

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 1: God's People Live for Him*

### Unit 1 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

### Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

*PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 1:*

### God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them, is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

## BIBLE VERSE

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

### Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

## CASE STORY

*1 Samuel 1-3*

**Our story is: The Case of the Boy Who Did What Men Did Not.**

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

1. Who was the boy? Who were the men who didn't do what the boy did?
2. What did the boy do that the men did not? Who helped the boy live this way?

This story takes place in Shiloh, a little town in the grassy hills of Ephraim, Israel. It takes place in Old Testament times during the days of the judges of Israel, about 1100 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Hannah sewed busily on the ephod made of fine Egyptian cloth. What's an ephod, you might be wondering? It was special apron that only worn by the men who served in the Tabernacle—the Tent of Meeting of the LORD. When the special apron was done, Hannah would make a beautiful robe to go with it.

There was something very strange about this ephod and the robe that went with it. They were very tiny. Yet the priest Eli and his sons who served in the Tabernacle were grown men! Why would they need such a small ephod and robe as this?

The truth was, this little ephod and robe weren't for them at all. They were for Hannah's little, three-year-old son, Samuel, who would soon be joining Eli and his sons in service at the Tabernacle.

How did Hannah explain to her little son what was about to happen to him? The Bible doesn't tell us, but perhaps it went something like this:

"Why do I need an ephod, Mama? I live here with you, not at the Tabernacle?" Samuel asked his mother.

"Because you are going to serve before the LORD at His Tabernacle!" she replied. "You see, long ago, I wanted a son but could not have one. Then I prayed to the LORD to give me a son. I promised Him that if He did, that I would give that little boy back to the Him to serve Him all the days of his life. Then the LORD gave me you! So you see, Samuel, the LORD has chosen you to do something very special."

"What is it like at the Tabernacle?" Samuel asked.

"The Tabernacle and its courtyard are kept inside long walls, 150 by 75 feet, all made of fine, linen cloth," Hannah told him. "The first thing you see when you go inside the entrance on the east side is a big, open courtyard with

a huge bronze altar. This is where the priests sacrifice all the offerings of birds, sheep, and bulls to the LORD. The priests are never supposed to let the fire go out, (so that it is always ready for the sacrifices, just as the LORD is always ready to receive our praise and confessions of sin). Behind the huge altar is a big bronze basin of bronze where the priests do their special washing so that they will be seen as pure before the LORD. But best of all, is what is behind the altar and the basin: the Tabernacle, itself, with the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place!" Hannah said.

"What are they, Mama?" Samuel may have asked.

"Well, I've never been inside. Only priests get to go in." his mother answered, "And it is covered with thick coverings of goat hair, sheep skin and sea cows, so you can't see in from the courtyard," she replied. "But I am told that it has beautiful curtains of blue, purple and scarlet with cherubim woven all through them on all sides. In the Holy Place there are just three things, all covered in pure gold. On the left is a tall golden lampstand with seven candle holders, each that look like the branch of an almond tree with buds. It is to remind the people that God is always present. On the right there is an altar where priests burn sweet-smelling incense every morning and every evening as a reminder of the prayers of God's people going up to God. And in between them, is a golden table on which each day twelve loaves of bread-- one for each tribe of Israel-- are put out, as a reminder of the fellowship (special friendship) that God has with His people."

"But what about the Most Holy Place, where's that, Mama?" Samuel asked.

"The Most Holy Place is behind a beautiful curtain at the back of the Holy Place," Hannah explained. "Inside it is the important thing of all: a golden box called the Ark of the Covenant. It has two huge angels bending over its cover; and, inside the box are the Ten Commandments of the covenant the LORD made with our people through Moses long ago. It is a room so holy that only the most important priest, called the high priest can go in that room....and he can only go in there once a year. It's where he takes the special offering to ask God to forgive the people's sins."

"Will I get to go inside the Holy Place?"

"Yes, you will, Samuel. You are going to get to do many very special things when you go to the Tabernacle."

It was not long before it was time for Hannah and Elkanah, Samuel's father, to take Samuel to Shiloh to live at

the Tabernacle. They gathered up Samuel's few things, his little ephod and robe, plus three bulls, grain and wine to offer up to the LORD as a sacrifice.

After two days of walking, the smell in the air told them they were close. It was the smell of smoke and the offerings from the Tabernacle's altar. Soon Shiloh came into view and behind it on a hill, were the curtains of the Tabernacle's courtyard.

