

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

Our story is called:

The Case of the Cheeky Chieftess.

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

1. Who was the Cheeky Chieftess?
2. What did she do that was cheeky? What did this show to her people? ("Cheeky" means to do something bold and rebellious.)

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people obeying Jesus' command to spread the good news of salvation to the whole world. It takes place around 1815 in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Islands are a very, very beautiful group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. There are many beautiful flowers and birds. And mountains made from erupting volcanoes rise high above the sparkling, clear ocean that crashes in thunderous waves on the shores of white sand beaches.

But as beautiful as everything looked in Hawaii, not everything was wonderful. The people were trapped in fear of idols carved out of stone and wood. They believed the spirits of those idols would harm them, if they did not worship them. Coconuts, bananas, hogs and many other things, they offered to these fake gods, who they believed controlled their happiness.

They were especially fearful of the passionate, ill-tempered goddess Pele. Pele, they believed, was the volcano goddess and lived in the mighty volcano Kileaua. They believed that she caused the volcano to spew out fiery lava and ash on anyone who did not give her proper offerings or respect. Anyone who did not climb up to Haema'uma'u caldera (a caldera is the mouth of the volcano where lava can come out) on Kileaua and offer her some of the juicy "ohelo" bush berries that grew on the mountain slopes and say:

"E Pele, eia ka 'ohelo 'au;

(Oh, Pele, here are your branches)

e taumaha aku wau 'ia 'oe (I offer some to you)

e'ai ho'i au tetahi (some I also eat),"fearing she would send lava from the volcano to fall on them and their village, if they did not.

How sad it was that the people lived in fear of Pele, who was nothing but a pretend goddess of stone! How sad that they did not know about the true God and about Jesus, who was the only way to be saved from their sins!

Did God care about the Hawaiian people? Did He want them to know the way to be saved? Yes, He did. And five thousand miles away, in Connecticut in the United States, God was preparing people to go and tell them.

A young man, with tanned skin and jet black hair, stood up before a crowded church of people. "Aloha! Greetings!" he said with a smile. "I am Obookiah. I come from Hawaii. I am here to ask your help. You may have heard what a beautiful land Hawaii is, but its people are in terrible bondage to idols. Hawaii gods: they are wood; they burn. I want to go home, put them in a fire, and burn them up. They do not see, they do not hear, they do not do anything! We make them with our hands. Yet my people live in terror of these gods, especially Pele the volcano goddess. My people make many sacrifices to these idols. They even sacrifice people to them! They do not know Iesu Kristo (Jesus Christ) or the Bible. They do not even have a written language or know how to read. They know nothing of the way to be saved. They are dying in their sins!"

"I, too, would still be there living in fear of those gods, never having heard of Jesus. But God in His great mercy brought me to America where kind men told me about Him. I have found forgiveness from my sins through Jesus," Obookiah told them.

"Does God care about the Hawaiian people? Does He want them to know the way to be saved? Yes, He does! It is too much for me to stay here, while my people in Hawaii are dying without Him. They need to know the way to God!"

"Who will help me? Who will come with me to Hawaii and tell my people about Iesu Kristo?" Obookiah asked them. "Who will help me give them the Bible and teach them to read? It might be dangerous. They might want to kill us for going against Pele and the other gods of wood and stone, but for Jesus and the Hawaiian people it is worth risking your life!"

Many people heard Obookiah's message and wanted to help. Some said, "We will give money so you can go." Others said, "We will go, if you go with us."

Obookiah made preparations to go. The Hawaiian language had never been written down, so Obookiah made up the Hawaiian alphabet and a beginning reading book. He even began to translate the Bible into Hawaiian. Before long, he would be sailing back to Hawaii and begin teaching his people about Jesus. He wanted them to have God's Word to read themselves. He was so excited!

Then something happened that changed all of Obookiah's plans. Obookiah came down with a terrible sickness called typhoid fever. Day after day, night after night, Obookiah fought the fever, but he got weaker and weaker, until at last, he died.

The news of Obookiah's death spread throughout Connecticut and America. "What! Obookiah's dead? We thought surely he was the one God had chosen to take good news of Jesus to Hawaii. Who will dare go to Hawaii now that Obookiah is not here to take them?"

Did God care about the Hawaiian people? Did He want them to know the way to be saved? Yes, He did. He worked in the hearts of fourteen men and women and gave them courage to go.

"We will go!" said a group of fourteen men and women! "We want the Hawaiians to know Jesus, the only way to be saved. We want them to know how to read so that they can read God's Word for themselves. We are willing to risk our lives to tell them, even without Obookiah," they decided.

So the fourteen brave men and women sailed to Hawaii. They set up a school and a church building and began to tell the Hawaiians about Jesus. "Turn from your idols, turn from Pele. Turn and trust in Jesus. He is the only way to be saved," they told the people.

"What! Turn from our gods and Pele? How can we do that? They will be angry and seek revenge if we don't sacrifice to them," the people said. So very few would have dared turn from the idols they worshiped and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

But the missionaries knew they must not give up. How would these Hawaiian people know the way to God if they did! So they kept praying and they kept teaching. They needed to keep trusting. They knew God would be faithful. And so He was!

One day the high chieftess Kapi'olani began to come to the missionaries' school. She wanted to learn to read like everyone else. She listened as the missionaries told the class about Jesus. "Turn from your idols, turn from Pele. Turn and trust in Jesus," she heard them say. "He is the only way to be saved." But unlike the other people, when Kapi'olani heard the good news of Jesus, she turned from her sins and believed.

