

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

Joshua 1-6; Exodus 13-14; Numbers 21; Deuteronomy 2-3; Psalm 87:4; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

Our story is: The Case of the Red Rope Ransom.

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

1. Who put out the red rope? Why? Who was supposed to see it?
2. A ransom is something paid to free someone. How was the owner of the red rope ransomed--paid and freed twice? How was she used as part of God's plan to ransom many?

This story takes place in Old Testament times about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The city of Jericho was on alert. Its soldiers stood watch from its towering stone walls. The Israelites had set up camp not from away and all of Jericho was terrified. Who hadn't heard of the mighty power of the LORD, their God? He had rescued them from the powerful Egyptians. He had defeated their enemies, the king of Bashan and Sihon. Could He not also defeat them? the people of Jericho thought.

How much more scared the people of Jericho would have been, if they had known that Joshua, the leader of the Israelites was preparing the Israelites to march on their city very soon. A matter of fact, he would be sending out spies to check out Jericho that very day!

"Get the people ready," Joshua order his officers. "In three days, we will cross the Jordan River and take the land the LORD your God promised us." Then Joshua called two of his best soldiers to his tent. "Go and spy out the land across the Jordan River, especially Jericho," he ordered them. "Report to me what you see. Be careful! This is a dangerous mission, but the LORD will be with you."

So the spies crossed the Jordan, crept through the countryside. "What a large spring of water, what good fields of wheat. Look at the dates on those trees! The pastures are full of sheep and cows. There will be plenty of good supplies for our people!" the spies told each other.

At last they made it to Jericho. Soldiers lined the walls above, peering down on everyone entering through the city gates; yet somehow, the spies slipped through the gates unnoticed. Through the streets the they crept, taking note of everything they saw.

What a city Jericho was! About two thousand people lived inside its safe walls-- twenty-five feet high and

thick. Statues to Yerach, the moon god reminded the spies of the awful god these people worshiped and trusted for protection. Oh, what terrible sacrifices were made to this idol, this fake god! Yet soon, the LORD would lead the Israelites in victory over Jericho and all would see that it was the LORD, not Yerach, who is God in heaven above and on the earth below. The spies looked forward to that day!

The spies learned many things to tell Joshua about Jericho that day. But now, the sun was setting. Soon, the city gates would be shut. Yet hurry as they did, they were too late. The gates shut. They would have to hide in the city for the night. But where?

"Where might two weary travelers stay?" they asked.

"The house of Rahab" they were told. "Her house is one of the ones built into the wall."

The spies quickly made their way to her house, hoping they were safe. But they were not! They had been watched all day and word reached the king of Jericho: "Israel spies have been in Jericho all day. They are now at Rahab's house. What do you want us to do to them?" the soldiers asked the king.

"Tell Rahab to give up the spies! Arrest them and kill them!" the king answered.

But Rahab was making plans of her own. "I know that you are Israelite spies and you have been watched all day," she told the spies. "You must hide. Come up to the roof, quickly! We'll talk more when danger has passed." Rahab led the men to her roof and hid them under the huge bundles of flax she had laid out to dry.

"Bang! Bang!" The soldiers were soon at Rahab's door. "Rahab! We have a message for you from the king. Give us the men staying at your house. They are spies," they demanded.

"Yes, the men came, but I didn't know where they had come from," Rahab replied. "At sunset, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go quickly. You may catch up with them," she lied.

The soldiers believed Rahab and left the city, in search of the spies.

When the soldiers left, Rahab went to the spies and said, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you. Everyone is so afraid because they have heard of the mighty power of the LORD, your God who is with you," she told them.

"He is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Now

please promise that you will show kindness to me because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare me and my family when you come to take our city," she asked.

"Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will spare your lives when we take the city." So Rahab let them down by a rope through the window.

"Go to the hills and hide there three days until the soldiers return, and then go back to your camp," she told them.

"If you want us to keep this promise, you must tie this scarlet cord in your window," the spied told Rahab. "And make sure your whole family is in your house. It will be the only place where they will be safe."

Rahab agreed. She sent the spies away and tied the scarlet cord in the window.

The spies stayed in the hills for three days, then went back across the Jordan River to give Joshua their report: "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are terrified because of us." They know that they can never stand against us and our great God, the LORD, for He is God in heaven above and on the earth below," they told him.

And the people of Jericho were right. Nothing could stand against the LORD. Seventeen days later, the Israelites stood before the high walls of Jericho. The priests sounded the trumpet blast, and Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"

When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and the walls fell down by the LORD's power. The Israelites charged in and took the city. All of Jericho was destroyed that day. Nothing was left, except for Rahab and her family, tucked safely away in her house with the scarlet cord in the window.

