their Savior. To know Jesus means to love Him, and with His love in our hearts we love everybody. Eternal life means peace and joy in this world and a wonderful home in the next world. My heart longs for you to believe in Jesus, to walk in His paths, and to know the blessings of eternal life through Him," she told them.

This was only one of the amazing things that the Lord did through Mary Slessor, in the jungles of Calabar. The Lord used her to tell many people about Jesus who would have never had heard otherwise. Year after year Mary Slessor worked on, doing the impossible. Year after year, the Lord sustained her. She survived thirty-eight years in that dangerous jungle! Why? Because even though the task was impossible for her, it was never impossible for the Lord. He led the way and she followed. She trusted in Him

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Others**Our Bible Verse is: Proverbs 3:5-6**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

The Lord gave Mary Slessor this kind of trust in Him. Many times she faced life-threatening dangers, yet she rested joyfully in the fact that God always was at work, only allowing what was for His glory and the good of others and herself.

What about you and me? Do you think we can trust the Lord as Mary Slessor did? Yes, we can! He will always take care of His people completely! Let's praise this amazing God for being completely trustworthy. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to trust Him with all of our lives so that we will be willing to even dare to do whatever He wants us to do, even if it is "impossible-looking" as what Mary Slessor did..

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God’s people trust God because they always understand what He is doing.
Answer: False. They trust God because they know what He is doing is always wise and best, even though they don’t understand it.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. What was the Impossible Task? Who tried to do it?
Answer: To take the gospel to the gangs in Dundee, Scotland; and, especially to go to Calabar and take the gospel to the inland tribes and survive. Mary Slessor.

b. Who did she have to depend on to do it? Did he come through and help her do it?
Answer: The Lord. Yes, He did! He gave her courage and wisdom to stand up to the gang members and tell them about Jesus. And, He gave her courage to travel up the river and to tell many people about Jesus. Not only did they not kill her, but they greatly honored her and listened to her.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Proverbs 3:5-6
 “ ___ in the LORD with all your heart and ___ not on your own understanding; in all your ___ acknowledge him, and he will make your ___ straight.”
Answers: Trust; lean; ways; paths.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Trust and Obey
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 12

Verse 2
 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
 But our toil He doth richly repay;
 Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 But is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain:
 Trust and obey,
 For there’s no other way,
 To be happy in Jesus,
 But to trust and obey.

Words: Daniel B. Towner Music: John H. Sammis

This song is about how we can trust God all the time, even when very hard things happen that we don’t understand. It reminds us that those who trust in Jesus can be happy, even in times when it’s hard to understand, because God is that good. He will always bless His people--those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! They can count on that. They can just go ahead and obey Him. They can trust that it will all turn out for our good and His glory. We can be happy in Jesus, trusting and obeying Him, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, too.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Protector and Sustainer of Your people. They can even survive in the most dangerous parts of the world because You will protect them and sustain them according to Your perfect will.

C God, we confess that often we face difficult things and we choose not to trust You, but to fear and worry.

T God, we thank You for giving Your people the strength, love and courage to care for people and tell them about Jesus, even in the hardest of situations.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Mary: willing to go to even very dangerous places to tell others about Him.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Trust in the LORD
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 14

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 And lean not on your own understanding.
 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
 And He will make your paths straight.
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart.
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart.
 Proverbs Three, verses five and six.

Words adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6 Constance Dever © 2011

This verse reminds us that we can always trust the LORD and His good plans, even when we don’t understand what He is doing. He wants us not to depend on ourselves and what we see, but on Him, His Word and His good plans. And when we do, we can know that He will show us what He wants us to do, every day of our lives.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?"

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 4:
God's People Trust Him**

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plans. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, wise, and good. They know His plans are perfect and they are always for their good and His glory. They know that God always takes care of them and helps them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard.

God's people know that they won't trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. And so here, they will sometimes struggle to trust God, even though they know He has never failed them. They are grateful for God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts. He can help them to trust God more and more here on earth. They are even more grateful for the day when they will go to live with God in heaven forever. There, they will know and trust Him perfectly.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

CASE STORY

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

Our story is: The Case of the Put-off Promise. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was given big promises? What were these promises?
2. What did the man do when the promises were put-off? Did the promises ever come true?

It takes place early in Old Testament times, about two thousand years before Jesus lived on earth. It starts out in Ur, a city far to the southeast of Israel.

"Ur!" you might think, "What a weird name! Who's ever heard of that place?"

Well, maybe Ur might not mean much to us these days; but, 4000 years ago, Ur was like the New York City of the world. It was the capitol of Sumer. The king and a half million people lived and worked within the seventy-five-foot thick walls of this busy city. With fabric and pottery factories; international shipping and trade; schools and universities; and lots of markets, there was plenty work for everyone. Ships would dock in its harbor, full of the newest, most unusual things from around the world. Craftsmen would make the most beautiful jewelry of gold and silver. Ladies wore long dresses of fine linen. The men wore long, pleated kilts of wool. Many people lived in fine houses and ate delicious food. Life was good in Ur--it was the best in the world back then.

But to the people of Ur, the most important thing in the whole city was the giant temple of the Moon God, Nannar. They believed Nannar controlled everything that made life good: rich crops, and lots of animals and children.

As you can imagine, the people of Ur felt they should do whatever they could to keep Nannar happy so he would keep blessing them with good things. So, they built him an enormous, 70-foot ziggurat temple out of clay bricks. It had three different-sized levels, each painted a different bright color. Beautiful gardens grew on its walls with blooms trailing all down its sides.

The bottom level was bigger than a football field. The top level was much smaller, but it was most important of all. For on it sat the shrine to Nannar. Here Nannar's priests, priestesses, and musicians led worship to him: "Father Nannar, moon god, prince of the gods," they would pray, "You are maker of gods and men. You give them homes and all that is good, you make living things grow.

We praise you!" (paraphrased from "Hymn to Nannar," Dawn of Civilization 654) They led colorful parades and festivals in his honor; but also did many sinful things that they thought pleased him. If Nannar really was the one who made them all so rich, then the people of Ur wanted to do whatever it would take to keep him happy.

Terah and his sons, Haran, Nahor, and Abram, certainly wanted to keep Nannar happy. He and his family had lived in Ur for years and had become very rich and important merchants there. If Nannar really was in charge of making everything rich, then Terah and his sons owed him a lot!

But one day, Terah's son, Abram stopped worshipping Nannar. There was another god, unlike Nannar or any other god that anyone in Ur had ever heard of. And this God—the LORD—had made a glorious appearance to Abram!

The LORD said to Abram: "Leave Ur, your relatives and your father's house. I will take you to a new land. I will make you into a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name great. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you," He promised.

Abram was amazed! This God who appeared to him was nothing like Nannar! He was so alive, so good, so so powerful, so holy and glorious. This God was the one, true God. Nannar was nothing!

And, oh, what blessings this true God made him! "I will make you a great nation...I will bless you...I will make your name great...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you!" the LORD had promised him.

But, oh, what sacrifices Abram would have to make to follow this true God and receive those blessings! It wouldn't be enough for Abram to just stop worshipping Nannar. The LORD was telling Abram to leave everything and follow Him to some new land. That was scary!

Leave the big city with its safe seventy five foot thick walls...and the best of everything for Abram to enjoy? Leave his fine house and have to camp in tents? Go on some dangerous roads where robbers might wait to steal their things and kill them? Leave his family, the only people on earth he could count on to help him? Why, no citizen of Ur was even allowed to move away from Ur without special permission of the king! Abram would even have to figure out how to leave Ur!

This God was asking Abram to love Him more than anything else! Abram would have to trust Him completely, if he were to obey Him. Could he really trust this God to

take care of him completely? God gave Abram faith to believe that He could.

"Yes, God, I will trust in You," Abram said to the Lord. "Yes, I will stop worshipping Nannar and worship You. I will give up everything and follow You. And I will trust You to take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do," he prayed.

The LORD proved Himself worthy of Abram's trust. He gave Abram's father, Terah, the desire to more from Ur, too. And while most people in Ur would have been refused permission to leave, Terah was important enough to get the special permission from the king they needed to leave Ur. They loaded up donkeys with their belongings, gathered their flocks of sheep and goats together, said goodbye to the rest of the family and set off.

As they walked out down the road into empty wilderness, did Abram ever look back to take a last glimpse of Nannar's great ziggurat and doubt what he was doing? That night when they slept out in tents and ate food cooked over an open fire did Abram ever long for the beautiful home and fine food of Ur they left behind? After all, Abram had nothing but God's word to trust in. He didn't know to what place the LORD was taking him or when he'd get there. He didn't know how the LORD would bring about all He promised him, but God gave Abram faith. "I will trust in You. I will leave my country and my people. I will trust You to take care of me, and help me do whatever You want me to do," he kept believing.

Terah and Abram traveled on and on until they came to the city of Haran, a favorite trading post for merchants traveling between Egypt and Ur. Terah was excited to be in Haran. The area around Haran was good for grazing flocks and there were plenty of other merchants to do business with. Best of all, the people of Haran were worshipers of Nannar, the Moon God. There was a temple to Nannar where Terah could make offerings to him again.

Terah was tired of traveling. "I am stopping here, Abram," Terah said. "Haran is my new home. I'm not going on to Canaan with you."

What should Abram do? He still felt the LORD calling onward to the place He had promised him. Haran was not to be his home; yet, what about his father? He was already 145 years old. Wouldn't a good son stay to care for him?

But Abram remembered the LORD's words to him: "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's house

and go to the land I will show you..." Following this God meant giving up everything, even his father! Could he really do that?

God gave Abram faith. "I will trust in You. I will leave even my father. I will give up everything and follow You. I will trust You to take care of me and help me to do whatever You want me to do," he kept believing. So Abram said goodbye to his father and left Haran.

Through wilderness, mountains and valleys, Abram traveled hundred of miles. At last Abram came to the top of the last mountain, and looked down upon green valleys and rolling hills. Could this be Canaan?

Abram got his answer as he traveled across those hills and valleys and came to the town of Shechem Yes, this beautiful land was Canaan, all right! And it was filled with more than beauty. It was filled with Canaanites! If this was the land the Lord was giving Abraham, someone needed to tell that to the Canaanites! They certainly didn't seem ready to just hand it over to Abram. This was their land! Not Abram's. They worshiped their gods, not the Lord! That was clear enough when Abram walked outside of town to the giant oak tree called Moreh. Here the Canaanites had placed carvings of their idols and made offerings to them there.

He had obeyed the LORD. He had traveled to Canaan. But now what?

Suddenly the LORD appeared to Abram said, "I will give this land to your family!"

He was promising to get rid of the Canaanites and their idols and give the land to his family! That sounded almost too hard to believe; yet, the LORD gave Abram faith to trust Him.

Right there next to Moreh, in front of the Canaanites and their idols, Abram built an altar to the Lord, offered a thank offering and worshiped Him:

"You are God and I will trust in You," Abram prayed. "I don't know how You will give this land filled with Canaanites and idols to my offspring, but I will trust that You will take care of me and will fulfill Your promises to me."

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Trust Him

Our Bible Verse is: Proverbs 3:5-6

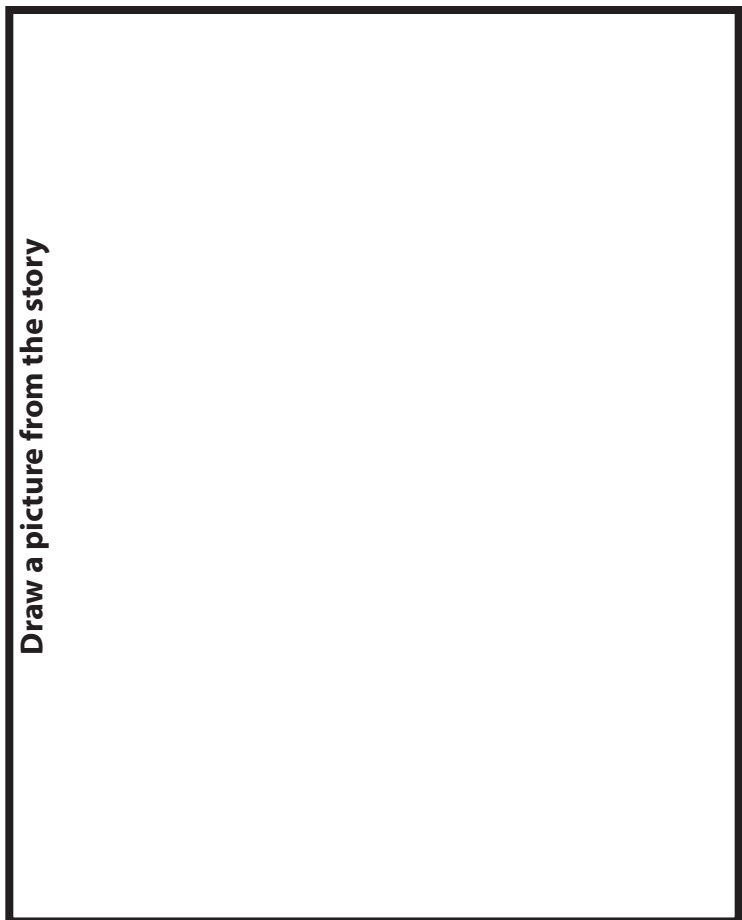
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Abram gave up everything and trusted God. But do you know that Abram died before he saw any of the promises come true? Not even a foot of the ground of Canaan had become his when he died. Even so, Abram died trusting that He would make them come true in His perfect wisdom and timing.

Abram was right to trust the LORD because He was true to every one of those promises. He made Abram's children into the nation of Israel. He made Abram's name so great that he is still one of the most famous people in the world. And best of all, the LORD has blessed all nations of all times and places through Abram, by sending Jesus, who was the great, great, great, etc. grandson of Abram.

What about you and me? God has given us amazing promises that we can trust, too. He promises to make us His people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And as His people, He promises to take care of us every day of our life here on earth, then one day take us to life with Him forever. That will be best of all!

What will we do with these promises? Will we trust in them and follow the LORD as Abram did? I hope so. Let's praise this God who is always trustworthy. Let's ask Him to help us trust Him with our whole life.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's people have trust God without any help from anyone else.
 Answer: False! God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts. He will help them trust God. He can help them trust Him in ways they could never trust on their own.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was given big promises? What were these promises?
 Answer: Abram. That he and his family after him would be given the land of Canaan. That through his family, the whole world would be blessed.

b. What did the man do when the promises were put-off? Did the promises ever come true?
 Answer: Abram kept believing that God would answer these promises. Abram did not receive any of the land as his own while he lived. He did not see the great blessing that would come to all the world through his family, either. But, both of these promises did come true. His family grew to become the nation of Israel and they lived in Canaan. And through Abram's family came Jesus, the Savior of all of God's people.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6
 "Trust in the LORD with all your ___ and lean not on your own ___; in all your ways ___ him, and he will ___ your paths straight."
 Answers: heart; understanding; acknowledge; make.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Trust and Obey
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 12

Verse 2
 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
 But our toil He doth richly repay;
 Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 But is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain:
 Trust and obey,
 For there's no other way,
 To be happy in Jesus,
 But to trust and obey.

Words: Daniel B. Towner Music: John H. Sammis

This song is about how we can trust God all the time, even when very hard things happen that we don't understand. It reminds us that those who trust in Jesus can be happy, even in times when it's hard to understand, because God is that good. He will always bless His people--those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! They can count on that. They can just go ahead and obey Him. They can trust that it will all turn out for our good and His glory. We can be happy in Jesus, trusting and obeying Him, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, too.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being completely trustworthy.

C God, we confess that many times we do not trust You as Abram did. We choose to do things our own way, not Your way. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Abram faith to believe in You. Thank You for fulfilling Your promises to Abram by sending Your Son Jesus to save Your people from their sins.

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 trust You and obey You like Abram did.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Trust in the LORD
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 14

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 And lean not on your own understanding.
 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
 And He will make your paths straight.
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart.
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart.
 Proverbs Three, verses five and six.

Words adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6 Constance Dever © 2011

This verse reminds us that we can always trust the LORD and His good plans, even when we don't understand what He is doing. He wants us not to depend on ourselves and what we see, but on Him, His Word and His good plans. And when we do, we can know that He will show us what He wants us to do, every day of our lives.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

God is the Creator of all things and all things belong to Him. There is nothing that we have that God did not give to us: our bodies, our belongings, our money, our lives. Yes, everything is a gift from God to us.

What does God want us to do with all these good gifts He have given us? He wants us to be good stewards of them. What is a steward? A steward is someone who takes care of someone else's things.

God tells us in His Word how He wants His people to be good stewards of His gifts to them. He wants them to serve Him with their bodies—with their hands, their mouths and all of their strength. He wants them to freely share what they have with others. He wants them to use their money generously to take care of their families, to help others and to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus.

In heaven, God promises to reward each of His people according to how they stewarded His gifts during their lives on earth. God's people know that they can't be good stewards of God's gifts on their own. They know that it is the Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, who helps them be the good stewards He wants them to be. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Exodus 3, 5, 11,12,15,19-40

Our story is called:

The Case of the People Who Wouldn't Stop.

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

1. Who were the people who wouldn't stop? What wouldn't they stop doing?
2. How were they showing that they knew they were stewards? How were they being good stewards of what God had given them?

This story takes place during Old Testament times, right after the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

A joyful crowd of thousands of poor Israelites poured out of Egypt, leading their flocks and carrying fine riches. What made them so happy that day? You might think it was all those riches! They had gold, silver, jewels, fine cloth and many other expensive things. But it wasn't these things the people rejoiced in that day. It was the LORD their God.

"How amazing is the LORD," they exclaimed. "He has rescued us from slavery in Egypt, has given us all these riches and is leading us to a new home in Canaan!"

On and on the LORD led the Israelites, through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai. They had praised the LORD with their lips, now it was time for them to live it out by making a solemn promise with Him.

"Make a covenant with Me—a solemn promise-- to follow all my good laws, and serve and love Me only as your God. If you do obey Me fully and keep this covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. I will promise to always protect you, love you, and bless you with the best of things."

"We promise to obey Your good laws. We promise to serve and love only You," the Israelites promised. "We want to be Your people."

The LORD called Moses up Mt. Sinai, leaving Moses' brother, Aaron to lead the people. Up on the mountain the LORD revealed His good laws and wonderful plans to Moses. The LORD wrote on stone the Ten Commandments of how they were to love Him and how to love others. He gave them many other good laws to obey. He told Moses how He planned to use all the skills the Israelites learned in Egypt and all the rich things of Egypt He had give them to allow them to make Him a special place --called the

Tabernacle—where His presence would dwell with the people.

Moses was sure the people would delight in obeying the LORD's good laws and using their skills and riches to build the Tabernacle; but, the LORD knew better. "While you have been up here with Me, the people have forgotten their praise and thankfulness for Me," He told Moses. "They have already broken the covenant they made with Me. They have taken the riches I gave them and used their skills to build a golden calf to worship instead of Me. Go down and see for yourself."

Moses went down and saw the people worshiping and dancing around a giant, golden calf they had made from some of the Egyptian gold. He was furious! He threw down on the ground the stone tablets of God's laws and they shattered. The people had already broken their promise to keep these laws. He ground the golden calf into gold dust, mixed it with water, and made all the people drink it. Many of the Israelites repented of this terrible thing they did, but those who didn't, died by the sword or by a terrible sickness. The LORD is very merciful, but He also hates sin!

The Israelites had already broken their promises to the LORD and He had every right to leave them, but chose not to. "I forgive the people's sins," the LORD told Moses. "I want to keep the covenant with them, even though they have broken it. Make another set of the stone tablets I gave you and go to the people and have them prepare to build My Tabernacle." How merciful He was to His sinful people!

So Moses gathered all the people together and told them, "The LORD forgives your sin. He has something He wants you to do with the riches of Egypt He gave you. He wants you to build a Tabernacle so His presence can dwell among you."

Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and hides of sea cows; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the high priest's special clothes," Moses told them. "Then come, all who are skilled and make everything the LORD has commanded for His tabernacle."

What would the Israelites do? It would take most of the riches they had been given in Egypt to make this Tabernacle? Would they give them up? It would take a lot

of time and skill to make this Tabernacle. Would they really use all their skill and time to make this? Was their praise for the LORD just a feeling in their heart? Or was He someone they would give the best of their things, their skills and their time for?

"Yes," they told Moses, "we want to give our riches. We want to use our skills to build His Tabernacle."

Many wanted to make an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tabernacle. They brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. Others brought silver and bronze. Still others gave blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or hides of sea cows. Those who had acacia wood brought it. Those who had spices and olive oil offered them. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the high priest's ephod and breast piece.

Then the skilled workers came forward. "We want to use all our skills to make the Tabernacle for the LORD's presence," they told Moses.

Moses received the skills these workers offered to the LORD. "The LORD has chosen Bezalel of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with the ability to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones and to do beautiful woodwork," he told the Israelites.

"He has given both Bezalel and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers," Moses told them.

Bezalel, Oholiab and the other workers began to work on the Tabernacle, using the offerings, but before long had to quit. "Moses! Tell the people to stop bringing offerings! We don't even have space to work because of all their gifts!" they pleaded.

So Moses sent out the order, "Don't make any more offerings!" What a wonderful problem! The people had over-given to the LORD!

Day after day, Bezalel, Oholiab and the others worked to make the Tabernacle just the way the LORD had commanded. At last it was all done: the Ark of the Covenant, the beautiful curtains with cherubim that kept it hidden in the Holy of Holies; the table for the shewbread, the lampstand; the altar of incense; the altar of burnt offering;

the basin for washing; the courtyard and its curtains; and, all the priestly garments. Moses inspected all the work that had been done and it was perfect!

“Everything has been made just exactly as the LORD planned it. Out of your thankfulness to the LORD, you’ve given from your best things what was needed—and even more. You’ve used your skills and time to make everything just as the LORD planned. Now everything is perfect. Receive the blessing of the Lord for your offerings and hard work. Make the final preparations for the coming of the Lord’s glory to His Tabernacle,” Moses said to the people.

When everything in the Tabernacle was made ready and the priests dressed in their priestly garments, the great cloud of the Lord’s presence that had led them from Egypt dropped down and covered the Tent of Meeting and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle so completely that no one could enter it. And all the people praised the LORD. How amazing was their mighty God! He had given them so much—freedom, the promise of a new life and even the great riches of

Egypt. He gave them an ever-lasting covenant. He had even forgiven them for making and worshiping an idol. He had given them the chance to give their things and use their skills to build a Tabernacle so that His presence could always be with them. And now His presence had come to dwell with them. What a great day it was!

And so from that day, in all the travels of the Israelites, wherever they went, the LORD was with them, making His dwelling place among them, and leading them where He wanted them to go.

Our Bible Truth is:

God’s People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 4:10,11:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

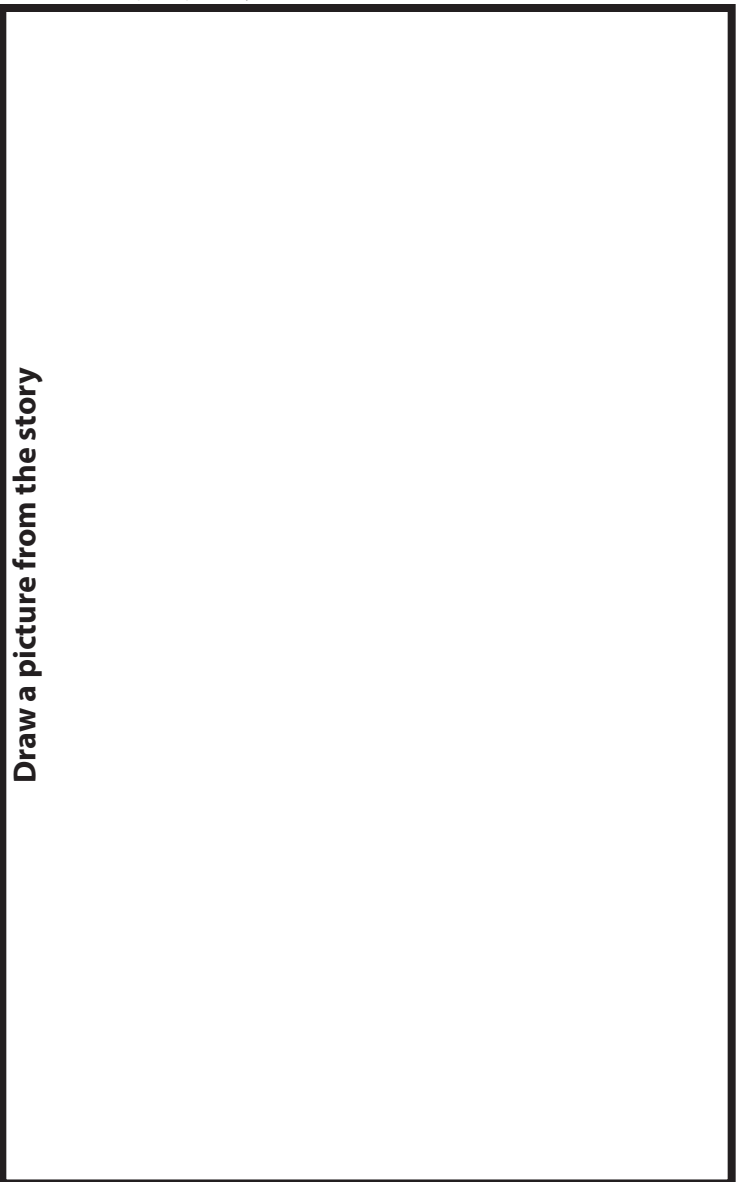
The LORD had done so much for the Israelites! He had given them so much, too. Yet they were all too quick to forget Him and use what He had given them to do sinful things.

What about you and me? What has the LORD given us? Has He not blessed us with good things and with skills? Has He not offered us salvation through faith in Jesus? Yes, He has. Will we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior? Will we receive the salvation He offers us freely through Jesus?

And what will we do with what the LORD has given us? Be selfish and think only of ourselves? Forget that He has given them all to us? Or, will we remember each day that we are only stewards of all the good gifts that God has given us and try to use everything we have to love others and help them know about Jesus?

Let’s praise God for all the good gifts He has given us. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to make us good stewards of the things and skills He has given us, that we might glorify Him.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God is the Creator of all things and all things belong to Him. <i>Answer: True.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who were the people who wouldn't stop? What wouldn't they stop doing? Answer: The people of Israel. They wouldn't stop giving things to be used to build the tabernacle.</p> <p>b. How were they showing that they knew they were stewards? How were they being good stewards of what God had given them? Answer: They did not hold onto the things given to them. They wanted them to be used to do whatever the LORD wanted them to be used for.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each one should use whatever ___ he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's ___ in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the ___ God provides, so that in all things God may be ___ through Jesus Christ." Answers: gift; grace; strength; praised.</p>	<p>Be Thou My Vision <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 2 Be Thou my Wisdom, And Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee And Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, And I with Thee one. Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans</p> <p>God's people want God to be their Wisdom, that they would know how to use their lives to please Him. They want Him to be their true Word, that they might believe His Word and obey all it tells them about how to use the good gifts He's given them. They want His Holy Spirit to be dwelling in them so that even in their hearts they might have the wonderful fellowship with God He created them to have. They want Him to ever be with them, so that everything in their lives, from the thoughts of their hearts to their words and their actions, please Him and might be used as He wants them to be used. This is how they can be good stewards of all the gifts God has given them.</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 rescuer of Your people from slavery to sin and to death. You give them eternal life.</p> <p>C God, we confess that too many times, like the Israelites, we are sinners who choose to use the good things You have given us to do what we want to do, instead of using them to worship and serve You. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that even though we have often disobeyed Your good ways and misused the good things You have given us, that You offer us forgiveness through Jesus.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to use all the good gifts You have given us to serve You.</p>	<p>Each of Us Should Use <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 17</i></p> <p>Each of us should use whatever gift, Gift he has received, to serve others. Faithfully administering God's grace, In its various forms. First Peter Four, ten and eleven.</p> <p>Words: 1 Peter 4:10-11 Music: Constance Dever ©2015</p> <p>This verse reminds us God is the one who gives us everything we are and have. He wants us to be good stewards of them. He wants us to use these gifts to help and encourage others; and, to bring praise to His name. He gives us the strength to do this, through His Holy Spirit, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

God is the Creator of all things and all things belong to Him. There is nothing that we have that God did not give to us: our bodies, our belongings, our money, our lives. Yes, everything is a gift from God to us.

What does God want us to do with all these good gifts He have given us? He wants us to be good stewards of them. What is a steward? A steward is someone who takes care of someone else's things.

God tells us in His Word how He wants His people to be good stewards of His gifts to them. He wants them to serve Him with their bodies—with their hands, their mouths and all of their strength. He wants them to freely share what they have with others. He wants them to use their money generously to take care of their families, to help others and to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus.

In heaven, God promises to reward each of His people according to how they stewarded His gifts during their lives on earth. God's people know that they can't be good stewards of God's gifts on their own. They know that it is the Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, who helps them be the good stewards He wants them to be. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Adapted from *How Cyrus Hamlin Came Out of a Missionary Box, My Life and Times*, by Cyrus Hamlin, D.D.

Our story is called:

The Case of the Bulging Box.

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

1. What was the box for? What did it bulge with?
2. What came out of the box besides money? What did he mean?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in America in the 1820's.

Have you ever heard of a missionary box? Perhaps it sounds like a box with a missionary in it; or perhaps a box that belongs to a missionary. But the truth is, it is neither. A missionary box is a little box with a little slot to put money in on the top. Many churches used to keep these by the door to collect money for missionaries who had gone to faraway places to help others and tell them about Jesus. Money goes into the box until it fills up and then it all comes out of the box and gets sent to the missionaries. That is the way that missionary boxes worked. But our story today is the story of what happened when a little boy named Cyrus put his money into a missionary box, only to find years later that something far more than just money came out of the box.

A request was made to Cyrus' little church to help out missionaries working in India who were starting a school to teach young boys how to read and tell them about Jesus. "Just twelve dollars a year will educate a boy!" Cyrus and the others were told. "That's a dollar a month, boys and girls. Any amount is welcome, but why don't you try to bring in one cent a week and we shall do nicely."

Now perhaps one cent a week sounds like only a very small amount of money to you, but back then even a penny was hard to come by, for a couple of reasons. First of all, most people didn't even use money, they simply traded and swapped things (this is called bartering). Perhaps you grew corn and your neighbor had chickens and eggs. You wouldn't use money to buy eggs from your neighbor, you would just trade your corn for their eggs.

But not only that, pennies went a long way back then. Nowadays there is almost nothing you could buy with a penny, but then you could buy many things with one. It would take a lot of hard work and sacrifice if a boy or girl would make a penny a week, but Cyrus and his friends at

church were willing to do it. Why? Because they knew that the best thing they could do with their hands and feet, their hearts and their minds, their money and their time, any day, was something that loved others and might help them to know about Jesus. They wanted to be good stewards of the gifts God had given them.

So how did the children try to raise money? Some of the boys got big, heavy shovels and gathered ashes from fireplaces to sell at the potash (fertilizer) factory. By the end of the day, they were covered in grey ash and their muscles were tired, but they had made a little money. Other boys grew potatoes to sell at the market. Each day they worked hard in their little plots of land: clearing a new patch of ground with a hoe, planting deep holes in which to plant the little potato eyes (seeds), then day after day of pulling out weeds, killing potato bugs, and lugging water in heavy buckets to water the little plants in dry spells. It was hard work! and sixty pounds of good potatoes sold for just ten cents. Girls braided straw for hats or knitted woolen clothing that they could sell. They worked their fingers long and hard. Adults helped the children by putting some of their few spare cents into the box, as well. What came of all their hard work? Every month, by hook and by crook, the missionary box collected its dollar a month.

Cyrus, like the other children, worked hard month after month to put in his share in the missionary box. But there was one fine morning, when what Cyrus put in the missionary box was to change his life. This particular day happened to be Cyrus' favorite day of the whole year: "Muster" Day, as they called it in his little town. All the men of the town would dress up like soldiers and act out a famous battle from a war. Cyrus rushed through his chores that morning then reported to his mother, looking for her final approval of his work and permission to go off to watch the Muster.

"Cyrus, you've done a good job on your chores. Now be off to the Muster," his mother told him. "I know you won't be back until dark, so here is seven cents for you to buy lunch and some of that special gingerbread you love, plus whatever else you need all day. That's a lot of money, Cyrus, perhaps you will want to think about sparing a cent or two for the missionary box."

As Cyrus started off to the Muster, he began to think about the missionary box. "Shall I drop in one cent or two? I wish mother hadn't said one or two. Let's see, how much

can I spare? Well, five cents should be enough to cover everything I could eat, more. Perhaps, I can give two cents." But as Cyrus kept walking along, more thoughts came to him: "Five cents for me and only two cents given away to help those who have never heard about Jesus? Five cents for gingerbread and only two for Jesus? That can't be right. Let's make it four for gingerbread and three for Jesus", Cyrus decided.

But soon even that did not seem like enough, by the time he reached the missionary box. "Hang it all!" Cyrus exclaimed, "I'll dump them all in and have no more bother about it. Don't I know that the best thing I can do with hands and feet, my heart and my mind, my time and even my gingerbread money, any day, is something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus? I want to be a good steward of the good gifts that God had given me." So that is just what Cyrus did and went away contented.

All day Cyrus enjoyed the glories of the Muster: the men in their bright uniforms with shiny buttons and old-fashioned guns, acting out a battle just as Cyrus and his little friends often did. All around the field were refreshment stands with lemonade and gingerbread and all sorts of other good things to eat. The other children were enjoying the food as much as the muster, but Cyrus stayed clear away of the stands for even the smell of the freshly baked goodies seemed to tease his nose and make his stomach grumble.

Yet even with pangs of hunger, never did Cyrus doubt that he did the right thing with his seven cents. "I love gingerbread and lemonade just as much as everyone else," thought Cyrus to himself, "but the best thing I can do with hands and feet, my heart and my mind, my time and even my gingerbread money, any day, is something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus. I want to be a good steward of the gifts God has given me. Today that means doing without a little gingerbread and lemonade."

By four o'clock, Cyrus was starting to feel a little weak he was so hungry. He had been up on his feet since dawn with nothing to eat since breakfast. He left the muster and started the long walk home.

When he got there, he burst into the house and cried out, "Mother, I'm as hungry as a bear! I haven't had a mouthful to eat today."

"Why, Cyrus, have you lost the money I gave you?" she asked him.

"No, mother; but you didn't give it to me right," Cyrus answered. "If you had given me eight cents, or six cents, I would have divided it half and half between me and the missionary box. But you gave me seven. I couldn't divide it, and so I dropped it all into the box together!"

"You poor boy!" she said, smiling in tears. And soon Cyrus had a huge bowl of milk and bread that Cyrus thought was fit for a king.

But why do you think Cyrus' mother cried? Did she think he had done something bad by giving the money all away? No, not at all. It was because she, like Cyrus, knew that the best thing anyone could do with their hands and feet, their heart and mind, their time and even their gingerbread money, any day, was something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus. Her son had even chosen to deny his own needs that day to do this. She knew that he night she worked to heal him. The next day, the chief awoke!. Each day he improved. The people celebrated. Thanks to the White Ma, not only would the chief live, wanted to use all that he had and was for Jesus. He wanted to be a good steward of the gifts God had given him.

But remember I told you that on this day, Cyrus put his money in the missionary box, but that years later something very different came out? Now it's time to tell you what came out. Well, you see, Cyrus never ever forgot that day when he chose to deny himself to help the missionaries tell others about Jesus. As he grew up, there were many more times when he weighed his desires for smaller things against the great need of telling others about Jesus, deciding their needs were more important than his. Finally one day, Cyrus thought, "You know, it's not enough for me anymore just to give money to help the missionaries. I really do believe that the best thing I can do with my hands and feet, with my heart and mind, my time as well as my money, is to love others and help them know about Jesus! I want to be a good steward of the good gifts God has given me. For me, that means being a missionary! I never realized that when I put that money in the missionary box, what would come out of it would be a new missionary—me!

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Are Good Stewards of God's Gifts

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 4:10-11:

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

Cyrus was not the only missionary that came out of that little missionary box. Five of the other children from that one little church also grew up to be missionaries to different parts of the world. And they all said that it was learning to work and give and even sacrifice for that little missionary box that made the difference.

What about you and me? Do we think about being stewards of the gifts God has given us? Do we ever work hard or think about doing without something so that the good news about Jesus might spread to new places and to more people who have never heard about Him? What do we think is the best thing to do with our hands and feet, our hearts and minds, our time and money?

Let's praise God for the good gifts He has made us stewards of. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to work in our lives that we might use everything we have and everything we are for Jesus. Let's ask Him to make us good stewards of all the good gifts He's given us.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 A steward is someone who takes care of their own things.
Answer: False. A steward takes care of someone else's things. We are all stewards of everything we are and have because it all belongs to God and was given to us by God.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. What was the box for? What did it bulge with?
Answer: To help missionaries who had gone overseas to tell others about Jesus. Money.

b. What came out of the box besides money? What did he mean?
Answer: Money to care for the missionaries came out of the box, but also Cyrus did! He didn't really come out of the box. He meant that because of that box and the money he gave, God gave him a heart to want to go tell people in faraway places about Jesus, too.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 Peter 4:10-11
 "Each one should ___ whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone ___, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone ___, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through ___ ___." *Answers: use; speaks; serves; Jesus Christ.*

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 16

Verse 2
 Be Thou my Wisdom,
 And Thou my true Word;
 I ever with Thee
 And Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father,
 I Thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling,
 And I with Thee one.
Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne
Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

God's people want God to be their Wisdom, that they would know how to use their lives to please Him. They want Him to be their true Word, that they might believe His Word and obey all it tells them about how to use the good gifts He's given them. They want His Holy Spirit to be dwelling in them so that even in their hearts they might have the wonderful fellowship with God He created them to have. They want Him to ever be with them, so that everything in their lives, from the thoughts of their hearts to their words and their actions, please Him and might be used as He wants them to be used. This is how they can be good stewards of all the gifts God has given them.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Sender of Your people to tell others about Jesus that they might be saved from their sins.

C God, we confess that many times we do not act like Cyrus and the other children. We would rather keep all our money for ourselves rather than giving it away to help tell others about Jesus

T God, we thank You that You give Your people the desire and the strength to give and even sacrifice what they want that others might hear and believe the good news of Jesus.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Cyrus. Make us willing to even sacrifice our own wants and sometimes needs so that others might hear about Jesus. Give us a heart that wants to go and tell others the good news of Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Each of Us Should Use
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 17

Each of us should use whatever gift,
 Gift he has received, to serve others.
 Faithfully administering God's grace,
 In its various forms.
 First Peter Four, ten and eleven.

Words: 1 Peter 4:10-11 Music: Constance Dever ©2015

This verse reminds us God is the one who gives us everything we are and have. He wants us to be good stewards of them. He wants us to use these gifts to help and encourage others; and, to bring praise to His name. He gives us the strength to do this, through His Holy Spirit, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

God is the Creator of all things and all things belong to Him. There is nothing that we have that God did not give to us: our bodies, our belongings, our money, our lives. Yes, everything is a gift from God to us.

What does God want us to do with all these good gifts He have given us? He wants us to be good stewards of them. What is a steward? A steward is someone who takes care of someone else's things.

God tells us in His Word how He wants His people to be good stewards of His gifts to them. He wants them to serve Him with their bodies—with their hands, their mouths and all of their strength. He wants them to freely share what they have with others. He wants them to use their money generously to take care of their families, to help others and to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus.

In heaven, God promises to reward each of His people according to how they stewarded His gifts during their lives on earth. God's people know that they can't be good stewards of God's gifts on their own. They know that it is the Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, who helps them be the good stewards He wants them to be. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Luke 11:13-34

Our story is: The Case of the Treasure Seekers.

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

1. Who came to Jesus seeking treasure? How did he want Jesus to help?
2. What treasure did Jesus tell him (and the others) to seek? How could they get this kind of treasure?

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

A young man walked down the dusty road with an angry look on his face. "I can't believe my older brother! He is so selfish and unfair to me!" this young man was thinking. "As if it wasn't enough for him to get the usual, double share of our dead father's things, he had to decide to keep it all—even the little bit that was to come to me! Well, I'll fix him now! That teacher Jesus, who everyone's been going to, is in town. I hear he's a good teacher and wise man. He will want me to have my share of my dead father's things. I'll get him to tell my brother to give me what I deserve! Surely if he says my brother should give me some of his things, he will listen." he thought angrily to himself.

Before long, the young man reached the edge of the crowd of people who gathered around Jesus. Some had come to hear what Jesus had to say about God and His kingdom. But all too many came because of what they hoped Jesus might do for them. The young man in our story was one of those. He knew just exactly what he wanted Jesus to do for him!

But how to get TO Jesus. That was the first problem this young man had to solve. The crowd that swarmed around Jesus that day numbered in the thousands! People were even trampling each other, they were so anxious to get to Jesus for help.

Somehow, the young man squeezed his way all the way through that crowd, even if it meant stepping over the mats of the weak and crippled or slipping past the blind man who couldn't see the gap that had formed in front of him. This young man did whatever it took to get up to Jesus.

"Teacher, tell my brother to divide my dead father's things with me!" he blurted out, interrupting Jesus' teaching time with His closest disciples.

Jesus stopped talking and looked at the young man;

and because Jesus is God, He knew just exactly what was going on in that young man's heart, even though He had never even seen him before. Here was a young man not just looking for justice. This was a young man filled with greed. He was a seeker of earthly treasure—he wanted more and more stuff to make his own life good and easy, when what he really needed was the heavenly treasure of knowing God better and using all that God had given him to love others and tell them about Jesus. Jesus would not help this young man continue to live this foolish way.

"Young man, I'm not here to decide between you and your brother about your dead father's things," Jesus told him. "I'm here to talk to you about what real life is all about...and it has nothing to do with how much stuff you have!!"

Jesus then turned and said to the whole crowd, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. Don't spend your life just trying to get more and more things. Don't be a seeker of earthly treasure, like getting more stuff. Use the things that God has given you to know God better, to love others and tell them about Me. Then you will have heavenly treasure, the kind that lasts forever and ever!"

"Let me tell you a story," Jesus went on. "Once there was a farmer who had fields and fields of fine wheat. He had had lots of years of good crops and had grown very rich. He had a big house, he had everything he wanted. His storehouses of grain were brimming over. He was so rich that he could afford to have servants work his fields for him. God had been very good to him and blessed him with everything he needed. Yet the man did not think of God to thank Him or to help out others in need."

