

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

2 Samuel 11-12

Our story is: The Case of the Not-So-Secret Sinner.

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

1. Who was the Not-So-Secret Sinner? How did he try to cover up his sin?
2. Who knew about his sin and prompted him to confess it? How did God respond to this secret sinner's confession to Him?

This story takes place in Old Testament times about 2000 years before Jesus lived on earth. It's about David.

David was a godly man who wanted to love and obey God, but David did not do this perfectly. For you see, David was also a Secret Sinner. What's the Secret Sinner? Someone who struggles sin in his heart and gives into it, especially when others weren't watching. He might look like he's doing all the right things, but he's a sinner nonetheless.

It all happened one spring in Jerusalem. David had sent his soldiers off war against their enemies, the Ammonites. Usually David went with them to war, but for some reason, this year he chose to stay home, leaving army captain Joab in charge, forty miles away on the battlefield.

One evening David went up on the roof of his house to look out over Jerusalem. As he did, he noticed a very beautiful woman. "She is so beautiful!" David thought. "I must find out who she is and meet her!" David called a servant to his side, "Who is that woman?" he asked.

"That is Bathsheba, the dearly loved wife of Uriah Hittite, one of your mighty men," the servant replied.

Now David did not care that Bathsheba was already married...though he should have. He did not care that she was the dearly loved wife of one of his best, most loyal soldiers...though he should have. David was a man who loved God and wanted to obey Him. He knew that God would not want him to take someone else's wife. But just right then, he did not even care what God thought... though he should have. Instead, David ignored all the things he knew he should do and did what he WANTED to do. He ordered Bathsheba brought him. David had become a secret sinner! Who could see his secret sin, anyway? Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, away at war. Servants could be kept quiet. Bathsheba could be kept quiet. David's secret sin was safe...or so he thought.

Then some news came to David that wouldn't keep

quiet: Bathsheba was going to have a baby—his baby!, David knew that he would have to do more to keep his secret sin secret. So he thought up yet another secret sin to cover up his first one. He would use Captain Joab and the Ammonites to get rid of Uriah completely. If Uriah was dead, Bathsheba could become his wife. Then no one would know his secret sin.

David sent a letter to Joab, putting his plan into action. He wrote: "Joab, my captain, When next you lay siege on Rammah, do not fail to put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die. Signed, David, the King."

Joab was puzzled by King's letter. What a strange order! This wasn't like King David. But Joab obeyed it anyway. He changed his battle plans to make sure that the King's wishes would be met. He put Uriah in the front-lines. The Ammonites attacked the Israelites in the fields outside Rammah, then Joab ordered the soldiers to charge the gates of Rammah. Uriah and others on the front lines fought close to the walls of the city. Ammonite soldiers stationed on the top of the walls let fly showers of arrows upon them. Before long, many of David's best soldiers died that day, including Uriah—all because of David's secret sin.

A few days later a messenger brought the news David was waiting for. Uriah the Hittite had been killed in battle. David's secret sin was covered up! Who could know his secret sin now? It was covered up completely now that Uriah was dead. He was free to marry Bathsheba and no one had to know about his sins. Kings often had more than one wife in those days. No one would think anything of his marrying Bathsheba now. She was a widow with no one to take care of her. People would think David was doing a good thing by marrying her. But after all, what did they expect from good King David, the man after God's own heart, the king who sang praises to the God he loved. Bathsheba could come to live as David's wife in his palace. No one would have to know that he was really just covering up his sins. After all, who could see a secret sin anyway? No one! Well...almost no one. God had seen David's secret sins. Nothing can be hidden from God. And God was very displeased with what David had done.

God sent his special messenger, the prophet Nathan, to talk with David. "David, I have a story to tell you."

"Tell me your story, Nathan," David replied.

"There were two men who lived in the same town, one

was very rich and one was very poor. The rich man had lots of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe (girl) lamb. He raised it like it was his daughter, he loved it so much. He fed it food and water from his table. At night, it slept in his arms," Nathan told David.

"One day a traveler came to stay at the rich man's house and eat at his table. But instead of using one of his many sheep or cattle to make the meal, the rich man took the poor man's ewe lamb and served it," Nathan said.

David burned with anger and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you all the many things that once were his, and all of Israel and Judah, too. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you reject my Word and disobey my laws? You had Uriah the Hittite killed with the sword of the Ammonites and took his own, dear wife. You sinned in secret, thinking that no one will see,' the LORD told David through the prophet Nathan, "but now your sin will lead to trouble and sadness in your family that everyone will be able to see."

Then David saw his sin for what it was. He had stolen someone else's wife! He had murdered a man! He had tried to cover up his sins! How sinful he was.

David was truly sorry for what he had done and confessed his sin: "What you say is true, Nathan." I have sinned against the LORD." He thought he was keeping his sins a secret, but now he could see that you can never keep your sins a secret from God.

Nathan replied, "You know that the law says you deserve to die because you have stolen another man's wife and because you killed someone on purpose. But the LORD has chosen to forgive you instead. He has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

David was a secret sinner, but David was still a man who loved God. When Nathan left, David prayed to God. He turned away from his sins and confessed them to God. He said, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Cleanse me from my sin. For I know

my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts....Hide your face from my sins...create in me a pure heart, O God...save my from [guilt], O God, the God who saves me." (Psalm 51)

God heard David's prayer and forgave him. What a merciful God is the LORD!

