



Unit 4 Prontos--NIV
The God Like None Other



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 4 Prontos

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

God is spirit. God the Father has no body for us to see, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. No human look upon God in all His glory. He is too holy for us to see.

Jesus is God's Son. He is spirit, like His Father, but He became human to live on earth and to die for God's people's sins. He is completely God AND completely man. God's people will live face to face with God in heaven. There, they will see Jesus. He will still have a human body; but there, He will shine with magnificent glory because he is God.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

CASE STORY

Exodus 33:12

Our story is called:

The Case of the Strange Sightings.

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

1. Who had the strange sightings? What did he see each time?
2. What else did he want to see but didn't get to right then? When did he get to see it?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

One, two, three, four, five. Five times Moses climbed up the dry, rocky mountain called Mt. Sinai. It was far from a pleasant climb. There were many dry, dusty rocks to scramble through. There were few, if any, trees to shade him from the hot sun. And then there were the snakes and scorpions which hid among the rocks that he must watch for.

Why would Moses, why would ANYONE, choose to climb such a mountain over and over? Because this mountain was none other than Mt. Sinai, the "Mountain of God." It was a place where the LORD met with Moses.

The first time Moses climbed this mountain was about a year earlier. Moses had led his father-in-law's flocks to graze near the bottom of it. And there, from the valley, he spotted a strange bush blazing with fire but somehow never burned up.

"I will go over and see this strange sight—why that bush doesn't burn up," he thought, filled with curiosity. So Moses left his flocks and began to climb up towards the bush. When Moses got closer, he was even more surprised with what he found. The bush wasn't on fire at all! No! Something else—or as Moses was about to find out—SOMEONE else was behind this amazing sight. It was the LORD!

"Moses, Moses!" The Angel of the LORD, the LORD's special angelic messenger, said to Moses, calling from inside the bush.

"Here I am," Moses replied with fear and surprise.

"Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground," the Angel of the LORD told Moses. "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

It was God who made the bush shimmer with His glory! Yes, the LORD is spirit and Moses could not see Him. But

this day, he got to see a little bit of His glory! He got to hear the Angel of the LORD! Wow!

As you can probably imagine, Moses quickly obeyed. He took off his sandals and bowed down, hiding his face. Here he stood in God's presence! God, who is holy--perfectly, purely good and oh, so great! Nothing sinful can live in His presence. And there he was, only a sinful man. What would happen to him? Would he die?

No, Moses didn't die. The LORD had a message for Moses to give and a job for him to do.

"Moses, I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt," the LORD told him. "I have come to rescue them from the land of Egypt and bring them into the land I promised them. I want you to go and lead them here to My mountain so that they can worship Me."

What a message! What a job! There were thousands and thousands of Israelites forced to work as slaves in Egypt! And the LORD wanted him to lead them all! Moses doubted he could do this. "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" he asked the LORD. Was Moses so busy thinking about himself that he forgot the greatness of the God in whose very presence he stood? The Israelites wouldn't be freed because of how great Moses was. They would be freed because of how great God was.

"I will be with you," the LORD told Moses, "the God of your fathers, the LORD, the I AM WHO I AM."

So Moses obeyed the LORD and headed down the mountain. He would go to Egypt, just as the LORD commanded him to do.

In Egypt, the LORD fulfilled all His promises to Moses and the people of Israel. With many mighty acts, the LORD showed all of Egypt that He was the one, true God and freed the Israelites. Moses led them away from slavery and brought them to worship Him there at the foot of Mount Sinai, just as the LORD told him to.

At first the people worshiped the LORD. They couldn't see Him, for the LORD is spirit. But they certainly heard His voice and they felt His mighty presence. With thunder, lightning, thick clouds and blazing fire, the LORD's presence descended Mount Sinai and He gave them His great laws, the Ten Commandments, for them to obey. This was enough for them to see how great the LORD was! They bowed down before Him. They longed to obey Him; yet, they feared Him, too.

"Moses, don't have the LORD speak to us again! Go up the mountain and speak to the LORD for us, then tell us what He says and we will obey. We are too scared to hear His voice again!" the people pleaded.

So, one, two, three times, Moses went up Mount Sinai again to receive the rest of God's laws. But while God was speaking to Moses on the top of Mount Sinai, the people were forgetting Him down below at the mountain's bottom. The LORD is spirit. He was so different from the gods of Egypt who had seemed to mighty to them. They couldn't see the LORD and they didn't like that. They wanted a god they could see and touch and decided they would make the LORD into one like that. They brought golden earrings to Aaron, Moses' brother, and he made them a golden calf that they could look at and worship. They bowed down to it and had a big, wild party to honor it.

Oh, how angry Moses was when he came down the mountain and found the people worshipping this golden calf! Moses ordered the calf to be ground up into dust, mixed with water, and he made the people drink it. Anyone who refused to stop worshipping the calf was killed--three thousand people died that day!

What was worse, they had broken their covenant--their solemn promise-- with the LORD! Hadn't He told them to worship Him alone and not make any idols? By all rights the LORD should punish them and reject them as His people. Would He? And so now, Moses climbed up the steep Mount Sinai a fifth time to speak to the LORD about the people.

Moses reached the top of Mt. Sinai and cried out to the LORD: "LORD, You've said that now You won't go to the Promised Land with us. That You will only send an angel, because You might destroy the people for their sinfulness on the way. LORD, You've said, 'Lead these people,' but You've not let me know whom You will send with me.

"You've said, 'I know you by name, Moses. You and I talk together like friends,'" Moses continued. "You say You're pleased with me. If You are, then teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people. LORD, please don't send us to the Promised Land unless You go with us," Moses pleaded.

"I will do what you ask because I am pleased with you and I know you," the LORD replied. "I won't send an angel to go with you. My Presence will go with you and I will give

you rest," He promised.

Then Moses, the very same man who only a year ago had been too scared to even look at the Angel of the LORD and a even a little bit of God's glory in the burning bush, said something very, very shocking. "LORD, show me your glory," Moses bravely asked.

What was Moses doing?! God was pleased with him and spoke to him like a friend, but still he was just a sinful man. How could anyone gaze upon God in all His glory and live?

The LORD told Moses: "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence. But, you cannot see My face. You are only a sinful man. No can see Me and live."

Then the LORD placed Moses in a cleft of a rock and let His glory pass by. He shielded him from seeing His glory until He had passed by. Then He allowed Moses to see a bit of the end of His glory.

The Bible doesn't tell us what Moses saw or what he thought that day when God's glory passed by, but that little bit of God's glory he saw must have been one of the most amazing thing anyone has ever seen.

Moses saw a little of God's glory that day, but do you think that Moses ever got to see all of God's glory? Yes, he did. Not here on earth, but when he died and went to live with the LORD. Even now, Moses is looking upon God in all His glory in heaven. And not just Moses, but all of God's people who have died already. They are all enjoying life in God's glorious presence now. And that is best of all.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

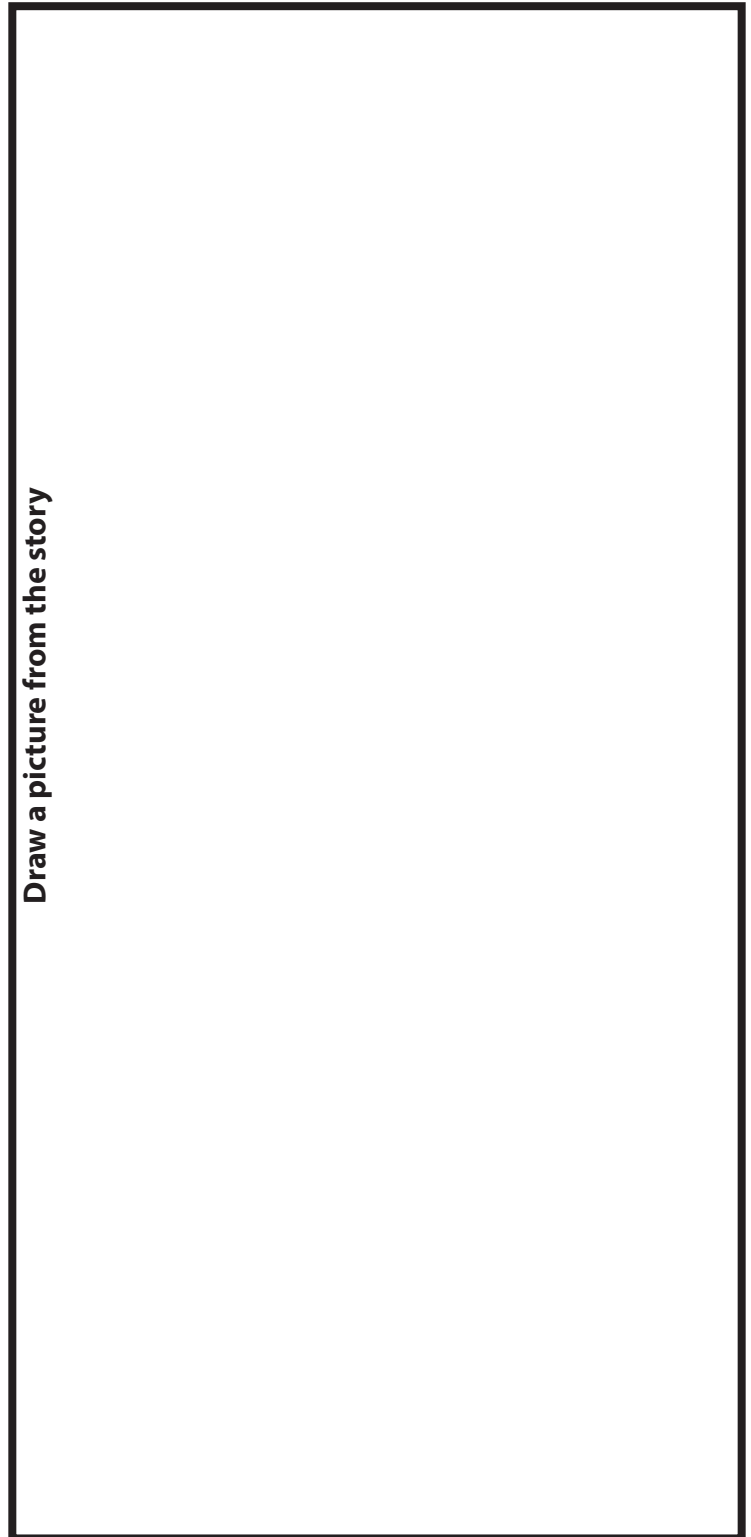
Our Bible Verse is: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

What about you and me? Could we get to see God's glory, too? Yes, we can! For God offers forgiveness of sins to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. All who do become God's own, dear people. They will enjoy knowing God in their hearts now, by His Holy Spirit. And then, when they die, they will get to live with God forever and ever. They will see Jesus, the Son of God, in all His glory. The Bible tells us that the glory of God shining from Jesus will be so bright that there will be no need for sun or moon because God's glory will shine out from Him like a bright light from a lamp. And they will not

just see Him. No! God's people will be able to know God deeply. That will be more wonderful than anything we can imagine!

Let's praise the LORD, who is a glorious spirit. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts; help us turn from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to make us His own people so that one day we can stand in His presence with Him, worshipping Him in all His glory and delighting in knowing Him.



Draw a picture from the story

<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 the Father has no body for us to see, but the glory of His perfection shines out from Him. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who had the strange sightings? What did he see each time? Answer: Moses. The first time he saw a bush that seemed on fire, but it wasn't burning up. The second time, he saw a bit of the LORD's glory.</p> <p>2. What else did he want to see but didn't get to right then? When did he get to see it? Answer: He wanted to see all of God's glory. He got to see it when he died and went to heaven.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: John 4:24 "___ is spirit, and his ___ must worship in ___ and truth." Answers: God; worshipers; spirit.</p>	<p>O Worship the King <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 7</i></p> <p>Verse 1 O worship the King, all glorious above, And gratefully sing His wonderful love; Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavillioned in splendor and girded with praise.</p> <p>God is spirit. We cannot see spirit, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. From heaven above, He rules as King over all, reigning in the splendor of His glory. Those who see Him, like the angels cannot help but praise Him for how glorious He is. He is girded in their praise. That is, their praise surrounds Him, just like when we gird our Middle with a belt.</p> <p>But not only is the LORD full of glory, but He is also full of steadfast love for all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are His people and He is their God, forever and ever. He is the Ancient of Days--He has always lived and He has always loved them. He is their shield and defender. He will take care of them every day of their lives and bring them safely home to live with Him forever. There, they, too will see Him in His glory and their praise will surround Him for His wonderful love shown to them.</p>
<p align="center">AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE VERSE SONG</p>
<p align="center"><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the one, true living God. You are Spirit, holy and glorious.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we are sinners and do not deserve to see Your glory. Only through Jesus, can we ever come into Your presence and live.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to be forgiven. We thank You that because of Him, Your people will get to see all Your glory and live in Your presence in heaven.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people who get to see all Your glory and live in Your presence one day!.</p>	<p>God Is Spirit <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 8</i></p> <p>God is spirit, God is spirit, And His worshipers worship Him In spirit and truth. God is spirit, God is spirit, And His worshipers worship Him In spirit and truth. John Four, twenty-four, Hey!</p> <p>Words: John 4:24, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>This verse tells us that God is spirit. It also tells us that if we want to be true followers, true worshippers of God, that we will worship Him with the spirit He put inside of us. How do we do this? By turning from our sins, believing in Jesus, the Son of God, and trusting in Him as our Savior. When we do, God puts His Holy Spirit inside our spirit. He works powerfully inside us, helping us to live out our faith in Him by seeking to know Him more and more and love Him in everything we do in our lives.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

God is spirit. God the Father has no body for us to see, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. No human look upon God in all His glory. He is too holy for us to see.

Jesus is God's Son. He is spirit, like His Father, but He became human to live on earth and to die for God's people's sins. He is completely God AND completely man. God's people will live face to face with God in heaven. There, they will see Jesus. He will still have a human body; but there, He will shine with magnificent glory because he is God.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Hidden Help.

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

1. Who needed help? Why?
2. Who helped? How was their help hidden? How was it not hidden?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1950's in the Belgian Congo, in Africa.

"Seeing is believing." That's what many people think. If they can't see something or touch something, then how do they know if it is really true or real? That's one reason why many have a hard time believing in the LORD. After all, He is spirit and we can't see Him.

But Dr. Helen Roseveare was one person who didn't have to see to believe. The Holy Spirit had worked her heart, giving her faith to believe in this great God she couldn't see. And not only did she believe in Him, but she was willing to leave her nice, safe home in England to go to a not very safe place at all, to tell others about Him and to care for their medical needs-- the Belgian Congo in Africa.

There were many things that made the Belgian Congo a dangerous place when Helen went there. There were lots of mosquitoes that carried a sickness called malaria that medicines couldn't always cure. There were huge, poisonous snakes hiding among the thick undergrowth; there were crocodiles in the rivers. Even leopards and other wild animals roamed in the jungles. Could Dr. Roseveare really trust this great, invisible God of hers to take care of her amidst such dangers? Would He be there with her, even though she couldn't see Him? She believed He would be.

But when Dr. Roseveare arrived in the Congo, she found there was another great danger that she had to face that she had not known about: LIONS! Oh, I don't mean "ROAAAARRRR!" lions, with big teeth and huge claws, furry manes and long tails. I mean the "Lions of the Army of Liberation." These were men who had rebelled against the government in the Belgian Congo and taken it over. They armed themselves with spears, guns, clubs, and machetes and went around the country robbing, looting and even killing anyone they thought were their enemies. Unfortunately, this included people who came from

people who from other countries, like Dr. Roseveare.

Could Helen trust this great invisible God of hers to take care of her, even against these "Lions?"...or should she go back home to England? She believed she could trust Him and so she stayed right there in the Belgian Congo so she could tell the good news Jesus and give the people medical care.

"Bang, bang, bang!" The quiet Sunday afternoon was interrupted by a sudden, loud hammering at Dr. Roseveare's back door. Then came the familiar shout of the Lion soldiers: "Open up in the name of the Army of Liberation!"

"You stay here with your baby while I try to keep them out," whispered Dr. Roseveare to the Greek woman whom Dr. Roseveare had helped give birth to her first child the night before. Dr. Roseveare was but a little English lady, what could she do against the likes of the great Lions of the Army of Liberation? Very little on her own, but ANYTHING was possible with her great, invisible God who was always with her.

Dr. Roseveare stumbled to the door and somehow forced herself outside, pulling the door shut behind her. She would try to keep the soldiers from coming in the house and getting to the worried mother and her baby. Dr. Roseveare turned around and faced three, fierce soldiers. The one in the Middle was the leader, the man to her right carried a spear, and the one to her left had a gun slung over his shoulder and a large club at his waist.

The soldiers began shouting demands at her. "Give us your money or else!"

"I am not going to part with my money or anything else!" thought Dr. Roseveare. She stood her ground, blocking the door and refusing to let them inside.

The soldiers' tempers flared. "Look at this defenseless, little English woman! How dare she treat us like this! There's no one to help her. Doesn't she know we can easily handle her. She's no match for us! We're the Lions!" they said.

The leader standing in the Middle turned to the man on his left and commanded: "Strike her down!" The man raised his spear. He wasn't more than three feet away from her. If he hit her, the blow would kill her. Dr. Roseveare raised her arm to protect herself, but knew it would do no good.

"Will I live or die? Please, God, if I'm to die, may it be quickly, by this soldier's first blow!" she gasped a prayer to her great, invisible God.

Dr. Roseveare waited for the spear to hit her body, but nothing happened. At last she opened her eyes and what did she see? There was that soldier, his arm upraised, spear poised to strike, eyes filled with anger...yet unable to move! The great, invisible God who they couldn't see was indeed with her. He had frozen that terrible soldier and his spear in place with His mighty power that this man could neither resist nor overcome. God was more powerful than this Lion!

"Strike her down!" roared the leader to the second man. He raised his gun to crash the end of it down upon Dr. Roseveare's head. Again, Dr. Roseveare raised her arm and braced herself for the blow, prepared to live or die, turning her head away, holding her breath, her mouth dry.

Again, nothing happened. Slowly, Dr. Roseveare turned and looked. There the second soldier stood, as the first one, held in the iron grip of her great, invisible God, totally unable to move. The Lord once more showed that He was more powerful than these Lions. Hatred, anger, and moved across the soldier's face. Dr. Roseveare's eyes gazed steadily into his for a long moment; then, her heart was flooded with peace and safety and power.

She turned to the leader and said, "You're wasting your time! My God is stronger than yours. You'd better go round to the front of the house and we'll calmly discuss this matter there."

Dr. Roseveare backed into the house, shut the door and then collapsed to the concrete floor.

"Thank you, Lord, for rescuing me!" she prayed gratefully to her mighty, invisible God who had been with her and saved her. As soon as Dr. Roseveare shut the door to her house, the invisible God who had held the soldiers frozen in His grip, now released them. They stood there deeply afraid. They had not seen this God, but now they knew that He existed. That English woman was not just a defenseless little lady as they had thought. She had a great, invisible God with her protecting her. They would not try harming her again. They wanted to know more of her God.

Dr. Roseveare graciously invited these same men who only minutes before had intended to kill her, to sit down on her front porch with her. She served them coffee and cookies and shared with them about her great, invisible God. She told them about Daniel and how this same God had protected him from hungry, ferocious lions by shutting their mouths. Most of all, she told them about Jesus, God's

Son, nicknamed the “Lion of Judah.” He was God Himself, come to earth as a human—yet still completely God, too. He came to offer up His life as the perfect payment for sins of all who confess their sins to Him and turn to trust in Him for salvation. This Jesus would even forgive these terrible “Lions”, if they would ask Him to be their Savior.

We don’t know what happened to those soldiers that day after they left Dr. Roseveare’s house. Did they decide to turn in trust in this great, invisible God they had seen protect Dr. Roseveare that day? I hope that they did! But one thing is for sure: they never forgot Him--the great, invisible Lion of Judah--who loved and protected His people, according to His good plans.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: John 4:24

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

What about you and me? We cannot see the LORD, the great, invisible God who is spirit. What will we do? Will we decide to forget Him when we want to do things we know He wouldn’t want us to do? Will we decide to act like He doesn’t see us or that He isn’t really here with us always? It’s easy for us to forget what we don’t see, just like it was for those soldiers.

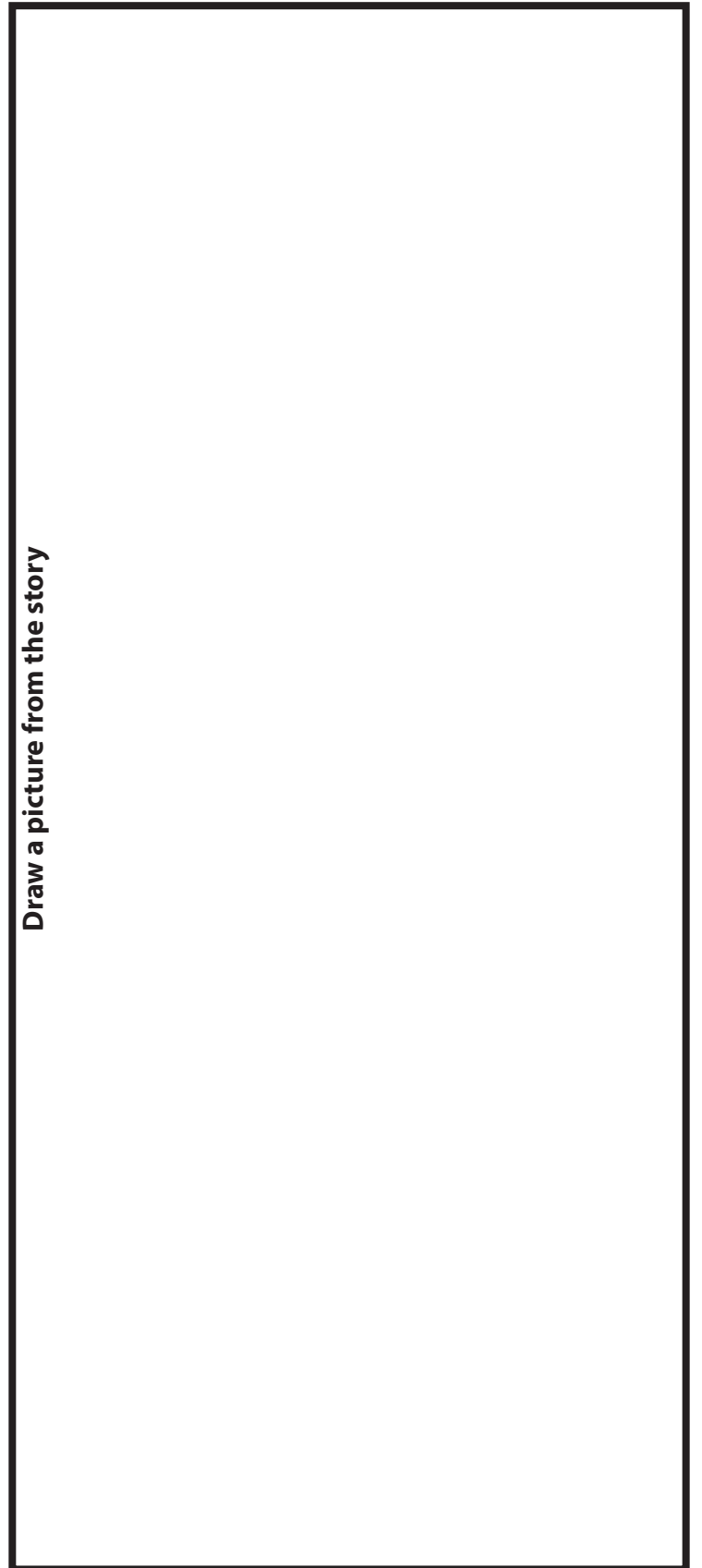
Or, will we be like the true worshipers of God who know Jesus and have His Spirit live in their hearts? They remember Him in everything they do: trusting Him, obeying Him, loving Him, like Dr. Roseveare did; even though they can’t see Him.

Jesus invites each of us to be true worshipers of Him. He invites us to be His people. How? By turning from wanting to disobey God and trusting Jesus as our own Savior. If we do, He will send His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He will make them new and full of love for Him. He will help us know Him better and better each day and He will take care of us every day of our lives.

Best of all, one day we will not have to worship who we don’t see, but who we do see. In heaven, we will gaze upon the beauty, magnificent glory of the LORD and see Jesus in all His glorious splendor. Then there will never have to be believing without seeing again!

Let’s praise this great God, who is a glorious spirit, who invites us to be His true worshipers. Let’s ask Him to work

in our hearts that we might turn from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit, that we might know Him and love Him even today! And one day, get to see Him and be with Him in all His glory in heaven.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

When Jesus came to earth, He became a man and wasn't God any more.

Answer: False. Jesus became human when He came to earth, but He still was the Son of God. He was fully God and fully human.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who needed help? Why?

Answer: Helen Roseveare. Soldiers came who wanted to hurt her and the other people who lived with her if she didn't give them what they wanted.

b. Who helped? How was his help hidden? How was it not hidden?

Answer: The Lord helped. His help was hidden in that God is a spirit and didn't show Himself to the soldiers. His help wasn't hidden in that He made the soldiers unable to even move.

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

John 4:24

"God is ____, and his worshipers must ____ in ____ and in truth."

Answers: Spirit; worship; truth.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

O Worship the King

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 7

Verse 1

O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavillioned in splendor and girded with praise.

God is spirit. We cannot see spirit, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. From heaven above, He rules as King over all, reigning in the splendor of His glory. Those who see Him, like the angels cannot help but praise Him for how glorious He is. He is girded in their praise. That is, their praise surrounds Him, just like when we gird our Middle with a belt.

But not only is the LORD full of glory, but He is also full of steadfast love for all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are His people and He is their God, forever and ever. He is the Ancient of Days--He has always lived and He has always loved them. He is their shield and defender. He will take care of them every day of their lives and bring them safely home to live with Him forever. There, they, too will see Him in His glory and their praise will surround Him for His wonderful love shown to them.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the great Lion of Judah. You are spirit, hidden from our eyes here on earth, but You are more powerful than anyone or anything we can see.

C God, we confess that many times we have a hard time believing in You because we can't see You with our eyes.

T God, we thank You that You are always able to protect Your people in any situation, according to Your perfect plan.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship You and trust in You, even though we cannot see You with our eyes. Work in our hearts, helping us to know You better through Your Spirit.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

God Is Spirit

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 8

God is spirit,
God is spirit,
And His worshipers worship Him
In spirit and truth.
God is spirit,
God is spirit,
And His worshipers worship Him
In spirit and truth.
John Four, twenty-four, Hey!

Words: John 4:24, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

This verse tells us that God is spirit. It also tells us that if we want to be true followers, true worshippers of God, that we will worship Him with the spirit He put inside of us. How do we do this? By turning from our sins, believing in Jesus, the Son of God, and trusting in Him as our Savior. When we do, God puts His Holy Spirit inside our spirit. He works powerfully inside us, helping us to live out our faith in Him by seeking to know Him more and more and love Him in everything we do in our lives.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

God is spirit. God the Father has no body for us to see, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. No human look upon God in all His glory. He is too holy for us to see.

Jesus is God's Son. He is spirit, like His Father, but He became human to live on earth and to die for God's people's sins. He is completely God AND completely man. God's people will live face to face with God in heaven. There, they will see Jesus. He will still have a human body; but there, He will shine with magnificent glory because he is God.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

CASE STORY

John 4:1-32

Our story is:

The Case of the Thirsty Woman.

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

1. Who was the thirsty woman? What did she think she was thirsty for?
2. Who knew what she was really thirsty for? How did he quench her real thirst?

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

Samaria was the name of the little bit of land that lay between Jerusalem and Galilee in Israel. It might have been just a little bit of land, but it was the cause of a whole lot of hatred between the Samaritans (the people who lived there) and the Jews who lived around them in Israel. The Jews were so disgusted by the Samaritans that even to just say the word "Samaria" or "Samaritan" was like saying a cuss word.

It hadn't always been this way. Many years earlier, the Samaritans were accepted as fellow Jews. But then the Samaritans did something that the rest of the Jews could never accept or forgive: they chose to become unclean.

What in the world does "unclean" mean; and why did the Jews hate the Samaritans for being that way? Did they smell bad or need to take a bath? No, they weren't that kind of unclean. This was a special Bible word. It meant the Samaritans were out of fellowship with God and other Jews. You see, the Samaritans had chosen to break some of the special laws that the LORD had given the Jews through Moses—and they had never turned from breaking those laws or offered sin sacrifices to the LORD for breaking them. According to God's laws, this meant they were not to worship the LORD at the Temple, or go about their daily lives around other Jews, until they had stopped breaking the laws and made their sin offerings. That's what it meant that they were unclean.

Now most Jews became unclean from time to time because they ate food the LORD told them was harmful to eat; or, they had a contagious disease that would make others sick; or, they had touched something dead. But the Samaritans were unclean for doing some downright sinful things. Long ago, they had turned away from the LORD. Instead of worshiping the LORD at the Temple in

Jerusalem, they built their own temple to golden calves and other idols, right there on Mt. Gerizim in Samaria! And, instead of marrying other people who worshiped the LORD, they had chosen to marry idol-worshipping Assyrians. These were two things the LORD told the people NEVER to do!

That's why the Jews hated the Samaritans. They had rejected the LORD and His laws! To them, there was nothing worse than a Samaritan. They were unclean through and through. Any God-fearing Jew should have nothing to do with them. They shouldn't talk with them, eat their food, or even set foot on Samaritan land. Why, the Jews thought the Samaritans were so unclean that they could never be forgiven by God and be saved. They were stuck with their sins forever!

But what did Jesus think about the Samaritans? He was a Jew. Did He think there was nothing worse than a Samaritan? Did He think there was no hope for these law-breakers? Was there no way for them to be made right with God? Let's hear today's story and find out.

Jesus and His disciples had been walking since day break. They had been in Jerusalem for the Passover and had begun the three-day walk back home to Galilee. Now the noon day sun was right overhead and it beat down hard upon them. Their stomachs were beginning to grumble and their mouths were dry with thirst. It was time for a rest.

"Look, there is Jacob's well and just beyond it, the town of Sychar," Jesus told His disciples. "There will be food and water there. You go into the town for food and I will wait by the well here for you," He said.

As hungry as they were, the disciples no doubt were NOT looking forward to going into Sychar for food. Why? Because Sychar was a Samaritan town! They would be talking with and buying food...and even touching and eating food from Samaritans. How disgusting! But at their Master's command, off the disciples went anyway.

Jesus rested on the well's stone rim. It was deserted. No one usually came out to the well at this hot time of day, if they didn't have to. Yet, Jesus knew of a woman who would be coming very soon to the well for water because she dared not come in morning with the other women. Everyone had rejected her because she was so sinful. She had tried to find the happiness that only God can give in the love of boyfriends and husbands. She had done many

bad things. Even the Samaritans--rejected as sinful people by the Jews, themselves--rejected this woman! She must be really bad!

Jesus heard footsteps and looked up. Yes, here she came, just as He knew she would. Jesus watched her as she came towards the well, her clay water jar balanced on her head. As thirsty as Jesus' dry mouth was for cool water, He knew that this woman's heart was even thirstier for the refreshing words of eternal life. He could give her. Rejected by people, but not by God; she was why He had come.

"Woman, will you give me a drink of water?" Jesus asked.

"You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. You Jews think all Samaritan women are so sinful that we are born unclean! You think to drink after us will make you unclean! How can you ask me for a drink?"

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water," replied Jesus.

"Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is over 250 feet deep, the deepest in the land. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life," said Jesus.

"Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water," she begged.

"Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

"You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true," Jesus said.

Jesus' words surprised her. "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet, a man God speaks His words through. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, Mount Gerazim, but you Jews claim that the only place to worship is in Jerusalem," she replied.

But Jesus told her, "Worship is not really about making the right sacrifices on Mount Gerazim or even at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. God is spirit. He isn't looking just for people who make the right sacrifices at the right place. His true worshipers are people who worship Him by knowing

and believing in Me. sent to save God's people. They worship God, sincerely with their whole lives. These people turn away from sinning against God. They know God in their heart (their spirit).

"I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." she said.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the Messiah."

This was different from anything that this poor woman had ever heard! Jesus was telling her that the LORD is a glorious spirit, completely holy and without sin. She knew in her heart that nothing sinful, especially sinful like her, could come near Him. Yet, here was the Messiah telling her that if she would turn from her sin and trust in Him, she could receive eternal life through Him! Could it be there was hope for Samaritans after all? Could it be there was hope for a sinful woman like her to know and worship the holy LORD? Right then and there, that sinful woman trusted in Jesus. Even though she was a Samaritan and a very sinful person, her thirsty heart accepted His invitation to receive His gift of eternal life.

"How exciting! How amazing!" she thought. "I must tell the others! The Messiah was here and was offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life." She left her water jar and hurried back to town with the news. Before she avoided the people who rejected her, but now she spread the word to everyone she could find: Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" she said to the townspeople.

The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus. As the woman told of the hope that Jesus promised for all who turned to God to worship Him truly, hope rose in their hearts, too.

"Jesus, we know Jews think makes them unclean to spend the night in a Samaritan town, but would You stay with us and tell us more. We want to know how we can be true worshipers of God," they pleaded.

So Jesus stayed with them. For two days and night, He ate Samaritan food on Samaritan plates; slept on Samaritan beds; and most of all, He talked with them. Many of them turned from their sins and were saved.

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said about Jesus; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

How amazing! Jesus offered the gift of eternal life to

rejected people like those Samaritans!

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is a Glorious Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Jesus offered the gift of eternal life to sinful, even rejected people like those Samaritans. And, He still offers this gift to sinful, even rejected people today. That's people like you and me. How could it be that sinful people like us could become people of God, who is a perfectly, purely good spirit? How could He accept us into His presence? Because Jesus, Himself, the perfect Son of God paid for their sins on the cross. In God's eyes, all who repent of their sins and trust in Him have been completely forgiven of their sins. God looks upon them as if they are as perfectly, purely good as Jesus. One day, all God's people will stand before Him and wonder at all His glory. They will praise Him for His perfect holiness and for making them God's people.

Let's praise God for being the glorious spirit, perfectly good! Let's thank Jesus for making the way for sinful people to one day stand in His presence and worship Him forever, by offering up Himself as the perfect payment for their sins. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, even today. Let's ask Him to help us to turn from disobeying Him and to trust in Him as our own Savior.

Let's praise God for being the glorious spirit, perfectly good! Let's thank Jesus for making the way for sinful people to one day stand in His presence and worship Him forever, by offering up Himself as the perfect payment for their sins. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, even today. Let's ask Him to help us to turn from disobeying Him and to trust in Him as our own Savior.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 In heaven, God’s people will get to see God in all His glory.
 Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Who was the thirsty woman? What did she think she was thirsty for?
 Answer: A Samaritan woman who had done many sinful things. Water.

b. Who knew what she was really thirsty for? What was it and how did he quench her real thirst?
 Answer: Jesus knew. He knew that she needed most of all to be forgiven of her sins and come to know God. He showed that He was the Messiah, God’s Son, who became a man to save us from our sins and bring us to God. He told her how she could be saved through faith in Him.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
John 4:24
 “God is spirit, and ___ worshipers ___ worship in spirit ___ in truth.”
 Answers: His; must; and.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

O Worship the King
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 7
Verse 1
 O worship the King, all glorious above,
 And gratefully sing His wonderful love;
 Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavillioned in splendor and girded with praise.

 God is spirit. We cannot see spirit, but the bright, magnificent glory of His perfectly pure spirit shines out more brightly than the sun. From heaven above, He rules as King over all, reigning in the splendor of His glory. Those who see Him, like the angels cannot help but praise Him for how glorious He is. He is girded in their praise. That is, their praise surrounds Him, just like when we gird our Middle with a belt.

 But not only is the LORD full of glory, but He is also full of steadfast love for all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are His people and He is their God, forever and ever. He is the Ancient of Days--He has always lived and He has always loved them. He is their shield and defender. He will take care of them every day of their lives and bring them safely home to live with Him forever. There, they, too will see Him in His glory and their praise will surround Him for His wonderful love shown to them.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

- A** God, we praise You for being the God who seeks out and saves sinners.
- C** God, we confess that like the Samaritan woman, we are sinners who have disobeyed You. We like to live our own way, instead of Your good way. We need Jesus to save us.
- T** God, we thank You for being willing to forgive even the worst of sinners who turn to You for forgiveness.
- S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to come to know You and worship You in spirit and in truth.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

God Is Spirit
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 8
 God is spirit,
 God is spirit,
 And His worshipers worship Him
 In spirit and truth.
 God is spirit,
 God is spirit,
 And His worshipers worship Him
 In spirit and truth.
 John Four, twenty-four, Hey!

 Words: John 4:24, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

 This verse tells us that God is spirit. It also tells us that if we want to be true followers, true worshippers of God, that we will worship Him with the spirit He put inside of us. How do we do this? By turning from our sins, believing in Jesus, the Son of God, and trusting in Him as our Savior. When we do, God puts His Holy Spirit inside our spirit. He works powerfully inside us, helping us to live out our faith in Him by seeking to know Him more and more and love Him in everything we do in our lives.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The LORD Is the Only True God

To worship means to love, honor and testify to the worth of someone. It usually means that we choose it to be more important than anything else in our lives. Sometimes it is a god that people worship. Sometimes it is other people or things that they love. Sometimes, they really just worship themselves.

But God created people to worship Him. He is the only, true God. He is our Creator and our king. He deserves for us to worship Him. He deserves for us to choose loving and obeying Him over everything else in our lives.

Not only does God deserve our worship, but only when we worship Him, will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be. Seeking His glory is also for our best good!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

"Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God."

CASE STORY

Exodus 3-12,15; Acts 9:17

Our story is called:

The Case of the Heavenly Showdown.