"Well, before long it was harvest time and once more this rich farmer was going to have an incredible harvest of grain," Jesus continued. "But this year, the bountiful harvest was a problem, for the rich farmer's storehouses were already full of grain. What should he do with the extra? Did he remember that it was the Lord who had richly blessed him with the land and the fine harvest? Could it be that the Lord had plans for all that extra wheat? Wasn't there a poor widow woman who lived down the road with barely enough food to feed herself and her children? Could it be that the Lord wanted him to share with her? Would he take the grain and make a thank offering with it, giving it to the priests in the Temple to enjoy? He could always sell the

extra and give away the money to help one of his relatives. But no, he didn't choose to do any of those things. This rich farmer was a seeker of earthly treasure. He wanted to get more and more stuff. He didn't think about using the things that God had given him to know God better, to help others or tell them about God. He didn't want heavenly treasure. He wanted to keep all his good things to enjoy just for himself.

So the farmer made his plans: "This is what I'll do, planned the rich farmer, "I will tear down my barns and build even bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. Then I can relax. I will have plenty of good things laid up for many years. I can take life easy. I can eat, drink and be merry," Jesus said.

"Oh, if only the rich man had realized how foolish it is to be a seeker of earthly treasure. For earthly treasure never lasts. For God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

Jesus finished his story and told the crowd: "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat. Don't worry about your body--what you will wear," Jesus told them. "Life is more than food. The body is worth more than clothes. Think about the ravens--those big, scavenger birds. They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

"And look at the lilies that grow wild in the fields," Jesus said. "They don't do any work at all to clothe themselves, but not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed as beautifully as one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the people who don't know Jesus are only seekers of earthly treasure. They run after all such things, but you don't need to for your Father knows that you need them,"

"Be seekers of heavenly treasure," Jesus urged them. "Seek to know God better and better. Use all that He has

given you to love others and tell them about Me. Seek His kingdom, and these other earthly treasures you need will be given to you as well."

"Don't be afraid, little flock," Jesus told them. God is the loving shepherd of His people. He is pleased to take care of you and to give you the kingdom of God—life with Him forever! So sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Jesus told them.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Are Good Stewards of God's Gifts

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

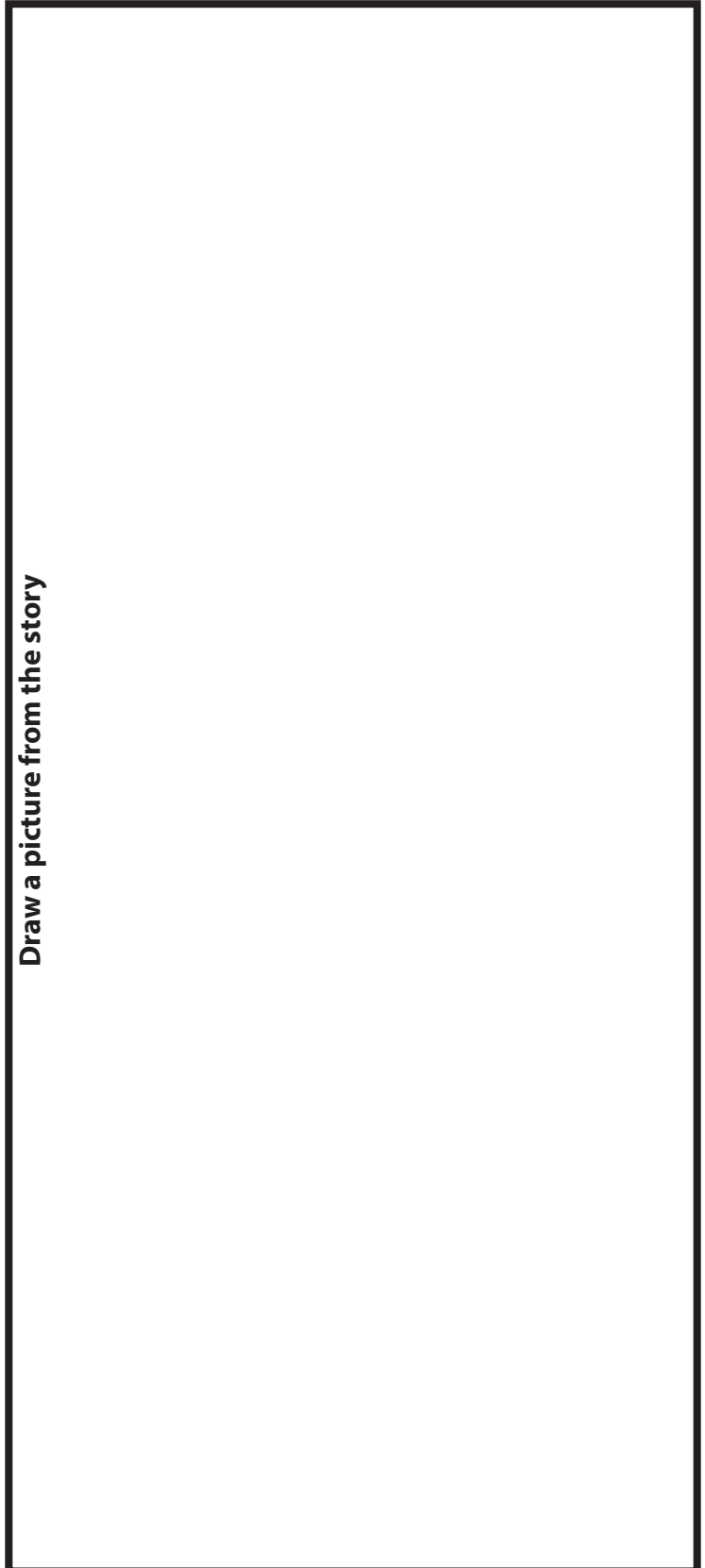
What happened to the young man? Did he understand what Jesus was saying? Did he see that he had been seeking earthly treasure rather than the riches of heaven? Did he see his greedy heart for what it was—desiring more things rather than thinking about God and using what he had in His service to love others and tell them about Jesus? The Bible doesn't tell us.

But what about you and me? God is calling us to different from the young man—to stop being greedy for more and more things, as if they are most important. He is calling us to be different from the rich farmer, who thought only of his own needs and desires rather than using his riches to love others and help them know about Jesus.

If we are His people, having turned from our sins and trusted for forgiveness in Jesus' death on the cross, we know that God promises to give us everything we need and often gives us so much more than just what we need. We know that even the best things we can ever have or hope to have here on earth are nothing compared to what He promises us in heaven.

Let's praise God for freeing His people from being greedy and worrying about things here on earth, knowing that He will always take care of them. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and

trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to make us heaven treasure seekers, desiring to know Him better and better and using all we have—our things, our bodies and especially our hearts—to love others and help them know more about Jesus.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's people have to try to be good stewards of what God has given them all by themselves.
 Answer: False! God gives them His Holy Spirit to live inside them and help them to be good stewards. We can be God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who came to Jesus seeking treasure? How did he want Jesus to help?
 Answer: A man whose father had died and he wanted Jesus to tell his brother to share his inheritance (the money and things that had belonged to his father) with him.

b. What treasure did Jesus tell him (and the others) to seek? What was it? How could they get this kind of treasure?
 Answer: Jesus told them to seek heavenly treasure. Heavenly treasure is seeking to know and love God most of all. They would have heavenly treasure as they used everything God had given them to love God and to love others.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 Peter 4:10-11
 "Each one should use whatever gift he has ___ to serve others, ___ administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength ___ provides, so that in ___ ___ God may be praised through Jesus Christ."
 Answers: received; faithfully; God; all things.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 16

Verse 2
 Be Thou my Wisdom,
 And Thou my true Word;
 I ever with Thee
 And Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father,
 I Thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling,
 And I with Thee one.
 Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne
 Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

God's people want God to be their Wisdom, that they would know how to use their lives to please Him. They want Him to be their true Word, that they might believe His Word and obey all it tells them about how to use the good gifts He's given them. They want His Holy Spirit to be dwelling in them so that even in their hearts they might have the wonderful fellowship with God He created them to have. They want Him to ever be with them, so that everything in their lives, from the thoughts of their hearts to their words and their actions, please Him and might be used as He wants them to be used. This is how they can be good stewards of all the gifts God has given them.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Teacher of Truth. We praise You for being the Good Shepherd who Your people can trust to take care of their needs.

C God, we confess that many times, we are like the young man who was greedy for more earthly riches, instead of desiring the heavenly riches that come in knowing and obeying You. We confess not trusting You to take care of our needs. We want to hold onto our things because we are afraid You won't take care of us.

T God, we thank You for giving us Your Word that we might not seek after earthly riches, but seek You and Your and heavenly riches.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and give us a desire for You and Your heavenly riches. Help us to trust in You, not in the things You give us.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Each of Us Should Use
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 17

Each of us should use whatever gift,
 Gift he has received, to serve others.
 Faithfully administering God's grace,
 In its various forms.
 First Peter Four, ten and eleven.
 Words: 1 Peter 4:10-11 Music: Constance Dever ©2015

This verse reminds us God is the one who gives us everything we are and have. He wants us to be good stewards of them. He wants us to use these gifts to help and encourage others; and, to bring praise to His name. He gives us the strength to do this, through His Holy Spirit, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 6:
God's People Obey Him**

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled in the beginning, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. This disobedience shows in our hearts. Many times, we think we know better than God. We tend to think about ourselves and what we want, most of all. This disobedience also shows up in our lives. We love to get our own way. We choose to say and do things that please us, even if they don't please God. Even if they hurt others.

But God's people seek to be different. They understand that they are sinners and deserve God's punishment. They confess their sins to God and desire to turn away from disobeying Him. (That's what it means to repent of our sins.) They trust in Jesus as their Savior. They want to start a new life of living to please God by obeying Him. God gives them faith in Him and forgives their sins. He gives them a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps them to love God and please Him. He helps them want to obey God in their heart. He helps them to love God and live to please Him with their lives.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

CASE STORY

Deuteronomy 17; 1 Kings 1-12; 2 Chronicles 1-10

Our story is called:

The Case of the Wise Man's Writings.

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

1. Who was the wise man? Why did he want to be wise? How did he become wise?
2. Where are his wise words written down? Who did his wise words not help? Why?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, when Moses led the Israelites, about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

On the high, grassy plain of Moab, a crowd of thousands and thousands of people gathered before Moses. Once a young man, Moses was now 120 years old! Soon he would die. He gathered the Israelites together to speak to them altogether, one last time.

"For forty years you have wandered in the wilderness, now it is time to enter the Promised Land the LORD is giving you and your families, It's only on the other side of these mountains," Moses told them, pointing to the slopes of the Avarim mountains behind him. "I won't be going with you. Joshua will be your new leader. It's time for me to die. But before we part, there are some things I must tell you. Listen carefully so that it will go well for you in the Promised Land," he told them.

Picking up a huge scroll, Moses began to read to them all the laws that the LORD had given him to write down. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.... Remember all His good laws and obey them. Teach them to your children so that they will obey them, too," he urged them.

"One day you will want to have a king like all the other nations," Moses told them. "The LORD wants you to remember to make sure that you have your kings write down their own copies of all the words on this scroll and read them every day, so that they will always know how to obey Him. And make sure that they don't buy lots of horses or have lots of wives. Make sure they don't save up a lot of gold and silver. For if they do these things, they will forget the LORD and His words and lead you astray to worship idols. The king who obeys the LORD will be a good king for you and the LORD will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who doesn't, the LORD will take the throne away from him," Moses told them.

“The LORD has given all these good laws to you and your king. But remember: it’s not enough just to know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you,” Moses reminded them.

The people listened to all the words that Moses spoke and said, “We promise to keep the LORD’s good laws. We promise to teach them to our children. We promise to have our kings obey them, too.”

Years passed. And just as the LORD said, the people of Israel did ask for a king. First came Saul, then David, then Solomon. Did any of these men copy down the Word of the LORD on a scroll for themselves to know and obey? We don’t know for sure. The Bible doesn’t tell us. But of those three, first kings, perhaps David did, because he loved the LORD so much. And perhaps Solomon did, because he desired to rule his people well and obey the LORD, as David did.

Solomon had asked the LORD for wisdom and the LORD made him the wisest man who has ever lived. The LORD showed him that the wisest thing he or anyone else could do was not to just to KNOW God’s wisdom, but to obey it. He must fear (obey and honor) the LORD so that he would be a good king and life would go well for the people. I suppose more than anyone else since Adam and Eve, Solomon knew what to do to obey God. God had given him wisdom to know. As a young king, he tried hard to do everything the law commanded him to do: from writing down the words of the Law, to keeping all the special celebrations and making all the right offerings to the LORD at the Temple.

It didn’t take long for the word to spread about the wisdom of Solomon. Kings from other parts of the world soon ordered their wise men: “Go to Solomon and listen to his wisdom and write down his words, so that my people and I can learn how to live wisely.”

The Queen of Sheba wasn’t satisfied with sending her wise men to hear Solomon. She traveled the difficult, thousands of miles to Jerusalem to hear him, herself. And she, like everyone who came to Solomon’s throne room and listened to him was amazed at His wise words and honored him with rich gifts of wonderful things like gold, silver, horses, and even princesses as wives. Truly he did know what do to live right and obey God.

But it’s one thing to be wise and another thing to obey, As Solomon became more and more famous and received

more and more presents, he began to stop obeying the LORD’s laws and stop listening to the wisdom the LORD had given him. When offered great riches, Solomon should have protected his heart and not kept them for himself. But he kept it and became one of the richest men in the world. When offered beautiful, strong horses, he should have protected his heart and not kept them for himself. But he kept them, until he had 12,000 of them! He even had 1400 chariots to go with them. And when the beautiful princesses were offered to him, he should have not accepted them. But instead, he took them as wives. Seven hundred of them, plus another three hundred who weren’t princesses. Solomon had been given the wisdom to know how God wanted him to live, but he didn’t choose to obey what he knew. Like us, Solomon was a sinner with a sinful heart. He chose to do what pleased himself, instead of God.

I am sad to say that everything turned out as the LORD’s wise words, given through Moses years earlier, had warned. As Solomon grew old, he turned away from worshiping the LORD and worshiped the false gods of his wives. He bowed before Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians with his Sidonian wives. With his Ammonite wives, he offered sacrifices before the terrible Molech. And on a hill east of Jerusalem--the very city where he had built the LORD’s Temple-- Solomon built an altar to worship Chemosh with his Moabite wives. And these were only some of the gods that Solomon worshiped with his wives.

Long ago the LORD had warned through Moses: “The king who obeys the LORD will be a good king for you and the LORD will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who doesn’t, the LORD will take the throne away from him,” Moses told them. “The LORD has given all these good laws to you and your kings. But remember: it’s not enough just to know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you,” he promised. What would happen to Solomon now that he had disobeyed the LORD and forgotten His good laws?

“Since this is you haven’t kept my covenant and my good laws, I will take the kingdom from you and give it to one of your servants when your son takes your place as king,” the LORD promised.

And that is just what happened. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, one of Solomon’s high officials, rose up against him and in the end took away almost all of Israel away from Solomon’s

son.

Oh, how sad it was to be for Solomon, his son, and the people of Israel, as a result of Solomon’s disobedience!

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Obey Him

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:23-24

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

What a sad ending for the wisest man in the world! If there were any person who knew how to please and obey God, it was Solomon! Yet even Solomon disobeyed the LORD!

How can that be? Is it really not enough to know how to wisely obey the LORD? No, it isn’t. It doesn’t matter how wise or smart any of us are, we all have sinful hearts that stray away from God’s good ways. It wasn’t what Solomon knew, it was what was in Solomon’s heart that was the problem. He was a lover of himself, not of God, in his heart of hearts.

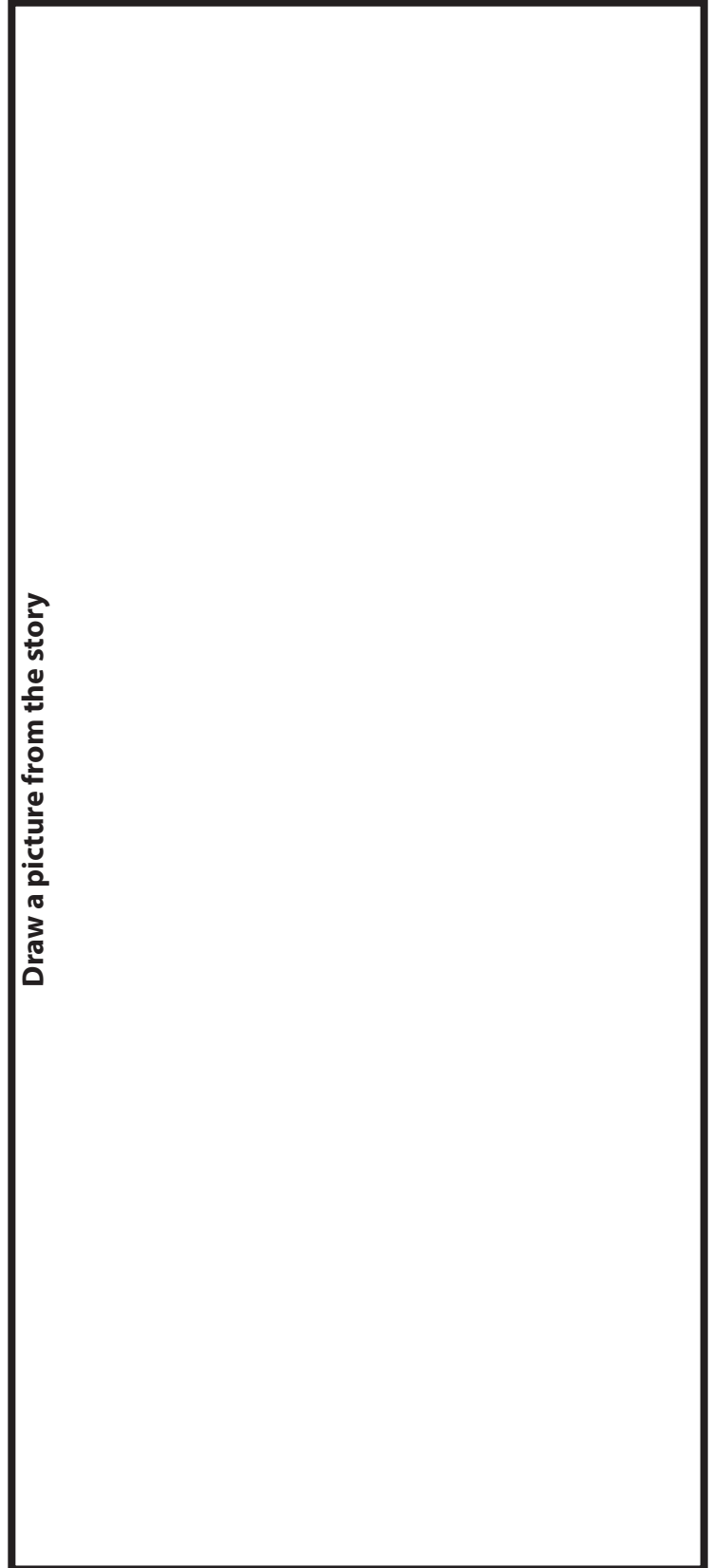
What about you and me? If a wise man like Solomon turned away from the LORD’s wise ways, what hope is there for us? Aren’t we lovers of ourselves, too? Yes, we are all sinners, just like Solomon, but the LORD is a God full of mercy! There is wonderful hope for every one of us.

The LORD still kept a promise He made to David and Solomon: that through their family a Savior would come. Yes, through that family, the LORD sent Someone even greater than Solomon to rescue us—the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was even wiser than Solomon (for He is God and knows everything there is to know). He knew exactly how to please God. And even more important for us, Jesus was more obedient than Solomon. He was God’s Son. And though He was tempted in every way to sin like Solomon and like us, He always obeyed God’s laws perfectly.

He offered up His perfect life as the perfect payment for the sins of all confess their sins, who turn away from them and trust in Him for forgiveness. And that is only part of the wonderful news: to all who come to Him in faith, He promises to give them new hearts, filled with His Holy Spirit who will help them love Him more and more and obey Him more and more. He will give to them strength to help them obey Him.

Let’s praise this God for being so merciful for offering

forgiveness our disobedience through Jesus and power to love and obey Him through His Holy Spirit. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we would not just know what is wise, but have the strength to obey.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Even since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, some really bad people have decided to disobey God and some good people decided to obey Him.
Answer: False. All people have chosen to disobey God. We all need a Savior! We all need God's help to obey Him and His good ways.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Who was the wise man? Why did he want to be wise? How did he become wise?
Answer: Solomon. He wanted to be wise to be a good king. The LORD gave him great wisdom when he asked Him for it.
b. Where are his wise words written down? Who did his wise words not help? Why?
Answer: In the Bible. His wise words didn't help him because he did not obey them or the LORD's others words to him and turned away to do what he wanted to do.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
John 14:23-24
 "Jesus replied, "If anyone ___ me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love ___, and we will come to him and make our ___ with him. He who does not love me will not ___ my teaching."
Answers: loves; him; home; obey.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 18
Verse 4
 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

*Words: Frances R. Havergal
 Music: Henri A.C. Malan*

Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God's good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver and Revealer of Your Good Laws. You tell us how to obey You. You tell us the right way to live.

C God, we confess that like Solomon, we are all sinners who too many times turn away from You and Your good laws to do what we want. We all need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You offer us forgiveness for all our sins when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we would obey You more and more.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Jesus Replied
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 19

Jesus replied, "If anybody loves me,
 He will obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 Jesus replied, "My Father will love him and we will come,
 And make our home with him," Jesus replied.

But that's not all Jesus said....

Jesus replied, He who doesn't love me,
 Will not obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 John Fourteen, twenty-three and twenty-four.

Words adapted from John 14:23-24 Constance Dever © 2011

In these verses, Jesus teaches that love for God is more than just a good feeling in our hearts or saying that we love Him. True love for God shows itself by obeying Him. This is the kind of person who gets to know the wonderful fellowship of God through His Holy Spirit living in their heart.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 6:
God's People Obey Him**

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled in the beginning, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. This disobedience shows in our hearts. Many times, we think we know better than God. We tend to think about ourselves and what we want, most of all. This disobedience also shows up in our lives. We love to get our own way. We choose to say and do things that please us, even if they don't please God. Even if they hurt others.

But God's people seek to be different. They understand that they are sinners and deserve God's punishment. They confess their sins to God and desire to turn away from disobeying Him. (That's what it means to repent of our sins.) They trust in Jesus as their Savior. They want to start a new life of living to please God by obeying Him. God gives them faith in Him and forgives their sins. He gives them a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps them to love God and please Him. He helps them want to obey God in their heart. He helps them to love God and live to please Him with their lives.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Porcupine Roach.

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

1. What was a porcupine roach? Who had one? What did it mean when it was picked up?
2. Who chose to put down his porcupine roach when he wanted to pick it up? What happened? Why did he choose to put it down instead?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived out on the great, High Plains in Alberta, Canada in the 1840's.

Kass'aq were coming! White people! The bad news spread from teepee to teepee in Cree village. "We were out hunting this morning when we saw the smoke of fires in the distance," some of the men reported. "We got as close as we dared to learn more. They weren't trappers, like white men at the fort. These were families with all their belongings."

The chief understand what this meant. The white man was coming to take over their land! "These kass'aq! First they come to take our beaver and buffalo. Now it seems they come to take our land from us, too. This is our people's land. It has been for hundreds of years. Do they think they can have it without a fight? Ask our enemies the Blackfoot. The Crees don't just give away their land—they fight back! Go now! Summon the braves! It is time for us to put on our porcupine roaches, our special battle headdresses. Follow me! We must defend our land!" he told the Cree braves. There would be no hunting of buffalo tomorrow. Tomorrow there would be war!

This was to be the only the first of many battles between Cree and the white men. The Crees relied on tricks of cunning and surprise to fight the white man. Their bows and arrows were little match for the white man's guns and gun powder. More and more white people came, taking away more of the Crees' land and the buffalo they depended on. The Crees fought back, but it was a losing battle. How they hated the kass'aq!

Perhaps no one grew up hating the kass'aq more than Maskipaton, the chief's son. He was all too happy to put on his porcupine roach and strike out against the white men in battle. He wanted them dead!

One day, Maskipaton's aging father, the chief came to

him and said, "Maskipaton, my son, I am too old to lead my people well. It is time for you to take my place as chief of the Crees. You must lead our people now. You must protect our people from our enemies, especially the white man."

Maskipaton happily accepted his father's gifts. "Father, I will do all I can to protect our people and our lands, just as you have. I will keep away our enemies—especially the white man," he promised. And so, under Chief Maskipaton's leadership, the hatred between the Cree and the white man grew even fiercer.

But while hatred was growing between the Cree and white man, God was growing love for both of them in Robert Rundle's heart. He lived far away in England, but couldn't stop thinking about them. "Both white men and Cree need to hear about Jesus," Rundle thought. "Why shouldn't I be the one to tell them about Him?" So Rundle packed up all his things and traveled across thousands of miles of ocean and then thousands of miles of rugged, cold, wild lands until he reached a fort in Alberta in the Cree lands.

It didn't take long for Rundle to see that the fort was a great place to tell the white men about Jesus, but not to tell the Cree. "These people are suspicious of all white men—and well they should be," Rundle realized. How can I tell them about Jesus here at the fort? They may think it's a trick. "And with no written language, they can't even learn the Bible. No. If I want to reach the Cree with the good news of Jesus, there is only one thing to do: I must go to live with them—even if it costs me my life!" Rundle decided.

Rundle set out for Maskipaton's village. As he arrived, Cree braves, quickly surrounded him, ready to attack. "Tanisi! Wachi! (How are you? Shake hands!) I come in peace to see Chief Maskipaton. I have a message for him from the great Creator God," Rundle said.

"I am Maskipaton," the chief answered him in a cold, hate-filled voice. "Tell me your message."

"The great Creator God has sent me with an important message for you, but it is very long. I want to write it down for you on birch bark and teach you and your people to read it. It will take me a long time to write it all down. I will need to live here with you in your village. Will you let me?" Rundle asked.

Chief Maskipaton was suspicious of the white man's

request. The white men he knew hated the Crees. Could this just be another trick to get rid of his people or take their lands?" Maskipaton wondered. "Yet what if this white man really did have a message from the Creator God? What could it be He wanted them to know? The chief's curiosity overcame his suspicions. For this one white man, he would set aside the porcupine roach—at least for now. "You may stay, kass'aq, but we will be watching you. Any tricks from you and I will put on my porcupine roach and scalp you myself!"

There never were any tricks. Robert Rundle loved the Cree. He learned their customs and their language; and, he began to write down the Creator God's message in their very own language. After much hard work Rundle went before Maskipaton with a present. "Chief, here is the Creator God's message, written in your own language. I would like to teach it to you first."

"Good," Maskipaton said. He was curious to hear the message Rundle had worked so hard to write down. Chief Maskipaton was an quick learner. Soon he could read about the perfectly holy Creator God who had made all things; but, how people had rebelled against Him, deserving eternal punishment for their sins. Then he read about Jesus, the Chief of Peace and Love and Son of the Creator God, who the Creator God sent to die for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him.

As Maskipaton read, he knew in his heart it was true. He was proud and sinful. He had killed and hated many men, especially the white man. He went to Rundle and said, "Rundle, I believe the Creator God's message. What must I do to be saved?"

"Ah, great chief, you have done the first thing already: You believe," Rundle told the chief, "but there is more. You must turn away from your sins and obey the Creator God's good laws. There will be many times when this is very hard. You will even have to set down your porcupine roach and seek peace. You will need to love your enemies."

"If that is what I must do, then I will never be saved," Maskipaton answered. "How can I stop hating and killing these kass'aq or the Blackfoot who have been so terrible to my people? I'll never be a Christian as long as there is a scalp to take or a horse to steal from the Blackfoot!" he vowed.

But the more Maskipaton read of the Creator God's message, the more the Holy Spirit worked in his heart.

"Rundle, I have changed my mind," the chief finally said, "I want to be a Christian. I am ready to obey the Creator God's good laws. I will even set down my porcupine roach and seek peace with my enemies."

So Chief Maskipaton became a Christian. The Holy Spirit did an amazing work in his heart. Instead of leading his people into war with the Blackfoot and the white men, Maskipaton worked to bring peace and understanding. Instead of encouraging his people to follow the gods of wind and fire and rain, he helped them to read so that they could know the message of the Creator God and His Son Jesus, too.

But just as Robert Rundle had told him, there would times when it would be very hard to obey God's good laws. One night soldiers came and for no reason attacked Maskipaton's village killing many of his people, including the old chief, his father. What would Maskipaton do now? Would he put back on the porcupine roach and seek revenge on these soldiers or would he obey the Creator God's good laws and continue to seek peace? The Holy Spirit gave Maskipaton strength to keep obeying the Creator God. "I have set down the porcupine roach in obedience to the Creator God. I will not put it on again," he declared. "I will continue to work for peace between my people and the kass'aq."

The Lord blessed Maskipaton for his obedience. For soon after this terrible attack, a great peace treaty was signed. Both Cree and white man gathered together at Maskipaton's village for a big celebration. There was lots of food and dancing around the fire to the beating of drums. But right in the middle of the celebration, Chief Maskipaton received some very startling news: "The soldier who killed your father is here tonight. Now is your chance for revenge," one of his braves told him. What would Maskipaton do?

"Stop the drums! Stop the dancing!" Maskipaton ordered. Everyone stopped in their place. "I have been told that the soldier who killed my father is here tonight. Bring him here to stand before me!"

The braves brought the scared soldier to Maskipaton.

"Answer me! Are you the man who killed my father?" the chief demanded.

"Yes," the soldier answered and a gasp of horror went through the crowd.

Maskipaton ordered the soldier's outer clothes removed.

Everyone knew this was how the Cree prepared to kill their enemies.

But instead of killing the man, Maskipaton gave him his best buckskin clothes and then set the man on his very best horse. "You are the man who killed my father," Maskipaton told this man. "Before I came to know and obey the Creator God and His Son Jesus, the Chief of Peace and Love, I would have scalped you. But He has made me a different person and I obey Him. I forgive you. I give you my best things. You will be like my father; and I, like your son. And when you go back to your fort, tell everyone that this is how Chief Maskipaton treats his enemies because he loves and obeys the Creator God!"

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Obey Him

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

The Lord did a mighty work in Chief Maskipaton's heart. By the Holy Spirit, He gave Maskipaton the strength to obey His good laws, even when it was very hard. In the end, many Cree and white men turned to the Lord because of Maskipaton's obedience to the Lord.

What about you and me? If we are to be God's people, we must turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We must obey his good laws, too, even when it is very hard. How will we have strength to do this? The same way Maskipaton did: by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.

Let's ask the Lord to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and give us strength to obey Him, just like He gave Chief Maskipaton.

<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: God's people confess their sins to God and desire to turn away from disobeying Him. <i>Answer: True. God's Holy Spirit can help us do this, too. Ask Him!</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. What was a porcupine roach? Who had one? What did it mean when he picked it up? Answer: A porcupine roach was a special headdress made of porcupine quills that the Cree Indians. When it was picked up and put on, it meant they were going to battle to kill an enemy.</p> <p>b. Who chose to put down his porcupine roach when he wanted to pick it up? What happened? Why did he choose to put it down instead? Answer: Maskipaton chose to put his down. A soldier came and cruelly killed his father, the chief, and many others in his village for no reason. He put it down and chose to forgive, because he had become a Christian. He wanted to obey God, even more than he wanted to get revenge.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: John 14:23-24 "Jesus replied, "If anyone loves ____, he will obey my ____. My Father will love him, and we will ____ to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my ____."</p>	<p>Take My Life and Let it Be <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 18</i></p> <p>Verse 4 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.</p> <p>Words: Frances R. Havergal Music: Henri A.C. Malan</p> <p>Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God's good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!</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 giver of strength to obey You and Your good laws.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we many times, like Maskipaton, we don't want to turn away from our sins and obey You. Many times we want to keep on living our own way.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to work in Your people's hearts, so that they, like Maskipaton, do turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. And, thank You that You can give them strength to obey You even when it is very hard. Nothing is too hard for You!</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and give us the desire and strength to obey You, even when it is very hard.</p>	<p>Jesus Replied <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 19</i></p> <p>Jesus replied, "If anybody loves me, He will obey my teaching," Jesus replied, Jesus replied, "My Father will love him and we will come, And make our home with him," Jesus replied.</p> <p><i>But that's not all Jesus said....</i></p> <p>Jesus replied, He who doesn't love me, Will not obey my teaching," Jesus replied, John Fourteen, twenty-three and twenty-four.</p> <p>Words adapted from John 14:23-24 Constance Dever © 2011</p> <p>In these verses, Jesus teaches that love for God is more than just a good feeling in our hearts or saying that we love Him. True love for God shows itself by obeying Him. This is the kind of person who gets to know the wonderful fellowship of God through His Holy Spirit living in their heart.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 6:
God's People Obey Him**

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled in the beginning, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. This disobedience shows in our hearts. Many times, we think we know better than God. We tend to think about ourselves and what we want, most of all. This disobedience also shows up in our lives. We love to get our own way. We choose to say and do things that please us, even if they don't please God. Even if they hurt others.

But God's people seek to be different. They understand that they are sinners and deserve God's punishment. They confess their sins to God and desire to turn away from disobeying Him. (That's what it means to repent of our sins.) They trust in Jesus as their Savior. They want to start a new life of living to please God by obeying Him. God gives them faith in Him and forgives their sins. He gives them a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps them to love God and please Him. He helps them want to obey God in their heart. He helps them to love God and live to please Him with their lives.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

CASE STORY

Matthew 4-7

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

1. Who were the lazy listeners? Who were they listening to? How were they lazy?
2. What did they need to do if they were to truly follow God?

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

Walk, walk, walk! Talk, talk, talk! It seemed that was all Jesus and his disciples had been doing lately. Walking up and down hill after hill; on just about every dusty, hot road of Galilee, Jesus had led his disciples, talking about the Kingdom of God and healing every kind of sickness imaginable. Now they were back home in Capernaum again.

Now that Jesus had amazed all of Galilee with his powerful preaching and healing, news spread far and wide about Him. All over Israel and even in the other nearby countries, many were talking about Jesus:

"Did you here about Jesus, the new teacher from Galilee? He teaches like He knows exactly what God thinks—not at all like the other teachers," someone would say.

"Yes, but His healings are what amaze me!" another would answer. "I hear that He heals sicknesses that have never been healed before!"

So they didn't just talk about Jesus, they walked to Capernaum where He was—by the hundreds! They wanted to hear Jesus themselves. They wanted to bring their sick family and friends for healing.

When Jesus saw the crowds, He led them away from Capernaum to Mt. Eremos, a broad, grassy hill that overlooked the sparkling, blue Sea of Galilee. He healed the sick among them and He taught them about God and how He wanted His people to live.

Some of the things Jesus told them were things everyone was pleased to hear and eager to obey: "Don't worry about whether you will have the things you need. Keep seeking God's kingdom and obey Him. He promises to take care of all your needs," Jesus told them. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks, will receive. Whoever seeks, will find; and whoever knocks, the door will be opened... Which of you, if his son asks for

bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you know how to give good gifts to your children, though you are sinners. Then how much more will your perfectly good Heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?" Jesus told them.

No one minded hearing Jesus teach these kinds of things. They all wanted God to take care of all their needs and that He delighted to answer their prayers.

But Jesus also told them other, difficult things that weren't so pleasant to think about:

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me"—but who wanted to be persecuted?....And He told them, "You've been told it's wrong to murder someone, but I tell you that when you hate someone in your heart, it's like murdering them. Even just calling someone a bad name like a fool, is enough of a sin to make you deserve hell... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"—were they really to love their enemies, was it really wrong to hate them? ... "If you do not forgive men their sins even though they do not deserve it, God will not forgive your sins"—did they really have to stop hating their enemies, but love and forgive them, instead? No one liked to hear things like these shocking teachings of Jesus.

Walk, walk, walk! Talk, talk, talk! Hundreds of people had walked to Jesus to have Him heal their sick. They listened to Him talk all day. They even loved to talk to each other about what He said. But was that it? Was that all there was to pleasing God? No, it was not! Jesus knew that if someone wanted to truly be one of God's people, they had to do more than walk and talk—they needed to obey. So Jesus told them a story to help them understand. It went something like this:

"Once there were two men, Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man," Jesus told them. "Each had decided to build a new house for their families down there near the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Together they found the perfect spot to build.

"Look here, Mr. Foolish Man, at this wonderful spot to build our houses," Mr. Wise Man told Mr. Foolish Man. "Not only is the view of the Sea beautiful, but there is a nice stream near by from which we can get fresh water for our families and animals."

"You are right, Mr. Wise Man. What more could we want than this," Mr. Foolish Man replied. "Let's begin building

right away."

Each man gathered his building supplies—wood, stone, shovel, hammer—then began construction. First the foundation would be laid, then the stone walls, and at last the roof of flax and wood would be put down.

Mr. Wise Man heaved his shovel up and down, working hard to break through the hardened sand on the surface. This was the most difficult part of building a house. It would take days to dig down deep enough and wide enough to make a rock foundation for his entire house. Before long, Mr. Wise Man was covered in sweat from all the hard work. His back and arms ached terribly, too. He wished there was an easier way to build a good house, but he knew that he would be glad that he had laid his foundation upon rock when the strong winter storms came. So on and on he kept digging.

You can imagine the surprise Mr. Wise Man had when he went to check up on Mr. Foolish Man's progress only to find that he was already laying the stone walls of his house!

"What's this? Already finished your foundation and on to building walls? Tell me your secret?" Mr. Wise Man asked Mr. Foolish Man. "How did you ever get through that hard-packed sand so quickly? I would give anything to be done!" Mr. Wise Man exclaimed.

"Well," answered Mr. Foolish Man, sort of ashamed, "the truth is, I started to dig down through that sand, just like you, but it was such hard work I could hardly stand it. And then it hit me: 'Why are you killing yourself by digging down to the rock. This ground here is every bit as hard. Why shouldn't it support my house just fine?' So I started laying my wall stones and look here," he said proudly pointing to his house, "My house is nice and sturdy, as you can see. I shall be finished in no time at all. Why break your back, my friend. Build your house on the sand like me. Save yourself the backache!"

Mr. Wiseman looked back over at the puny start he had made on his house and was discouraged. "What a long way I have to go. Why, it will take me days just to clear the sand off the rock," Mr. Wise Man thought. "Then I have all the building to do after that! Perhaps I should listen to my neighbor here. But what will happen in winter when the rain and winds come? Will this sand really stay as solid, as it is now?" he wondered.

"Well, Mr. Foolish Man, it sure would be nice to not to

have to dig down through this hard sand any more. But, this is how all the wise builders have built their houses, so I think I shall keep at it," he finally told his neighbor.

Soon Mr. Foolish Man had finished building his house. and happily settled his family in their new home. But Mr. Wise Man kept on working and working.

It wasn't until much later that tired Mr. Wise Man finally put the finishing touches on his house. It had taken him such a long time to do things the Wise way, but at last the job was finished. Mr. Wise Man proudly led his family to their new house near the Sea and settled in, just as Mr. Foolish Man had done with his family.

Before long the hot, dry days of summer turned windy and rainy. Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man awoke one morning to the sound of the rain beating down on their roofs and the wind blowing hard against their walls. All day long the storm beat down on the houses. The friendly, little stream that had given fresh water to their families now turned into an angry, roaring flood. It swept over its banks and swirled over the land and even rose up the walls of the houses of Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man. And all the time, it soaked deeper and deeper into the dry, hard sand, softening it up into a sloshy, wet mush.

Mr. Wise Man and his family slept dry and safe in their house all night long. No wet sand or strong winds could shake that house off its stone foundations. But it was an entirely different story for Mr. Foolish Man and his family. His house tumbled down with a crash in flooding waters and gusty winds, for the mushy sands were no real foundation at all, and he lost everything."

When Jesus finished his story, he looked around at the crowds listening and said, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. If someone is truly one of God's people, it will show in his or her life. Many people might say they are God's people, but only those who obey really are."

"Don't be the kind of person who just walks here to have Me heal your sick; or talks about what he heard Me say," Jesus told them. "Be the kind of person who obeys My words," Jesus told them. "Live your lives according to what I've told you. If you do, will be ready for whatever hard things happen to you in this life—just like the house built on the sturdy rock could last through the storm."

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Obey Him

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

Walk, walk, walk. Talk, talk, talk. All the crowds walked home, healed and talking about all they had seen and heard. I wonder how many of them went home and, like the wise man in Jesus' story, chose to build their lives on the only thing that would stand against anything that happened to them--obedience to Jesus' words? How many remembered to pray, to seek God's kingdom, to love and forgive their enemies? Or how many simply went home enjoying their healed bodies, but forgetting to obey Jesus' words, just as the foolish man chose to build his house in the sand? The Bible doesn't tell us.

But what about you and me? We've heard Jesus' words and we have listened to stories of his amazing healings. Who will we be like: the wise man or the foolish man? Let's praise God for giving us His words so we can know how to obey Him. Let's ask Him to help us to not just listen to His words, but obey them. Let's ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit to give us the desire and strength to obey His good words.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's Holy Spirit helps God's people to please Him by obeying Him.
 Answer: True! We can be God's people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Who were the lazy listeners? Who were they listening to? How were they lazy?
 Answer: Some of people in the crowds who followed Jesus. They were listening to Jesus. They liked to hear what He had to say, but did not necessarily obey God's Word.
b. What did they need to do if they were to truly follow God?
 Answer: They needed to remember God's Word and obey it, not just listen to it and forget it.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
John 14:23-24
 "Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will ___ my teaching. My ___ will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not ___ me will not ___ my teaching."
 Answers: obey; Father; love; obey.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 18
Verse 4
 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

Words: Frances R. Havergal
 Music: Henri A.C. Malan

Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God's good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

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 Good Word and the Giver of Strength to Obey It.

C God, we confess that many times we have heard Your Word but do not want to obey it. We want to live life our own way. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving us Your Word so that we can know how to obey You. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives inside Your people and help them have faith in Jesus and to obey Your Word.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with His Holy Spirit that we would be those who keep on obeying God's Word all their lives.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Jesus Replied
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 19

Jesus replied, "If anybody loves me,
 He will obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 Jesus replied, "My Father will love him and we will come,
 And make our home with him," Jesus replied.

But that's not all Jesus said....

Jesus replied, He who doesn't love me,
 Will not obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 John Fourteen, twenty-three and twenty-four.

Words adapted from John 14:23-24 Constance Dever © 2011

In these verses, Jesus teaches that love for God is more than just a good feeling in our hearts or saying that we love Him. True love for God shows itself by obeying Him. This is the kind of person who gets to know the wonderful fellowship of God through His Holy Spirit living in their heart.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

CASE STORY

Ruth 1-4

Our story is called:

The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman.

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

1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?
2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

This story takes place during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Naomi with her husband, Elimelech and her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, stood at the edge of the barley fields taking one last glance at the rows of dead, withered stalks standing lifelessly in the parched soil.

