

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 13:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be His forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 13 Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

CASE STORY

Exodus 2-3; Numbers 20,27:12-23; Deuteronomy 32:44-52;34; Acts 7:20-43; Hebrews 11:16,23-27

Our story is: The Case of the Locked-Out Leader.

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

- 1. Who was the Locked-Out Leader?**
- 2. Where was he locked out of? Why? Where did he get to go that was even better?**

This story takes place in Old Testament times, when Moses lived, about 1400 years before Jesus.

A young man, deep in thought, sat in Pharaoh's palace. Looking at his fine, linen kilt, his papyrus and gold sandals and his royal headdress, there was no mistake that this was a prince of Egypt. But if you could read his mind at that moment, you would see an Israelite, instead. This man was Moses, the Israelite baby found and adopted by an Egyptian princess, yet still very much an Israelite. Perhaps he had learned chariot driving, literature and hieroglyphics from the best Egyptian teachers, but his heart burned in anger at the way the Egyptians treated his people. He longed for God to send a rescuer to free them and take them back home to the Promised Land of their father Abraham. He had begun to wonder if he was that man.

One day, Moses went out to where the Hebrew slaves were working. In horror he watched an Egyptian beat one of the them. He could take no longer. He would leave his fine life as an Egyptian prince and rescue his people! He killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. He thought the Hebrews would understand he was coming to deliver them. But they didn't and Moses had to flee for his life.

Away from Egypt and across the barren desert he ran far away to the land of Midian. This wasn't what Moses had planned at all! His people were supposed to see God had sent him to rescue them, but they had rejected him. Had he given up the riches of Egypt for nothing? Had he placed his trust in his unseen God and promises to lead them to an unseen land for nothing? Would he keep finding his joy and reward in what was unseen? Forty years went by. Moses could have given up, but he did not. God gave him faith to keep trusting Him. At just the right time, the LORD appeared to Moses and told him to go back to Egypt. Reluctantly Moses obeyed. Would the LORD really enable him to lead the people out of Egypt and to the Promised

Land? It was hard for him to trust, but he did.

Back across the desert Moses went, now an eighty-year-old man. He gathered the Israelites together and said: "I have heard from the LORD, our unseen God, on Mount Sinai. He has chosen for me to lead you out of Egypt and to the land He promised to give you long ago. Will you give up your life here in Egypt and follow Him to the Promised Land?" he asked them.

"Yes, we will!" the people eagerly promised.

After many, mighty displays of God's power, the Egyptians finally released the Israelites. Through Moses, the LORD led them away from Egypt, and across the desert sands. How they were looking forward to their rich, promised homeland!

The Promised Land was so close that the Israelites could have walked there a couple weeks, but forty YEARS would pass before they would even set one foot there! Though Moses kept urging the Israelites to trust in God to provide for their needs and bring them safely into the land He had promised them, they only grumbled and doubted Him every time something difficult happened.

"We see only dry desert! How will we find food and water to stay alive?" they grumbled. "The Promised Land might be filled with good things, but huge, fierce warriors live there in strong, walled cities. How can we match their strength? They have gods that they can see and who go before them. How can we trust the LORD our God to take care of us, we can't even see Him?" they doubted. "Now we shall die out here in the desert never even seeing this Promised Land! We should have never left Egypt! Life as a slave was even better than this!" they grumbled.

The Israelites had chosen to look for their joy and reward in what they could see and taste and touch, not in their unseen God and His promises. They rejected the LORD.

"Because you have grumbled against Me and doubted that I would take care of you.... because you would not trust for Me to give you this unseen homeland I promised you, you will never have it at all," the LORD told the people through Moses. "Instead, you will wander for forty years out here in this desert and die. It will be your children who will live to see it and live in it."

So wander for forty years they did. Though they were never more than a week's walk from the Promised Land, they did nothing more than look at it. And what did Moses do during those next forty years? He kept leading the

Israelites, trying to patiently endure their grumbling.

Now grumbling would be hard to patiently endure for a week or a month. But can you imagine how difficult it would be to take forty years of it? So perhaps you'll not be surprised to hear that there came a day, near the very end of those forty years of grumbling, when humble, patient Moses got fed up with it and sinned.

The Israelites had stopped to camp at a place called Kadesh, but when they looked for water, there wasn't any. Once more, the people grumbled about this to Moses and Aaron instead of asking the LORD to provide. "Why did you bring us out to this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? There is no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!" they complained.

Moses and Aaron left the people and went to the entrance to the Tabernacle and fell face down in prayer to the LORD. The glory of the LORD appeared to them and the LORD told Moses, "Take the staff, then you and your brother Aaron gather the people together before the rock I show you. Speak to the rock and before their eyes, water will pour out that they and their animals can drink."