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

1. Who was in the Heavenly Showdown?
2. Who won the showdown? What did the winner want to show the whole world?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth, in one of the greatest lands on earth--but I'm not going to tell you the name of it or any of the important people in the story until the very end.

Yes, this story takes place in what was a very Great Land in those long ago days. It had great buildings and houses. It had great temples where the people worshiped their idols. There was a great amount of sand, too, in this Great Land--a whole desertful. But, there was also a Great River that watered some of the land so the people could grow great crops of food.

As you might guess, there was a Great King who ruled over the Great Land. He thought he was so great that he even believed he was a god! Can you believe that?! He strolled around his great palace in his perfectly pleated, white linen kilt. He wore rich necklaces and bracelets of gold and jewels. He put colorful paint around his eyes and perfume on his body. On his head he wore not one but two, magnificent crowns placed on his perfect, black wig. And in his hand he proudly carried the king's scepter--a golden shepherd's crook.

"I am the Great King, the mighty ruler of my people," the Great King boasted. "I am blessed by our gods. Bes the snake god has protected my people and me from deadly snakebites; Hapi the god of the Great River was given us fresh water to drink and water our crops; Heqet, the frog goddess, has given life and children to me and my people; Ptah the god of creation parades freely in my land as bulls, the goddess Skehmet heals our sicknesses, Nut, the sky goddess, controls our skies; and Ra the sun god reigns gloriously above everything, bringing warmth and life to everything. I, myself, am a god. My people worship me and obey my every order. They delight to build great buildings in honor of me."

Yet while the Great King thought he and his gods were so great, there was another god who didn't think so highly

highly of him or his gods. It was the LORD, the one, true God. And this is the story of how He showed the Great King and the whole world who was really great and who wasn't.

Now the Great King made slaves out of the LORD's People and forced them to build his great buildings. The people were so unhappy and they cried out to the LORD for help; and He heard them.

The LORD spoke to an eighty-year-old man. "Old Man, go to the Great Land and speak to the Great King. Tell him to free My People. He has a stubborn, sinful heart. He won't listen to you, but don't you worry. I will use that stubborn heart to show him and the whole world that I am the one, true God, not him and his idols. My People will see how great I am and worship Me, too," the LORD told him.

The Old Man was scared. He knew how great the Great King was. He couldn't win against him! "Can't you send someone else?" the Old Man said to the LORD. "I'm just an Old Man. I don't even speak very well. I can't do what You want me to do!"

The LORD was angry with the Old Man. "I am the one, true God! This isn't about what you can do. It's about what I can do! Go to the Great King, Old Man, but take your brother to help you," He said.

The Old Man bowed low before the LORD. He knew the LORD was right. So even though he was still scared, he obeyed. Why? Because this Old Man didn't just worship the LORD with his words, he longed to please Him with his life.

Off the Old Man and His Brother traveled through the Great Land until at last they came to the splendid palace of the Great King.

"Great King, I have a message for you from the one, true God. He wants you to free His People to me so they can go worship Him," the Old Man said.

The Great King and his magicians just laughed. "The one, true God...bah!!! The gods I know are Bes the Snake god, Hapi the Great River god, Ptah the Bull, Creator of things, Skehmet, Healer of Sickness, Nut the Sky Goddess, and Ra the Sun god. And, of course, there's me. I don't know your one, true God and won't obey Him. I think the people are just being lazy. Now I will make them work even harder for me!" the King replied.

To make matters worse, now the LORD's People were mad at the Old Man and His Brother. "Thanks to you, the King is angry with us and is working us even harder," they

grumbled.

But the LORD said, "Don't worry, Old Man," the LORD told him. "I told you that the Great King had a sinful, stubborn heart. I am using it to show him, the whole world and My People that I am the one, true God. Go back to the Great King and I will tell you what to do."

Back the Old Man and His Brother went to the Great King. "Great King, you refuse to free the LORD's People or believe that He's the one, true God. Now He will show you that He's more powerful than you and your idols," the Old Man said.

Then the LORD showed He was more powerful than each of the Great King's idols. He turned the Old Man's staff into a snake that swallowed up the snakes of the Great King's magicians—He was more powerful than the Snake God, Bes. He turned the Great River into blood, making it undrinkable for the people of the Great Land and unusable for their crops—he was more powerful than Hapit the Great River god. He sent frogs that croaked and jumped into every home, even the Great King's Palace—he was more powerful than Heqet, goddess of frogs; gnats and blood-sucking dog flies and then sickness that killed all the bulls and other animals—He was more powerful than Ptah the Bull, Creator of Things. He sent huge hailstones that killed the crops—He was more powerful than Nut the Sky Goddess. He sent boils (like big, painful blisters) on all the people and even the Great King—He was more powerful than Skehmet, goddess of Healing. Then, He even sent darkness over all the Great King's land that was so thick that you could feel it—He was more powerful than even the great Ra, the Sun god.

The magicians of the Great King weren't laughing anymore. "Only the one, true God could do things like this, O Great King. He has overpowered all of our gods," they told him. "You must let His People go or the Great Land and everything in it will be destroyed!" But still the Great King's heart was stubborn and sinful.

Once more, the Old Man and His Brother went to the palace of the Great King. "Great King, the one, true God asks you again to free His People," he said.

"No, I won't! And don't ask me again," he ordered.

"Very well," the Old Man said. "The LORD bring one last punishment upon your Great Land. Then you will free His People."

At midnight that night, the terrible punishment came:

all the firstborn males, in the Great Land of the Great King died—from the firstborn of the cattle and servants to son of the Great King, himself. Yet not one of the LORD’s People died.

Now the Great King had to face the truth: the Old Man’s god alone was God, not him or his idols.

Right there in the Middle of the night, the Great King called for his guards. “Guards, go get the Old Man and His Brother. Bring them to me now!” he ordered. When they had been brought to him he commanded them, “Get up! Leave us! Take the people and go worship this god of yours. You’ve made your point. Leave us....but before you go, ask the LORD, the one, true God, to bless me,” he pleaded.

The next day the LORD’s People left the Great Land, led by the Old Man and His Brother. They praised the LORD for His victory over the Great King and his gods. He really was the one, true God!

This was only the beginning of what the LORD would do for His People. He continued to rescue them from all their enemies and take care of all their needs in amazing ways, time and time again. And, just as the LORD had told the Old Man and His Brother, it wasn’t just His People, or the Great King, or the Great King’s people who would know there was no god like Him. People from many lands and for many years would hear what the Only True God had done and they would know that He alone should be worshiped. ...that even includes you and me today!

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the One, True God

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:8-10

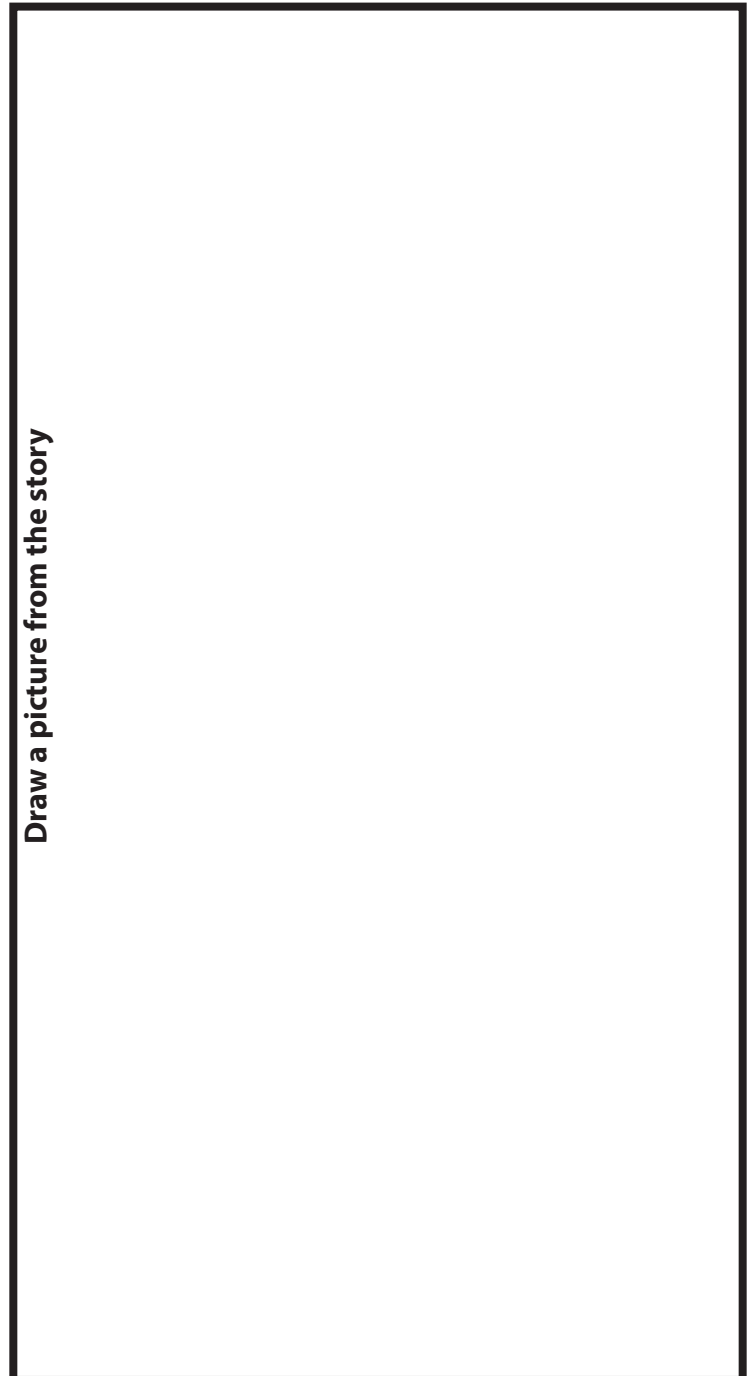
“Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.”

These verses remind us that the LORD is the one, true God and worthy of all our worship and praise!

Did you figure out the real names of the people in our story? The Old Man and His Brother were Moses and his brother, Aaron. The Great King and His people were Pharaoh and the Egyptians. And this was the story of how the LORD—rescued His People—the Israelites—from slavery in the Great Land of Egypt, and showed that he was the one, true God.

Isn’t it amazing to see how the LORD used even the hard, rebellious heart of Pharaoh to display to all that He is the Only True God? But did you know that is not the only way that the LORD uses stubborn, sinful hearts to show that He is the one, true God. The LORD also works in stubborn, sinful hearts, helping them repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He can work like this is our heart today!

Let’s praise the LORD as the one, true God. Let’s ask Him to help us confess our sins to Him and trust in Him to forgive us. Let’s ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and make our heart soft and worshipful so that through even us He might show the world that He truly is the one, true God.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: To worship something means to bow down before it. Answer: (Largely) False. Worship can include bowing down to something, but it's really far more than that. It starts in the heart with a desire to love, honor and tell of its worth. We treat it as the most important thing in how we live.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was in the Heavenly Showdown? Answer: Pharaoh, the gods of Egypt and the LORD.</p> <p>b. Who won the showdown? What did the winner want to show the whole world? Answer: The LORD. He is the One, True God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10 "Among the ___ there is none like you, O LORD; no ___ can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you ___ are God." Answers: gods, deeds, alone.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 9</i></p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"</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.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we are sinners with stubborn, sinful hearts. We need Jesus to be our Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for being able to work in our hearts and change them.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship You and live for You. Make our lives help show others that You are the one, true God!</p>	<p>There Is None Like You <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 10</i></p> <p>Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord; No deeds can compare with yours. For you are great and do marvelous deeds, O Lord, You alone are God. Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 86:8, 10 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>This verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

The LORD Is the Only True God

To worship means to love, honor and testify to the worth of someone. It usually means that we choose it to be more important than anything else in our lives. Sometimes it is a god that people worship. Sometimes it is other people or things that they love. Sometimes, they really just worship themselves.

But God created people to worship Him. He is the only, true God. He is our Creator and our king. He deserves for us to worship Him. He deserves for us to choose loving and obeying Him over everything else in our lives.

Not only does God deserve our worship, but only when we worship Him, will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be. Seeking His glory is also for our best good!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

"Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God."

CASE STORY

adapted from *Wedding Drums and Other Stories*

by Nigerian Missionaries

Our story is called:

The Case of the Curious Children.

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

1. Who were the Curious Children? Who did they want to meet?
2. Who else did they meet? How was he different from Shango?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in Nigeria, Africa, in the 1940's.

It was sunrise and the villagers had begun to stir inside their huts. Today was the biggest day of the year and there was much to do! It was the Day of Shango's Visit to the Yoruba people. Shango was their mighty god of Thunder and Lightning, who they believed lived high up in the sky. From there, he watched all things, they were told. There were many gods the Yoruba worshiped, but Shango was the one they paid closest attention to. He demanded their worship and obedience and could get very upset, very quickly, if he did not get it. The Yoruba believed he had special ways of knowing things and hurled down lightning "stones" to punish people. If a lightning "stone" struck someone's house, Shango's priests would come and take everything from the house they wanted as part of Shango's punishment.

The Yoruba feared Shango and did whatever they thought would make him happy. This was especially true on the Day of Shango's Visit, when Shango came to visit the Yoruba in the form of one of his faithful priests, the Yoruba believed. He visited every village, receiving the people's praise and sacrifices...and punishing anyone who didn't worship him as they should.

All the Yoruba waited with fear and excitement to see Shango that day, but perhaps no one more than a four-year-boy named Adeoti. Now before we go on with our story. I want to tell you something about Shango that Adeoti and many of the Yoruba people didn't know. Shango was just a fake! Far from the mighty god of Thunder and Lightning they believed him to be, Shango was really just one of the priests dressed up in what looked like a scary Halloween costume. And the great Day of Shango's Visit that Adeoti and the others were waiting for? Why, it was just a chance for that priest to scare the people into doing

what they wanted them to do...and to take some of their things! So, don't be scared as you listen to the story of Shango. You know the truth: Shango is a big, ole fake! Ok, now let's go back to the story and hear what happened with Adeoti and the others on the Day of Shango's Visit.

When the men began to beat the village drums and the women began their fast-stepping worship dances in the market square, Adeoti knew it was almost time to see Shango. Faster and faster beat the drums, faster and faster twirled the dancers. Then, just when it seemed that they could not beat harder nor twirl faster, Shango appeared! What a sight he was! Shango did not have a shaved head like the Yoruba men. He had long black hair braided closely to his head. He stood proudly in front of them, bare-chested and with his face covered with a white powder. He looked scary! Priests came forward with sacrifices to honor Shango and the people chanted, "Great Shango, You take in your hand your fiery stones of lightning, to punish the guilty. We worship you!"

But words weren't enough for Shango. He wanted true worship and obedience. So this man, dressed up like Shango, punished anyone he thought didn't honor him as he deserved. Adeoti bowed low to the ground before Shango. He wanted to make sure Shango knew that he worshiped him.

Some time after the Day of Shango's Visit, news reached Adeoti's ears of another curious visitor who had come to the land of the Yoruba. He had a white face, too, but it wasn't powder like Shango's had been-- it was white skin! And, while the white man didn't say he was a god, he did say that he had come to them to give them a special message from God.

Now if you live in a country where there are people of many different skin colors and nationalities, it may seem strange to hear of someone who has never seen people with white skin. But this story took place long ago and Adeoti's village was in a far away part of Nigeria where everyone had dark skin and few visitors came. That's why Adeoti was so curious about seeing white skin.

"I wonder if he is scary-looking like Shango?" Adeoti thought, longing to see what this visitor looked like. One day when his family had gone to market to sell their goods, he finally got his chance, for there in the market square was the white man! Adeoti stared at him in curiosity and wonder. "No, he doesn't look anything like Shango. He has

a kind, loving face," Adeoti thought. "I wonder what he's like? I wonder if his god is like Shango? I wish I could talk with that man and hear about his god's special messages."

Adeoti's parents noticed how curious he was and warned him, "Don't have anything to do with that white man or the god he talks about. You know how Shango is. He is quick to punish anyone who doesn't worship and obey him. Do you want him to get angry and hurl a lightning stone at us?" they said. Adeoti remembered Shango's terrible face. He had seen what the priests did to families when Shango hurled a lightning stone at their hut. He knew his parents were right. It would be better to keep away from the white man and the God he told about. Yet deep down inside, he longed to know more.

Adeoti's older sister, Oke Oreokin, was as curious about this visitor as Adeoti. She found out everything she could about him and told Adeoti in the evenings. "Adeoti, guess what I saw today," she told him one evening with a gleam in her eyes. "I saw the visitor Babaegbe's wife and little baby as they went to the House of their God (the church building)," Oke Oreokin told him. "Oh, Adeoti, you've just got to see them! Tomorrow is their Ojoisimi (Day of Rest). They will be at the House of their God, she said. "We'll visit grandmother, then sneak over and see them there."

The next morning, Adeoti and his sister went to see their grandmother, then joined the other people gathering at the mud-walled, grass-thatched church. This was not at all what Adeoti had planned! He had wanted to see the white people and go. Now he had to sit and listen to them talk about the white man's god! Now what would Shango think? But Adeoti soon stopped thinking about Shango as he listened to the beautiful songs the others sang and then to the words the white man read them from the book of his God.

"I know that many of you are worshipers of Shango, the god of Thunder and Lightning," he told them. "You live in fear of him and his terrible temper. You tremble as you try to please him. I have come to tell you that neither this Shango you fear nor any of the other gods you worship are really gods. They are just idols. But there is another God, you've not yet heard of. His name is the LORD. He is the one, true God. He's the creator of the whole world. He's completely good and loving. He's all-powerful. And He has sent me to tell you about Him and how you can worship Him."

Then Babaegbe told them the gospel. He told them how the LORD created us to know and love Him, yet we have all chosen to rebel against Him and deserve His punishment. But that in His mercy, He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay for the sins of all who would ever repent of their sins and trust in Him as their Savior will be saved. He rose from the dead in victory.

“Babaegbe’s God isn’t anything like Shango,” Adeoti and his sister exclaimed. “He’s wonderful and good. We want to hear more about Him.”

Adeoti and his sister went back again and again to hear more. At first Adeoti feared Shango would punish him for being curious about another god, but as God worked in his heart, Adeoti began to truly believe that Shango really wasn’t anything but a fake god.

“The LORD, He is the one, true God. I want to leave Shango and turn and believe in the Him,” Adeoti told Babaegbe one Sunday. “I want to live my life for Him.”

Adeoti was making a big decision. He knew that his family would be terrified that Shango would punish him and his family. He had seen how on the Day of Shango’s Visit, the man dressed up like Shango punished the other Yoruba who had become Christians. But Adeoti knew the LORD was the one, true God, not Shango. He would choose to worship him, even if it meant being hurt.

The LORD was good to Adeoti. He had used his curiosity about people with white skin to bring him to know and worship Himself, the one, true God. He helped Adeoti to keep growing in his love and obedience to Him, despite opposition from people around him. When Adeoti grew up, he went to school to become a pastor and started his only little church among the Yoruba people, so that others might turn from their fear of Shango and turn instead to know and worship the Lord, too.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the One, True God

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:8-10

“There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.”

These verses remind us that the LORD is the one, true God and He alone is worthy of our worship. What about you and me? Like Adeoti, we all have to make a decision

to be a follower and worshiper of LORD. This is a big decision that changes our whole lives, but God delights to help us make that decision.

Let’s praise God for being the one, true God. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to worshiper and praise Him the rest of our lives.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Sometimes people worship gods, but sometimes it is other things or people they worship. Sometimes people even worship themselves. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who were the Curious Children? Who did they want to meet? Answer: Adeoti and Oke Oreokin. They wanted to meet the Babaagebe's wife and baby.</p> <p>b. Who else did they meet? How was he different from Shango? Answer: The Lord. He was the one, true God. He was wonderful and good. He welcomed and forgave sinners who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10 "Among the gods there is none like ____, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours. All the ____ you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring ____ to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God." Answers: you, nations, glory.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 9</i></p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"</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, who is wonderful and good...and not anything like Shango!</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Adeoti, we are sinners who need a Savior.</p> <p>T God, we thank You that You send out Your people to share the good news of salvation through Jesus. Thank You for sending people to tell us.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship and obey You our whole lives. Please send out more of Your people to tell the good news of Jesus to those who have never heard.</p>	<p>There Is None Like You <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 10</i></p> <p>Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord; No deeds can compare with yours. For you are great and do marvelous deeds, O Lord, You alone are God. Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 86:8, 10 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>This verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.</p>

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BIBLE VERSE

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

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CASE STORY

Acts 19:23-20:1; Ephesians; Revelation 2

Our story is:

The Case of the Troublesome Tentmaker.

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

1. Who was the Troublesome Tentmaker?
2. What did he do that caused trouble? Why was it worth the trouble he caused?

This story takes place in New Testament times, about twenty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Big money, big parties, and beautiful things. Does that sound like the lifestyle of the rich and famous today? Maybe so, but it also was life in Ephesus long ago, when it was once of the richest, most important cities in the Roman Empire.

What made Ephesus so important? One thing: the Temple of Artemis. Artemis was the most worshiped goddess in the Roman Empire. She was worshiped as Mother Creator: Maker and Sustainer of the earth. As the Mother Goddess: Queen of Heaven. As the Goddess of Nature: Giver of All Good Things. And, as the Moon Goddess.

The Ephesians built a massive temple to her. It was 450 feet long and 225 feet wide. And, while the temples to other gods were made of wood or maybe limestone, Artemis' temple was made of expensive marble and gold on the outside and filled with art work and statues from the world's finest artists on the inside. It was so stunning and many called this temple the world's most beautiful building.

The Temple was the center of life in Ephesus. Wedding and worship feasts were held in its gardens. Sacrifices were constantly being offered. People even used it like a bank, keeping their riches there for safekeeping. Who better to trust that the Mother Creator and Giver of All Good Things with their riches, they thought.

Because people came from around the world to worship Artemis and to bank their riches at her Temple, the city of Ephesus grew rich. Someone had to feed and entertain all the visitors. Someone had to keep track of their money and sell them souvenirs of Artemis and the Temple. And all those someones lived in Ephesus and grew rich.

But even with all these riches, the Ephesians weren't satisfied. Their hearts were empty because they were

trying to fill them with things that could never satisfy—riches, good times and a false god. Only knowing and loving the Lord, the one, true God could bring satisfaction, but they didn't know of Him. At least not yet.

But then, God sent a certain tentmaker named Paul to Ephesus to do just that. Now you may think of Paul as just a teacher, but he also made and sold tents. He did this to pay for his daily needs. He preached when he wasn't working.

At first Paul just taught the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles in the synagogue on the Sabbath once a week. These were people who would have known the Bible already and might have hearts ready to receive the good news of Jesus. But after three months, Paul moved to the Hall of Tyrannus where he preached every day from 11 to 4, during the city's mid-day lunch and rest break. And it was here that many of the other people of Ephesus heard about the LORD, the one, true God and Jesus, His Son, who came to save sinners from their sins.

What a very different message this was from what they heard at Artemis' Temple! The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many as Paul preached, giving them faith to repent and believe. Soon, so many Ephesians had become Christians that even the souvenir makers and sellers were noticing it in their sales. Artemis was losing! The Lord was winning!

Paul was overjoyed with this, but the souvenir makers and sellers were not! They were outraged! Something must be done to protect their jobs! Something must be done to protect Artemis!

Demetrius, a souvenir maker led the fight against Paul and the gospel. He called all the souvenir-makers together to discuss the matter. "Men, we make a lot of money from selling souvenirs, but now Paul has come and is causing trouble. He's convinced many that Artemis is no god at all. If we don't do something, we'll be out of business and Artemis and her great Temple will be robbed of the honor due her name," he warned.

The other souvenir-maker were furious. They took the matter in their own hands. Over and over they official worship motto of Artemis: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was upset. They looked for Paul but couldn't find him so they grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's friends. Then the mob of thousands of people rushed down the street and to the huge, sports stadium with them.

When Paul heard what was happening he said, "They have my friends, but it's me they want. I must go and speak to the crowd about this! myself," he told the Ephesian Christians.

"No, Paul, we can't let you! You know what that crazy mob will do to you. They will kill you!" they insisted.

As they were talking a messenger came with a note for Paul from the rulers of the city: "Paul, please don't go to the crowd in the stadium. They will kill you." Paul obeyed their wishes and stayed where he was.

The crowd in the stadium were getting upset and confused. Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most didn't even know why they were there. A Jewish man named Alexander was pushed to the front of the crowd to try to talk with them. Just as the crowd was quieting down to hear what he had to say, someone shouted, "Don't listen to this man, he's no better than Paul. He's no worshiper of Artemis, he's a Jew! This sent the crowd into another angry uproar and they began to shout in one, big voice again: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" and they kept shouting it for almost two hours straight! Wow!

Finally the mayor of Ephesus came forward to quiet the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, the whole world knows that our city is the special caretaker of Artemis and her temple. Nothing these men have said or done has dishonored her. If Demetrius and the other souvenir makers have a problem, they can bring it before the city leaders and they will take care of it. Just calm down and go home. If you don't, we may all get in trouble for rioting," he warned them.

When the crowd settled down and went home, Paul and the Ephesian believers gathered together. After the day's frightening events, Paul had something to tell them. "My dear brothers and sisters, it is time for me to leave Ephesus," Paul told them. "But before I go, I want to encourage you. When you think of these men and what happened today, don't be scared of what they might do to you because you believe in the Lord, the one, true God. Don't turn back to your old ways of worshiping Artemis. You know that she is only an idol of lifeless stone. You have been chosen and loved by God. You have come to know His love for you through Jesus. His Holy Spirit fills your hearts with joy. You have joined the people of God who in their praises of the Lord make something far more beautiful than even their splendid Temple of Artemis. Keep trusting in the Lord. He

is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within you!" Then Paul and the Ephesians said goodbyes; and he, Gaius and Aristarchus were off.

What happened to the Ephesian Christians after Paul left? They did face a lot more trouble from the worshipers of Artemis. Some were even tempted to turn away from Jesus and go back to the easy life of worshiping Artemis. But through it all, the Lord helped them to remain faithful. Never did He stop helping them to worship Him; and never did they grow weary in telling others about the Lord, the one, true God.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the One, True God

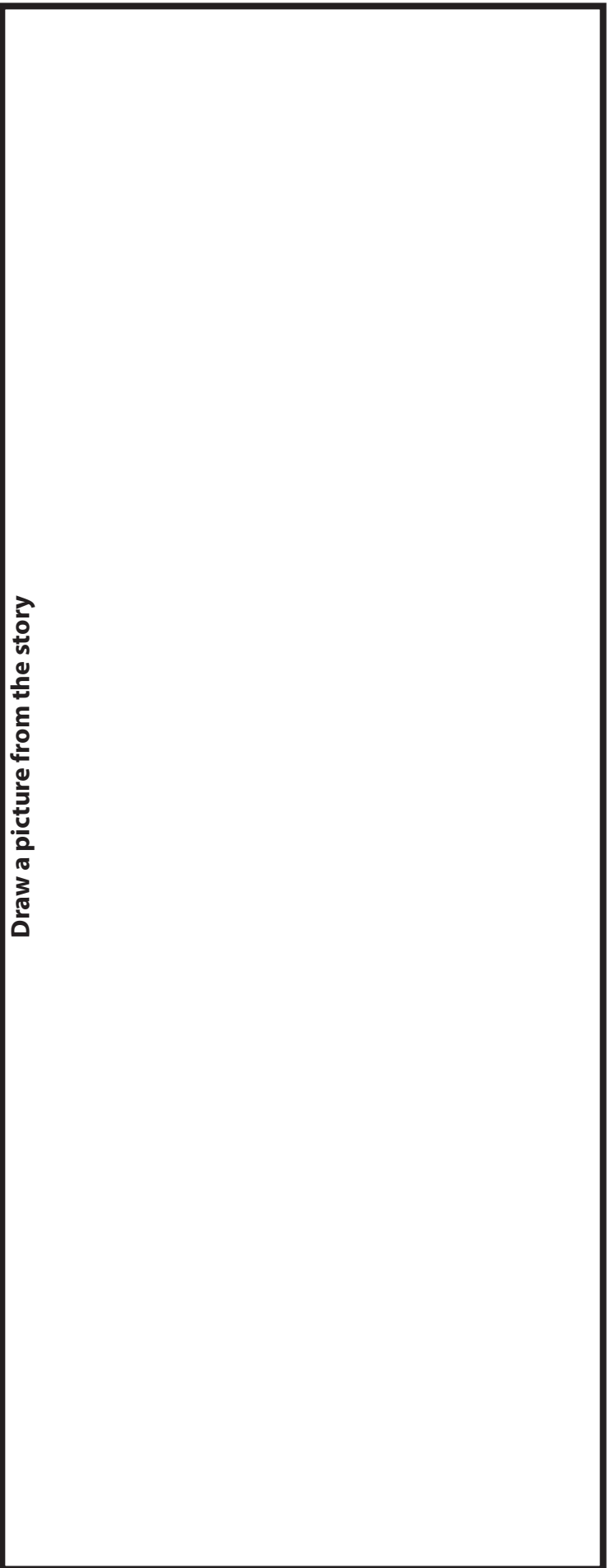
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"Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God."

These verses remind us that the LORD is alone worthy of all our worship. Paul rejoiced to see so many Ephesians turn away from Artemis and praise the Lord as the one, true God that He is. But what about you and me? The Lord calls us to come and worship Him as the amazing God who does marvelous deeds that He is.

Let's praise Him for being greater than all other gods.

Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to bring glory to His name the rest of our lives.



Draw a picture from the story

<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: Sometimes people worship gods, but sometimes it is other things or people they worship. Sometimes people even worship themselves. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who were the Curious Children? Who did they want to meet? Answer: Adeoti and Oke Oreokin. They wanted to meet the Babaagebe's wife and baby.</p> <p>b. Who else did they meet? How was he different from Shango? Answer: The Lord. He was the one, true God. He was wonderful and good. He welcomed and forgave sinners who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10 "Among the gods there is none like ____, O LORD; no deeds can compare with yours. All the ____ you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring ____ to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God." Answers: you, nations, glory.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 9</i></p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"</p>
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<p align="center"><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the one, true God, unlike any other god that this world worships.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like the Ephesians we need Jesus to be our Savior. The good things in this life we love can never satisfy our hearts. Only You can.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus, just like you sent Paul to tell the Ephesians.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Satisfy our hearts with You.</p>	<p>There Is None Like You <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 10</i></p> <p>Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord; No deeds can compare with yours. For you are great and do marvelous deeds, O Lord, You alone are God. Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 86:8, 10 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>This verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.</p>

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PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

There is only one God; yet, He is God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father reigns over everything according to His perfect wisdom and will. Jesus, God the Son, perfectly loves His Father and delights to obey Him. God, the Holy Spirit, does the will of the Father and the Son. He works in the hearts of God's people. They work together perfectly and they have always enjoyed perfect happiness and oneness in heaven.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are called the "Trinity" (Three as one) because they are three separate persons, but only one God. We cannot understand this easily because God is so different from anything else we know.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

CASE STORY

Genesis 1-3; John 1:1-3,14,17; Philippians 2:6-11;
Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1,12; Revelation 22

Our story is called:

The Case of the Perfect Wonderfulness.

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

1. What is Perfect Wonderfulness? Who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness?
2. Who else will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness? When?

This is a story that starts out before Old Testament times, goes through New Testament times...goes far into the future.

Really, I can't tell you when this story begins, for it begins long before there were days, months and years. I can't even tell you where it begins, for it began before there was earth with all its mountains and trees, birds and animals...or even heaven filled with angels. But even though I can't tell you when it was or where it was, I can tell you a little bit about what it was like: it was Perfect Wonderfulness!

What is Perfect Wonderfulness? It is perfect love, joy and peace. It is the indescribable happiness and fellowship of knowing and loving the greatest Someone there is to know—and to know Him completely and perfectly. It is living perfectly without sin, basking only in the brilliant, infinite glory of spotless holiness and goodness. It is the best anyone can ever know or be. It is better than anything that you or I can ever, ever, ever imagine.

This story is the most amazing love story about the One who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness. It is the story of the God's love for Himself: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who altogether we call "the Trinity:" the Three that are One God.

Before the world began, there was only God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That's all. No people, no angels, no heaven, no earth, no universe. No anything. But God was not lonely; He was completely happy, for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoyed Perfect Wonderfulness. There was nothing more God needed, for God is the most wonderful person anyone can ever know. They loved each other perfectly, they knew each other completely, they delighted in their perfect holiness and glory. God was happier, more satisfied, and more complete than anything you or I could ever imagine. It had always been

that way and it would always be that way.

God, in His Perfect Wonderfulness, decided, for His own pleasure, to create a universe of things that would display His glory: a heaven of millions of glorious angels, a universe of glittering stars, a beautiful, majestic earth of mountains, valleys and plants, overflowing with a countless number of creatures of every kind imaginable. Best of all, He would create for Himself a people who even though very, very different and small compared with His great, glorious, infinite Self; yet, who had a tiny spirit like His to be filled up with as much of His perfect closeness, love, happiness as they could hold. Then they could share a bit of the Perfect Wonderfulness that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit shared together.

God the Father knew His perfect plan for His creation from start to finish. God the Son and the Holy Spirit delighted to carry it out. God the Son was ready to create all things that the Father wanted. The Holy Spirit hovered over the formless, emptiness that was to be the world, waiting the Father's command: "Let there be light... let there be dry ground...let there be plants...let there be birds...let there be animals and fish..." Everything that God the Father desired to create in the heavens and the earth, God the Son delighted to be created through Himself in absolute perfection.

Everything was good that God the Father planned and was created through the Son, but the best was yet to come. Now He would make the people for whom He had planned to enjoy Him and His Perfect Wonderfulness in a way unlike all of His other creations.

"Let's make humans in our own image," God the Father said to the Son and the Holy Spirit, "with an invisible spirit inside their bodies so they can know Us and enjoy our Perfect Wonderfulness." So man was created through the Son of God from the soil of the ground; and then woman was made from the man's rib. God breathed life into them and they were alive.

How delightful it was to be alive! The man and woman—Adam and Eve—looked at all the beautiful things God had created and were amazed at His glory they displayed. They loved each other and enjoyed close fellowship. Best of all, they delighted in the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing God. Every day was filled with knowing more of Him by exploring all of the delightful creation He gave them; and most of all, by enjoying God's

close fellowship with them. Being with God was Perfect Wonderfulness!

But for humans, the Perfect Wonderfulness wouldn't last. In heaven a great angel called Satan led many angels to rebel against God. God cast them out of heaven, for nothing sinful may live in the presence of His Perfect Wonderfulness. In his fury, Satan worked to spoil the Perfect Wonderfulness that people knew with God. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating from the one tree from which they were commanded not to eat—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. "If you eat from this tree, then you will die," God had told them. Adam and Eve ate its fruit and terrible changes came. They tried to hide from God.

"Your sin has broken the wonderful fellowship you had with Me," God told them. Now all people deserve separation from Me and My Perfect Wonderfulness forever. But I will send a Savior to crush Satan and make the way for sinners to know Me and My Perfect Wonderfulness again," He promised.

Who was that Savior to be? God always knew who it would be: it would be Jesus, God the Son. Only He could pay for the sins of God's people and restore them to the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing God.

But what of the Perfect Wonderfulness God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit knew? Would the Father really send His Son away from that perfect fellowship? Would the Son really set aside the perfect happiness of their fellowship to save sinners? Yes, He would! God the Son delighted to do His Father's will, even this very, painful, hard thing. So He left the fullness of that fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit and took on the skin and bones of a human baby. He was named Jesus, "God saves." He was still completely God, but now He was completely man, too.

When Jesus grew up, He traveled all over Israel healing sick people and teaching about God. He told them He had come to be their Savior, so that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him would be saved. The Holy Spirit would come and live inside them. Through Him, they would know God and some of His Perfect Wonderfulness right here on earth. He promised He was going to heaven to make a place for them. When they died, they would go and live there forever and be completely filled up with God's Perfect Wonderfulness.

Every day, Jesus prayed to His Father; the Holy Spirit

comforted Him; and He delighted to carry out His Father's plan. Yet He longed to for His work on earth to be finished and He would go home to enjoy the fullness of God's Perfect Wonderfulness again. Would that would not come until after the day He paid for the sins of God's people on the cross.

What a terrible day of pain and suffering that was for Jesus! His body hurt terribly, but that wasn't the worst of what He suffered. For when Jesus offered His life up in the place of His people's, part of what He offered up was the Perfect Wonderfulness He knew with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me!" the Son of God cried out, as He was cut off from Them. How great was God's love that He would even do this in order that we might know Him and His Perfect Wonderfulness, though we have done nothing at all to deserve it!

But not even death could cut off the perfect Son of God forever! Jesus completely paid the punishment for God's people's sins when he suffered and died on the cross. On the third day after He died, Jesus rose up from the grave as the conqueror of sin and death forever. He rose to heaven to be restored fully again to the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.

What rejoicing there was then and will always be! Rejoicing over the Perfect Wonderfulness of God's fellowship enjoyed by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And, rejoicing over the restored fellowship that all God's people can now have with God, too. Here on earth, they will get glimmers of Perfect Wonderfulness through the Holy Spirit living in their heart. But later in heaven, it will full, bursting-at-the-seams enjoyment of God's Perfect Wonderfulness. And it will last forever and ever.