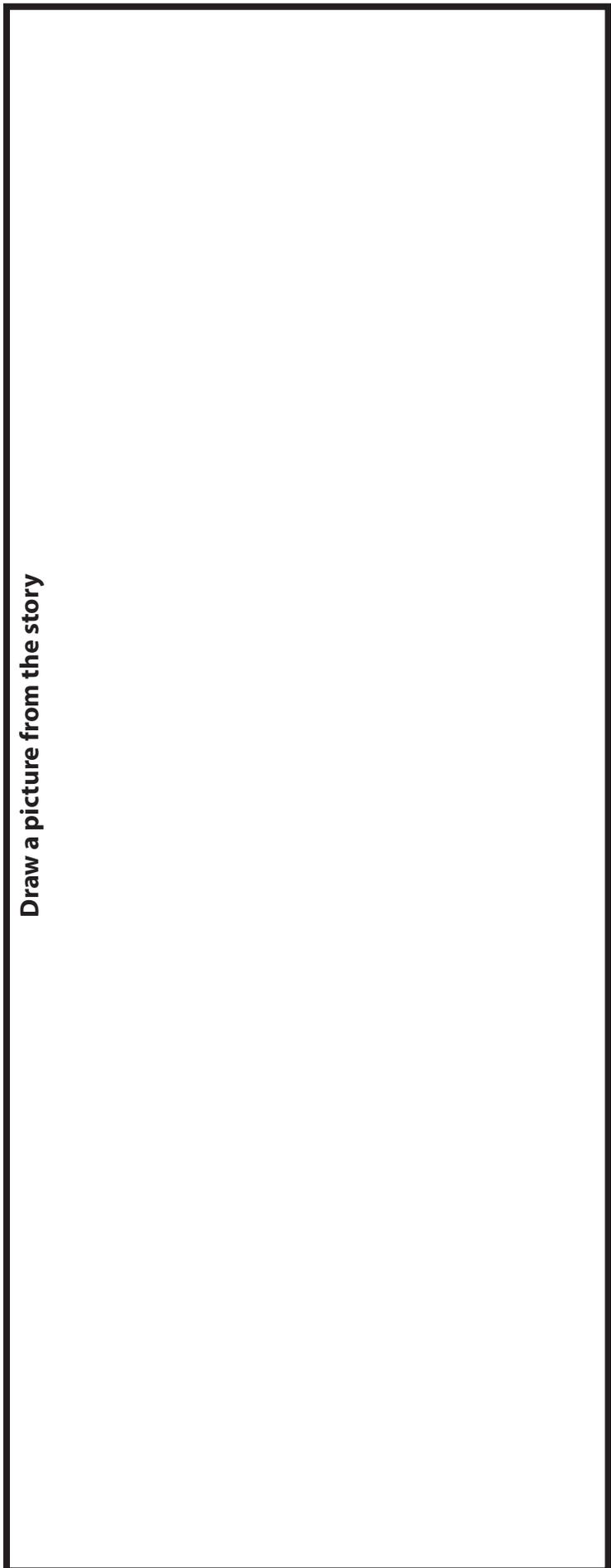
Our Bible Truth Is:
God Forgives Sinners Who Confess Their Sins
Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 1:8-9

"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."

David was a secret sinner who confessed his sins and was forgiven. What about you and me? Are we secret sinners? Have we sinned and thought, "Who could see a secret sin anyway?" Are there sins we hide deep inside that we try to hide from others and from God? Let's not forget the lesson of David, the Secret Sinner: no one can ever hide their sins from God. He knows all our sins, even the ones no one else knows. But don't forget the lesson of David, the man of God, either: God forgives those who confess their sins to Him and ask for forgiveness.

God knows that we are sinners. He wants us to confess our sins to Him so that we can be forgiven. Let's praise this God who delights in saves sinners who confess their sins, even the darkest, most secret ones, to Him. Let's ask Him to show us our sins, help us to confess them to Him and trust in Him as our own Savior.

Note about this story: I have been careful to leave in the key elements to the story, while being sensitive to the nature of David's sin and the ages of the children listening to the story. I think it ample for the children to know that David thought Bathsheba attractive without adding in the fact that she is bathing when he sees her. I also think it is enough for Bathsheba to be pregnant without presenting more details. Please use your discretion to adapt the story even more. You easily could leave out the pregnancy and just say that he wanted to snatch Uriah's wife.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

As sinners, we would be without hope, if it weren't for God sending Jesus to save us. He promises to save all who confess and turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Not-So-Secret Sinner? How did he try to cover up his sin?

Answer: David. He had Bathsheba's husband killed in battle to get rid of him.

b. Who knew about his sin and prompted him to confess it? How did God respond to this secret sinner's confession to Him?

Answer: The LORD knew. He used Nathan the prophet to help David see his sins and turn away from them. The LORD forgave David when he confessed his sins.

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

1 John 1:8-9

"If we claim to be ___ sin, we ___ ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we ___ our sins, he is faithful and just and will ___ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Answers: without; deceive; confess; forgive.

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 Forgiver of Your Sinful People.

C God, we confess that we, like David, sometimes try to be secret sinners. We don't like You to find out our sin. We confess them to You now. Please forgive us!

T God, we thank You for being so good to David that You would send Nathan to help bring him to see his sin and confess it. How merciful and kind You are to Your people to show them their sins and to forgive them!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to confess our sins—even our secret sins-- to You. Help us to turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

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.