

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 2:

Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved

The Bible tells us that we have all rebelled against God and deserve His punishment for our sins. It tells us that our sins are so great that there is no way that we can ever earn God's forgiveness on our own. None of us can ever save ourselves.

But the good news is that God can! He has provided the way of salvation for sinful people through His Son, Jesus.

Jesus came to earth as a man. He was fully God and fully man. How amazing! He lived a perfect life. He's the only one who has ever done that! On the cross, Jesus offered up His life. He suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice needed for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had completely paid for their sins. Yes! He had won the victory over sin and death for them!

Now all who turn away from living a life of sin (repent) and put their trust in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven their sins. They will be saved from the punishment for their sins they deserve and will live as God's dearly loved people forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: John 14:2-6, NIV 1984

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

CASE STORY

John 11-14

Our story is called:

The Case of the Way-Maker.

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

1. Who was the Way-Maker?
2. To where did He make the way? How did He make the way?

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

Jerusalem was packed with thousands of Jews who had come to celebrate Passover. Every Passover was exciting, but news that Jesus had raised Lazarus, a man from the nearby town of Bethany, from death to life made this one even more exciting than usual. Could Jesus be God's promised Messiah, people wondered.

When the word spread that Jesus was staying in Bethany with Lazarus and his sisters, many decided to go see Jesus and this man Jesus had raised to life.

The next day, Jesus headed for Jerusalem, along with his disciples and a crowd of others. "Go to the village ahead of you," Jesus told two of His disciples. "There you will find a donkey's colt tied up, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here."

The disciples found the colt just as Jesus said and brought it to Him. Threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on its back. Jesus' time had come. He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey as the Messiah, the King of Israel, just as the prophets had foretold long ago.

As Jesus came to the top of the Mount of Olives, another large crowd came the hill to greet Him. "This is our king, the Messiah, we must give Him a royal welcome into the royal city!" people exclaimed. "Throw down your cloaks for the King to tread on. Plain ground is too good for Him. Get palm branches and wave them to honor Him as our king!"

The road was soon covered with cloaks and the air filled with waving palm branches. The crowd began to praise God for Jesus. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Blessed in the King of Israel, the Messiah!" they shouted.

How did Jesus react to the crowd's praise? Not as you might imagine. Jesus was weeping out loud! He knew these people were praising Him for the wrong reasons. They thought He had come to get rid of their enemies, the Romans, and bring in happy days of life in a great, new

Israel. But He had come to bring them eternal life with God as He offered up His life as the perfect payment for God's people's sins. Soon these cheering crowds would reject Him and call for Him to die, when they saw Jesus had not come to give them what they wanted. And so they did, in Jesus' next few days in Jerusalem, until by Thursday, few but Jesus' closest disciples still followed Him.

That Thursday night, Jesus gathered with His twelve disciples to celebrate the Passover Feast. The disciples might have thought this was just a Passover like the rest, but Jesus knew otherwise: it was the night before He would die on the cross for the sins of God's people. Jesus used that Passover dinner to explain to His disciples what He was about to do.

Instead of beginning the meal with the usual Passover prayer, Jesus got up from the table and did something that completely shocked His disciples: He took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist, like a lowly slave would do. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel wrapped around him. The disciples were shocked! No one touched another person's dirty feet--especially not an honored teacher!

When Jesus knelt down in front of Peter to wash his feet Peter said in horror, "Lord, you aren't going to wash my feet, are you?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Jesus wasn't really worried about the dirt on their feet. He was washing them as a picture of what He would do for them and all of God's people, the next day, when He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus was making the Way to the Father for all His sinful people. He had come to clean something a lot dirtier than feet with something much more precious than water. He loved them so much that He had come to wash away their dirty, sinful hearts and lives with His very own blood as He would give up His life on the cross as the perfect payment for their sins the very next day. He was the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one could come to the Father but by Him. They--nor any of God's people-- could ever come to the Father and enjoy eternal life with them in heaven, unless He did this shameful, terrible, dirty job.

When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to His place at the table. Now it

was time for the Passover Meal. This was usually one of the happiest celebrations of the year as the Jews remembered how God freed them from slavery in Egypt and had led them by Moses to the Promised Land. But once more Jesus changed things, and His words made this dinner far from a celebration:

"This is my body broken for you," Jesus told them as He broke the bread and passed it around for them all to eat some of it. "This is my blood poured out for you to make a new covenant with God," Jesus told them as He passed the cup for them to drink from.