"Look at these crops!" Elimelech exclaimed. "The famine has taken our food for this year. We have no choice but to leave Bethlehem and find better land until the famine ends."

Sadly, the little family said good-bye to their friends and set off across the eastern mountains for the land of Moab. It was risky to leave one's land and people and settle in another country, but with Elimelech and his two sons to work hard for them, surely they would be able to grow all they needed.

They were right. Crops grew well in Moab. Elimelech and his family stayed there for ten years. Elimelech's family enjoyed the good food of Moab, but other troubles struck. Elimelech died; then both of the sons! Poor Naomi was left with nothing but the two Moabite wives of her sons, Orpah and Ruth. What was she to do?! There were no jobs for women to earn money in those days. There were no banks to loan you money. Women relied upon their husbands and sons to provide for their needs. Now Naomi had neither!

But Naomi wasn't all alone. the LORD was with her. He had provided for her all along through her husband and sons. He would go on providing for her. He had even prepared in advance the good work of providing for Naomi. And He would do it in His perfect way and in His perfect timing.

News soon reached Naomi that the famine in Judah had ended. She knew just what to do. "I will go back home. It will be best for me to be back in my own land with my

own people," she decided.

Orpah and Ruth helped Naomi prepare for the long trip home over the mountains. "Go back, to live with your parents. They will provide for you and hopefully you will soon get married again," Naomi told the two women, kissing them goodbye.

"No, We will go back with you to your people," they replied.

But Naomi said, "I have no sons to give you as husbands. Go start a new, good life for yourselves. Don't stay with me. The LORD is against me and my life is bitter," and the three women wept together again.

Naomi was right to be sad. She had lost her husband and her sons. But Naomi was not right to be bitter or hopeless. Was not her God the LORD, the One who ruled over all, who worked out all things according to His marvelous plans? Wasn't she one of His people? Didn't He love her? The LORD was calling Naomi to the good work of joy. She was not be bitter but put her hope in Him. For even though she was acting like all was hopeless, it was not. The LORD had prepared in advance good works for others to do for Naomi so that she would be well taken care of, as He was soon to show her.

Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and started home, but Ruth wouldn't leave.

"Orpah is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her," Naomi told Ruth.

But Ruth replied, "Don't make me leave. I will go where you go. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Nothing but death is going to separate you and me."

When Naomi saw that nothing she could say would change Ruth's mind, she and Ruth set off through the mountains of Moab for Bethlehem.

What a wonderful sight for Naomi's eyes were the golden stalks of barley swaying in the fields as they neared Bethlehem! News of Naomi's return spread quickly through the village.

"Can this be Naomi?" the women exclaimed as they looked at her. Naomi had left Bethlehem happy and full of life. Here she was sad and worn out.

"Yes, it is me," Naomi told them. But don't call me Naomi anymore. Naomi means "pleasant." Call me "Mara." It means bitter. "The Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. He have given me these hard times."

Naomi was acting like all was hopeless, but she was wrong. Hadn't the LORD already begun to show her that He had prepared in advance good works for others to do for her so that she would be provided for? Hadn't He given provided her with Ruth who promised to work and care for her all the days of her life? The LORD was calling Naomi to a good work, too. The good work of joy. She was to put her hope in Him.

Ruth set to work, caring for Naomi. Somehow she must get them food. With no money and no crops of their own, Ruth went down to gather up leftover grain in the fields of others. God's law commanded that farmers were to let the poor people do this, but many gave them a hard time. Ruth was not even an Israelite—she was from Moab, an enemy country! She would have to be brave and maybe even suffer to get food for them, but she was willing to do this for Naomi.

Things went much better than Ruth could have dreamed. For the same God who had prepared Ruth to do the good work of taking care of Naomi, had also prepared someone for good works to take care of Ruth. This someone was a godly, important man from Elimelech's own family. A man named Boaz. So, on the first day when Ruth courageously headed for the barley fields, the LORD led her straight to none other than then barley fields of Boaz.

All day under the hot, dry sun, Ruth looked for little barley grains among the dry stalks.. Slowly her basket began to fill up. Ruth could have complained of the heat and the ache in her back, but instead she was grateful for the food and happy to serve Naomi.

When Boaz came out to inspect the harvesters' work he noticed Ruth. "Who is that?" he asked the foreman.

"She's the Moabite woman who came with Naomi. She asked to gather grain in the field and has worked with hardly a break all day," he replied.

"Come here so I can talk with you," Boaz said to Ruth.

Ruth worried that Boaz was mad that she was gathering barley in his fields, but she was wrong. The LORD had sent Boaz to do the good work of caring for her.

"Stay and gather grain in my fields along with my servant girls. I won't let anyone harm you and when you are thirsty, drink from our water jars," Boaz told Ruth.

Ruth bowed with her face to the ground in thanks. "Why are you being so kind to me," Ruth asked Boaz.

"I've heard what you've done for Naomi. You left

everything to serve her here, far away from your own country," Boaz replied. "The LORD bless you for all you have done and for choosing to trust in Him."

At mealtime Boaz gave Ruth bread dipped in wine vinegar and roasted grain to eat. Ruth couldn't believe Boaz's kindness to her!

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. She threshed the barley she had gathered and carried it home.

Naomi was amazed at how much Ruth had. "Who let you collect all this grain from their field?" she asked.

"It was the field of Boaz," Ruth replied. And for the first time in a very long time, Naomi praised God for His care of her. "The LORD has done this for us! Of all the fields you could have worked in, He led you to work in Boaz', my husband's relative!"

Each day, Ruth went out to work in Boaz' fields. Each night, she brought home all the grain they needed and more. Day after day Boaz made sure that Ruth was taken care of. How good the LORD was to Naomi! He prepared good works for Ruth to do to take care of her. How good He was to Ruth, too. He had prepared good works for Boaz to do to help her, too.

This would be only the first of many good works God prepared for Boaz to do for Naomi and Ruth. Boaz bought back Elimelech's fields with his own money and gave them to Naomi. He married Ruth and took both her and Naomi into his house to live. He provided for all their needs the rest of their lives. And who should the LORD give Ruth for a child and to Naomi as a grandson? None other than Obed, the very grandfather of King David...and the great, great, great, great...etc. grandfather of Jesus. How richly the LORD honored Ruth for her good works in His service! How wonderfully He had provided for Naomi—to even become the great, great, great, etc. grandmother of Jesus, Himself!

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Do Good Works He Prepared for Them****Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Naomi, Ruth and Boaz to do. Naomi's good work was to trust and rejoice in the LORD even in her sadness. Ruth was to leave behind her family and country and serve Naomi. Boaz' was to graciously care for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz and Ruth did their work well, while Naomi struggled with hers. I wonder if Naomi ever looked back and regretted that she had chosen not to rejoice and trust in the LORD in her sadness? I wonder if she wished she had done better the works the LORD had given her to do?

What about you and me? Like Boaz, Naomi and Ruth, we can become God's people. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do this, not only will God forgive us our sins and make us His dear people, but He will have good works prepared for us, too. Let's praise God for offering us forgiveness of our sins. Let's praise Him for the good works He has prepared for His people. Let's ask Him to help us to trust in Jesus as our own Savior and give us good works to do that He has especially prepared for us to do in His service. Let's ask Him to help us know what those good works are each day and to help us to do them the best we can.

The LORD had prepared in advance good works for

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Work is something we have to do. It is a bad thing.

Answer: False. Work is a good thing! God created each of us to work and to enjoy it.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the bitter woman? Why?

Answer: Naomi. She was bitter because she lost her husband and sons and thought God had turned against her.

b. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

Answer: God planned to provide food for Ruth and Naomi as well as a husband/son-in-law to take care of them. Through this family, Jesus would even come many years later.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's ____, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the ____ of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the ____, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward ____ for whatever good he does..."

Answers: workmanship; will; Lord; everyone.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the provider for Your people even when it looks impossible.

C God, we confess that we, like Naomi, look at difficult situations and do not trust that You will be faithful. Instead, we become bitter or fearful. We all need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for Your great patience with Your people and Your great love for them, even when they doubt Your power and goodness.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Give us good works to do and to help us to take joy in You, even in the hardest times.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands
and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments
and my days,
Let them flow in
ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in
ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Words: Frances R. Havergal Music: Henri A.C. Malan

To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him. God's people ask God to use their whole lives for His good and perfect purposes. With their feet and hands, they want to serve Him. With all of their silver and gold (their money), they want to do whatever He wants them to do with it. Not a mite of it--not a bit of it--do they want to use for anything other than what He wants. They want every moment, every day of their lives to be lived for Him. And, because they know He has planned good works for them to do, they trust that He will help them do this, giving them the strength they need, by His Holy Spirit at work inside of them.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For We Are God's Workmanship

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23

For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared for us in advance to do.
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

Words: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8, NIV 1984

Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream.

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

1. Who was the Greene girl?
2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who was born in Seattle, Washington in America, but wound up traveling to many parts of Africa in the 1940's.

"I've got a birthday surprise for you, two," Albert Greene told Betty and Bill, his sixteen-year-old twin daughter and son, as they drove along beautiful Lake Washington. "How would you like to take an airplane ride?"

What an amazing birthday present this was! This was 1936 and airplanes were still something most people only dreamed to get to ride in. Betty almost burst with excitement as they parked their car at the little airstrip and headed towards the planes.. She had loved planes ever since she was a little girl. She learned all about them and the famous men and women who flew them: Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart—the first man and woman to fly across the Atlantic solo; Richard Byrd and Brent Balchen—the first men to fly to the South Pole, as well as many others. Now at last she would get to fly like these great men and women!

The experience was everything she dreamed it would be and more! What a feeling of freedom as they soared over the land and through the clouds! As the airplane touched back down on the runway, all Betty could think about was when she could go back up again. Fortunately for her, a generous uncle had given her enough birthday money to pay for flying lessons. Within days, Betty was back in that airplane for her first flying lesson and within two weeks she was flying completely solo. Betty's money ran out all too soon; and with it, her opportunity to fly. But whether in the air or just dreaming about being there, flying remained Betty's passion.

It would be years before Betty had another chance to fly. Her parents encouraged her to go to college to be a nurse and Betty honored their wishes. But after two years of studying bones and muscles, bandaging wounds and

taking temperatures, Betty knew she was never cut out to be a nurse. She wanted to serve people, but not this way. With her parents' approval she left nursing school and returned home to work for her father and figure out what work the Lord would have her do with her life.

"Betty, you seem unhappy. What's wrong?" asked Mrs. Bowman, a dear old family friend.

"I just don't know what to do with my life," Betty answered.

"Well, tell me, dear. What is it that you love to do?" Mrs. Bowman asked.

"I love to fly and I love to tell people about Jesus," Betty responded.

"Perhaps you could find some way to do both, like using your flying to help missionaries," Mrs. Bowman suggested.

"Why, of course!" exclaimed Betty. Why hadn't she thought of that before? Surely there must be a way to do that, but how? As Betty walked back home down the gravel road from Mrs. Bowman's house she prayed, "Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next."

The Lord was not slow to answer Betty's prayer. He had a big plan to use Betty's love of flying and desire to serve Him, but first she would need the skills of a fighter pilot to fulfill His plans. Within weeks, Betty began two years of intense pilot training that would put her in the U.S. Army in World War II, testing out the limits of the new B-17 Flying Fortress Bombers and pulling huge targets behind B-34 Bombers for soldiers to practice shooting from the ground. "Boom! Bang! Boom!" Betty cringed as the bullets exploded through the air on either side of her plane. She prayed that the men on the ground would remember to hit the target and not her plane!

As busy as Betty was with flying missions, her mind was still thinking about how the Lord could use her flying skills to serve Him, especially on the mission field.

"Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next," she kept praying.

At last a wonderful idea came to her: why not use her expert skills in flying to transport missionaries in and out of remote parts of the world, where the good news of Jesus was being taken for the first time. Often missionaries spent weeks hiking through difficult and dangerous

conditions to get to these unreached peoples. How much time could be saved and dangers avoided if they could simply be flown to their destination instead, Betty wondered. And what happened when a missionary had a medical emergency? Wouldn't an airplane be far faster and better to get a sick person to the urgent care they needed?

This idea excited Betty so much that she couldn't keep it to herself. She wrote an article about it and sent it into a Christian magazine. Perhaps others who read her article would want to help make it happen. Sure enough, her idea worked. Before long a letter came in the mail for her:

"Dear Miss Greene,

I read your article and am writing you to tell you that me and some other pilot friends of mine share your dream of using airplanes and pilots to spread the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Can you meet me in Washington, DC to talk about making this dream really happen?

Sincerely Yours,

Jim Truxton

Betty and Jim met in Washington, DC and began to make plans to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, as they decided to call themselves.

Within a few years, Betty was making her first of what were to be hundreds of expeditions to aid missionaries all over the world. And oh, what work the Lord had for her to do! She needed every bit of training she had gotten in the army to do it! She was the first woman pilot to fly over the dangerous Andes Mountains. She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a river in Peru as its engines died and it tumbled out of the sky. In Africa, she once flew a new mother and her baby through a huge sandstorm. Another time, she sped to airlift a little girl choking to death to a hospital, hundreds of miles away. Far out in the Pacific Ocean in the untamed jungles of Irian Jaya, she trekked through thirty-five miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and snuck around fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway cut out of the side of the jungle.

After thirty some years of work with the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship (now called Mission Aviation Fellowship), Betty Greene retired from service. Long ago she had prayed that the Lord show her how to use flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, if that was the work He had planned for her. How marvelously the Lord had answered those prayers. Even today, the

wonderful work that began with the dream of one young woman is still going on, bigger and better than ever. Every four minutes, every day of the week, every day of the year, one of the eighty-four planes of Mission Aviation Fellowship is taking off or landing at some three thousand different little airstrips all over the world.

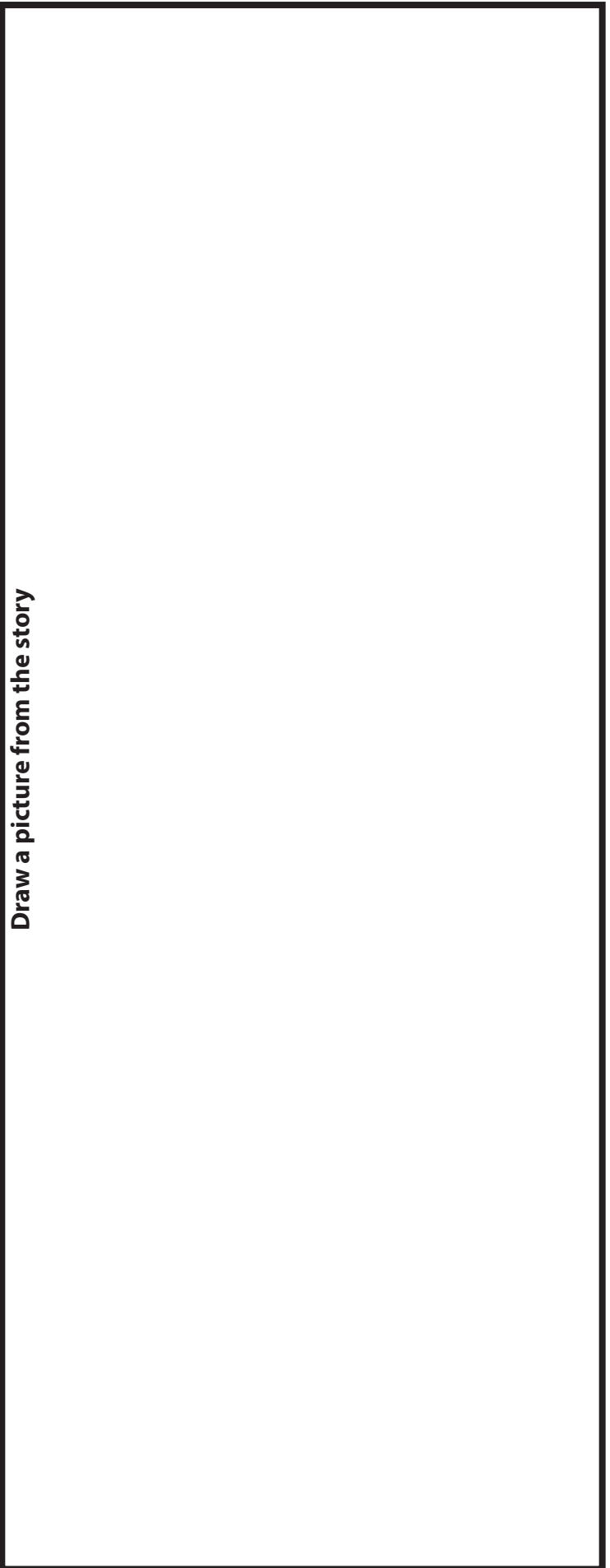
Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Do Good Works He Prepared for Them****Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

What wonderful work the Lord had prepared in advance for Betty Greene to do! And just to think, it all began with a love for planes and a desire to serve God as a little girl. Who would have guessed that something so great could have started with someone so small!

What about you and me? What is it that we love to do? Could it be that the Lord has planted that love in our heart as the start of some great work He has for us? What is the best first step in becoming someone God will use? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's praise God for preparing good works for His people by placing special loves in our hearts. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to turn the special loves we have into good works that help others come to know and love Him.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God prepared good works for each of His people to do ahead of time. He wove them into His good plans for this world.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Greene girl?

Answer: Betty Greene.

2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

Answer: Betty's dream was to use her flying skills to someone help spread the good news of Jesus to unreached peoples around the world. God used Betty to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, a group of pilots who helped missionaries who took the good news of Jesus to faraway, hard-to-reach places. He used her to fly on hundreds of expeditions, helping missionaries.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in ____ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to ____do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve ____, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever ____ he does..."

Answers: Christ Jesus; do; wholeheartedly; good.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Good Talents to Your people to be used for Your glory and their good.

C God, we confess that too many times we only think about how we can use the good gifts You have given us to use for our own good or so that others will praise us. We need Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You delight to give wisdom to Your people when they seek Your will.

S God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Please use the good talents You have given us to do good works for You.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands
and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments
and my days,
Let them flow in
ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in
ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Words: Frances R. Havergal Music: Henri A.C. Malan

To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him. God's people ask God to use their whole lives for His good and perfect purposes. With their feet and hands, they want to serve Him. With all of their silver and gold (their money), they want to do whatever He wants them to do with it. Not a mite of it--not a bit of it--do they want to use for anything other than what He wants. They want every moment, every day of their lives to be lived for Him. And, because they know He has planned good works for them to do, they trust that He will help them do this, giving them the strength they need, by His Holy Spirit at work inside of them.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For We Are God's Workmanship

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23

For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared for us in advance to do.
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

Words: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8, NIV 1984

Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

CASE STORY

Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43

Our story is called:

The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle

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

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?
2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do?

This story takes place during New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

When Jesus died, Peter and the other disciples hid together in a secret room in Jerusalem, afraid for their very lives. Surely the Romans and Jews who had put Jesus to death on the cross would be soon after them!

But when Jesus rose from the dead, everything changed! Jesus appeared to His disciples and told them: "Now you are to be my witnesses. I will send the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts and give you power to do all I want you to do. Start in Jerusalem and then go into all the world, telling everyone how they can be forgiven of their sins through Me. I will give you mighty works to do in my name that the world may know that I am the Son of God who has conquered sin and death," He told them.

It wasn't long before the Holy Spirit came upon them, just as Jesus promised; and, perhaps no one was more changed than Peter when this happened. In the Temple courts in Jerusalem, over to the rolling hills of Samaria, then down to the town of Lydda, in the fertile, green plains of Sharon, Peter spread the good news of Jesus. He preached boldly to huge crowds of thousands of people. Sick people were brought to him and in the name of Jesus, they were all healed. When arrested and threatened by the Jewish leaders, Peter was no longer fearful. Now he counted it an honor to suffer for Jesus. Everywhere Peter went, many turned from their sins and believed on Jesus as their Savior. The Lord truly had prepared many mighty good works to be done through Peter, that many would be saved.

But mighty good works were not the only important good works the Lord was using to declare the greatness of Jesus' name. Only ten miles down the road from Lydda where Peter was staying, was another equally powerful—though much quieter—witness to the great name of Jesus.

There, in the town of Joppa, by the Mediterranean Sea, lived a woman who loved the Lord and served Him faithfully. Her parents named her "Tabitha", meaning "gazelle." And what a perfect name for her it was. For just like the beautiful, quick-footed animal she was named after, Tabitha was quick to selflessly, quietly serve the other believers in Joppa, just as soon as she heard of a need.

Tabitha especially loved to serve poor widows. These were women whose husbands had died, leaving them in need of food and clothes. Back in those days, women couldn't just go out and get jobs like they can today. There was no help from their government either. Many of these women were forced to rely on generosity of others or beg for their daily needs. If no one helped them, then they went hungry or cold. But the widows of Joppa had Tabitha to help them. And along with a tender heart filled with His love for these needy women, the Lord had given Tabitha skill with needle and thread. With her own money she bought cloth and with her willing, nimble hands, she made the coats and dresses they needed and gave them to them. While Peter had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, Tabitha had been busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs. How the believers in Joppa loved Tabitha for her generous, selfless service to them!

You can imagine how very sad all the believers in Joppa were when Tabitha suddenly became sick and died. "I can't believe that this is to be how Tabitha's life is to end! How many were her good works! What a wonderful servant she was to us! Now she is gone!" they exclaimed.

"It's true," someone else said. "Why, what would we have done without her selfless service? Think of all the clothes she made for our widows, as well as all the other things she did for us. She was always ready to serve!"

The believers Tabitha had served, now served her. They prepared her body for burial by washing it, as was the custom in those days; and then, they did something very surprising. Instead of burying her body as would usually happen, they took it and laid it in an upstairs room of a house. How odd? Why would they do this? Well, you see, these believers had great faith in God and they were up to something. Perhaps they were thinking they had not yet seen the last of this good friend, Tabitha after all.

"Peter is in Lydda, only ten miles away!" someone

remembered. "The Lord has used him to display the mighty power of Jesus' name by healing the sick? Isn't the Jesus who heals the sick, also able to raise the dead? Perhaps the Lord might choose to display His mighty power to bring Tabitha back to life through Peter? Let's send for him!" they decided.

Two messengers went to Lydda and told Peter, and Tabitha and urged him to come quickly.

Now if you or I had been asked to hurry ten miles down the road to ask God to raise a dear friend back to life, we would have thought it was an impossible idea. But these were the early days after Jesus' resurrection. The Lord prepared special mighty works for His disciples to do in His name as signs that Jesus was indeed the risen Son of God. Peter knew that perhaps the Lord had allowed Tabitha to die for Him to raise her back to life as a great display of His name to the people of Joppa. So Peter quickly gathered his things and hurried with them to Joppa.

Peter climbed the stairs to the room where Tabitha's still body lay. As he looked down at Tabitha, the widows through sobs and tears, told him about Tabitha's many good works. "Look at these clothes, Tabitha made them for us," they exclaimed as they showed him all the things she had made for them.

"What a wonderful servant Tabitha had been!" Peter thought. While he had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, this single woman had been just as busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs.

"I would like everyone to leave the room," Peter told the believers gathered. When they had left, he knelt down and prayed to God. He knew that none of the mighty, good works he did were in his own strength. They were only the good works that God had prepared to do through him.

Tabitha would be raised from the dead, only if the Lord raised her. When he finished praying, Peter turned toward the dead woman, and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Peter watched as color returned to Tabitha's face and life returned to her body. Tabitha opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter offered her his hand and helped her to her feet.

"Come in, come in!" he called to all the Joppa believers and widows. With joy, Peter presented them with their dear friend, alive and well.

It did not take long for the news about Tabitha to spread throughout Joppa. Many new people came to believe in Jesus when they heard Tabitha's amazing story. Once more, the Lord had prepared a mighty good work for Peter as a display of the wonderful name of Jesus: powerful to heal, powerful to save.

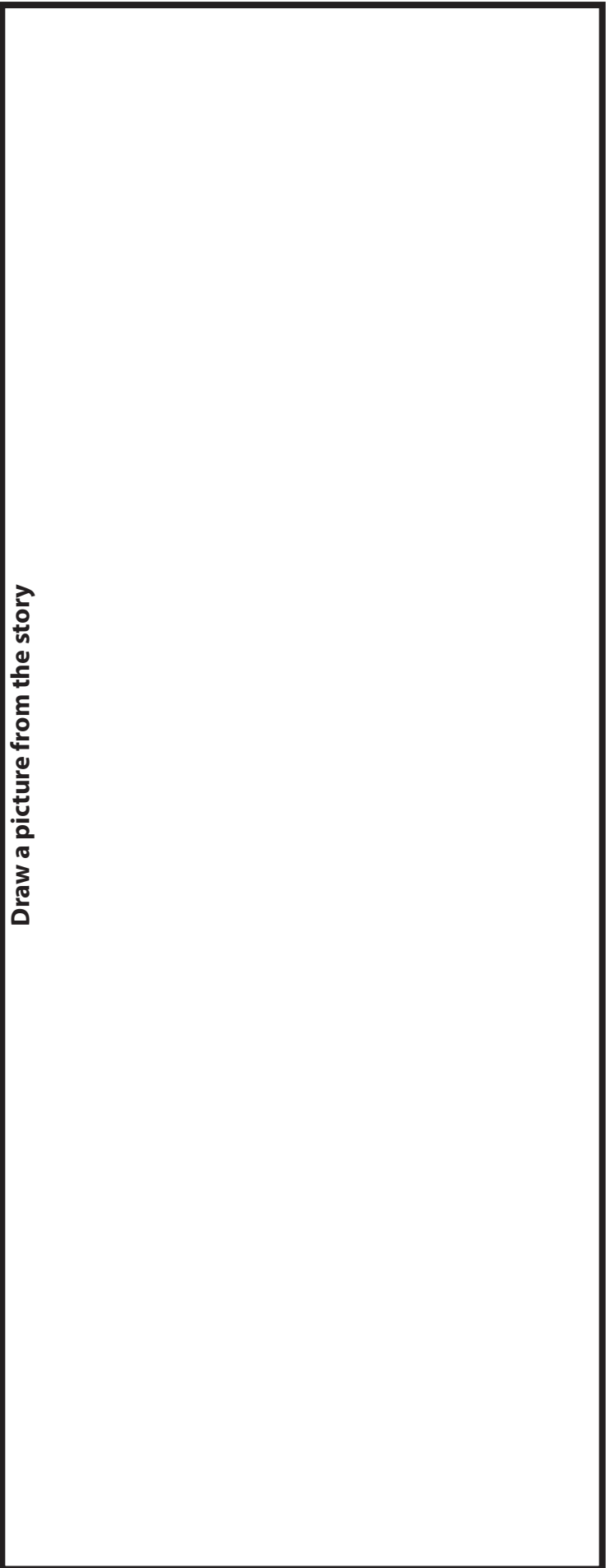
Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Do Good Works He Prepared for Them****Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

The Lord has prepared good works for all of His people. Some might be mighty good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Peter. Others might be quiet good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Tabitha. But the important thing isn't really which kind of good works the Lord has prepared for each of His people. It's that He has specially prepared just the right good works for each of them, that they all can be used as a wonderful display of who He is.

What about you and me? Do we want to be God's people and do good works He has prepared? The first step is for us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we have done this, God will forgive our sins and make us His people. And we can know that He will have special, custom-made good works prepared for us each and every day—even today! Let's praise God for giving each of His people just the right good works to do for Him. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to give us good works to do and help us to do them.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Only adults have good works that God wants them to do. He doesn't care what children do. They are too young.
 Answer: False! God has many good works for children to do, too. Can you name some of them?

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?

Answer: The Holy Spirit changed Peter's heart and gave him boldness. Peter spoke to huge crowds about Jesus; by God's power, he healed many sick people; he joyfully suffered persecution from Jesus' enemies.

b. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do?

Answer: Tabitha. Her name means gazelle. Tabitha served many in her quiet way. She especially helped widows by making food and clothes for them.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are ___ workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in ___ for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not ___, because you know that the Lord will ___ everyone for whatever good he does..."

Answers: God's; advance; men; reward.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Preparer of Mighty and Quiet Works for Your people.

C God, we confess that many times we do not want to do quiet works. Many times we like the thought of doing mighty works that others can see and think that we are a big deal.

T God, we thank You for working in Your people's hearts in such great ways that they would change from being scared to suffer and tell others about Jesus into people who boldly want to tell others about Jesus.

S God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might boldly do whatever You want us to do. Use us to do mighty or quiet good works for Your name's sake.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my hands
 and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love,
 At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my moments
 and my days,
 Let them flow in
 ceaseless praise,
 Let them flow in
 ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for Thee;
 Take my voice and let me sing
 Always, only for my King,
 Always, only for my King.

Words: Frances R. Havergal Music: Henri A.C. Malan

To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him. God's people ask God to use their whole lives for His good and perfect purposes. With their feet and hands, they want to serve Him. With all of their silver and gold (their money), they want to do whatever He wants them to do with it. Not a mite of it--not a bit of it--do they want to use for anything other than what He wants. They want every moment, every day of their lives to be lived for Him. And, because they know He has planned good works for them to do, they trust that He will help them do this, giving them the strength they need, by His Holy Spirit at work inside of them.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For We Are God's Workmanship

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23

For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
 Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
 Which God prepared for us in advance to do.
 For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
 Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men,
 The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.
 For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,
 Created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
 Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

Words: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8, NIV 1984

Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

CASE STORY

Deuteronomy 6,9,31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10

Our story is called:

The Case of the Missing Words.

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

1. What were the missing words? Why did they go missing?
2. Why was it so important that these words be found?

This story takes place over many years in Old Testament times, in the years before Jesus came to live on earth.

For forty years Moses had led the Israelites through the wilderness, waiting to enter Canaan, the land the LORD had promised them. Now at last the time had come! At the LORD's command, Moses was handing the Israelites into Joshua's care. Moses was going to be with the LORD forever. But before he did, Moses gathered the Israelites together to speak the LORD's words to them one last time.

"Never forget the words I've given you to live by," the LORD urged the Israelites through Moses. "Teach them to your children, too, so they will know and obey them, too," He told them. "Don't follow other gods. Remember my commands and worship only Me. If you do, I will bless you and take care of you. If you don't, then I will discipline you by destroying Jerusalem and taking away from you all the beautiful land I have given you. Crash, bang, boom! It will all be in ruins. You will be taken away from it and will be the prisoners of people from another country for a long, long time--until at last your hearts turn back to obey and worship Me," the LORD warned them through Moses. "You are my treasured people whom I love. As a father disciplines the child he loves, so I will discipline you."

To the leaders the LORD gave special instructions about the big scroll of His words that Moses had written down for them: "Take good care of this copy of My word. Keep them right next to the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle.. Teach the people how to make the offerings to Me to stay in fellowship with Me. Teach them to hold the special celebrations to Me," the LORD told them.

"Teach the people all My words so that might know and obey Me. Every seven years, gather all the people. Have them make tabernacles for their families--tents made out of branches and leaves. Have they all camp out together, like you used to do when you wandered in the wilderness for forty years. When all the children, the parents and even

the foreigners (people from other countries) are all settled in their tabernacles, I want you to read this whole, big scroll of my words to them, even though it will take days to read the whole thing. It will never be enough for My people to have the beautiful land I am giving them or a place to make sacrifices and hold celebrations to Me. They must know My words, if they are to obey and worship Me.”

Sometimes the Israelites obeyed and worshiped the LORD. How richly He blessed them when they did, just as He had promised!! He gave them bountiful crops of figs and olives, pomegranates, wheat and barley. Lots of sheep and goats, lots of children and happiness. He gave them victory over all their enemies. He gave them good kings, like David and Solomon, to lead them and to build Jerusalem. Jerusalem became a splendid, mighty, walled city. It was the home of the palace of the king and the magnificent Temple to the LORD—the center of all worship to the Lord and the resting place of the very Ark of the Covenant itself. How they loved Jerusalem—the city of the kings, the city of the LORD! Oh, how good things were when the kings and the people remembered the LORD and obeyed His words!

But all too often, the Israelites forgot God’s words and they didn’t teach them to their children, either. They turned away and worshiped other gods instead.

Even the leaders forgot the LORD. They didn’t remind the people to hold celebrations to the LORD or offer worship sacrifices to Him. They even set up idols in the Temple and worshiped them instead. Worst of all, they didn’t gather the people together to camp in tents and read His words aloud to them. Instead, they put the big scroll of His words away until finally almost everyone forgot about it.

The Israelites may have forgotten the LORD, but the LORD did not forget about them. They were His treasured people. He would discipline them like a good father disciplines His children, just as He had promised. Crash, Bang, Boom. Everything in the beautiful land the LORD gave His people was about to come down.

Far to the north and east a powerful people led by fierce, warrior kings had arisen. The LORD would use them to discipline His people. The kings eyed the land of Israel with interest. They told the Israelites to obey them; and, when the Israelites refused to, they sent their warriors in to attack.

Crash! Boom! Bang! Down went the walls of Jerusalem, the Temple and all the people’s houses. Then the soldiers

grabbed all the golden treasures of the Temple and many of the people, carrying them back to their capital city, Babylon and forced them to be their slaves.

At last in Babylon, the hearts of the Israelites began to soften: “How we miss the beautiful land the LORD gave us!” they cried. “How we miss Jerusalem and the Temple! We have sinned against the LORD! Didn’t He warn us that this would happen to us, if we didn’t obey Him and His words? We deserve this punishment and more,” the people sadly admitted. “We have broken our solemn covenant promise with Him. We don’t deserve to be rescued by Him. Yet, perhaps He will have mercy on us if we confess our sins and return to Him. Perhaps He will free us from slavery and bring us back home,” they hoped.

The Israelites were right to hope. The LORD had promised to rescue them after 70 years in slavery and so He did. On the last day of the seventh year, the LORD worked in King Cyrus’ heart to send the Israelites back home to rebuild Jerusalem.

Crash, bang, boom! What had once been the sound of destruction now is the sound of construction. First, the Temple and the houses were rebuilt. Then eighty years later, the mighty walls of Jerusalem rose high once more. How happy the Israelites were to be living back in their beautiful land with their newly-built houses and plentiful crops! How wonderful it was to enjoy the Temple and to see Jerusalem’s strong walls in place again!

Yet something was very wrong. Something was missing that they needed more than their land, houses, and fields. Something they needed more than the Temple and great walled city, “We need the word of the LORD!” they realized. “It will never be enough to just have our beautiful land and our beautiful Temple. How will we ever obey and worship the Lord if we do not know His Word?” they exclaimed. “Get Ezra the scribe. He has the book of the Words of the LORD. He must read them to us!”

Crash, bang, boom. Men cut down trees and built a high, wooden platform in the big, open square near the Jerusalem’s Water Gate. When all was finished, Ezra and thirteen other readers climbed up the tall platform and stood before all the thousands of Israelites gathered below. When Ezra picked up God’s Word and opened it, the whole, great crowd rose to their feet out of honor. “Praise the LORD, the great God!” Ezra exclaimed.

“Amen! Amen!” the people shouted back, and they all

bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Then the people stood back up and listened as Ezra and the other readers took turns reading from the Word of God, They read it from start to finish, reading a section, then explaining it, so that everyone would understand what was read.

As the Israelites listened to God's Word, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. One person after another began weeping as they all came to realized how they had sinned against the LORD."

"Don't weep! This is a good day, one holy to the LORD!" Ezra told them. "You are wanting to please Him by hearing His Word and wanting to obey it. Go now, celebrate with rich food and sweet drinks and make sure to share with others who cannot provide for themselves. The joy of the LORD is your strength!"

Then all the people went away to eat and drink to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Ezra and the leaders of the people read on in God's Word to find out what they should do next.

"Every seven years have all the people gather together and camp out in tabernacles of branches and leaves and listen to all of the words of the LORD. This is how they will know how to obey and worship Him," they read in the Bible.

"This is what we must do," the leaders exclaimed. "The people must go out and get branches to make their tabernacles, like in the old days then listen to all of God's Word.

Crash, bang, boom. Out into the countryside the people went, gathering olive branches and leaves and dragging them back into the city. In streets, on the tops of houses, in the courts of the Temple, itself, all of the people built their tabernacles. Every day the people gathered to hear God's Word; and every day, the LORD worked in their hearts. "Forgive us for sinning against You, O LORD," the people prayed. "We want to serve You alone. Bless Your people, once more," they prayed. And the LORD did just that!

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

That was a great day that was when the Israelites repented of their sins and turned back to worshipping the LORD! At last the Israelites treasured the words of God as they always should have! They knew that it was only His words that could show them how to live for Him and help them live them out. They hungered to know His Words and obey them.

What about you and me? Are we bored with God's Word or try to ignore it like the Israelites did before they were slaves in Babylon? Or, are we hungry to know what it says so that we can please the Lord, like the Israelites who stood listening to the Word of God for long hours?

I'm afraid that too many times our hearts are as hard and bored with God's Word as the Israelites had been. Yet God offers to forgive us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for giving us His Word so that we can know, worship and obey Him. And let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to give us a hunger and thirst to know His Word and a desire to obey it.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's Word tells us about God, but it doesn't tell us anything about His good plans.
Answer: False. God's Word tell us about many of God's good plans.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. What were the missing words? Why did they go missing?
Answer: God's Word. The Israelites chose to ignore and forget them. They didn't teach them to their children.

b. Why was it so important that these words be found?
Answer: The Israelites needed God's Word to know who God is and how He wanted them to live. They needed to know God's Word if they were to be His people.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 119:11,15-16
 "I have hidden your word in my ___ that I might not sin against you...I ___ on your precepts and consider your ways. I ___ in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."
Answers: heart; meditate; delight.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Trust and Obey
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 24

Verse 1
 When we walk with the Lord
 In the light of His Word
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 Let us do His good will;
 He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
 for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus,
 but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner

God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living their life in loving obedience to Him. There are times when they may not understand completely why they should obey what God's Word says, but they have known God long enough to trust Him, even when they don't understand. They know that He is perfectly wise and good. He loves them and knows what is best. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way; and, that this is the happiest way to live.

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 Word and the Keeper of All Your Promises.

C God, we confess that even though we have Your Word that we are often like the Israelites were: we do not read it like we should or could. Our love for You and for Your Word is often cold.

T God, we thank You for being so good to Your people! Even though they do not love you or your word as they should, you are patient with them and even discipline them so that they will turn and seek after You. Thank you for being faithful to Your promises even when they are so unfaithful to You!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to read, understand, love and obey You and Your wonderful Word, the Bible.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Have Hidden Your Word
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 25

Refrain:
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you,
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you.

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
 I delight in your decrees,
 I will not neglect your word, *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.
Words: Psalm 119:11,15-16 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. It is full of God's precepts and statutes (His good laws). It tells of His ways (what God is like). They meditate on God's Word ((think about); and, even hide it in their hearts (memorize it) so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him more than anything else in life.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers.

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

1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?
2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about some of God's people who worked in Antananarivo, Madagascar in the 1830's.

In their house, high above Antananarivo, a little group of missionaries worked furiously to finish translating the Bible into Malagasy--the language of Madagascar. Queen Ranavalona wanted to stop her people from becoming Christians and the best way to do this was to get rid of the missionaries and their Bible. They would have been thrown off the island already if it had not been for some very quick and very sly thinking.

The Queen had sent a messenger ordering them to stop teaching the people about Jesus and start teaching them something useful instead. She gave them one week to prove they had something of value to teach the people, such as soap-making.

Soap-making! How could these missionaries learn how to do that...and in just one week! (Remember, this was many, many years before telephones or the Internet, or television, or airplanes or even fast boats. They couldn't get soap-making supplies from other places. They would have to figure it out themselves, with what they had there on the island.) It seemed impossible, but they asked God to help them and they got to work. They would do whatever was needed to stay on the island and keep on translating the Bible. God was faithful. By the end of the week, they had figured out how to mix plant oils, animal fat and ashes to make soap. On the last day, they sent the Queen a large bar of soap, the first ever made in Madagascar. She was so delighted with it that she ordered a large quantity and allowed the missionaries to remain in Madagascar until they had completed her order.

The missionaries praised God! This gave them a few more weeks' to finish their Bible. So while one of them was made soap, the others printed the Bible. There were no computers, copy machines or even electricity back then.

They made each page of the Bible one at a time, by setting blocks of letters (backwards) in place in a flat wooden frame to form the words that would appear on the page.

Once all the words had been put in place, they dipped them in ink, then pressed the moistened letters down upon paper with a heavy printing press. When the frame was lifted from the paper, the words were left behind on the paper in ink. It was hard, slow work; and, they still had part of Job and all the books from Ezekiel to the end of the Old Testament to complete!

Everyone was given their own job. David Jones worked to finish off the translation and giving the final touches on each page, Cameron set the type, while Baker worked at the heavy hand-press. Their wives took their share too. They stitched the printed sheets together into book form as they came from the machine, then put on the book cover. Sometimes they relieved Baker from his work at the press by lending a hand at turning the great wheel. None of them hardly stopped for sleep or for meals. They knew they were running out of time. At last, Baker burst into his David Jones' room with the exciting announcement, "We have finished; here is the whole Bible in Malagasy!"

David Jones took the book and said, "Thank God it is done. Now Queen Ranavalona can do her worst. Even if she turns us all out of the island there will be a great witness for Jesus left behind. For the Bible isn't just any book. It's God's Word. It will keep telling the people what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him long after we are gone. The Holy Spirit will use it to work in their hearts and help them grow strong in their faith. None of the Queen's threats or tortures would make them give it up. They were determined not to let this go, too." he exclaimed.

Now that this first Bible was made, they began to make as many copies as they could until the Queen forced them to leave. In the end, these sly soap makers had printed hundreds of Bibles, most of which they buried in deep pits lest they should be destroyed by the Queen's order.

The missionaries had hardly left the island when the Queen called her councilors and told them, "Now that the missionaries are gone," she said, "we can crush the Christians. Issue a command in my name that no one may worship the Christian God. Anyone who gathers together for Christian meetings shall surely die," she vowed. "I will cast them off the great Rock of Hurling."

The Queen's orders were announced, but God gave His

people comfort from His Word and gave them faith to keep on living for Him, even though it cost them their lives. The Queen was sure this would be the end of the Christians, but it was not! To her horror, she discovered that now even more people were becoming Christians as they saw the faith of those who died.

"Why is it that the Christians have not yet been crushed?" the Queen asked her advisers.

"The reason, your Majesty, is that they still have the Bible. They believe the Bible is God's Word. They read it daily in their homes, and they hand it round to their friends, so that many people are becoming Christians though reading its words. If your Majesty would stamp out Christianity, you must destroy all the Bibles."

"Issue a command in my name," replied the Queen, "that all Bibles must be handed over to me. Anyone who fails to turn over even a page of the Bible will be killed."