Did you ever wonder what happened to Rahab after Jericho was destroyed? The Bible tells us that Rahab turned away from worshipping Yerach, the moon god, and turned to worship the LORD. Yes, Rahab became one of God's people! The LORD gave her a good Israelite husband of her very own and so honored her that He made her the great grandmother of King David and even the great, great, great, great, great, great etc. grandmother of none other than Jesus, Himself!

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:

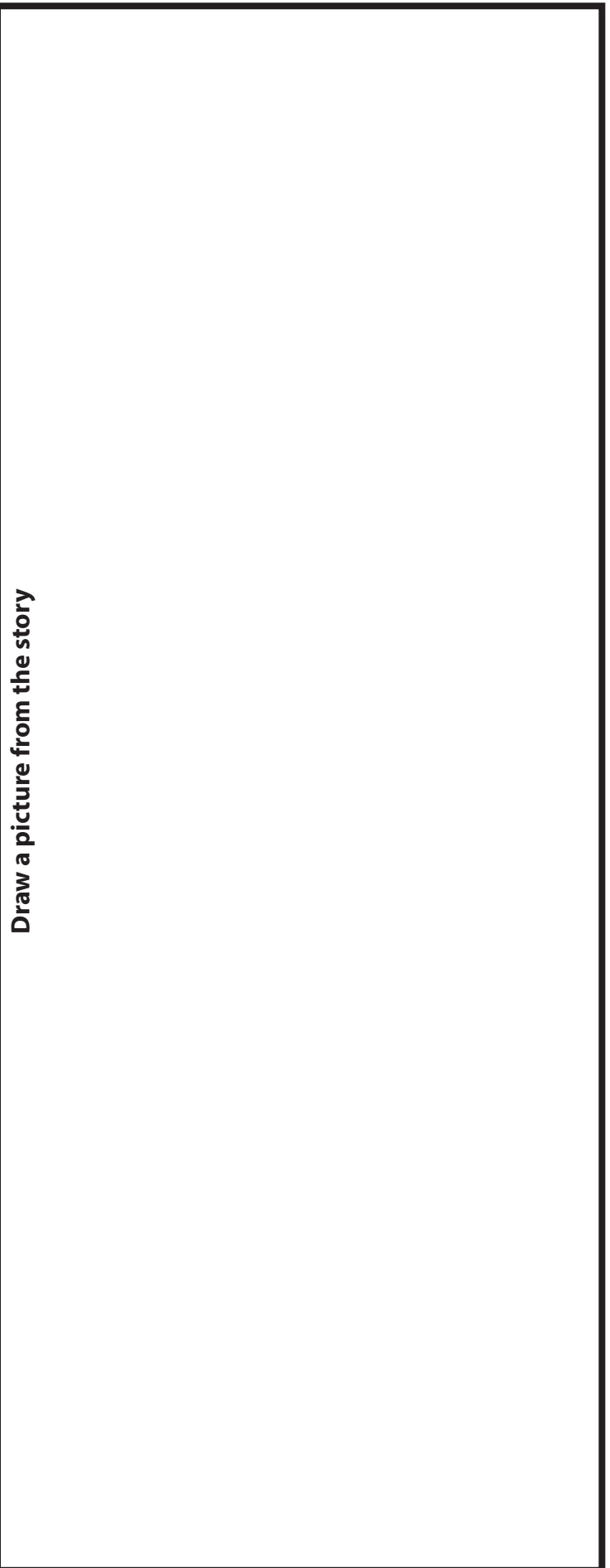
"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Like all the people who believed in the LORD before Jesus came, Rahab did not know Jesus to trust Him as her Savior. But the Bible tells us that she and others like her trusted in the promises of God and looked forward in faith to the day when He would send a Savior to save them from their sins. The LORD accepted their faith in Him and saved them.

How much easier it is for you and me! We do not have to look forward in faith that the Lord would send a Savior. We know that He has already sent a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us praise God for sending us His Son to be Savior to all, like Rahab, who turn from their sins and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him, too.

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 Light for the Unlikely? 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: 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: rooms; place; way; except.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Savior of Your people from every nation.

C God, we confess that like the people of Jericho, we have all rebelled against God. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

T God, we thank You for being so merciful to sinners who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, just like You saved Rahab.

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

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

To God Be the Glory

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 10

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.

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

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!

BIBLE VERSE SONG

If You Confess with Your Mouth

PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 11

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.

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

To believe something in your heart is to think that something is true. To confess something 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,