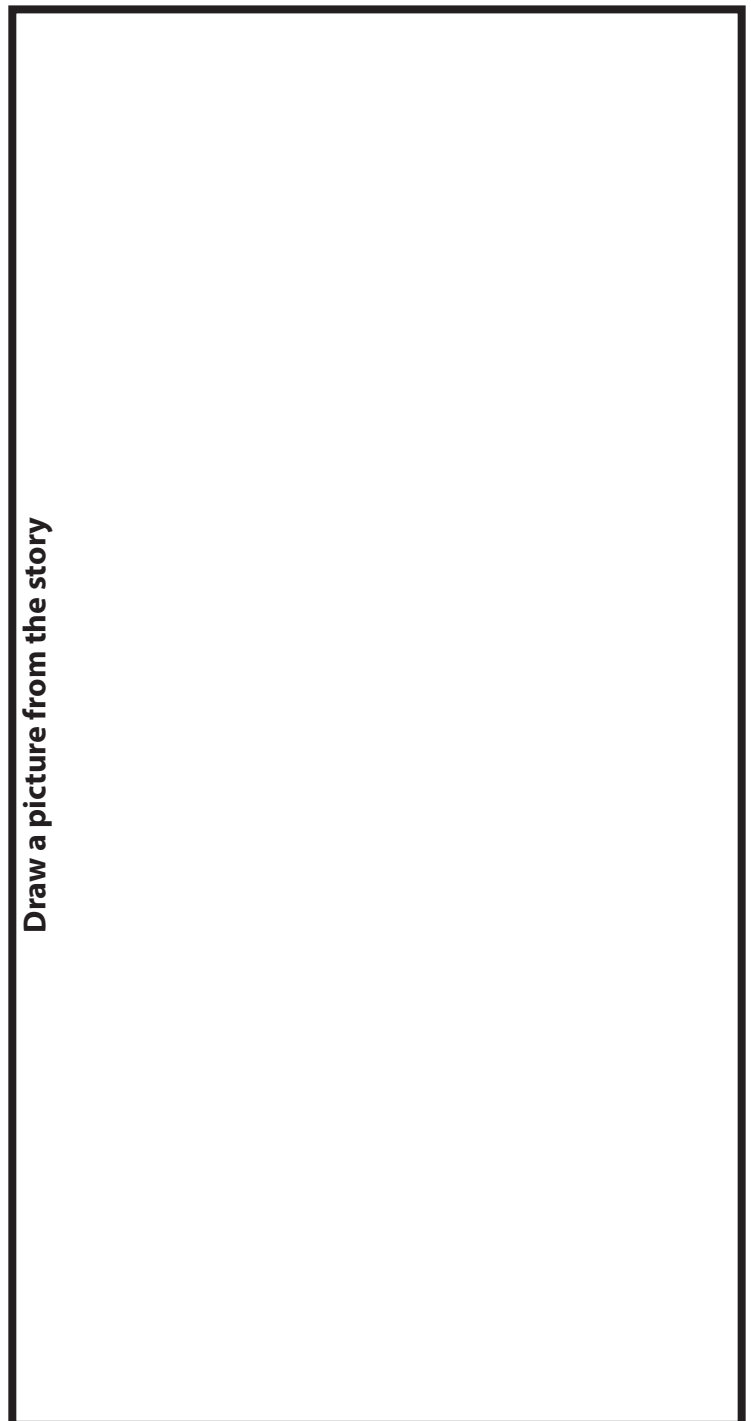
Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

What a difficult idea the Trinity is for us: The LORD who is One God, yet Three Persons! But is that so surprising that our great God who made everything and knows everything is greater than our little human minds can understand? How amazing that God would want to share

Perfect Wonderfulness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with sinful people! That will be the most indescribably awesome thing anyone has ever or could ever experience! Let's praise God for being Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let's praise Him for calling sinful people—even people like you and me—to share in His Perfect Wonderfulness, when we repent of our sins and turn and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would, by His Holy Spirit, know some of His Perfect Wonderfulness right here on earth...and one day, be among those in heaven who are filled up forever and ever, with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as they can hold.



Draw a picture from the story

<p align="center">SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE TRUTH HYMN</p>
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The LORD is three gods, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Answer: False. The LORD is one God, but three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is very hard for us to understand, but it is true.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What is Perfect Wonderfulness? Who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness? Answer: It is the indescribably wonderful fellowship of love, joy and peace that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have with each other.</p> <p>b. Who else will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness? When? Answer: All of God’s people will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness when they go to live with God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:18 “May the grace of the Lord ____, and the love of God and the ____ of the Holy Spirit be with you ____” Answers: Jesus Christ; fellowship; all.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Early in the morning, Our song shall rise to Thee; Hoi, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>The LORD--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is the Trinity. All that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is and does shows us His perfect holiness, mercy, and mightiness. He has shown such love and goodness to sinners by all that He has done that God’s people cannot help but call Him the blessed Trinity.</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 perfectly wonderful and satisfied in Himself. Praise Him for being Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we have not acted like knowing Him and obeying Him is perfect wonderfulness. We choose to live life our own way. We need Jesus to save us.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save sinners. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside the hearts of Your people.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit so we can know some of Your Perfect Wonderfulness now. Take us home to be with You, one day, so we can be filled up completely with Your Perfect Wonderfulness.</p>	<p>May the Grace <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 12</i></p> <p>May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God, And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. May the grace of Lord (Jesus Christ), And the love of God (God the Father) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. Second Corinthians Thirteen, fourteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Each of these things that Paul wants God’s people to know and enjoy are gifts from each person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives them the free, undeserved gifts of salvation through faith in Him. The Father loves His people so much that He gave Jesus to die for them. And, He continues to love them every day of their lives. The Holy Spirit lives inside them, giving them closeness with God (fellowship). He helps them to know, love and obey God better.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

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Father, Son and Holy Spirit

There is only one God; yet, He is God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father reigns over everything according to His perfect wisdom and will. Jesus, God the Son, perfectly loves His Father and delights to obey Him. God, the Holy Spirit, does the will of the Father and the Son. He works in the hearts of God's people. They work together perfectly and they have always enjoyed perfect happiness and oneness in heaven.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are called the "Trinity" (Three as one) because they are three separate persons, but only one God. We cannot understand this easily because God is so different from anything else we know.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Fighting Fire.

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

1. Who set the fighting fire? Why did he chose to fight with fire?
2. What did he hope to tell with the fire? What plant helped him tell it?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place around 432, starting in the castle of Niall of the Nine Hostages, High King of Ireland.

"Our enemies, the Romans, are losing control over Britain," Niall told his officers. "Now's the time to raid her villages and take what we want. Prepare the ships!"

Before long, Niall's ships sailed across the Irish Sea and anchored near the village of Bannaven Taberneae in Britain. Soldiers snuck ashore and raided Bannaven Taberneae and other villages, stealing riches and kidnapping people, until their ships could hold no more. Among those kidnapped was Maewyn Succat, the sixteen-year-old son of an important church leader in Bannaven Taberneae. Maewyn's father was a godly man, but his son was nothing like him. Maewyn loved to have wild parties with his friends. His father had urged him to turn from his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior, but Maewyn refused. He wanted nothing to do with God. Now both father and friends were gone. Was God gone, too? Maewyn wondered what would happen to him next.

In Ireland, Maewyn was sold to Miliuic, a mighty chieftain who owned lots of land. He made Maewyn work out in the rain and cold as a shepherd. Miliuic wasn't just a chieftain, he was also a Druid. Druids were men trained to talk to gods and the spirits of dead people. The Irish people believed in many gods, but especially honored Bel, the Sun God. They also believed that everything in the earth, sea and sky has a spirit, not just people. They believed that Bel was the one who gave life to people and to everything in nature. Druids cast magic spells and held ceremonies that were supposed to keep these gods and spirit happy. Maewyn learned all about the Irish gods and watched Miliuic and the other Druids perform their ceremonies. He was disgusted with what he saw. He thought their gods were only idols.

Life as a slave was hard for Maewyn, but the Lord used

to make changes in his heart. He remembered what his father had told him about God. He confessed his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. God forgave his sins and filled his heart with the Holy Spirit. Now Maewyn wanted to live for God.

Not long after becoming a Christian, Maewyn escaped from Miliuc and sailed back to Britain. His love for God and the Bible grew and grew. He went to a special school to become a priest (like a pastor) so he could spend his life teaching others about God. He was baptized and given a new, special Christian name: Patrick.

The Lord had brought Maewyn the gift of salvation through his time in Ireland and now the Lord was sending him back to Ireland to share that same good news with others. "The Irish don't know the one, true God. They only know idols and spirits. They depend upon Druids. I want to go to Ireland to tell them about Jesus," Patrick exclaimed.

Soon Patrick and twenty-five other men set sail for Ireland, praying that the Lord would show them how to reach the Irish people with the gospel.

"If Ireland is to believe in the good news of Jesus, the people must that it is the Lord who is God, not Bel or any of the other Irish gods," Patrick told his men. "We must confront the High King Laoghaire, son of Niall, and the Druids. Then the people will have courage to listen to our words. I have a plan," he said.

"Easter day falls at the same time as Beltaine, the Great Feast of Bel. We will use their celebration of the Sun King who supposedly brings new life to dead things each spring, to tell them about Jesus the true King, who truly conquered death once and for all! We must travel to Slane's Hill the home of Tara, the High King's palace, and prepare everything," Patrick said.

The evening of the Feast of Bel arrived. The steep road up Slane's Hill was busy all day as royalty in their regal finery and druids dressed in long, flowing robes with full hoods drooped low over their faces gathered together at Tara for the great ceremony. That night, King Laoghaire would light a huge bonfire to honor the Sun god, Bel as greatest of all gods. No fire was to be lit that night before Bel's fire had been lit. Anyone who did so would be put to death.

That night, the King, Druids and others gathered for the bonfire, but just before Laoghaire prepared to light the great pile of wood, someone gasped out in horror: "Look there, at the base of Slane's Hill! A great fire burns already!"

"Who dares dishonor Bel like this?" the High King exclaimed. "Bring them to me for questioning and execution!" he ordered.

Patrick and his men were brought to Loaghaire. "How dare you defy Bel with your fire?" the king asked.

"I am Patrick. My men and I dare defy Bel because we know that neither he nor any of the other of the gods you worship are worthy of praise. You worship Bel as the Sun King, highest of all the Irish gods. You believe that he is the Bringer of new life to dead things each spring. But I tell you, Bel is not God. He cannot do these things. There is only one true God of everything: He is the Lord. We urge you now to turn from your sinful, rebellious ways. Leave Bel and follow the Lord. He is the loving Father God who sent His Son, Jesus, to come and die for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in Him for forgiveness. We celebrate Him with our fire tonight on the eve of the great day when He rose as Conqueror of Death once and for all time. He sends His very Holy Spirit to live in His people's hearts that they might have the joy of knowing Him and serving all of their lives. In Him there is hope and joy; not in Bel or any of your other fake gods. This is the message He has called me and my men to come to Ireland to tell you and all the people of Ireland."

The High King was amazed at Patrick's bold words. He was curious about this strange new God that Patrick spoke of. "You say you worship one God, yet you speak of three— Father Son and Holy Spirit. Which is it? Surely it is one or the other?"

Stooping down Patrick plucked a shamrock growing in the grass at his feet. "King Laoghaire, the true God is not like us. He is more than we can know. He will always be a mystery to us, but nothing is a mystery to Him. If He says that it is so, it must be."

Holding up the tiny, three-leaved, clover-shaped little plant to the King, Patrick said, "Look at this shamrock, does it have three leaves or one? It is both. Is it so hard to believe that the Lord who made a small plant with such a mystery, could also be Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet just one God?"

"This man answers well. Could he be telling the truth?" the king wondered.

Then the Druids confronted Patrick: "You talk big, but if your god is truly God, He must have given you powers to prove it. Call down snow on this spring night!" they demanded.

"It's not for me to tell God what to do. He is the one who makes snow and decides those things. I have no power to do what you ask," Patrick humbly answered.

No one knows for sure what happened next, but some say that upon Patrick's words, snow did indeed begin to fall to the great amazement of everyone.

Whatever happened that night, it was enough to change the mind of the king. For instead of killing Patrick and his men, he freed them and gave them permission to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Ireland.

Patrick spent the next thirty years of his life traveling the green hills and valleys of Ireland, telling everyone he could about Jesus. Through his preaching, tens of thousands of Irish people turned away from Bel and the Druids and began to worship the Lord, the one, true God.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

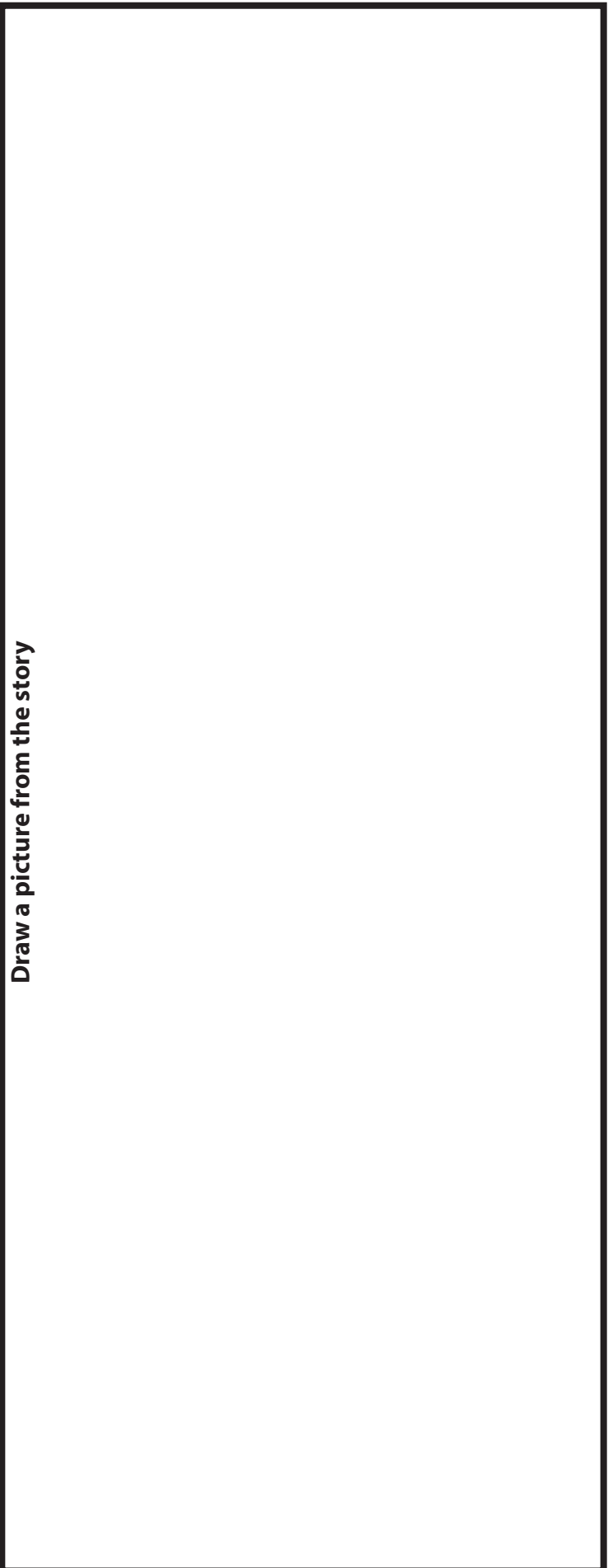
Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Patrick had been a young man who not too unlike you and me. He grew up hearing all about the good news of Jesus, yet it was not until many hardships later that he came to truly believe what he had been taught.

Let's praise our merciful God who would love someone like Patrick who knew all the right answers, but still rejected Him for many years. Let's pray that God will send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, so that we would confess our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior even now.

Draw a picture from the story



<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 the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together, perfectly fulfilling all of God’s plans. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who set the fighting fire? What was he fighting with the fire? Answer: Patrick. The worship of Bel, the Sun god, the people of Ireland worshiped.</p> <p>b. What did he hope to tell with the fire? What plant helped him tell it? Answer: He hoped to tell about the true God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A shamrock (a three-leaved clover.)</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:18 “May the ___ of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of ___ and the fellowship of the ___ be with you all.” Answers: Grace; God; Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Early in the morning, Our song shall rise to Thee; Hoy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>The LORD--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is the Trinity. All that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is and does shows us His perfect holiness, mercy, and mightiness. He has shown such love and goodness to sinners by all that He has done that God’s people cannot help but call Him the blessed Trinity.</p>
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CASE STORY

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3: John 2

Our story is:

The Case of the Singular Son.

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

1. Who was the singular son? Why was he so unusual?
2. What is the most singular thing that the son delight to do for his father?

This story takes place in during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth. It starts out in a carpenter's shop in the village of Nazareth.

With strong arms and able hands, Jesus the carpenter finished his work. Done! Not just that project, but also his time as a carpenter. For thirty years now, Jesus had known life as the son of Mary. He had grown up with Mary, his mother; Joseph, her husband; and their children—his half brothers and sisters. He grew in favor with his family and with the villagers: always kind, good, loving, wise...and an amazing knowledge and deep love for God. Growing up in a carpenter's family, He had grown to be a fine carpenter: how to make a sturdy cart, a perfectly round wheel, bowls, furniture and hand tools. Yes, no one would doubt that there was a finer man that Jesus, the Son of Mary.

But Jesus was more than the son of Mary: He was Jesus, the Son of God. He had known the Perfect Wonderfulness of love and fellowship of the Father and the Holy Spirit. He had lived in the splendor of glory long, long, long before the world had been created. And when it was created, it was He through whom it had all been created. It was not to become a carpenter that Jesus, the Son of God had left the riches of that fullest of glorious fellowship with the Father and Holy Spirit to live as a man. He had come to do a mighty work, that only God, Himself, could successfully complete:

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God
who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness

forever and ever.

There was no more time for making tables or fixing wagons. It was time for the Jesus, Son of God, the Messiah King, to bring God's kingdom to the world.

Saying goodbye, Jesus started on His way. Taking the south road out of Nazareth, He headed towards the towering mountains of Samaria, then turned east, making the great descent from the high hills down, down to the Jordan River, a twenty-mile walk away.

Green, grassy hills gave way to ones with only dry, scraggly brush, and then finally opened up into green thickets of trees and bushes as the road came to the sparkling waters of the Jordan River. Jesus made His way along the river's edge until He found what He was looking for: his cousin, John, the Baptizer: a wild-looking man dressed in camel's hair clothes, preaching to the crowd that had travelled out to the wilderness to hear him.

"Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near," John the Baptist told them. "It is time for the promised Messiah King to come to save His people. Turn from your sins and ask God for forgiveness so that your heart will be ready to receive Him when He comes. Come, be baptized as a sign to all and to God that you desire to live for Him."

"Are you the Messiah King, John?" the people wanted to know.

"No, I am not the Messiah King. I am only one come to prepare you for Him. "I baptize you with water for repentance, that you might show your heart's desire to love and follow God, not your own sinful ways. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will purifying your hearts of sin and fill them with His Holy Spirit so that you will truly love and obey God. (fire here refers to being purified from sin.)"

Jesus made His way through the clumps of grasses and trees along the shore to where John was standing. As John saw Him, the Holy Spirit whispered in his heart that this was the Messiah King he had been preparing the people for.

"I have come to be baptized," Jesus told John.

John could not believe his ears. The Messiah King had no sin to turn from or be forgiven of. Why should He be baptized? He tried to stop Jesus, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness. (to complete all of God's perfect plan so that He would be the perfect sacrifice given in the place of God's people to save them from their sins.)" For this Jesus was more than the son of Mary. He was the Son of God had come to do a mighty work:

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God
who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness
of fellowship with God they could know,
forever and ever.

Jesus was to save His people by being the substitute for the sins of His sinful people. He must start with being baptized just as they needed to be.

So John and Jesus waded into the River Jordan.

Jesus grasped John's arm as he dipped Him back and down below the surface of the water, then forward, up and out.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, most amazing thing happened. As he came up from under the water, heaven was torn open, and the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and remained upon Jesus. Then the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

God the Father was proclaiming the good news about Jesus! This baptism was far more than just a baptism. It was an anointing of the promised Messiah King, announcing the beginning of the work He had been sent to do. For this Jesus was more than the Son of Mary. He was the Son of God, come at last to do the mighty work of salvation of God's people.

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God

who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness
of fellowship with God they could know,
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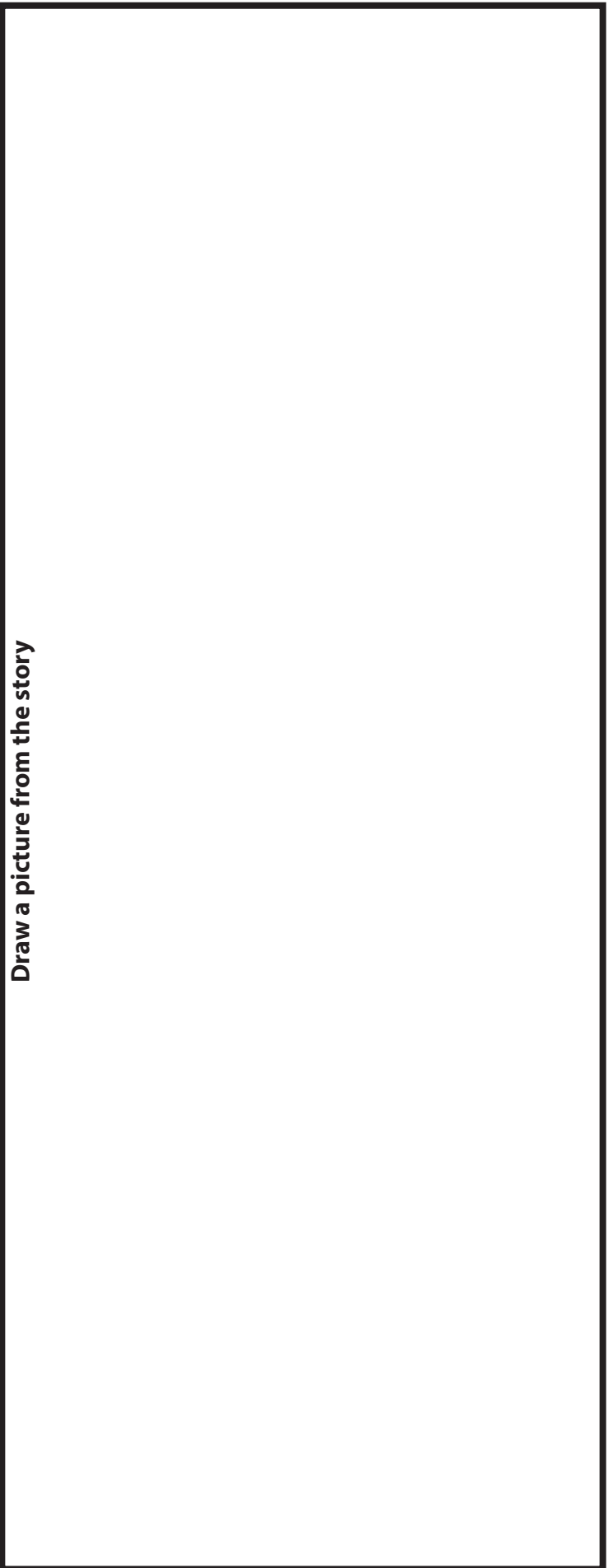
Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 13:14

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Can you imagine what it would have been like that day when all three persons of the Trinity made Themselves so clearly known? To be present when Jesus, the Son of God was announced by the very voice of God the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit for the mighty work He had come to do. Will we ever have a chance to experience the Father, Son and Holy Spirit like this? This side of heaven we will never have that amazing experience. Yet, for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, there will be a time in heaven when they will experience not just a glimpse of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but will be filled up as full as humans can be with Their Perfect Wonderfulness; and they will enjoy this Perfect Wonderfulness forever and ever.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 The big Bible word for God being one God, yet three persons in Trinity which means three as one.
 Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the singular son? Why was he so unusual?
 Answer: Jesus. He was the Son of God and the son of Mary.

b. What is the most singular thing that the son delight to do for his father?
 Answer: He chose to leave His home in heaven, come to earth as human, suffer and die on the cross to save God's people from their sins.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
2 Corinthians 13:18
 "May the grace of the ___ Jesus Christ, and the ___ of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with ___ all."
 Answers: Lord; love; you.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11

Verse 1
 Holy, holy, holy,
 Lord God Almighty,
 Early in the morning,
 Our song shall rise to Thee;
 Hoi, holy, holy,
 Merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons,
 Blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes

The LORD--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is the Trinity. All that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is and does shows us His perfect holiness, mercy, and mightiness. He has shown such love and goodness to sinners by all that He has done that God's people cannot help but call Him the blessed Trinity.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being for being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one God, yet three persons. Amazing and more than we can understand.

C God, we confess that unlike Jesus, who was without sin and did not need to repent or be baptized, we are sinners! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to be the Savior of all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, just as John the Baptist hoped that the people who listened to him would. Work in us that we might be Your people and know some of the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing You right now; and then in heaven, know all of Your Perfect Wonderfulness that we can know—forever and ever.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

May the Grace
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.
 May the grace of Lord (Jesus Christ),
 And the love of God (God the Father)
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.
 Second Corinthians Thirteen, fourteen.

Words: 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Each of these things that Paul wants God's people to know and enjoy are gifts from each person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives them the free, undeserved gifts of salvation through faith in Him. The Father loves His people so much that He gave Jesus to die for them. And, He continues to love them every day of their lives. The Holy Spirit lives inside them, giving them closeness with God (fellowship). He helps them to know, love and obey God better.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

The LORD made people finite. That means they have things they can do and things they can't do. People can only be at one place at one time. They have to travel to move from one place to another. They have a time to live and a time to die.

The LORD is very different from people. He is infinite—He is everywhere, all the time. He never began and He will never end. There never was a time when the LORD was not alive. There will never be a time when He will stop living. He knows and plans what happens, even before something has begun. He sees everything in all times and in all places, all at the same time.

Because the LORD is everywhere, all the time, He is able to hear and answer all of His people's prayers at the same time. He is able to protect them and help them, no matter where they are. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

CASE STORY

Genesis 24

Our story is called:

The Case of the Worshipful Wife-Picker.

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

1. Who was the Wife-Picker? Who did he pick a wife for?
2. Who did he worship and why?

This story is an Old Testament story. It starts out in Canaan about 2000 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Abraham called his most trusted servant to his side. "I am a very old man and soon will die," he told him. "Go to Haran where my family lives and get a wife for my son, Isaac."

"But what if the woman won't come back with me?" the servant replied. "Should I take Isaac back to Haran?"

"No, Isaac must stay here, in the land the LORD has given us," Abraham insisted. "But don't be afraid! The LORD will be with you. He will even send His angel before you." Abraham had known the LORD for many years. Always the LORD went with him. He always fulfilled His good plans. He was the God who was everywhere, all the time.

Ten camels were loaded with rich gifts to give Isaac's future wife and her family, then Abraham sent his servant and his helpers on their way to faraway Haran. After weeks and weeks, they arrived. Dusty and thirsty, they headed straight to the town well for a drink of refreshing water.

It was sunset and the well was crowded with young women collecting water used in preparing the evening meal. Abraham's servant was delighted. Perhaps Isaac's wife would be among these women! But how to figure out which one she was? He had no idea how to pick her out, the he knew someone who did: the LORD!

The servant prayed for a big sign: "O LORD, God of Abraham, please show me exactly who You want Isaac's wife to be. Please may it be that when I ask the right young woman to give me a drink of water, she gives me a drink of water and also agrees to water these ten camels."

All ten camels! That would be a huge job! Camels are able to drink a lot of water. She might have to make eighty trips back and forth to the well! to quench their thirst! But nonetheless, this was the servant's prayer. And before he had even finished praying, the LORD answered it! A beautiful, young woman named Rebekah came with

her jar on her shoulder and began filling it at the well.

"Would you give me some water from your jar, please?" the servant asked her.

"Drink, sir and I'll give your camels their fill of water, too," she offered.

"That's the sign I asked for! This must be the right young woman!" the servant thought excitedly. "The LORD has led her right to me!"

When the camels had finished drinking, the servant took out a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets and gave them to the young woman. What could these presents mean, the girl wondered. They were worth thousands of dollars!

"Whose daughter are you? And do you think your family could give us a place to sleep tonight?" the servant asked. (This sounds odd to us, but there weren't hotels to stay in. This was what visitors did.)

"I'm Rebekah, Bethuel's daughter, granddaughter of Nahor," she answered. "And yes, we have plenty of room for you and your camels."

Now the servant knew for sure this was the right woman. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother! So right there, in front of Rebekah, the camels, and everyone else at the well, he bowed down to the ground and worshiped the LORD. "Praise be to the LORD!" he exclaimed. "He is faithful! He has led me straight to his brother's family!"

Rebekah couldn't believe what was happening to her. She ran home and told her family. Everyone was excited. Laban, Rebekah's brother went down to the well to meet the servant and welcome him to their home. The camels were stabled and feed. The servant and his helpers were brought water to wash the dust off their feet, then food to satisfy their appetites.

But the servant refused to eat. "I won't eat until I've told you what I have to say."

"Speak up, then," Laban replied.

The servant then told them everything that had happened, ending with his bold prayer at the well and how the LORD had brought Rebekah in answer to it.

Laban and Bethuel—Rebekah's father—listened to the servant tell his amazing story and said, "This is from the LORD. Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

Once more Abraham's servant bowed down to the

ground and worshiped the LORD. How He had perfected worked out His plans! He truly was the God who was everywhere, all the time.

Then the servant gave Abraham's presents to the family. He gave Rebekah lots of expensive clothes and jewelry. He gave Laban and Rebekah's mother expensive gifts, too.

After a good night's sleep, the servant was eager to take Rebekah back to Canaan to her new home.

Laban and Rebekah's mother weren't ready for her to go. "Let us have ten more days together," they asked.

"Please don't make me wait now that the LORD has given me success," he pleaded.

"We will leave it up to Rebekah," Laban and her mother decided. "What do you say, Rebekah?" they asked her.

What would she say? She had only met this man yesterday afternoon and now she was to leave her family and move hundreds of miles only one day later? Most girls would have had a year to get ready to leave their families! But the LORD, the God who is everywhere, all the time, had been at work in Rebekah's heart, preparing her for this day, even though she didn't even know it was coming. "I will go," she said. So they blessed Rebekah and sent her on her way, along with her nurse, Deborah and Abraham's servant and his men.

For weeks they traveled west to Canaan. At last, they neared Abraham's lands. Rebekah looked up and saw a man in one of the fields coming towards them.

"Who's that man coming to meet us?" Rebekah asked the servant.

"It's Isaac," he told her.

"I must quickly cover my face with my engagement veil so he'll know that I'm his bride!" Rebekah thought.

As Isaac came up to them, the servant told him the amazing story of how the LORD led him to Rebekah.

"Isaac, everything was just as your father said that it would be. The LORD has been so good to me. He never left me alone. He was always with me to guide me to do what He wanted me to do and to fulfill His great plans. The LORD is the God who is everywhere, all the time. He was with me every step of the way. Truly He sent His angel ahead of me so that I could get just the right wife for you."

Isaac only had to take one look at Rebekah and see how good the LORD had been to him. He had given him a beautiful treasure in her. Then Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she

became his wife, and he loved her.

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 139:7-10

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

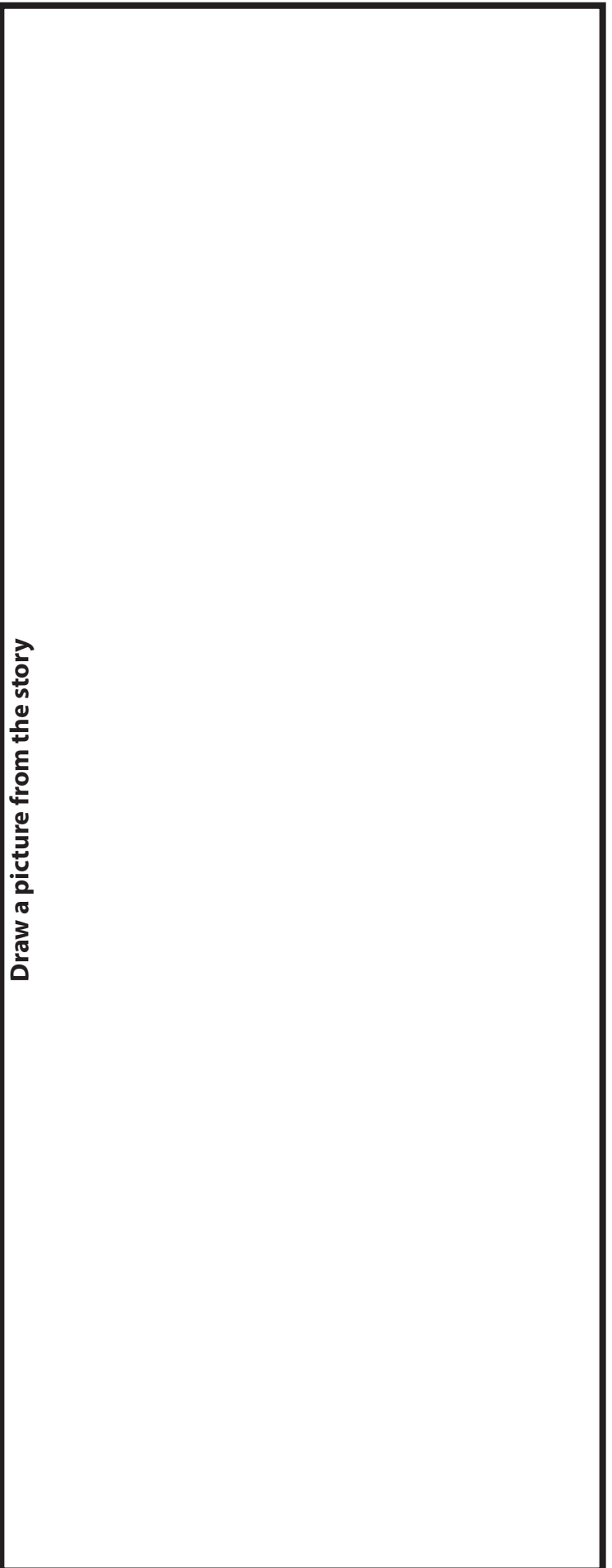
These verses remind us that God is never limited to being in just one place at a time. He knows and sees and is at work everywhere, all at the same time, just as we saw today in the lives of Abraham’s servant, Rebekah and Isaac. How amazing the LORD is! He’s not like anyone else!

But what about you and me? The LORD is still everywhere, all the time now. He still knows what’s best and does what’s best. He wants us to trust Him with our whole lives. The first step in doing that is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

And when we do, we can know that just like with Abraham, God will always be at work fulfilling all of His good plans to do good to us and to bring Himself glory. And, we can know that no matter where we are or whatever He calls us to do, that He will be with us, helping us do it, because He is the God who is everywhere, all the time.

Let’s praise the LORD, for being the God who is everywhere, all the time. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to know that He is with His people, everywhere, all the time.

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 LORD made people finite, just like Him. That means there is a limit to what they can do. Answer: True, the LORD made people finite. But false, He is not like us. He is infinite. There is no limit to what He can do.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions:</p> <p>a. Who was the Wife-Picker? Who did he pick a wife for? Answer: Abraham's most trusted servant was the wife-picker. He picked a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son.</p> <p>b. Who did he worship and why? Answer: He worshiped the LORD who was everywhere, all the time. He had guided the servant to the right young woman, all according to His perfect plan and timing.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10 "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I ___ from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the ___, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will ___ me fast." Answers: go; dawn, hold.</p>	<p>God Is Working His Purpose Out <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 13</i></p> <p>Verse 1 God is working his purpose out As year succeeds to year: God is working his purpose out, And the time is drawing near; Nearer and nearer draws the time, The time that shall surely be, When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God As the waters cover the sea.</p> <p>Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God is everywhere, all the time. He not only sees everything that happens, but He is in control over it and is using it all for His perfect purposes. Yes, the best and good things that happen in this world. And, yes, even the sad and awful things, will all be used perfectly, for His absolutely amazing, glorious purposes. It may be hard for us to see these now, sometimes, but nonetheless it is true. Year comes after another and everything is being fulfilled, until at last God's full plan will be done. All of God's people will be gathered together safely home with God. And all of God's plan will be seen as good and perfect. It will all show God's goodness and greatness--it will all bring God glory.</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 is everywhere, all the time. You are at work in all things so that they come out perfectly according to Your good plans.</p> <p>C God, we confess that too many times we don't act like Abraham's servant. We don't pray to You and ask You to guide what we do. Instead, we just do what we want to do.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your good plans that You are always working out for the good of Your people and the honor of Your name.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to be like Abraham's servant, asking You to guide our lives and remembering to praise You when You answer our prayers.</p>	<p>Where Can I Go? <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 14</i></p> <p>Where can I go from your Spirit? (no where!) Where can I flee from your presence? (no where!) If I go up to the heavens, you are there, If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? Psalm One-thirty-nine, seven through ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 139:7-10 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses tell us that God is everywhere, all the time. There is no where we can flee from God's Spirit. Everywhere we are, He is, too. God knows us inside and out. He hears all of our prayers. He will help and protect those who trust in Him, no matter where they are. He will always be guiding them according to His perfect plans.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

The LORD made people finite. That means they have things they can do and things they can't do. People can only be at one place at one time. They have to travel to move from one place to another. They have a time to live and a time to die.

The LORD is very different from people. He is infinite—He is everywhere, all the time. He never began and He will never end. There never was a time when the LORD was not alive. There will never be a time when He will stop living. He knows and plans what happens, even before something has begun. He sees everything in all times and in all places, all at the same time.

Because the LORD is everywhere, all the time, He is able to hear and answer all of His people's prayers at the same time. He is able to protect them and help them, no matter where they are. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Stony Speech.

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

1. Who made a speech? What did he tell in his speech?
2. What was stony about his speech? Why did he trust that the Lord would take care of him?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's in southern India.

"Go to the Kingdom of Hyderabad! Why would you do that?" Jacob Chamberlain's missionary friends asked him, in shock. "That country is filled with tigers! The Muslims and Hindus there hate Christians and will be happy to kill you. Don't go!"