This was a terrible threat, but it wasn't enough to make the Christians hand over their Bibles! They depended upon God's Word and they would never let it go! They hid their books. Some buried them in the rice-pits underneath the floor, or hid them in holes of the earth; others concealed them in the thatch of their roofs, or in the hollow of trees. Some took their Bibles to pieces, page by page, and hid some of the portions in caves and gave other pages to their friends, who sewed them into their clothes.

Sometimes the message would be whispered round the village, "Tonight we shall meet at John's Gospel," or, "You will find us where Romans is hidden this evening," or, "Let us gather at Psalm 53 after the evening meal."

One night a little group of Malagasy Christians crept out of the city and met in a small cave in the mountain. A tiny lamp was lighted and its flickering flame lit up the faces of the people gathered round. One man had a hunted look in his eyes, for he had been living in dens in the mountains and forests for five long years; another, who had once been an important man, was now wearing around his neck, hands, and ankles the chains of slavery; an old woman's head was bowed with grief, for both her children had been sold as slaves, and she did not know whether they were alive or dead; many bore scars from being punished for being a Christian. It did not matter to them who were rich and important and who were merely servants and country folk. They all had one thing in common: their love for God and His Word.

Together they whispered a hymn they had written:
Where can we find a place for rest?
Save dens and caves, with hunger pressed?
Yet Thy compassion is our bliss,
Pilgrims amidst a wilderness.
O God, our God, to Thee we cry,
Jesus our Savior be Thou nigh:
O Sacred Spirit, hear our prayer
And save the afflicted from despair.

When they finished, one of the elders said, "Have you got it, Rehara? It is time for the reading."

"Yes, I have it here under my lamba, wrapped in leaves." Rehara handed over his Bible. It was torn and mildewed and rat-eaten through being buried in the rice-pit and hidden in the thatch. Holding it close to the lamp, he began to read: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident..."

After a short pause, the old man whispered, it's your turn now, Ravelo. Have you got your with you?"

"Yes," replied the young man coming forward, "I have a page sewn into my lamba." He pulled out his page of the New Testament and read, "Aza kivy ny fonares" (Let not your heart be troubled.)

Then the old man spoke again. "My brothers and sisters," he said, "these are bitter days, and none of us knows how long they will last. But our faith is firm, for God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Every week our numbers grow. New believers come to join us, and there are some here now who wish to become Christians."

Then a few young Malagasy stood up and proclaimed themselves followers of Jesus. The others greeted them in whispered words, and then the little company knelt down on the floor of the cave to commend these new believers to God's care, praying that if any of them were called to die for their faith, they might be made brave and loyal.

Queen Ranavalona's terrible persecution of the Christians lasted for almost thirty years, until she died. And Despite the worst of her efforts, the number of believers only grew throughout all of those terrible days. God kept His people

strong through the reading of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit through it, in their hearts.

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Read His Word, the Bible****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16**

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

The Malagasy Christians lived out their love and honor for the Bible. We talk about the Bible being God's Word. We talk about it being the most important book of all, but they risked their lives for it. They knew they lived by the Word of God. If they could not have it, they would rather die. Why did risk their life for this book? That God might be glorified and sinners might be saved! That the world might know that by turning away from their sins and trusting Jesus as their Savior, they can be forgiven their sins and adopted as God's dearly loved people. They longed to see the people of Madagascar do this!

Let's praise God for giving us His Word so we can know Him and how to please Him with our lives. Let's praise Him for sending the Holy Spirit to use the words of the Bible to change sinful people like you and me when we read them. Let's ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to treasure His Word as much as the Christians of Madagascar and ask Him to help us to read it and grow from it every day.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's Word is different from our words. It is perfect. It tells us everything we need to know to live God's way.
Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?
Answer: They were missionaries who had come to bring God's Word to the people of Madagascar that they might believe the good news of Jesus and be saved. They were sly because they were only making the soap so the queen wouldn't kick them out of the country and destroy the Bible they were printing.

b. What were they really doing and why was that so important?
Answer: They were translating the Bible into Malagasy so the people of Madagascar could have it to read in their own language. This was so important because only the Bible is God's Word. And, it would mean the people could continue to learn about God even when the queen got rid of the missionaries.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 119:11,15-16
 "I have hidden your ___ in my heart that I might not sin against ___...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not ___ your word."
Answers: word; you; neglect.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Trust and Obey
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 24

Verse 1
 When we walk with the Lord
 In the light of His Word
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 Let us do His good will;
 He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
 for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus,
 but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner

God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living their life in loving obedience to Him. There are times when they may not understand completely why they should obey what God's Word says, but they have known God long enough to trust Him, even when they don't understand. They know that He is perfectly wise and good. He loves them and knows what is best. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way; and, that this is the happiest way to live.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the One Who Sends Out Your Word. Not even the most powerful enemy is strong enough to keep your Word from going out!

C God, we confess that even though we have Your Word that we don't treasure it or read it like we should or could. Our love for You and for Your Word is often cold.

T God, we thank You for giving Your Word to Your people to give them courage and help them to know You and how to obey You.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to read, understand, love and obey You and Your wonderful Word, the Bible.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Have Hidden Your Word
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 25

Refrain:
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you,
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you.

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
 I delight in your decrees,
 I will not neglect your word, *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.

Words: Psalm 119:11,15-16 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. It is full of God's precepts and statutes (His good laws). It tells of His ways (what God is like). They meditate on God's Word ((think about); and, even hide it in their hearts (memorize it) so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him more than anything else in life.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

CASE STORY

Acts 9:32-43

Our story is: The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers.

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

1. Who were the Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?
2. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?

This story takes place during New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Timothy, Paul and Silas started the long journey from Philippi to Thessalonica. The hundred-mile walk along the Egnatian Way wouldn't be too bad for Timothy, but it would be a painful one for Paul and Silas! Sharing the gospel with the Philippians had led to the salvation of some, but to painful beatings for these two men. Jesus had once said that Paul would suffer much when he shared the gospel; and now, as they limped down the highway, Paul certainly felt the truth of what Jesus had said. This beating had not been Paul's first and he doubted that it would be his last. For Paul was not headed to the synagogue in Thessalonica to get away for some rest. He was headed to the synagogue in Thessalonica to tell more people the good news of Jesus, and that almost always led to more trouble. Yet off to Thessalonica Paul went, even with more beatings likely in his future.

Thirty miles down the road, the three men came to the beautiful city of Amphipolis, set high on a hill and surrounded on three sides by the breath-taking Strymon River. Wouldn't this be a wonderful place to heal their wounded bodies and rest their sore feet for a week or two? But, no. Paul and the others were determined to get to Thessalonica!

Another seventy miles later, Paul, Silas and Timothy passed through the gigantic Arch of Galerius and into the busy streets of Thessalonica. They passed through the agora--the marketplace--filled with buyers and sellers. Along each side of the market towered the huge temples to the Greek gods and to Caesar, the Roman king. These temples were magnificent, but Paul passed them up in search of the simple, stone building that was the Jewish king. These temples were magnificent, but Paul passed them up. He wasn't searching for a fancy building, but a

simple, stone one—the Jewish synagogue. It was there, and only there, that the people could gather to hear God’s Word, the Bible.

You see, back in those days, only very rich people had their own Bibles. Everyone else had to come to the synagogue if they were to learn God’s Word. Bibles weren’t even books, like our Bibles are. They were long, paper scrolls, rolled up on wooden poles. And there weren’t computers in those days either. Every word was hand-written. It took months and months to copy down a whole Bible; and the scribe had to check his work to make sure it was completely correct. When it was finished, the Bible was stored in a special wooden container and covered with protective cloth so no bugs, rodents, moisture could harm it. After all, this was God’s Word—and often the only copy in town. They must take good care of it.

How excited Paul was when at last he found the synagogue! Here is where he would find the people who cared about what God’s Word. and desired to live for God. Many might have hearts already softened by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, made ready to receive the gospel. Paul would read to them the prophecies about the Messiah that Jesus had all fulfilled with His life and death. When they saw how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, he hoped they would believe.

When Sabbath day came, many Jews and Greek people filled the synagogue’s stone slab benches, ready to worship the Lord. They sang psalms and prayed; then, they were ready to hear from God’s Word.

“Does anyone have something they would like to say?” one of the rabbis asked.

Paul spoke up right away. “Friends, the Messiah has come,” Paul told them. “His name is Jesus. He suffered, died and rose victorious over sin and death, just as the Scriptures told us He would. He now reigns in heaven and will one day return to judge all peoples and to establish His everlasting Kingdom. Repent of your sins and turn and trust in Him!” Paul urged them. “All who do will be saved!” Then Paul opened the scroll of God’s Word and read many passages to them, proving that Jesus really was the Messiah promised by God.

The people were surprised by Paul’s teaching. “Can this be? Could the Messiah really have come? Was He really this Jesus Paul was telling them about?” they wondered. No one had heard these things before.

But faith comes by hearing and hearing about Jesus by the Word of God. As Paul read the Bible to them, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of some of the Jews and many of the Greeks who listened. Their hearts were filled with faith, trusted in Jesus and were saved.

These new believers joined together as the first little church in Thessalonica. Eagerly they met together each week to hear Paul teach from the Bible. They began to do the good works that pleased the Lord: not only praying and worshiping the Lord, but also helping the poor and sharing the gospel. One of them—a man named Jason—gave Paul, Silas and Timothy a place to stay at his home. Paul, Silas and Timothy were overjoyed at the Lord’s work done in these Thessalonians through the reading of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

But not everyone listening in the synagogue was pleased with Paul’s new teaching—especially a lot of the Jews. Even when he read from the Bible the passages that showed that Jesus was the Messiah, they were hard-hearted. And when many people who had worshiped in the synagogue became Christians, they became very jealous.

“We must do something about Paul! We can’t let him keep teaching like this!” they exclaimed. “Let’s get him in trouble with the Romans. Surely we can think of something he’s said to use against him,” they decided.

Soon they came up with a evil plan. They went to the agora (market place) and offered money to some men to help them. “We want you to spread lies about Paul. Tell everyone that he’s trying to get people to follow a new king named Jesus, instead of Caesar, the Roman king. Make a big scene. We want a riot! Then go down to Jason’s house, beat down the door and grab Paul and his friends. The crowd will take care of the rest!” they told these men. The men agreed to this evil plan.

Before long, these men had stirred up an angry mob, who went pushing, shoving and destroying their way down to Jason’s house. They had come to kill Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

The new Christians acted quickly. They hid Paul and his friends, leaving only Jason and some other Christians in the house. When the angry mob burst in and found no Paul, Silas and Timothy, they grabbed Jason and the others instead. They dragged them down to the Thessalonica leaders for punishment. “Paul and his friends are telling people to follow a new king named Jesus instead of

Caesar. These men have been taking care of them. Punish them!" they demanded.

Jason and the others were questioned. As punishment, they had to pay money to the leaders and promise to have nothing to do with Paul and his friends.

That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy came out of hiding and met with Jason and the other believers. "You must leave town now or the crowds will kill you," they warned Paul and his friends. "We will sneak you out with two of our men as protection. Where do you want to go?" they asked him.

"To Berea, in the mountains about fifty miles away," Paul answered. "We'll go to the synagogue there!" he told them. "Perhaps there will be more people gathered there with hearts softened by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. I will go to them and show them from the Bible that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah," Paul said.

So off they went: Paul, Silas, and Timothy along with their escorts. Slipping away from danger and death once more so that faith might come to others by hearing, and hearing about Jesus, by the Word of God.

Our Bible Truth is:**God's People Read His Word, the Bible****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

Paul knew that the Lord used His Word and the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of people and make them ready to receive the good news of Jesus. He loved to show these people from God's Word how Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. He was overjoyed as he saw them eagerly listen and believe.

What about you and me? Do we spend time reading the Bible? If we do, God can use it to work powerfully inside our hearts, just like He did in the people of Thessalonica, long ago.

Let's praise God for giving us His Word to read. Let's ask Him to use it in our lives, to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to use it to change us so that we might live to love God and others, like Jesus.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God’s Word tells God’s people about God and how they should live, but it can’t change them.
 Answer: False. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people as they hear God’s Word and changes them.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who were the Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?
 Answer: Paul, Silas and Timothy were the Synagogue Stalkers. Their message was the good news of salvation through Jesus.

b. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?
 Answer: The synagogues were usually the only place in a city where the Bible was read and explained. God would use His Word to give faith to those the good news of Jesus, as proclaimed in the Bible.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 119:11,15-16
 “I have ___ your word in my heart that I might not ___ against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your ___; I will not neglect your word.”
 Answers: hidden; sin; decrees.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Trust and Obey
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 24

Verse 1
 When we walk with the Lord
 In the light of His Word
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 Let us do His good will;
 He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
 for there’s no other way
 To be happy in Jesus,
 but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner

God’s people read the Bible so that they can “walk in the light of His Word”, living their life in loving obedience to Him. There are times when they may not understand completely why they should obey what God’s Word says, but they have known God long enough to trust Him, even when they don’t understand. They know that He is perfectly wise and good. He loves them and knows what is best. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way; and, that this is the happiest way to live.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the One Who Saves Us by Your Word and by Your Holy Spirit.

C God, we confess that many times we do not appreciate that we get to hear Your Word so easily and that we can even own our own Bibles. Many times we are too lazy to read more about You or would rather do other things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for choosing to work so powerfully through Your Word. Thank You that through it, You bring us to know You and want to turn away from our sins and follow You. Thank You that You give your people courage to continue to tell others about You, even when they know that others may hurt them.

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 so that we would love and live for You, even when it is very hard. Give us a love for Your Word. Use it to save us and to love and serve You more and more.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Have Hidden Your Word
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 25

Refrain:
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you,
 I have hidden your word in my heart,
 That I might not sin against you.

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
 I delight in your decrees,
 I will not neglect your word, *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.
 Words: Psalm 119:11,15-16 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. It is full of God’s precepts and statutes (His good laws). It tells of His ways (what God is like). They meditate on God’s Word ((think about); and, even hide it in their hearts (memorize it) so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him more than anything else in life.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:
God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

CASE STORY

Luke 10:25-42

Our story is called:

The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook.

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

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook?
2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

This story takes place when Jesus lived on earth. It takes place in Bethany, a village in the hills outside of Jerusalem.

Big Sister had a lot to do! Feeding an extra thirteen, hungry men who showed around meal time back in took a huge effort. She could rush out and buy some grilled lamb or fish freshly fried, but most everything had to be made from scratch.

Women would go to the outdoor market in the center of town to buy the fruit, vegetables, grains, and live animals they needed. Then they brought it home to kill, pluck, clean, chop, mix and cook it all up into a fresh meal. There were no modern ovens or microwaves or stoves. Usually there was just an outdoor, beehive-shaped clay oven in the courtyard, heated by fire to bake flatbread. And another fire to cook everything else. Even an ordinary, simple dinner of vegetable -lentil stew with some flatbread to scoop it out, could take quite some time to prepare.

But who said this was an ordinary meal? Big Sister was planning a meal as special as her guests--Jesus and His twelve disciples! The usual vegetable-lentil stew didn't seem good enough to honor Jesus. Only her very best would do. She would make lots of different dishes for Him. What herbs should she put with the vegetables? Should she have lentils, barley or Egyptian rice? She could serve cakes sweetened with figs and dates as well as the usual flatbread. Maybe she would even splurge and boil some dove or lamb along with fish.

Big Sister's head swam with the details of the meal, as she tried to figure out what to have and how she would work out cooking all the different dishes so they would all be hot and ready to serve at the same time.

"It was a good thing that I have Little Sister to help me," Big Sister surely thought. "There would be no way I could pull off this special meal without her help!"

As Big Sister and Little Sister busily prepared the meal in the courtyard, Jesus and His disciples made themselves comfortable in the main room of the house. Jesus reclined

in one of the few chairs and began teaching His disciples, who sat at His feet, as serious disciples usually did. Perhaps some men would have spent this time in casual talk, but not Jesus. He was always thinking about His Father in heaven and doing what pleased Him. He knew how little time was left with His disciples. He would make the most of it by teaching them something important.

We don't know what Jesus taught His disciples that evening. But perhaps he reviewed the conversation He had had with the expert in the law that day.

"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" this man had asked Jesus.

"What does the Bible say?" Jesus had replied.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,'" the expert answered back.

Jesus had been pleased with this answer. "You have answered correctly," Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live." Here was a man who was hungry to please God. He was the kind who thought about God. Who prayed to Him and wanted to know His Word, the Bible. He lived to please God by serving Him and others.

Whether it was this or something else, Little Sister listened to what Jesus said as she chopped, plucked and kneaded the food to make her very curious. Before long, the little bits and pieces she caught from the other room just weren't enough to satisfy her. Little Sister had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry for food, her heart grew hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him. So, unknown to her big sister, Little Sister put down the food she was supposed to be preparing, slipped out of the courtyard, and joined the twelve disciples, sitting at Jesus' feet. Here, she could catch every crumb of what He had to say.

Big Sister was so distracted with the meal that at first that she didn't notice her sister had disappeared. Was it burnt vegetables left untended; the fish found still uncleaned of head, tail and bones; or the bread dough left unfinished that was her first clue that Little Sister was no longer doing her part? Maybe.

"Where has that girl gone?!" Big Sister wondered, a bit

frustrated. "Here we are in the middle of making this fine meal for Jesus and His disciples, and she decides to get up to go who knows where! How unthinking she is being of our guests and of me! How will I ever get everything for this meal properly cooked without her help?" Big Sister worried. "I must find her!"

Big Sister didn't have to go far before she found Little Sister. She could hardly believe her eyes when she found her there sitting among Jesus' disciples. Not only had Little Sister left her to prepare this big meal alone, but she had even settled herself at Jesus' feet. Everyone knew that was no place for a woman! Only men disciples who were training to follow after their teacher were supposed to do that!

Big Sister blurted out to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that Little Sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Surely Jesus would see things her way, she thought. Little Sister's place was in the courtyard with her preparing dinner, not at His feet like a disciple! What was Little Sister thinking?

Jesus understood Big Sister completely: she was showing her love for Him by preparing a good meal for Him and His disciples' hungry bodies. She was thinking about who Jesus was and wanted to make a meal she thought would be worthy of Him.

But Jesus understood Little Sister, too. She was thinking about Jesus, too, as she left food preparations to listen at His feet...and in a far more important way than making that fancy meal. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others. She longed to follow Jesus as much as any of His men disciples. Jesus wanted all of His disciples to think about Him like Little Sister did. He would not have this taken away from her.

"Big Sister, Big Sister," Jesus answered her, "you are worried and upset about your many things, but only one is needed. Little Sister has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Big Sister had a lot to think about as she turned to the courtyard and somehow finished the meal by herself. Perhaps she had been thinking about Jesus in her service to Him, but Little Sister was thinking about Jesus, too, by taking time to learn from Him.

How did the meal turn out that night? Were the

vegetables burnt? Were there bones in the fish? Was the bread baked? Did all the dishes get prepared? The Bible doesn't tell us. But even if the meal didn't come out just right, Big Sister, Little Sister and Jesus' disciples all learned that feeding a hungry heart-- one that is eager to think about God, to know and love Him more was even more important than anything they ate at that dinner. For from hearts hungry for God, come lives that seek to keep pleasing Him throughout the day, with loving service to Him and to others.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Think about Him**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6**

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Did you guess that this was the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus' good friends? I wouldn't be surprised if you did! Jesus helped these sisters see what is truly important in God's eyes: thinking on Him, that they might know Him and love Him.

What about you and me? Are our hearts hungry to know and love God like Mary? Do we long to think about Him so much that we even want to set down our work and the things we love to do to spend time with Him? Our Bible verse tells us that when we do spend time thinking about Him as we pray and read the Bible, that He satisfies our heart as much as the tastiest foods satisfy our stomach!

Let's praise God for being so wonderfully satisfying to our heart. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior—the great, first step in loving God and knowing God. And let's ask Him give us hearts hungry to spend special time each day thinking about Him and to help us to keep thinking about Him in everything we do, all throughout the day.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God made our bodies with daily needs, but not our hearts.
We don't need to spend time with God each day.

Answer: False. Our hearts will grow to love and know God best when we spend time with Him each day.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the eavesdropping cook?

Answer: Mary.

b. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

Answer: Mary listened in on Jesus teaching His disciples. It was a good thing because it showed that she loved to think about God and wanted to know how to better love and live to please Him.

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

Psalms 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than ____, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My ____ will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I ____ of you through the watches of the night."

Answers: life; bless; think.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne

Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He's like.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being better than anything we could enjoy in this life. No one or nothing is as wonderful or satisfying as You.

C God, we confess that many times we do not choose to seek to be with You and know You better. Many times we look for our happiness in far less important things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You love for us to think about You and spend time with You. Thank You that You promise to show Yourself to us when we seek after You.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to seek after You and find our greatest delight in knowing You and being with You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Your Love Is Better than Life

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Words: Psalm 63:3,4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:

God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker.

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

1. Who was the sneakiest sneaker?
2. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who lived in the Sint Pancras, Holland, in the 1930's and 40's.

Young Andy van der Bijl laughed to himself as he hid outside the Whetstra's cottage. Andy was annoyed at how much this godly couple thought and talked about God. He decided to play a mean trick on them to try to make them react in an ungodly way. He had climbed up on their thatched roof and laid a glass pane over the chimney to trap the smoke in the house. Now he waited and watched.

"Help! Smoke! My fresh gingerbread is ruined!!" Mrs. Whetstra soon shrieked as she and her husband ran out of the smoky house.

Mr. Whetstra found the window pane on top of the chimney and guessed who was to blame. He looked for Andy, but never found him. Andy was long gone. If there was one thing Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could sneak away from all sorts of people and all sorts of places. He was the Sneakiest Sneaker.

And what did Andy want to sneak away from most of all? Any place or any person who had anything to do with God. Andy's family were Christians. They believed in Jesus and wanted to live for God; but, not Andy. He didn't want to think about God at all. Whenever God was brought up, he tried to sneak away. Even on Sundays, Andy found a way to sneak out of church at the beginning of the service and go wandering around the windmills and canals of his village. Then he sneaked back into church, unnoticed, at the very end of the service.

As Andy grew up, World War II swept through Europe. Adolph Hitler, the German leader sent troops of soldiers into every country in Europe, including Holland. Andy's town, like the rest of Europe, was soon occupied by German soldiers who began to take away freedoms from the Dutch people. "No bikes! No radios! No Jewish people! Only as much food as we say you can have!" the

Germans ordered.

Like most Dutch people, Andy thought this was wrong. He joined the Dutch Underground, a group of people who sneaked around doing everything they could to get rid of the Germans. Andy sneaked messages back and forth between Underground leaders. He sneaked food from the Germans to feed starving Dutch people. He even sneaked up to German army cars and ruined them by pouring sugar into their gas tanks. Andy was great in the Underground. After all, if there was one thing he was good at, it was sneaking.

The war gave Andy lots of chances to sneak for a good cause, but it also hardened his heart towards God even more. Andy hated the suffering he saw and blamed God for it. He wanted to think about God even less than before.

When the war ended, Andy decided to join the Dutch army. He was sent faraway to Bali, an island in the South Pacific, where he was a commando. Andy was trained to crawl through the thick, jungle underground on his belly, armed with knives, guns and hobnailed boots in search of enemy rebels who were trying to overthrow the Dutch government. As the greatest sneaker, Andy soon became the best commando, daring to do what no one else would do.

But there were some things that even Andy couldn't sneak away from. Sometimes the commandos did things they shouldn't do. Sometimes they hurt the village people who weren't fighting them. Andy felt terribly guilty about this. Soon, not only did he not want to think about God, he didn't even want to live anymore. So, instead of sneaking around like the other commandos, Andy put on a bright, yellow hat and would run out in front of the enemy, yelling, "Shoot me if you can!" His enemies happily tried to, but Andy always seem to escape unharmed.

But one day, Andy and his team were surrounded with no place to hide. Andy was shot in the ankle. At the hospital, the doctors said, "You're a lucky young man. We won't have to amputate (cut off) your leg, but you will walk with a limp the rest of your life. We're sending you home to Holland. Your sneaking days are over."

Something else in Andy's life changed while he was in the hospital. Some Christian nurses urged Andy to think about God and Andy began to listen for the first time in his life. On the long, sea voyage home, he began to read the Bible his mother had given him. When he got home, he

went to church. God worked in Andy's heart and he turned from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. His life was completely changed.

Now, not only did Andy want to think about God and know Him better, but he wanted others to, as well. He began to share with everyone he could about the wonderful good news of Jesus. He got up early each morning for a special time of prayer and Bible reading. "I need to start each day by thinking about God and ask for His help, if I am to do and say what God wants me to today," Andy thought.

The Lord guided Andy to a special work, just right for a great sneaker, like him. The Lord was going to use this gift to help others think about Him. Andy learned about the thousands of Christians in Eastern Europe who were allowed few Bibles and Christian books. Many of them lived in constant fear of harm from the Communist officials who ruled in their countries. The Communist didn't want people to think about God or place their hope in Jesus anymore. They wanted them to think about their Communist ideas and place their hope in their Communist government instead.

"Perhaps their governments won't give them Bibles, but I am a good sneaker. I will find a way to sneak Bibles and Christian books into them," Andy thought.

Andy shared his plan with other Christians and asked for their help. When his old, godly neighbors, the Whetstras, heard his plan, they gave him their old, blue Volkswagen Beetle. Andy filled the little car with Bibles and other small, Christian books that told the good news of Jesus.

Off Andy went. Through Holland, West Germany, Austria, and on towards Eastern Europe. At the border of Yugoslavia, Andy was stopped by border guards. They had orders to search every car entering their country and remove anything not allowed in by their government—including Bibles and Christian books.

As the two guards approached, Andy prayed, "Lord, in my luggage I have Bibles and books for Your people across this border. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Don't let the guards see those things You don't want them to see." Andy was a good sneaker, but he knew that he couldn't sneak his way around these guards. The Lord would have to do this sneaking for him.

"What do you have to declare?" the guards questioned.

"Camera, money, wristwatch," Andy answered them.

"Anything else?" they demanded.

"Only little things," Andy replied without lying. After all, the Bibles and the books were little.

"We will search your car," the soldiers told him.

The guards searched the whole car. Everywhere they looked was crammed full of Bibles and Christian books, yet they saw not a one! God had answered Andy's prayers! Their seeing eyes saw nothing! The guards opened the border gate and let Andy and his books right in. The Lord, Andy now knew, was an even better sneaker than he was.

Andy's little, blue Volkswagen Beetle was to sneak Bibles and Christian books across Eastern European borders many more times. Each time, the Lord made the seeing eyes of the border guards blind. Because of this sneakiest sneaker, Christians in Eastern Europe had Bibles and other books to help them think about God and how to live for Him...and to give to others so they might know the good news of Jesus, too.

Brother Andrew—as Andy became known as—began a ministry called Open Doors, International. Even to day, many other people are sent out through this ministry as sneakers to get Bibles to those who wouldn't have them otherwise, so that they can think about God, come to know Him and serve Him.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Think about Him

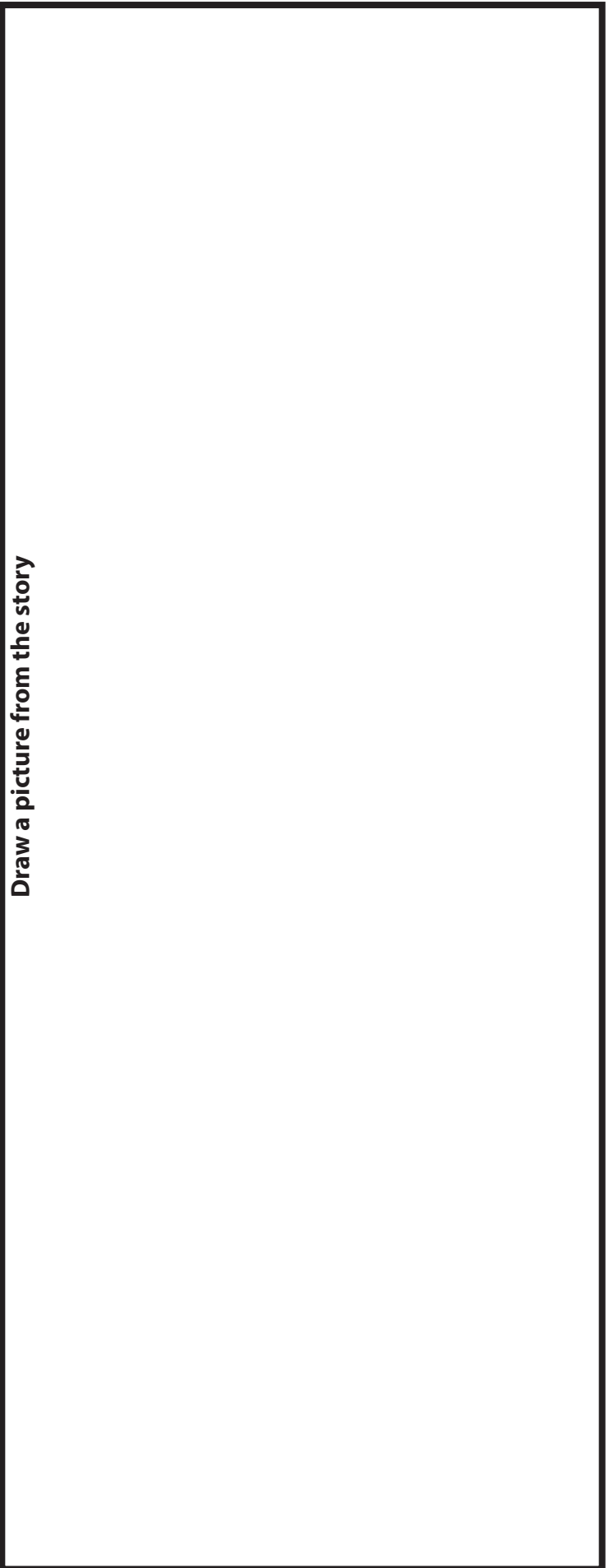
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

How did Andy find courage to face those border guards each time? By spending special daily time with the Lord, reading His Word, thinking about Him and praying for guidance and courage.

What about you and me? Are we sneakers from God like Andy was? God calls us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too. He will forgive our sins. He will make us His dearly loved people, just like He did Andy. And when we become God's people we can know that God will have good plans for us to do..and that as we spend time with Him in His Word and in prayer, He will give us everything we need to do whatever it is He wants us to do.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. Bible Truth Question, True or False:
 God's people try to have a special time in the morning to think about God and read His Word. They try to keep on remembering Him through the day.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who was the sneakiest sneaker?
Answer: Some would say Andy was. But perhaps it was the Lord. After all, he could make seeing eyes blind and sneak the Bibles past the border guards.

b. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?
Answer: God used Andy's sneakiness to sneak Bibles and other Christian books past border guards to give them to the Christians in Eastern Europe. These books would help the Christians think about God and tell others the good news of Jesus, too.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 63:3-6
 "Because your ___ is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be ___ as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I ___ you; I think of you through the watches of the night."
Answers: love; satisfied; remember.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26

Verse 1
 Be Thou my vision,
 O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me,
 save that Thou art:
 Thou my best thought,
 by day or by night,
 Waking or sleeping,
 Thy presence my light.

*Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne
 Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans*

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He's like.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You being the Changer of Our Lives. And, the Giver and User of All Our Gifts...even sneaking!

C God, we confess that too many times we are like Andy. We look for ways to avoid You instead of think about You. We would rather be doing other things than seeking after You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for seeking after us and helping us to think about You and turn about You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for people like Andy and us!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to use all the good gifts You give us to do great things for You. Help us to trust You to take care of us, like Andy did.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Your Love Is Better than Life
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27

Because your love is better than life,
 My lips will glorify you.
 I will praise you as long as I live,
 And in your name I will lift up my hands,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life.
 Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Words: Psalm 63:3,4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:

God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

CASE STORY

Exodus 14-15

Our story is: The Case of the Forgetful Fretters.

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

1. Who were the forgetful fretters?
2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

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

"What have we done?" exclaimed Pharaoh to his officials. "How could we have been so foolish as to let those Israelite slaves go? Who will build my grand buildings now? Prepare my army!" he ordered. "We must go after them and bring them back!"

Quickly the soldiers were gathered. "Forward, men!" Pharaoh ordered. "Off to the eastern wilderness to capture our slaves." The air filled with clouds of dust and the thunder of galloping horses and marching soldiers.

While Pharaoh and his men marched out into the wilderness, the Israelites—a two days' walk ahead—reached the shores of the Red Sea, near Pi Hahiroth and settled down for the night. What a wonderful couple of days it had been! At last they were free from their Egyptian taskmasters! No more bricks to make, no more buildings to build, no more whips to bear on their backs. The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. He had rescued them by one amazing miracle after another. Who had ever heard of a god who sent plagues upon His people's enemies? Or who led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night? Or who promised to give a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? How sweet were their thoughts of the LORD that evening!

But how long would the people keep thinking about the LORD and His might miracles like this? Only tow days, the Bible tells us. For as soon as the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army heading towards them, they chose to fret and forget. Thoughts of who the LORD was and what He had done for them vanished.

The Israelites cried out to the LORD and to Moses. But not in a trusting faith for deliverance, but bitter anger: "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt,

‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!’ they cried.

Moses urged the Israelites to think about the LORD as they should. “Don’t be afraid,” Moses told them. “Stand firm and you will see how the LORD will deliver you today. You will never see these Egyptians again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still,” he promised them.

Then the LORD told Moses: “Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” Then, the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel, like a great wall. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind until the waters were completely divided and left a path along the sea bed. Across the dry ground, the Israelites safely crossed the sea, with a towering wall of sea water on each side.

Pharaoh’s men followed after the Israelites along the dry sea bed, but the LORD threw the soldiers into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving.

“Let’s get away from the Israelites!” the Egyptians cried. “The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

But it was too late. “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters flow back over the Egyptians, their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, they exclaimed: “Who is like our God, who hurls both horse and rider into the sea? The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him... Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling...” (Exodus 15:11-13. NIV 1984)

Once more the Israelites were amazed at how the LORD

had rescued them. But how long would they keep on thinking about Him and his mighty miracles? Only three days, the Bible tells us: until the next, big difficulty arose. Once more they would choose to fret and forget.

Drip, drip, drip. The last few drops of water trickled out of the sheep’s-bladder water bottles that the Israelites had carried with them from Egypt. This was terrible news! The last water they had seen was three days ago at the Red Sea. Now, out in the hard, sun-baked, barren wilderness, there seemed to be no water to be found.

“Hey, look over there, in the distance! Aren’t those palm trees and grasses?” someone shouted.

“Why, yes, those are! It must be an oasis!” someone else agreed.

Relieved, the people dashed towards the water of the little oasis. Some plunged their water bottles into the spring while others used their hands and brought overflowing handfuls of sparkling water to their dry mouths.

But halfway into the first swallow, the Israelites began coughing and choking. “Bleeack! This water’s no good! It’s bitter!” they exclaimed. “We can’t drink it!”

Once more the Israelites were in big trouble with no way out. They needed water soon or they would die; yet, there was none to be found. What would they do?

The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. Hadn’t their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

Hadn’t He rescued them again at the Red Sea just three days earlier? They could have remembered these things, but they chose to fret and forget.

“What are we to drink?” they grumbled.

How terrible the Israelites were to the LORD! But oh, how merciful and patient He was to them! As soon as Moses cried out to Him about the water, the LORD showed Moses a tree with special bark that he could throw into the water and make it sweet. Once more the LORD had delivered them. What a shame that they could not keep thinking about Him as they should.

“Listen to me!” The LORD told the people through Moses, “Think about Me and do what is right. Keep all the good laws I am giving you. If you do, I will not bring on you any of the diseases you saw Me bring on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you,” He promised them. He was

their mighty deliverer. They were His people. He wanted to bless them, but they would need to keep thinking about Him and obeying Him. This would be a hard, slow lesson for these stubborn-hearted people He loved.

Having made His point yet again with the bitter spring at Marah, now the Lord showed them also showed them once more how richly He would supply for their every need. He led them to the lush, palm-tree shaded oasis of Elim, where there was not just one spring of water, but twelve. And there He had them camp until they were refreshed.

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Think about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

How quick the Israelites were to forget who the LORD was! It only took five days! Perhaps it’s easy to think that we would be different, if it had been us who saw the LORD mighty miracles. Perhaps we think we wouldn’t fret and forget like they did.

But the hearts of Gods people today really not so different from the Israelites long ago. Many times even today, they are all too quick to stop thinking about the Lord when hard things happen to them.

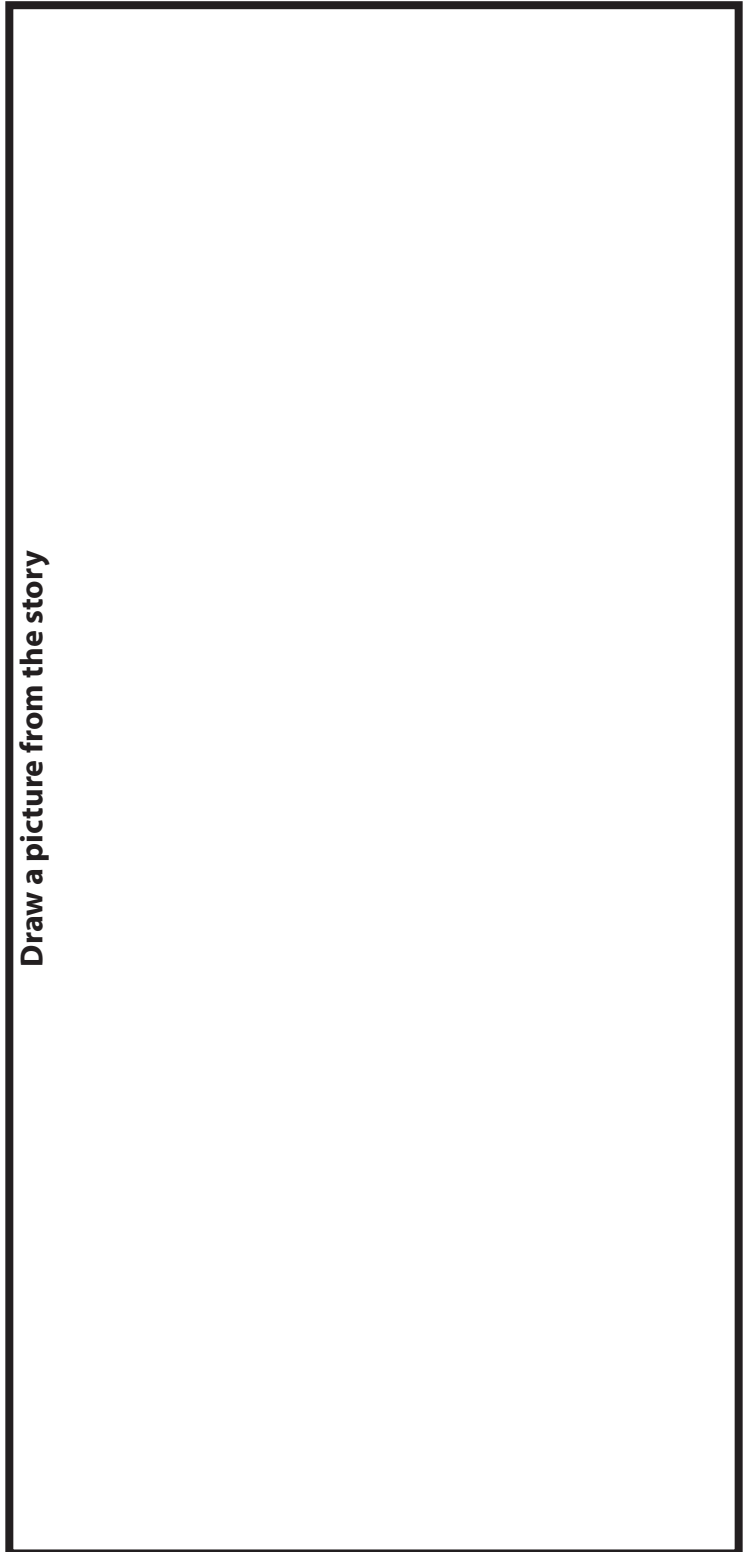
And in some ways, what they do is even worse that what the Israelites did. For while the Israelites forgot to remember the amazing way that the LORD delivered them from the Egyptians, God’s people today are too quick to forget the even more amazing way that the LORD has delivered them from sin and death through Jesus’ death on the cross.

What about you and me? We’ve heard about God’s mighty faithful to His people long ago. We’ve heard how we can become God’s people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus. What will we do? Will we fret and forget about God or will we think about Him? Will we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus? Will we ask Him to help us to think about Him as we go through every day of life He gives us?

Let’s pray right now that He will. Let’s praise God for

His great mercy and patience with His stubborn, forgetful people. Let’s pray that by His Holy Spirit, God would help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Let’s ask Him to help us to think about Him more and more. Let’s pray that when we are faced with difficult—even seemingly impossible—situations that He would help us to remember His powerful deliverance and to cry out in faith that He would rescue us.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God uses the time God's people spend with Him each day to strengthen their faith in Him.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who were the forgetful fretters?

Answer: The people of Israel.

b. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

Answer: They worried that they would die out in the wilderness because they had no food or water. They forget in just five days the amazing ways that the LORD had delivered them from the mighty Egyptians. If they had thought about the LORD and all He had done for them, they could have turned away from worrying and trusted that the LORD would take care of them.

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

Psalms 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will ___ you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My ___ will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my ___ I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Answers: glorify; soul; bed.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne

Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He's like.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Great, Always-Faithful God. You will always take care of Your people, even when it looks impossible.

C God, we confess that we are like the Israelites, forgetting how faithful You have been to us in the past. How quickly we distrust You and Your goodness. How quickly we grumble. Please forgive us!. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for treating us with so much mercy and patience, even when we do forget and distrust You. Thank You for taking away all of our sins through Jesus. Thank You for continuing to be faithful, even when we do not trust You as we should.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to always trust You, no matter how impossible it looks for You to rescue us and take care of us. Help us to rejoice and wait for You to act. Help us to remember how You have always been faithful in the past.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Your Love Is Better than Life

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Words: Psalm 63:3,4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 10:
God's People Say "No" to Temptation*

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 10 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

CASE STORY

Genesis 37,39,45,50

Our story is called: The Case of the Handsome "No" Man.

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

1. Who was the handsome "no" man?
2. What made him a "no" man? Who helped him be a "no" man?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1900 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Nine, young men sat eating their lunch and watching their sheep and goats on the green hills of Dothan. Suddenly, they stood up and began waving and yelling. A caravan of merchants with their camels was passing by, headed to Egypt with their goods.

"Stop! We have something to sell you!" the young men shouted. "A fine, young, man slave! Only seventeen years old! We have him trapped in this cistern. Come, let us show you what we have!" they urged.

The Ishmaelite merchants, with their turbans and glittering earrings, got down off their camels and came to hear more. There was always a market for a fine slave in Egypt. "Show us what you have and we'll consider making you an offer," they replied to the young men.