Kapi'olani quickly began to grow as a Christian. God put a great love in her heart for Him, and a great desire for her people to know and love Him, too. "These people will

never believe in Jesus until they know that He is more powerful than Pele," she told the missionaries. "I must defy Pele to her face in front of them. Perhaps then they will see that Pele is not goddess at all and turn to Jesus, the only way to be saved," she believed.

"My people," the high chieftess said, "these people have come to tell you about Jesus, the only way to be saved, yet you still fear the island gods of stone and wood. Those gods are no gods at all. Not even Pele, who we have lived in fear of all these years. Follow me up to Haema'uma'u caldera to the place we call the home of Pele. There I will defy Pele and prove to you that she is no goddess at all," she told them.

The people followed Kapi'olani up the lush green trail all the way up to the stark, lifeless top of Kileaua and the Haema'uma'u caldera. There next to the hot, lava-filled mouth of the volcano, Kapi'olani plucked 'ohelo berries off of the branch she held in her hand.. "My people, you know that we are supposed to ask permission and make an offering to Pele before eating any berries from her mountain or she will send lava down, but watch me defy Pele!" And with that Kapi'olani took some of the berries and put them straight in her mouth! If that was not enough, she then picked up stones and threw them deep into the hot lava below as if to stone Pele, herself. The people gasped with horror and cringed, waiting in horror for Pele's fierce anger to rise up and strike Kapi'olani down with lava. But nothing happened.

"Now my people, do you see?" Kapi'olani said. "Pele is no goddess at all. She is only an idol. Come now; listen to the good news about the true God. Turn to Jesus, the only way to be saved," she urged them.

When the people saw that Pele was powerless, their hearts opened to the good news about Jesus. At last, many turned to Him and were saved.

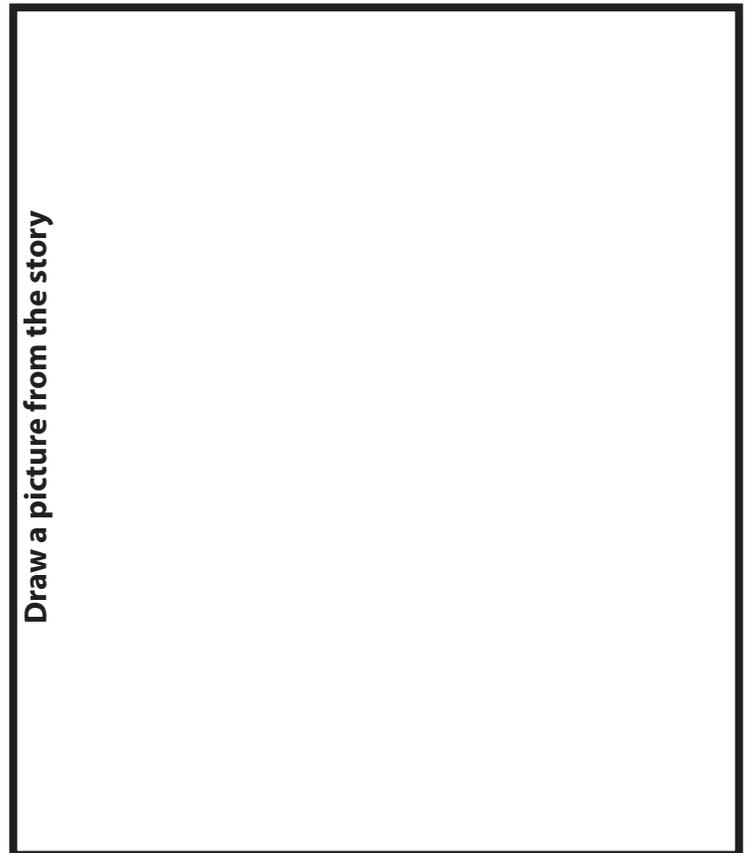
Our Bible Truth is: Jesus is the Only Way to Be Saved

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."

Did you know that there are still so many places in the world where people have not heard about Jesus, where there is no written language or no Bible? How is it that these people will here about Jesus the only way to be saved? It will take more brave men and women like Obookiah, Kapi'olani, and the believers from Connecticut who are willing to risk their lives to tell others about Him.

Let's praise the God Who Saves. Let's ask that He would send out more brave people to tell others about Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, just like He worked in Kapi'olani's, that we might turn away from our sins and trust Him as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to even make us brave enough to go to tell people in faraway places about Him, if He wants us to.



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. Who was the Cheeky Chieftess?

Answer: Kapi'olani.

b. What did she do that was cheeky? What did this show to her people? ("Cheeky" means to do something bold and rebellious.)

Answer: She picked some of the special Ohelo berries and ate them without first making a sacrifice. Then she threw stones into the mouth of her volcano. Both of these things, the people believed would cause Pele to erupt with anger. She did this to show them that Pele was no goddess and to help her people turn to faith in Jesus.

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

John 14:2-6

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told _____. 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 _____ 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 _____, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one _____ to the Father except through me."

Answers: you; me; going; comes.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the One, True God.

C God, we confess that like the Hawaiian people in the story, we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, confess that many times, like the people of Connecticut, we are scared to tell others the good news of Jesus. We all need Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending out people to even our part of the world, that we might know the way to be saved.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to tell others about Jesus. Send out Your people to all parts of the world so that those who still have not heard, may hear, repent and believe.

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!