But Jacob and his four, Indian friends stood firm. "Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and tell them about Him. He said He would be with them wherever they went. Will we not go to Hyderabad and trust that He will be with us?" Jacob replied.

So the five men packed two carts full of Bibles and other books about Jesus and prepared to leave. "Men, before we go, let's make a promise together to God," Jacob said. "Let's promise that we will tell the good news of Jesus in every town we come to, no matter how hard it is." The others agreed and committed their plans to God. They knew they could never do this without Him. Then they mounted their horses and set off.

Down narrow footpaths, through thick, towering forests of teakwood and banyan trees, the men traveled. They fought off wild boar, massive snakes and fierce tigers. They shared the good news of Jesus in every village they came to, though sometimes the people were very angry and their lives were in danger. But God was with them always, everywhere they went and in everything they faced, just as He promised He would.

One day, the men came to a great city with tall, white granite walls and huge, iron gates. This was the wickedest city in the whole Kingdom of Hyderabad! No Christian had ever dared share about Jesus inside its walls. Jacob and his friends might have passed it by, too, but they remembered their promise to God. They knew what they must do.

"This is a very wicked city, but we promised the Lord we would share the gospel in every city. He has promised to be with us everywhere we go, so we will trust that He take

care of us in this city, too," they reminded each other.

Jacob's four friends went ahead of him into the city to sell Bibles and the other books about Jesus. Jacob came after them a bit later, looking for a good place to preach to the crowds. Jacob got no further than the first city street when his four friends came rushing towards him, followed by a very angry crowd!

"Jacob, it's not safe here! As soon as the Hindu and Muslim priests began to read our books about Jesus, they got very angry. They could see that if people believed in Jesus, they wouldn't be Hindus or Muslims anymore. They began to tell people lies about our books. They told them that they were made from the skins of cows (an animal the Hindu think is holy and should not be killed) and pigs (an animal the Muslims think is so UN-holy that it should not be eaten or touched). They told them they should not even touch the books unless they wanted to upset their gods. Look at this angry mob behind us! Hurry, we must get out before they kill us!"

"No, we can't leave," Jacob told them. "Not until we've told them the good news of Jesus. We will trust that the Lord will be with us and help us, just as He promised He would."

So instead of leaving the city, the men went to the market square. Jacob faced the crowds. "Friends," he greeted them, "thank you for your kind welcome of my friends and me to your city. I have come from far away to tell you some good news. I will tell it to you and then we will go."

"No," said some of the leaders said. You have come to talk about another god. Leave the city right now and we will see you safely out of the gates. Dare to say a word against our gods and we will send this mob upon you," they threatened.

These men meant every word. Already some of the mob had picked up cobble paving-stones in their hands and were preparing to stone them, Jacob noticed.

"I have come this long way with a royal message from a King far higher even than the great Nizam, King of Hyderabad. I have come to tell a story sweeter than any ear has ever heard. It is clear that most of you don't want to hear it, but I think I see a few men here who seem interested. "You there, with the red-bordered turban...and you there, with the yellow-, the gold-, the brown- and the pink-bordered turbans, you five seem like you might want

to hear. Am I right? Then step forward here and I will whisper my message to you," Jacob invited them. "But the rest of you, step back and wait. When I finish telling them, you may come forward and throw your stones."

Then Jacob started to tell those five men the good news of Jesus, starting with a whisper, then speaking more and more loudly until all could hear.

He told them: "God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we're all sinners who've rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus to earth as a man to save sinners. Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who's ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. You can be God's people, too, if you turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your own Savior."

When Jacob looked out upon the crowd of faces as he spoke, he could see that many more than just the five men in front had been moved to tears as they heard about the wonderful gift of Jesus.

"Now," Jacob said, folding his arms, "I have finished my story. You may come and stone me."

"No," they said, "we don't want to stone you now. We didn't know whose messenger you were, nor what you had come to tell us. Do your books tell more about this wonderful Savior, Jesus?"

"Yes, much more," Jacob told them. "I haven't told you half of the amazing things He did and taught. We're going on our way early tomorrow morning. But we can leave some of our books with you, so you may read about Him even when we are gone."

With that, the people took from Jacob and the others, all the Bibles and the other books they had brought into the city with them.

The next morning, the leaders of the city came up to Jacob and his four friends as they were about to leave and

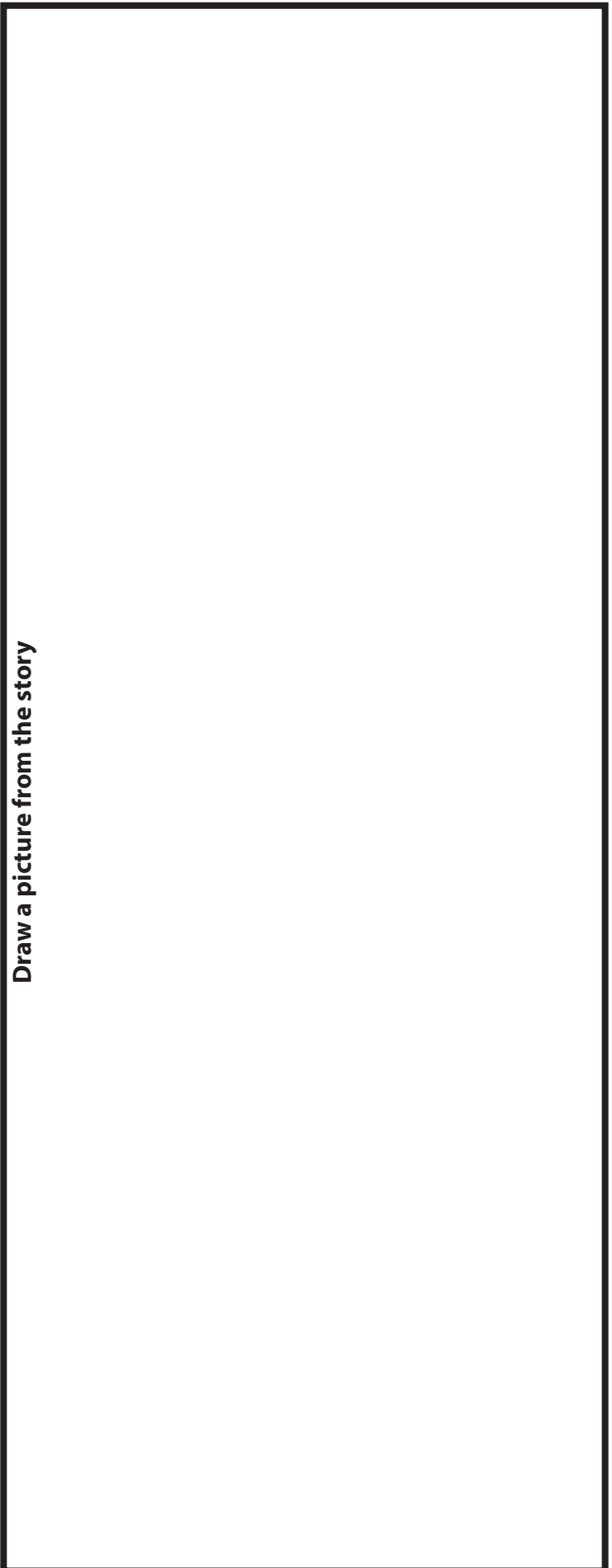
said, "Forgive us for how we treated. We didn't know whose messengers you were. You're welcome back to our city anytime." Jacob and his friends left rejoicing that the LORD, the great "I Am with You Always" had not only protected them, but He had worked in the hearts of many people that day that they might come to know Him.

Our Bible Truth is:**The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 139:7-10**

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

The Jacob and the others risked their lives to tell the people of Hyderabad is the message we most need to hear, too. We, too, can become God's people, if we do repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. And if we do, we know that the Lord will be with us, always, too. Taking care of us and helping us to do all the good works He has planned for us to do. With the LORD, the God who is everywhere, all the time, there is no limit to what He might choose to do-- even through you and me.

Let's praise this great "I Am with You Always". Let's ask Him to call us to do great things for His name and to trust Him to completely take care of us, no matter what.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The LORD is infinite. He is everywhere, all the time. He never began. He never will end.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who made a speech? What did he tell in his speech?

Answer: Jacob Chamberlain. He shared the good news of Jesus.

b. What was stony about his speech? Why did he trust that the Lord would take care of him?

Answer: The people in the great, walled city picked up stones and prepared to kill Jacob and his friends for sharing the good news of Jesus. Jacob knew the Lord had promised to be with His people everywhere they went. He would be with him there in that city, too.

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

Psalms 139:7-10

"Where can I ___ from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the ___ you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will ___ me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Answers: go; depths; guide.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

God Is Working His Purpose Out

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 13

Verse 1

God is working his purpose out
 As year succeeds to year:
 God is working his purpose out,
 And the time is drawing near;
 Nearer and nearer draws the time,
 The time that shall surely be,
 When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea.

Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God is everywhere, all the time. He not only sees everything that happens, but He is in control over it and is using it all for His perfect purposes. Yes, the best and good things that happen in this world. And, yes, even the sad and awful things, will all be used perfectly, for His absolutely amazing, glorious purposes. It may be hard for us to see these now, sometimes, but nonetheless it is true. Year comes after another and everything is being fulfilled, until at last God's full plan will be done. All of God's people will be gathered together safely home with God. And all of God's plan will be seen as good and perfect. It will all show God's goodness and greatness--it will all bring God glory.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the great God who is always with His people, helping them do everything He wants them to do.

C God, we confess that many times we forget You when we are scared. Instead of trusting You will be with us, we run from doing things that are difficult for us.

T God, we thank You that You are always faithful to Your promises. You are always with Your people. They can trust that You will always take care of them.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us people who trust that You are always with us and can help us even go to dangerous places to tell others about You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Where Can I Go?

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 14

Where can I go from your Spirit? (no where!)
 Where can I flee from your presence? (no where!)
 If I go up to the heavens, you are there,
 If I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
 If I settle on the far side of the sea,
 Even there your hand will guide me,
 Your right hand will hold me fast.
 Where can I go from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
 Psalm One-thirty-nine, seven through ten.

Words: Psalm 139:7-10 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses tell us that God is everywhere, all the time. There is no where we can flee from God's Spirit. Everywhere we are, He is, too. God knows us inside and out. He hears all of our prayers. He will help and protect those who trust in Him, no matter where they are. He will always be guiding them according to His perfect plans.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

The LORD made people finite. That means they have things they can do and things they can't do. People can only be at one place at one time. They have to travel to move from one place to another. They have a time to live and a time to die.

The LORD is very different from people. He is infinite—He is everywhere, all the time. He never began and He will never end. There never was a time when the LORD was not alive. There will never be a time when He will stop living. He knows and plans what happens, even before something has begun. He sees everything in all times and in all places, all at the same time.

Because the LORD is everywhere, all the time, He is able to hear and answer all of His people's prayers at the same time. He is able to protect them and help them, no matter where they are. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

CASE STORY

Acts 27

Our story is:

The Case of the Not-So-Abandoned Ship.

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

1. Why did the ship seem like it was abandoned?
2. Who showed them that it wasn't really abandoned? Why did he know they weren't abandoned?

This story takes place on the Mediterranean Sea, during New Testament times, about thirty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"Lower the anchors! Tie down the ship!" the captain shouted to his weary and frustrated crew of sailors. "We'll have to anchor here at Fair Havens for now. We have no choice."

For days now the captain had been trying to get his large ship, full of Egyptian grain and Roman prisoners, to Rome. But the late autumn winds had given them nothing but trouble. Instead of pushing the ship westerly towards Rome, the winds pushed them to the east and the south. So here they were, stuck on the island of Crete, in the Middle of the Mediterranean Sea, 600 miles away from Rome!

But what did they expect, sailing on the Mediterranean in mid-October? Every good sailor knew the winds would be against them; and what was more, it was the season of Euraquilo—the great hurricanes. These storms were stirred up by strong winds sweeping down off of Mt. Ida in the north and churning up the waters of the Mediterranean into a deadly trap of gigantic waves. It was risky business sailing at this time of year.

That night, the captain and pilot reported to Julius, the centurion in charge of the soldiers, the prisoners and the wheat shipment. They had a big decision to make.

"What should do, captain?" Julius asked.

"The voyage from Myra to here has taken too long. It's well past the safe season for sailing the rest of the way to Rome. We must seek refuge here on Crete and wait out the winter storms," the owner replied.

"I agree," the pilot said. "But we can't stay here in Fair Haven. This harbor isn't safe against the storms of Euraquilo when they come. I say we sail ten hours down the coast to the safe harbor at Phoenix."

Suddenly a prisoner blurted out his opinion. "Stay here

in Fair Havens," he said. "If you sail any further it will be a disaster," he warned.

Who was this bold prisoner? It was the apostle Paul. He had been a prisoner at King Felix's palace for two years and now was being taken to Rome to have Caesar Nero judge his case.

Julius and the others ignored Paul's advice. He was no sailor! Why should they listen to him! "We set sail for Phoenix with the good wind," they decided.

Soon, a gentle, south wind they waited for began to blow. The ship set sail for Phoenix, not far up the coast.

But suddenly, the weather changed. The sky grew dark and cloudy. Rain fell heavily and the wind blew fiercely. It was a Euroquilo! The most terrible storm known on the Mediterranean Sea!

The rain drenched them. The powerful wind and waves slammed into the ship, threatening to crush it. They hoped for the storm to end, but it kept on, day after day. Soon even the captain lost hope. "My ship is almost in pieces, my men can hardly keep going, I've lost my cargo, and the Euroquilo is still beating down on us. Soon we will lose our lives if someone does not help us. But who could possibly help us in the Middle of a Euroquilo? There is no one," the captain despaired.

But Paul knew there was One who could help them—the LORD, who is everywhere, all the time. And right there in the Middle of that furious storm, Paul had cried out to Him. No Euroquilo could keep Him away. He was the awesome God who was everywhere, all the time. He knew that the LORD saw what they were going through and knew what would happen next. He knew that the Lord could do far more than know, hear and see what was happening. He could answer Paul's prayers and help them, no matter where they are. The Lord was working out everything with perfect timing, according to His marvelous will.

Paul stood up and shouted over the storm's roar: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen

just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." (Acts 2 :21-26)

What was this? Help in the Middle of a Euroquilo? Everyone on board hoped what Paul said was true. They began to watch for signs of land.

On midnight of the fourteenth night of being beaten by this ferocious storm, the sailors came to their captain with a new report, "Captain, the soundings show that the water is getting shallower...we must be approaching land of some sort!"

"This is good news. It is just as Paul said. There is hope for us, but we are still in grave danger, for there is no way that we can see to guide the ship away from rocks on this pitch dark, stormy night," the captain said. "The angel told Paul the ship would run aground. Let's hope that means we can stay afloat until morning when we can see where we are going. Lower the anchors to slow us down and keep a close watch on the water level. And pray for daylight to come quickly!" he told the crew.

At last dawn came. Now they could see where they were and how best to guide the boat towards shore. It soon would be time to abandon the ship.

Paul gathered everyone together for last words: "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food--you haven't eaten anything. You must eat something now if you are to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head."

After he said this, Paul took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. (Acts 27:35-36)

If it had been anyone else talking, the men probably wouldn't have listened. Wasn't the ship still in terrible danger of crashing? But this was Paul who was speaking. The man whose God was the Lord. If no Euroquilo could keep Him away; surely He knew about crashing into rocks, too. He was the awesome God who was everywhere, all the time. The Lord had seen what they were going through then and had known what would happen next. He would answer Paul's prayers and help them, no matter where they are. He was working out everything with perfect timing, according to His marvelous will. All were encouraged by Paul's words. They ate all they wanted and then threw the rest over board to lighten the ship.

When daylight fully came, the captain tried to identify the island. "I have no idea what island this is," he told the

others, "but look, over there is a bay with a sandy beach. That is our best chance for running aground safely."

"Cut loose the anchors, untie the rudder ropes! Hoist the foresail and head straight for the beach!" the captain ordered his men.

Everyone braced themselves for the jolt. Crash! Thud! The mighty ship slammed into the sandbar at full speed and came to a wrenching halt. As the crashing waves began to break up the back of the grounded ship, everyone began to jump overboard and swim for shore. Everyone, that is, except the prisoners and the soldiers guarding them. With drawn swords, the soldiers turned on the prisoners. They had decided they would rather kill them than risk being punished if any of them escaped in the sea.

Would this be the end of Paul? No, it would not! The Lord, the God who is everywhere, all the time, was still there in the Middle of the Euraquilo, right there as the soldiers made their plans. He was making sure that everything would work with His perfect timing, according to His marvelous will. He enabled Julius to find out about the soldiers' plans and stop them before they had killed anyone.

"You who can swim, jump and swim to land," Julius ordered the prisoners. "The rest of you, get a wooden plank from the ship and use it to help you float ashore," he ordered.

After a long fight with the monstrous, crashing waves, every, single one of the 256 people on the ship had made it safely ashore. They dragged themselves ashore and lay exhausted on the beach.

Paul, for one, had his thoughts turned in grateful adoration to the Lord. Praise be to the Lord, the awesome God who is everywhere, all the time! He had rescued them just as He had promised.

But how about the captain, the pilot, their sailors? And Julius the centurion, his soldiers and all their prisoners? Were they thinking about the Lord, too? The God who had been there in the storm with them and had clearly saved them? We will never know. But I hope that they also did not fail to turn their hearts to the Lord, too. Hadn't He shown Himself to them as unlike any other god they had ever known or heard of? A powerful God who was everywhere, all the time—even in the Middle of a Euraquilo.

Our Bible Truth is:

The Lord Is Everywhere, All the Time

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

These verses remind us that there is nowhere we can be and the Lord will not be there, too. He truly is the God who is everywhere, all the time.

But what about you and me? It doesn't have to take getting caught a swirling monster of a storm at sea to be thankful that the Lord is everywhere, all the time. Isn't it wonderful to think that there is nowhere that we can be separated from God? That there is nowhere where He cannot know, hear and see what is happening. No matter how far away or how scary, no matter how hard or new something is that we and those we love face.

Not even death itself will separate us from the Lord, if we are those who turn to Him, confessing our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Yes, in everything, even in death, He will be there, working out everything with perfect timing, according to His marvelous will. Let's praise the Lord, who is everywhere, all the time. Let's ask Him to give us faith to trust Him no matter what the situation we are in, to know, hear, see and be at work.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The LORD may be everywhere, all the time, but it's too much for Him to hear and answer everyone's prayers at once. Answer: False! The LORD is infinite! There's no limit to Him. He can even hear and answer everyone's prayers at once.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Why did the ship seem like it was abandoned? Answer: Because the sailors were in a terrible storm that was breaking up the ship and seemed certain to be the death of them all.</p> <p>b. Who showed them that it wasn't really abandoned? Why did he know they weren't abandoned? Answer: Paul. He knew the Lord was with him no matter where he was. He believed the Lord's promise that he would appear before Caesar in Rome, so he wouldn't die in that storm. An angel spoke to him, telling him what would happen and what they should do.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 139:7-10 "Where can I go from your ___? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the ___, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the ___, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Answers: Spirit; heavens; sea.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>God Is Working His Purpose Out <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 13</i></p> <p>Verse 1 God is working his purpose out As year succeeds to year: God is working his purpose out, And the time is drawing near; Nearer and nearer draws the time, The time that shall surely be, When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God As the waters cover the sea.</p> <p>Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God is everywhere, all the time. He not only sees everything that happens, but He is in control over it and is using it all for His perfect purposes. Yes, the best and good things that happen in this world. And, yes, even the sad and awful things, will all be used perfectly, for His absolutely amazing, glorious purposes. It may be hard for us to see these now, sometimes, but nonetheless it is true. Year comes after another and everything is being fulfilled, until at last God's full plan will be done. All of God's people will be gathered together safely home with God. And all of God's plan will be seen as good and perfect. It will all show God's goodness and greatness--it will all bring God glory.</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 everywhere, all the time.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times when we are in hard situations, we act like You aren't with us and can't help us. We worry instead of asking for Your help.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for being faithful to always be with Your people, even when they are worried and are unfaithful to You.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You to be with us and help us in hard situations rather than giving into fear.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>Where Can I Go? <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 14</i></p> <p>Where can I go from your Spirit? (no where!) Where can I flee from your presence? (no where!) If I go up to the heavens, you are there, If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? Psalm One-thirty-nine, seven through ten.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 139:7-10 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses tell us that God is everywhere, all the time. There is no where we can flee from God's Spirit. Everywhere we are, He is, too. God knows us inside and out. He hears all of our prayers. He will help and protect those who trust in Him, no matter where they are. He will always be guiding them according to His perfect plans.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

CASE STORY

Daniel 1-2

Our story is called:

The Case of the Impossible Answer.

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

1. What was the impossible answer and who wanted it?
2. Who gave the impossible answer? Why was he able to give it when no one else could?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The huge, throne room of the mighty King of Babylon was magnificent! It was beautifully decorated with bricks glazed in royal blue, white and yellow daisies and great, roaring lions.

There certainly was roaring coming from the king's Throne Room this day, but it wasn't coming from the lions on the walls. It was coming from the mouth of the king, himself.

"Guards! Take these men and have them cut to pieces! Order their grand homes flattened into piles of rubble! Spare not a one of these worthless magi of mine! They are all fakes!" the king ordered the court soldiers. There was a flurry of ropes and rich robes as the guards seized and struggled with the magi—the highest, richest, most honored advisors of the king. They bound their hands and marched them out of the King's presence and thrown into prison.

These arrests were just the first. The guards spread out over Babylon, rounding up other magi of the king. At last they came to the door where the four magi, Belteshazzar, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, lived.

Bang! Bang! Bang! "Open up, Belteshazzar. This is Arioch, commander of the palace guard."

"What is it you want, gentlemen?" Belteshazzar asked as he opened the door to Arioch and his men.

"By the king's orders all magi are to be arrested and cut into pieces. Your homes are to be torn down. The rest of the magi are already in prison. You and your friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, are the last ones to be rounded up before execution," Arioch explained.

"What happened? Why does the King demand we die?" Belteshazzar asked in surprise.

Arioch told the story: "Today the King called the magi to his throne room for an important meeting. He told them, "My Magi, I have not been able to sleep for nights because of a dream that keeps troubling me. I have called you

together to tell me what it means.”

“O king, live forever!” they answered him, “Tell your servants the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

“I’m not going to tell to you. You’re magis, you should know it even without me telling you. Tell me the dream and its meaning and I’ll reward you greatly. If you don’t, you’ll be put to death and your houses destroyed,” the king replied.

“This isn’t fair! No one can do what the king asks,” the magis told the king. “Only the gods can.”

“Throw these worthless magi in jail, the king ordered,” Arioch explained. “Now I’ve come for you.”

Belteshazzar thought about what the magi had said to the king: “They were right. Neither they nor the fake gods they worshiped could know these things. Only the LORD, the one, true God, could do this. He knows everything there is to know. The other magi don’t worship Him, but we do. We can ask Him to tell us the dream and its meaning,” Belteshazzar decided.

Belteshazzar turned to the king’s servant and said, “Arioch, you are a wise servant. Wouldn’t you like to spare the king the loss of all his magi? Let me speak to the king about this matter.”

Arioch agreed and led Belteshazzar to the king.

“Oh, King, I’m sure you would rather have your dream explained than put to death your magi. Give me a chance,” Belteshazzar suggested. The king agreed.

Belteshazzar returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. “Only the LORD can reveal these things. Pray with me. Let’s ask Him to help us and spare our lives, too,” he said to them.

The four men cried out to the LORD to help them. That very night He revealed both the dream and its meaning to Belteshazzar in a vision (special dream from God). Belteshazzar was overjoyed! “LORD, I praise You! You know all things. You reveal the secret hidden things that know one else knows. Thank You for telling me the king’s dream and its meaning!” he prayed.

Belteshazzar told Arioch the good news. The king asked he be brought to him at once.

The king asked Belteshazzar, “Are you able to tell me my dream and what it means?”

Belteshazzar replied, “Not me or your gods could do this, but the LORD, the one, true God can. He can reveal secret things because He knows everything there is to know.”

Belteshazzar declared. “He has shown you the future.”

“You saw an enormous, dazzling statue. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms were made of silver, its belly and thighs were made of bronze. Its legs were made of iron and its feet were partly iron and partly clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken into tiny pieces which were blown away by the wind. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth,” Belteshazzar told the king.

“This was your dream. Now for its meaning. You, O king, are the head of gold on the statue. The LORD has given you great power and made you ruler over many peoples and lands,” Belteshazzar told him.

The other parts of the statue are pictures of the kingdoms that will come after yours. Each one will rule over many peoples and lands, but they will each be weaker than the one before,” Belteshazzar explained.

But what about the mountain of rock that destroyed the statue and filled the whole earth? “In the time of those kings, the LORD will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself last forever,” he explained.

“The LORD, the great God, has shown you the future. This is your dream and its meaning,” Belteshazzar told the king.

The king was amazed. And though he was the great king of Babylon, he bowed down to Belteshazzar. “Your God is the one, true God over all gods. He has revealed the answer to my dream,” he replied.

Then the king rewarded Belteshazzar and his three friends by making them important leaders. And what great leaders they were! They didn’t rely on their own wisdom or that of idols, like the other magi. They sought only the LORD, the God who knows everything there is to know.

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

Beltshazzar and his friends knew this, and even the king of Babylon came to confess this was true.

Did you ever wonder what happened with King's dream? The LORD told Beltshazzar the king's dream and gave him its meaning, but did it really come true?

Yes, it did! The kingdoms in the King's dream have come, just as the LORD told Beltshazzar they would. But what about that last kingdom? The one that was to come and last forever? Which is it? That kingdom is the kingdom of God. It's the kingdom Jesus brought the beginnings of when He suffered and died on the cross of God's people. It was then that He beat sin and death for God's people. Now, the kingdom of God lives in the hearts of God's people. God's Holy Spirit dwells there and is at work, helping them to know God and live to please Him with their lives.

But one day, God's kingdom will not just be in the hearts of God's people! Jesus will come back. He will do away with sin and death forever! He will set up God's kingdom completely in the new heaven and earth. Together He will live and reign with God's people forever! What a wonderful day that will be!

Isn't the LORD amazing? You and I cannot even know what will happen tomorrow, but the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He even knows what will happen thousands of years in the future! What difference does that make for our lives? We know that there is not one day when we need to live in worry or fear, if we are God's people. God's people always have reason to joyfully trust Him. The LORD already knows the future and has planned everything according to His perfectly marvelous will. He loves them and will take care of them, no matter what.

How can we become God's people? By turning away from disobeying God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior who died to take our punishment when He died on the cross.

Let's praise our great God who knows everything there is to know. Let's ask Him to help us to remember what He is like and trust Him with everything in our lives.

Note on Story: I chose to use the less well-known names of Beltshazzar, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; and call Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon because this is a familiar story for so many children. Feel free to replace the familiar names (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego), if more appropriate for your group.

Draw a picture from the story

<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 gave people minds to learn things their whole lives. If they keep on learning, they will learn everything there is to know. Answer: False. God did give people to learn things, but they can never learn everything there is to know. Only God can.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What was the impossible answer and who wanted it? Answer: To tell the king his dream and its meaning. The king wanted it.</p> <p>b. Who gave the impossible answer? Why was he able to give it when no one else could? Answer: Belteshazzar. Because the LORD, the one, true God who knows everything there is to know, revealed it to him.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22 "Praise be to the name of God ____ and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the ____. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in ____, and light dwells with him." Answer: for ever, discerning, darkness.</p>	<p>Immortal, Invisible <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, Hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.</p> <p>Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune</p> <p>The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.</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 knowing everything there is to know and able to reveal to us whatever we need to know.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we have sins we try to hide from others and from You, but You know them all. We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for giving Your people all the wisdom they need. Thank You for promising to always give us wisdom when we ask You.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You better and give us wisdom to know how to live for You.</p>	<p>Praise Be to the Name of God <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17</i></p> <p>Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. He gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-two.</p> <p>Words: Daniel 2:20-22, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Million Mile Man.

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

1. Who was the Million Mile Man? Why was it so surprising he traveled so much?
2. Who was sure that he couldn't do this? Why did he know that he could?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts in 1837, in Esperance, New York...in the middle of a fire!

Giant flames of fire and great billows of smoke engulfed a little log house and the land around it. Out of the hot flames, a man and his wife ran for their lives, clutching their only child—a three year old little boy.

When they were a safe distance away, the parents bowed their heads and thanked God: "Lord, we thank You for saving our little boy, Sheldon, from dying in a fire two times! You saved when he rolled into the fireplace and caught on fire as a tiny baby. And now today, You have saved him from being killed in this terrible fire," they prayed. "You are the great God who knows all things. Surely You have saved his life two times because of some great purpose You have for him. So right now, we dedicate him to You to use him one day to tell others in faraway places about Your Son, Jesus. Give us wisdom to know how to raise him best for Your purposes. Guide him so he might know what Your will is," they asked God. And from then on, Sheldon and his parents never forgot that prayer.

Sheldon grew up much like all the other little boys in the farmlands of New York. He chopped wood, hoed the crops in the fields, milked cows, and had fun playing in the streams and woods. But always in the back of his mind, Sheldon thought of the special calling the Lord had for him. He knew God was the God who knows everything there is to know, so he would pray,

"Lord, even though I do not know what faraway people You are preparing me for, You do. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Teach me more and more about You and Your Word. Prepare me for what You have planned for me, whatever it might be," Sheldon prayed.

Every Sunday, Sheldon and his parents would ride in their wagon many long miles over bumpy, dirt roads. Nothing would keep them away, not even the feet of snow and the bitter winds that swept over New York in

the long winters. They would put the ax and shovel in their sleigh, pack plenty of food, place heated soapstone rocks on their laps, bundle up in thick, buffalo robes and set off at dawn for the three-hour-long journey to church. As they rode along, they often told over and over again tales from faraway places like Siam in East Asia, and of men who did great things for God.

As Sheldon grew up, he wasn't satisfied to just hear stories of the great things others did for the Lord. He wanted to do them himself. So he went off to school to get special training to be ready to go to the faraway place the Lord was preparing for him. He studied as hard as he could. And as he studied, his heart filled up with a love for the people of Siam. Sheldon knew God was the God who knows everything there is to know. Perhaps God had put this love in Sheldon's heart to prepare him to go there.

So Sheldon would pray, "Lord, even though I do not know which faraway people You are preparing me for, You do, for You are the God who knows everything there is to know. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Help me to learn all I can so that I will be the best missionary I can be. Teach me more and more about You and Your Word. Prepare me for what You have for me, whatever it might be. And, Lord, if it be Your will, let it be Siam."

Finally, Sheldon finished school and sent in his application for work in Siam with the Foreign Mission Board. Eagerly, he waited and waited for their reply. At last one day it came. Trembling with excitement, Sheldon opened up the letter and read:

Dear Sir,

You are a fine man, well trained and godly. However, you are barely 5 feet tall—that is just too short. You have weak eyes and many stomach problems. You do not seem strong enough to survive the hardships of Siam. We regret to inform you that your request to go to Siam has been rejected. Thank you for your application and may God bless you in His plans for your life.

Sincerely,

The Foreign Mission Board

Sheldon was in shock! He couldn't believe it! From the time he was only four years old, he had felt sure that God had been preparing him to go to a faraway people. Had he been wrong? He always believed that the Lord was the God who knows everything there is to know. Had God not

known the Foreign Mission Board would reject him? There must be some mistake!

"No," thought Sheldon, "the Lord IS the God who knows everything. He knew what the Foreign Mission Board would do. It must not have been His plan for me to go to Siam."

"Lord," he prayed, "now I know that You do not want me to go to Siam. But I still know that there is a faraway people You are preparing me for. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Prepare me for what You have for me, whatever it might be, even though it isn't Siam. I know You will show me where You do want me to go."

It was not long before Sheldon received his answer. The LORD did have a faraway people for him to go to, but they were not far away in the east in Siam. They were far away in the Wild West of America. There were thousands and thousands of Native Americans who had never heard about Jesus. There were thousands and thousands of settlers heading west on their wagons with no one to teach them the Bible. This was what the Lord had planned for him to do.

Sheldon Jackson and two of his friends stood high on a bluff, looked West and prayed,

"Lord, you know all things. You know the plans You have. You know about the faraway peoples out there in the West who need to know about You. Lord, help us to win the West for You!" And with that prayer, Sheldon set out West.

Was Sheldon crazy? The Foreign Mission Board had looked at his application and decided he wasn't fit for Siam, could he really handle the Wild West? Yes, he could! Why? Because the Lord, the God who knows everything there is to know, suited Sheldon Jackson for it perfectly.

This man, who had not been big enough to go to Siam, was just small enough to easily fit inside an Indian teepee and talk to the Indians inside about "The Great Father in the Sky." He was just the right size to curl up in a canoe, or fit on a narrow mountain ledge, or squeeze into a hollow log for the night. He was just the right size for what the Lord wanted him to do.

And this man who the Foreign Mission Board thought too small to face the Siamese people, God made courageous enough to ride into dangerous Indian territory with little more than a Bible in his horse's saddlebag and a shotgun resting on his lap (just in case), and stand up to Indians trying to scalp him. He made Sheldon was brave enough to not give into stagecoach robbers pointing

twelve revolvers at his head; and even brave enough to leap off of an out-of-control wagon as it tumbled off of a steep mountain cliff!

And this man, who they thought too sickly to survive in Siam, the Lord gave strength to travel almost a million rough and hard miles the next forty years! He traveled by railroad, by stagecoach, by foot, by horse, by mule-train, by ox-cart, and even by reindeer sleigh. And he did in everything from the hot, hot sun in the dry, lifeless deserts of the West to the bitter cold and deep, deep snow of Alaska!

Everywhere Sheldon Jackson went people joked at how little, weak and sickly he looked; but then they were amazed at the great boldness with which he shared about the Lord. What made the difference between the way Sheldon looked and what he did? It was his complete trust in the Lord who was the great God who knew everything there is to know.

Even a little child he had known that the Lord was preparing him for a faraway people. What did he have to worry about when the great God who had planned this for his life was the great God who knows everything there is to know? Why doubt a God like that? Surely He knew just what He was doing!

Yes, the Lord certainly did! By the time Sheldon Jackson retired from his work, fifty years later, he had started one hundred churches and seen many settlers and Native Americans all over the West come to know Jesus as their Savior.

**Our Bible Truth is:
The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know**

Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22
“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

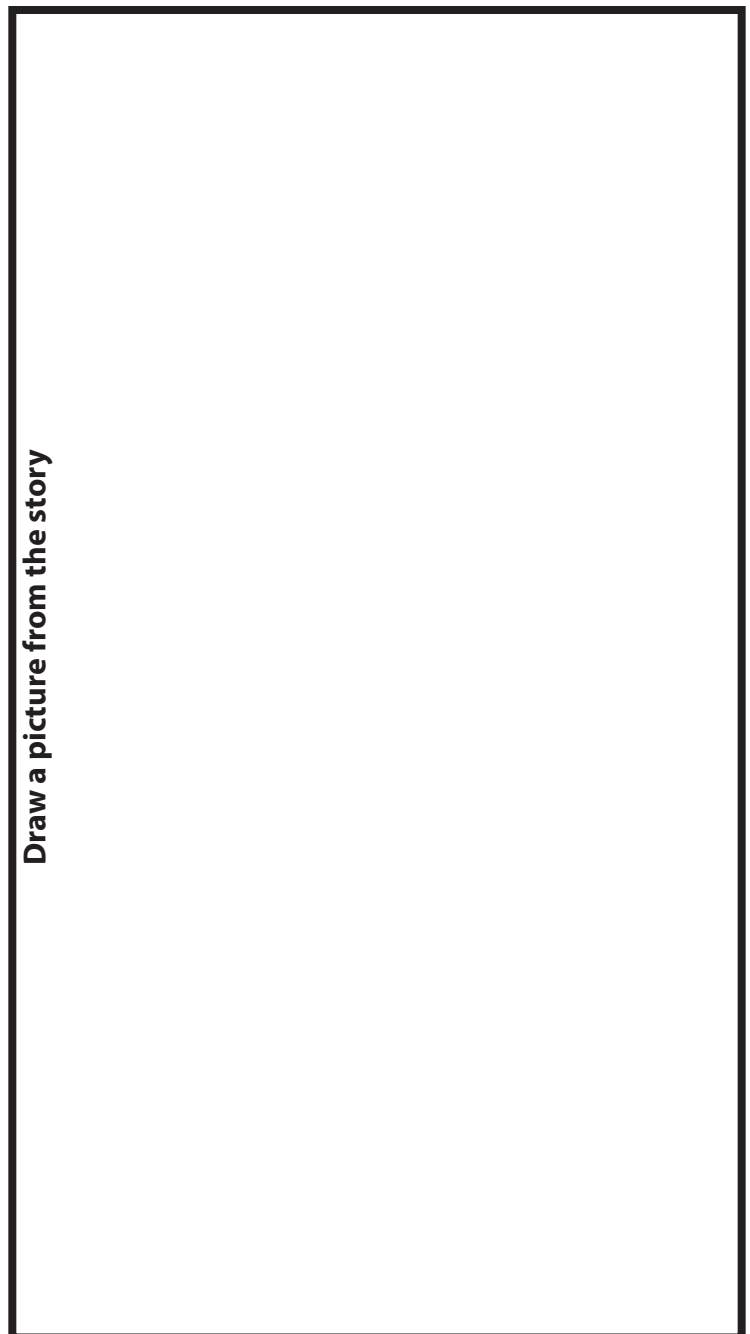
Many have called Sheldon Jackson the most amazing missionary that America has ever known; yet, he was a smaller, weaker, and sicklier man than most. They thought he didn't look like he would amount to much, but it just goes to show, that it doesn't really matter what other people think. What really matters is what the LORD--the God who knows everything there is to know--thinks.