The young men grabbed their struggling prisoner, lifting him out of the muck at the bottom of the cistern, and forcing him to stand before the merchants.

"He's good," the merchants admitted. "We'll give you twenty shekels of silver for him. That's the going price for slaves these days—more money than most men make in two years. Take it or leave it," they offered.

"We'll take it!" the young men agreed.

One of the merchants weighed out the twenty shekels of silver and handed it over to the young men. A neck iron and shackles were clamped around the young man's neck and feet. He was their slave now.

"Stop! You can't do this!" the young boy insisted. "I'm no slave! I'm their brother! Judah, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Levi, Simeon, Naphtali, Asher, Zebulun! Please, don't do this to me! Don't let them take me away!" he begged. But it was no use. For years these brothers had watched their father Jacob spoil little brother Joseph. Special praise, special attention, even a special royal robe. All these were Joseph's. Now the brothers were getting their revenge. As the caravan of camels disappeared in the distant south,

they planned how to cover up their evil deed. "Joseph is gone for good! We will dip his coat in blood and tell father that some ferocious animal ate him. And that will be the end of our problems with this brother of ours!"

There was very little Joseph could do but cough through the clouds of dust kicked up by the camels' feet and think, as he walked the three hundred miles to Egypt. Think about his home and his father: would he never see them again? Think about the life of a slave that lay before him: would he wind up in the terrible copper mines like many did? Think about the terrible things his very own brothers had done to him: how could they hate him so much?

Hard times bring great temptation. Joseph was tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope. But the LORD is greater than the hardest times and the greatest temptations. He will always provide a way for His people to stand up under them and keep on trusting in Him. The LORD was with Joseph. Instead of allowing him to become bitter or worry or give up, He helped Joseph to trust Him. Instead of being sent to the terrible copper mines to work, like most Egyptians slaves, the LORD directed Potiphar, the very captain of Pharaoh's guards, to buy Joseph.

Potiphar made Joseph one of his household slaves. The LORD blessed everything Joseph did and Potiphar noticed. Soon, he put Joseph in charge of everything he owned and watched the LORD begin to bless everything he owned. Potiphar relaxed with Joseph in the only thing he worried about is what was for dinner!

Hard times can bring great temptations, but so can good times, as Joseph soon found out. Potiphar's wife noticed how strong and handsome Joseph and she became attracted to him.

"Be my special boyfriend," she began to ask him, day after day.

Perhaps Potiphar's wife was beautiful. Perhaps Joseph was only there in Egypt, far from family and home. It might have been very tempting to have her for his special girlfriend. But God was with Joseph. He helped Joseph remember His laws and how He wanted His people to live. He gave him strength to say "no."

"No, I won't be your special boyfriend!" he told her. "Potiphar, your husband, trusts me with everything he owns. Only you has he kept from me because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against him and God?" he told her.

But Potiphar's wife refused to leave Joseph alone. One day, when only Joseph and her were at home, she caught him by the cloak and said, "Come be my special boyfriend right now!"

With no one else at home to see what they did, perhaps Joseph could be tempted to sin. But no! Maybe no humans could see what they did, but Joseph knew that the LORD was there and He saw all things. Joseph wanted to please Him most of all and to say "no" again. He ran straight out the door and away from her.

Joseph had fled temptation, but not trouble. Potiphar's wife had grabbed his cloak and kept it. When her husband came home she held it up and told him, "That Hebrew slave Joseph tried to make me his special girlfriend while you were away! When I screamed for help, he ran away but left his cloak!" she lied.

Potiphar believed her and turned on Joseph. Hard times had come to Joseph once more, yet God was with him, helping him and giving him strength. Egyptian law gave Potiphar the right to kill Joseph, but instead he chose to have him thrown in jail. And Joseph, who could have been tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope, kept trusting in the LORD, even in jail.

Joseph kept saying "no" to temptation and kept trusting the LORD all seven years he sat in that prison. The LORD proved worthy of Joseph's trust, as He always does. Pharaoh learned of Joseph and the great ways that the LORD was with him. He had Joseph released from prison and made him the prime minister over everything in all of Egypt.

As Pharaoh's most important helper, Joseph was blessed with great power and many riches. He would have anything he wanted and do anything he wanted. Great temptations come with great blessings. Would Joseph become proud and forget the LORD with his new life? No, he would not. Joseph kept on loving and living for the LORD. He kept on trying to be a "no" man-- saying "no" to the temptation to sin.

Of all the temptations Joseph had to say "no" to, none was more tempting than when, many years later, he met his brothers again. A terrible famine had come upon Canaan, back at home. There was nothing to eat and so they had come to Egypt to buy food there. Joseph's brothers didn't recognize their brother in his splendid Egyptian clothes, but he knew them. After all they had done to him; surely it

would have been tempting for Joseph to get back at them now. With only a snap of his fingers, Joseph could have had guards kill them.

But God was with Joseph, giving him a way out of even his greatest temptation. He gave Joseph a merciful heart. He gave Joseph wisdom to understand that He had allowed this to happen to him that he might go ahead of his people and prepare a place for them during the years of the famine.

How terrified his brothers were when this great Prime Minister of Egyptian revealed who he really was: "I am Joseph, your brother you sold into slavery."

They trembled before him, expecting Joseph to give into the temptation to take revenge. How shocked they were when he showed them mercy instead: "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your families," he reassured them.

And Joseph was as good as his word. He took the care of them all until the day he died.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

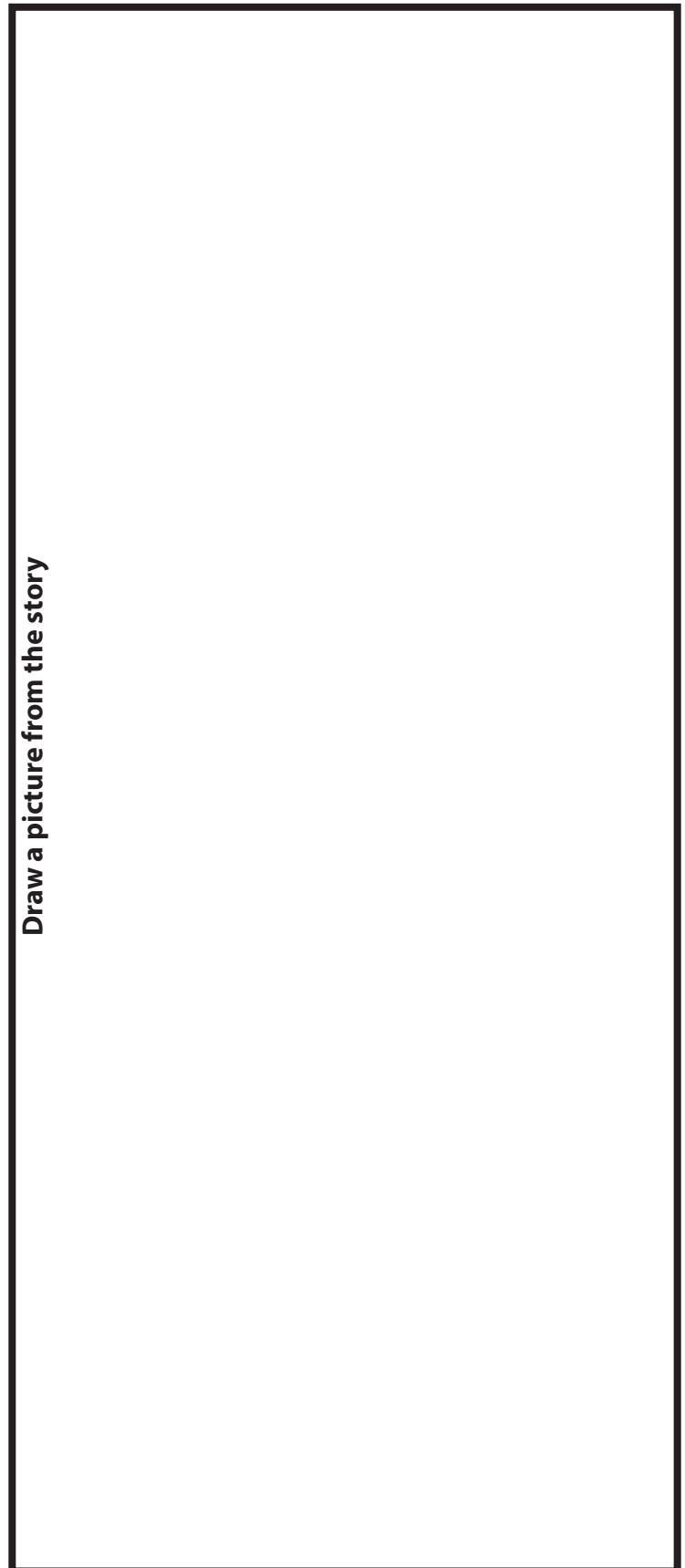
Hard times and good times both brought great temptations to Joseph. But the LORD was with Joseph and helped him stand up under each temptation.

What about you and me? Perhaps we don't face things as hard or as good as what Joseph faced, but each day we are tempted to sin, just like he was. Like Joseph, God's people today can trust in the LORD. They can depend on Him to be with them and provide them a way out of every temptation.

How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for promising to always be with His people, helping them in every temptation. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to be with us as He was with Joseph, helping us to remember

the truth of His good ways, showing us the way to stand up under every temptation, and giving us hearts that desire to please Him most of all.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Being tempted to do wrong is a sin. <i>Answer: False. It is a sin to give into temptation, not to be tempted.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the handsome “no” man? <i>Answer: Joseph.</i></p> <p>b. What made him a “no” man? Who helped him be a “no” man? <i>Answer: He always tried to say “no” to temptation. The LORD helped Joseph be a “no” man by giving him strength and providing a way out of each temptation so he could stand up under it.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has ___ you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be ___ beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way ___, so you can stand up under it.” <i>Answers: seized; tempted; out.</i></p>	<p>Sweet Hour of Prayer <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 29</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care And bids me at my Father’s throne Make all my wants and wishes known! In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter’s snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.</p> <p><i>Words: William Walford Music: William B. Bradbury</i></p> <p>God’s people know that they don’t have the strength to face the hard things of this world alone. Many sad things, many scary things, many tempting things may come their way. When they do, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. The temptation to turn away from God and do things their own way may be strong. But, God’s people know who to go to receive the strength they need. They pray to their Heavenly Father who loves them so much! They tell Him all their problems. They ask for His help. He comforts them and gives them what they need to keep trusting in Him and to turn away from the temptation to sin.</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 Perfect Planner of Everything in the Lives of Your People. We praise You for being the Provider of All We Need to Say No to Temptation.</p> <p>C God, we confess that often we do not ask You to show us a way out of sin. Too many times we choose to sin because we want to do something even more than to love and obey You. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your promises to always provide a way out for us when we face temptation. We thank You that You never give us more than we can bear.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to say “no” to sin. Help us to love You most of all.</p>	<p>No Temptation Has Seized You <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 30</i></p> <p>Refrain: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you an bear.</p> <p>But when you are tempted He’ll also provide, Also provide a way out. Yes, when you are tempted he’ll also provide, A way out so you can stand up under it. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>First Corinthians Chapter Ten, verse thirteen.</p> <p><i>Words: 1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</i></p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 10:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 10 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Courageous Couple.

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

1. Who were the courageous couple?
2. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people and it starts out long ago in 1293, in Venice, Italy.

Excited and relieved, Marco Polo, his uncle Niccolo, and his father, Maffeo returned home to Venice. Marco had been only seventeen when they left. Now, after twenty-four years of exploring Central Asia and China, he returned home a middle-aged man of forty-one. Oh, what stories he have to tell!

"We saw tall, rugged, snow capped mountains, deep gorges, powerful rivers. Peoples with jet black hair, yellow-toned skin and beautiful, slanted eyelids. And oh, what amazing things they made: gunpowder and firecrackers; coal; shiny silk clothes; fans; umbrellas; and even ice cream! They flavor their foods with the most wonderful spices: ginger, cinnamon, and pepper," Marco told the people of Venice.

"These Chinese may have wonderful things that we don't have, but they don't have the Bible or know the good news of Jesus," Marco continued. "Kubla Khan, the Chinese Emperor, and asked us to send one hundred trained men each them about Jesus."

How wonderful! Surely one hundred Christians would leap at the idea of telling the people of China about Jesus! But it wasn't the case. "We won't survive the long journey! What if the Polos are lying? What if Kublai Khan decides he doesn't like the good news of Jesus, he might kill us?" most men thought.

Instead of saying "no" to their tempting fears and trusting that the Lord could and would take care of them, they refused to go. In the end, only two men went. Soon, even these men gave into fear and returned home without sharing the good news of Jesus with anyone.

The Chinese people had to wait hundreds of years for someone else to come to their country and tell them about Jesus and the Bible. Who were these brave people? The men and women of the China Inland Mission.

"We want two hundred people who will risk their lives for China. Who will go?" asked the China Inland Mission in 1930.

Once more there were great opportunities in China, like in Marco Polo's day. But once more, there were also great dangers that caused many to fear.

"It's too dangerous to go to China now," many said. "The Communists are taking over the country. They want to stamp out all religion, especially Christianity. They are killing Chinese believers as well as missionaries. They will probably kill us if we go," they feared.

These people were right. They would have to risk their lives to go to China. But they were wrong, too: Wrong to give into their temptation to fear. If God wanted them to go, He would take care of them according to His perfect will.

While many refused to go to China, Betty Scott and John Stam chose to go. Why? Betty, herself, said it well: "I want to use this one life of mine however it will produce the most good for God. Where it is, I want it to be God's choice for me and not my own." Betty and John were certain God wanted them to go China. No temptation to fear would keep them away.

Not long after John and Betty were in China, they were married and had a baby girl named Helen. When Helen was just eight weeks old, the Stams prepared to travel to the mountain town of Tsingteh. They would travel there on foot, with little more than Bibles, and whatever food, bedding and clothes they needed for the long, hard journey. They were going there to help the few Chinese Christians who already lived there and share the good news of Jesus with the many who had never heard.

"Don't go there!" they were warned by some. "The Communists are coming! They will kill you."

John and Betty had heard the same frightening rumors, but that did not stop them from going. "We won't give into the temptation to fear," they said. "God has brought us here and wants us to go to Tsingteh. We will trust Him!"

As they traveled to Tsingteh, John and Betty told everyone the wonderful good news of Jesus. Many listened and believed. They eagerly accepted the Chinese Bibles the Stams offered them. How glad Betty and John were that they had not been tempted to give into fear, but had trusted the Lord and had come to China! These new Chinese believers were the very people Betty had longed

to give her life to help!

At last, the Stams arrived at Tsingteh--a walled town with many ancient, crumbling stone palaces, set among towering mountains. There, Betty and John settled happily into encouraging the Chinese Christians and sharing the gospel with many others. They eagerly looked forward to serving the people of Tsingteh for many years to come.

But that was not to be. Just two weeks after the Stams arrived in Tsingteh, Communist soldiers invaded the city in a surprise attack. There was no time to escape. All the fearful things that had kept others from coming to China, began to happen to the Stams.

The soldiers arrested the Stams and said, "Give us \$20,000 or we will kill you!"

John and Betty did not have \$20,000 to give. They were only poor missionaries. Even if they had the money to give, they knew there was little hope that soldiers would really release them. They knew the Stams were Christians. They surely planned to kill them.

What would the Stams do now? It would easy to be overwhelmed with fear for themselves and for their baby girl. Would they give into the temptation to fear? No, they would not. The Lord gave them courage instead to face the situation with peace and kindness, not with fear. With great calmness, John and Betty offered tea and cakes to the soldiers, and tried to talk with them. The soldiers refused to listen and began to plan what to do with the Stams.

"Please, before you take us away," John Stam pleaded, "can I write to my boss?" Reluctantly the soldiers agreed to his request. John Stam wrote:

By Life or By Death

Tsingteh, An. Dec. 6, 1934

To the China Inland Mission in Shanghai

Dear Brethren (Brothers),

My wife, baby and myself are today in the hands of the Communists in the city of Tsingteh. Their demand is twenty thousand dollars for our release.

The soldiers have taken everything we have, but we praise God for peace in our hearts and a meal tonight. May God give you wisdom in what you do, and us strength, courage and peace of heart. He is able—and a wonderful Friend in such a time.

Things happened so quickly this morning. They were in the city just a few hours. There was no time to prepare to leave. We were just too late.

The Lord bless and guide you, and as for us, may God be glorified whether by life or by death.

In Him, John C. Stam

Then the soldiers marched the Stams to Miaosheo, another mountain town twelve miles away. There, they planned to kill them. The next day, the soldiers came for the Stams. Betty quickly hid little Helen along with John's letter underneath a blanket, hoping that someone would rescue her before the soldiers found her.

"Come with us," the soldiers commanded John and Betty, never noticing the hidden baby.

The soldiers led the Stams down the street and to a hill outside of town to be killed. The town's people shouted insults at them as they passed by. Surely now the Stams would give in to the temptation to panic! There was so much to fear: How would they die? What would happen to baby Helen Priscilla when they were gone? But no. Not even then did the Stams give in to fear. They trusted the Lord, instead; and, He gave them His peace. They knelt down on that hill and with one swing of a sword, each gave up their lives.

"What peace these Christian have! How mighty must their God be!" thought many of the townspeople who watched the Stams die.

John and Betty Stam exchanged their short, earthly lives that day for marvelous, everlasting ones in heaven with Jesus. God cared for baby Helen, too. She was rescued by Chinese Christians who had been hiding in the hills around Miaosheo, then taken to her grandparents to be cared for. She grew up to be a follower of Jesus, too.

And what of Betty's desire for her life to be used for the most good for God? The Lord answered it in a big way. When the story of how the Stams had said "no" to fearful temptations, but trusted the Lord reached America, many more Christians volunteered to go, serve and even die in China, so that the Chinese people might hear the good news of Jesus.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

John and Betty Stam faced great temptations to fear,

they chose to trust the Lord and obey Him instead. Nothing meant more to them than to serve Him and let others know about Him--not even their earthly lives, themselves. With joy they endured suffering, know that the Lord was with them through it all and would soon welcome them into His heavenly kingdom forever.

What about God's people today? What should they think about when faced with temptation? Will they give into it? They don't have to. Instead, they can ask God to provide a way out of it so they can stand up under it. He will help them, just like He helped the Stams.

How can we become God's people and know His help in temptation? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for being great enough to help the Stams keep trusting Him, even in death...and for being great enough to do that for His people today, too. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to think of Him when faced with temptation. Let's ask Him to help us stand up under every temptation and trial we face, even death itself. Let's ask Him to give us willing hearts to be used wherever and however we can be of the most heavenly good to this world, without giving into fear.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Jesus was never tempted to sin at all. <i>Answer: False. Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, but He never sinned.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who were the courageous couple? Answer: John and Betty Stam.</p> <p>b. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight? Answer: God helped them, by His Holy Spirit, to be courageous. They had to fight the temptation to be afraid of what might happen to them if they went to China...and while they lived in China.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has seized you except what is ___ to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can ____. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can ___ up under it." <i>Answers: common; bear; stand.</i></p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>Sweet Hour of Prayer <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 29</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known! In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.</p> <p>Words: William Walford Music: William B. Bradbury</p> <p>God's people know that they don't have the strength to face the hard things of this world alone. Many sad things, many scary things, many tempting things may come their way. When they do, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. The temptation to turn away from God and do things their own way may be strong. But, God's people know who to go to receive the strength they need. They pray to their Heavenly Father who loves them so much! They tell Him all their problems. They ask for His help. He comforts them and gives them what they need to keep trusting in Him and to turn away from the temptation to sin.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Strength to Fight Temptation, even when we face death!</p> <p>C God, we confess that often we choose to fear instead of trust You to help us do whatever You want us to do. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for always being worthy of our trust. Thank You that You are always with us. Thank You that we can always cry out to You and ask for Your help.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us not to let fear keep us from doing whatever You want us to do. Use us to tell others about Jesus that they might come to know Him as their Savior.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>No Temptation Has Seized You <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 30</i></p> <p>Refrain: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.</p> <p>But when you are tempted He'll also provide, Also provide a way out. Yes, when you are tempted he'll also provide, A way out so you can stand up under it. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>First Corinthians Chapter Ten, verse thirteen.</p> <p>Words: 1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God's glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God's glory when he was with the people. Moses' face may have sometimes shown with God's glory, but God's people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn't want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 10:
God's People Say "No" to Temptation**

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 10 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

CASE STORY

Acts 4:32-5:14

Our story is: The Case of the Tricky Givers.

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

1. Who were the Tricky Givers?
2. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it?

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

Things would never be the same in Jerusalem after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead! The Holy Spirit had filled the hearts of Jesus' disciples and helped them to act powerfully and boldly in Jesus' name. What amazing works they did! How powerfully they preached! What miraculous healings and amazing works they did! What suffering they joyfully endured for Jesus' sake! And how wonderful the love the Christians showed to God and to each other!

"The things these followers of Jesus do are amazing," many in Jerusalem exclaimed. "Only God could do things like this!" So many repented of their sins and put their trust in Jesus, too.

One man who became a Christian was a rich Levite named Joseph of Cyprus. The Lord gave Joseph the gifts of preaching and generosity. He was such a blessing to the young church in Jerusalem, that the apostles nicknamed Joseph "Barnabas," meaning "Encouraging Son."

As our story opens, we find Joseph in the marketplace, selling some land to a businessman.

"It's a deal," Joseph said to the man. "This silver is a fair price for my field. Thank you," Joseph told him.

Joseph carried off the bag of silver with joy. This money would take care of the widows and other poor people in the church. He was thankful that he had a field to sell to help them out.

Joseph entered the place where the church was meeting, took the bag of silver and laid it at the apostles' feet. "I sold a field today. Here's the money I received for it. I'm giving it to you to use to care for the needy," he told them.

The apostles took it gratefully and all whole church was encouraged by Joseph's gift. Other rich believers saw what Joseph did and wanted to sell their fields and houses to help others, too. No one in the church would be in need because of the generous gifts the Holy Spirit

prompted the richer believers to give.

Word of how the Christians treated each other spread throughout Jerusalem. Once more, people were amazed. "Only God could work in people to do things like this!" many thought. And many repented of their sins and put their trust in Jesus, too.

But generous gifts like Joseph's didn't only encourage others to want to do good deeds. Sometimes they became temptations to do bad things, as a rich couple named Ananias and Sapphira were to find out.

"Next time there is a need among the poor and widows, let's sell one of our fields and give the money to the apostles," Ananias and Sapphira agreed. They had watched how Joseph and other rich Christians had sold houses and fields and laid the money at the apostles' feet. They had seen the honor and gratefulness that the apostles as well as the poor had shown the rich believers for their kind gifts and they decided they wanted to be part of that, too.

It was not long before new needs requiring more money were shared with the believers. "This is our chance," Ananias Sapphira decided. Down to the market place they went. Before long they had found a buyer. With a quick exchange of silver shekels for property, the deal was done.

"What a lot of money we got for our field!" Ananias and Sapphira exclaimed, looking at the bulging bag of coins. "This will more than meet the needs of the widows and poor," they said. "Perhaps we don't need to give it all away to the poor of the church," they began to think. "After all, it really is such a lot of money."

The more they thought about all that money, the more hesitant they were to give it all away. Satan used their thoughts about the money to begin to tempt them to sin: "But think how much grander it would be to say to the apostles in front of everyone else that we are giving all of the money we got, just like Joseph of Cyprus did? Isn't that the kind of honor and respect you are hungry for?" they began to think.

"What harm would it do to keep some of this money for ourselves?" The apostles and other believers don't have to know we didn't give the church all of it, " they persuaded themselves. They were being tempted to lie to the Christians so that they might enjoy the honor of giving all money without really doing it. They could have cried out to God to provide a way out the temptation, but they didn't. Ananias gave into the temptation, removed some

of the silver from the pouch and left for the church meeting.

Sapphira had stood by her husband, watching what he was doing. She could have chosen to warn him, but she did not. She gave into temptation, too, as she watched him leave.

Ananias took his money and presented in to the apostles just as he had seen Joseph and the others do. How he must have been looking forward to their words' of praise. But instead of praise, Ananias received a rebuke. The Lord, through His Holy Spirit, had told Peter the truth about Ananias' gift and the sin in his heart: "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" Peter asked him. 'Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.' When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died." (Acts 3-5, NIV 1984) One thing was clear: sin was a very big deal to God! Especially in these first days of the church, God was making that very clear. He hated it and you can't hide it from Him. He wanted His people to say "no him" to temptation and stay pure from sin. He promised to always make a way out of temptation for them, if they would but ask Him.

Young men wrapped up Ananias' body, carried him out and buried him. The church was in shock at what had happened, but this wasn't the end! Three hours later, Sapphira joined the church meeting, not knowing what had happened to Ananias.

"Tell me, Sapphira, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" Peter asked her.

Would she say "no" to temptation or give in to it? Would she ask God to show her the way to stand up under it? No. she would not. Sapphira hardened her heart to what was right, just like Ananias had.

"Yes," she lied to Peter, "that's the price."

Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

Sapphira fell down and died at Peter's feet. Then the young men carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened. It was clear to those who heard about Ananias and Sapphira's death that Jesus was indeed alive

and at work in His Church. Ananias and Sapphira had thought they could fool the believers and even God the Holy Spirit, Himself, by gathering with them and mimicking their good works. They—and all of Jerusalem with them—knew without a doubt that nothing could be hidden from God. He knew the sin that Ananias and Sapphira had given into. They were really just hungry for the honor of men.

Some saw what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira and were too scared to join the Christians. But God uses everything for the good of His people, even this terrible judgment on Ananias and Sapphira! Many others repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. In Jesus, the perfect Savior, there was forgiveness of sins for the worst of sinners.

God's People Say "No" to Temptation
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

How swift the Lord was to punish Ananias for his sinful plan to get honor from others by lying to them and to God! We certainly can understand why the church and the people of Jerusalem were afraid when they saw what happened to Ananias and Sapphira.

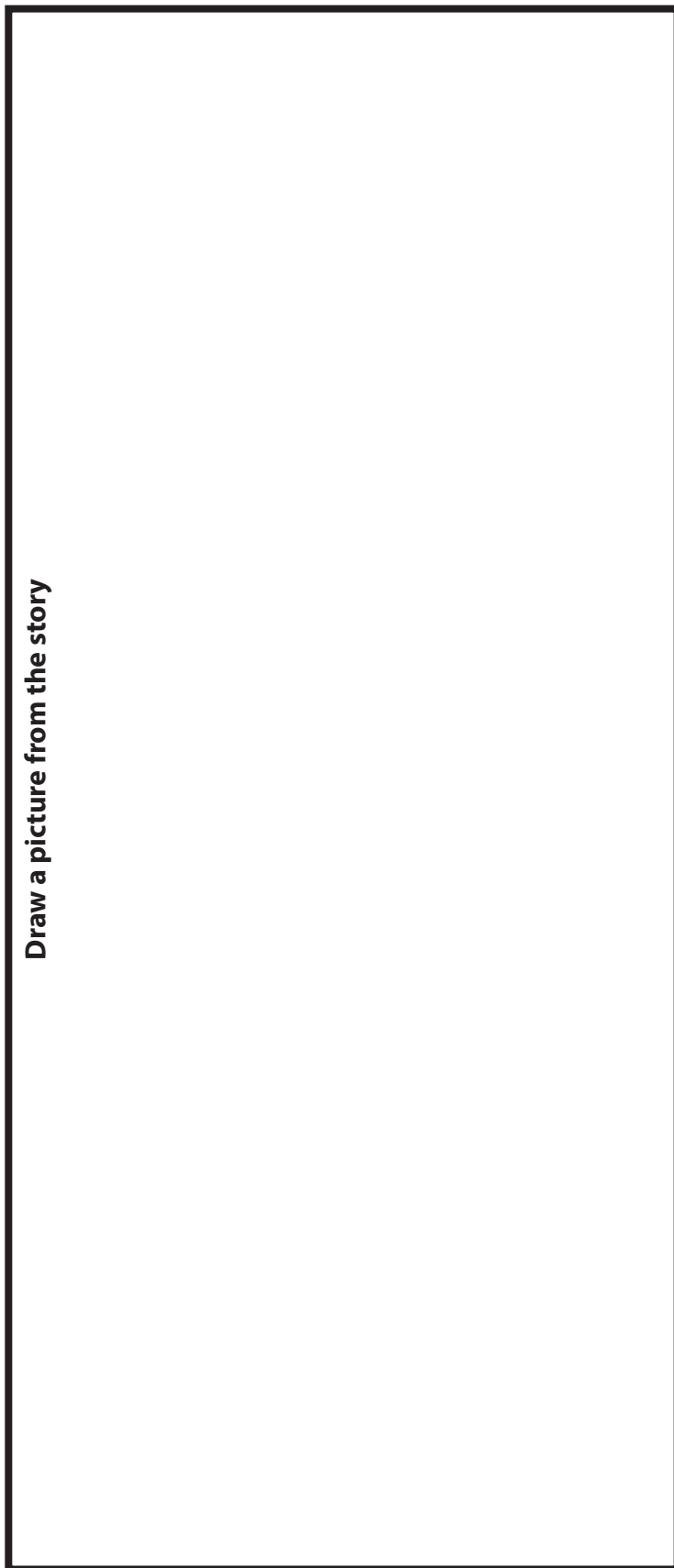
There is much we don't understand about God and His ways. But we know that God hates sin. And, since Adam and Eve first rebelled against God, we have all been sinners deserving His punishment for our sins. Yet God is so merciful and patient that rarely do we ever see Him immediately punish humans so quickly for their sins as with Ananias and Sapphira. We could fear God like some did in Jerusalem that day, for His quick and mighty judgment of them. Or, like so many others did when they heard, we can confess our sins to Him, turn and trust in His for forgiveness and salvation.

Let's praise our holy God who hates sin. We can praise Him for His promises to never allow any of His people to face more temptation than they can bear, and to always provide a way out of temptation so they can stand up under it.

Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to

remember what a big deal sin is to Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts when we face temptation that we would not harden them and give in to sin, but would turn to Him for help to stand up under it.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Being tempted to do wrong is a sin.
Answer: False. It is a sin to give into temptation, not to be tempted.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who were the Tricky Givers?
Answer: Ananias and Sapphira.
b. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it? Why did God punish them the way that He did?
Answer: They were tricky because they acted like they gave the church all the money they made on the sale of their land, instead of just part of it. They gave into the temptation of wanting the honor of others more than being honest before God. They could have cried out to God and asked for Him to show them the way out of their temptation. In the early days of the church, God many times acted in big ways of blessing and of punishment that He rarely choses to act in today. One reason He did this was to provide special encouragement to grow and to discipline His church in the especially early days as it was being formed.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 Corinthians 10:13
 "No ___ has seized you except what is common to man. And God is ___: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also ___ a way out, so you can stand up under it."
Answers: temptation; faithful; provide.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Holy God who is perfectly good and hates sin.

C God, we confess that many times we, like Ananias and Sapphira are tempted to sin. We need Your help to fight sin! We need Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising to help Your people out of temptation when they face it.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to us to confess our sins—even our secret sins-- turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to turn away from temptation. Show us a way out of it that we might glorify You and do the good things You want us to do.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 29

Verse 1
 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
 That calls me from a world of care
 And bids me at my Father's throne
 Make all my wants and wishes known!
 In seasons of distress and grief,
 My soul has often found relief,
 And oft escaped the tempter's snare
 By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Words: William Walford Music: William B. Bradbury

God's people know that they don't have the strength to face the hard things of this world alone. Many sad things, many scary things, many tempting things may come their way. When they do, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. The temptation to turn away from God and do things their own way may be strong. But, God's people know who to go to receive the strength they need. They pray to their Heavenly Father who loves them so much! They tell Him all their problems. They ask for His help. He comforts them and gives them what they need to keep trusting in Him and to turn away from the temptation to sin.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

No Temptation Has Seized You
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 30

Refrain:
 No temptation has seized you
 except what is common to man.
 And God is faithful,
 He will not let you be tempted
 beyond what you an bear.

But when you are tempted He'll also provide,
 Also provide a way out.
 Yes, when you are tempted he'll also provide,
 A way out so you can stand up under it. *Refrain*

First Corinthians Chapter Ten, verse thirteen.
Words: 1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

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

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 11:
God's People Tell Others about Him*

We've all rebelled against God and deserve His just and eternal punishment for our sins. But God, in His great love for sinners, chose to send His Son, Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came and lived the perfect life that pleases God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had conquered sin and death, once and for all! Now all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven and receive eternal life with God. This good news is what Christians call the gospel--and everyone needs to hear it! God calls His people to tell it to everyone, in every part of the world. Jesus promises to come back after the gospel has been taken to every people on earth, all according to God's good plan.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 11 Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15, ESV

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

CASE STORY

Acts 13:1-12

Our story is called:

The Case of the Homecoming Heralds.

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

1. Who were the homecoming heralds? Who went with them?
2. What did they come home to do?

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

"Home, at last!" Barnabas and his cousin, John Mark, must have thought as the white beaches of Cyprus came into view. In the distance, they could see the familiar, green plains and majestic, snow-capped mountains of Cyprus that had once been their home. How beautiful! It has been years since they had seen these lovely sights! How good it was to see them again!

But Barnabas and John Mark hadn't come to Cyprus just to see their beautiful country or even to catch up with family, as nice as that might have been. They had come to Cyprus on a mission, together with Paul. A mission placed upon them by God. Paul and Barnabas were to preach the good news of Jesus to the people of Cyprus for the first time. John Mark had come as their helper.

One day, as the leaders of the church in Antioch were worshipping the Lord and fast, the Lord spoke to them. "Set apart Barnabas and Paul for Me, for the work I am calling them to," the Holy Spirit told them. "I am sending them out from you to tell others about Jesus who have not yet heard."

The elders laid hands upon Barnabas and Paul and asked God to bless the mission. then, the three men set off. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the three walked west to Seleucia, the big, Roman, naval seaport on the Mediterranean Sea. From there, they set sail on a cargo ship for Cyprus. And now, after 100 miles of sea-tossed travel, their ship had docked at Salamis, Cyprus.

It didn't take long to see why the Lord had sent them to Cyprus. Oh yes, the people were worshippers, but not of the Lord! It seemed that none had heard the good news of salvation through Jesus! The Greeks worshiped Zeus and Aphrodite. And Jews worshiped the Lord. They tried to keep God's laws. They gathered in the synagogues to hear preaching from the Bible. They knew the prophets' promises of a coming Savior, but they didn't that Savior

was Jesus and they didn't know that He had come! But now both Greeks and Jew would hear. So, beginning in Salamis, the three men went to the synagogues of Cyprus, preaching the good news of Jesus to all who would listen.

"Jews and Greeks who seek after God, listen to me," Paul would say. "God has brought the Savior Jesus, as he promised he would. All who confess their sins, turn from them, and believe in Him will be forgiven! Don't live separated from God anymore! Come and make peace with Him, once and for all!" They urged everyone.

On and on the three men walked. Over mountains, through forests and fields, along beaches, they traveled with the message of Jesus. . Through Tremithus, Citium, Amathus, Curium, and Palaipaphos—all the major cities of Cyprus—they went until they reached Paphos, more than a hundred miles away at the other end of the island.

Paphos was the most important city in Cyprus. The Romans designed and built it to be the island's new modern capital. It had a port where big, Roman ships could easily anchor. It had luxurious villas for the most important Roman leaders to live in. There were temples built for their gods, and a giant, outdoor theater that could hold hundreds of people. Most of all, Paphos was home to the most powerful man in Cyprus: Sergius Paulus, The Roman proconsul (governor).

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark wasted no time in sharing the good news of Jesus with the people of this important city. Before long though, news of three men and their new teachings reached the proconsul.

"Find these men and bring them to me!" Sergius Paulus ordered his men. "I want to hear for myself these new things they are preaching."

Paul, Barnabas and John Mark were found and brought before the proconsul. "Sergius Paulus, your honor, listen to us," they told him. "God has sent the Savior Jesus, as he promised in the Bible. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of God's people and then rose from the dead in victory. All who repent of their sins and trust in him as their Savior can be saved. You, too, can make peace with God and know eternal life."

Many Greeks and Romans had laughed when they heard the good news of Jesus, but not this man. Sergius Paulus listened carefully and was eager to hear more!

"How wonderful!" thought Paul, Barnabas and John Mark. "Could it be that the Holy Spirit was working in his heart?"

Could it be that the Lord would bring the very proconsul of Cyprus to be saved? What a great testimony to the Lord he might to many Romans and Greeks!!

But Satan, too, was aware of how greatly Jesus might be glorified through Sergius Paulus; and, he had his own plans to block the work of God in this man's heart, if possible. Right there, in Sergius Paulus' palace, was a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Elymas Bar-Jesus. He had giving Sergius Paulus spiritual advice based on his evil powers. As soon as he saw his master's growing interest in the good news of Jesus, Elymas began to argue against Paul, Barnabas and John Mark. He tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

But Satan can never stand up against the mighty power of God and His perfect plans. Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, turned and looked straight at Elymas. He said, "You are from the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You're full of tricks and lies. Will you never working against the Lord? Now He will be against you! You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately Elymas lost his sight. He felt his way around the room, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Sergius Paulus watched what happened in amazement of God's power. This Jesus must be who Paul and Barnabas said he was, the proconsul decided.

Right there and then, he repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. How Paul, Barnabas and John Mark praised God! Their mission here was complete!

The three men headed down to the docks at Paphos. John Mark headed back to Jerusalem, but Paul and Barnabas set sail for the city of Perga, 150 miles across the sea in Turkey. Watching the coast of Cyprus fade out of view, the men had much to praise God for. He was raising up His people in Cyprus! He would use these new believers to keep on sharing the good news of Jesus with others, while He sent Barnabas and Paul to new lands so that yet more might hear about Jesus for the first time.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Tell Others about Him.

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Paul and Barnabas had been especially called by the Holy Spirit to leave their home church in Antioch and go share the good news of Jesus with people who had never heard. Theirs were the "beautiful feet" that brought good news to the island of Cyprus and many other places for the first time.

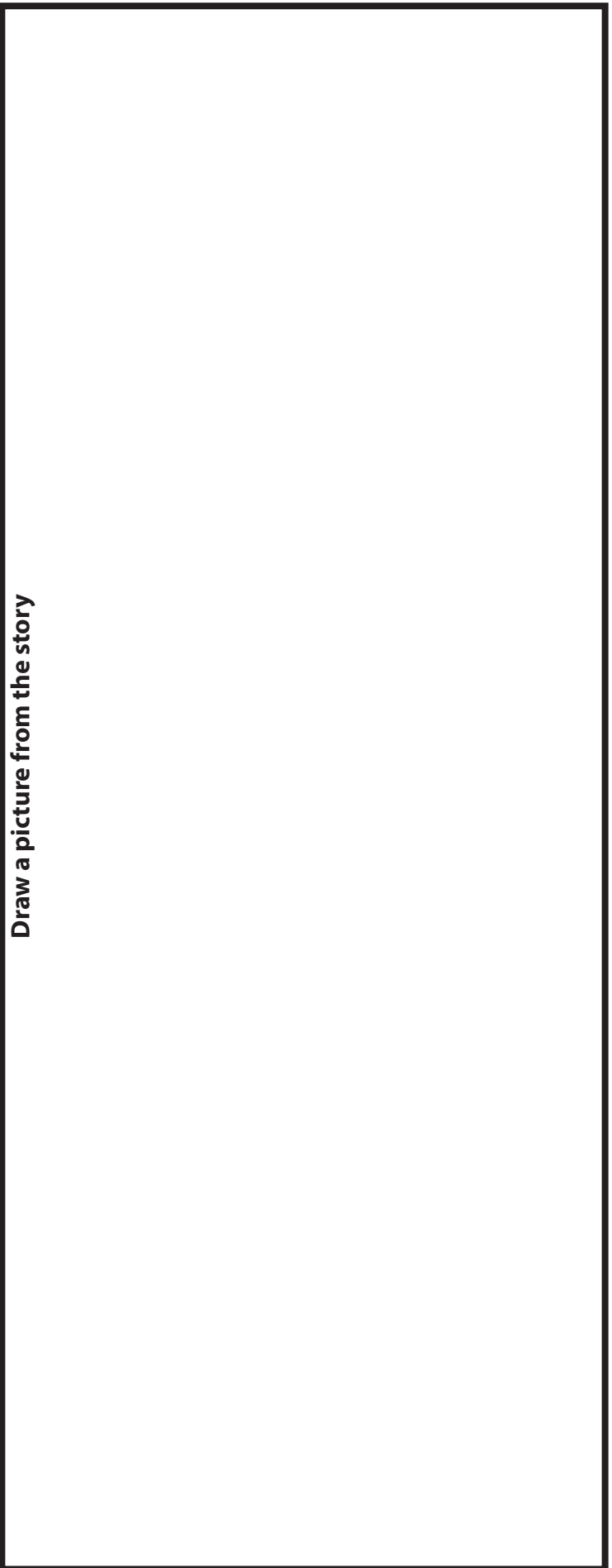
But did you know that even today, almost two thousand years ago, there are still billions of people who have never even heard of Jesus?

And as long as there are people who have not heard, the Holy Spirit will be calling God's people to leave their home churches and be the "beautiful feet" that bring tell them, just like He called Paul and Barnabas to.

Perhaps some of you have never heard the good news of salvation through Jesus before today. How does God want us to respond to it that we might be forgiven our sins? He wants us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, He forgives our sins, He fills our heart with His Holy Spirit and makes us one of God's dearly loved people. And then we will get to know Him, love Him, serve Him and enjoy Him here on earth our whole lives. And get to live forever with Him in heaven. That's why the gospel is such good news!

Let's praise God for wanting all the people of the earth to know about Him, that they might turn to Him and be saved. Let's ask God to move in the hearts of His people to send them out to even the ends of the earth, until all have heard the good news of Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

All people have rebelled against God and deserve His just punishment for their sins.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who were the homecoming heralds?

Answer: Barnabas and John Mark.

b. Who went with them?

Answer: Paul.

c. What did they come home to do?

Answer: They went home to tell the people of Cyprus the good news of Jesus that they might believe and be saved.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15

" ___ who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not ___ in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring ___ news!'"

Answers: everyone; believed; good.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Sender of Your people to others so that they can hear and believe the gospel and be saved.

C God, we confess that, like the people of Cyprus, we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

T God, we thank You that You sent Jesus to willingly suffer and die to save sinners like us.

S God, we ask that You to work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send out Your people to all parts of the world that everyone might hear the gospel. Work in the hearts of those who hear the gospel, giving them the gift of faith that they might turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 31

Verse 1

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

"All people suffer the effects of their sinful rebellion against God. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, chose to send Jesus to save sinners. Yes, Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love. If we do this, He will welcome us as our dear Savior, too."

