

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 3:

We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord.

It isn't enough to simply think that Jesus is the only way to God. We need to trust in Jesus as our own Savior; and, we need to begin a new life of living for Him.

We need to confess to God that we are a sinner and ask His forgiveness for our sins. We need to believe that Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the perfect payment for our sins; and that three days later, He rose from the dead in victory over death. We need to turn our lives over to Him, asking Him to help us to love and live for Him in everything we do.

Trusting in Jesus to be our Savior is a wonderful work that God does by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of His people. He delights for us to ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to do this work in our heart.

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we also accept Him as our Lord. "Lord" is an old word used in the Bible that we don't use much anymore. It means someone who is in charge and who we are to obey. The sign of someone who truly trusts in Jesus as their Savior, is whether they also are trying to live to please God.

God's people want to obey Him in everything they do, but they can't do that on their own--and they don't have to. God gives believers His Holy Spirit to live inside them and help them to grow in love and in obedience to Him. God always gives us what we need to be His people, if we but ask!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Romans 10:9-10, NIV 1984

"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Talking Tea Chests.

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

1. Who had the tea chests? How did he make them talk?
2. Who did he want them to talk to? What did they do when they heard what the tea chests had to say?

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 near the North Pole in Canada, in the 1830's.

"Crack! Crack! went the whip. "Now then, Curly, do your share! Come on, Puller, it's not far now," shouted the driver of the sled to his dogs.

"Crack! Crack!" The long whip snapped again, and the sled shot forward over the snow as the four, tired dogs pulled on steadily. The only sound was the tinkling of the bells on the moose-skin collars of the dogs, the crunching of the crisp snow under the sled boards, and occasionally in the distance the howling of a lone grey wolf.

Presently they passed from the open snow-field into a patch of half-burnt scrub. "Is this the place where we camp tonight?" the driver asked the two silent Indians who, for hours, had been running along beside the dogs. "Yes," the leader replied, "there is plenty of wood charred by last year's fire which will burn well."

In a few minutes the dogs were unharnessed and rolling on their backs in the snow. One of them began licking his tired feet, while the others nosed about for a rabbit or a ptarmigan (a type of small bird).

While James Evans unpacked the sled, the Indians chopped down a few charred tree-trunks, lit a bright crackling fire, and with their snow-shoes shoveled up a great bank of snow on three sides of it. Soon the water in their kettles was boiling, and the stiff frozen fish placed near the fire was thawed, cooked, and thrown to the hungry dogs. Next the men warmed up their own meal of tea and pemmican (flattened, dried buffalo meat) and tried to eat it before it froze solid again in the bitter cold air.

When supper was over, both dogs and men crawled close to the fire. The men talked about plans for the next day's trip, had a time of prayer and singing to the Lord, then prepared themselves for bed. They spread buffalo

skins and blankets, and wound them round themselves several times, covering even their heads, to protect themselves from getting frost-bite. Then they lay down with their feet to the fire, sheltered from the bitter wind by the bank of snow.

Each day they traveled further north in the bitter cold. Why were the men risking their lives like this? To take the good news of Jesus to the Cree Indians. How would they have a chance to trust in Jesus as their Savior if no one braved the snow and cold to tell them?

After weeks of travel, the men arrived at the Cree village. Many of these Indians had never seen a Paleface—a white-skinned man—before, and they crowded around in wonder.

“Hello, my friends,” James Evans greeted them in the Cree language, “come gather around my camp-fire and I will tell you stories of Gitche Manito, the Mighty. He is the Great Spirit who loves all people. He sent His Son Jesus into the world to tell about Gitche Manito and to pay for the sins of all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him.”

The Crees listened to Evans for hours as he told them stories of Jesus. Slowly, they began to understand.

“It is not enough for me to tell these Cree Indians about Gitche Manito and His Son Jesus who made the way for people to know Him,” James Evans decided. “I can only be with them for a few months at a time. These people need to be able to read about Him by themselves. Then, they can keep learning more about Him, even when I am gone. But how?” he wondered.

“There are so many problems! I hardly know how to speak Cree and they have no written language—not even an alphabet! What am I to do?”

For many days Evans thought and prayed for a plan. At last one came to mind. “Indian hunters draw pictures on a piece of bark showing a buffalo being captured or a fish being caught. Maybe I can make simple pictures that stand for sounds and put them together to make words,” he decided.

So James Evans thought up a simple picture for every sound in the Cree language. Then he gathered together Chief Grey Moose and some of the other Cree men to begin teaching them.

James Evans used the end of a charred stick to make the sound pictures on a large board made of birch-bark. “This sign stands for ‘ma’” he said as he pointed to the sound

picture on the board. Will you all say ‘ma?’” he asked.

