

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 11: The God Who Saves*

**Unit 11 Big Question and Answer:**

**How Can We Be Saved?**

*It is God's Free Gift!*

PFI NIV Songs 11, Tracks 3,4

**Unit 11 Bible Verse: Romans 6:23, NIV 1984**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 5

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 1:*

**God Saves Sinners Who Confess Their Sins**

God is perfectly holy. There is no sin in Him at all. He is too holy for sin to even live in His presence. How gloriously magnificent and pure is He!

But we are all sinners. We have all chosen to rebel against God and His good ways. Not only can we not live in His presence because of our sinfulness, but we deserve to be shut out of His presence forever because of it. And there's nothing sinful people like us can do on our own to make ourselves acceptable to God.

We would be without hope, except for God's amazing grace and mercy! He, Himself, has done what was needed. He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life and offer it up as the perfect payment for the sins of His people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had beat sin and death. Yes, He had fully paid for the sins of God's people. He has made salvation a gift.

How can we receive this wonderful gift? God offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who confess their sins to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. When we do this, turning away from living life our own way and living for God instead, He will give us this gift! He will make us His people forever!

## BIBLE VERSE

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

**Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 John 1:8-9, NIV 1984**

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

## CASE STORY

**Our story is called:**

**The Case of the Mountains of Death and Life.**

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

1. Why were the mountains called the Mountains of Death?
2. Who went to those mountains to bring life? How did they do that?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts out around 1909 in England.

Far away in Southeast India lie mountain ranges called Kolloi Malai. Many tribes of people have made their home in tiny villages on these hot, jungly mountains, but few outsiders dare visit. Why? If you knew what Kolloi Malai meant in English you would understand. Kolloi Malai means "Mountains of Death!"

The people called them the Mountains of Death because of the sicknesses the mountains held. There was malaria, typhoid, bubonic plague, and special deadly strains of flu. Only one night spent on the Kolloi Malai was enough to catch one of these deadly diseases.

Christians called these mountains the Mountains of Death for another reason, too. There was no one among all the people who lived there who knew about Jesus. They all lived in fear of the spirits and idols of Hinduism and the powerful Hindu priests. The people thought that the spirits and idols were their only hope for protection against the sickness, pain and death of the Mountains of Death. They did not know about the God who saves sinners who confess their sins to Him and His power to take care of them in sickness and even in death.

"Will the peoples of the Kolloi Malai be left to die in their sins or will someone go and tell them about Jesus who can save them? Who will go to the Mountains of Death?" These questions reached the ears of a rich, English young lady dressed in silk and pearls and her new husband--Evelyn and Jesse Brand.

"We will go," they said. "We will take medicines to help fight those terrible sicknesses. We will take the good news of Jesus to them so that they might confess their sins to Him and be saved. We will go and we will stay until we reach five mountain ranges of the Kolloi Malai...or until we die," they promised. So they left behind their nice home, their beautiful clothes and all the comforts of the

good life in England and went.

Evelyn and Jesse settled in a little village in a hut made of bamboo and mud and began their work. "We have medicines to heal you. We can teach you how to keep diseases from spreading," they told the people.

"We have come to tell you about Jesus who saves sinners who confesses their sins. You do not have to live in fear of the Hindu spirits and idols," the Brands said.

But the Hindu priest didn't want the people to hear about Jesus. "If you listen to the Brands, the spirits will be unhappy and your cattle will die," the Hindu priest threatened...and mysteriously the cattle did die!

For seven long years the Brands kept trying to help the people, yet not a one became a Christian. Should they leave? What good had they done? "Who will go to the Mountains of Death? We will...and we will stay until we reach five mountain ranges or until we die!" The Brands remembered their promise and did not give up. Instead, they prayed even harder. "Lord, show us how to reach these people on the Mountains of Death. You know the way."

Not longer after this, sickness struck the village where the Brands lived. Hundreds died. Anyone who got sick almost certainly died.

"The sick people will have to take care of themselves," the healthy villagers said. "We don't want to get sick and die, too!" So they fled into the jungle, leaving behind all the sick.

"Should we leave the village, too?" the Brands wondered. "What if our children get sick? What if we do?"

'Who will go to the Mountains of Death? Will they be left to die in their sins or will someone go and tell them about Jesus who can save them?...' 'We will go and we will stay until we reach five mountain ranges of the Kolloi Malai... or until we die.' the Brands remembered their promises and decided to stay.

"Jesus has already saved us from our sins, we are the very ones to stay and help these dying people. Perhaps now God will give us the chance to tell these people about Jesus."

So the Brands stayed in the village. They made huge pots of soup to feed all of the sick people, hoping to keep some alive and hoping to tell all about the God who saves sinners who confess their sins to Him. They even took care of the Hindu priest and his wife.

One day an urgent message came to the Brands: "Come quickly! The priest and his wife are doing worse and he has something to tell you."

The Brands hurried to see the dying man and his wife. "I have something to tell you," the priest told them. "I poisoned the cattle when the people wanted to listen to you, not a spirit as I made them think. I've been a priest all my life, but the only ones who have helped me are Christians," he told the Brands. "Please adopt my baby if I die. I want you to raise my child."

"We will raise your child as our very own," the Brands told him. Before long, the man and his wife both died and the Brands adopted their child as their own, as they said they would.