"The hour has come for me to go away," Jesus told them. "One of you will plot with the Jewish leaders and betray me into their hands."

The disciples were in shock "Surely not !!!" they each exclaimed.

"Yes, it will be one of you who eats at this table with me even now," Jesus told them. "And when the time comes for my arrest, you all will abandon me. Peter, you will even deny three times that you have ever known me!"

What awful news this was to the disciples. They would abandon Jesus! Jesus would be arrested and would die!

"Where are you going, Jesus? Why can't we come with You?" Thomas asked the question they were all thinking. They still didn't understand this was all part of God's good plan to make the way of salvation for His people. They were so upset!

"Don't be troubled! Trust in God. Trust also in me," Jesus told them. "Everything is not just falling apart as you think. Everything is completely in control and going as planned. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am making the Way for God's sinful people to come to the Father. No one goes to the Father, except through me. If I do not do this, then no one goes to the Father. I am the Truth: believe in the Father and believe in me! I am the Life: after this is over, you will see me again. I am going away to prepare a place for you in heaven--my Father's house. I will go away, but one day I will come back to get you and take you to be with Me forever."

That night, the disciples watched in horror as everything began to happen just as Jesus told them it would. Judas Iscariot led Jewish soldiers to arrest Jesus. The disciples ran away and abandoned Him. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times... and then the rooster crowed. Worst of all, they watched the next day as Jesus' body was broken and

His blood poured out as He died on the cross. Jesus was doing the dirty job of washing away the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him, as He had said He would.

But horror turned to joy when on the third day! Jesus rose up victorious from the grave and appeared to His disciples, just as He said He would. Now they knew He was the Way: He had made the way for sinful people to come to God the Father. Now they knew that He was the Truth: everything He had them had come true. Now they knew that He was the Life: death could not hold Him in the grave. Now all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him would have their sins forgiven and eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom. There, they will never know pain, sadness or death again. Only the delight of close fellowship with God and His people forever!

Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life! And now it was time for His disciples to spread the news: "All authority has been given Me in heaven and earth! I rule over all," Jesus told them. "So now go into the entire world and tell them the good news that I have made the way for them to be saved. Make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything I've taught you". And so they did...and so they still are.