So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the people together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebellious people, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff, making it look as if he had made water come out of the rock. Water gushed out, and the people and their animals drank.

The LORD provided water, but Moses and Aaron had sinned. They hadn't spoken to the rock as He had told them to. They had struck it. And even more importantly, they had not said the LORD would give the people water, but that they—Moses and Aaron-- would give them water.

So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring the people into the Promised Land I am giving them."

And so it was. Only months later, when at last it was time for the Israelites to at last cross into the unseen homeland Moses and the Israelites had waited for so long, Moses was not allowed to enter.

"Climb up here on Mount Nebo," the LORD told Moses.

“From there you will be able to see the land that has been unseen for so many years. I will show it all to you and then you will die.”

Moses sadly said farewell to the Israelites he had led for so long, and then climbed up Mount Nebo. From the summit of the mountain, Moses cast his eyes for the first time on the land he had spent most of his life trying to enter. It was as beautiful and rich as the Lord as promised. Then he died right there on Mount Nebo, just as the LORD said he would. And the LORD, Himself, buried him.

Was Moses very sad that day when he saw the Promised Land and knew he would never enter it? Yes, but not as sad as you might think. For while Moses knew he would never enter that earthly promised homeland of God’s people, he knew when he died, the LORD would take him to his a far better, unseen homeland—the homeland of heaven. This was the true homeland of all God’s people. And this homeland had joys and rewards far better than the riches and treasures Moses had known as an Egyptian prince and would be far more wonderful than anything in the rich Promised Land he had seen from the top of Mount Nebo that day. For in heaven, he would be with the LORD. No longer would He be unseen. Now, Moses would live in close, face to face fellowship with Him forever. And that is best of all.

Our Bible Truth is:

God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Our Bible Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20

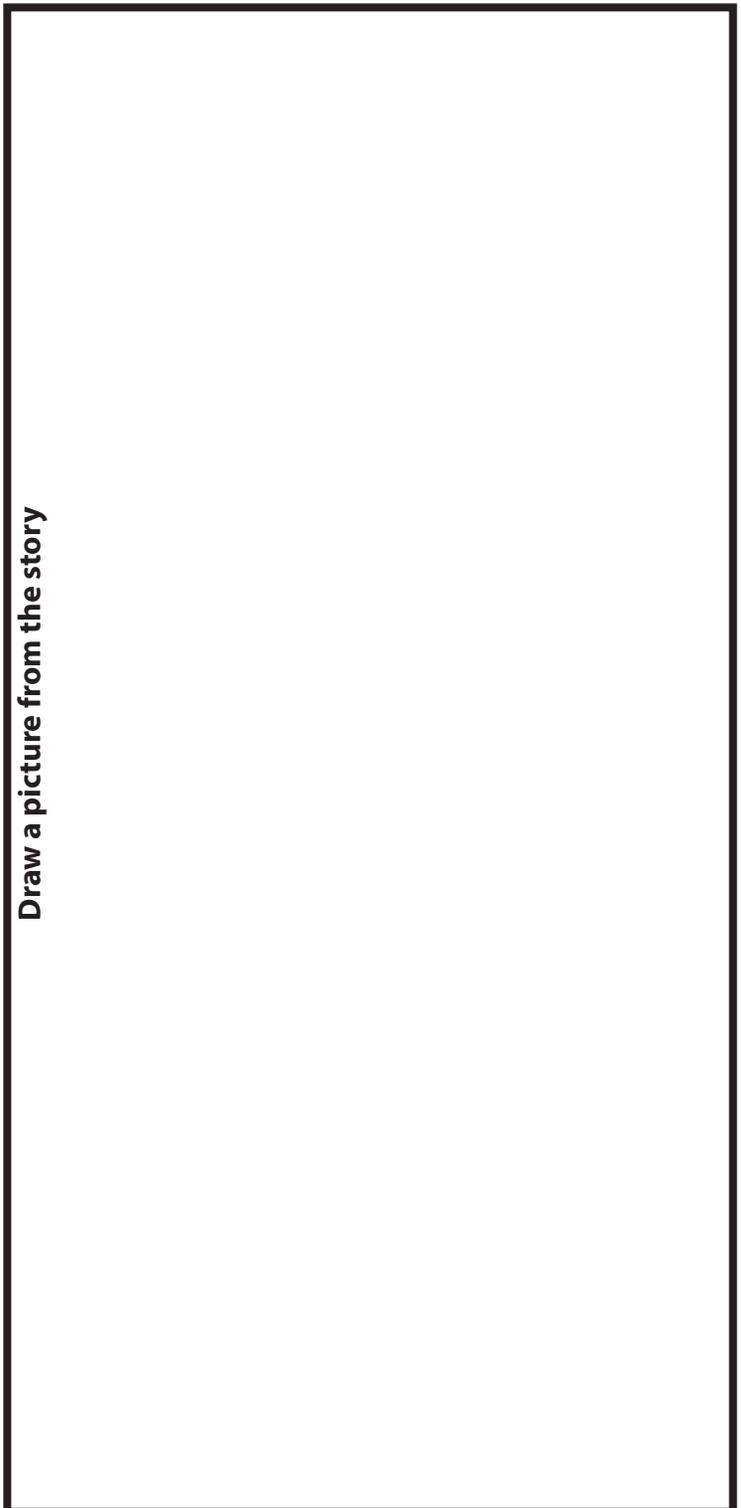
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