“Ma,” they replied.

“This sign stands for ‘nee’” as he made that symbol on the board. “Will you all say ‘nee?’” James Evans asked them.

“Nee,” they all repeated.

“Now say ‘Ma-nee’ as I point to the signs.”

“Ma-nee,” they replied.

“This is the sign for ‘to’” “Will you all say ‘to?’”

“To,” came the answer.

“Let’s say them together, as I point to them?”

“Ma-nee-to,” they said, repeating the sounds slowly.

“Maneeto!” they exclaimed excitedly. The birch bark is talking. It is saying words! Can the birch bark say other words?” they asked.

“Oh yes,” said Evans, “it can speak many things. I will teach you read all the words of Gitche Manito the Mighty, yourself,” Evans told them.

The Cree were so excited! Soon so many students joined his class that he couldn’t teach them all from his picture board. “I must print part of the Bible for them to learn to read from,” Evans decided. “But how? I have no paper. Maybe I could make paper out of birch bark,” he thought. And maybe I could make lead stamps for each of the sound pictures to print them on the birch bark.”

So that’s what they did. The squaws beat birch bark strips into thin pieces and cut them into sheets of paper. A Cree Indian named Cutshanoquin took lead from Evans’ tea chests and melted it down. James carefully poured it into clay molds and made stamps for each sound picture. Then he began the work of stamping out the words of one of the Gospels into the little symbols that made up the Cree’s new written language on the birch bark paper.

After months of hard work, Evans finished printing out one of the Gospels (one of the books of the Bible that tells the story of Jesus) in the Cree language. How happy the Cree were to read the story of how Jesus, God’s Son, came to make the way to God, for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Not long after Evans finished the gospel, he had to leave the Crees and go back south to his family in Manitoba. He was sad to leave them, but was thankful to be able to leave the Cree a “talking book” about Gitche Manito the Mighty and His Son, Jesus that would tell them how they could turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior long after he

was gone.

And what happened to the Cree? Did they keep their talking book and read it? Did they turn and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? No one knew for thirty years. Then one day, a dozen Indians came to the door of a missionary who had come to live in Canada. He had seen many Indians in his day, but never ones like.

this. Where had they come from? What did they want?

They held out a thick book, with covers made of reindeer skin and with pages made of birch-bark, thick like coarse brown paper. On it, in faded ink, were large, clumsily made letters of the Cree language. It was the very book that James Evans made for them!

"We have traveled thirteen days to find you," they told the missionary. Long ago a man came and made this book and taught our people how to read it,' they told him, "but there much we don't understand. We have come to find a teacher, and we have come to ask you to show us its meaning and to send us a teacher."

Overjoyed the missionary answered, "Yes, of course, I will teach you. Come, my friends, sit by my fire," he said to them, "and I will tell you about Gitche Manito the Mighty and His Son, Jesus, that you might turn from your sins and trust in Him as Savior," just as James Evans had thirty years earlier.

Our Bible Truth is: We Must Trust Him as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord

Our Bible Verse is Romans 10: 9-10:

