

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV 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 NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 11:
God's People Tell Others about Him**

We've all rebelled against God and deserve His just and eternal punishment for our sins. But God, in His great love for sinners, chose to send His Son, Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came and lived the perfect life that pleases God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had conquered sin and death, once and for all! Now all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven and receive eternal life with God. This good news is what Christians call the gospel--and everyone needs to hear it! God calls His people to tell it to everyone, in every part of the world. Jesus promises to come back after the gospel has been taken to every people on earth, all according to God's good plan.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 11 Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15, ESV

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Man Who Wouldn't Quit.

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

1. Who was the man? What happened to him that would make him want to quit?
2. What wouldn't he quit doing? Why did he think it was so important?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1880's in Uganda, Africa.

In the land of Toro in Uganda, there is a mighty, snow-capped mountain called Ruwenzori--one of the very tallest mountains in Africa. Not many tried to climb the top of this great mountain and even fewer succeeded. But one young man named Apolo Kivebulaya determined to do it.

"I am going to climb up Ruwenzori," Apolo said. "I must see what is on the other side of these mountains! I've heard stories of a fierce people who live there. I want to see their land for myself," he explained.

So Apolo found a guide and set off to climb the rugged mountain. Up, up, up, the two men climbed until they made it to the peak. What a magnificent view there was from the top! Apolo looked down and saw the country that lay on the other side. There were thick, dark forests, then hills rising off in the distance.

"Beyond those hills, Apolo, is the land of the Mbogas--the people you've heard so much about," his guide told him. As Apolo looked out upon those hills, the Lord spoke to his heart, "Go to those people! Tell them about Jesus! They need to hear my good news of salvation!" Apolo was happy to obey!

The journey was long and difficult, but after many days Apolo arrived at Mboga village. At first, he was treated with kindness. The king gave him a hut to live in and ground to grow food. Apolo settled down and began to learn the language.

But when he finally learned enough Mboga to share the good news of Jesus, Apolo's troubles began! While one woman heard the gospel, repented of her sins and trusted in Jesus as her Savior, most did not! They didn't like that Apolo called the spirits they worshiped evil. They didn't like he said witchcraft was wrong. No one was more upset over what Apolo taught than the witch doctor. He determined to talk the king

into getting rid of Apolo.

“You must get rid of Apollo!” The witch doctor urged the king. “If you don’t, he will anger the spirits and ruin your country.”

King Tabao was worried. He agreed to work with the witch doctor’s to get rid of Apolo. The two men tried all sorts of plots. They threatened him. They set his hut on fire. They hurt him so badly that he could hardly move. But even so, Apolo refused to go!

“Do what you will to me, I will not go!” he told them. “I have a Master and He sent me here to teach your people about Him. I will not disobey Him. You cannot make me go!” Apolo insisted.

The people saw Apolo’s courage and began to listen to his words. Bang, bang, bang! Apolo would beat the church drums, calling the people to come and worship every Sunday. Before long, many of them did come to the little church hut each week to hear him preach about Jesus.

This only made the king and the witch doctor even angrier. “King Tabao, you must kill Apollo!” the witch doctor insisted. “That’s the only way you’re going to get rid of this man and his message forever.”

Once more the king agreed with his witch doctor. They had some men grab Apolo from his hut, hurt him badly, and leave him in the tall grasses outside of the village for hungry lions to finish off. Then the king and the witch doctor held a great feast to celebrate the end of Apolo.

“At last our enemy is dead and the Kingdom is safe! This teacher and his Book are gone forever!” they cheered. With Apolo dead, the people stopped going to the little church hut. In fear, they turned back to witchcraft and worshiping evil spirits.

But Apolo wasn’t dead! The woman who had been the first to become a Christian watched everything that happened to Apolo. When all was safe, she crept out to the grasses, picked up his body, and took it to an old hut outside of the village. For six weeks the woman nursed Apolo back to health. When it last he was well enough to travel, she said, “Apolo, you must go home. They will only try to kill you again if you stay,” she urged him.

But Apolo still refused. He would not give up. He would keep on trying to share the good news of Jesus with the Mbogas.