For years Moses and the people of Israel eagerly awaited the day when they would enter the Promised Land. How much greater, though, do God’s people eagerly await their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven! What a great day that will be when Jesus brings an end to sin and death forever! What a great day that will be when at last all God’s people will be gathered together in God’s glorious presence!

You and I can be a part of God’s people, too! We can be among those who enjoy life forever in God’s presence.

How? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He will forgive our sins and make us His dearly loved people!

Let’s praise God for His offer to make sinful people like you and me citizens of heaven! Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to fit us for heaven, giving us hearts that know, love and obey Him, even today.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God's people live each day the best they can, with nothing better to look forward to.

Answer: False. God's people look forward to life with God in heaven. The best is yet to come!

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Locked-Out Leader?

Answer: Moses.

b. Where was he locked out of? Why? Where did he get to go that was even better?

Answer: He was not allowed to enter the Promised Land with the Israelites because of how he sinned against the LORD. The LORD took Moses home to be with Him in heaven.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often ___ you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the ___ of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our ___ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Answers: told; cross; citizenship.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41

Verse 1

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of Heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for,
The fair, sweet morn awakes;
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring is at hand.
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 2

The King, there in his beauty,
Without a veil is seen,
It were a well-spent journey,
Though sev'n deaths lay
between;
The Lamb with his fair army,
Doth mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 3

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, deep well of love,
The streams of earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above,
There to an ocean fullness,
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Verse 4

With mercy and with judgment,
My web of time He wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow,
Were lusted with His love,
I'll bless the hand that guideth,
I'll bless the heart that planned,
When throned where glory
dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

Words: Anne R. Cousin Music: Constance Dever

People used to tell time with a hourglass. It would take exactly one hour for the sand to sink from the top of the glass to the bottom. God's people know that the sands of time are sinking...that the day when they will go to live at home with God in heaven is coming closer and closer. They will live out every day of their life, according to God's perfectly good plan. Then, they will go to be with Him in heaven. God's people are so excited for the day when they will live with God forever! At last they will get to see Him, their King, who gave up His life as the "Lamb of God"--the perfect sacrifice for their sins. Life here on earth may be difficult sometimes. There may be times of sorrow. But God's people trust in God's good plan for them every day they live here on earth; and, they happily look forward to getting to live in heaven--the glorious Land of Immanuel, which means God with us. There, they will at last live at home with their God... and there's no place as wonderful as home, especially this home.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so patient and merciful to Your sinful people.

C God, we confess that many times we, like the Israelites, grumble and complain to You rather than trusting You. We deserve Your punishment! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising Your people a land far better than the Promised Land of the Israelites. You promise them an eternity in heaven with You!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us not to complain but to remember and trust You to take care of us when we go through difficult things. Help us to long to be with You in heaven.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Many Live As Enemies

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind's on earthly things,
Their mind's on earthly things

But our citizenship is in heav'n,
Yes, our citizenship is in heav'n,
And we eagerly, we eagerly,
Await a Savior from there.
Philippians Three,
eighteen through twenty.

Words: Philippians 3:18-20 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

All of us are sinners. We have all chosen to live life our own way, instead of God's good way. We deserve God's punishment, not eternal life with Him. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners like us. He took the punishment for sins when He died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead in victory. Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior are forgiven their sins. They belong to God. No longer are they people who belong in this world. They are citizens of heaven--that's where their home is. And one day, either they will die to go to live with Him; or, Jesus will come back and take them home, Himself. Oh, how wonderful that will be! God's people eagerly await for that day to come. No more sin and death! Such wonderful closeness with God always! Until that day, God's people will go on telling others the good news of Jesus. They don't want anyone to remain an enemy of the cross of Christ and face God's punishment. They want them to repent and receive eternal life.