Finally terrible sickness left the village. Life could get back to normal, yet nothing would ever be the same again. The villagers came to the Brands and said, "When our own families left us to die, you stayed and cared for us. You even adopted the child of the Hindu priest who was your enemy. We want to know more about your God who saves. Tell us about Jesus."

Soon many of them confessed their sins to God and believed in Jesus. The Brands began to spread out their work to the rest of that first mountain range. God was blessing their work.

Three years later, Jesse Brand died from Blackwater Fever on the Mountains of Death, and many wondered if Evelyn Brand would go on. "Will they be left to die in their sins or will someone go and tell them about Jesus who can save them?...' 'We will go and we will stay until we reach five mountain ranges of the Kolloi Malai...or until we die.' Evelyn remembered their promises; and, for fifty more years, Evelyn Brand kept working in the Mountains of Death-- until she was 95 years old!

Over the hills she would ride on her hill pony, camping out of doors with just an umbrella and a raincoat to protect her from the torrential rains. She cleared jungle lands, pulled bad teeth, gave the villagers medicine, started schools, took care of orphans, and most of all, invited them to confess their sins to God, turn to Jesus and be saved. By the end, she was so sick with malaria, and could only walk with the help of two bamboo canes. She had so many wrinkles that you could not hardly count them, yet the Lord made her beautiful with a heart full of joy and love for Him and the people of the Mountains of Death.

"Come home to England, Evelyn," pleaded her family and friends, "You are too old. Your body is worn out."

But Evelyn would remember her promise to reach the peoples of the Kolloi Malai. She would just smile and say, "You know these mountains. If I leave, who will help the village people? Who will treat their wounds and pull their teeth and teach them about Jesus? When someone comes to take my place on the Mountains of Death, then and only then, will I retire. In any case, why preserve this old body if it's not going to be used where God needs me."

In the end, Granny Brand, as the villagers called her, died in India at the age of 95. The villagers buried her in a simple cotton sheet right on her mountain, just as she had wanted, next to her husband Jesse. And by the time she died, they had reached not five mountain ranges, but SEVEN! And many, many people had confessed their sins and turned to Jesus to be saved.

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God Saves Sinners Who Confess Their Sins**

**Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 1:8-9**

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

What about us, have we confessed our sins and trusted in Jesus as our Savior? If we do, God will forgive us our sins. He will save us through Jesus and we will be His people forever!

And what about those of us who are Christians? Could there still be work to be done? Yes, there is. There are mountains, and cities and villages and neighborhoods, on the other side of the world and right here where we live, filled with people who need to hear the way to be saved. Could God want us to tell others about the God who saves sinners who confess their sins to Him? Yes, He does.

Let's praise this God who saves sinners and ask Him to help us to tell others how they can have their sins forgiven. Let's ask Him to send out more of His people to help build His Church by spreading the good news about Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and to use even us to help build His Church, by telling others about Him.

Draw a picture from the story

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

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

We are sinners, but if we try really hard, we can please God by the good things we do.

Answer: False! There is no way we can ever be good enough to deserve to be in God's presence. Praise God for sending Jesus to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

**2. Crack the Case Questions**

**a. Why were the mountains called the Mountains of Death?**

Answer: Because of all the terrible sicknesses there were there. Many people died.

**b. Who went to those mountains to bring life? How did they do that?**

Answer: The Brands went to these mountains to bring medicine, but most importantly, to bring the good news of Jesus. As people heard the gospel, many confessed their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. This brought God's life to the Mountains of Death.

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

**1 John 1:8-9**

"If we claim to be without \_\_\_\_, we deceive \_\_\_\_ and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and \_\_\_\_ and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all \_\_\_\_"

Answers: sin; ourselves; just; unrighteousness.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

*PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 6*

**Verse 2**

Upon that cross of Jesus  
 Mine eye at times can see  
 The very dying form of One  
 Who suffered there for me;  
 And from my smitten heart with tears  
 Two wonders I confess,  
 The wonders of His glorious love  
 And my unworthiness.

Words: Elizabeth C. Celphane Music: Frederick C. Maker

God's people love to think about what God has done to save them. He loved them so much that He chose to send Jesus, His One and Only Son to suffer and die for their sins on the cross. They are saved because He died in their place! Their hearts are smitten with--that is, overwhelmed-- the greatness of His love for them, such undeserving sinners.

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

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

**A** God, we praise You for being the Protector and Sustainer of Your people. They can even survive in the Mountains of Death, if You want them to.

**C** God, we confess that we, like the people on the Mountains of Death and all other people, deserve Your punishment. We all need to confess our sins to You and ask Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for the wonderful gifts You give to Your people, such as Your Holy Spirit living in their hearts, filling them with Your love; and, the strength to endure joyfully, everything they must endure.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like the Brands: willing to go to anyway to tell others about You.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**If We Claim**

*PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 7*

If we claim to be without sin,  
 If we claim to be without sin,  
 If we claim to be without sin,  
 We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

*But, if we confess our sins...*

God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins,  
 Faithful and just and will forgive our sins,  
 Faithful and just and will forgive our sins,  
 And purify us from all unrighteousness.  
 First John One, verses eight and nine.

Words: 1 John 1:8-9, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses remind us that we are all sinners. We deceive ourselves if we think we are not. But, the good news is, that if we admit we are sinners and confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and save us through Jesus.