Early one Sunday morning, Apolo returned to the little church hut. Bang, bang, bang! Went the church drums

once more, inviting everyone to church.

“Isn’t that the old church drum?” the king wanted to know. “Who could be beating it now that Apollo is dead?”

A messenger arrived with the incredible answer, “O King, it is Apolo beating the drum! He’s alive from the dead and he’s calling people to come to church to worship with them!”

“How can this be?” the king wondered. “I must see for myself!”

As King Tabao came near the church, he was more alarmed than ever to hear the sound of voices—one of which he was sure was that of the man he had killed!

The king crept up to the door of the little church, and there, to his amazement, he saw Apolo with a small crowd of amazed men and women around him. Apolo sat with his little Bible in hand, reading to them the wonderful story of Jesus. When Apolo saw the King, he went to meet him and greeted him with a happy smile.

“Won’t you join us?” Apolo invited him.

To the surprise of everybody, King Tabao came in, knelt before Apolo, and begged him to forgive him for all the evil he had done against him. Apolo took the king’s hand in his own, and kneeling down by his side, he called upon all the people to join him in prayer.

That very day, many of the Mboga people turned from their sins and to believe in Jesus, including King from their sins and to believe in Jesus, including King Tabao,

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Tell Others about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 10:13-15

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

What great love the Lord gave Apolo for the Mboga people! No matter how much they didn’t want to hear about Jesus, Apolo never gave up telling it to them. Nothing would keep him from telling them the gospel. Apolo knew that Jesus was the only way they could be saved. And in the end, the Lord rewarded Apolo’s love with the salvation of many Mbogas, even King Tabao himself!

What about you and me? Do you realize that God has

used Apolo to bring the good news of Jesus us today, too? What will we do with the gospel? Let's ask God to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus is our Savior, too. And let's ask him to give us a heart of love for the people of the world like he did Apolo. Let's ask him to use us to share the gospel with others that they might be saved, too.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

Gospel means good news of salvation through Jesus.
Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the man? What happened to him that would make him want to quit?

Answer: Apolo was the man who wouldn't quit. He was hurt terribly and left for dead.

b. What wouldn't he quit doing? Why did he think it was so important?

Answer: He wouldn't quit telling the people of his tribe the good news of Jesus. He knew they would die in their sins, if they didn't hear and believe the good news of Jesus.

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

Romans 10:13-15

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be ____! How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not ____? And how can they hear without someone ____ to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Answers: saved; heard; preaching.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Protector and Sustainer of Your people. You help them persevere through even the most difficult of times, just like You helped Apolo.

C God, we confess that we, like the Mboga to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We also can confess that many times we choose not to tell others the good news of Jesus because we are scared of what they might say or do when we tell them. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Your people the strength, love and courage to care for people and tell them about Jesus, even in the hardest of situations.

S We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Apolo: willing to go to even very dangerous places to tell others about Him.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 31

Verse 1

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
 Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
 Jesus ready stands to save you,
 Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
 He will embrace me in His arms.
 In the arms of my dear Savior,
 O there are ten thousand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

"All people suffer the effects of their sinful rebellion against God. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, chose to send Jesus to save sinners. Yes, Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love. If we do this, He will welcome us as our dear Savior, too."

BIBLE VERSE SONG

How Beautiful

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 32

Refrain

How beautiful! How beautiful!
 How beautiful are the feet.
 How beautiful! How beautiful!
 Are the feet of those who preach the good news.
 Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
 Will be saved.
 Ev'ryone who calls on the name of the Lord,
 Will be saved.

Yes, but I have some questions....

How then will they call on Him they've not believed in?
 How are they to believe in Him they never heard?
 How are they to hear without someone preaching?
 How are they to preach unless they are sent?

Well, it all goes back to those feet! Refrain

Romans Ten, thirteen through fifteen.

Words: Romans 10:13-15, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2011

This verse reminds us that God has chosen for others to hear the good news of salvation by sending His people to tell others about Him. They must go, if others are to hear. The feet of people who go tell others about Jesus are beautiful, not because they have pretty toes and ankles. This is a way of saying that people who are willing to go and tell others about Jesus bring wonderful news of eternal life to those who would otherwise have no hope of salvation.