BIBLE VERSE SONG

How Beautiful

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 32

Refrain

How beautiful! How beautiful!
How beautiful are the feet.
How beautiful! How beautiful!
Are the feet of those who preach the good news.
Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
Will be saved.
Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
Will be saved.

Yes, but I have some questions....

How then will they call on Him they've not believed in?
How are they to believe in Him they never heard?
How are they to hear without someone preaching?
How are they to preach unless they are sent?

Well, it all goes back to those feet! Refrain

Romans Ten, thirteen through fifteen.

Words: Romans 10:13-15, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

This verse reminds us that God has chosen for others to hear the good news of salvation by sending His people to tell others about Him. They must go, if others are to hear. The feet of people who go tell others about Jesus are beautiful, not because they have pretty toes and ankles. This is a way of saying that people who are willing to go and tell others about Jesus bring wonderful news of eternal life to those who would otherwise have no hope of salvation.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 11:
God's People Tell Others about Him**

We've all rebelled against God and deserve His just and eternal punishment for our sins. But God, in His great love for sinners, chose to send His Son, Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came and lived the perfect life that pleases God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had conquered sin and death, once and for all! Now all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven and receive eternal life with God. This good news is what Christians call the gospel--and everyone needs to hear it! God calls His people to tell it to everyone, in every part of the world. Jesus promises to come back after the gospel has been taken to every people on earth, all according to God's good plan.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 11 Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15, ESV

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Man Who Wouldn't Quit.

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

1. Who was the man? What happened to him that would make him want to quit?
2. What wouldn't he quit doing? Why did he think it was so important?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1880's in Uganda, Africa.

In the land of Toro in Uganda, there is a mighty, snow-capped mountain called Ruwenzori--one of the very tallest mountains in Africa. Not many tried to climb the top of this great mountain and even fewer succeeded. But one young man named Apolo Kivebulaya determined to do it.

"I am going to climb up Ruwenzori," Apolo said. "I must see what is on the other side of these mountains! I've heard stories of a fierce people who live there. I want to see their land for myself," he explained.

So Apolo found a guide and set off to climb the rugged mountain. Up, up, up, the two men climbed until they made it to the peak. What a magnificent view there was from the top! Apolo looked down and saw the country that lay on the other side. There were thick, dark forests, then hills rising off in the distance.

"Beyond those hills, Apolo, is the land of the Mbogas--the people you've heard so much about," his guide told him. As Apolo looked out upon those hills, the Lord spoke to his heart, "Go to those people! Tell them about Jesus! They need to hear my good news of salvation!" Apolo was happy to obey!

The journey was long and difficult, but after many days Apolo arrived at Mboga village. At first, he was treated with kindness. The king gave him a hut to live in and ground to grow food. Apolo settled down and began to learn the language.

But when he finally learned enough Mboga to share the good news of Jesus, Apolo's troubles began! While one woman heard the gospel, repented of her sins and trusted in Jesus as her Savior, most did not! They didn't like that Apolo called the spirits they worshiped evil. They didn't like he said witchcraft was wrong. No one was more upset over what Apolo taught than the witch doctor. He determined to talk the king

into getting rid of Apolo.

“You must get rid of Apollo!” The witch doctor urged the king. “If you don’t, he will anger the spirits and ruin your country.”

King Tabao was worried. He agreed to work with the witch doctor’s to get rid of Apolo. The two men tried all sorts of plots. They threatened him. They set his hut on fire. They hurt him so badly that he could hardly move. But even so, Apolo refused to go!

“Do what you will to me, I will not go!” he told them. “I have a Master and He sent me here to teach your people about Him. I will not disobey Him. You cannot make me go!” Apolo insisted.

The people saw Apolo’s courage and began to listen to his words. Bang, bang, bang! Apolo would beat the church drums, calling the people to come and worship every Sunday. Before long, many of them did come to the little church hut each week to hear him preach about Jesus.

This only made the king and the witch doctor even angrier. “King Tabao, you must kill Apollo!” the witch doctor insisted. “That’s the only way you’re going to get rid of this man and his message forever.”

Once more the king agreed with his witch doctor. They had some men grab Apolo from his hut, hurt him badly, and leave him in the tall grasses outside of the village for hungry lions to finish off. Then the king and the witch doctor held a great feast to celebrate the end of Apolo.

“At last our enemy is dead and the Kingdom is safe! This teacher and his Book are gone forever!” they cheered. With Apolo dead, the people stopped going to the little church hut. In fear, they turned back to witchcraft and worshiping evil spirits.

But Apolo wasn’t dead! The woman who had been the first to become a Christian watched everything that happened to Apolo. When all was safe, she crept out to the grasses, picked up his body, and took it to an old hut outside of the village. For six weeks the woman nursed Apolo back to health. When it last he was well enough to travel, she said, “Apolo, you must go home. They will only try to kill you again if you stay,” she urged him.

But Apolo still refused. He would not give up. He would keep on trying to share the good news of Jesus with the Mbogas.

Early one Sunday morning, Apolo returned to the little church hut. Bang, bang, bang! Went the church drums

once more, inviting everyone to church.

“Isn’t that the old church drum?” the king wanted to know. “Who could be beating it now that Apollo is dead?”

A messenger arrived with the incredible answer, “O King, it is Apolo beating the drum! He’s alive from the dead and he’s calling people to come to church to worship with them!”

“How can this be?” the king wondered. “I must see for myself!”

As King Tabao came near the church, he was more alarmed than ever to hear the sound of voices—one of which he was sure was that of the man he had killed!

The king crept up to the door of the little church, and there, to his amazement, he saw Apolo with a small crowd of amazed men and women around him. Apolo sat with his little Bible in hand, reading to them the wonderful story of Jesus. When Apolo saw the King, he went to meet him and greeted him with a happy smile.

“Won’t you join us?” Apolo invited him.

To the surprise of everybody, King Tabao came in, knelt before Apolo, and begged him to forgive him for all the evil he had done against him. Apolo took the king’s hand in his own, and kneeling down by his side, he called upon all the people to join him in prayer.

That very day, many of the Mboga people turned from their sins and to believe in Jesus, including King from their sins and to believe in Jesus, including King Tabao,

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Tell Others about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 10:13-15

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

What great love the Lord gave Apolo for the Mboga people! No matter how much they didn’t want to hear about Jesus, Apolo never gave up telling it to them. Nothing would keep him from telling them the gospel. Apolo knew that Jesus was the only way they could be saved. And in the end, the Lord rewarded Apolo’s love with the salvation of many Mbogas, even King Tabao himself!

What about you and me? Do you realize that God has

used Apolo to bring the good news of Jesus us today, too? What will we do with the gospel? Let's ask God to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus is our Savior, too. And let's ask him to give us a heart of love for the people of the world like he did Apolo. Let's ask him to use us to share the gospel with others that they might be saved, too.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Gospel means good news of salvation through Jesus.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the man? What happened to him that would make him want to quit?

Answer: Apolo was the man who wouldn't quit. He was hurt terribly and left for dead.

b. What wouldn't he quit doing? Why did he think it was so important?

Answer: He wouldn't quit telling the people of his tribe the good news of Jesus. He knew they would die in their sins, if they didn't hear and believe the good news of Jesus.

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

Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be ____! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not ____? And how can they hear without someone ____ to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Answers: saved; heard; preaching.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Protector and Sustainer of Your people. You help them persevere through even the most difficult of times, just like You helped Apolo.

C God, we confess that we, like the Mboga to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We also can confess that many times we choose not to tell others the good news of Jesus because we are scared of what they might say or do when we tell them. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Your people the strength, love and courage to care for people and tell them about Jesus, even in the hardest of situations.

S We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Apolo: willing to go to even very dangerous places to tell others about Him.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 31

Verse 1

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
 Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
 Jesus ready stands to save you,
 Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
 He will embrace me in His arms.
 In the arms of my dear Savior,
 O there are ten thousand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

"All people suffer the effects of their sinful rebellion against God. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, chose to send Jesus to save sinners. Yes, Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love. If we do this, He will welcome us as our dear Savior, too."

BIBLE VERSE SONG

How Beautiful

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 32

Refrain

How beautiful! How beautiful!
 How beautiful are the feet.
 How beautiful! How beautiful!
 Are the feet of those who preach the good news.
 Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
 Will be saved.
 Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
 Will be saved.

Yes, but I have some questions....

How then will they call on Him they've not believed in?
 How are they to believe in Him they never heard?
 How are they to hear without someone preaching?
 How are they to preach unless they are sent?

Well, it all goes back to those feet! Refrain

Romans Ten, thirteen through fifteen.

Words: Romans 10:13-15, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

This verse reminds us that God has chosen for others to hear the good news of salvation by sending His people to tell others about Him. They must go, if others are to hear. The feet of people who go tell others about Jesus are beautiful, not because they have pretty toes and ankles. This is a way of saying that people who are willing to go and tell others about Jesus bring wonderful news of eternal life to those who would otherwise have no hope of salvation.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 11:
God's People Tell Others about Him*

We've all rebelled against God and deserve His just and eternal punishment for our sins. But God, in His great love for sinners, chose to send His Son, Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came and lived the perfect life that pleases God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had conquered sin and death, once and for all! Now all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven and receive eternal life with God. This good news is what Christians call the gospel--and everyone needs to hear it! God calls His people to tell it to everyone, in every part of the world. Jesus promises to come back after the gospel has been taken to every people on earth, all according to God's good plan.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 11 Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15, ESV

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

CASE STORY

Jonah 1-3

Our story is: The Case of the Reluctant Messenger.

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

1. Who was the Reluctant Messenger?
2. What was he reluctant to do? Why was it wrong for him to be reluctant?

In Iraq lie two great mounds the people call "Nebi Yunis" and "Kuyunijik." In 1850, Henry Layard dug into Kuyunijik and uncovered an ancient city known by that name. There were pieces of tall, arched gateways with great, winged, stone lions. A stately hall leading to a huge, royal palace, guarded by gigantic, winged, stone bulls. There were temples to Ashur and other idols. Layard had discovered one of the greatest capitals of the ancient world!

But the mound called "Nebi Yunis" was a different matter. No one has ever been allowed to dig into it. It is considered too sacred. It was named after a man named Nebi Yunis who brought a special message from God to the people of Kuyunijik thousands of years ago. This case is the story of this man, this city and the message he was reluctant to bring to it.

Long ago in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus was born, Kuyunijik was a big, beautiful city. Kuyunijik may have been beautiful to look at, but it was hated by many, especially the Israelites and Nebi Yunis, the prophet The LORD had given them. It was the home of the Assyrians-- some of the cruelest, fiercest people who have ever lived. Always greedy for more land and riches, they would invade and conquer the peoples around them. And when they did, they prided themselves in forcing the people to be their slaves or hurting them in terrible ways. Israel dreaded the thought of being invaded by this terrible and powerful enemy.

The Israelites and Nebi Yunis, the prophet the LORD had given them, especially hated the Assyrians. They had been disobeying The LORD and He threatened to discipline them through an Assyrian invasion if they did not repent. And while they didn't turn back to the LORD, they did keep a watchful eye towards Assyria.

How horrified Nebi Yunis was when one day the Lord told him: "Go to the great city of Kuyunijik and preach against it because of its wickedness."

"No way! I won't do it!" Nebi Yunis flatly refused. "I won't

take the LORD's message to them. The LORD will spare them if they hear this message and turn from their sins. I don't want them to be spared. I want them destroyed. I will not go!

The LORD wants me to go north and east 200 miles to Kuyunijik, but I will go south and west to the other end of the world – to Tarshish! I will get as far away from Kuyunijik and the Lord as I possibly can!" Nebi Yunis decided.

So Nebi Yunis went to Joppa and boarded a Phoenician merchant ship headed to Tarshish. He settled himself in the hull, under ship's deck and fell asleep, satisfied that he had dodged his duty.

But Nebi Yunis was wrong! The LORD wanted this message of repentance and mercy to go to the Assyrians. Nebi Yunis could not stop His plans. So He sent a great storm that tossed the merchant ship up-and-down, to and fro. Every sailor cried out to his god for help. They threw cargo out the ship into the sea to lighten it's load. But still the ship was close to sinking.

The ship's captain found Nebi Yunis sleeping and said, "Wake up! Call when you're God! Perhaps he can save us."

The sailors gathered everyone together to cast lots. "Perhaps God will show us if one of us is to blame for the storm," they hoped. And sure enough, it was Nebi Yunis who drew the losing lot.

At last Nebi Yunis confessed what he had done. "I am a Hebrew and I fear the LORD, the God who made land and sea," he told them. "But I am fleeing from Him and the message He has told me to tell the Assyrians."

"How could you do this?" the men asked. What should we do to end this storm?"

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea and it will become calm for you. I know this storm has come because of me," he replied.

Together the sailors Prayed, "Oh LORD, don't let us die on account of this man's life." Then they picked up Nebi Yunis, threw him into the sea, and the sea became calm. The sailors saw what the LORD did and believed. They offer to sacrifices and promised to serve the LORD. Without even realizing it, Nebi Yunis been used to turn these men away from their gods to worship the LORD instead.

Down, down, down, Nebi Yunis sunk into the sea. He deserved to die, but the LORD, in His mercy, had other plans. He sent a great fish to rescue Nebi Yunis by swallowing him up. Gulp!

What would it be like to be swallowed by a great fish? Sailors from whaling days in New England were sometimes swallowed by whales then cut out of their bellies alive. They have left us with a first- hand description. Dark, cramped, and in company of whatever else the fish was digesting, is how they described it. But worst of all, was the acid in fish's stomach which burned their skin terribly and bleached it bright white!

No matter how uncomfortable it would've been for Nebi Yunis in that great fish's stomach, he was grateful to be alive! He was the LORD's messenger and he had deliberately disobeyed Him! He didn't deserve to be rescued at all. The LORD worked in his heart as he sat in that fish for three days. He repented of his disobedience and cried out to the LORD, "I'm sorry, God. Salvation comes from You. I will obey you now."

The LORD heard Nebi Yunis' prayer. He commanded the fish to spit him out and up onto dry land. How good the sand must have felt! Nebi Yunis had time to do little more than pick the fish muck off himself before the LORD spoke to him again: "Go to Kuyunijik and proclaim my message to the people there."

Nebi Yunis still hated the Assyrians, but he would disobey the LORD. He set off walking the two hundred miles through dry, desert country to Kuyunijik. After about a month's journey, he reached the city.

For three days Nebi Yunis traveled from city gate to city gate, and temple to temple – all the important meeting places of the city – that everyone might hear his message. "Forty more days until Kuyunijik will be overturned. This is the LORD's warning to you," Nebi Yunis told the Assyrians.

The people stared at this Israelite was strange, bleach – white skin and hair. They heard his stern message of the LORD's coming judgment for their evil ways. They had to decide: were these the words of a crazy man or of the LORD God?

They decided they were the words of the LORD?! Heard the message and believed, even the king, himself. He rose up from his throne, laid aside his robe, and covered himself with sack cloth and sat in ashes. He issued a proclamation to all the people: "In Kuyunijik, by the decree of the king and his nobles: all people and even sheep, goats and cattle must not taste a thing nor drink any water. They must all be covered with sackcloth. Then, all my people, earnestly pray to the LORD and turn away from your wicked ways.

Who knows, He might turn his fierce anger from us and not bring the punishment upon us that He has promised."

When the LORD saw their deeds, and that they had truly turned away from their wicked ways, He had mercy on them and did not bring the punishment upon them that they deserved. It was just had Nebi Yunis had thought! The LORD was so gracious and compassionate that He even chose to show mercy to these terrible Assyrians.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Tell Others about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Did you guess that Nebi Yunis was the man we know as Jonah? And that Kuyunijik is the city we know as Nineveh? We just used the Iraqi pronunciation of these names so perhaps you would listen to this very familiar story in a different way.

It's really not so much a story about a big fish, as it is about an even bigger message. A message so important that it's a message of life or death that God wants His people to take to everyone on earth! A message of our failure to keep God's good laws. A message of His coming punishment upon our sins. But also a message of His mercy to those who repent of their sins and trust in Him to save us. Jonah and the people of Nineveh didn't know the name of the Savior the Lord would send, but we do. It's Jesus, God's Son! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and know eternal life with God.

Let's praise God for being so gracious and compassionate to sinful people--like the Assyrians, like Jonah, and like you and me! Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to tell others about Him--no matter who they are--that they might be saved, too.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God has always planned for His people to be the ones who share the gospel with the people of the world.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Reluctant Messenger?

Answer: Jonah.

b. What was he reluctant to do? Why was it wrong for him to be reluctant?

Answer: He was reluctant to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their sins and avoid the LORD's punishment because they were enemies of Israel. None of us are good enough to deserve to receive God's mercy.

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

Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the ___ will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they ___ without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are ___? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Answers: Lord; hear; sent.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being-so merciful to sinful people like us.

C God, we confess we, like the people of Nineveh and even like Jonah, are sinners who choose to live life our own way rather than obey Your good ways. We deserve Your punishment! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for being so patient with Your stubborn people, like You were with Jonah.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Please send out Your people to tell others about You. Please help them repent of their sins and know You as their Savior.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 31

Verse 1

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

"All people suffer the effects of their sinful rebellion against God. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, chose to send Jesus to save sinners. Yes, Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love. If we do this, He will welcome us as our dear Savior, too."

BIBLE VERSE SONG

How Beautiful

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 32

Refrain

How beautiful! How beautiful!
How beautiful are the feet.
How beautiful! How beautiful!
Are the feet of those who preach the good news.
Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
Will be saved.
Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
Will be saved.

Yes, but I have some questions....

How then will they call on Him they've not believed in?
How are they to believe in Him they never heard?
How are they to hear without someone preaching?
How are they to preach unless they are sent?

Well, it all goes back to those feet! Refrain

Romans Ten, thirteen through fifteen.

Words: Romans 10:13-15, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

This verse reminds us that God has chosen for others to hear the good news of salvation by sending His people to tell others about Him. They must go, if others are to hear. The feet of people who go tell others about Jesus are beautiful, not because they have pretty toes and ankles. This is a way of saying that people who are willing to go and tell others about Jesus bring wonderful news of eternal life to those who would otherwise have no hope of salvation.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 12:

God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan

God has promised His people that though they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God promises to only use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to make them holy and to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. God's people don't like to suffer, but they trust in God's good purposes in allowing them to suffer and in His promise to use it for their good and His glory. They know that God's Holy Spirit will always give them the strength they need to endure the suffering He allows. God's people count it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. But, they also look forward with great excitement to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 12 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

CASE STORY

The Book of Job

Our story is called:

The Case of the Surprising Sufferer.

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

1. Who was the Surprising Sufferer? Why would people think it surprising that he suffered?
2. What good plans of God were accomplished through his suffering?

No one really knows when this story takes place, but we do know that it was some time, thousands of years ago, in Old Testament times, in the land of Uz, a flat, dry, treeless lowland, south of the Dead Sea.

In the land of Uz there lived a man named Job who was extremely rich. He wasn't rich the way we might think of riches: with a mansion, a big car, and lots of money in the bank. He was rich the way people in his land were rich: with animals and servants. The Bible tells us that he owned 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, 500 donkeys and lots of servants. Job had more animals than some whole countries did back then! That is how rich he was.

But Job was blessed in a more important way than riches. Job was a blameless and upright man. It didn't mean he was perfect, but it did mean he tried to please God in everything he did. He feared God; that is, he loved and obeyed God. And when he sinned, asked God's forgiveness and repented of his sins.

Job even tried to make sure that his grown children lived pleasing lives to God, too. Job's sons used to take turns holding feasts at their homes they would invite the three sisters to eat and drink with them. After each big party, Job would send for them and have them purified for any sins they might have committed by accident. Job himself offered a worship gift to God on their behalf, too, just to be on the safe side. This is how much Job longed for God and his whole family to be pleasing to God.

Job was honored by everyone. He was often asked to settle arguments or give his advice at the city gate where important business matters took place. People listened to what Job said. And why wouldn't they? Between his riches, his love for God and his great wisdom, Job was considered to be the greatest man in the world back then.

But Job's greatness wasn't known just on earth. His love for God was known even in heaven, this godly man, Job,

came under discussion. The angels, as well as Satan, presented themselves before the Lord. The Lord said, "Where have you come from, Satan?"

"From roaming the earth," he replied.

"Have you considered my servant, lobi?" The Lord ask Satan. "There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears me and turns away from evil."

"Does lobi fear you for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not completely protected him and everything he has? You have blessed him with great riches. He doesn't really love you. He loves the things you've given him. Take all of these things away and he will curse you to your face!"

"Very well, then, everything lobi has is in your hands, but do not hurt the man, himself, in any way," the Lord replied. Yes, the Lord would allow lobi to suffer, but only, always, according to his perfectly good and wise plan.

Soon, lobi felt the fierce blast of Satan's work against him. Messenger after messenger brought him terrible news! His children had all died; his crops were all ruined; his servants and animals were all carried off by robbers or destroyed. Everything was gone!

What terrible suffering Satan had brought upon lobi! Surely this would crush his fake faith, Satan thought. But it didn't. lobi got up, tore his robe and shaved his head (what people used to do to show how sad they were.) He fell to the ground and worshipped the Lord. "I was born into this world with nothing and will take nothing with me when I die," lobi said. "All these things were gifts the Lord gave me and now he is taking them away. Either way, may the Lord's name be praised!"

Satan's plans had been frustrated! How could this be! But what Satan did not understand was God's good purposes and perfect power in the sufferings of His people. Yes, they would suffer for their faith in Him, but God would always use these sufferings for their good and His glory. He would always put limits on their sufferings. He would always give them strength to overcome. Satan would never be victorious. All these things would turn out to be for lobi's good as well as God's glory. That is God's promise to all of his people.

Satan wasn't finished yet, though. Once more, Satan presented himself before the Lord after roaming the earth and once more lobi was discussed.

"Have you considered my servant lobi?" the Lord asked

Satan. "There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still worships me, even though all his good gifts have been taken from him without reason."

"Ah, yes, but bring suffering to his own body, then he will curse you," Satan proposed.

"Very well," the Lord replied. "You may bring suffering upon his body, but you may not take his life."

Soon, lobi's body was full of pain. From the top of his head to the bottom of his feet, this body was covered with sores. There were so many that his friends couldn't even recognize him! Then lobi took a piece of broken pot and scratched his itchy sores with it as he sat among the ashes. He couldn't even eat. And when he tried to sleep he had terrible nightmares.

lobi's wife only added to his problems. "Curse God and die!" She told lobi. She had had enough!

What terrible suffering Satan had brought upon lobi! Surely this would crush his fake faith! But still it wasn't enough! lobi would not curse God and die. The Lord sustained lobi. He would be with him and help him through all this suffering. And He would use it all for lobi's good and for His own glory. He helped lobi have faith even then.

"You are talking like a woman with no faith in God!" lobi told her. "Will we accept good from God and not trouble?" God helped lobi hold on to his faith in Him. He did not sin in all he said.

lobi's wife was the first one to respond to His suffering but she was not the last! News spread quickly about the terrible things that had happened to him. Many people decided lobi must be suffering as God's punishment for some secret sin. Some people called him bad names and spit up on him and discussed. Others urged lobi to confess his secret sins to God, even his friends. lobi cried out to God for help, but sometimes it seemed like no one was listening. He didn't think he was suffering for some secret sin, but how confusing his life seemed.

"God, You reveal mysterious things that are hidden from everyone else. Perhaps You are punishing me for something You think I've done wrong, but I don't know what it is. I wish You would speak to me and tell me. I want to argue my case with You," lobi said.

But God was listening and He was with lobi, helping him keep on enduring those terrible days of suffering. He

placed limits on his suffering and planned to use it all for lobi's good and His own glory. And at just the right time, He answered lobi, from out of a storm.

"lobi, you speak about things you don't understand. In your suffering have you forgotten who I am? I'm the Lord – creator and sustainer of all things. My wisdom and power are perfect there is nothing I do not know, nothing I cannot do. My plans are always perfectly just, good and wise. You are just a man and cannot possibly understand what I am doing," the Lord replied.

"You're right, Lord. I spoke about things I didn't understand. I forgot who You are what You're like. I had heard of You before. Now I've seen you. I've misjudged You. Please forgive me," lobi humbly said.

The Lord forgave lobi and did a lot more. The limits of this time of suffering had come. The Lord blessed lobi again. He restored his health, his riches and his good name. He gave him more children. The Lord's good purposes had been accomplished. The Lord showed Himself to be faithful to sustain His people through even the fierce sufferings. He allowed lobi to know Him in a new and much deeper way. He even has given this man the honor of being an example before all of heaven of a godly man. And his story has encouraged God's people through thousands of years, as they have seen God's faithfulness to him.

The Lord allowed lobi to suffer greatly, but not a drop was wasted. It was used, every bit for lobi's good and for His own glory. lobi understood that a bit while he lived here on earth. But now in heaven, where he lives in God's presence always, he understands it even more and rejoices over God's plan. There is not even one bit of his suffering that he regrets. God is that perfectly good and wise!

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan.

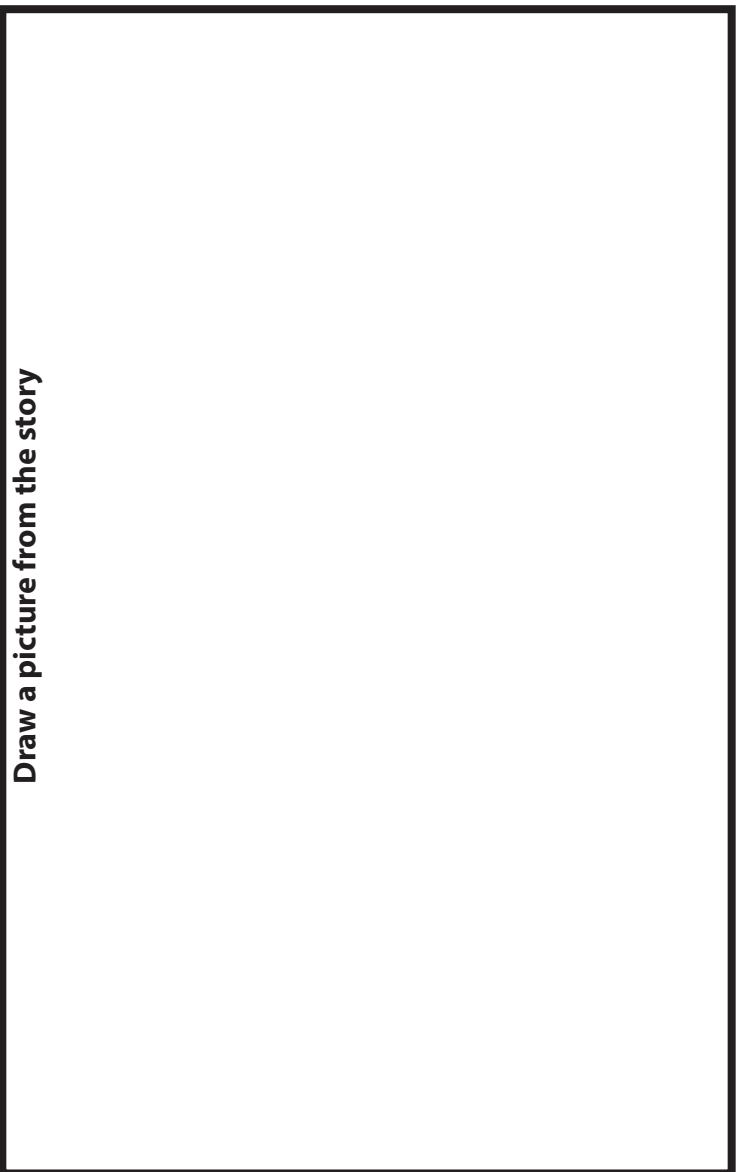
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 1:6-7

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Does the story sound familiar? It's the story of the man we called Job –lobi, as they say in Hebrew. Do you think lobi ever found out why he is gone for all the sufferings? He certainly did in heaven. How great must be the praise, glory and honor the Lord received through Job!

What about you and me? This is scary to think about Satan wanting us to supper? We don't need to be scared. The Lord, the Almighty God over the whole universe, it's perfectly good that is in perfect control of even Satan and his plans. God's people can always trust God to only allow them to suffer according to his good plans. There may be plenty of times when they don't understand why they suffer, but in heaven it will all be made clear. There God's people was will have nothing but praise for what the Lord allowed in their lives. They will see it truly was all but only for their good and his glory.

Let's praise God for wisely choosing sufferings for His people's good and His own glory. Let's ask him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, so we can be His people. Let's ask Him to help us endure sufferings in such a way that they would be for our good and His glory.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
All people have rebelled against God and deserve His just punishment for their sins.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Surprising Sufferer? Why would people think it surprising that he suffered?

Answer: Job. Because he was so godly and many people in his day seemed to think only someone who had done something bad would suffer like Job did.

b. What good plans of God were accomplished through his suffering?

Answer: God showed that His people only suffer in ways that He allows. He showed that He can help His people endure everything they must suffer. And, God has given us Job's story to encourage God's people that even if they don't know why they suffer, God has good reasons for it.

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

1 Peter 1:6-7

"...for a little while you may have ___ grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater ___ than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved ___ and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Answers: suffered; worth; genuine.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being completely powerful over Satan and over Your people's sufferings.

C God, we confess that many times we grumble and complain as we go through sufferings. We don't turn to You in them. We don't care that You plan to use them for our good and Your glory--we just want them to be over!

T God, we thank You that You will always, only, allow Your people to suffer according to Your good and perfect plan. Thank You that You will always give Your people the strength they need to endure them.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Use all of the sufferings in our lives for our good and Your glory. Give us strength to endure sufferings. Help Your people around the world who may be facing terrible suffering even today.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 34,35

Verse 3

"When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

*Words: John Rippon's Selection of Hymns
Music: Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music*

God's people know all God has an unbreakable plan to use all things in their lives for their good. He has planned that even their "fiery trials"—the hardest things that happen to them—that God will use them all to make them like Jesus. They do not have to like the fiery trials, but they can praise God for how He will use them for their good and His glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For a Little While

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 36

For a little while you may have suffered
Grief in all kinds of trials.
These have come that your faith,
May be proved genuine, be proved genuine.

Refrain:

Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
Which perishes though refined by fire.
Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
Which perishes though refined by fire.

For a little while you may have suffered
Grief in all kinds of trials.
These have come that your faith,
May result in praise, glory and honor. *Refrain*
First Peter One, six through seven.

Words: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

God's people suffer, but only according to God's perfectly wise and good plan. He will only use their sufferings for His glory and their good. What kind of good? He will use their sufferings to grow their faith in Him, making it stronger, truer, and deeper. That's what this verse calls proving faith genuine. What other kind of glory? God has planned for all their sufferings to result in praise, glory and honor. That's because God is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure them. We may think gold and riches are worth a lot in this world--and they are because we can get many things with them. But, how God's people will thank God and praise Him for all the great things He did through their sufferings! For through them, God will give them something worth far more than all the gold in the world could get them.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 12:

God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan

God has promised His people that though they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God promises to only use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to make them holy and to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. God's people don't like to suffer, but they trust in God's good purposes in allowing them to suffer and in His promise to use it for their good and His glory. They know that God's Holy Spirit will always give them the strength they need to endure the suffering He allows. God's people count it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. But, they also look forward with great excitement to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 12 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Atheist Under Attack.

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

1. Who was the Atheist Under Attack? Who did he refuse to confess as God?
2. How did he show he suffered only according to God's good plan?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in Smyrna--modern day Izmir, Turkey-- about one hundred years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Long ago when our story took place, Smyrna was a part of the great Roman empire. It was known as the "Glory of Asia," and considered the most beautiful city in that entire Roman province. Smyrna had grow Rich on the goods brought into its harbor from around the Roman world. Rich merchants built luxurious houses with beautiful hand-painted walls, colorful mosaic tile floors, and beautiful, enclosed gardens, high on the hills above the city and the sea. The city, itself, was filled with temples and government buildings built with massive, carved columns and lined with statues of famous men and Roman gods. Smyrna had a large library and the largest public theater and all of Roman Asia. Yes, it was easy to see why Smyrna was first among the cities of Asia.

But Smyrna claimed to be first in something else, too. Something that made life very hard for Christians. It was the first city to worship Caesar, the Roman king, as Lord and God. "Once a year every Roman citizen must burn a pinch of incense on the altar to our God, Caesar, proclaiming that he is Lord," it was decreed. "Every citizen who does so will receive a certificate of his confession and will continue to enjoy the rights of a citizen and good-standing. Anyone who does not is a traitor to his king. He will lose his rights as a citizen and be punished."

The Christians wanted to be good, obedient citizens, they couldn't never sacrifice to Caesar or called him their Lord and God. Yahweh was the one, true God and Jesus Christ was their only Lord. They would rather be put in jail or die than obey this new law.

The Smyrnaneans began to abuse the Christians. "Down with the atheists - you unbelievers in the Roman gods!" they jeered. "It is bad enough that you re-fuse to believe in our gods and lead others to worship that dead man,

and Lord that he is! You are traitors and we will be rid of you!"

These were no idle threats. Soon the Christians weren't allowed to buy food at the market and no one dared hire them. Their houses and things were taken from them. They were arrested and dragged into prison. Many were killed. It became very difficult and dangerous to be a believer in Smyrna, but God was with them. He gave them face to stand strong in their sufferings.

The Lord gave them something else to help them endure their hardships. He gave them a young pastor named Polycarp. Polycarp has learned about Jesus from the apostle John himself. John passed on the Polycarp everything Jesus had taught him about God and how God wanted his followers to live. Polycarp took good care of the believers at Smyrna. He taught them from God's word, he encourage them to trusting God to bravely confessed his name, even to their death. Polycarp was a very humble man, but very bold, too. Among the churches, he became famous for helping confused Christians understand what Jesus really taught. But among the Romans he became famous powerfully preaching the good news of Jesus. They called him "The Destroyer of the Gods" because his preaching turned so many Romans turned from worshiping the Roman gods to follow Jesus instead.

One day, Polycarp received some sad news from Antioch, a city hundreds of miles south of Smyrna. The Romans there had begun to punish Christians for their unwillingness to worship the Roman gods. They had arrested Ignatius, the wise old pastor, and dragged him before the governor of Antioch.

"Worship the gods and live, Ignatius! But this honor them and die!" The governor threatened.

"I would rather die than betray Jesus!" Ignatius boldly replied.

"Then to the lions of Rome you go, you atheist!" The governor declared. Ignatius was chained and handed over to Roman soldiers. These men would take Ignatius to the coliseum in Rome, where thousands would watch and cheer as he was thrown to hungry lions.

Polycarp knew the thousand – mile route from Antioch to Rome well. "Ignatius and his guards will stop here in Smyrna on their way to Rome. I will gather the pastors from the churches in nearby towns and we will wait for them to pass through Smyrna. Perhaps we can comfort and

encourage Ignatius," Polycarp planned.

Sure enough, before long Ignatius and the soldiers arrived in Smyrna. Polycarp and the others gathered around him that night to bring him good food and new hope. Yet, it was Ignatius who encouraged them. "God has given me strength to stay strong in my sufferings and keep on trusting in him," Ignatius told them. "And soon I know I will be in heaven with him forever. Stay loyal to Jesus, friends. He will hope you enjoy your sufferings, too."

The next day Ignatius and the Roman soldiers were off to Rome. Months later, news of Ignatius' death reached Polycarp. He had faced the lions bravely, glorifying the Lord in his suffering to the very end.

Almost 50 years past since Ignatius' death. Polycarp, the young man, had become Polycarp, the eighty-six-year-old man. For over half a century, Polycarp had cared for the Christians of Smyrna and preached the good news of Jesus boldly. Never forgetting Ignatius's encouragement, he encouraged them all to trust God and to stay loyal to Jesus, even to death.

But now, it was Polycarp's turn to stand strong in suffering for Jesus. During a festival honoring Caesar as their God, a mob of the Smyrneans began to chant, "Down with the Christians, the atheists! They dishonor Caesar, our God! Bring us Polycarp! He must die!"

The crowd rushed to Polycarp's house and beat down his door. Polycarp wasn't there, but two servant boys were questioned harshly until they revealed where he was. "They've hidden him in a haystack and a farm outside of town," they confessed at last.

Soldiers went to the farm and found Polycarp. The old man went with them without a fuss. He was ready to suffer and die for Jesus. The soldiers put Polycarp on a donkey and let him to the crowd gathered in the public theater. They cheered loudly as Polycarp was brought in and presented to the governor of Smyrna.

"You are an old man, Polycarp," the governor said to him. "Why should you die in this way? Don't be trouble. Place your pinch of incense on the altar. Make your own to Caesar. That's all you have to do, and I will release you. Curse Christ! Say, 'Away with the atheists!' And you are free man!" the governor promised. He knew that if Polycarp would but say these words in front of the crowd, it would be a huge discouragement to the Christians and any others who heard the good news of Jesus. He waited hopefully

hopefully Polycarp reply.

But God gave Polycarp the strength to stand strong even now. "... Polycarp with his face firmly set, looked at all the crowd in the stadium and waved hand towards them, size, looked up to heaven, and cried: 'Away with the godless!... For eighty-six years... I have been Christ's servant, and He has never done me wrong: how can I curse my king who saved me?'

'I have wild lions that I will use on you,' said the governor... 'If you make light of the lions, I'll have you destroyed by fire...' he promised Polycarp.

But Polycarp answered him: 'The fire you threaten burns for a time that as soon extinguished; there is a fire you know nothing about – the fire of judgment to come and of eternal punishment, the fire reserved for the ungodly. But why do you hesitate? Do what you want.'

The governor was amazed, and sent the crier to stand in the middle of the arena and announce three times: "Polycarp has confessed that he is a Christian."

Then shout went up from every throat: 'Polycarp must be burned alive!'

The crowd rushed and gathered logs and sticks... When the bonfire was ready... Polycarp prayed... When he had offered up the Amen and completed his prayer, the man in charge lit the fire, and a great flame shot up." (Eusebius, History of the Church) And just like Ignatius, Polycarp bravely endured his suffering, glorifying God to the end.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV 1984

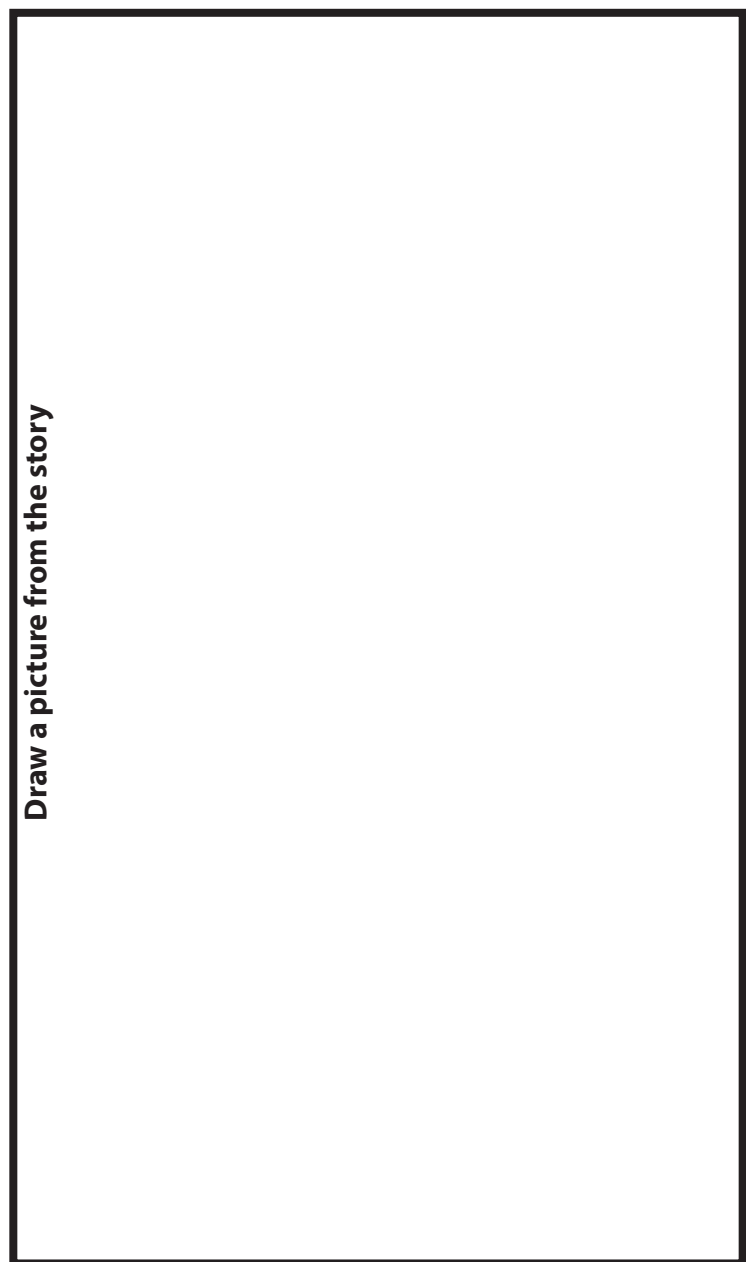
"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

What about you and me? The Lord has told us that all of God's people will face suffering that has been planned for them, according to His good plan. Many of God's people may never know persecution like what Ignatius, Polycarp and many other Christians in the Roman Empire faced. But some, even now do face terrible sufferings like these. How can God's people today endure sufferings like these? The same way as Ignatius and Polycarp did long ago: by remembering that they will only have to endure what their

good God has allowed. He will help them endure their sufferings, not by their own strength but by God's—and He is always strong enough to give them what they need.

How can we be God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Then, like Polycarp and Ignatius and those other believers, we can know the wonderful, one, true God. And we can rest that God will be at work doing great things for our good and His glory through all our sufferings.

Let's praise God for being so careful in what sufferings He plans for His People; and, for always giving them strength to endure them. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to give us strength and even joy in our sufferings and to honor Him in them.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Gospel means good news of salvation through Jesus.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Atheist Under Attack? Who did he refuse to confess as God?

Answer: Polycarp. He refused to confess that the Roman king was God.

b. How did he show he suffered only according to God's good plan?

Answer: He had known God's faithfulness to him for many, many years. He knew God would only allow this suffering if it was for his good and God's glory.

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

1 Peter 1:6-7

"...for a little while you may have suffered ___ in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than ___ which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when ___ is revealed."

Answers: grief; gold; Jesus Christ.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Freer of People from their slavery to sin.

C God, we confess that like Onesimus and Philemon we are sinners. Like Onesimus, we want to live life our own way and are willing to do things the wrong way to get what we want. Like Philemon, we think a lot about the good, rich things we enjoy more than You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by You. Thank You for working out Your good plans to save Your people, even when they least expect it.