If Sheldon Jackson was here right now, I'm sure there are two things he would want you and me to know. The first

one is the good news of Jesus: that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be saved.

The second thing Sheldon Jackson would want us to know is: God's people shouldn't worry if others don't think they will amount to much. Let God be the one who decides that! He is the God who knows everything there is to know. He knows what plans He has His people--great plans to do great things for Him!

Like Sheldon Jackson, let's praise the Lord for knowing everything there is to know. And let's ask Him to use us to do great things for Him.. Let's ask Him to help us to trust not in how weak or strong we look, but His perfect knowledge of what He wants us to 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: God is very different from us because He knows everything in the whole universe and even more. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Million Mile Man? Why was it so surprising he traveled so much? Answer: Sheldon Jackson. He had health problems that should have kept him from doing them.</p> <p>b. Who was sure that he couldn't do this? Why did he know that he could? Answer: The Foreign Mission Board. If the Lord who knew all things was calling him to be a missionary, then surely he would be able to do whatever was required.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22 "Praise be to the name of ___ for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives ___ to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and ___ things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him." Answers: God, wisdom, hidden.</p>	<p>Immortal, Invisible <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, Hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.</p> <p>Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune</p> <p>The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.</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 gives power to Your people to do whatever You want them to do...even if it looks impossible to others!</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we give up too easily from doing things that seem too hard. We forget that You know all things and can help us do whatever You want us to do.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your amazing plans and Your great strength to bring them about in us. Nothing will ever defeat You!</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us wisdom to know what You want us to do. Give us strength to do great things for You.</p>	<p>Praise Be to the Name of God <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17</i></p> <p>Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. He gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-two.</p> <p>Words: Daniel 2:20-22, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

CASE STORY

John 2; 4:43-54

Our story is:

The Case of the Rich Basilikos.

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

1. What is a Basilikos? What made him rich? How was he really poor?
2. Who gave him true riches? What were they? What amazing powers did this person show?

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

A Jewish man made his way from Tiberias to his home in Capernaum, just two miles away. Tiberias was the brand new city build by the Roman leader Herod Antipas, as headquarters for his rule over territory of Galilee. And the man walking home, worked as a basilikos (an official) in Herod's palace! A job like this paid well—a lot better than many of the other Jews in the area would have made— and this made this man not just a basilikos, but a RICH basilikos.

What a comfortable life this man enjoyed! He lived the Roman way and could afford a beautiful house with mosaic tile floors, richly painted walls and fine furniture. He enjoyed good food. He loved his children. It seemed that he had everything you could want.

But there was definitely something that this man did not have. Something very important! A relationship with God. Yes, this Rich Basilikos was a Jew, but he had broken a very important Old Testament law when he went to work in Tiberias: Jews could not walk on top of dead bodies and stay acceptable to worship God (or clean, as they called it) if they did. And this was something this Rich Basilikos walked on top of every day. For Herod Antipas had built the great city of Tiberias on top of a cemetery full of dead bodies!

No Jew who wanted to worship God in the synagogue or be in fellowship with other Jews would dream of working in Tiberias. But the Rich Basilikos apparently had chosen a comfortable lifestyle over life with God and with His people. So he happily walked over those dead bodies with his pockets full of money every work day.

But, even though this man didn't know God or care about His good laws, God knew and cared about him. He was about to the Rich Basilikos dear little boy to turn his heart back to him.

"Your son has a high fever," the Rich Basilikos was told at

home. Now this might not sound so terrible to us, but back then there was very little they could do, even for a fever. Doctors might give you a mixture of herbs that might help, but besides that there was only watching, waiting, hoping and praying.

Watch, wait and hope the Rich Basilikos most certainly did. But pray? Well, maybe he did, but more likely he didn't. Remember, he had chosen a comfortable lifestyle over life with God and His people. Praying to God was probably about the last thing he thought he should do or even could do. Why would God want anything to do with him after the way he had rebelled against Him?

But as the Rich Basilikos saw his son get sicker and even begin to die, he became desperate enough to even think about asking for God's help.

"Jesus is in Cana, only twenty miles from here," the Basilikos heard. "Since the Passover, everyone's been talking about this rabbi named Jesus who they saw do some amazing healings. Many think He is some special prophet from God... or maybe even the Messiah."

"I don't know about Jesus being some special prophet from God or the Messiah," the Rich Basilikos may have thought, "but if He can heal my son, that's what matters. I must hurry if there's a chance to save my son's life!"

As quickly as possible the Rich Basilikos made the seven-hour, uphill hike to Cana. When he found Jesus, a crowd already surrounded Him. Many had seen His amazing healings in Jerusalem at the Passover. He was big news now!

The Rich Basilikos made his way to Jesus and blurted out his request, "Please, Sir," he begged, "come with me and heal my son. He is about to die!"

Jesus looked at the Rich Basilikos. It was the first time they had met, yet Jesus already knew all about him and why he had come, because of course He was God, who knows everything there is to know. He knew that the Rich Basilikos had come to Him for what He might do for his son, not because he believed in Him. Yet, still He loved him.

"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

The Rich Basilikos wasn't so interested in believing right then. He just wanted his son healed. "Sir," he said to Jesus, "come down with me before my child dies."

Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

This was not what the Rich Basilikos had asked for at all!

He wanted Jesus to come with him, not to be sent back empty-handed. What should he do? Should he stay and keep pleading or even offer him money to persuade Jesus to come with him? Yet, there was something about Jesus that sparked a flicker of faith right there in the Rich Basilikos' heart. So he didn't keep begging or offer Jesus money. He simply believed Jesus and headed back down the road towards home.

Jesus had given him much to think about as he made the long journey home. Perhaps Jesus' challenging words stirred in his heart: "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders you will never believe." He had been so busy thinking about getting Jesus to heal his son that he hadn't been thinking about what it meant that Jesus could do these amazing miracles.

Perhaps the Rich Basilikos realized that Jesus never asked him his name or where he was from. Perhaps he realized that Jesus never asked who his son was or what sickness he had; yet seemed to know everything already. If Jesus healed his son, it would have to be only because Jesus was the Messiah, God's Son, for only God can know everything there is to know and knowing what will happen, without anyone telling Him. What would he find when he returned home?!

Whatever the Rich Basilikos was thinking, he was suddenly jarred from his thoughts by his servant hurrying towards him. "Your son is healed!" he exclaimed.

The Rich Basilikos was so happy! Before he met Jesus this would have been enough for him, but now there was something else he had to know: "Tell me, when exactly did my son get better?" the Rich Basilikos asked his servant.

"Yesterday at one o'clock," the servant replied.

The Rich Basilikos gasped. That was the exact time when Jesus had told him his son would live! His heart flooded with belief and love for God. Jesus really was the Messiah, the Son of God. He worshiped and thanked God for healing his son and for giving him faith in Jesus.

Now the Rich Basilikos hurried home. He couldn't wait to see his son and tell everyone in his household the news about Jesus. And when he did, they all put their trust in Him, too.

The Rich Basilikos was now indeed a very rich man, in the best of ways. For not only did he have his son restored to health. He and his whole family had come to know the

LORD in their hearts. And that is the greatest riches of all!

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

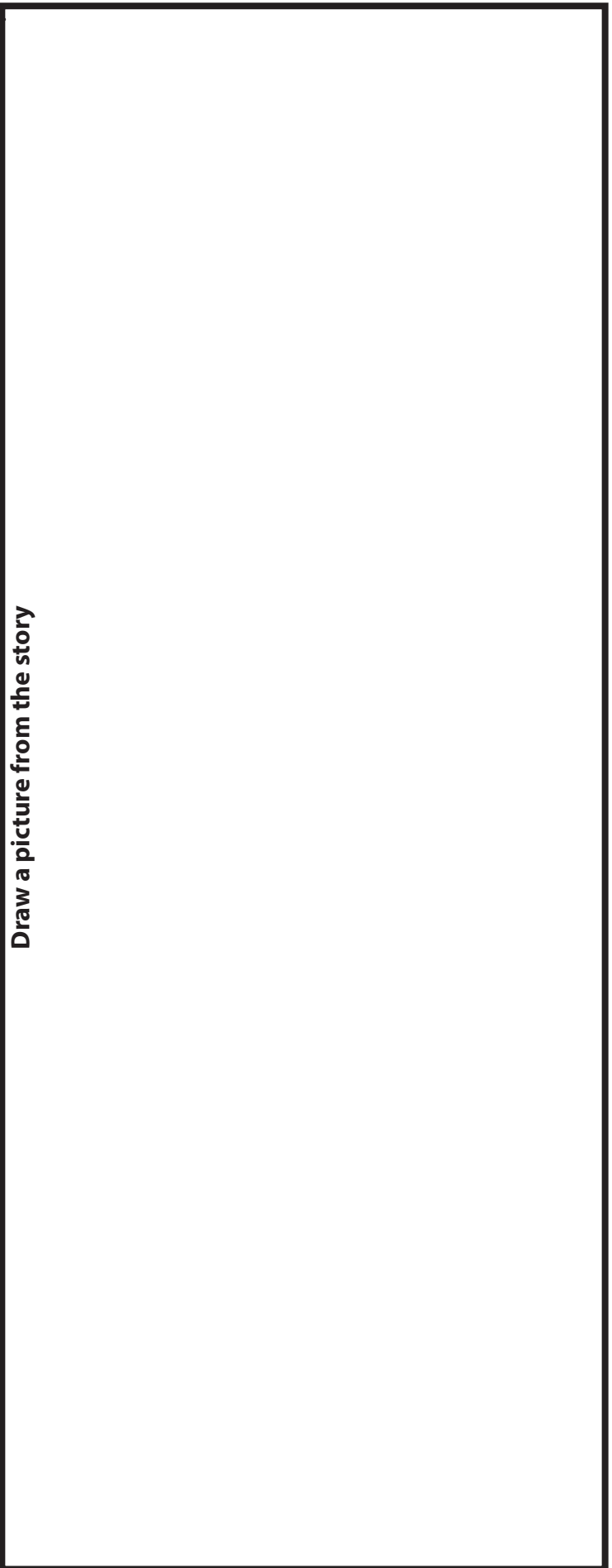
Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

Isn't the LORD wonderful? Wasn't He so merciful to sinners like the Rich Basilikos? The LORD, who knows everything there is to know, knew this man didn't want to know Him or please Him. Yet, He is so merciful that He planned for him to be one of His people. What about you and me? Do you realize that the LORD know everything there is to know about us, too? He knows all our thoughts and actions. He knows everything we think about Him—whether we love Him or do not really care about Him. Might He be as merciful to us as He was to the Rich Basilikos and his family? Yes, indeed! He promises to save all who repent of their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

Let's praise this God who knows everything there is to know. Let's ask Him to be at work even in our sinful, rebellious hearts, that we would not just be trying to use Him to give things we want, but that He would give us faith in Him to trust Him as Savior and a desire to know, love and serve Him our whole lives.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God is "Omniscient." This means that He is all-powerful.
 Answer: False! It means that He knows all things--through of course He is all-powerful.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. What is a Basilikos? What made him rich? How was he really poor?

Answer: He was a Jew who worked in King Herod Antipas' royal city. He was rich in money. He was poor because he didn't know God or even seem to care about Him.

b. Who gave him true riches? What were they? What amazing powers did this person show?

Answer: Jesus gave him true riches of salvation through faith in Him. He showed He knew and could do things that only God could do.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

" ___ be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and ___ are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and ___ to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with him."

Answer: praise, power, knowledge.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Immortal, Invisible

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16

Verse 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 In light inaccessible,
 Hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious,
 The Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious,
 Thy great name we praise.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune

The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the God who knows everything there is to know.

C God, we confess that like the Rich Basilikos, sometimes we would rather live a rich life, full of good things rather than think about God and live for Him. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You for loving sinful people, like the Rich Basilikos and us, even before they loved or cared about You and Your good ways.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Work in our hearts that we might want to know You and live for You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Praise Be to the Name of God

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17

Praise be to the name of God forever and ever,
 Wisdom and power are His forever and ever.
 He gives wisdom to the wise,
 and knowledge to the discerning.
 He reveals deep and hidden things;
 He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.
 Praise be to the name of God forever and ever,
 Wisdom and power are His forever and ever.
 Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-two.

Words: Daniel 2:20-22, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 6

The LORD Is Holy

God is holy. He set apart from everything and everyone else. He is good and He is great. He never sins in anything He thinks, says, does or plans. Because He is holy, He hates sin. Sin is rebelling against God and His good ways. God is so holy that nothing sinful can come into His presence.

We are all sinners, so how can we ever become God's people? It is only because of Jesus, the holy Son of God. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He chose to die on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. He suffered the full punishment for their sins, exchanging their un-holiness (sinfulness) for His perfect holiness. Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are saved. They get to know God and will one day live in His holy presence forever.

God calls His people to live for Him by being holy as He is holy. He wants them to reflect the way He is. God's Holy Spirit helps them do this. He lives in their hearts and helps them to love God and obey Him. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth. But one day, they will live with their wonderful God in heaven, perfectly good and holy, changed by Him to never sin again! How wonderful that will be!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3

"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

CASE STORY

1 Samuel 4-7

Our story is called:

The Case of the Fish God Who Flopped.

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

1. Who was the Fish God? Why did the Fish God seem to win at first?
2. Who made him flop? How? What did the Philistines and the Israelites come to see about the LORD?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

What troublesome neighbors were the Philistines! For many years, they had been some of the Sea Peoples who raided ships on the Mediterranean Sea. Then they settled down on a little strip of land on the coast, right next to Israel, bringing their gods and pirating ways with them.

Both the Philistine's habit of raiding others soon became a big deal to the people of Israel. The Philistine land quickly became overcrowded and its five, big cities--Ekron, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Gaza--were full to bursting! So what did these pirate-y people do? Make plans to steal land from their neighbor, Israel.

And who would the Philistines depend on to give them victory? Their gods, especially Dagon. Dagon was their god of good crops and rain. In other words, he was the god who brought them all the good stuff! He looked like a man from the waist up, but had the fins and tail of a fish from the waist down. What a funny looking god!

But as funny as Dagon may have looked, it under his banner that the Philistine army swooped into Israel to take some more land. The soldiers of Israel came out to meet them. How very different the two armies looked! The Philistines had strong armor, but the Israelites had none. The Philistines stood under the banner of their god, Dagon, but the Israelites had nothing to represent their god. The Philistines didn't think things looked good for the Israelites, especially without a token of the LORD. Most people believed that the gods fought in heaven while the soldiers fought on earth. If your god was to fight for you, then you had to have a token of him with your army. Dagon was sure to beat the LORD.

But the Israelites weren't worried. God's law had told them to make no images or tokens for Him. They were

confident the LORD would easily defeat Dagon in heaven as well as the Philistines' army there on earth. After all, the LORD was the one, true God who created both heaven and earth.

But, to the Israelites' shock, the LORD did not bring them victory! The Philistines killed four thousand of their men and won some Israelite land. Loudly they shouted, "Praise Dagon! He is stronger than the LORD! He has given us victory over Israel today!"

"Why did the LORD let us be defeated," the Israelite leaders wondered. If they had asked the prophet, Samuel, they would have known the answer. "The LORD is holy," Samuel would have told them. "He is set apart from everything else, in perfectly pure goodness and love. Nothing sinful can stand in His presence. He calls His people to be holy, too," he would have reminded them. "You've been worshiping the fake gods, Ashoreth and Baal as well as the LORD. Even the LORD's priests do sinful things with the offerings that are offered to Him. The LORD is holy. He will not put up with this! He won't go out with you to battle until you worship Him in holiness as He has told you to!" he would have said.

But the Israelite leaders didn't even think of asking Samuel. Instead, they came up with their own idea: "The LORD wasn't with us because we went out to battle without a token of Him, like the Philistines do of Dagon. Let's get the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle. The LORD is supposed to especially dwell with His people over the Ark. If we bring it here, then He will be with us and help us!" they thought.

What a terrible idea! Had the Israelites really forgotten the special laws about the Ark? The LORD had told them that Ark was so holy that no one was supposed to even look at it—not even the priests! To misuse the Ark in any way meant God's certain punishment!

The Israelites went out to fight the Philistines again, sure that the LORD would fight for them now; but of course, He didn't! He was a holy God. His people were dishonoring Him even more with how they treated the Ark! Once more, the Philistines defeated the Israelites. This time, thirty-thousand soldiers and two priests died. The Ark was captured and placed in Dagon's temple in the city of Ashdod.

"Oh great Dagon, we bring you this token of the LORD, the Israelites' God who you triumphed over. He is your

prisoner," the Philistines proclaimed.

But was the LORD really Dagon's prisoner? The next day, the people went in Dagon's temple and found that some unseen hand pushed over their huge image of Dagon so that it lay face down on the ground before the Ark of the LORD. The Philistines set him upright again, only to find that he had fallen down on his face once more... and this time his head and hands had fallen off.

Who had made this fish god flop? I bet you can guess! It was the LORD! He was no one's prisoner! He could never be made to bow down to Dagon! Yes, He had chosen not to protect His sinful people until they confessed their sins and turned back to Him, but He also chose to make sure the Philistines knew that He, not Dagon, was the one the holy, one, true God. He alone should be worshiped!

The LORD had made it clear who He was, but the Philistines still refused to give up the Ark. So now, the LORD sent trouble upon the people. Tumors grew on their skin and rats flooded their city. People got sick and died. The people of Ashdod said, "Get rid of the Ark of the LORD! He's the one who's bringing these terrible things upon us."

They were right! When they sent the Ark away to the city of Gath, the people of Ashdod got better and the rats went away, but the people of Gath began having them. The same thing happened when the Ark was moved to Ekron, too. At last, the Philistines had had enough! They called for their wise men and said, "What shall we do with the Ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back."

"Send it back with a guilt offering to admit that you have sinned against this holy God," they were told.

They made a guilt offering of five, gold tumors and five, gold rats to represent the punishment the LORD had sent on them. They placed them along with the Ark on a cart pulled by cows and sent it off by itself to the Israelite city of Beth Shemesh. As the leaders watched it go, being led only by the will of the Israelites' God, they knew that it truly had been Him who had brought these terrible sicknesses upon them. At last the sickness and rats came to an end. How happy they were to be rid of the Ark of this holy God!

The Israelites rejoiced when the Ark arrived at Beth Shemesh and offered worship gifts to the LORD, but they still didn't treat Him as the holy God He was. Seventy, curious men decided to look into the Ark, though they knew the LORD's warning that anyone who did would die. And die, those men did! The people were terrified, "Who

can stand before this holy God?" they cried. They sent the Ark faraway to Kiriath Jearim and went back to worshipping their much safer, fake gods: Baal and Ashtoreth.

For twenty, long years, the Israelites kept dishonoring their holy God and the LORD kept on allowing the Philistines to attack them. At last they were sick of their sins. They got rid of their idols of Baal and Ashtoreth and met Samuel at Mizpah with their worship gifts for the LORD. "You are the holy God and we have sinned against You. Please forgive us," the people prayed. And this time, they truly did turn back to the LORD.

Before long, the Philistines attacked Israel once more. "Oh, Samuel! We are so afraid of these Philistines! they cried. "Do not stop praying to the LORD for us that He would rescue us from our enemies this time." they pleaded. Samuel prayed to the LORD as the Israelites went out to face the Philistines.

The Israelites had turned from their sins and turned to honor and obey the LORD, their holy God. Now He would defeat their enemies! The Bible tells us what happened: "The LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were fled Mizpah with the Israelites beating them back far, far out of Israel." The Israelites won without even raising a single sword! How great was the LORD!

Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying "Thus far has the LORD helped us." He wanted the people to always remember this day, which turned out to be the day the fish god finally and completely flopped. Never again did the Philistines attack the Israelites.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Holy

Our Bible Verse is: Isaiah 6:1-3

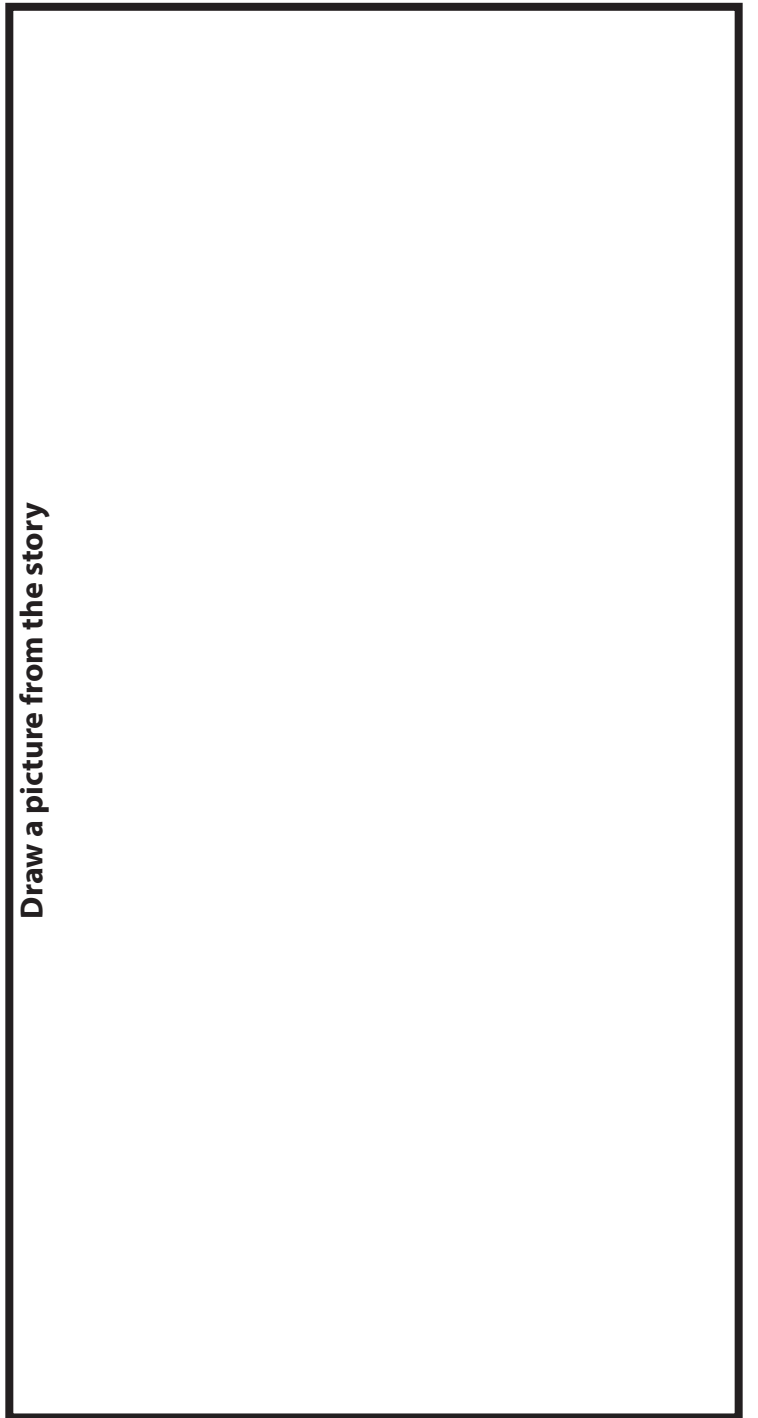
"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with 6 wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

The Israelites as well as the Philistines came to know that indeed the LORD is holy. They saw that He was unlike any other god. He punishes those who sin against Him, yet offers forgiveness to all who turn from their sins and ask for forgiveness.

But what about you and me? Are we so different from the Israelites and the Philistines? How many times do we

forget to live holy lives that honor and obey the LORD? How many times do we chose to break His good laws or disrespect Him? Is there hope for us? Yes, there is, because of Jesus. He came to pay for the sins of all those who will ever turn and trust in Him. He will cleanse of our sins and then fill us with His Holy Spirit and change our hearts so that we can live holy lives that please our holy LORD.

Let's praise God for sending His Son Jesus to make a way for sinful people like us to know and enjoy Him. Let's ask Him to help us to honor and obey Him as He, the perfectly holy God deserves.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God is holy. He never sins in anything He thinks, says, does or plans. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Fish God? Why did the Fish God seem to win at first? Answer: Dagon. Because the Philistines defeated the Israelites in battle and Dagon was their god.</p> <p>b. Who made him flop? How? What did the Philistines and the Israelites come to see about the LORD? Answer: The LORD. By making his statue fall down and worship Him in his temple. By bringing sickness upon the Philistines in the cities that kept the Ark of the Covenant. That He is holy and is the one, true God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3 "I saw the ___ seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with ___ wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD ___; the whole earth is full of his glory!'" Answer: Lord, six, Almighty.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19</i></p> <p>Verse 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns, Around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim, Falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, And evermore shall be.</p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man They glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>This song is a picture of God in His splendid holiness in heaven. One day, God's people will come before Him and at last see Him upon His throne in His perfect holiness, just as this song describes.</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 holy.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like the Philistine and the Israelites we choose to forget that the LORD is the holy, one, true God. We disobey His laws. We deserve His punishment for our sins. We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for being so patient with sinners like us! Thank You for sending Jesus to pay for our sins and make the way for us to come to You.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to seek to live holy lives that please You.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>I Saw the LORD <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20</i></p> <p>I saw the Lord, Seated on a throne, High and exalted, Seated on a throne, Above Him were seraphs, Each with six wings, They were calling to one another, "Holy is the Lord, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord." Isaiah Six, one through three.</p> <p>Words: Isaiah 6:1-3 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses are a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is so high and exalted because of His perfect holiness and He is to be worshiped. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.</p>

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We are all sinners, so how can we ever become God's people? It is only because of Jesus, the holy Son of God. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He chose to die on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. He suffered the full punishment for their sins, exchanging their un-holiness (sinfulness) for His perfect holiness. Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are saved. They get to know God and will one day live in His holy presence forever.

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CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Remarkably Merciful Message.

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

1. What was the Merciful Message? Who came to believe it?
2. What was so remarkable about how merciful it was?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts out on August 9, 1788, in Malden, Massachusetts.

What a happy day this was for Mr. and Mrs. Judson! Mrs. Judson had just given birth to a son. "Thank You, Lord, for our son, Adoniram. Please make him a man who loves You. Please use him to tell many others about You. Do great things through him," they prayed.

It soon was clear that God had given Adoniram some unusual gifts--gifts that could be used to do great things for God. When only three years old, little Adoniram began to read and memorize the Bible. He learned about God's holiness: His perfect goodness and power. About our sinfulness: that we all deserve God's punishment. About God's love for sinners through Christ: who suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would turn and trust in Him. And about God's offer of eternal life to all who do trust in Jesus: their sins forgiven, the Holy Spirit in their heart, the promise of life with God forever in heaven.

By the time he was four, Adoniram began to tell others these great truths, too. His favorite game was playing church with the neighborhood children. He, would preach a little sermon and lead the others in singing, "Go, Preach My Gospel," a favorite hymn at their church. "We must go into all the world and tell them about the love of Christ, its height, its depth, its length and breadth!" Adoniram urged the other children, "Oh, that Jesus would suffer and die to save sinners like you and me!"

When Adoniram was old enough to go to school, he amazed his teachers. "We've never had such a smart student!" they told his parents. "You must send him to Providence College so he can finish his education."

His parents happily agreed. It looked like all their prayers for their son were being answered! The Lord was preparing Adoniram to do great things for him.

Adoniram found the work at Providence College difficult. The other students were very smart. Even so, Adoniram was soon known as one of the college's best students.

Another extremely smart student named Jacob Eames heard about Adoniram. He heard how smart he was and that he came from a godly family. Mr. Eames thought it was silly to believe in God and decided to do something terrible. He would do everything he could to get Adoniram to stop believing in God.

Eames' plan worked. Adoniram was so charmed by his new friend that he rejected all that he had learned about God. For you see, it's one thing to know about the love of Christ and the forgiveness He offers; but it's another thing to believe in Christ and ask for forgiveness for yourself. Adoniram had been a "knower" as a child; but had not been a "believer." He had yet to trust in Jesus as His own Savior.

"I don't believe in God as you do," he told his parents. "I'm not going to spend my life telling other about Jesus. I want to be rich and famous," he told them. "But first, I am going to travel. I want to see America," Adoniram got on his horse and set off down the road, ready to live life his own way.

One evening Adoniram came to a little country inn. "Do you have any rooms available?" he asked.

"I do, but it's next to the room of a dying man. He's in a lot of pain and makes a lot of noise. You might not want it," the innkeeper replied.

"I'll take it. Death doesn't bother me," Adoniram said.

But listening to that poor, dying man all night did bother Adoniram... a lot! Questions about this dying man filled his mind: "What kind of man was he? Was he ready to stand before the holy LORD? Did he trust in Jesus' death as payment for his sins? Where would he spend eternity?" Adoniram wondered. Then he scolded himself: "You're thinking about death as a Christian would! Eames would think that was ridiculous."

That night, the man died. "What was the man's name?" Adoniram asked the next morning.

"Jacob Eames," the innkeeper replied.

Adoniram gasped in horror. "It was my friend! Eames! Now he's dead!" he said. "He died unprepared to meet the holy Lord. He never confessed his sins or trusted in Jesus for forgiveness. He died without hope!" he exclaimed. "I will, too, if I don't give up my rebellious ways and turn to Him! What a fool I've been!"

Right then, Adoniram confessed his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior! God forgave Adoniram and filled his heart with His love. Adoniram was overcome with God's

kindness to him! "How great is God's love for sinners that He would choose to forgive me even though I chose to reject Him all these years!" Adoniram thought.

Adoniram rode straight home to tell his parents the change the Lord had brought to his heart. How they rejoiced! Adoniram's life plans changed, too. He made it his one goal to live a holy life. Every day he lived by asking, "Does this please the Lord?"

He also decided to go to Burma to tell people about Jesus. "How will these people be saved if no one will go?" Adoniram thought. "They have to face the holy God like the rest of us. Surely the love of God through Christ must reach to people in all parts of the world. I will go and tell them, that they might turn from their sins and trust in Christ and be saved."

A few years later, Adoniram and Ann--his new bride of just seven days--said goodbye to their friends and families and set sail for India and then Rangoon, Burma. How different Rangoon was from Massachusetts! They had left the snowy, cold winters of New England for the steamy tropics and rainy season floods of Burma. Back home, there had been churches in every town. Now there were only Buddhist pagodas (temples) with giant statues of Buddha in them.

Adoniram and Ann stared up at the massive Shwedagon Pagoda of Rangoon. It was covered with 60 tons of gold and over 5000 diamonds. Its spire alone was over 300 feet tall! It was the pride of the Burmese people, but it made the Judsons so sad. There was nothing in Buddha's teachings to point the Burmese people to Jesus. Buddha taught there was no God who people could know and love, only a great invisible force that people who follow Buddha's teachings will become a part of. Many of the people lived in fear of evil spirits that they believed must be pleased by sacrifices to keep them from doing harmful things to them. Oh, how the Burmans needed to know about the height, the depth, the length and breadth of the love of Christ! Adoniram knew this more than ever.

"The still, small voice of God will come and replace your power," Adoniram vowed as he stood looking at the huge pagoda. "The churches of Jesus Christ will take the place of these monuments to idols. Voices will sing hymns of praise to Jesus Christ!"

The only place Adoniram and Ann could find to live in was a small mud hut, built on a swamp outside of the city

wall. On one side was the trash dump and on the other was the cemetery. Yet even in these horrible conditions, the Judsons eagerly set to work on learning Burmese--one of the most difficult languages in the world--so they could tell the people of Burma about the love of Christ.

The Judsons prayed and worked for six, long years before the first Burman came to believe in Jesus. The Judsons rejoiced at God's blessing and kept praying and working. Slowly others came to believe, too.

As the number of Burmese Christians grew, so did anger from the Burmese government. They didn't want their people to believe in Jesus! They accused Adoniram of being a spy, though they knew he wasn't one. They threw him into prison, even forcing him to live in an abandoned lion's cage for a while. Ann and their child suffered greatly, too; but, never did they regret coming to Burma.

"Think much on the love of Christ, think much on the love of Christ!" Adoniram would tell everyone. Nothing--not even their lives-- was too much to give up so that the Burmese might know God's great love offered to sinners through Christ. After thirty-four years, Adoniram boarded a ship for America. It was time to go home for good. He had translated the entire Bible into Burmese, started sixty-three churches, and seen over seven thousand Burmese come to know the Lord. But his body, sick and worn from years of difficulties, was never to make it back to America. Adoniram died on board the ship and his body was buried at sea.

What were the last words of this man? They were "Think much on the love of Christ; think much on the love of Christ!"

Even at the very end, all he could think of was the love Christ showed by coming to be the payment for sins, that many might know the wonderful fellowship with the holy God, rather than face His just punishment for their sins.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Holy

Our Bible Verse is: Isaiah 6:1-3

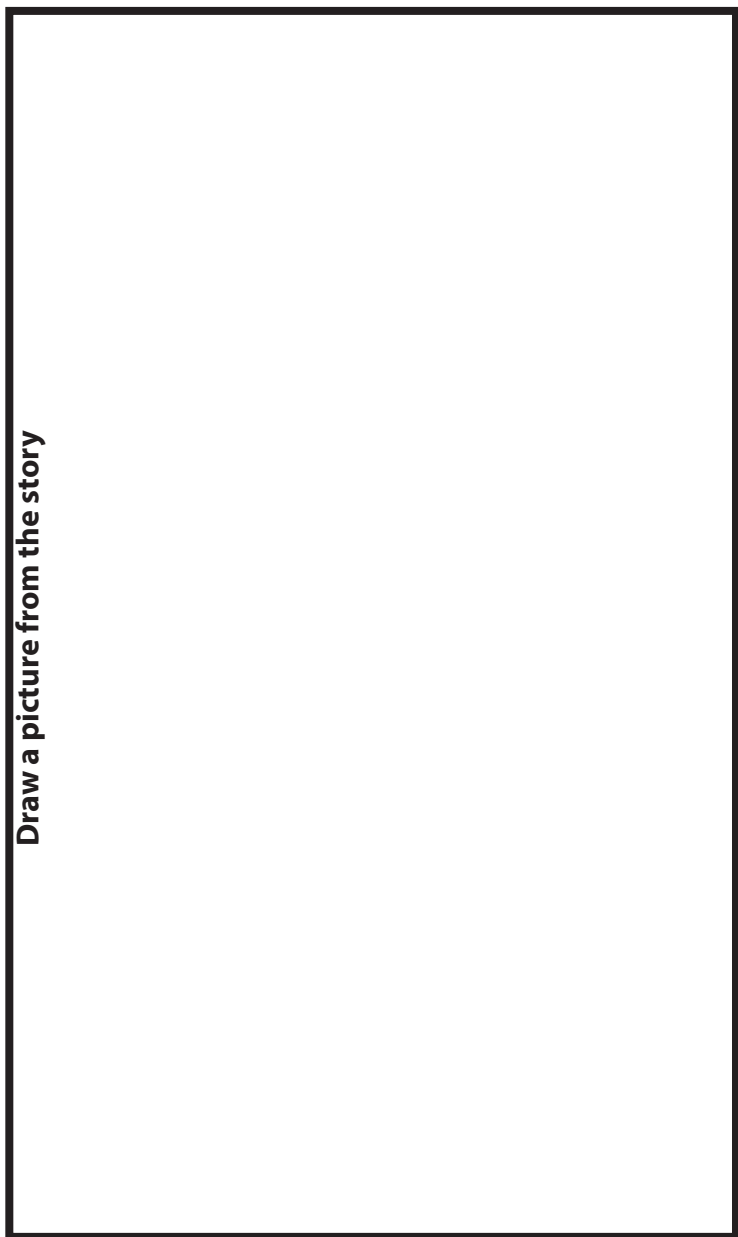
"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with 6 wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

Adoniram Judson lived a life thinking much on the love of Christ, for he knew how he had no hope before a holy

God without Christ's loving sacrifice made on his behalf. He gave his whole life as an offering of thanksgiving in return. Nothing was too much to do for His Lord.

What about you and me? Do we think much on the love of Christ? Do we realize that it is only through Him that we shall receive forgiveness for our sins and enjoy fellowship with the holy God rather than punishment? Like Adoniram Judson, like the people of Burma; like all people, everywhere, we need Jesus to be our Savior. It is God's free gift to all who turn from their sins, confess them to God and trust Jesus as their own Savior.

Let's praise God for loving sinful people like us so much that He would send Jesus to save us. Let's ask Him to help us to live out our lives thinking much on His love; and to create in us a willingness to serve Him, however He desires.



Draw a picture from the story

<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: We are all sinners, but God wants us to be His people so much that He just overlooks our sins. Answer: False! It is only because Jesus paid for sins on the cross that any of us can be His people!</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What was the Merciful Message? Who came to believe it? Answer: That the Lord, though He is perfectly holy, loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus. Through Him, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.</p> <p>b. What was so remarkable about how merciful it was? Answer: Because it came from God, who is holy, and was made to sinners who deserved His punishment, not His mercy.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3 "I saw the Lord seated on a ____, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were ____, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole ____ is full of his glory!'" Answers: throne, seraphs, earth.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19</i></p> <p>Verse 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns, Around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim, Falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, And evermore shall be.</p> <p>Verse 3 Holy, holy, holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful man They glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee, perfect in pow'r, In love and purity.</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>This song is a picture of God in His splendid holiness in heaven. One day, God's people will come before Him and at last see Him upon His throne in His perfect holiness, just as this song describes.</p>
<p align="center">AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE VERSE SONG</p>
<p align="center"><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being purely holy and full of love.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Adoniram Judson, we have heard that God is holy, yet we sin against Him. We need Jesus to be our Savior.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your great patience with sinners, like Adoniram Judson and like us. Thank You for sending Jesus to save all sinners who turn from their sins and trust in You as their Savior.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to tell others about God's great love shown through Jesus, that they might be saved, too.</p>	<p>I Saw the LORD <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20</i></p> <p>I saw the Lord, Seated on a throne, High and exalted, Seated on a throne, Above Him were seraphs, Each with six wings, They were calling to one another, "Holy is the Lord, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord." Isaiah Six, one through three.</p> <p>Words: Isaiah 6:1-3 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses are a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is so high and exalted because of His perfect holiness and He is to be worshiped. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.</p>

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PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 6

The LORD Is Holy

God is holy. He set apart from everything and everyone else. He is good and He is great. He never sins in anything He thinks, says, does or plans. Because He is holy, He hates sin. Sin is rebelling against God and His good ways. God is so holy that nothing sinful can come into His presence.