With worshipful hearts, Elkanah and Hannah brought their offerings to the priests. Eli and his sons were amazed at this huge offering! It was three times bigger than the biggest offering (one bull) suggested in the Bible! "Who are these people? Why are they making such a big offering?" the priests probably wondered.

Hannah explained it to the high priest Eli. "Three years ago I stood before you praying to the LORD," Hannah told him. "He gave me this son in answer to my prayer. I am now bringing him here to the LORD to be His for his whole life, just as I promised I would that day." Hannah handed Samuel's things to Eli.

How could such a little boy go and live with strangers at the Tabernacle? Surely he would cling to his parents in fear! But the LORD was with Samuel already, working inside his heart and helping him want to love and serve Him in this way. Instead of pleading to go home with his parents, Samuel bowed down and worshiped the LORD. Yes, God can do great things, even in the heart of a very young boy.

Eli took care of the Samuel and taught him all the duties of being a priest, just as he had been teaching his sons Phinehas and Hophni. He learned how to fill the lampstand candle holders with oil, how to place incense on the altar of incense, how to make the special loaves of bread for the golden table, how to wash himself to stay pure before the LORD, how to make sacrifices and what prayers to say for each one, and many other things. Eli taught Samuel the right way to do things and Samuel tried hard to serve the Lord just as he had been told.

But Phinehas and Hophni, Eli's sons, were not like Samuel. They were wicked men with greedy hearts They didn't worship the LORD. When their father wasn't looking, they spoiled the people's sacrifices by snatching the best part of their sacrifices for themselves, instead of offering it to the LORD.

Samuel saw what Phinehas and Hophni did, but he

didn't copy them. The LORD, by His Holy Spirit, was working in Samuel's little heart, already giving him a desire to please Him. He was preparing Samuel for the special job He had planned for him. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very young boy.

One night Samuel lay sleeping on a little mat beneath the golden lampstand in the Holy Place when he heard someone calling him. It was almost daybreak and the oil of the lampstand was almost all used up.

"Samuel, Samuel!" the voice said.

Samuel ran to Eli and answered, "Here I am."

"I didn't call; go back and lie down," Eli said.

So Samuel went and lay down. Twice more the voice called and twice more Samuel went to Eli. Then Eli understood. The LORD was calling Samuel!

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, if you hear the voice again, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'"

Samuel lay down again, and this time the LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

That night was but the first of eighty years worth of messages the LORD would give Samuel for the people of Israel. The people knew Samuel was the LORD's prophet and listened carefully to the words the LORD gave him.

The LORD had planned to do great things for His people through Samuel and every one of them happened. Why? Because God does great things in His people, even in a very young boy, thanks to His Holy Spirit at work in their heart.

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

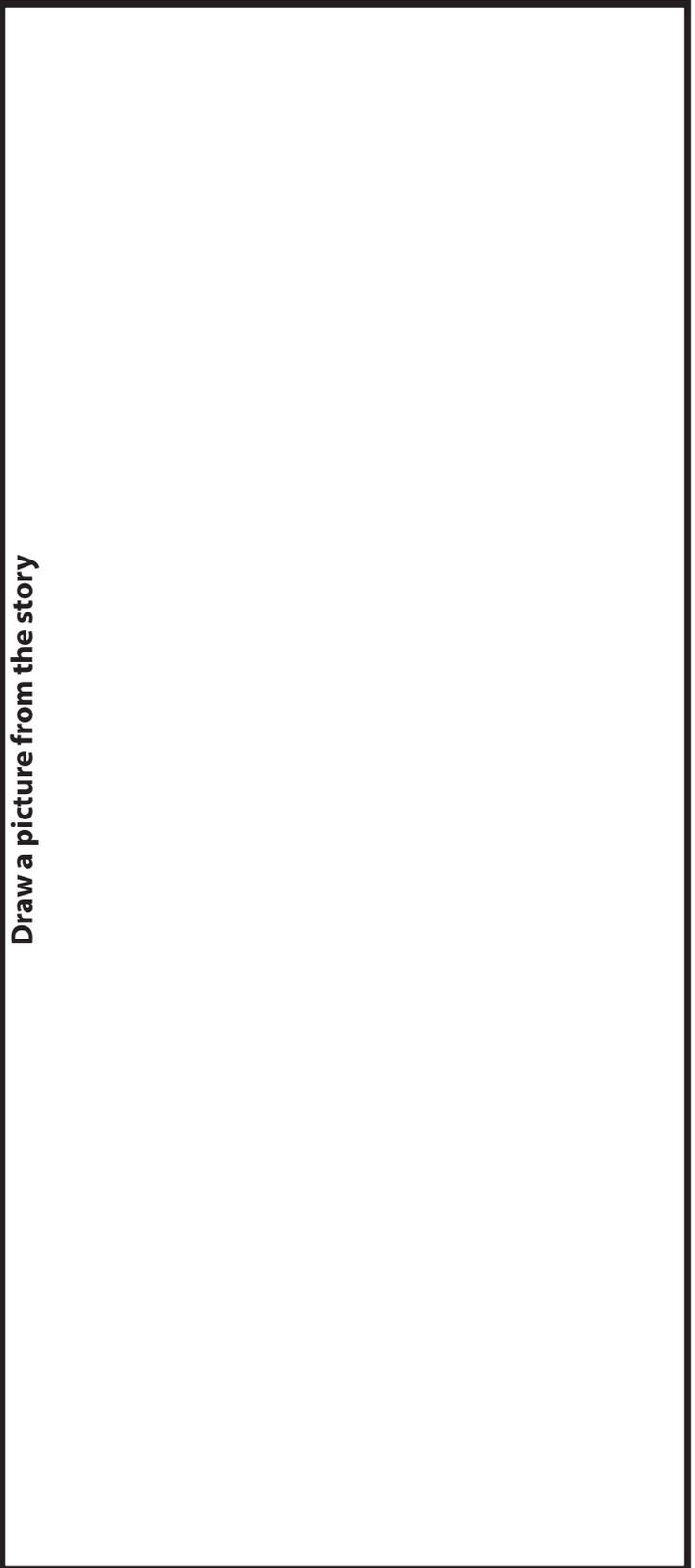
**Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