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 change our hearts so that we love You and live to please You with our lives, more and more.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 34,35

Verse 3

"When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
 Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
 That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

*Words: John Rippon's Selection of Hymns
 Music: Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music*

God's people know all God has an unbreakable plan to use all things in their lives for their good. He has planned that even their "fiery trials"—the hardest things that happen to them—that God will use them all to make them like Jesus. They do not have to like the fiery trials, but they can praise God for how He will use them for their good and His glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For a Little While

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 36

For a little while you may have suffered
 Grief in all kinds of trials.
 These have come that your faith,
 May be proved genuine, be proved genuine.

Refrain:

Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
 Which perishes though refined by fire.
 Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
 Which perishes though refined by fire.

For a little while you may have suffered
 Grief in all kinds of trials.
 These have come that your faith,
 May result in praise, glory and honor. *Refrain*
 First Peter One, six through seven.

Words: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

God's people suffer, but only according to God's perfectly wise and good plan. He will only use their sufferings for His glory and their good. What kind of good? He will use their sufferings to grow their faith in Him, making it stronger, truer, and deeper. That's what this verse calls proving faith genuine. What other kind of glory? God has planned for all their sufferings to result in praise, glory and honor. That's because God is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure them. We may think gold and riches are worth a lot in this world—and they are because we can get many things with them. But, how God's people will thank God and praise Him for all the great things He did through their sufferings! For through them, God will give them something worth far more than all the gold in the world could get them.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 12:
God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan**

God has promised His people that though they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God promises to only use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to make them holy and to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. God's people don't like to suffer, but they trust in God's good purposes in allowing them to suffer and in His promise to use it for their good and His glory. They know that God's Holy Spirit will always give them the strength they need to endure the suffering He allows. God's people count it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. But, they also look forward with great excitement to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 12 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

CASE STORY

Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Our story is: The Case of the Suffering Speaker.

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

- 1. Who was the Suffering Speaker? What did he speak about and why did he suffer for it?**
- 2. What helped him endure his sufferings?**

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

Like a great, stone oasis, the towering walls of Damascus rose out of the dry, Syrian desert. As the only source of freshwater for miles around, Damascus was a welcome stop for merchants with their heavy-laden camel caravans on the way along the great trade break that stretched from Babylon in the East, down through Jerusalem, and then all the way to Egypt. Each day, hundreds streamed into the city gates seeking to be refreshed, to sell their goods, and to exchange news from abroad.

These days, much of the gossip from Jerusalem had to do with Saul, A young, extremely eager Jew who was trying to rid the city of all Christians. He was hunting them down, throwing them into jail, and even helping to have them killed. And now it seemed that Saul was expanding his hunt to cities outside of Jerusalem, as was now on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians there.

You can imagine the shock and fear of one Damascus Christian named Ananias when the Lord Jesus called him in a vision, saying, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

"Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Paul, for he is praying," the Lord told him. "In a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard about this man and all the harm he's done to your people in Jerusalem. The chief priests have sent him here to arrest your people here in Damascus."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go!" I have chosen this man to declare my name to the Gentiles and their kings as well as to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

"Could it really be," thought Ananias, "that this hater and killer of Christians might now have become a believer, himself? Will he who has caused so many believers to

suffer and die will now also suffer greatly so that Jews, Gentiles and even their kings might hear and believe in Jesus, too?" It was almost more than Ananias could believe. He certainly hoped it was true. If it wasn't, Ananias was walking straight into the hands of one of a man Who would happily have him arrested,, sent to prison, and even killed. But Ananias trusted in the Lord. He knew whatever the Lord would have him do --even suffer--it would be part of his perfect plan. It would be for his good and God's glory. So Ananias obeyed the Lord and headed down the dark, narrow passage called Straight Street to find Paul.

But it was all true! Ananias placed his hands on Paul and said, "The Lord Jesus has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell off of Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

Had once Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. He out-argued even the wisest Jews living in Damascus, proving the Jesus is the Christ. Everyone who heard him was shocked, Isn't this the man who caused so much trouble in Jerusalem? Hasn't he come here to take the Christians back to the chief priests as prisoners?" they asked each other.

The Lord was quickly fulfilling His promise to use Paul to powerfully spread the gospel of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles; but, the troubles He promised were quick to come, too. "Paul must be killed!" The Jews decided. They got the governor of Damascus to help them, too. "Search the whole city for Paul. Shut the city gates," the governor demanded. "Find this troublemaker and bring him to me."

But Paul was never to be found. The Lord protected him. The believers put him in a large basket, lowered him with ropes through a window in the wall, and Paul escaped. Paul was to suffer for the Lord, but only has He had planned for Paul's good and God's glory. Being caught by enemies in Damascus was not part of His plan. The Lord enabled Paul to slip out of their grasp.

Damascus was only a beginning of what the Lord had planned for Paul. Paul traveled many hundreds of miles by foot and by boat, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. Many heard the good news and believed; but even more were angered by Paul's preaching and tried to kill him. And oh, how Paul suffered, just as Jesus had said! Jews hated him for proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God. Five times they caught him and

gave him forty lashes minus one with a whip—just one lash short of the number that would kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. Three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned. Many times he was chained and thrown into jail by them. Three times he was shipwrecked, and once even spent a night and a day in the open sea. Constantly he was being hunted down by enemies. Many times he was hungry and thirsty, cold and even naked! In the city, in the country, from the Jews, from the Romans, Paul suffered and faced death over and over.

There always seemed to be someone who hated Paul. Did this make him give up and stop telling others about Jesus? No, it did not. No matter who hurt him or how he suffered, Paul rejoiced. He thought about how Jesus had suffered and died to save him and he was honored that the Lord had chosen him to suffer for His sake. He was grateful that the Lord had promised to use his sufferings to grow his trust and obedience to Him. He knew that no matter how terrible were his sufferings, the Lord was in control. He would give him strength to endure them; and in the end, all these sufferings would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus came back. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God's glory. These sufferings only strengthened Paul's faith and made him want to trust and obey God more.

But the same God who planned so much suffering to be part of Paul's life, also protected him from much suffering, too. When Paul went to preach about Jesus in the city of Corinth, he stirred up many Jews and Greeks with his message. The Jews didn't LIKE that Paul called Jesus the Messiah. But they HATED that he took this message to the Greek (non-Jewish) Corinthians. The Greeks weren't happy with Paul, either. Many stopped worshipping the Greek gods, Apollo and Aphrodite and turned to follow Jesus, instead. Both Jews and Greeks began to grumble and plot how they could get rid of this trouble-maker. Paul began to fear that soon he would once be suffering at the hands of these angry Corinthians. It was tempting to stop preaching before something terrible happened to him again.

One night, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, "Don't be afraid. Don't stop sharing the gospel! I am with you! No one is going to harm you, because I have many people in

this city. I will protect you and make sure they all hear the gospel and are saved.”

And so it was, Paul stayed in Corinth another year and a half. And, while both Jews and Greeks tried to hurt him, the Lord allowed no suffering to come to Paul. None at all!

Our Bible Truth is:

God’s People Suffer According to God’s Good Plan

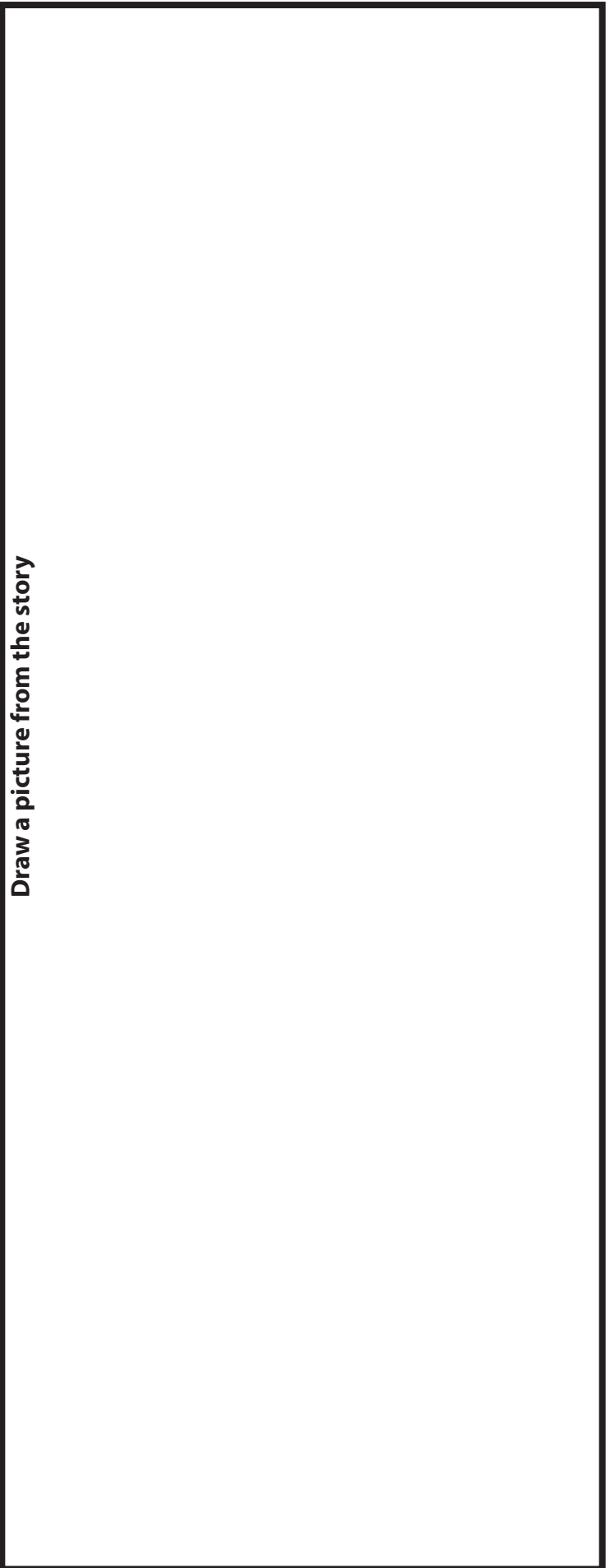
Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV 1984

“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

What about you and me? Does it sound scary to think that God’s people will suffer? It’s not surprising, if it does. No one likes to suffer! But isn’t it wonderful to know that in heaven, there will be no more suffering for God’s people? And, that here on earth, they will only suffer in ways that their good God, who loves them so much, has chosen for them. He will always be with them, giving them the strength they need to endure their sufferings. And, He will use them all to bring both Him and them praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back!

Let’s praise God, the Perfect Planner of all His people’s sufferings. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to make us-- like Paul—to be people who love Him and are honored to suffer for His name.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God has always planned for His people to be the ones who share the gospel with the people of the world.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Suffering Speaker? What did he speak about and why did he suffer for it?

Answer: Paul. He spoke the gospel of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles. He suffered at the hands of many who wanted him to stop sharing that message.

b. What helped him endure his sufferings?

Answer: He knew that his suffering would only be according to what God had chosen for his good and God's glory. He counted it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the one who died to save him.

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

1 Peter 1:6-7

"...for a little ___ you may have suffered grief in all kinds of ___. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in ___, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Answers: while; trials; praise.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Perfect Planner of all Your people's sufferings. Nothing will happen to them except what You have carefully chosen to be for their good and Your glory.

C God, we confess that many times we don't trust Your choice of sufferings. We don't want any at all, even if they are for our good and Your glory. Please forgive us.

T God, we thank You for sustaining Your people through all their sufferings. Thank You for not wasting a single one of them. Thank You for putting loving, wise limits on everything they go through.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us people who love You more and are honored to suffer for Your name. Use all our sufferings to make us more like Jesus and to honor Your name.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 34,35

Verse 3

"When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
 Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
 That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

Words: John Rippon's Selection of Hymns
Music: Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music

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BIBLE VERSE SONG

For a Little While

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 36

For a little while you may have suffered
 Grief in all kinds of trials.
 These have come that your faith,
 May be proved genuine, be proved genuine.

Refrain:

Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
 Which perishes though refined by fire.
 Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,
 Which perishes though refined by fire.

For a little while you may have suffered
 Grief in all kinds of trials.
 These have come that your faith,
 May result in praise, glory and honor. *Refrain*
 First Peter One, six through seven.

Words: 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984 *Music:* Constance Dever ©2011

God's people suffer, but only according to God's perfectly wise and good plan. He will only use their sufferings for His glory and their good. What kind of good? He will use their sufferings to grow their faith in Him, making it stronger, truer, and deeper. That's what this verse calls proving faith genuine. What other kind of glory? God has planned for all their sufferings to result in praise, glory and honor. That's because God is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure them. We may think gold and riches are worth a lot in this world—and they are because we can get many things with them. But, how God's people will thank God and praise Him for all the great things He did through their sufferings! For through them, God will give them something worth far more than all the gold in the world could get them.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 13:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 13 Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Matthew 6:14-16; Luke 7, 23; John 6:1-15, 7:31, 40;

Acts 7: 20-43; Hebrews 12:1-3

Our story is called:

The Case of the Homebound Hero. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Homebound Hero? Where was His home and what was it like?
2. What did He do before He went home that made Him a hero? Why did He do this?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

Imagine a home filled with glorious light and indescribable beauty. Imagine a home where there's never sin or sadness, pain or death: where the Kingdom of God is in full bloom. A place of goodness and love so deep and delightful that they fill you up completely, spill over and fill up everyone else too, leaving no room for anything else. Then imagine not just a home, but an entire, endless home LAND like this.

Seems impossibly good, doesn't it? Must be a pretend place. But it's not. This place so wonderful that we can't even begin to imagine is real! It's heaven--home of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

No one would ever want to leave a home like this, but Jesus, the Son of God, chose to! Why? He was being sent on a mission by God, His Father to save sinners that they could know Him and one day come live in heaven with Him forever. Any where would Jesus go when He finished? Right back to His home in heaven, where once more He would enjoy the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus loved His Father and He loved God's people, so He would go. but He looked forward to being done, for there was no place like home!

Down to earth went the Son of God. He was born a baby boy--Mary's son. Fully human, fully God. And He was given the name, Jesus.

When Jesus grew up. He began to preach. "Repent--turn away from your sins--for the Kingdom of God is near. believe in Me. I'm the Promised One, sent to bring you to God. He backed up His words with amazing miracles. Sick people healed; dead people brought back to life. Thousands fed with only a few fish and loaves of bread. The people were amazed! "Who has seen such mighty deeds! Who has heard such powerful words! Could this be

God's promised Messiah, the king who will destroy Israel's enemies and bring God's kingdom?" they wondered. Great crowds of people began to follow Jesus. Many wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him their king.

But Jesus knew this would never do. Perhaps the idea of living a rich life in a grand palace sounding temptingly easy. But it would never save God's people from their sins. Only suffering and dying on the cross would do that! And what did the gold of an earthly throne offer compared with fellowship with God and the beautiful glory of heaven His home. Jesus withdrew from the crowds and prayed to His Father in heaven. No. There was no place like home!

The crowds didn't like Jesus' decision. Before long, their praise turned to hatred. "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" they cried as Jesus was arrested and sentenced to death on a cross--although He had done nothing wrong.

A sign was posted above Jesus as He hung on the cross. It said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Those who passed by made fun of Him: "Come down from the cross if you are God's Son," they jeered.

Jesus could have done just that, if He had wanted. Thousands of angels stood waiting His command. But the Bible tells us that Jesus chose to endure the suffering of the cross by thinking of the joy set before Him. What joys? The joy of triumphing over sin and death for God's people. The joy of fellowship with God the Father and God, the Holy Spirit in heaven once more.

And the joy knowing that His death would mean God's people would share in that wonderful fellowship, too. There was no place like home for Jesus. And there would be no place like this home for God's people, too. So Jesus kept suffering on the cross, knowing that soon He would be home forever.

There were two criminals that were crucified with Jesus that day. One of them also insulted Jesus: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself for us!" he said to Jesus.

But the other criminal believed in Jesus. "Don't you fear God? We are getting the punishment we deserve, but Jesus has done nothing wrong!" He told the other man. Then to Jesus he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with Me in My kingdom. You will be coming home to heaven with Me."

Three hours later, it was all over. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished," and died. The other two men died that

day, too.

To heaven went the spirits of Jesus and the believing thief. The thief could hardly believe the rich beauty of his new home. Never could he have imagined a place so wonderful.

But oh, the roar of praise, the blazing light of glory, and the flood of love and joy that burst upon Jesus as He entered His heavenly home! He had done without many good things on earth. He had struggled against sin. He had suffered more than anyone whatever suffer to complete the mission his father had given him. And now he had won the victory over death! All glory, honor and praise would be His now and forever, the angels proclaimed.

Jesus was delighted to be home in heaven again. Where the kingdom of God was in full bloom already. Where there was no sin, no sickness, no sadness, or death. Where the glory of God's presence dwelt in fullness. And where Jesus once more enjoyed the fullness of fellowship with God the father God the Holy Spirit. And because of Him, it would be where God's people would live, enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of that fellowship, too. There really was no place like home!

Jesus was delighted to be home in heaven again. Where the kingdom of God was in full bloom already. Where there was no sin, no sickness, no sadness, or death. Where the glory of God's presence dwelt in fullness. And where Jesus once more enjoyed the fullness of fellowship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. And because of Him, it would be where God's people would live, enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of that fellowship, too. There really was no place like home!

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Our Bible Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

What about you and me? Like the thief who turned from his sins and believed in Jesus while dying on the cross, so we, too, can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior and be saved. Then we will become God's adopted people.

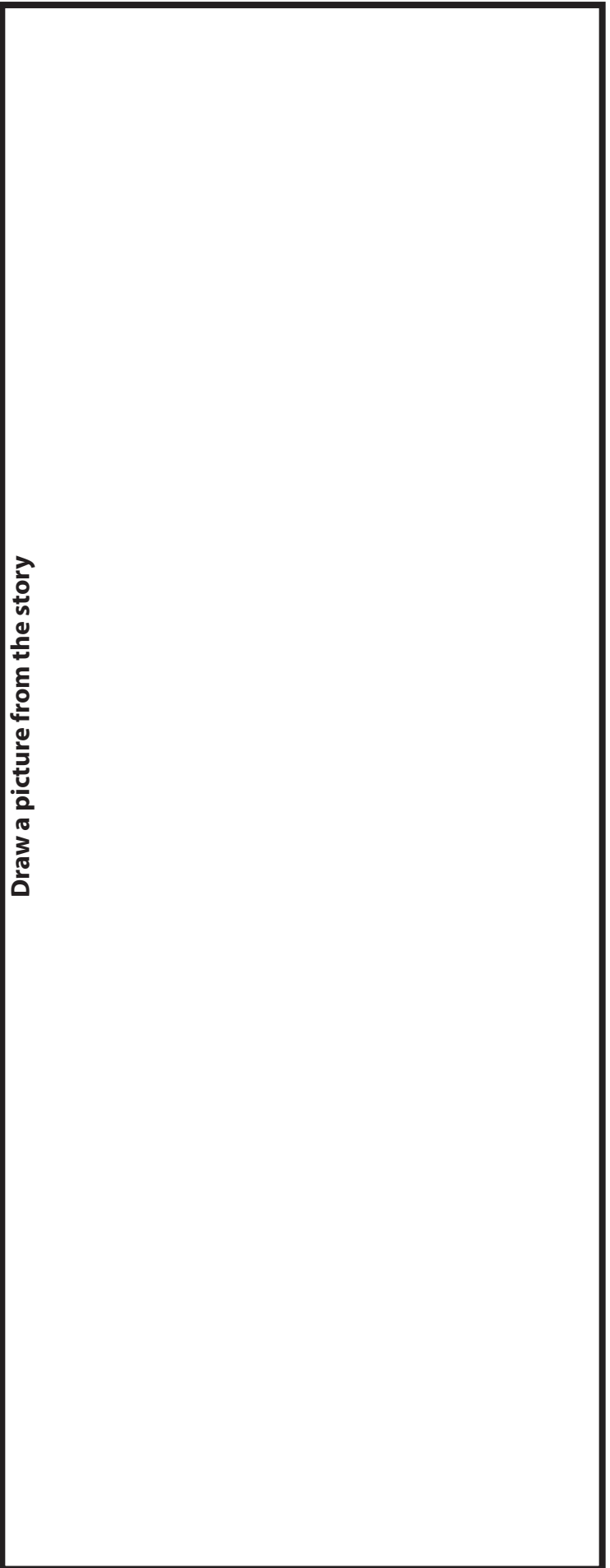
The Holy Spirit will come and live in our hearts and through His wonderful fellowship in our hearts, we can already begin to have a taste of life in God's Kingdom even today!

But, of course, that is only the beginning, for if we become God's people, we can look forward to the day when we die and go to be in heaven and enjoy God's wonderful presence at last.

And even that is not all, for one day Jesus will come back to this earth. He will bring an end to sin and death in this world and He will make new heavens and earth. Then at last, God's kingdom here on earth will be in full blossom just like it is already in heaven now. Everywhere Jesus will reign and everyone will rejoice in His glory, goodness and beauty. And God's people will enjoy all these pleasures of eternal life with God forever.

Let's praise this God who delights to make sinners His dearly loved people and take them to live in His wonderful home with Him forever. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to remember the eternal rewards and pleasures of heaven that we might take joy in obeying His will for our lives here on earth, no matter what He calls us to give up or endure according to His good and wise plan.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

When Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven to reign, He forgot all about God's people.
Answer: False. He always lives to intercede for God's people. And, He is preparing a place for them to live with Him forever.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Homebound Hero? Where was His home and what was it like?

Answer: Jesus. His home was heaven. It was perfect, without any sin, suffering or death. It was where He enjoyed the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

b. What did He do before He went home that made Him a hero?

Answer: He suffered and died on the cross to save God's people from their sins. He did this so they could be God's people and also come live in heaven, enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of close fellowship with God forever, too.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many ___ as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is ___, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in ___. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Answers: live; destruction; heaven.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41

Verse 1

The sands of time are sinking,
 The dawn of Heaven breaks,
 The summer morn I've sighed for,
 The fair, sweet morn awakes;
 Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
 But dayspring is at hand.
 And glory, glory dwelleth,
 In Immanuel's land.

Verse 2

The King, there in his beauty,
 Without a veil is seen,
 It were a well-spent journey,
 Though sev'n deaths lay
 between;
 The Lamb with his fair army,
 Doth mercy doth expand,
 And glory, glory dwelleth,
 In Immanuel's land.

Verse 3

O Christ, He is the fountain,
 The deep, deep well of love,
 The streams of earth I've tasted,
 More deep I'll drink above,
 There to an ocean fullness,
 His mercy doth expand,
 And glory, glory dwelleth,
 In Immanuel's land.

Verse 4

With mercy and with judgment,
 My web of time He wove,
 And aye the dews of sorrow,
 Were lusted with His love,
 I'll bless the hand that guideth,
 I'll bless the heart that planned,
 When throned where glory
 dwelleth,
 In Immanuel's land.

Words: Anne R. Cousin Music: Constance Dever

People used to tell time with a hourglass. It would take exactly one hour for the sand to sink from the top of the glass to the bottom. God's people know that the sands of time are sinking...that the day when they will go to live at home with God in heaven is coming closer and closer. They will live out every day of their life, according to God's perfectly good plan. Then, they will go to be with Him in heaven. God's people are so excited for the day when they will live with God forever! At last they will get to see Him, their King, who gave up His life as the "Lamb of God"--the perfect sacrifice for their sins. Life here on earth may be difficult sometimes. There may be times of sorrow. But God's people trust in God's good plan for them every day they live here on earth; and, they happily look forward to getting to live in heaven--the glorious Land of Immanuel, which means God with us. There, they will at last live at home with their God... and there's no place as wonderful as home, especially this home.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A Jesus, we praise You for Your amazing love for sinners and for God, Your Father, to be willing to leave Your wonderful home in heaven to save us.

C God, we confess that many times we don't appreciate all that Jesus left behind to be our Savior. We grumble at things we know God might want us to do, but forget all that He has done to save people like us!

T God, we thank You that You, Yourself, made the way for sinner like us to live with You in Your wonderful heavenly home forever.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Change us and prepare us to live with You in heaven by helping us love and obey You. Help us to long to be with You in heaven.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Many Live As Enemies

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
 Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
 Their destiny is destruction,
 Their mind's on earthly things,
 Their mind's on earthly things

But our citizenship is in heav'n,
 Yes, our citizenship is in heav'n,
 And we eagerly, we eagerly,
 Await a Savior from there.
 Philippians Three,
 eighteen through twenty.

Words: Philippians 3:18-20 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

All of us are sinners. We have all chosen to live life our own way, instead of God's good way. We deserve God's punishment, not eternal life with Him. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners like us. He took the punishment for sins when He died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead in victory. Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior are forgiven their sins. They belong to God. No longer are they people who belong in this world. They are citizens of heaven--that's where their home is. And one day, either they will die to go to live with Him; or, Jesus will come back and take them home, Himself. Oh, how wonderful that will be! God's people eagerly await for that day to come. No more sin and death! Such wonderful closeness with God always! Until that day, God's people will go on telling others the good news of Jesus. They don't want anyone to remain an enemy of the cross of Christ and face God's punishment. They want them to repent and receive eternal life.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 13:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 13 Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

adapted from "A Gentleman in Prison" by Tokichi Ishii

Our story is called:

The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise.

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

1. Who was the prisoner? What was his punishment and why did he deserve it?
2. Why was this prisoner so different from the others who faced the same punishment?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the early 1900's in Japan.

The great "Empress of Russia" sped across the Pacific Ocean from Tokyo, Japan to Vancouver, Canada. Famous for record – breaking speed, its luxurious service, and its elegant rooms, the "Empress of Russia" was a ship like few others. Almost any comfort that could be had was found aboard this elegant passenger ship.

But the one thing not even the "Empress of Russia" could offer was the guarantee of good weather. This particular trip prove to be so stormy that even the sturdiest passengers were forced indoors.

A group of passengers sat together in one of the ship's drawing rooms, sharing stories to pass the time. Among them was a little Canadian woman named Caroline MacDonald who told the amazing story behind the coin she wore on a chain around her neck.

This coin was given to me by Tokichi Ishii, one of the wickedest, cleverest criminals in all of Japan," Miss MacDonald began. "He was a robber and a murderer. He sat in a prison cell for twenty years then escaped. Ishii fled to the lonely mountains near Okazaki for safety. The police tracked him for year and at last caught him and put him back in jail. This time, he was put in a special, protected cell and sentenced until he to death by hanging. Japan looked forward to be rid of this terrible criminal once and for all.

As Ishii sat in his cell he began to think about what would happen to him after he died. "I wonder if there is life after death? I wonder if there is a God who judges us and punishes our sense? If there is, then surely I deserve hell for all the wicked things I've done. I wish I knew the answers to these questions!

Ishii didn't know about the Lord, but the Lord knew about Ishii and soon brought him the answers to his questions. On New Year's Day, Annie West and I were

visiting Ishii's prison. we gave out Bibles and shared the good news of forgiveness through Jesus to all who would listen. Ishii was one of those who listened and accepted the New Testament we offered him.

"This book is the Bible, God's Word. Read it and you will learn so much more about Jesus and find answers to your questions," we told him.

At first, Ishii just put the Bible up on the shelf and ignored it. But one day he was so bored he decided he would pass the time by reading it. Soon, Ishii was fascinated with the story of Jesus. When he read about Jesus being unjustly sent to death on the cross he became especially interested. 'He is a man who knew something about the world he lived in,' Ishii told himself.

But it was when Ishii read how Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," asking forgiveness for His enemies, that he finally understood what the good news of Jesus meant for him.

'Lord Jesus, Your love and forgiveness are amazing,' Ishii prayed. 'If You forgave those wicked men treating You so terribly, then I believe You would even forgive me for all the wicked things I done.'

With that prayer, the Lord did forgive Ishii and made him a new man. Everyone noticed the difference. Although he was under the sentence of death and might be let out to be home in the morning, Ishii was so known as the most cheerful man in the whole prison. Prison officers and even the governor of Tokyo, himself, came to see for themselves the change that had come to Ishii.

'What makes you so happy?' the governor asked him.

"I have become a Christian," Ishii replied. "I know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins. He has forgiven mine through Jesus. When I die, He will take me to heaven to be at home with Him forever. He will forgive your sins, too, if you will but ask Him," he urged the governor.

The prison chaplain, a Buddhist priest, came to see Ishii, too. "Every day, the prisoners waiting to be hung are in agony until 9 a.m. when they hear if it is their day to die or not. Every day is filled with dread that it's their last day. Is this how you spend your day?" he asked.

"No, not at all!" Ishii replied. 'Every morning I am glad.' Holding up his New Testament he said, "The words of Christ written here tell me that He is with me even now in this cell. I talk with Him every day. I know when I die, He will take me to be with Him in heaven forever. No wonder

I am so happy!" he told the chaplain.

"It was a wonderful thing, seeing the Lord work in Ishii's life," Miss MacDonald told the other passengers, who eagerly listened to her story. "Each time, Miss West and I went to visit him, the Lord had changed him even more. As the time for his hanging drew near, Ishii shared with us his wonderful plan: 'Any day now, I will be called to gallows to die. Before I go, I want to write down the story of how the Lord forgave a wicked man like myself and adopted me as His dearly loved child. ***It's been over forty years since I went to school and I have forgotten much.*** Pray for me that God would help me to write down this story in time,' he asked us.

We prayed and Ishii worked as quickly as he could. Each day, Ishii was relieved when 9 o'clock passed and the jailer had not come for him. Day and night, he wrote and wrote. Finally he laid down his pen and said, 'I am done. Now perhaps others will read my story and find their hope in Jesus. I want them to know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins of even the worst sinners. They can be His dearly loved adopted children, too. And when they die, He will take them to home to heaven to be with Him forever.'

One morning, not long after Ishii had finished his story, the jailer came at 9 o'clock to his cell. "The time has come, Ishii. Are you ready?"

"I am very ready," replied Ishii, with excitement. "I am not afraid."

"You are a brave man," said the jailer, 'most men tremble with fear when I come for them, but you seem almost glad. Here comes the Buddhist priest. We must go now.'

Sadly, the jailer led Ishii to the scaffold, the Buddhist priest following them. He had come to love Ishii and hated to see him die.

"Don't be sad," he told the jailer. "I'm not! How can I be, since this morning I have read the words of Jesus, 'Let not your heart be troubled...I am going ahead of you to prepare a place for you.' I die without fear. The good news of Jesus tells me that there is forgiveness even for me, the worst of criminals. I am going home. But please do me one last favor. Give Miss MacDonald the book I have written along with all my other things."

The jailer promised he would.

In a few minutes all was over. Ishii had gone home to be with Jesus. The prisoner had reached paradise. The next

day, the prison officials delivered a small package to me. It contained Ishii's book, this copper coin you see around my neck, and one last little message. It said: 'Today I am sitting in my small, dirty, prison cell, and yet I am far more contented than in the days of my freedom out in the world. In this prison cell, only nine feet by six feet in size, I am happier than if I was living in the largest house I ever knew. Then he closed with this little verse:

My name is defiled,
 My body dies in prison,
 But my soul, purified,
 Today goes to the City of God.'

Ishii knew that here on earth he had been a wicked person. He had lived over half his life in small, damp prison cell, and he faced death because of the things he had done.

But he knew that Jesus had forgiven him his sins. And that very day, he would be in his heavenly home, living face to face with Jesus forever. And that was far better than anything he could have in this world, by far."

All was silent as Miss MacDonald finished her story. All the passengers were deeply moved by Ishii's story. What were they thinking about? Only God's work in Ishii's life... or perhaps were they thinking about what eternal home with God in heaven," Miss MacDonald thought. "This was what he hoped would happen. And praise God, it begun to do just that already."

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Our Bible Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20

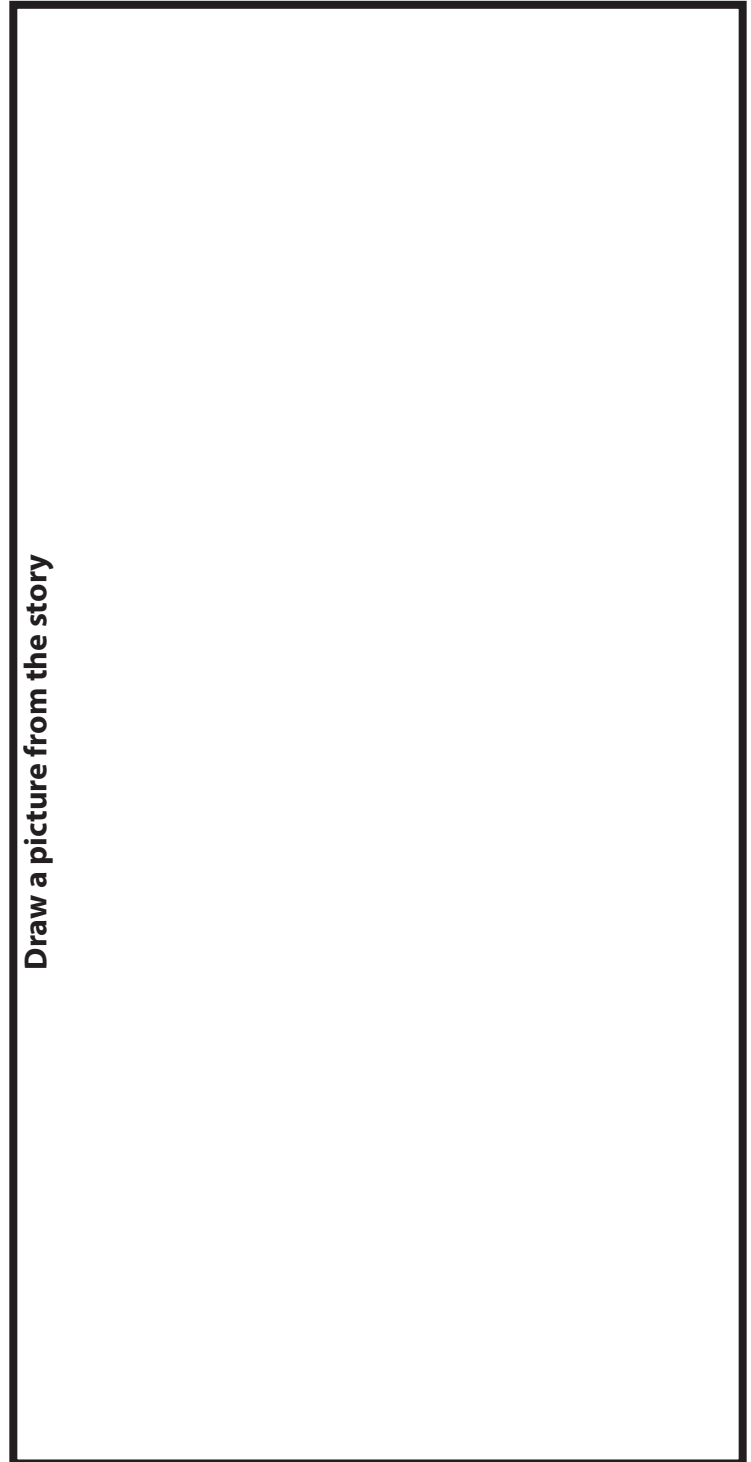
"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Ishii's destiny had been destruction, but no longer, thanks to His Savior Jesus. Now his citizenship was in heaven and happy he was to go there!

What about you and me? Perhaps we have not robbed or murdered anyone as Ishii did, but we are sinners needing God's forgiveness, nonetheless. To Ishii it was clear that nothing in this world could compare with being forgiven, being adopted by God and getting to be at home with Jesus forever. Even today, God calls us to turn way from

our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Even day, our citizenship can be in heaven!

Let's praise God for offering forgiveness of sins through Jesus. Let's praise Him for delighting to adopt sinful people like you and me as His very own children. Let's ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might be forgiven. Let's ask Him to help us look forward to home in heaven and use each day of our lives on earth as preparation for being with Him forever.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Bible tells us that life in heaven with Jesus will be better than anything we can imagine.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the prisoner? What was his punishment and why did he deserve it?

Answer: Tokichi Ishii. He was sentenced to be hung to death for being a robber and a murderer.

b. Why was this prisoner so different from the others who faced the same punishment?

Answer: Unlike the other men who were sentenced to death, Ishii didn't dread dying. He knew he would be going home to be with Jesus and was delighted about that.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, ___ live as enemies of the cross of ___. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we ___ await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Answers: many; Christ; eagerly.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41

Verse 1

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of Heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for,
The fair, sweet morn awakes;
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring is at hand.
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 3

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, deep well of love,
The streams of earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above,
There to an ocean fullness,
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
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Verse 2

The King, there in his beauty,
Without a veil is seen,
It were a well-spent journey,
Though sev'n deaths lay
between;
The Lamb with his fair army,
Doth mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
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Verse 4

With mercy and with judgment,
My web of time He wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow,
Were lusted with His love,
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Words: Anne R. Cousin Music: Constance Dever

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AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for not just offering forgiveness of sins to sinners through Your Son, Jesus, but delighting to do so!

C God, we confess that we, like Ishii, are sinners who have rebelled against You and Your good ways. We deserve Your punishment. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You that we do not have to make ourselves good enough to ask You to make us Your children. Thank You that this is Your free gift through Jesus. Thank You that You want us to be with You forever in heaven.

S We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We ask that You would help us to know and love You while we live here on earth and that one day You will take us to live with You in heaven forever.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Many Live As Enemies

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind's on earthly things,
Their mind's on earthly things

But our citizenship is in heav'n,
Yes, our citizenship is in heav'n,
And we eagerly, we eagerly,
Await a Savior from there.
Philippians Three,
eighteen through twenty.

Words: Philippians 3:18-20 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

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BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 13:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 13 Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Exodus 2-3; Numbers 20,27:12-23; Deuteronomy 32:44-52;34; Acts 7:20-43; Hebrews 11:16,23-27

Our story is: The Case of the Locked-Out Leader.

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

- 1. Who was the Locked-Out Leader?**
- 2. Where was he locked out of? Why? Where did he get to go that was even better?**

This story takes place in Old Testament times, when Moses lived, about 1400 years before Jesus.

A young man, deep in thought, sat in Pharaoh's palace. Looking at his fine, linen kilt, his papyrus and gold sandals and his royal headdress, there was no mistake that this was a prince of Egypt. But if you could read his mind at that moment, you would see an Israelite, instead. This man was Moses, the Israelite baby found and adopted by an Egyptian princess, yet still very much an Israelite. Perhaps he had learned chariot driving, literature and hieroglyphics from the best Egyptian teachers, but his heart burned in anger at the way the Egyptians treated his people. He longed for God to send a rescuer to free them and take them back home to the Promised Land of their father Abraham. He had begun to wonder if he was that man.

One day, Moses went out to where the Hebrew slaves were working. In horror he watched an Egyptian beat one of the them. He could take no longer. He would leave his fine life as an Egyptian prince and rescue his people! He killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. He thought the Hebrews would understand he was coming to deliver them. But they didn't and Moses had to flee for his life.

Away from Egypt and across the barren desert he ran far away to the land of Midian. This wasn't what Moses had planned at all! His people were supposed to see God had sent him to rescue them, but they had rejected him. Had he given up the riches of Egypt for nothing? Had he placed his trust in his unseen God and promises to lead them to an unseen land for nothing? Would he keep finding his joy and reward in what was unseen? Forty years went by. Moses could have given up, but he did not. God gave him faith to keep trusting Him. At just the right time, the LORD appeared to Moses and told him to go back to Egypt. Reluctantly Moses obeyed. Would the LORD really enable him to lead the people out of Egypt and to the Promised

Land? It was hard for him to trust, but he did.

Back across the desert Moses went, now an eighty-year-old man. He gathered the Israelites together and said: "I have heard from the LORD, our unseen God, on Mount Sinai. He has chosen for me to lead you out of Egypt and to the land He promised to give you long ago. Will you give up your life here in Egypt and follow Him to the Promised Land?" he asked them.

"Yes, we will!" the people eagerly promised.

After many, mighty displays of God's power, the Egyptians finally released the Israelites. Through Moses, the LORD led them away from Egypt, and across the desert sands. How they were looking forward to their rich, promised homeland!

The Promised Land was so close that the Israelites could have walked there a couple weeks, but forty YEARS would pass before they would even set one foot there! Though Moses kept urging the Israelites to trust in God to provide for their needs and bring them safely into the land He had promised them, they only grumbled and doubted Him every time something difficult happened.

"We see only dry desert! How will we find food and water to stay alive?" they grumbled. "The Promised Land might be filled with good things, but huge, fierce warriors live there in strong, walled cities. How can we match their strength? They have gods that they can see and who go before them. How can we trust the LORD our God to take care of us, we can't even see Him?" they doubted. "Now we shall die out here in the desert never even seeing this Promised Land! We should have never left Egypt! Life as a slave was even better than this!" they grumbled.

The Israelites had chosen to look for their joy and reward in what they could see and taste and touch, not in their unseen God and His promises. They rejected the LORD.

"Because you have grumbled against Me and doubted that I would take care of you.... because you would not trust for Me to give you this unseen homeland I promised you, you will never have it at all," the LORD told the people through Moses. "Instead, you will wander for forty years out here in this desert and die. It will be your children who will live to see it and live in it."

So wander for forty years they did. Though they were never more than a week's walk from the Promised Land, they did nothing more than look at it. And what did Moses do during those next forty years? He kept leading the

Israelites, trying to patiently endure their grumbling.

Now grumbling would be hard to patiently endure for a week or a month. But can you imagine how difficult it would be to take forty years of it? So perhaps you'll not be surprised to hear that there came a day, near the very end of those forty years of grumbling, when humble, patient Moses got fed up with it and sinned.

The Israelites had stopped to camp at a place called Kadesh, but when they looked for water, there wasn't any. Once more, the people grumbled about this to Moses and Aaron instead of asking the LORD to provide. "Why did you bring us out to this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? There is no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!" they complained.

Moses and Aaron left the people and went to the entrance to the Tabernacle and fell face down in prayer to the LORD. The glory of the LORD appeared to them and the LORD told Moses, "Take the staff, then you and your brother Aaron gather the people together before the rock I show you. Speak to the rock and before their eyes, water will pour out that they and their animals can drink."

So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the people together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebellious people, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff, making it look as if he had made water come out of the rock. Water gushed out, and the people and their animals drank.

The LORD provided water, but Moses and Aaron had sinned. They hadn't spoken to the rock as He had told them to. They had struck it. And even more importantly, they had not said the LORD would give the people water, but that they—Moses and Aaron-- would give them water.

So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring the people into the Promised Land I am giving them."

And so it was. Only months later, when at last it was time for the Israelites to at last cross into the unseen homeland Moses and the Israelites had waited for so long, Moses was not allowed to enter.

"Climb up here on Mount Nebo," the LORD told Moses.

"From there you will be able to see the land that has been unseen for so many years. I will show it all to you and then you will die."

Moses sadly said farewell to the Israelites he had led for so long, and then climbed up Mount Nebo. From the summit of the mountain, Moses cast his eyes for the first time on the land he had spent most of his life trying to enter. It was as beautiful and rich as the Lord as promised. Then he died right there on Mount Nebo, just as the LORD said he would. And the LORD, Himself, buried him.