We are all sinners, so how can we ever become God's people? It is only because of Jesus, the holy Son of God. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He chose to die on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. He suffered the full punishment for their sins, exchanging their un-holiness (sinfulness) for His perfect holiness. Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are saved. They get to know God and will one day live in His holy presence forever.

God calls His people to live for Him by being holy as He is holy. He wants them to reflect the way He is. God's Holy Spirit helps them do this. He lives in their hearts and helps them to love God and obey Him. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth. But one day, they will live with their wonderful God in heaven, perfectly good and holy, changed by Him to never sin again! How wonderful that will be!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3

"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

CASE STORY

Revelation 1-7

Our story is:

The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision.

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

1. Who got to see the vision? Who was he supposed to share the vision with?
2. Why did these people need encouraging? What about God did they find encouraging?

This story takes place in New Testament times, about sixty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

An old man named John sat writing a letter on a scroll on the lonely island of Patmos. The Romans had put him here, trying to stop him from telling more people about Jesus and from encouraging the Christians who were part of the seven churches of Turkey. It was true, John certainly couldn't share about Jesus in person anymore, but he could still write. So that he did.

"How are you, believers in Philadelphia, in Ephesus, Laodicea; Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis?" John wanted to know. "Are you being persecuted? Are you holding onto your faith in Jesus?" he asked them.

John was saddened, but not surprised by the news he received from them: the Romans had increased their persecution of the Christians again. The emperor Domitian was requiring everyone to confess Him as Lord and God. Whoever refused would be punished. The Christians were being arrested, hurt and killed. Their houses and their belongings were being taken.

Many believers were scared and discouraged, but they held on to their faith. Domitian was nothing like God! They knew that! The LORD was holy and good. Domitian was only a wicked, proud man. How could they dream of worshipping Him instead of Jesus! But the persecutions were terrible! The believers worried that they would not have strength to endure their sufferings to the end.

John cared for these seven little churches of Turkey and longed to encourage them. He did all that he could do: he prayed long hours for them and wrote them words of wisdom and encouragement.

But John was not the only one who cared for these poor, suffering, scared believers. The greatest Someone of all--the Lord Jesus, Himself--knew what they were enduring;

and He, Himself, wanted to give them special encouragement. So one Sunday, Jesus came to John in a vision and gave him a special message in words and pictures for the seven churches of Turkey. It was this very vision that John was busy writing down on his scroll just then. A vision of things far more beautiful and wonderful than anything that could ever be seen on earth.

John wrote: "One Sunday, while here on Patmos, I heard behind me a very loud voice say, 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'

"When I turned around to see who was speaking to me, I saw a glorious-looking person standing among seven lampstands. He was dressed in a long robe with a golden sash around his chest. He was prepared for battle. His head and hair were snowy white. His eyes, feet and face shone bright with God's glory. And when he spoke, his voice was loud and powerful like a crashing waterfall. His words were powerful like a sword sharp on both sides. They could protect God's people and they could punish their enemies," John wrote.

Who was this glorious, powerful Person? It was Jesus, the Holy Son of God, in all His glory! To each of the seven churches of Turkey, Jesus gave special instructions. Some He warned: "Remember your Holy God. Stop sinning!" Others He praised: "You have lived holy lives that please your holy God, Well done!" He encouraged all: "Keep going, even though it's very hard. The holy Lord reigns! He won't leave the sins of rebellious people unpunished forever. He won't let His people endure these hard times forever. Don't be scared. Don't be discouraged. Keep going! He who overcomes all these terrible days will live and reign with Me forever just as I overcame when I suffered and died on the cross, but now have sat down with my Father on His throne," Jesus said.

What wonderful words! What wonderful promises the Lord had for those seven churches of Turkey! But there was more. In his vision, John looked up and there before him was a door standing open to heaven, itself! "Come up here," Jesus said to John, "and I will show you what must take place after this."

As John entered the door, he saw the most unbelievably beautiful things. There was a magnificent throne and on it sat God the Father Himself, in inapproachable, glorious light that kept you from seeing Him, yet shown out from

Him in beautiful, jewel-like colors. Completely surrounding the throne was what looked like a rainbow of emerald green. And right in front of the throne was a huge lampstand with seven flames that stood for the full, powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Then spreading out from the lampstand was a huge circle of made of spotless, priceless, sparkling crystal. Four cherubim were perched on each of the four corners of the throne: one with the face of a lion, another with the face of an ox, the third with the face of a man and the fourth with a face of an eagle. They all had six, magnificent wings and many eyes with which to see everything in every direction. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." John was overwhelmed with this picture of God's perfect, majestic holiness.

John was not the only one to be hearing and seeing these glorious things. There were twenty-four elders there, too. Each sat upon a golden throne that together formed a circle all the way around God's throne. They were dressed in white and they had crowns of gold on their heads. Whenever the cherubim sang out their words of glory, honor and thanks to the Lord who reigns and lives forever, the twenty-four elders would fall down before the Lord, laying their crowns before Him and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor and power, for by Your will You created all things and cause them to live."

John saw picture after picture of the wonderful things to come. He saw Jesus approach His Father's throne and receive the loud shouts of praise from millions of angels and creatures.

But John also learned about the terrible sufferings that the world would face as judgments for their sins against the holy God. He learned about the hard times that God's people would endure as people persecuted them for their faith. John listened as some of God's people who had been killed, cry out: "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the earth for how people have treated us?"

"The holy Lord reigns!" they were told. "He won't leave the sins of rebellious people unpunished forever. Keep going! You must wait a little longer. Still more of God's people will first suffer and die for their faith."

More who must suffer and die?! The believers in the seven churches of Turkey knew all about that. They were those who were suffering and dying right then. Oh, how they longed for it to be over! Jesus knew how hard it would

be to hear these words and so He gave John a peek into of what they would enjoy when their sufferings were over. John looked and he saw that now there before the throne with the cherubim and the twenty-four elders and the ten thousands of ten thousands angels, a great multitude of people that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of Jesus had come. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They shouted: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to Jesus." Again, all the angels and the twenty-four godly men fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped, saying: "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and strength be to our God forever. Amen!"

"These people are those who suffered and died for their faith in Jesus," John was told. "They will get to come before God's throne and serve Him day and night in his temple and God will, Himself, take care of them forever. Never again will they hunger or thirst or suffer at all. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. They will have eternal life through Jesus."

How loving of God to give the believers in Turkey this heavenly hope! The holy Lord reigned! They didn't need to be scared or discouraged. He wouldn't let His people endure suffering forever. He would bring an end to those terrible times at just the right time.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Holy

Our Bible Verse is: Isaiah 6:1-3

"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with 6 wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

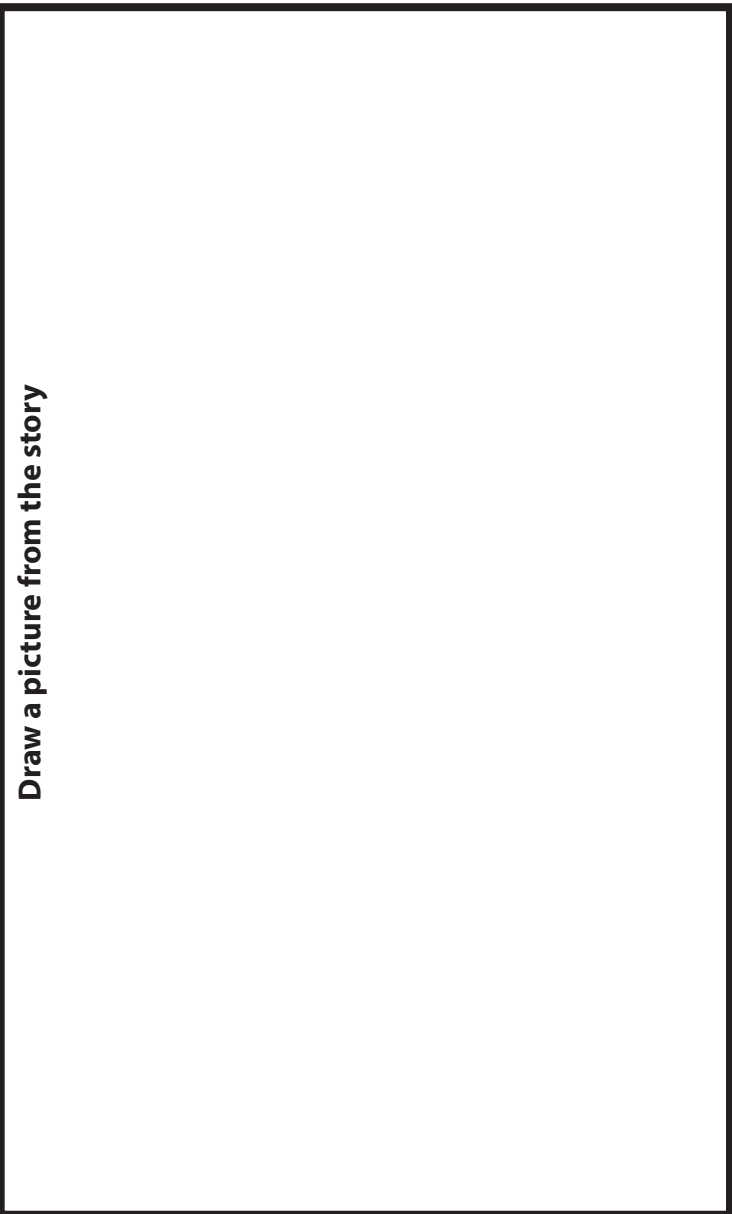
John saw a picture of the Lord on His throne. He understood that the Lord is the holy God. He won't always leave sin unpunished. One day it will be gone forever and God's people will live in heaven with Him, where there will be nothing but perfect holiness. How happy John must have been to bring these words of encouragement to those suffering believers!

But what about you and me? What does this story mean for us? It is a warning and an encouragement. It is a warning to take our sins as seriously as God does. He is holy and

He hates sins. We should turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, we will receive God's forgiveness instead of facing His judgment.

But it's also an encouragement. For not only does God offer full forgiveness through Jesus, but He also promises to help us endure any sufferings we may face as His people. And best yet, He will make us among those whose tears He will wipe away and welcome to live in His glorious presence forever....if we will repent of our sins and put our trust in Him as our Savior.

Let's praise God for not only being perfectly holy and promising one day to bring the end to all sin and suffering. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might confess our sins and turn to Him for forgiveness. Let's ask Him to help us to brave when facing suffering and to remember the wonderful blessings of His presence He promises us in heaven.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God calls His people to be holy, but they have to do it on their own without His help.
 Answer: False! God's Holy Spirit lives inside His people. He helps them to live holy lives.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who got to see the vision? Who was he supposed to share the vision with?
 Answer: The apostle John. The Christians in the seven churches of Turkey.

b. Why did these people need encouraging? What about God did they find encouraging?
 Answer: They were being terribly persecuted by the Romans for their faith in Jesus. That He was holy and one day would bring justice. He would take them home to live with Him in heaven. He would do away with sin, suffering and death forever.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Isaiah 6:1-3
 "I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and ____, and the train of His robe filled the ____. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: ' __, __, __ is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"
 Answer: exalted; temple; holy, holy, holy.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19

Verse 2
 Holy, holy, holy!
 All the saints adore Thee,
 Casting down their golden crowns,
 Around the glassy sea;
 Cherubim and seraphim,
 Falling down before Thee,
 Who wert, and art,
 And evermore shall be.

Verse 3
 Holy, holy, holy!
 Tho' the darkness hide Thee,
 Tho' the eye of sinful man
 Their glory may not see;
 Only Thou art holy;
 There is none beside Thee,
 perfect in pow'r,
 In love and purity.

Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes

This song is a picture of God in His splendid holiness in heaven. One day, God's people will come before Him and at last see Him upon His throne in His perfect holiness, just as this song describes.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Overcomer of all evil and the Savior of His people.

C God, we confess that many times we choose not to trust God in hard times, afraid that He won't take care of us.

T God, we thank You for offering salvation through Jesus. Thank You for the wonderful home that all Your people will enjoy with You forever.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You and help us to endure any suffer we might face because we believe in You. Please help the Christians facing terrible suffering from enemies even today. Give them relief. Help them to endure them with joy and peace.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Saw the LORD
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20

I saw the Lord,
 Seated on a throne,
 High and exalted,
 Seated on a throne,
 Above Him were seraphs,
 Each with six wings,
 They were calling to one another,
 "Holy is the Lord,
 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
 Holy, holy, holy is the Lord."
 Isaiah Six, one through three.

Words: Isaiah 6:1-3 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses are a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is so high and exalted because of His perfect holiness and He is to be worshiped. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7:
The LORD Is Omnipotent

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5,6
"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made... The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

Esther 1-9

Our story is called:
The Case of the King's Eye.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the King's Eye? What made him so powerful?
2. Who was more powerful than the King's Eye? How did he show that?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place back in the days of Xerxes, King of Persia, about 500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Xerxes was one of the most powerful kings the world has ever known. His kingdom included many peoples and stretched from Africa to India. Xerxes expected people to do things his way and do them fast. Servants jumped at his commands. The laws he made could never be broken. People came into his presence only by special approval. To make sure these things happened, Xerxes had a special, very powerful servant he called the King's Eye. This man made sure the king's laws were followed, scheduled all his meetings, and kept watch for and got rid of all of the king's enemies.

Xerxes chose a man named Haman to be the King's Eye. Haman was usually very busy taking care of the king's business. But right now, as our story begins, he was up to some business of his own--and bad business it was.

"Gods of Persia, tell me upon what day I should get rid of my enemy, Mordecai the Jew," he prayed, as he threw lots (little wooden sticks) on the fortune-telling board. The lots first landed on the number thirteen, then on the month of Adar. "Ah ha! The thirteenth of Adar! On that day I will punish Mordecai for refusing to bow down to me. I will kill him and all the other Jews with him," he plotted. "Now all I have to do is fool the king into approving my plan."

Haman managed to trick the king with just one lie: "Great King, I have terrible news for you. There's a people called the Jews who don't live by our customs or obey your laws. You should get rid of them. It will take 333 tons of silver (about six million dollars' worth!) to do the job," Haman said.

"Very well," the king agreed, as simply as that. Do what you think best. When you take care of this problem, come back and we will celebrate this great danger from which

Haman happily agreed. He sent out messengers throughout the land with the new law: "By the command of King Xerxes," it said, "My loyal subjects are ordered to get rid of all the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Take all of their belongings, too. Prepare yourself for that day," the people were told.

Haman was delighted! Soon he would be rid of Mordecai and all his people! He went to celebrate with the king. But the Jews were horrified. They wept and fasted. They put on itchy sackcloth, rubbed ashes on their skin and they prayed and prayed to the one who could rescue them--the LORD. Perhaps Xerxes was a very powerful king and Haman was his very powerful servant, but the LORD was omnipotent--all powerful! He could help them when no one else could.

Like the rest of the Jews, Mordecai wept, fasted and prayed; but he did something else, too. He sent a message to his niece, Queen Esther, Xerxes' new bride. "Esther, there's a new law ordering the death of all our people! It's Haman's doing. You must go to the king and beg mercy for us," he wrote.

Esther read the dreadful news, but didn't know what to do. "Dear Uncle Mordecai," Esther wrote back, "I want to help, but the law says that anyone who goes to the king without being invited will be put to death, unless the king holds out his golden scepter to them. It's been a whole month since the king has asked to see me. How do I know he will spare my life if I go before him now?"

Esther wrote back.

Mordecai knew what Esther said was true. It seemed like a very chancy thing to approach the king uninvited. But Mordecai didn't believe in chance. He believed in the LORD. He knew He was omnipotent--all-powerful. He was in complete control of what happened to Esther. "Esther, don't think you will escape from this law. You will be killed with the rest of the Jews. You will be doing this to save your life as well as everyone else's. But, don't look at the chances. Rely upon the LORD, His plans and His power. It may be that He's made you queen for such a time as this!" he urged her.

Esther agreed. "You're right, Uncle. I'll do it, but gather all the Jews of the city together. Fast and pray to the LORD for three days for me. I and my maidservants will do the same. Then I will go to the king, even though it's against the law. If I die, I die," she wrote him. Esther knew that only by the

overruling power of the omnipotent LORD would she survive this daring plan.

All the Jews fasted and prayed. Then, on Day Three, Esther put on her royal robes, went to the king, and hoped in the LORD. The LORD answered their prayers! The king raised his scepter to Esther and invited her to come near. "What do you want, Queen Esther? Ask for what you want, up to half my kingdom and I'll give it to you," he told her.

"I would like you and Haman to come today to a banquet I've prepared."

The king happily agreed. At the banquet, as he and Haman were enjoying their wine, he asked Esther again, "What else can I give you, Esther, up to half my kingdom?" he asked her.

"Will you and Haman come to another banquet tomorrow night. I will give you my answer then," she replied.

Haman left the banquet in a good mood. How good it felt to be honored by the queen like this! But all that changed when on his way home he passed by Mordecai and Mordecai refused to bow down and honor him.

Telling his troubles to his wife and friends, they came up with a plan. "Built a tall gallows. Make it seventy-five feet high. In the morning, ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai; then in the evening, go enjoy your dinner with the queen and him," they suggested. Haman agreed. All that night, you could hear the bang-banging of hammers as the gallows was being prepared. The evil plans of the powerful King's Eye seemed certain to succeed.

But there was someone far more powerful than the King's Eye at work that night: The LORD. He is omnipotent--all-powerful. He can defeat the plans of even the most powerful plan. And that's what He did that night.

Sleep is a gift from the LORD and it was one gift He withheld from King Xerxes that night, as part of His good plan. Since he couldn't sleep, Xerxes decided to read. "Bring me the Book of Deeds from my reign," he ordered a servant. Xerxes opened the book and what did he read? The story of how Mordecai the Jew once saved his life from two men who planned to kill him.

"I want to honor Mordecai for what he did for me, but how?" the king said. "Call Haman! He'll know what's best," he ordered.

When Haman arrived, the king asked, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"

Haman was sure the king was thinking of honoring

himself so he came up with a really fancy answer. "Give him one of the king's royal robes, put him on the king's horse and have one of the king's most important men lead him around the city, shouting, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

The king loved the idea. "Haman, go right now and do all that for Mordecai the Jew. And I want you to be the man who leads him through the streets of Susa."

Haman obeyed the king, but hated every moment of it. How hard it was to honor the man he most hated!

But as terrible as this was, the worst was yet to come for Haman, that night at dinner with the king and queen. As they drank their wine, the king said to the queen: "Esther, give me your request."

"O king, please save the lives of my people and myself from the man who plans to destroy us," she pleaded.

"Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" the king demanded.

"He's right here, O king. It's Haman," she replied.

Haman believed he had a plan for revenge that would not fail, he thought he could trick the king into thinking Mordecai needed to die, he thought he could do away with the Jews, but he was wrong. Perhaps he was the powerful King's Eye, but he was nothing compared with the LORD, the Omnipotent God. No one is like Him! The LORD had the power to do whatever He pleases...or to stop whatever He pleases. He works in all peoples and happenings, according to His good plan. He takes even the schemes of wicked men and the laws of powerful kings and weaves them into His own good plans, by His wise, omnipotent hand. He, not the King's Eye, would have the final say. Haman, the man who had once been confident in his own power, now stood terrified and powerless before the king and queen. He had planned to destroy Mordecai and his people; but instead, he would be destroyed.

"Guards, take this man away to the gallows to die!" the king ordered. Haman was taken away and hung.

That very day, the LORD turned over all of Haman's plans and worked out His own good plans, And Mordecai was given Haman's position as the King's Eye, and another law was sent out that would protect the Jews from being wiped out on the 13th of Adar.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent

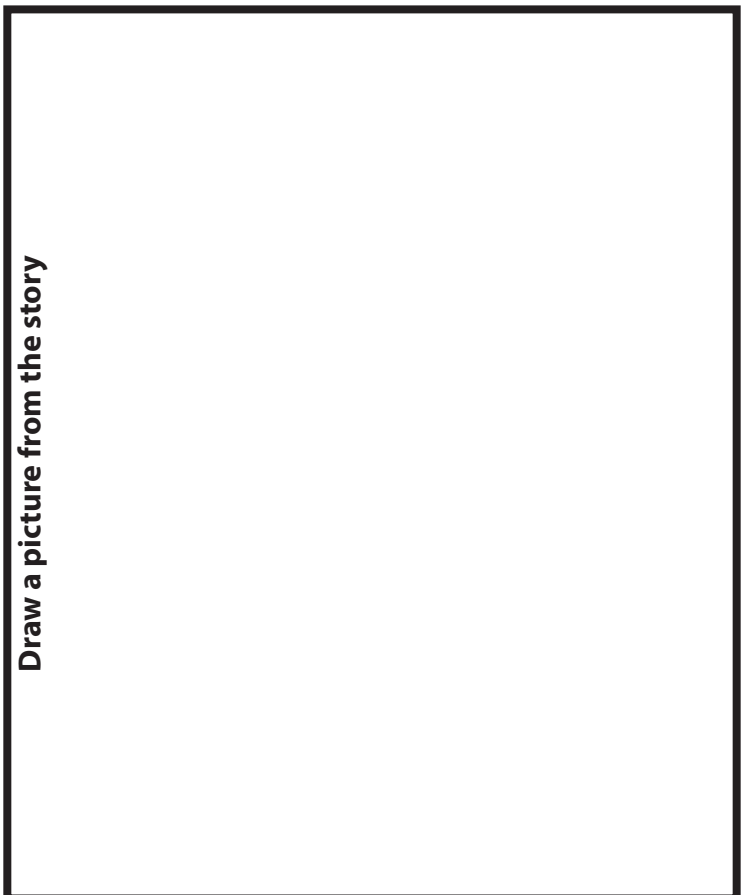
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."

Haman trusted in lots, tricks and the king's laws to destroy the Mordecai and Jews. He didn't understand that his plans could never stand up against the omnipotent LORD, who uses even the schemes of evil men to fulfill His good and wise plan for His people.

But God's people know this is true. Why? Because God has already sent Jesus to save them from the worst thing they will ever have to face: God's just punishment for their sins! That's right! If God has done this, they know that He is surely powerful enough to take care of any other trouble they face.

Let's praise the LORD right now! Let's praise Him for being the Omnipotent God who can do whatever pleases Him, as our Scripture verse say. Let's ask Him to help us to work in our hearts, helping us turn from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us not to worry when we face troubles, but in trust in Him and His omnipotent power to take care of us and work out all things 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:
 Omnipotent means that God is all-knowing.
 Answer: False. Omnipotent means that God is all-powerful.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the King's Eye? What made him so powerful?
 Answer: Haman. The Persian king made him his most powerful servant. He was also powerful because he was deceitful. He used the king's trust in his to (try to) fulfill his own evil plans.

b. Who was more powerful than the King's Eye? How did he show that?
 Answer: The LORD. He overruled Haman's evil plans and worked His own, good plans out of them instead.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Psalm 135:5-6
 "I ___ that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all ____. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the ____, in the seas and all their depths."
 Answers: know, gods, earth.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

This Is My Father's World
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21

Verse 3
 This is my Father's world,
 O let me ne'er forget,
 That though the wrong
 Seems oft so strong,
 God is the Ruler yet.
 This is my Father's world.
 The battle is not done.
 Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
 And earth and heaven be one.

Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard

This world belongs to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being Omnipotent--more powerful than any enemy or trouble we will ever face.

C God, we confess that many times we think You won't or can't take care of us. We choose to worry or fear instead. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You for working out Your wonderful plans, even out of the most terrible things that could happen. You always work out everything for Your people's good and Your glory.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You in everything we go through, instead of worrying or being afraid.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Know that the LORD Is Great
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22

I know that the LORD is great,
 That our Lord is greater than all gods.
 The LORD does whatever pleases him.
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths,
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths.
 The LORD does whatever pleases Him.
 Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.

Words: Psalm 135:5,6, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!
 PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
 "O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
 PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7:
The LORD Is Omnipotent

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5,6
 "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made... The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

adapted from Spiritual Stories for the Young and Old, Joel Beeke, editor

Our story is called:
The Case of the Heavenly Hopeful Boy.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
 1. Who was the Heavenly Hopeful Boy? What did it mean that he was heavenly hopeful?
 2. Why was he so heavenly hopeful? What kinds of things did heaven provide?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place around 1800, in France.

A young boy named Peter sat quietly by the bed of his dying father. This poor boy had lost his mother and now he was losing his father, too. With no brothers or sisters or even aunts, uncles, or grandparents to take care of him, what would happen to him? Back then, the French government didn't do much to take care of orphans (children with no mother or father) like Peter. How would this little boy get food or clothes? Who would take care of him when he was sick? Who would be with him when he was lonely or scared?

The boy's father knew his son's mind must be filled with worried questions like this, so he spent his last moments reminding his boy about God, his Heavenly Father. "Little Peter, you will soon be alone in this world and you will have to face many troubles. But remember: 'All things come from above.' This will make it easier for you to endure all the hard times," he said.

What did Peter's father mean: "All things come from above"? Peter's father was a Christian. He believed that God was omnipotent. He always took care of His people's needs and He made all things in their lives work for their good. He wanted Peter to put his trust in the Lord to take care of him. If he did, then everything could be truly trusted as coming from the good and holy God above.

Little Peter was very little. He couldn't understand everything his father told him, but he understood enough to trust the Lord to take care of him. He repeated the words "It comes from Above" over and over to himself so he wouldn't forget them.

After his father died, Little Peter began to do what he could to survive. He had a beautiful voice and would often go door-to-door or stand in the street, offering to sing in return for food or money. Each time someone gave him something, he thanked them and said, "It comes from

Above," as his father had told him to remember.

When Little Peter became older, he better understood the meaning of his father's words. He began to truly believe that he could trust God to take care of his needs. He believed God's promise to use all things for his good, since he trusted in Him as his Savior.

Not only did Peter just understand the meaning of the words, but he began to see God's omnipotent power and good plan at work in all things in his life. One day, as Peter walked through a town, suddenly a clay roof tile was snatched from a nearby house by a gust of wind. The wind lifted it through the air and then down, hitting Little Peter's shoulder and knocking him down to the ground. The first words he spoke after recovering from the blow were, "It comes from Above."

The people who had gathered around Peter laughed at his words, "Why, of course it came from above. The wind brought it down upon you!"

But Peter wasn't talking about the direction from which the tile came. He was talking about Who had allowed it to happen to him. Peter had learned to trust God to take care of him. He knew that God was in control of all things and at work in all things. He only used His omnipotent power to work all that His good and holy will desired. He knew that whatever the troubles came to him— even this painful one—the Lord allowed

and somehow always used them for Peter's good and His own glory. Everything could be truly trusted as coming from the good and holy God Above.

Only a few minutes later, Little Peter was to see just how true this was. Suddenly another, far bigger gust of wind swept across the rooftops causing some houses only steps down from where Peter lay to crash down onto the sidewalk and in the street.

"Truly the tile did come from Above! God even used it for my good!" Peter exclaimed. "If it hadn't knocked me down, then I would have been caught in the middle of that house when it fell down! The tile hurt me, the house could have killed me!" Peter thanked God once more for His omnipotent power used for his good.

As Peter grew up, sometimes he was hired by businessmen as a messenger boy. One day a gentleman asked him to take a letter to another town for him. "You must hurry. This letter contains very important business that must be taken care of right now! Much depends upon this letter. Take it

safely! Take it fast! Make sure that it gets in the hands of the businessman in the other town," the businessman told Peter.

"I will go as fast as I can," Little Peter.

So, rather than taking the road to the other town, Little Peter took a short cut across the countryside. Past farmers working their fields, over the water ditches, Little Peter went as fast as he could go, tightly onto the important letter the whole time. Peter sped along until he went to leap one particularly wide ditch. Instead of reaching the other side, he fell into the mud. When finally he had pulled himself out and up the other side of the ditch, he was one, big, muddy mess. Worst of all, Peter had lost the letter!

"Oh, no! What will the businessman say?" Peter couldn't help but wonder. "What will happen if the letter is not delivered? Surely the man won't pay me for this job." Would Peter be without money to buy food now?

But as quick as these thoughts came to mind, so did the words of his father: "Remember: it comes from Above." Once more Peter trusted the Lord, even with this terrible situation.

Peter went straight back to the businessman and told him everything that had happened. The man was furious, especially when Peter tried to encourage him by telling him that "It comes from Above."

"How could something like this come from God, as if some good could come from it?" the man told Peter.

He chased Peter out of the room. Peter would not be hired by this man again, that was certain! But nonetheless, Peter kept trusting the Lord.

Sure enough, the next day but that very same gentleman found Little Peter and said: "Little Peter, I want to pay you well for what you did yesterday. It has turned out for the good that the letter was lost yesterday! Some things in my business changed so much from yesterday to today that I would have been ruined if that letter had been delivered. Thank you!"

Little Peter gratefully took the money and said once more to the man, "It comes from Above." And now even the man could see that it had.

Many more things like this happened in the life of Little Peter. As he grew to be a young man, Peter's trust in the Lord grew as he kept seeing the Lord's omnipotent hand at work in his life for his good. Not only that, but the Lord got great glory as more and more people watched Him

work in Little Peter's life and could see how worthy He was of all Peter's trust.

One day a certain rich Englishman visited the town where Little Peter lived. He also had heard the story of this boy who trusted in God. He had come to see and meet him, himself. "Could it really be that such a young man who had lived such a hard life could really trust God to take care of him?" the rich Englishman thought to himself. "Could he really know that God was in control of all things and at work in all things for his good? "If Little Peter is truly like this, then I would love to help him," he decided.

When the Englishman met Little Peter he asked him, "Little Peter, why do you think I've asked to meet you?"

Little Peter had no real idea what to answer. How could he ever have guessed what the Englishman had in mind? But he trusted that somehow it must be part of God's good plan, so he answered, "It comes from Above."

How pleased the Englishman was with this answer! Everything he had heard about Little Peter was true!

"I agree!" he replied. "Peter, will you come home with me to England? I want to take care of you like you were my son," he asked. Little Peter happily agreed.

So the Englishman took Peter home with him to Birmingham, England. He took care of him and paid for him to go to school. He taught him how to be a good businessman. And what good friends the two became!

The rich Englishman grew old and died. He left a lot of his money to Little Peter, making Peter one of the richest business men in Birmingham.

But even though Peter became a very great man, he never thought of himself as Great, Important Peter--only Little Peter. Why? Because he knew that everything he had came from Above. It was always God who gave him everything he needed. It was His omnipotent power that had worked all things for his good.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent

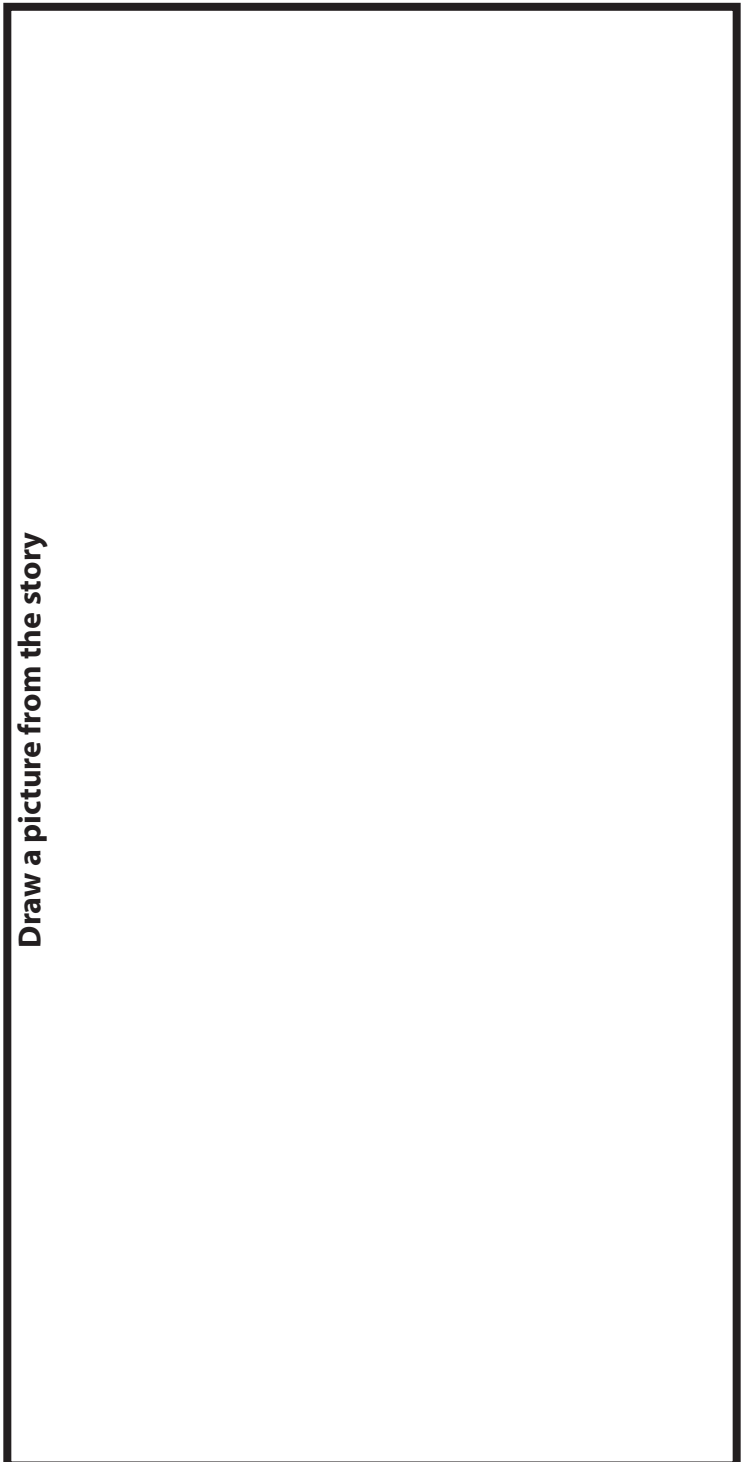
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."

How could Little Peter trust God's power to work for his good and God's glory in all things? Because Peter knew that the Lord had already taken care of his greatest need:

He had sent Jesus to save him from his sins. If we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior, God will make us His people, too. Like Little Peter we can know that He will use His great power for our good and His glory.

Let's praise God for His omnipotent power that He always and only uses to fulfill all His good and holy will. Let's ask Him work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him help us to not complain or worry in hard times, but trust like Little Peter, that "It all comes from Above."



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 all powerful and makes sure that His good plans work out, but He also gave us a will that makes choices. We are responsible for our own actions. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Heavenly Hopeful Boy? What did it mean that he was heavenly hopeful? Answer: Little Peter. It mean that he depended upon God to take care of his needs.</p> <p>b. Why was he so heavenly hopeful? What kinds of things did heaven provide? Answer: He had no father or mother. He had learned from an early age to ask God to provide for his needs and God had always answered him. The Lord provided him with food, with a job, with help in times of trouble, and even with a new father and good life.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6 "I know that the LORD is ____, that our Lord is g____ than all gods. The LORD does whatever ____ Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths." Answers: great, greater, pleases.</p>	<p>This Is My Father's World <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21</i></p> <p>Verse 3 This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget, That though the wrong Seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.</p> <p>Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard</p> <p>This world belongs to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.</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 Omnipotent. You make everything to work for the good of Your people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we don't want God to do far more than use all things in our lives for our good and His glory. We just want Him to make everything easy for us.</p> <p>T God, we thank You that always do what's best, even if it's something other than what we think we want. Thank You that You go ahead and give Your people what's best and use their lives for Your glory.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, like Little Peter did. Help us to trust You when we go through hard things to use them for our good and Your glory.</p>	<p>I Know that the LORD Is Great <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22</i></p> <p>I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases him. In the heavens and on the earth, In the seas and all their depths, In the heavens and on the earth, In the seas and all their depths. The LORD does whatever pleases Him. Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 135:5,6, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!
PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 7:
The LORD Is Omnipotent

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5,6
"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made... The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Our story is:
The Case of the Forbidden Visitor.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
1. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something?
2. What was he forbidden to do? Why?

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

A strong man dressed in the glittering, bronze breastplate and red cape of a Roman centurion, knelt near the mat where his dearly-loved servant lay. The centurion had watched as the man grew sicker, day after day. Now he was about to die.

How sad was the centurion! How he loved this servant! By Roman law, centurions were not allowed to marry. So, for many of these officers, their servants became more like family than workers. This is how was with this centurion and his servant. He treasured his servant not just for his work, but also for his close friendship.

The centurion was desperate to save this man's life! But what could he do?! "Here I am a centurion. I'm in charge of sixty men who run to obey my least command. When I say go, they go. When I say come, they come. Yet here I am completely powerless over the sickness of my dear servant!" he exclaimed.

"This is not a matter for men. It's one for the gods," his Roman friends would have likely told him. "Only the gods have the power to make sickness and death come and go in the same way that you command your soldiers," they would have said. "Ask the gods for help! Make an offering to Apollo, the god of healing. Perhaps he will accept your offering and heal your servant. That is your only hope."