What about you and me? God did great things, even in the heart of a very young boy. Could God have plans to work in our lives, too? Could He grow our love and desire to serve Him? Yes, He could. It is His promise to all who turn away from their sins and trusts in Jesus. Not only will He save them, but He will put His Holy Spirit in their hearts giving them growing love for Him and a desire to serve

Him. Then, like Samuel, we can also reflect God's glory as He uses His Spirit to transform them.

Let's praise this God who saves His people and grows their hearts by His Holy Spirit. Let's ask Him to send His Spirit to work in us, even today.



Draw a picture from the story

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

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

The Holy Spirit will work and work inside of God’s people until they are perfect in this life.

Answer: False! None of God’s people will ever be perfect in this life, but the Holy Spirit is always at work in them, transforming them to live more and more as God wants them to live. It is not until they go to live with God that He will finish transforming them and make them perfect, never to sin again.

**2. Crack the Case Questions**

**a. Who was the boy? Who were the men who didn’t do what the boy did?**

Answer: Samuel. Phineas and Hophni, the sons of the high priest, Eli.

**b. What did the boy do that the men did not? Who helped the boy live this way?**

Answer: Samuel worshiped the LORD and offered the people’s sacrifices the right way. Eli taught Samuel how God wanted him to serve. Samuel listened to God when He spoke and wanted to obey. The Holy Spirit worked in Samuel’s heart, helping him obey.

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

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

“And we all, with \_\_\_ face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one \_\_\_ of glory to another. For this \_\_\_ from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

Answers: unveiled; degree; comes.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**The Church’s One Foundation**

*PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 7*

**Verse 1**

The Church’s one foundation

Is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is His new creation,

By Spirit and the Word:

From heav’n He came and sought her

To be His holy bride,

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley

Church is the Bible word for all of God’s people. Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God’s people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God’s people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God’s Word. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

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

**A** God, we praise You for being the God who speaks Your words to Your people. We praise You for working in Your people that they are able to do what You have planned for them to do.

**C** God, we confess that we, like Eli’s sons, are sinners. We have learned Your good ways yet many times we choose to rebel against them. We need to confess our sins to You and ask Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for speaking to Your people throughout the ages, both long ago through Your prophets, like Samuel, and still today, through Your Word, the Bible.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might love You and obey You more and more—and even when it might be very difficult, like it would have been for Samuel at times.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**We All with Unveiled Face**

*PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 8*

We all with unveiled face,

Beholding the glory of the Lord,

Are being transformed,

Into the same image,

From one degree of glory to another,

For this comes from the Lord,

The Lord, who is the Spirit.

For this comes from the Lord,

The Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Lord, who is the Spirit.

Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.

Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory—they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to love God and live holy lives that reflect Him.