Was Moses very sad that day when he saw the Promised Land and knew he would never enter it? Yes, but not as sad as you might think. For while Moses knew he would never enter that earthly promised homeland of God's people, he knew when he died, the LORD would take him to his a far better, unseen homeland—the homeland of heaven. This was the true homeland of all God's people. And this homeland had joys and rewards far better than the riches and treasures Moses had known as an Egyptian prince and would be far more wonderful than anything in the rich Promised Land he had seen from the top of Mount Nebo that day. For in heaven, he would be with the LORD. No longer would He be unseen. Now, Moses would live in close, face to face fellowship with Him forever. And that is best of all.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Our Bible Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20

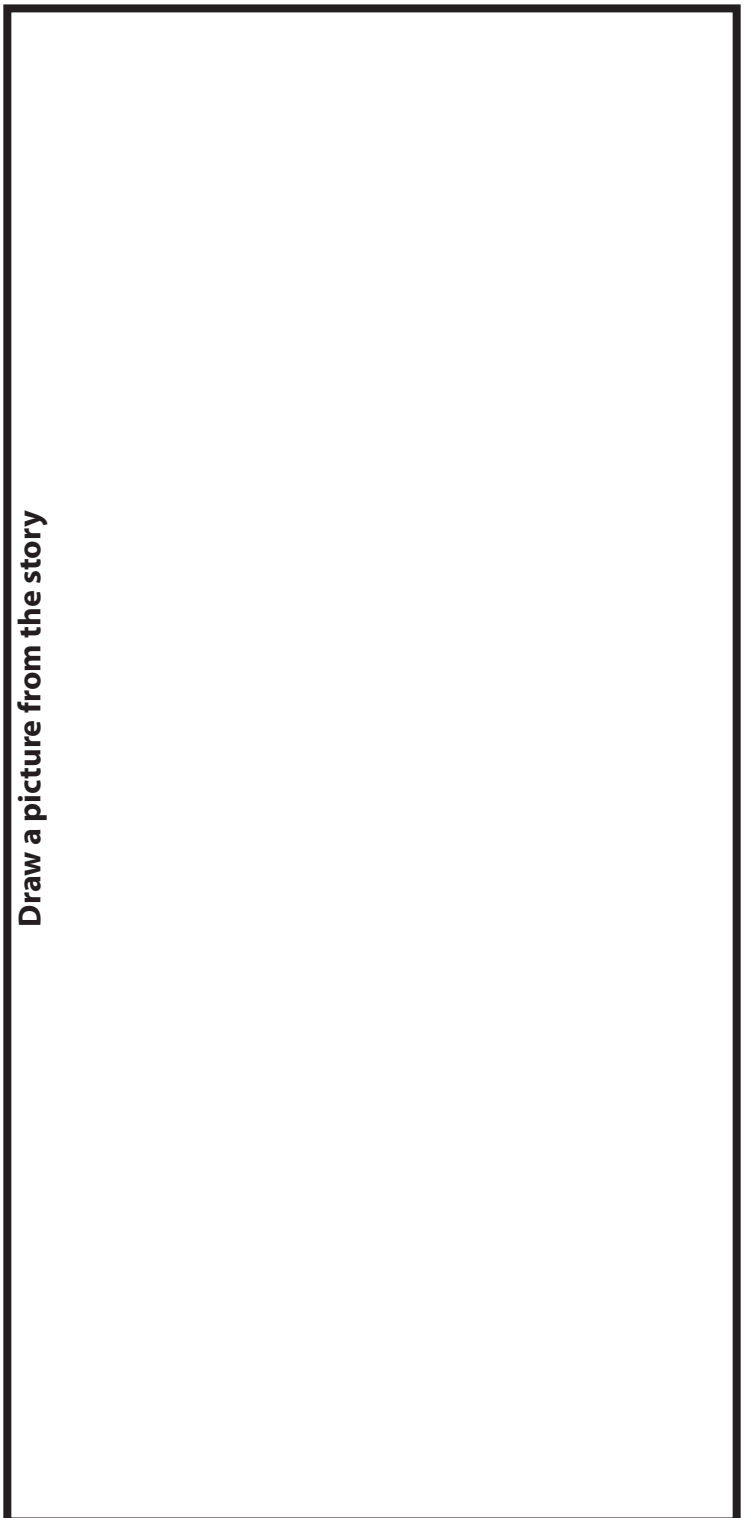
"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

For years Moses and the people of Israel eagerly awaited the day when they would enter the Promised Land. How much greater, though, do God's people eagerly await their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven! What a great day that will be when Jesus brings an end to sin and death forever! What a great day that will be when at last all God's people will be gathered together in God's glorious presence!

You and I can be a part of God's people, too! We can be among those who enjoy life forever in God's presence.

How? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He will forgive our sins and make us His dearly loved people!

Let's praise God for His offer to make sinful people like you and me citizens of heaven! Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to fit us for heaven, giving us hearts that know, love and obey Him, even today.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's people live each day the best they can, with nothing better to look forward to.

Answer: False. God's people look forward to life with God in heaven. The best is yet to come!

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Locked-Out Leader?

Answer: Moses.

b. Where was he locked out of? Why? Where did he get to go that was even better?

Answer: He was not allowed to enter the Promised Land with the Israelites because of how he sinned against the LORD. The LORD took Moses home to be with Him in heaven.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often ___ you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the ___ of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our ___ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Answers: told; cross; citizenship.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41

Verse 1

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of Heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for,
The fair, sweet morn awakes;
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring is at hand.
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 2

The King, there in his beauty,
Without a veil is seen,
It were a well-spent journey,
Though sev'n deaths lay between;
The Lamb with his fair army,
Doth mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 3

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, deep well of love,
The streams of earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above,
There to an ocean fullness,
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 4

With mercy and with judgment,
My web of time He wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow,
Were lusted with His love,
I'll bless the hand that guideth,
I'll bless the heart that planned,
When throned where glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Words: Anne R. Cousin Music: Constance Dever

People used to tell time with a hourglass. It would take exactly one hour for the sand to sink from the top of the glass to the bottom. God's people know that the sands of time are sinking...that the day when they will go to live at home with God in heaven is coming closer and closer. They will live out every day of their life, according to God's perfectly good plan. Then, they will go to be with Him in heaven. God's people are so excited for the day when they will live with God forever! At last they will get to see Him, their King, who gave up His life as the "Lamb of God"--the perfect sacrifice for their sins. Life here on earth may be difficult sometimes. There may be times of sorrow. But God's people trust in God's good plan for them every day they live here on earth; and, they happily look forward to getting to live in heaven--the glorious Land of Immanuel, which means God with us. There, they will at last live at home with their God... and there's no place as wonderful as home, especially this home.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so patient and merciful to Your sinful people.

C God, we confess that many times we, like the Israelites, grumble and complain to You rather than trusting You. We deserve Your punishment! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising Your people a land far better than the Promised Land of the Israelites. You promise them an eternity in heaven with You!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us not to complain but to remember and trust You to take care of us when we go through difficult things. Help us to long to be with You in heaven.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Many Live As Enemies

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind's on earthly things,
Their mind's on earthly things

But our citizenship is in heav'n,
Yes, our citizenship is in heav'n,
And we eagerly, we eagerly,
Await a Savior from there.
Philippians Three,
eighteen through twenty.

Words: Philippians 3:18-20 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

All of us are sinners. We have all chosen to live life our own way, instead of God's good way. We deserve God's punishment, not eternal life with Him. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners like us. He took the punishment for sins when He died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead in victory. Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior are forgiven their sins. They belong to God. No longer are they people who belong in this world. They are citizens of heaven--that's where their home is. And one day, either they will die to go to live with Him; or, Jesus will come back and take them home, Himself. Oh, how wonderful that will be! God's people eagerly await for that day to come. No more sin and death! Such wonderful closeness with God always! Until that day, God's people will go on telling others the good news of Jesus. They don't want anyone to remain an enemy of the cross of Christ and face God's punishment. They want them to repent and receive eternal life.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?"

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 14:
God's People Delight in God's Glory**

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 14 Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds! Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

CASE STORY

Jonah 1-3

Our story is called:

The Case of the Rejected Riches.

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

1. What were the rejected riches?
2. Who rejected the riches and what did he instead of them?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 2000 years before Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." The LORD told Abraham. "I will make your little family into a great nation. I will make you famous and will bless you. And through you, I will bless all peoples on earth." He promised.

Abraham believed the LORD and obeyed. The LORD guided Abraham, his household and his nephew Lot to the land of Canaan. "This is the land I promised you and your children after you," the LORD told Abraham.

Abraham pitched his tent and built a simple, stone altar to The LORD nearby. The Canaanites worshipped many idols. This altar stood as a witness to them that this land would be the LORD's and He alone should be worshipped. Abraham made a sacrifice to the LORD on the altar and praised His name. He vowed to bring glory to the LORD alone.

The LORD blessed Abraham and Lot greatly. Silver and gold; sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys; hundreds of hired servants soon were theirs. Their little village of tents became like a small city.

But difficulties came with all these blessings, too. There were too many animals and people for the land! Frequent arguments broke out between lots and Abraham's hired men. Something had to be done!

"Let's end this quarrel between my people and your people. Let's split up." Abraham suggested. As head of the family, Abraham had the right to choose where to settle first. He could have taken the best land for himself and given Lot whatever was left over. But Abraham trusted in the LORD and wanted to glorify him with his life. He was more interested in being a peacemaker than getting what he deserved. "Lot, you choose first. I'll take the land that you don't take," Abraham offered.

Lot looked out upon the land before him. Around him

were the land of rolling, brown hills of Canaan, but in the distance he could see the rich, green land of Sodom, near the Jordan River. It was true, the people of Sodom were known for being particularly wicked, but the land looks so good! It would be easy to live there and grow rich!

"I'll take that whole plain over there, Uncle. You can have the hills of Canaan," Lot told Abraham. Abraham agreed, and the two men, their flocks and households parted ways.

Had Abraham been wise to let Lot choose first? Had he been wise to choose to be a peacemaker and reflect God's good ways rather than taking the best land for himself? Yes, he had. God's blessing to him was as rich and full as ever. After Lot had left, the LORD said to Abraham, "Look around you. All the land you see will be yours and your children's one day. That is my promise."

Abraham moved south and went to live near the great trees of Mamre in Hebron. There, he built another altar to the LORD. Abraham would keep worshiping Him, not idols as the Canaanites did. He would keep seeking to glorify the LORD alone.

The LORD kept on blessing Abraham with both riches and power, but Lot was running into trouble. Soon, mighty King Kedorlaomer of Elam, along with four other kings from the lands near Ur (Abraham's old homeland) invaded Canaan, conquering everything in their way. They headed straight for the rich Jordan River Valley land just like Lot had. There was a huge showdown of armies right there in the Valley of Salim, next to the great Salt Sea. It was the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah and three other allies versus King Kedorlaomer and his allies. The winner would take all of the land, people and possessions of the loser!

King Kedorlaomer's soldiers quickly smashed the Jordan Valley kings. Kedorlaomer won everything— including Lot, his family and riches! One man escaped the enemy and ran to Hebron to tell Abraham: "Your nephew Lot and everything he owns has been taken by King Kedorlaomer in the great war! He needs your help!"

Some men might have chosen not to help. Hadn't Lot acted selfishly in his choice of land? Wouldn't Abraham be risking everything if he went to Lot's aid against Kedorlaomer? But Abraham trusted in the LORD and wanted to glorify Him with his whole life. The LORD was merciful and he would be, too. Abraham would trust the LORD to help him rescue Lot.

So Abraham gathered his 318 trained men and headed

to Damascus after King Kedorlaomer. He and his men camped at the town of Dan, only a few miles away. He called his men together and revealed his plan. "We're going to sneak up on Kedorlaomer's men tonight. Have to you will come with me and attack on one side, the other half will attack from the other side."

The plan worked! Completely surprised and unprepared, Kedorlaomer's soldiers couldn't escape. After twenty miles of chase, the king surrendered to Abraham. He gave him all the things he had taken together with Lot, his household and all the other peoples.

After Abraham returned from defeating King Kedorlaomer, Bera, king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh along with Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the LORD, God Most High. Melchizedek laid out a celebration banquet before them. As they enjoyed their food, Melchizedek rose to his feet and said, "Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who gave you victory." Like Abraham, Melchizedek worshipped the LORD and sought to glorify Him with his whole life.

When Melchizedek finished, King Bera stood up and said: "Abraham, in honor of your great victory, I want to reward you. I want to give you all the treasures of the five kingdoms you captured. You will be fabulously rich! All I require is you give me the peoples. The treasure is all yours!" Melchizedek told Abraham.

How different what each of these two kings offered Abraham! One offered glory to God. The other offered incredible wealth. Riches might have been tempting, but Abraham turned them down. He agreed with Melchizedek. All the good things he enjoyed were blessings from the LORD. He was the one who had given him this victory. He would glorify Him.

Abraham turned to Melchizedek and said, "I want to give up to a tenth of everything I earned to you, to honor of The LORD, God Most High." Then he turned to Bera, king of Sodom and said, "I have promised the LORD that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a measly thread of cloth or a piece of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abraham rich.' I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, the men who went to battle with me. I want to make it clear that it is the LORD, not you, who has made me rich."

Bera met have been shocked at Abraham's answer, but he understood what he meant. As delightful as the riches the five kingdoms might have been, they would never be as delightful to Abraham as glorifying the LORD, God Most High.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Delight in God's Glory

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 66: 1-3,5,9,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

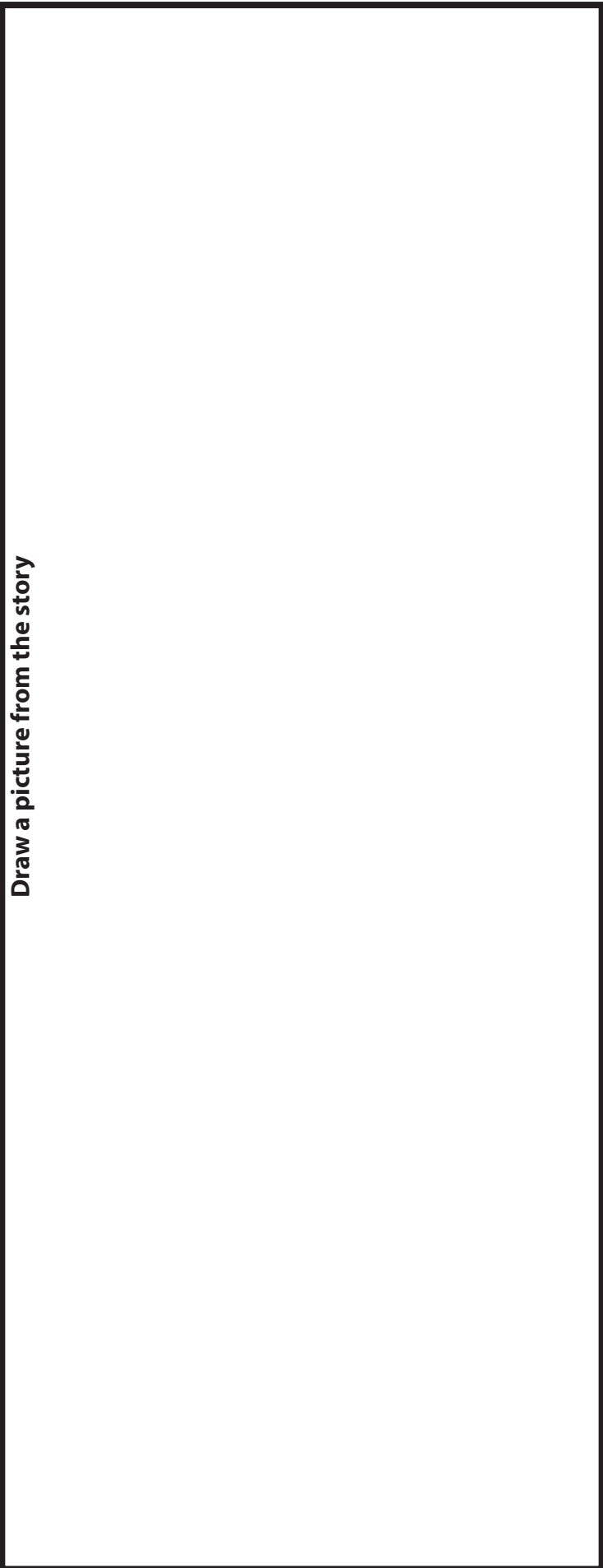
Abraham turned down the chance to own the riches of five kingdoms to glorify the name of his God. Can you imagine doing that? God gave Abraham a great faith to know that worshiping and living for Him was far better than any treasure the world had to offer. He gave him a great delight in His glory.

What about you and me? Perhaps we'll never have to turn down such great wealth to glorify God as Abraham did, but each day God gives us our own set of choices to make. Will we make our greatest delight to glorify God each day by loving others and obeying His Word, even when it is very hard? He will help us to do this, if we ask Him.

And what is the first step God calls all of us to make in choosing to glorifying Him and obeying Him? It is turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do this, God will forgive our sins and make us His special people. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to delight in Him and glorifying Him more and more.

Let's praise God for being the glorious God who He is. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to delight in His glory most of all. Let's ask Him to think each day how we can bring Him the greatest glory in our lives.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God's people know that there are lots of gods as great as the Lord. <i>Answer: False. They know that there is no one as great as the Lord.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What were the rejected riches? <i>Answer: The riches of the five kingdoms that Abraham and his men defeated.</i></p> <p>b. Who rejected the riches and what did he instead of them? <i>Answer: Abraham rejected them so that he might be a display of God's glory, showing that God, alone, is the one who is his God, his provider and his deliverer.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 66: 1-3,5,9,16 "Shout with ___ to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How ___ are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His ___ be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me." <i>Answers: joy; awesome; praise.</i></p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>To God Be the Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 44,45</i></p> <p>Verse 1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the lifegate that all may go in.</p> <p>Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, Great things He hath done.</p> <p>Verse 3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done; And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son, But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our vict'ry, when Jesus we see. Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane</p> <p>We give glory to God for giving us His Son to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the glorious God. We praise You for being the Keeper of Your promises to Your people, like You did to Abraham. You are always faithful!</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Lot, we often choose what is best of ourselves, but what might not be most honoring to You. We are sinners! We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You that for all the good gifts and great promises You have made to Your people, especially the promise to save us through Jesus. Thank You that we can always count on You to give us what we need.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to want to delight in Your glory most of all. Use us to bring glory to Your name through our lives.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>Shout with Joy to God <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 54</i></p> <p>Shout! Shout! Shout with joy! Shout with joy to God all the earth! Sing! Sing! Sing the glory! Sing the glory of His name! Say! Say! Say to God! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!" Come, Come, Come and see, Come and see what God has done! Let me tell you what He has done for me! Psalm Sixty-six, one through three, five, nine, sixteen.</p> <p>Words: adapted from Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>God's people delight in God's glory. He has been so good to them! He has given His Son to save them from their sins. He has taken care of every other need they have ever had. He has filled them with His Holy Spirit and they have fellowship with Him in their heart. They have never lacked any good thing and they never will their whole life. They want to praise the LORD all the time. They want others to join them in magnifying His name (praising Him) and in knowing Him, themselves. To be one of God's people is the best blessing anyone can ever have.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 14:
God's People Delight in God's Glory**

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 14 Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

CASE STORY

by Connie Dever key source: Grace B. Cutts for "Weak Thing in Moni Land"

Our story is called:

The Case of the Bent-Bodied Boy.

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

1. Who was the Bent-Bodied Boy? How did people treat him?
2. How did he use his bent-body to bring glory to God?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the early 1940's and 50's, starting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"Brring! Brring!" sounded the school bell. The children what up excitedly. It was recess--everyone's favorite time of day! Everyone, that is, but Bill. With the help of his cane, Bill rose slowly to his feet and limped out of the classroom.

"Hey, you, crooked boy!" Some boys yelled at him when they saw him. "Go some place else! We don't want you near us!" So Bill turned and went another direction. Soon another group of children were teasing him, making fun of his misshapen head and eye. And so it went, thirty minutes of torture, until the bell rang again and classes started again.

Even the teachers showed him little sympathy. On the day of the school parade, all the other children dressed up and marched in front of their parents, but the teachers wouldn't let Bill join in. "We can't let Bill be in the parade. He won't be able to keep up with the others and his limping will ruin how are parade looks," they told each other.

"Why doesn't anyone understand?" wondered Bill. "Do they think I chose to be born with a crooked spine, a deformed head, and a bad eye? I would love to be like everybody else. What can be done with a good-for-nothing body like mine? Nothing!" Bill sadly thought.

While Bill was still in school, World War II started. Like most young men his age, Bill wanted to sign up to fight. All they had to do was fill in paperwork and pass the doctor's exam. The doctor took just one look at Bill and said, "There's no way I can pass you, son. I'm sorry, but there's nothing that someone like you can do."

Once more Bill felt useless. And the more he thought, the sadder he became. He got so sad that he didn't want to live anymore. Often he would just wander the streets, lonely and hopeless. As he walked, Bill started to think

about God. "God, if you are there, I want to know You," he prayed.

Soon God answered Bill's prayer. One Saturday, as he was walking with his niece, he came to a church with the words, "Jesus saves" printed in large letters on it. Has he read those words, Bill decided, "I'm going to go to church there tomorrow."

The next day Bill went to church, unsure of what he was fine. "What will these people think when see me? Will they reject me like everyone else?" he wondered.

But Bill had nothing to worry about. everyone was so friendly. They didn't care what his body looked like. Bill watched how they loved and cared for each other, too. He listened to the message of the words they sang in their songs and the pastor spoke from the Bible. For the first time in his life, Bill heard the good news of Jesus. Bill could see that there was something very different about these people. What was it that made them so different? They were Christians! They lived to glorify God with their whole lives and it showed. As Bill watched and listened, Holy Spirit began to work in his heart. He repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.

Bill became a different person! Yes, he still had a crooked back, a deformed head, and a bad eye, but the Holy Spirit now lived in his heart. He gave Bill joy and hope. "God, all my life I've been fighting against this body of mine," he prayed. "It isn't much, but it's yours to use for your good purposes. God, please glorify your self through my body," Bill asked.

God answered Bill's prayer and in a most remarkable way. As Bill grew in his faith, he felt sure God was calling him to be a missionary overseas. With the help of his church, he filled out the paperwork and sent it in. Next would come the medical exam. Missionaries often lived in very hard conditions and the mission board needed to make sure that its missionaries could bear up under them.

It only took one look at Bill's medical exam for the mission board to see how very unfit he was to be one of their missionaries. "We're sorry, but with your body we can't send you overseas. The Lord must have plans for you here in the United States," the mission board wrote him.

But Bill wasn't convinced! "Lord, I am sure that You are calling me to go overseas to tell others about Jesus," Bill prayed. "I think this is how you plan to glorify Yourself through my body. Please, change the hearts of the people

on the mission board, if this is Your will."

Bill had been right. It was God's will. The mission board finally accepted his application and sent him to the island of Irian Jaya, on the other side of the world. He would go there to share the gospel with the Moni, a little group of people who had never heard about Jesus before.

How different Irian Jaya was from Philadelphia! No electricity! No running water! Mountain upon mountain of thick, jungly undergrowth. Giant wasps, huge beetles, spiders the size of crabs, cockroaches everywhere. Huts of mud, grass and sticks for homes. No roads, only trails with mud so deep that sometimes it was up to your waist. Often there were not even bridges to cross the rushing mountain rivers. Then there were the Moni people, themselves. They were murderers, haters, fierce warriors. They worshiped evil spirits who they believed wanted them to kill people.

Was this really the place to send a man with a crooked back, a deformed head and a bad eye? A man who could hardly walk on sidewalks with a cane? Yes, it was! Bill had prayed for God to glorify Himself through his body; and that is just what God did. Bill talked and talked with the Moni people. He learned their language and wrote down the Bible for them.

The Monis listened to the message Bill and the other missionaries sang in their songs and spoke from the Bible. For the first time in their lives they heard the good news of Jesus. They heard of the great love of Great God, the Chief of the Skies, who sent His Son, Jesus to live a perfect life and die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who will ever turn and believe in Him as their Savior. They heard how all who do believe in Jesus are not just forgiven of their sins, but are filled with the Holy Spirit so that they will have power to live out the wonderful special plan that God has for them. He planned to use each of them to glorify Him with their lives. As God worked in their hearts, they began to know that these were not just words, they were the truth. Why else would a man with such a broken body endure such hardship? They had seen it in Bill and the other missionaries who reflected God's glory in their love for God, for each other and even for them. Bit by bit, God worked in their hearts and gave them a hunger to know and follow God, too.

"Hazi ndona! Hazi ndona! We are hungry for eternal life," they chanted and danced in front of the missionaries' huts. "Teach us a Bible story! Tell it again. Listen to see if I have

understood it correctly," the Moni would plead. They would stop Bill as he limped up difficult trails, sometimes in mud up to his waist! They would wake him up in the middle of the night. They would tug at his sleeves while he was working. They came by the hundreds. They came from many miles away, from different tribes. They always said the same thing, "We are hungry—hungry for God." The Lord had indeed glorified Himself through that man with the crooked back, deformed head and bad eye. Hundreds and hundreds of Moni looked at him and saw the glory of the great God he believed in, and they believed, too.

For forty years, Bill Cutts, who had once been thought too fragile to work overseas, lived among the Moni people. He slogged his way through muddy trails, crossed dangling vine bridges across deep mountain crevasses, hiked high mountains, built air strips and houses, and taught them about Jesus—limping all the way. How did he do this? By the strength God gave him. Why did he do this? Because more than anything else, Bill believed this was what God wanted him to do and delighted to bring glory to Him by doing it.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Delight in God's Glory

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

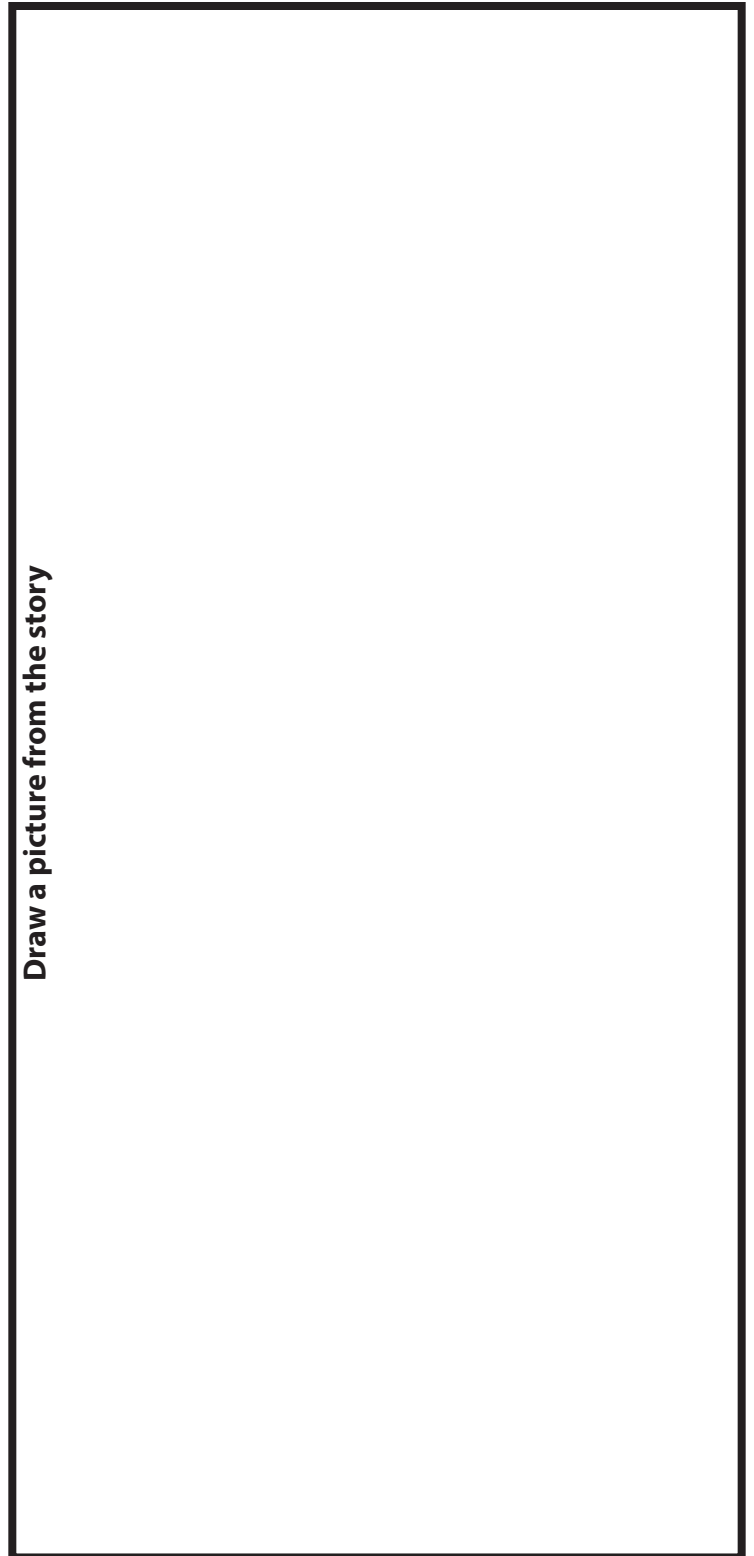
"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!.' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

"God, be glorified in my body!" Bill Cutts prayed every day. Who would have guessed that the Lord could use Bill Cutts' bent body to glorify Himself? God did; because, of course, it was always His plan to do so. And how much greater the glory God received because of how very weak and unlikely Bill Cutts' body was!

What about you and me? What weaknesses do we have? What things about us seem unlikely to bring God glory? Whatever they are, those are the very things God may have in mind to use to bring Him the greatest glory in our lives! And what is the first step in knowing God and bringing Him glory? It is doing just exactly what Bill Cutts did: turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our

Savior! If we do, He will forgive us our sins and make us His special people. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit and use us to bring glory to Him! What an honor!

Let's praise God for planning even to use our weaknesses to bring Him glory. Let's ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, instead of being sad about our weaknesses, let's ask God to help us delight in glorifying Him with them, just as Bill Cutts did.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's people tell others about God so they will know how great He is and want to glorify Him, too.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Bent-bodied Boy? How did people treat him?

Answer: Bill Cutts. Most people made fun of him and refused to let him do things others were allowed to do.

b. How did God use this bent-body to bring glory to Himself?

Answer: The Moni people were amazed that someone with such difficulty walking would love them enough to travel through mountains and jungles just to tell them about Jesus. Bill's love and sacrifice for them helped them to understand and believe God's love and sacrifice for sinful people like themselves.

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

Psalms 66: 1-3,5,9,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the ___ of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your ___!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for ___."

Answers: glory; deeds; me.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

To God Be the Glory

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 44,45

Verse 1

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
Great things He hath done.

Verse 3

Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done;
And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son,
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our vict'ry, when Jesus we see.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane

We give glory to God for giving us His Son to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You that Maker of even the hardest things in Your people's lives for their good and Your glory.

C God, we confess that many times we just feel sorry for ourselves because of our weaknesses and think we are useless instead of asking You to use them to bring even greater glory to Yourself.

T God, we thank You for never being limited by our weaknesses and even making them even greater shows of Your glory.

S We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Use all our weaknesses--as well as any strengths--for our good and His glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Shout with Joy to God

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 54

Shout! Shout! Shout with joy!
Shout with joy to God all the earth!
Sing! Sing! Sing the glory!
Sing the glory of His name!
Say! Say! Say to God!
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds."
Come, Come, Come and see,
Come and see what God has done!
Let me tell you what He has done for me!
Psalm Sixty-six, one through three, five, nine, sixteen.

Words: adapted from Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

Music: Constance Dever ©2011

God's people delight in God's glory. He has been so good to them! He has given His Son to save them from their sins. He has taken care of every other need they have ever had. He has filled them with His Holy Spirit and they have fellowship with Him in their heart. They have never lacked any good thing and they never will their whole life. They want to praise the LORD all the time. They want others to join them in magnifying His name (praising Him) and in knowing Him, themselves. To be one of God's people is the best blessing anyone can ever have.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 14:
God's People Delight in God's Glory**

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 14 Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

CASE STORY

Acts 6-7

Our story is: The Case of the Slandered Servant.

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

- 1. Who was the Slandered Servant and why were they spreading lies about him?**
- 2. How did glorify God even though he was slandered?**

This story takes place in New Testament times, not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

An old widow slowly made her way down the streets of Jerusalem to the place where the Christians gathered. With no husband or children to care for her needs, she had no one to take care of her. If she hadn't become a Christian, she could have gone to the Temple and received help from the Jews. But ever since she had become a believer in Jesus, she had lost their help. No. She would be out on the streets begging for bread or for money if it weren't for the generosity of the other believers. They gave money to provide food each day for this widow and many others.

The church appointed seven men--Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas--as deacons to take care of the needs of these widows. Each day, with gentleness and kindness, these man bought food and served it to these widows. All seven of these men loved God and glorified Him with their lives, but Stephen stood out above them all.

Taking care of the needs of those widows was a huge job, but Stephen did a lot more than just that. Stephen loved to share the good news of Jesus. He wanted more and more people to praise God and give him glory because of Jesus. So Stephen went to the Jewish synagogues, as well as out into the streets, and shared the gospel with all who would listen.

God worked powerfully through Stephen. He helped him boldly tell about Jesus and He did amazing miracles through Stephen, too, as proof that Jesus really was the Savior. Many people listened, saw what God did through Stephen and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Stephen was so pleased that God was being glorified through him. Nothing was more important to him than that!

But while many listened to Stephen and believed in Jesus, many others listened and did not believe! Many Jews were furious at what Stephen taught. "Jesus is not the Messiah sent to save us and we will prove it to you

from the Bible!" they declared. But no matter why arguments they came up with, God gave Stephen wisdom to prove them wrong. Not even the smartest teacher could ever win against Stephen!

This only made those Jews even more furious. "Perhaps we can't argue as well as Stephen, but we maybe can get rid of him another way. Let's get some bad men to tell lies about him and get him in big trouble with the Jewish leaders," they plotted. "They might even have him killed."

Their plan worked! As lies about Stephen spread through Jerusalem, the Jews became angrier and angrier. "Something must be done about this man!" the Jewish leaders said. "Seize him and bring him to us!" they ordered. Before long, Stephen was dragged to the Temple courts and set in front of the Supreme Sanhedrin, the most important Jewish court in Israel. Here, Stephen's fate would be decided.

Stephen stood in the middle of the Council Chamber. The seventy-one Pharisees and chief priests of the Supreme Sanhedrin sat on one side of room and their students and other Jews sat on the other side. They called one witness after another to speak against Stephen.

"He spoke against the name of the LORD," one said.

"He said Jesus would destroy our Temple!" another said. "I heard him say that Jesus would do away with the customs Moses handed down to us," yet another said.

The men in the Council Chamber looked very concerned. These were very serious charges. If Stephen couldn't prove they were lies, he would face death by stoning. Stephen knew this, but he didn't panic. He delighted in God's glory. He felt certain that God had called him to testify to these important Jews about Jesus. He knew the more he trusted in Jesus even as he faced death, the more God would be glorified. There was nothing more important to Stephen than this.

Now all eyes turned towards Stephen, What would he say and do? But even before Stephen had spoken one word, the Lord was already glorifying Himself through Stephen. The Bible tells us that Stephen's face seemed to radiate God's glory, like the face of an angel.

The high priest came forward and said, "You've heard these witnesses. Are these things true?"

"My fellow Jews, listen to me!" Stephen said. "Long ago the LORD gave us this land, His laws and the Temple that we might love and serve Him. Through the prophets He

urged us to turn away from our sins and to look forward to the Messiah who would save us. But our people sinned against the LORD and resisted His Holy Spirit. Now you are acting just like them! You have betrayed and murdered Jesus, the Messiah! Even now you're disobeying His laws and rejecting the good news of salvation through Jesus!"

Stephen's words only made the Jewish leaders more furious. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus. "Look," he said, "I see Jesus in heaven, standing before God in the place of highest honor!"

This was more than the Jewish leaders could stand! Stephen was saying that Jesus was God. This was blasphemy! He must be silenced! He must be put to death!

"They covered their ears and started yelling loudly. They wanted to drown out Stephen's praise of Jesus. They grabbed Stephen and dragged him outside of Jerusalem. Then they did what they always did to people who dishonored God's name—they threw stones at him to kill him!

How did Stephen take this undeserved punishment? Did he yell back angry, hateful words at them, or plead with them to stop? No, he didn't. Stephen was a man who delighted in God's glory. He knew God was calling him to die for the honor of Jesus' name. He knew that the more courageously and willingly he endured this suffering for Jesus, the more God would be glorified.

Amidst that deadly shower of stones, Stephen prayed: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell down to his knees and cried: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And with those words, he died. Nothing—not even life, itself—was more important to Stephen than the glory of God.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Delight in God's Glory

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

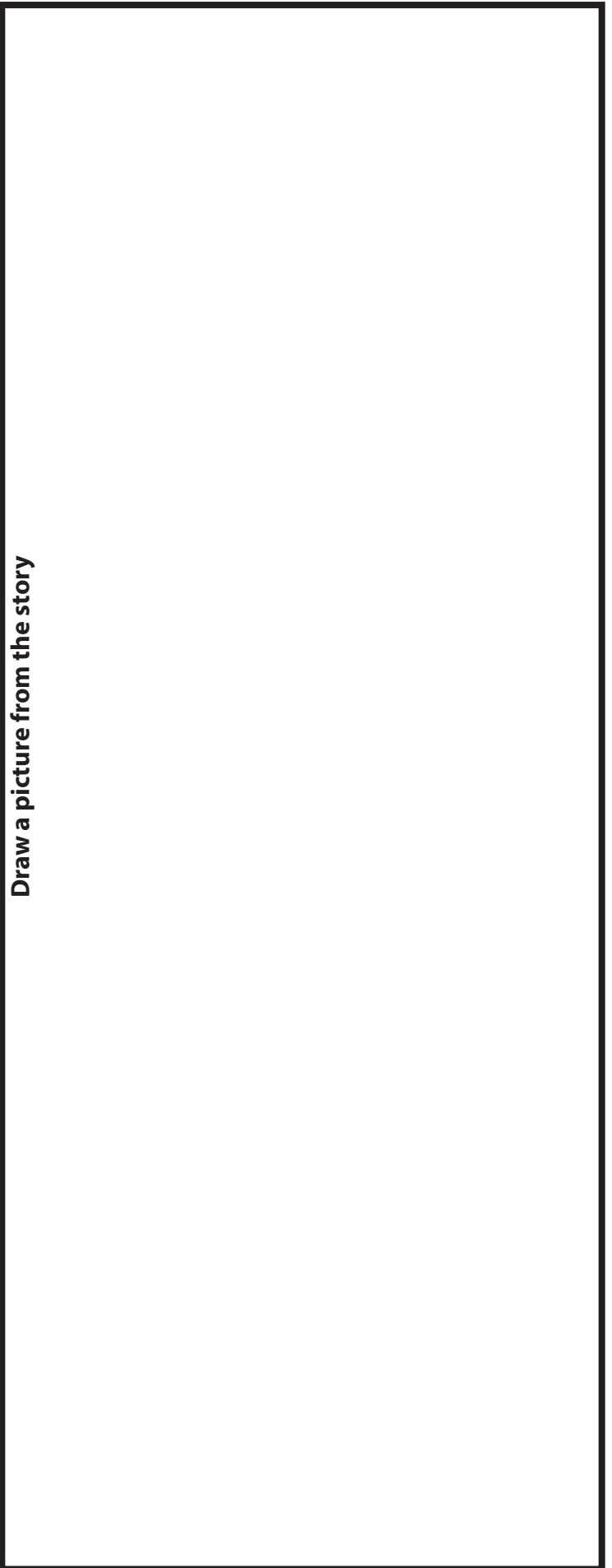
What about God's people today? What is God calling them to do? Like Stephen, He is calling them to selflessly

care for others. Like Stephen, He is calling them to tell new people about salvation through Jesus. And though many of God's people may never face dying for their faith like Stephen did, all will know some kind of sadness or pain from others who reject the good news of salvation through Jesus.

Whatever God calls His people to do, they can know that they are all opportunities to serve Him and others; to serve Him and others, but best of all, they are opportunities to glorify God by reflecting His good ways to the world.

Let's praise God for the perfectly glorious way He is and the perfectly glorious things He does. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and make us people who daily delight to live our lives so as to bring glory to Him in all we do.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God's people don't think about how they live because they know it doesn't matter to God and His glory. <i>Answer: False. They care very much to live to please God. They know that living God's good way brings glory to Him.</i></p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Slandered Servant and why were lies being spread about him? <i>Answer: Stephen. Angry Jews were trying to get rid of Stephen for preaching that Jesus was God's Son, the Messiah, come to save God's people.</i></p> <p>b. How did glorify God even though he was slandered? <i>Answer: He proved from the Bible that Jesus was the Savior. He didn't stop preaching, even when he faced death. He trusted God with his life and even forgave his enemies as they were killing him.</i></p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 66: 1-3,5,9,16 "Shout with joy to God, all the earth! ___ the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!'. Come and see what God has ___, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His ___ be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me." <i>Answers: Sing; done; praise.</i></p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>To God Be the Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 44,45</i></p> <p>Verse 1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the lifegate that all may go in.</p> <p>Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, Great things He hath done.</p> <p>Verse 3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done; And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son, But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our vict'ry, when Jesus we see. Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane</p> <p>We give glory to God for giving us His Son to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being worthy of all glory and honor.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we don't think about glorifying God with our lives as Stephen did. Many times we think only about making a big deal about ourselves so others will think about us.. Many times we choose to not do things that might glorify You, but would be hard or no fun to do. We deserve Your punishment! We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sustaining Your people through even the hardest kinds of sufferings so that they glorify You as You and they want to.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and make us people who daily delight to live our lives to bring You glory in all we do.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>Shout with Joy to God <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 54</i></p> <p>Shout! Shout! Shout with joy! Shout with joy to God all the earth! Sing! Sing! Sing the glory! Sing the glory of His name! Say! Say! Say to God! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds." Come, Come, Come and see, Come and see what God has done! Let me tell you what He has done for me! Psalm Sixty-six, one through three, five, nine, sixteen.</p> <p>Words: adapted from Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>God's people delight in God's glory. He has been so good to them! He has given His Son to save them from their sins. He has taken care of every other need they have ever had. He has filled them with His Holy Spirit and they have fellowship with Him in their heart. They have never lacked any good thing and they never will their whole life. They want to praise the LORD all the time. They want others to join them in magnifying His name (praising Him) and in knowing Him, themselves. To be one of God's people is the best blessing anyone can ever have.</p>