While this centurion would have completely agreed that his servant's life was a matter needing the power of a god, he knew better than to ask the Roman god, Apollo who was thought to have command over sickness and death. This centurion had the beginnings of faith in the one true God, the LORD, the God of Israel. Perhaps he had been raised as a Roman, but he had come to love Israel. By himself, he given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. He worshiped Him, too. So it was to the LORD, not any Roman false god, that he turned

to for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

Suddenly the centurion's face lit up with an idea, "Jesus, the Jewish teacher! He's the one who can help my dear servant! Why, the townspeople can hardly stop talking about the powerful way He teaches and the amazing healings He does! He has the power of God to heal. No sickness seems to stand against His power!" the centurion decided.

"Somehow I must bring Jesus here to heal my servant, but how? I am a Roman and He is a famous and powerful Jewish teacher. By their laws He should have nothing to do with me. How can I ever expect Him to help me or even speak to Him," he thought. "But still, my servant is near death. Jesus is his only hope. Perhaps I can think of some way..." the centurion thought.

As a plan came to mind, the centurion leapt up and left the house in a rush. "Maybe Jesus wouldn't come with me if I asked Him and maybe I don't deserve to speak to Him, but what if Jews asked Him to help my servant? Perhaps then He would come. It's certainly worth a try."

Before long, the centurion had gathered together some of the Jewish leaders of Capernaum. "Listen, I need your help," he told them. "My dear servant is near death and only your teacher, Jesus, can possibly save him now. As a Roman, Jesus surely would not want to have anything to do with me, but you are Jews. Perhaps if you ask Jesus would come and help my servant.

Would you please do this for me?" he pleaded with them.

Now if it had been most any other Roman, these Jews would have quickly refused to help. The Jews hated the Romans, especially the Roman soldiers, and with good reason. After all, hadn't it been the Roman soldiers who had fought their people and taken over their land? Didn't they make their lives miserable? Why would the Jews ever want to help a Roman—especially a Roman soldier?

But there was something very different about this Roman centurion. For he had the beginnings of faith in the one true God: the LORD, the God of Israel. This man had come to love Israel and had, by himself, given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. They could see that it wasn't to Roman gods, but to the LORD he turned for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

"We will do what we can for you," they told him. "Go home and wait with your servant while we go talk to Jesus."

It didn't take long for these leaders to find Jesus. As usual, a large crowd swarmed around Him, many of them seeking Jesus' commanding power to heal their own sicknesses. As quickly as they could, the elders made their way through the crowd and up to Jesus. "Jesus, come with us. There is a centurion who begs You to come and heal his servant," they pleaded earnestly. "Yes, it's true, he is Roman, not a Jew," they continued, "but we urge You to help him and his servant. There is something very different about him. He has come to love Israel and has, by himself, given us, the Jews of Capernaum, enough money to build our synagogue where the Bible is preached and the LORD worshiped. He isn't turning to the Roman gods, but to the LORD for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death," they told Jesus.

Jesus listened and agreed. He followed them down the streets of Capernaum towards the centurion's house, the crowd of people trailing after Him.

Back at his house, the centurion waited hopefully by his servant's side, listening for the sound of voices and approaching footsteps. As he waited, he thought more and more about Jesus and what he was asking Jesus to do. "Only God has the power over sickness and death; yet, Jesus orders them about just as easily as I order my soldiers. Surely it is only by God's power that He can do this. I am not worthy to have someone as great as Jesus come to my house! I must send word to stop Him from coming here!" he decided. He quickly sent of some of his friends to find Jesus and give Him his message before it was too late.

They soon ran into Jesus as He, the Jewish leaders and the crowd neared the centurion's house. "Our friend, the centurion asks You not to come to his house, Sir," they told Jesus. He says to tell You, 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

How shocked the Jews were! Here they had urged Jesus to come help this Roman and now he refused to even let him come into his house!

Jesus was also amazed at the centurion's words, but for

a very different reason. Jesus could see that this centurion had more than a love of Israel and the beginnings of faith in the LORD. This centurion had the greatest faith in Him and His omnipotent power over sickness and death, than even any of the Jews! Many might have believed Jesus had power to heal them when He was with them, but to believe that, like God, He had the power to Simply give the word to heal wherever He was, was absolutely astonishing—even to Jesus, the very Son of God!

Jesus turned to the crowd following him and said, “I tell you the truth, I’ve not found such great faith among any of the Jews.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the centurion’s house and found the servant well.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6**

“I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”

The centurion heard about Jesus’ powerful teaching and amazing miracles and he recognized that this was the LORD’s omnipotent power at work in Him. He believed that Jesus had to the power to do Simply speak His will and it would come about. No wonder Jesus was amazed at his faith! It was a great gift, indeed!

What about you and me? We have heard far greater things about Jesus than this centurion had. We know that not only did He command sickness and death, but He had the power to endure on the cross all God’s just and eternal punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He had the power to conquer death by rising from the dead. And one day, He will come back and with just the power of His word, bring an end to sin, evil and death, and reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Knowing all these things about the power of Jesus, do we not have even more reason to put our faith in Him?

Let’s praise Jesus, the all-powerful Son of God. Let’s ask Him to help us to give us the gift of great faith in Him. Let’s ask Him to help us trust Him with our whole lives.

Draw a picture from the story

<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 is all-powerful there is nothing that He cannot or will not do. Answer: True and False. God is all-powerful, but He will never do anything evil. His own holiness limits what He will do to only what is good and holy.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something? Answer: Jesus. The centurion with the sick servant.</p> <p>b. What was he forbidden to do? Why? Answer: He was forbidden to come to enter the centurion's house to see his sick servant. Because the centurion believed it was too great of an honor for Jesus, the Messiah, to enter his house. And, because he believed that Jesus had complete power over sickness and death. He did not even need to come to his house to heal his servant. He only needed to speak the word and it would happen.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalms 135:5-6 "I know that the ___ is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the ___ and on the earth, in the ___ and all their depths." Answers: LORD, heavens, seas.</p>	<p>This Is My Father's World <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21</i></p> <p>Verse 3 This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget, That though the wrong Seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.</p> <p>Words: Malthie D. Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard</p> <p>This world belongs to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.</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 all-powerful over sickness, sin and death.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we don't respond in faith, like the centurion did. Many times we doubt whether God is able to help us or others.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for caring about our needs. Thank You for all the ways You use Your omnipotent power to do good to us and others.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us greater faith in You and Your omnipotent power. Give us faith like the centurion had.</p>	<p>I Know that the LORD Is Great <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22</i></p> <p>I know that the LORD is great, That our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases him. In the heavens and on the earth, In the seas and all their depths, In the heavens and on the earth, In the seas and all their depths. The LORD does whatever pleases Him. Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 135:5,6, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!
PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:
The LORD Is Faithful

Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do.

Many times people are not faithful to the promises they make to each other or to God. They do not do what they promised to do. But even though people are often unfaithful, God is always, completely faithful. He always keeps His promises, no matter what.

The Bible is full of God's many promises. He promises to forgive the sins of all turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to take care of them, to help them, and to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. He promises to work in their hearts so that they will love God and live for Him more and more. Best of all, God promises to bring these, His dearly-loved people, to live with Him in heaven to enjoy Him forever.

Because God is always completely faithful, His people can fully trust Him and all the promises He makes to them. Thinking about these promises gives them peace and joy for every day of their lives—no matter what happens.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19
"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

Numbers 13:28-14:10; Joshua 1-4

Our story is called:
The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
1. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy?
2. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Kadesh Barnea was crammed with thousands of men, women, children, and their sheep and goats! These were the Israelites whom the LORD had freed from slavery in Egypt by amazing miracles, then brought them safely across the Sinai Desert to this oasis.

The people enjoyed the oasis' shady, date palm trees and the cool water of the underground streams, but they were restless for more. At the LORD's command, Moses had sent out twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to sneak into the Promised Land that lay not far to the north. The men were to check it out and bring back news of what they found. The people were eager to hear more about this "land flowing with milk and honey," as the LORD called it. How they longed to go there and get out of that hot, dry wilderness for good!

After six, long weeks, the spies returned with quite a report. "The land grows rich crops," the spies told. "But it's also filled with big, powerful people who live in big cities with high, strong walls."

The people didn't like the sound of this at all! How could they ever defeat enemies like this! They grumbled against Moses and Aaron. They even talked of getting rid of them and choosing new leaders to take them back to Egypt!

All the spies but two agreed with the people. Joshua and Caleb had faith in God. "Don't say these terrible things! Trust the LORD! He will be faithful to give us the promised land. He can easily defeat these enemies!" they urged. But the people refused to trust. They even thought about stoning Joshua and Caleb!

The LORD would not allow this. Suddenly the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tabernacle before all the Israelites. "How long will these people refuse to trust in Me, in spite of all the miracles I've done! Because of their unending grumbles against Me, they will not get to enjoy

the Promised Land. For forty years, they will wander out here in the wilderness until they have all died. Only Joshua and Caleb will survive. Their children, will be the ones I lead into the Promised Land," the LORD proclaimed. "These people will not enter in."

Oh, how the Israelites hated to hear this! They knew how faithful the LORD had been to them. "We have sinned," they said. "We will follow the LORD into the promised land now," they told Moses. But it's was too late. There would be no Promised Land for them.

Forty years passed. The Israelites spent it never more than a few days' walk from the Promised Land, but they never were allowed to enter it. All those thousands of adults grew old and died out in the wilderness. Finally Aaron and Moses died, too. Caleb and Joshua were the only old men left among all the young Israelites.

The LORD chose Joshua to be the Israelites' new leader. "Joshua, get the people ready. It's time to lead them into the Promised Land," the LORD told him. "I will give it all to you and no one will be able to stand up against you. Be strong and courageous. Don't be terrified. Don't be discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, will be with you wherever you go," the LORD promised. Joshua took the LORD at His word. He knew He would be faithful.

"Tell the people to get their supplies ready. Three days from now we will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD is giving us," Joshua ordered the other leaders.

As the people prepared, Joshua sent two spies ahead of them into the Promised Land. They snuck into Jericho and returned to Joshua with their report. "The LORD has surely given us the land! All the people have heard of His great deeds and are afraid," they told him.

What great news! The LORD indeed was with them! It was time to cross the Jordan River and step foot on the promised land at last.

On the banks of the Jordan River the people camped one last night. "Prepare your hearts before the LORD for tomorrow He will do amazing things among you," Joshua told them. "The priests will carry the Ark of the Covenant ahead of you. When they step foot in the waters of the river, The LORD will hold back the waters for you to cross on dry land, just like He did long ago when you crossed the Red Sea. The LORD will do this to show you that He is the living God and He is among you. You can count on Him to

drive out the peoples before you." Joshua told them.

What an amazing promise! The Jordan was a swirling mass of rushing water that time of year.. It was over 10 feet deep and 300 feet wide! It could sweep the priests and the Ark downstream, never to be seen again. Would the Israelites trust in the LORD's faithfulness or would they doubt Him again?

This time, they chose to trust Him! The priests picked up the Ark of the Covenant and headed straight down to the banks of the Jordan. As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. As the priests stood in the Middle of the dry river bed, the people crossed over into the Promised Land--forty thousand armed men and all their families!

When everyone had crossed, the LORD told Joshua, "Choose twelve men, one from each of the twelve tribes, to pick up twelve stones from where the priests are standing in the Jordan River and carry these with you into the Promised Land, then have the priests and the Ark come up out of the Jordan River, too."

Joshua and the people watched as the twelve men picked up and carried huge stones on their shoulders from the river bed and up the bank. The priests and the Ark followed behind them. As soon as everyone was out, the waters of the Jordan River whooshed back in place.

At Gilgal, Joshua took the twelve stones and set them up as a monument. "These stones will be a reminder of the LORD's faithfulness to you. You and those after you will point to them and tell your children that this is where the LORD dried up the Jordan and lead the people of Israel across on dry ground," Joshua told the people. "The LORD did this so that the whole world might know that He is powerful and so that you might always worship and obey Him."

The LORD wanted not just the people of Israel, but everyone to know of His great faithfulness.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Faithful

"Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 18:15

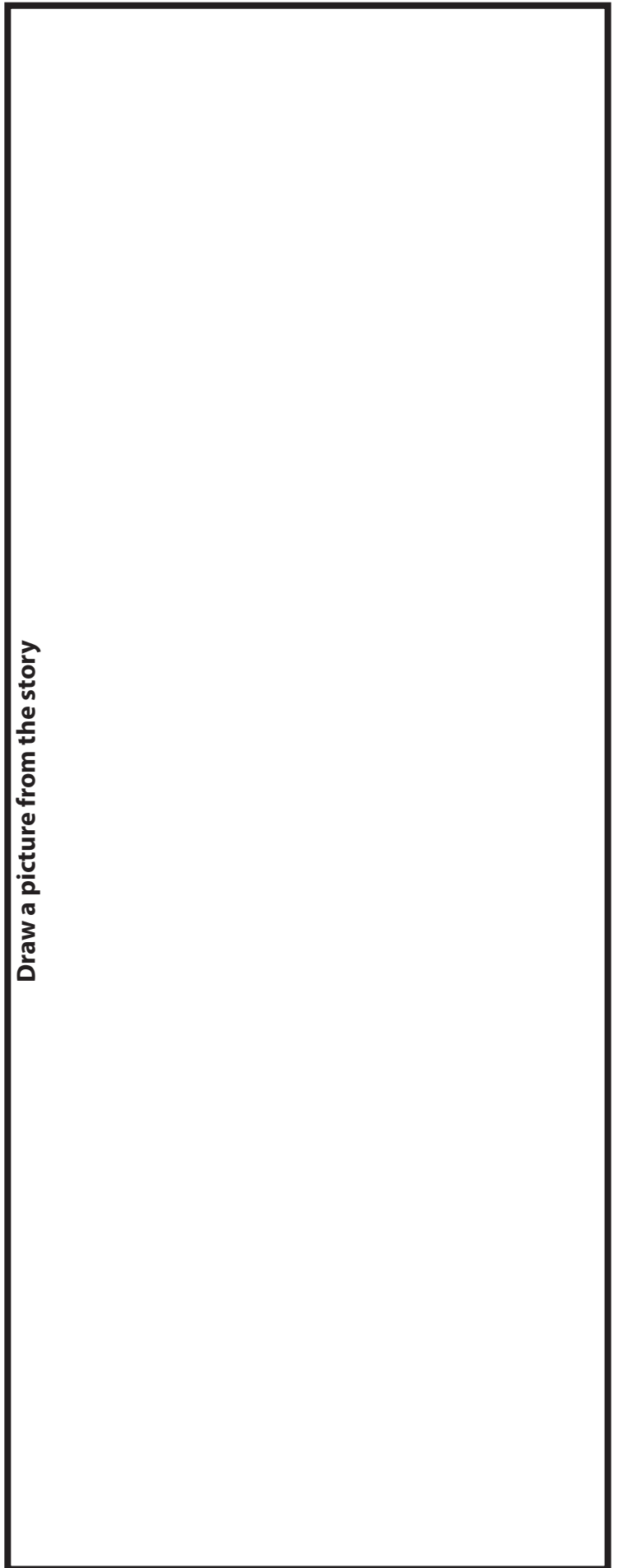
"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

The very same God who went to no ends to show the Israelites His great faithfulness, is the same God who calls us to trust in Him. How much more of His faithfulness do

Israelites His great faithfulness, is the same God who calls us to trust in Him. How much more of His faithfulness do we know now than even what those Israelites knew! Perhaps we have never seen Him suddenly stop the flow of a roaring river, but WE know God's amazing faithfulness to His promise to save all who confess their sins and call upon Him for salvation. We know that He kept that promise by sending His One and Only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and then offer it up on the cross as the one and only perfect sacrifice for their sins. And if that were not a great enough display of His faithfulness, did you know that for all who do trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, not only does God promise to faithfully take care of them as His beloved people, but He also promises them that one day they will all enter His Promised Land, too. Not a land of milk and honey anywhere to be found in this world, like He gave the Israelites, long ago, but something far better. He will bring them to live in Heaven, itself, where God's people will get to live in perfectly wonderful fellowship with Him forever and ever, never to again know any pain or sin or any kind of evil.

Let's praise our completely faithful God. Let's ask Him to help us always to praise Him and never to stop trusting in His faithfulness to us; to quickly and joyfully obey Him, matter what we go through.

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 faithful means doing what you promise you will do. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy? Answer: The LORD. Every difficulty they faced! He freed the Israelites from their powerful enemies the Egyptians with amazing miracles. He had feed them with manna from heaven every day out in the wilderness. He even kept their sandals from falling apart over forty years!</p> <p>b. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties? Answer: That He was always faithful. They could always trust Him, no matter how big the difficulties they faced.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19 "The Lord is faithful to all his ___ and loving toward all He has ___...The Lord is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He ___ their cry and saves them." Answers: promises; made; hears.</p>	<p>Day by Day <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Day by day and with each passing moment, Strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, Gives unto each day what He deems best, Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, Mingling toil with peace and rest.</p> <p>Words: Caroline V. Sandeel-Berg Music: Oscar Ahnfelts</p> <p>God's people can testify to God's faithfulness to take care of them, helping them and allowing only what is for their good and God's glory, every hour of every day. He gives them strength to go through whatever trials (hard times) they must go through in their life. They may not like them. They may even wish they didn't have to go through them. But, they know that the LORD is wise and powerful. And, if He has allowed them, then they are part of His wise bestowment (His perfectly good choices, even gifts) to them. They do not have to worry or fear. They can trust in their Heavenly Father who loves them so much. He is faithful to give them all they need in life, through all of life-the pleasure of each day and the pain of each day. Both peace and rest, and even one day. Perfect peace and rest with Him in heaven, forever.</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 faithful to Your people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that too many times we doubt and grumble against You, like the people of Israel.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for continuing to be so faithful, even when Your people are unfaithful to You.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us like Caleb and Joshua, who kept believing in Your faithfulness and Your power, even when everyone else doubted You.</p>	<p>Faithful, He Is Faithful <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23</i></p> <p>Faithful! He is faithful! The Lord is faithful to all His promises. Loving! He is loving! The Lord is loving toward all He has made. The Lord is near to all, To all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him, He hears their cries and saves them. Faithful! He is faithful! The Lord is faithful to all His promises. Loving! He is loving! The Lord is loving toward all He has made. Psalm One-forty-five, verses thirteen, eighteen, and nineteen.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 145:13,18-19 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God's people are the people who fear Him. They know He promises to fulfill their desires with good things, that He hears their cries and will always save them. This is because they know that the LORD is always, completely faithful to all His promises.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
 "O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
 PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 8:
The LORD Is Faithful

Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do.

Many times people are not faithful to the promises they make to each other or to God. They do not do what they promised to do. But even though people are often unfaithful, God is always, completely faithful. He always keeps His promises, no matter what.

The Bible is full of God's many promises. He promises to forgive the sins of all turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to take care of them, to help them, and to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. He promises to work in their hearts so that they will love God and live for Him more and more. Best of all, God promises to bring these, His dearly-loved people, to live with Him in heaven to enjoy Him forever.

Because God is always completely faithful, His people can fully trust Him and all the promises He makes to them. Thinking about these promises gives them peace and joy for every day of their lives—no matter what happens.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19
 "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:
The Case of the Needy Kneeler.

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

1. Who was the Kneeler? Why was he kneeling?
2. What did he need? What did he hope to show others by kneeling to get his needs met?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1830's, in Bristol, England.

In a dark room, lit only by candle and the glow of his fire, George Muller sat at his desk and wrote in his journal. "The number of poor at the door of the church hoping for bread keeps growing," he wrote. "Today there were sixty to eighty people. Our neighbors are getting annoyed at all the beggars standing around in the streets. Sadly, we have no choice but to send these needy people away! How I long to help them all, especially the parent-less children. With yellow fever and cholera killing so many, there are a growing number of children are left with no parents to care for them or feed them. Cold, lonely, and hungry, they walk the streets looking for someone to help them."

"Some of these children are taken to the poor houses, where they at least have a roof over their head, clothes and food. But that's little comfort. Bad men go and tempt these children to rob and do other bad things. They go from bad to worse. I want something better for these children! I want to give them a place where they can be taken care of and they can go to school. Most of all, I want them to grow up hearing God's Word. I want them to know that God is the living God who will not forsake His people, even in the hardest times. He is the faithful, prayer-answering God. I will pray and ask God what I can do for these children," George wrote.

And pray George did—for hours at a time. If there was one thing that George knew, it was that God was faithful. He would be faithful to hear his prayers on behalf of these children. And faithful to help George do whatever He would have him do, no matter how big it was.

Before long, George's prayers were answered. "I believe it's time to start the orphanage," he wrote in his journal on another night, "It's time to start asking God to give us the building, the people and the things we need. Right now, I only have fifty cents in my pocket!"

It will take thousands of dollars to get everything we need," he wrote.

George was right. An orphanage was a very expensive thing to start and to keep running. He would need a building big enough for schoolrooms, as well as space for the children to sleep and eat. Each child would need clothing and a bed. The schoolrooms would need desks, books and writing supplies. The teachers and helpers would need to be paid. And of course, everyone would need to eat.

Many people wouldn't even dare to dream this big, let alone pray this big. But not George Mueller. He knew the Lord was faithful to answer even big prayers. He knelt down and began to pray through the list, item by item. "And Lord, don't just provide these things, but do it in a way that shows everyone how faithful You are," George prayed.

Before long, George's prayers were answered again. Many Christians heard about George's orphanage and began to give "Here is two hundred dollars for your orphanage" said one very poor woman who only made a few dollars a week sewing clothes. "My father died and left this money. I want you to have it. They need it more than I. The Lord will take care of me."

"We have come to serve at your orphanage however we can and we don't want you to pay us. We will help you for free," one woman and her brother said. "We also want to give us all of the furniture and kitchen things in our house to your orphanage."

Blankets, fabric, dishes, clothes, furniture, even a house, were offered. Poor people gave George their pennies. Richer people, gave him their dollars. Soon, thirty orphans had a home at George's orphan house.

How different was life for George's orphans than what the poor house or the streets of Bristol offered! Each night they would put on pajamas and sleep in soft, warm beds. Each morning at six they would get up early and put on nice clothes. Every boy got three shirts, three pairs of corduroy pants, a navy-blue jacket, and a nice-looking cap. Every girl got three, navy blue, cotton dresses, a shawl and a bonnet tied with a pretty ribbon.

After getting dressed, it was off to the dining hall for a good breakfast of steaming hot oatmeal or some other hearty food before a day full of activity. At eight o'clock there was a Bible reading and a time of prayer, followed by

school. In the afternoon, the children had all sorts of duties. The boys learned to knit and darn socks, make beds, clean shoes, scrub rooms, work in the garden and run errands. The girls helped with the cooking, the laundry and cleaning the houses.

At dinner time the children enjoyed meat, soup, or rice with raisins, along with lots of fresh fruit and milk. With every meal there was bread. They called the bread "toke"-short for "token of the Lord's love", in honor of the prayer they said at each meal: "We thank Thee, Lord, for these tokens of thy love!" These children knew that each meal truly was the gift of the Lord, the faithful God.

In the evenings before bed, guests would often come in and tell the children special stories about their lives and about Jesus. They would close with prayers, then the children would be off to bed.

Everyone loved it when there were special celebration days. Like Papa Muller's (as the children called George) birthday, when everyone enjoyed birthday cake and a piece of an enormous, steaming hot apple dumpling. Or Christmas, when everyone would help decorate Christmas trees, sing carols, and give presents, perhaps much like your family does.

When boys were fourteen, they were apprenticed by local tradesmen to learn how to make a living, such as a blacksmith, a carpenter or a teacher. Girls stayed until they were seventeen and then found good jobs as housemaids, nurses or teachers. No one left the orphanage without somewhere good to go next. As they left, Papa George prayed for them and gave them some new clothes, some money and a Bible.

Yes, life in Papa Mueller's orphan houses was much better than the poor houses and streets of Bristol. How well they were cared for! But as Edith Larby, one of Papa Muller's orphans said, "The greatest thing that I was given at the orphan House was getting to hear about the Lord Jesus. I put all I learned about Him in my heart and one day I gave that heart to Him, and I have never regretted it."

Edith and the others didn't just learn about the Lord Jesus from they read in the Bible or heard from their teachers. They learned about Him in every day life, as they saw His faithfulness to provide for their needs in amazing ways. One morning the plates and cups and bowls on the table were empty. There was no food in the pantry, and no money to buy food. The children were standing waiting

for their morning meal, when Papa Muller said, "Children, you know we must be in time for school." Lifting his hands in prayer he said, "Dear Father, we thank You for what You are going to give us to eat."

Just then, there was a knock on the door. The baker stood there, and said, "Mr. Muller, I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt you didn't have bread for breakfast and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So I got up at two a.m. and baked some fresh bread, and have brought it." Mueller thanked the man. No sooner had this [occurred] when there was a second knock at the door. It was the milkman. He announced that his milk cart had broken down right in front of the orphanage, and he would like to give the children his cans of fresh milk so he could empty his wagon and repair it.

God regularly showed His faithfulness in these wonderful ways since was almost always some great need at George's Orphan House. And as the children saw the Lord meet their needs each time, George's greatest prayer was answered: that the Lord use their daily needs to show the children and everyone else that He is the living God. He does not forsake, even in hard times, those who rely on Him. He is the faithful, prayer-answering God. They could count on Him to take care of them, even after they left the orphanage. They learned to get down on their knees pray for each and every thing they needed, then wait upon their faithful Lord to provide.

And provide the Lord most certainly did! By the time George died, at the age of ninety-two, the Lord had richly answered all his prayers for the orphans of Bristol. He had made George, "Papa Muller" to over 18,000 orphans and given him more than three million dollars to provide for their needs. Best of all, thousands of these orphans saw the faithfulness of the Lord to meet their every need and turned in faith to believe in Him as their Lord and Savior, just as George had hoped and prayed that they would.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Faithful

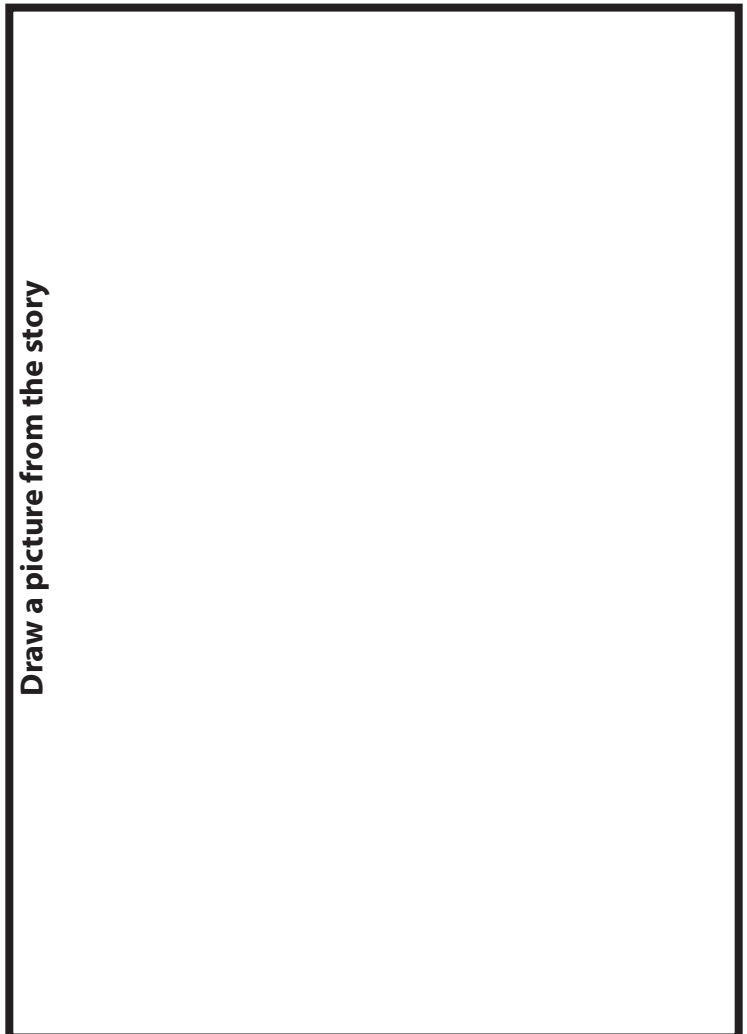
Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:13,18,19

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

George Mueller was a man who depended each day upon the faithfulness of the Lord, the living God, to fully provide for him and thousands of others. He thought of every hard time as an opportunity to display God's faithfulness. How very faithful the Lord showed Himself to be! He never disappointed George or the orphans. He always provided for their needs.

What about you and me? What is our greatest need? To be saved from our sins. The Lord promises that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be saved. And if the Lord promises to take care of this biggest need of ours, will He not also be faithful to take care of His people in every other time? In hard times, in scary times, when we don't know what to do or where the help we need might come from? God's people can trust that the Lord will be faithful to take care of all those needs, too.

Let's praise Him for being so completely faithful to His people. Let's ask Him to help us see each difficulty we face as an opportunity to display His faithfulness to others around us that they might turn and believe in Him, too.



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 just like us. He is faithful most of the time, but sometimes He breaks His promises. Answer: False! God is always completely faithful. He always keeps all His promises.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Kneeler? Why was he kneeling? Answer: George Mueller. He was praying.</p> <p>b. What did he need? What did he hope to show others by kneeling to get his needs met? Answer: He needed many things, most of them related to providing for the orphans in the city of Bristol. He hoped to show that God is faithful to meet all our needs that others might put their faith in Him, too.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19 "The ___ is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The Lord is ___to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and ___ them." Answers: Lord; near; saves.</p>	<p>Day by Day <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Day by day and with each passing moment, Strength I find to meet my trials here; Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, Gives unto each day what He deems best, Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure, Mingling toil with peace and rest.</p> <p>Words: Caroline V. Sandeel-Berg Music: Oscar Ahnfelts</p> <p>God's people can testify to God's faithfulness to take care of them, helping them and allowing only what is for their good and God's glory, every hour of every day. He gives them strength to go through whatever trials (hard times) they must go through in their life. They may not like them. They may even wish they didn't have to go through them. But, they know that the LORD is wise and powerful. And, if He has allowed them, then they are part of His wise bestowment (His perfectly good choices, even gifts) to them. They do not have to worry or fear. They can trust in their Heavenly Father who loves them so much. He is faithful to give them all they need in life, through all of life-the pleasure of each day and the pain of each day. Both peace and rest, and even one day. Perfect peace and rest with Him in heaven, forever.</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 faithful to Your people every single day.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we doubt Your faithfulness. We don't even ask You for things that seem too difficult to answer.</p> <p>T God, we thank You that You continue to be faithful to Your people, even when they doubt You. There is never a time when they will not find You faithful to them.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us faith in You, like George Mueller, to keep on asking for even impossible-looking things that will bring You glory.</p>	<p>Faithful, He Is Faithful <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23</i></p> <p>Faithful! He is faithful! The Lord is faithful to all His promises. Loving! He is loving! The Lord is loving toward all He has made. The Lord is near to all, To all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him, He hears their cries and saves them. Faithful! He is faithful! The Lord is faithful to all His promises. Loving! He is loving! The Lord is loving toward all He has made. Psalm One-forty-five, verses thirteen, eighteen, and nineteen.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 145:13,18-19 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>God's people are the people who fear Him. They know He promises to fulfill their desires with good things, that He hears their cries and will always save them. This is because they know that the LORD is always, completely faithful to all His promises.</p>

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

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The LORD Is Faithful

Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do.

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The Bible is full of God's many promises. He promises to forgive the sins of all turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to take care of them, to help them, and to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. He promises to work in their hearts so that they will love God and live for Him more and more. Best of all, God promises to bring these, His dearly-loved people, to live with Him in heaven to enjoy Him forever.

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BIBLE VERSE

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"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The Lord is near to all who call on Him... in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

CASE STORY

Acts 27-28; Romans 1:8-13

Our story is:

The Case of the Snake Shaker.

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

1. Who was the Snake Shaker? Why did he shake the snake?
2. What did everyone think would happen to him? Why did he know it wouldn't happen?

This story takes place in New Testament times, about thirty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"Whoosh! Crash! Bang!" For many sunless days and starless nights, the mighty Alexandrian (a city in Egypt) grain ship had been beaten up by a mighty Euroquilo—a terrible storm that sometimes struck the Mediterranean Sea in winter. Violent winds, soaking rain, and bolts of lightning crushed down upon the ship, while huge, powerful waves squeezed it from side to side. The sailors did all they could to keep the ship from going down. They wrapped ropes around the ship to keep it from splitting apart. They threw the anchor over, letting it drag along the bottom to slow down the ship. They even got rid of all the precious grain that had planned to sell, hoping that a lighter ship would be less likely to sink.

At last the sailors gave up. "There's no way we can survive a storm like this. We are as good as dead," the men said. "Even with the ropes wrapped around the ship, the ship can't last much longer. We last much longer either. We're exhausted and we've not eaten for days."

This was dreadful news for the Roman soldiers and their prisoners who were passengers aboard the ship. They were headed to Rome to be judged and sentenced. Now it looked like the sea would drown them long before Caesar had anything to say.

Only one man aboard that battered ship still had hope: a Roman prisoner named Paul. But his hope was not because he thought the storm was weakening or the sailors were so brave, or the ship so strong. No. There was nothing on earth he put his hope in. His hopes lay in faithful promises of God. He stood up among them and said, "Be encouraged! Not one of you will die. Only the ship will be lost. Last night, an angel brought me a message from God. 'Don't be afraid,' he told me. 'You must stand trial before Caesar Nero. God will not let you or

anyone else on the ship drown, though the ship will run aground on an island! So be encouraged, men," Paul urged them. "I have faith in God that it will happen just as the angel said." Paul knew that God was always, completely faithful. If He promised something would happen, it would happen. If He said Paul was to go to Rome, not even this storm would stop him.

Sure enough, the battered ship did not sink in the storm and those on-board survived. Winds swept it across the raging Mediterranean Sea towards the island of Malta. There, ship struck an off-shore sandbar and shattered into hundreds of pieces. The sailors, soldiers and prisoners jumped into sea and swam against the huge waves and strong undertow to shore.

"Two hundred seventy three, two hundred seventy-four, two hundred seventy-five, two hundred seventy-six!" the captain counted the survivors, scattered on the beach in exhaustion. "Not a single person has been lost, just as Paul had said," the captain announced in astonishment.

But Paul was not surprised at the captain's news. He knew that God was always, completely faithful. If He promised something would happen, it would happen. Had not He promised them that everyone would be saved? If the Lord promised that everyone was to be rescued, then not even the worse storm or the strongest undertow could drown them.

Safe from the storm they may have been, but very hungry, cold, wet and exhausted, too, for the storm was still raging. Everyone lay upon the beach, trying to regain their strength. Eventually they would need food and help. But where would food for over two hundred come from? Paul knew. The same God who had been faithful to get them safely through the storm and ashore, would be faithful to keep taking care of them.

When the people of Malta got news of the ship-wrecked survivors, they came to their aid with unusual kindness. They welcomed them to their island and built them a huge fire to help them get warm and dry. Oh, how good that fire must have felt to those men, chilled to the bone from their icy swim in the sea and the cold rain that still fell!

Paul helped gather brushwood from nearby undergrowth to keep the fire burning. No one, including himself, wanted to see it go out! But what a deadly surprise Paul received when he put his wood on the fire! In the Middle of the wood was a poisonous viper, cold and stiff from the winter

rain, himself. As Paul went to put the wood in the fire, the heat drove the resting viper out of its resting place. It struck out at Paul, sinking its sharp fangs deep into his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer! Dike, daughter of Zeus and Goddess of Justice must know this and has been watching him. This man escaped death from the sea, so she has seen to it that he still gets his just punishment by death from this deadly snake," they told each other.

But Paul just shook off the snake into the fire and never got sick. The people of Malta kept watching him to see if he would swell up or suddenly fall over dead, as usually happened from the bite of this kind of snake. But to their surprise, nothing happened to Paul at all.

"This is no murderer. This is a god! For no ordinary man could survive such a snake bite from this viper," they told each other.

There was no way Paul would let these people think he was some god with special powers to keep him from dying. No, he made sure they knew that it was the power of his faithful God who saved his life. "You must stand trial before Caesar Nero," the LORD had told Paul. Paul knew that God was always, completely faithful. If He promised something would happen, it would happen. If the Lord said Paul would appear before Caesar, then nothing—not even the bite of the deadliest viper could stop him. The Lord was faithful to keep all His promises.

November, December, January. The men waited on Malta three, long months until the safe sailing weather of spring returned. Perhaps 256 men saw their time on Malta as a frustrating accident, but one of them didn't. Paul knew this shipwreck was part of God's plan for him to tell the good news of Jesus to the people of Malta.

It started when Publius, the chief, Roman official invited Paul and some others to his house to be his special guests. Paul learned that Publius' father was terribly sick. He went and prayed for him and God healed him. News of God's healing power spread throughout the island. Soon, all the sick on the island were brought to Paul and healed, too. Paul was delighted to get to show God's power and use it to point the people of Malta to the good news of salvation through Jesus.

That spring another Alexandrian grain ship stopped in Malta on its way to Rome. The sailors and the Roman

soldiers boarded the ship with Paul and the other prisoners. At last they were on their way to Rome. Within a week, the ship arrived at Puteoli, the grand port of Rome. Soldiers escorted Paul to the place where he would stay as he waited for his trial before Caesar. And wait, he did. For two, long years Paul endured being chained day and night at the wrist to a Roman soldier in a poor, shabby apartment house, near the Roman prison.