Our Bible Truth is: Jesus is the Only Way to Be Saved

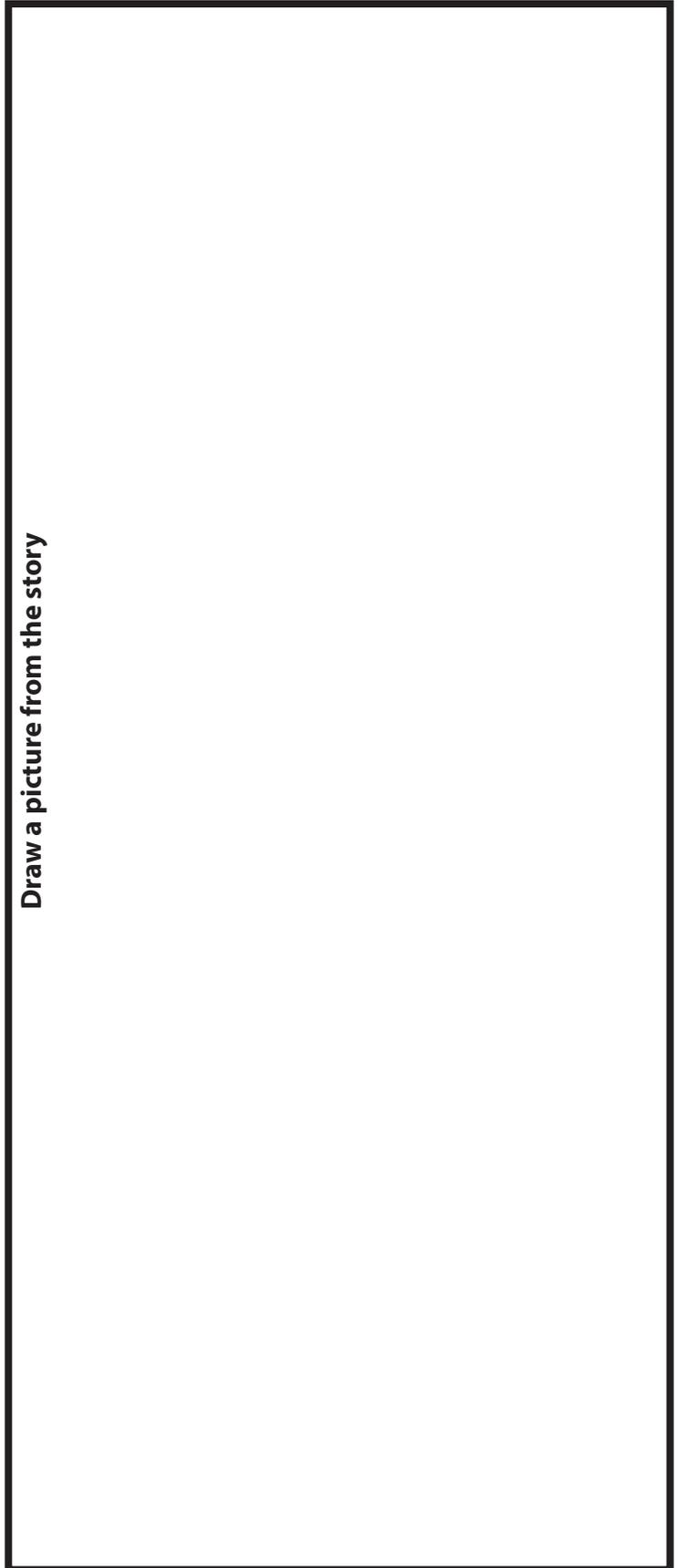
Our Bible Verse is: John 14:2-6

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life no one comes to the Father, except through Me." These are words for us to think about, too. They are words of warning for us and all people. "No one comes to the Father..." there is no way to the Father except through Jesus. We can never make ourselves acceptable to God without Him. But they are words of hope: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." To all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus, He promises to forgive them, save them, and one day to bring them to live with Him forever.

Let's praise Jesus for being the Way, the Truth and the Life. And let's ask Him to help us to believe in Him and to tell others about Him so that we all might know the greatest delight of knowing Him now and enjoy life with Him forever.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The Bible tells us that some of us have rebelled against God more than others. If we haven't sinned too much, then we can work really hard and save ourselves from our sins.

Answer: False! The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned against God and none of us can ever do enough good to save ourselves from the punishment our sins deserve. We all need a Savior!

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the Way-Maker?

Answer: Jesus.

b. To where did He make the way? How did He make the way?

Answer: He made the way for God's sinful people to become God's people, getting to know Him and live with Him forever.

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

John 14:2-6

"In my Father's ___ are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will ___ and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the ___ to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the ___ and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Answers: house; come back; way; truth.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for making the way to You, Yourself, by sending Your Son, Jesus, to do what we could never do ourselves.

C God, we confess that like most of the people in Jerusalem, we often just want You to give us the good earthly things we want. Often times we don't really want Your far greater gift of eternal life. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to give sinful people what they really need--salvation--even when He knew they would treat Him so terribly and so dishonorably.

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

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

To God Be the Glory

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 8

Verse 1

To God be the glory,
great things He hath done;
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life
an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate
that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
Thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane

We give glory to God for giving us His Son who He loved so much to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

In My Father's House

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 9

"In my Father's house are many rooms," Jesus said.
"I go prepare, prepare a place for you.
You know the way."
"Lord, we don't know where You are going,"
Thomas said to Him.
"Lord, we don't know where You are going,
How can we know the way?"

"I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life,"
Jesus answered.
I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life,"
Jesus answered.
No one can come to the Father, except through me."
John Fourteen, two through six.

Words adapted from John 14:2-6 Constance Dever © 2011

On the night before He died on the cross, Jesus comforted Thomas and the other disciples that He was making the way for them to be saved. He called heaven, His Father's house and promises them that He is about to make the way for them to be able to live there. There was still much they didn't understand yet, but later, after He rose from the dead it all began to make sense. On the cross, He paid for God's people's sins. He made the way for them to go to heaven. They could depend upon Him and His promises. He was the truth. He would beat sin and death for them so they could have eternal life. He would prepare a place for them and all of God's people in heaven to be with Him. And one day, He will come back to take them to be there with Him forever. How wonderful that will be!