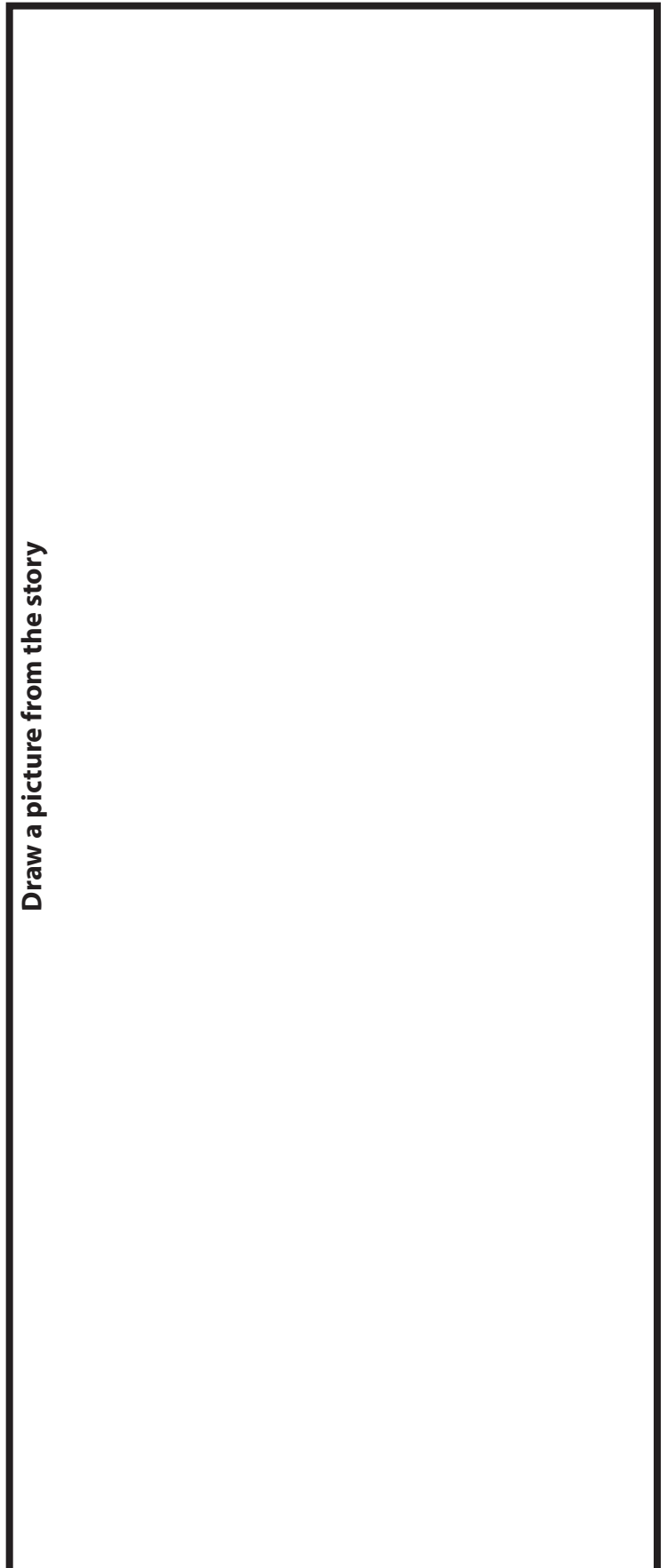
"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Can you imagine making so many sacrifices for someone to hear about Jesus? James Evans was willing to make them because he knew it was worth any sacrifice to bring the good news of Jesus to people who had never heard. He wanted them to be able to confess with their mouths and believe in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead so that they could be saved.

Let's praise our God who saves for raising up men so like James Evans and his Indian friends to be willing to make great sacrifices to tell others how they can trust in Jesus as their Savior. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might trust Jesus as our Savior. And let's ask Him to raise

more people—people like you and me, even—who would be willing to make great sacrifices so that others might hear about Jesus.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: Trusting in Jesus as our own Savior is a wonderful work that God does by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's people. We can ask God to do this work in our heart. Answer: True! God delights to answer this prayer.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who had the tea chests? How did he make them talk? Answer: James Evans. He used the lead from the tea chests to make letters for printing part of the Bible in the Cree language.</p> <p>b. Who did he want them to talk to? What did he want them to say to these people? Answer: The Cree Indians. James Evans left them this Bible portion to be able to know the good news of Jesus, trust in Him as their Savior and be saved. He wanted them to begin to live for God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Romans 10:9-10 "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Answers: you; me; going; comes.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>To God Be the Glory <i>PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 10</i></p> <p>Verse 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To ev'ry believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Words: Fanny J. Crosby Music: William H. Doane</p> <p>Everyone who trusts in Jesus as their own Savior knows God's forgiveness for their sins. Jesus has perfectly redeemed them. That is, He has paid for all their sins so they know God and enjoy eternal life with Him. How God's people praise God for sending Jesus to make the way for them to come to Him! If we trust in Jesus like this—even if we have been the worst of sinners—we can know that God will save us, just as He has promised. This will cause us to want to give God the glory for the great things He has done for us, too!</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 the Giver of Strength and Courage to Your people that they might make great sacrifices to tell others about You.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we do not think much about reading and understanding the Bible, even though we have it in our own language. We all need Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for caring that people even in faraway places hear the good news of salvation. Thank You for sending You people to these places to tell them how to be saved.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send out more people to faraway places, even today, that everyone might hear the good news of Jesus and be saved.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>If You Confess with Your Mouth <i>PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 11</i></p> <p>If you confess, with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," And believe in your heart, That God raised Him from the dead, You will be save, you will be saved. For it is with your heart, that you believe and are justified.</p> <p>If you confess, with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," And believe in your heart, That God raised Him from the dead, You will be save, you will be saved. For it is with your mouth, that you confess and are saved. Romans Ten: nine and ten. Words: Romans 10:9-10, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>To believe something in your heart is to think that something is true. To confess something is to others is to tell them what you think is true. Christians are those who believe in their hearts that Jesus is the Son of God, who died on the cross to save God's people from their sins. They believe that He rose from the dead on the third day, showing that He had beaten sin and death for them. They love telling this good news to others that they might believe and be saved,</p>