What did Paul do as he waited for his trial with Nero? Did he pout about waiting so long, or worry that he would never come to trial? No, he did not. "You must stand trial before Caesar Nero," the LORD had told Paul. Paul knew that God was always, complete faithful. If He promised something would happen, it would happen. If the Lord said Paul would appear before Caesar, then nothing—not even Caesar himself could stop him. The Lord was faithful to keep all His promises. He would go before Caesar in the Lord's perfect timing. He wouldn't spend his time worrying. Instead, he would spent every moment he could proclaiming to all—from the soldiers he was chained to, to all the people who came to visit him, to all the little churches of believers to whom he wrote letters-- about the faithfulness of the Lord to always take care of His people and to forgive all who confess their sins and trust in Jesus.

At the end of those two years, Paul finally got to present his case to Caesar Nero and tell him about Jesus. No one knows exactly what happened to Paul next. Some say the Romans killed him after his trial. Others say that Nero released him from prison. Everyone says that Nero rejected the good news of Jesus. But even though Nero rejected Paul's testimony to his faithful God, many, many others—from some of the soldiers who guarded him to the many people who visited him in prison those two years--heard Paul's testimony to the faithfulness of His beloved God and came to believe and love Him, themselves.

Our Bible Truth is:**The LORD Is Faithful****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:13,18,19**

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

Paul faced many difficulties that were so big that his very life was at stake; but Paul always kept trusting in the

faithfulness of God to keep His promises to him. Paul knew that God had already taken care of his greatest need: to be saved from his sins when Jesus died on the cross. He knew if God had done that, surely He would take care of all his other needs. What greatest need: to be saved from his sins when Jesus died on the cross. He knew if God had done that, surely He would the faithfulness of God to keep His promises to him. Paul knew that God had already taken care of his greatest need: to be saved from his sins when Jesus died on the cross. He knew if God had done that, surely He would take care of all his other needs. What greatest need: to be saved from his sins when Jesus died on the cross. He knew if God had done that, surely He would take care of all his other needs. What about you and me? If we are God's people—those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior—then those very same promises of God that Paul trusted in are true for us, too. We can keep trusting God with all our difficulties, just as Paul did—even if our own life is at stake. God is always, completely faithful.

Let's praise God for being so faithful to His people. Let's ask Him to help us to learn and live by the promises He gives His people, so that like Paul, our trust might be a wonderful testimony to many others about the great faithfulness of the Lord.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Bible is full of God’s promises to save all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, but it doesn’t tell us much about God’s promises to help us live for Him.

Answer: False! The Bible is full of God’s promise to save us when we trust in Jesus as well as His promises to help us to live for Him.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Snake Shaker? Why did he shake the snake?

Answer: Paul. It bit into him when he got firewood for the fire.

b. What did everyone think would happen to him? Why? Why did he know it wouldn’t happen?

Answer: They thought he would die because the snake had a very poisonous bite. They believed the gods were punishing him for something bad he had done. Paul knew it would not kill him because God was unstoppably faithful and He had told Paul that he would go to Rome to appear before Caesar.

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

Psalm 145:13,18-19

“The Lord is ___ to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The Lord is near to all who ___ on Him...in truth. He fulfills the ___ of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them.”

Answer: faithful; call; desires.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Day by Day

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22

Verse 1

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Words: Caroline V. Sandeel-Berg Music: Oscar Ahnfelts

God’s people can testify to God’s faithfulness to take care of them, helping them and allowing only what is for their good and God’s glory, every hour of every day. He gives them strength to go through whatever trials (hard times) they must go through in their life. They may not like them. They may even wish they didn’t have to go through them. But, they know that the LORD is wise and powerful. And, if He has allowed them, then they are part of His wise bestowment (His perfectly good choices, even gifts) to them. They do not have to worry or fear. They can trust in their Heavenly Father who loves them so much. He is faithful to give them all they need in life, through all of life—the pleasure of each day and the pain of each day. Both peace and rest, and even one day. Perfect peace and rest with Him in heaven, forever.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being always faithful, even in the most impossible-looking situations.

C God, we confess that many times when we are in hard situations, we doubt that You will be faithful, even though You have always been faithful ever time before.

T God, we thank You for being faithful to always be with Your people, even when they are worried and are unfaithful to You.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You to be with us and help us in hard situations rather than giving into fear.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Faithful, He Is Faithful

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23

Faithful! He is faithful!
The Lord is faithful to all His promises.
Loving! He is loving!
The Lord is loving toward all He has made.
The Lord is near to all,
To all who call on Him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him,
He hears their cries and saves them.
Faithful! He is faithful!
The Lord is faithful to all His promises.
Loving! He is loving!
The Lord is loving toward all He has made.
Psalm One-forty-five, verses thirteen,
eighteen, and nineteen.

Words: Psalm 145:13,18-19 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God’s people are the people who fear Him. They know He promises to fulfill their desires with good things, that He hears their cries and will always save them. This is because they know that the LORD is always, completely faithful to all His promises.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:
Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He's Not Like Anyone Else!
 PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984
 "O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23
 PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:
The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am. It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4
 "I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

CASE STORY

Genesis 22; Exodus 2-5,12:31

Our story is called:
The Case of the Unknown Name.
As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:
 1. Whose name was unknown? What nicknames was he given? Why those?
 2. What was his real name? What did that name mean?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 2000 years before Jesus lived on earth, in one of the greatest lands on earth.

In the far off city of Haran, God spoke to a man named Abraham. "Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and all nations through you," He promised.

Would Abraham believe this God? He had never even heard of Him before! Abraham had spent his life worshiping the gods of Ur, his home country. There was Anu, the sky god; Enlil, the god of air, wind and storms and Nannar, the moon god. Abraham knew the names of these gods from the time he was a little boy. Now he was seventy years old. Yet in all those years, never had those gods spoken to him or worked in his heart. Never had they shown any signs of life at all! Yet this new God--whose name he didn't even know-- had spoken to him and worked in his heart already! Yes, here was the living God, and Abraham knew it. So Abraham put his faith in this God with the unknown name. Then he and his family set out for the new land He promised--Canaan!

Canaan was a wonderful land, but it was not an empty land. It was filled with people who worshiped other gods and treated Abraham as an enemy. Would God really take care of Abraham and bless him as He promised? Yes, He would and He did! Abraham praised and worshiped God for His faithfulness, but not by name. How could he? He didn't know it. So he praised Him using nicknames. "I praise You, El Elyon--God Most High! You are greater than all other gods," Abraham exclaimed. "I praise You, El Shaddai--God Almighty! You are more powerful than all my enemies. I praise You, El Olam--the Eternal God! You will never leave me."

Abraham lived almost one hundred years in Canaan and oh, how good God was to him! He blessed everything Abraham had and did. Abraham's son, Isaac, and then

Isaac's son, Jacob also enjoyed the same special relationship and blessings that Abraham had with God. They praised and worshiped Him for His faithfulness, too; but like Abraham, it was only by nicknames. Never did God tell them what His real name was.

Over four hundred more years passed, and still none of Abraham's children, grandchildren or even great, great, great grandchildren—who we call the Israelites—knew the real name of their God. But while these great, great, grandchildren of Abraham may not have known the name of their God, oh, how they cried out to Him for help! They had become the slaves of the Egyptians and were suffering terribly. "O God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, rescue us from our slavery! What great promises You made to our fathers! What mighty acts You did for them! We are their children! Save us!" they pleaded. God heard their prayers and answered them through a man named Moses.

One day, as he was tending the flocks near Mt. Sinai, Moses saw a strange sight. There was a bush aflame with fire, but it didn't burn up! When Moses went closer to get a better look, things became even stranger! The angel of the LORD appeared to him in the flames and the God of the unknown name spoke to Moses through him, "Moses! I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Take off your sandals to show honor for My holiness."

Moses took them off, then hid his face. He was afraid to look at God!

"I've heard the cries of My people and I'm sending you to rescue them. You will lead them out of Egypt and take them home to Canaan, the land I gave to Abraham long ago," God told him.

Moses was full of questions and fears. "Who am I to face Pharaoh and free the Israelites? And who do I tell them has sent me to do this? I don't even know Your name, God," Moses said.

"Moses, it's not about who you are. It's about who I am, and I will be with you. Tell them My name is Yahweh—I Am Who I Am. I am the Living God. I am the one who is. I give life and keeps it going," the LORD responded.

So that was the name of their God! Yahweh, the 'I Am Who I Am.' And what a name it was! It was like all His nicknames rolled into one...and more. He was more than just the Most High God, the Almighty God, the Eternal God, and the Provider, as Abraham had called Him. He was so great that He was more than anyone can completely understand

or ever imagine. He was the Living God. He was the one who is. He gives life and keeps it going. Yes, He, Himself! How amazing!

Moses obeyed Yahweh. He and his brother Aaron set out through the Sinai wilderness to Goshen, Egypt, where the Israelite slaves lived. They called the leaders of the Israelites together and told them the wonderful news: "God has heard your prayers. He sends you this message: 'I am Yahweh, the 'I Am Who I Am,' I am the Living God. I am the one who is. I give life and keeps it going. I'm going to rescue you from the Egyptians by doing amazing things, then I'll take you home to Canaan.'" The elders bowed down and worshiped. Yahweh, their God had come to rescue them!

Before long, Moses and Aaron started off on the seventeen-mile journey from Goshen to Pharaoh's splendid palace in Zoan. What a big, scary task they had before them! They were going to tell to the mightiest king on earth that Yahweh, their God, demanded all the thousands (maybe even millions!) of Israelites be freed to worship Him. Wow! Yes, Moses and Aaron knew of God's great promises. They knew He planned mighty works. Now they even knew His great name—Yahweh, I Am Who I Am. But, Pharaoh had never heard of Yahweh. And he certainly didn't care about what Yahweh commanded. He made this quite clear to Moses and Aaron, when they went to talk to him.

"Who is this Yahweh that I should obey Him and let Israel go?" Pharaoh said to them. "I do not know Yahweh and I will not let Israel go. Go tell your lazy people that now I will make their work harder than ever."

How Pharaoh made fun of the name of Yahweh and the very idea of freeing the Israelites to worship Him-- at least at first, that is. But soon, Yahweh brought one terrible plague after another upon the Egyptians. These plagues showed how powerful Yahweh was...and that He should be obeyed.

"Go, take the Israelites to worship Yahweh their God," Pharaoh said to Moses at last, "but promise to pray to Yahweh for me."

News of Yahweh's great rescue spread throughout Egypt and beyond. It was all as the LORD had said it would be: the Israelites, the Egyptians, even the whole world, would see what Yahweh was like.

From that time on, the Israelites thought Yahweh's name

too holy for them to say or write down. "All these years, our people didn't call God by His name because they didn't know it," they said. "Now that we know His name and understand who He really is, we can't bring ourselves to use it. We will change some of the letters of Yahweh and say it and spell it "LORD or "Jehovah." Yahweh heard our prayers when we didn't know His name at all. Surely He will still hear our prayers, if we call Him LORD/Jehovah, instead of Yahweh. He will know what we mean. He will know that we consider His name too holy for us to even use," they decided.

And even to this day, the Israelites still don't speak or write the real name of God out of reverence to Him.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

So now when you read the words "LORD" or "Jehovah" in the Old Testament, you'll know they're really just a substitute, made-up word for Yahweh, that the Israelites made to honor the holiness of Yahweh's name. Perhaps that is one way to honor Yahweh.

But do you know what honors Him most of all? When we confess our sins to Him, knowing that He is the Living God who made us, but whom we have disobeyed. He is honored when we ask forgiveness for our sins, turn away from them, trusting in His Son Jesus to be our Savior. And. He is honored when we live our lives for Him, just as Abraham did, long ago: trusting Him, obeying Him and loving Him most of all.

Let's praise the great "I Am Who I Am." Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us honor Him with our whole lives.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God's real name is Yahweh, which means "I Am Who I Am."
 Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Whose name was unknown? What nicknames was he given? Why those?
 Answer: The LORD's. El Elyon--God Most High; El Shaddai--God Almighty; El Olam-the Eternal God. These nicknames all reflected what He was like.

b. What was his real name? What did that name mean?
 Answer: Yahweh (The LORD). I Am Who I Am. He is the living God, who always has lived and sustains all things.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4
 "I will proclaim the name of the _____. Oh, praise the greatness of our _____! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are _____. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."
 Answers: LORD; God; just.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Oh, How I Love Jesus

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 25

Verse 1

There is a name I love to hear,
 I love to sing it's worth;
 It sounds like music in my ear,
 The sweetest name on earth.
 Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Because He first loved me.

Words: Frederick Whitfield Music: Traditional American Melody

Jesus' name means 'Yahweh Saves.' It tells us that Jesus is God. He came to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is the best thing that will ever happen to us. That's why God's people think that name of Jesus is the sweetest name of earth. It reminds them of how God loved them before they loved Him. It reminds them of how He showed this love by coming to earth to live and to die for them, that they might be saved. That is a name worth a lot! That is a name worth most of all!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being Yahweh, the I Am Who I Am. Eternal; unlike anyone else; source and sustainer of all life.

C God, we confess that many times we don't trust God to be as good as His names tell us He is. We need Jesus to save us.

T God, we thank You for showing us what You are like through Your names.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to truly believe You are who Your names tell us You are and live joyfully because of who we know You are.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Will Proclaim

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 26

I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
 Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
 I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
 Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
 He is the Rock! (He's the rock!)
 His works are perfect! (His works are perfect!)
 His ways are just! (His ways are just!)
 A faithful God who does no wrong.
 A faithful God who does no wrong.
 Upright and just is He.
 Upright and just is He.
 Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.

Words: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:

The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am. It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Nat Crusher.

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

1. Who were the Nats? Who feared them? What were they supposed to do?
2. What was the name of the Nat Crusher? Why could he crush them?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place among the Karen people in Burma in the 1830's.

Soo Thah was born in a simple village perched high upon a mountain top. His house, like the others in his village, looked sort of like a nest made of bamboo and rattan (long, straw rope) with a roof of woven grass on top. It wasn't built on the ground like our houses are, but was built on eight-foot high poles as a protection against leopards, tigers and other beasts of the jungle.

But as careful as Soo Thah's parents were to protect their family from wild animals, they worked even harder to protect themselves from nats. What are nats? They aren't the little insects we call gnats. No, nats were evil spirit that the Karen believed made bad things happen if you made them mad. So, as you can guess, the Karen tried very hard not to anger them.

The Karen made little wooden houses for the nats to live in. They made altars and placed eggs, fruit and other offerings upon them. They stayed away from places that they thought the nats didn't want them to go. They also did things they thought would protect themselves from the nats. Soo Thah's family tied scarlet strings around him and gave him a necklace made from bear's claws, tiger hair and teeth, as protection from the nats.

The Karen lived every day in fear of the nats and many other things. For hundreds of years their elders had told them that there was a God named Y'wa . He created all things and ruled over all things. He even had power over the nats. But sadly, long ago the Karen had rebelled against Him and broke fellowship with Him. Yet, even though they didn't deserve it, He made a promise to them that one day He would send a white messenger called "the Deliverer" from the West. He would come on the white "wings" of a sailing ship would bring them the Book of Y'wa's very own words and would teach them all about Y'wa. He would give them a great king who would deliver them from their misery and give them many blessings.

Then their fears would be ended—even their fears of the nats. Many years had passed and no Deliverer had come, but the Karen still hoped that Y’wa’s promises would come true.

Soo Thah grew up and began to learn the skills he would need to take care of a family one day. He learned how to use a cross bow and how to shoot poisonous darts through a hollow piece of bamboo. He went with the men out into the jungles to hunt for food. They taught him how to defend himself from tigers, bears, leopards, and most feared of all, the hamadryad—a clever, huge, twenty foot, cobra-like snake that was as swift as a horse. It actually tried to catch people for its food. Yikes!

Closer to home, Soo Thah and the other boys were given the job of protecting the precious, ripening rice fields from flocks of hungry birds and herds of wild pigs and elephants. Up they would climb up to small huts mounted on tall poles built along different parts of the fields. From here, the boys could look out over the fields and spot unwelcome “visitors” that needed to be chased away.

Many times, Soo Thah’s turn in the watchtower would come at night. Up there, all alone in the darkness and in fear of the nats and wild animals, he would think. “Are there really nats around us? Why do they hate us so much? Does Y’wa really exist? Is He really more powerful than the nats? Will He ever send His Deliverer?” he wondered. Soo Thah had so many questions, but no answers. The answers would come when the white messenger came with Y’wa’s Book, if that day would ever come.

But one day, when Soo Thah was fourteen, the day did come. Shway Dee, Soo Thah’s uncle came bursting into the village with news: “I went down to the city to trade my basket of neen seed for salt and guess what I heard,” he told the villagers. “White Foreigners—a man and a woman—have come on the white wings of a sailing ship from the West! They tell of a God named Yahweh—Y’wa, in our language. They’re coming to teach us about Him and bring us His Book,” he told everyone.

“The Deliverer is coming! We must get ready for him!” the people exclaimed. The men went out and cleared the jungle paths. Boys climbed the trees as lookouts. A large hut was built so that everyone could sit together and listen to the Deliverer read the words of Y’wa’s Book. Then the villagers got dressed in their finest most colorful clothes. They wanted to look their best when Y’wa’s messengers

came!

At last messengers came! “They’re here! the lookouts shouted, as they spotted a white-skinned man and woman coming down the path escorted by a Karen man, they called the Teacher of Hope. The villagers stared in shock at the pale skin and blue eyes of the couple. And what about the man’s red-bearded face! How strange!

The people led the couple to the village and into the meeting hut, eager to hear what he had to say. Quietly they listened as the Teacher of Hope translated the good news of Jesus into their language. “For years you’ve been waiting for the Deliverer. Now you know He’s Jesus Christ, Y’wa’s Son. Turn from your sins and know fellowship with God! You’ve been waiting for Y’wa’s Book. Here it is! Let us teach you how to read it,” the man offered. Many Karen believed in Jesus right then, but not Soo Thah. It wasn’t until a tiger attacked someone sleeping next to him that the reality of death and his need for a Savior sank into Soo Thah’s heart. Then he, like the others, turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. With the others, Soo Thah praised the Lord for His almighty power over sin, death and the dreaded nats!

It didn’t take Soo Thah long to know that he wanted to tell others about Yahweh and His Son, Jesus Christ more than anything else. Soo Thah studied hard at school, learning all he could about the Bible as well as all the other subjects. He wanted to be the best missionary and pastor he could be for Yahweh.

Some time after he finished school, Soo Thah and other Karen pastors and missionaries met together in a giant hut. They praised Yahweh and they talked which peoples still needed to hear about Jesus.

“The Brechs still haven’t heard,” someone said.

“They are vicious people. We sent Saw Aw to them, but he never came back. Whoever else we send will die, too,” someone else warned.

Soo Thah disagreed. “Who is Yahweh is the Supreme God and Creator of all things. He sent a messenger to tell us the good news of salvation. He gave us the Book of Yahweh. He’s ended our fears of the nats. Shouldn’t we tell the Brechs how they can know Him, too? I will trust Yahweh to take care of me. I will go,” he offered.

With only a Bible and a hymnal, Soo Thah traveled until he reached the Brechs. The women and children ran for safety in their huts when they saw him. The men seized

their spears and surrounded him. "Kill him!" they shouted. "He's an enemy!"

"No. I come in peace," Soo Thah told them. He held up the Bible and the hymnal and said, "I have no weapons. I've come to tell you about Yahweh, the Supreme God. This is a book of songs about Him," he told them, showing them the hymnal. "And this is the book of Yahweh's words," he said, showing them the Bible. "I have come to sing to you about Him and to read His words to you."

Soo Thah opened the hymnal and sang to them about Yahweh. And as he sang, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of the Brechs. As soon as one song finished, the men asked for another and then another, until Soo Thah had hardly any voice.

"This can't be a bad man," the men said to each other. "No bad man acts this way." Putting down their swords, they said to Soo Thah, "Stay and tell us more about Yahweh and His Book. We want to hear what He has to say." So Soo Thah did stay. He told them all about their sin and Yahweh's love, mercy, and forgiveness that they could each know through believing in Jesus, Yahweh's Son.

At last, many of the Brechs, came to believe-- even Ho-Wee the chief and most wicked of those fierce men. Ho-Wee came to Soo Thah and said, "Soo Thah, we are weary of worshiping the nats. We want Yahweh to be our King and God, for He loves and takes care of His people. But please, will you destroy the nat houses and get rid of the nat offerings of eggs and fruit? We are still scared of them."

Nothing could have pleased Soo Thah more than to break down and burn all the nat altars, charms, houses and offerings in a giant bonfire. He would show these new Brec believers of the name of Yahweh—the Name above all names—even above all of the nats.

When it was finally time for Soo Thah to return home, a little church of over forty Brec Christians had already been started, with many more Brechs eager to hear about Yahweh and His Book.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

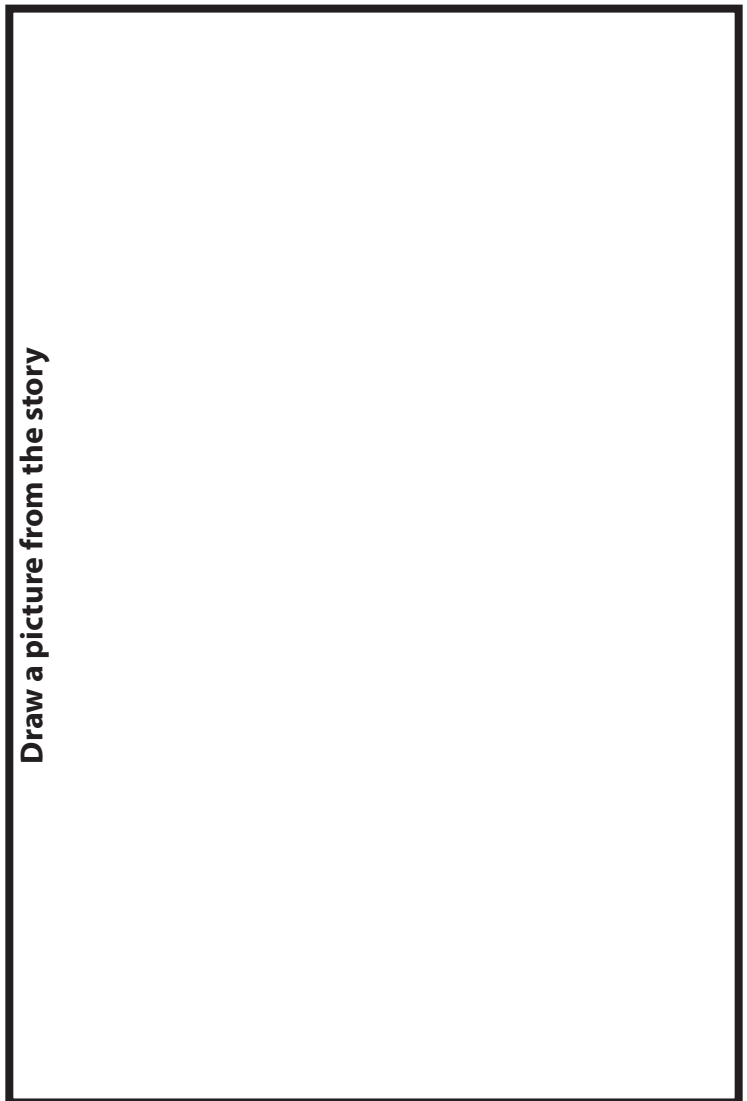
"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

What an amazing story of how God had prepared the

Karen people to receive the good news of Jesus, even hundreds of years before any missionary would set foot on Burmese soil! How could this be? Only because Yahweh truly is the Name Above All Names. He is the Supreme God. He is eternal and good. From before the beginning of time He planned to show mercy to undeserving, rebellious people.

But what about you and me? Like Soo Thah, we have heard about Yahweh. We have read His Book, the Bible. We know about Jesus Christ, the Deliverer and Savior. Do we believe in Him? Have we come to Him, turning away from disobeying Him and trusting Him as our own Savior? God promises to forgive all who truly repent of their sins and trust in Jesus!

And if we have done this, then like Soo Thah, do we think about how we can tell others about Him? Let's praise Yahweh, the Name Above All Names. Let's ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him and trust Him to forgive us. Let's ask Him to help us to boldly tell others about Him, just like Soo Thah.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Mary and Joseph decided to name God's Son Jesus because Joseph had an uncle by that name and they wanted to name the baby after him.

Answer: False! God commanded them to name Him that because it means, "Yahweh saves." That's what Jesus had come to do.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who were the Nats? Who feared them? What were they supposed to do?

Answer: The Nats were the Karen people's name for the evil spirits they believed in. The Karen people feared them. They believed the Nats were able to hurt them if they were not kept happy.

b. What was the name of the Nat-Crusher? Why could he crush them?

The Lord. He rules over all of heaven and earth. Answer: Nothing is more powerful than Him. Through Jesus, He crushed the power of the devil, sin and death for God's people. He always keeps them safely in His perfect will.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the ___ of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are ___, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no ___, upright and just is he."

Answers: name; perfect; wrong.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Oh, How I Love Jesus

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 25

Verse 1

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing it's worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me.

Words: Frederick Whitfield Music: Traditional American Melody

Jesus' name means 'Yahweh Saves.' It tells us that Jesus is God. He came to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is the best thing that will ever happen to us. That's why God's people think that name of Jesus is the sweetest name of earth. It reminds them of how God loved them before they loved Him. It reminds them of how He showed this love by coming to earth to live and to die for them, that they might be saved. That is a name worth a lot! That is a name worth most of all!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the greatest of all gods!

C God, we confess that sometimes we are afraid, acting like there are things in this world more powerful and more important than You.

T God, we thank You for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Please send more of Your people out to places that have not heard about You. Please help us to live boldly for You, knowing that You are the Name above ever name--greater than anything or anyone we might ever face.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Will Proclaim

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 26

I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
He is the Rock! (He's the rock!)
His works are perfect! (His works are perfect!)
His ways are just! (His ways are just!)
A faithful God who does no wrong.
A faithful God who does no wrong.
Upright and just is He.
Upright and just is He.
Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.

Words: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 9:

The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am. It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

CASE STORY

Matthew 1,12; Mark 3; Luke 1-2,8; John 7,8;12-59; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7

Our story is:

The Case of the Heavenly Light on Earth.

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

1. Who was the Light? Why made the light heavenly?
2. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth?

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

"He's here!" the shepherds exclaimed. "Here's the baby in the manger, like the angel said! Sure enough, there was Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the little animal shelter.

"How did these shepherds find us here?" Mary and Joseph must have wondered.

"We were outside of town, watching our sheep when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared! The sky and everything around us was filled with the beautiful, blazingly bright glory of the Lord and we were terrified!" the shepherds said. "But then the angel said: 'Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the peoples of the earth. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord. You will find Him wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'"

"Suddenly hundreds of heavenly angels appeared. They praised God saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' We watched them until they went back into heaven. As soon as they left, we hurried here to Bethlehem and started looking for you...and for Him. And here we are," they told Mary and Joseph.

This baby, the Messiah, the Lord? Both Mary and Joseph had known it for months. An angel had appeared to each of them. "Your child will be God's Son," he had told Mary. And to Joseph he had said, "You are to give Him the name Jesus, which means 'Yahweh saves,' for He will save His people from their sins." And now it seemed this amazing news was being announced to the world: Here was the Messiah, God's Son, that Israel had been waiting for! He was "Immanuel, God, Himself, living among us," promised long ago.

The shepherds left the shelter rejoicing. They spread the good news about Jesus, and all who heard it were amazed. Mary, herself, had much to think about. The Bible tells us that she treasured up all these things and thought

about them in her heart. This son of hers, this Son of God, what would His life be like? How would He save His people? She had many questions, and so few answers. Only time would reveal the LORD's plan.

Thirty years passed from that night in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph took Jesus and settled in Galilee. Mary and Joseph had children together, little half-brothers and sisters for Jesus. There was James, Jude (Judas), Simon and Joseph, and others whose names we don't even know. They played and grew up.

But, while the half-brothers and sisters grew up to live very regular lives, big half-brother Jesus grew up and began doing things that were not regular at all! He started preaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God, like He was some great teacher. He did amazing miracles. He healed sick people and even a raging storm with just His word. He fed over five thousand people with just a few fish and bread. He raised dead people back to life! He even forgave people's sins, like He was God, Himself!

No, Jesus was not being a regular man at all! In everything He said and did, Jesus was showing people He was exactly who His name said He was: He was Jesus: 'Yahweh saves.' He had come to save His people from their sins. He was Immanuel, God, Himself, living among them. He was God's Son. Jesus had come to bring the light of salvation to sinful men. He had come to put an end to the darkness of sin and death. He was Jesus, the Light of the World.

What did people think of Jesus when He began to do all these amazing thing? Some believed He really was the Messiah. But others followed Him thinking He was just a great prophet, like Elijah, from the old days. The jealous Jewish leaders even called Him a devil!

Even Jesus' mother and half-brothers was confused about what Jesus was doing. Sometimes they thought He was crazy. His half-brothers thought he was just trying to make himself into a big leader and made fun of Him. "Jesus, it's time for the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem—one of the biggest feasts of the year. Everyone will be there," they told him. "Surely you're coming with us and the rest of town to celebrate. You could do some of your 'miracles' there and really make a big name for yourself then," they said joked. But Jesus didn't listen to them. He would do everything in God's perfect timing as part of God's perfect plan.

Everyone loved the Feast of Tabernacles and for good reason. There were so many wonderful parts to it, each

having its own nickname. They called it 'the Season of Great Joy,' for the Israelites all came together in Jerusalem to celebrate the day the Lord brought the Israelites into the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the desert. Everyone joined joyous parades, carrying lulabs (palm branches), etrogs (a kind of fruit), and myrtle and willow branches, singing songs of praise to the LORD as they walked.

They also called it 'the Feast for All Peoples,' celebrating the day when peoples of every nation would come and worship the LORD together, as the LORD had promised through the prophets. The priests brought into the Temple courts a long parade of seventy bulls, representing all the nations of the world. The priests offered them all up on the altar at the Temple as worship gifts to the LORD.

And they also called it 'the Festival of Light.' Each night, four gigantic candelabras each with seven, giant wicks made from the priests' white robes, were raised up the top of the towering Temple, and lit. It was so bright that it lit up every part of Jerusalem, as a reminder of the brilliant glory of the LORD.

Down in the Temple Courts, the Jewish leaders held torches as they danced. The music of the trumpets, horns, cymbals, flutes and harps of the Temple orchestra played while they sang: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD...The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the feast parade, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you." (Psalm 118: 25-29)

The Feast lasted for seven, wonderful days. At the very height of the celebrations, Jesus came to Jerusalem to make a big announcement. Standing right next to the Temple, beneath the glorious light of those candelabras, and in the Middle of all those thousands of people, Jesus proclaimed: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me not keep living in the darkness of sin and death, but will have the light of eternal life. I am the good news of great joy for all people. I am just exactly who My name says I am: Jesus, 'Yahweh saves.' I have come to save My people from their sins. I am God's Son. I am Yahweh, Himself, living among you," He said.

The Jewish leaders were furious! Not only had Jesus spoken the name "Yahweh" which they believed was too

holy to be spoken aloud, but He was using that name for Himself! What blasphemy! To think a man would call himself by God's name! They picked up stones and tried to kill Him. But Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the Temple grounds.

Jesus escaped, completely unharmed that day, but not too many months later, it was the leaders who got their way—or so it seemed. They arrested Jesus, accused Him of doing bad things He didn't do, then put Him to death on the cross. "Jesus is dead," the Jewish leaders rejoiced. "Now we will hear no more from this man who says He is Yahweh. We have put out the supposed 'Light of the world,' once and for all."

But of course those Jewish leaders were wrong. God had always meant to use their evil plans to bring great joy for all of God's people. For Jesus hung on the cross that day, He was fulfilling the promise of His name: Jesus: 'Yahweh Saves.' He took upon Himself God's punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior. He, was Immanuel, God, Himself. He had lived among them and now He was dying for them on the cross.

Jesus' sad friends took His body and buried in the grave that day. They thought this was the end of Jesus, but how wrong they were! For on the third day, God raised Jesus up from the dead, proving that He really had beaten sin and death for all of God's people. Now here was good news of great joy for all people, the angels had sung about long ago. But no, this was not really just good news. This was the BEST news of great joy! For Jesus had brought the Light of Salvation to the world, for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

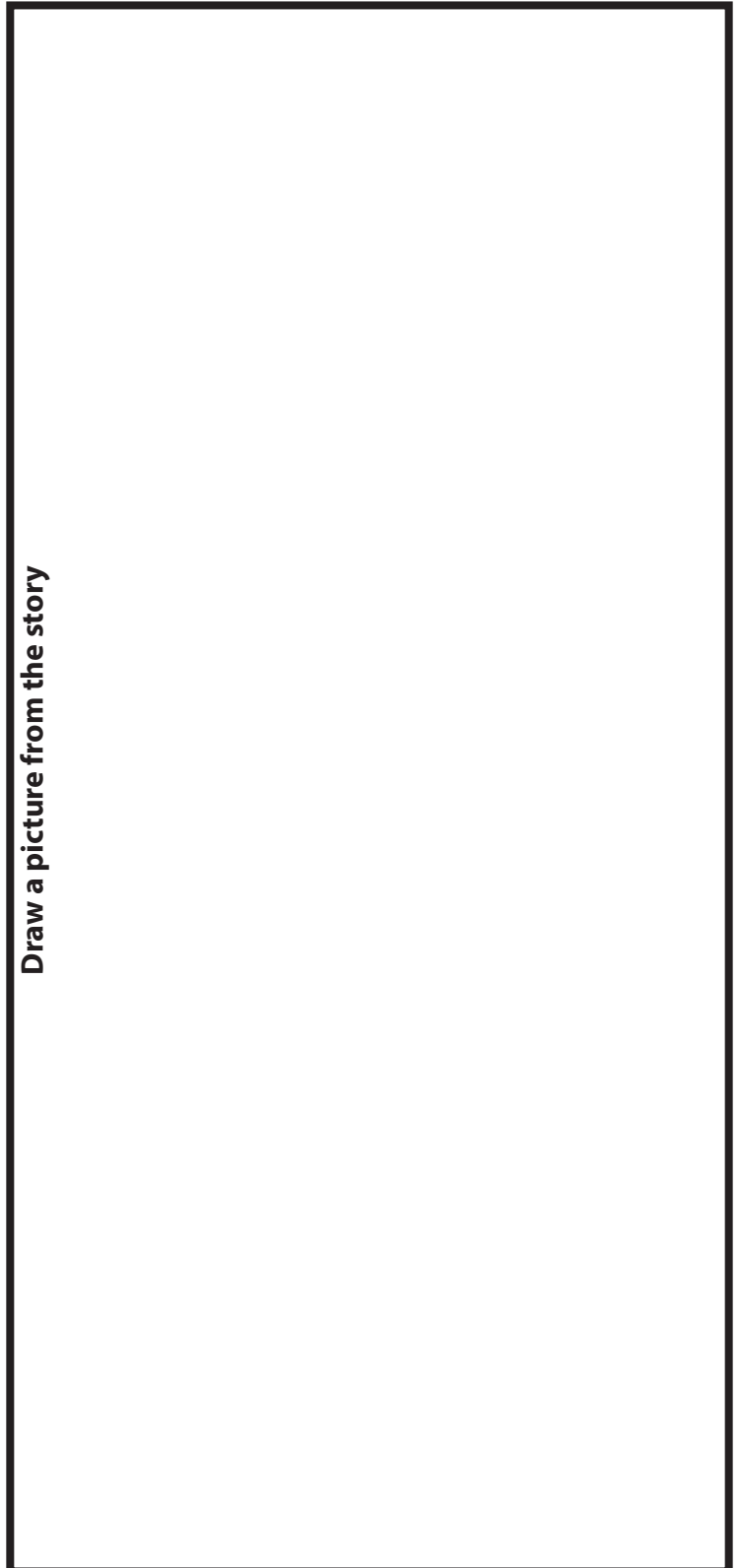
Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Does it surprise you that people who knew so much about Jesus and saw so many of His miracles should be so slow to believe in Him? It shouldn't. For every one of us is born with hard, unbelieving hearts. Faith in Jesus is a gift that God must give each of us. Even Jesus' own mother and half-brothers—just like you and me—only believed

in Jesus by the gift of faith. The wonderful news is that faith is a gift God loves to give and promises to lavish upon all who turn away from disobeying Him and trust Jesus as their Savior.

Let's praise the name of Jesus—that He is 'Yahweh Saves.' Let's ask Him to give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's many nicknames don't make any sense. They don't really tell us much about Him at all.

Answer: False! God's nicknames tell us so much about Him! They give us many reasons to trust Him and to praise Him.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Light? What made the light heavenly?

Answer: Jesus. He was the Son of God, come from His home in heaven.

b. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth?

Answer: He came to be Immanuel, God with Us. He came to tell people about God and to be their Savior so that could go to live with God forever.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"I will ___ the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the ___, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A ___ God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Answer: proclaim; Rock; faithful.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Oh, How I Love Jesus

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 25

Verse 1

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing it's worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me.

Words: Frederick Whitfield Music: Traditional American Melody

Jesus' name means 'Yahweh Saves.' It tells us that Jesus is God. He came to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, it is the best thing that will ever happen to us. That's why God's people think that name of Jesus is the sweetest name of earth. It reminds them of how God loved them before they loved Him. It reminds them of how He showed this love by coming to earth to live and to die for them, that they might be saved. That is a name worth a lot! That is a name worth most of all!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being Yahweh, the Light of the World, who takes away the darkness of sin and death for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

C God, we confess that many times we want to hide from the Light of the World. We don't want to confess our sins, but hide them from You and everyone else.

T God, we thank You for revealing us Yourself through Your Son, Jesus--the Light of the World.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

I Will Proclaim

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 26

I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
I will proclaim the name of the LORD,
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
He is the Rock! (He's the rock!)
His works are perfect! (His works are perfect!)
His ways are just! (His ways are just!)
A faithful God who does no wrong.
A faithful God who does no wrong.
Upright and just is He.
Upright and just is He.
Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.

Words: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.