

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 14:
God's People Delight in God's Glory**

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 14 Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds! Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard... Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

CASE STORY

Jonah 1-3

Our story is called:

The Case of the Rejected Riches.

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

1. What were the rejected riches?
2. Who rejected the riches and what did he instead of them?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 2000 years before Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." The LORD told Abraham. "I will make your little family into a great nation. I will make you famous and will bless you. And through you, I will bless all peoples on earth." He promised.

Abraham believed the LORD and obeyed. The LORD guided Abraham, his household and his nephew Lot to the land of Canaan. "This is the land I promised you and your children after you," the LORD told Abraham.

Abraham pitched his tent and built a simple, stone altar to The LORD nearby. The Canaanites worshipped many idols. This altar stood as a witness to them that this land would be the LORD's and He alone should be worshipped. Abraham made a sacrifice to the LORD on the altar and praised His name. He vowed to bring glory to the LORD alone.

The LORD blessed Abraham and Lot greatly. Silver and gold; sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys; hundreds of hired servants soon were theirs. Their little village of tents became like a small city.

But difficulties came with all these blessings, too. There were too many animals and people for the land! Frequent arguments broke out between lots and Abraham's hired men. Something had to be done!

"Let's end this quarrel between my people and your people. Let's split up." Abraham suggested. As head of the family, Abraham had the right to choose where to settle first. He could have taken the best land for himself and given Lot whatever was left over. But Abraham trusted in the LORD and wanted to glorify him with his life. He was more interested in being a peacemaker than getting what he deserved. "Lot, you choose first. I'll take the land that you don't take," Abraham offered.

Lot looked out upon the land before him. Around him

were the land of rolling, brown hills of Canaan, but in the distance he could see the rich, green land of Sodom, near the Jordan River. It was true, the people of Sodom were known for being particularly wicked, but the land looks so good! It would be easy to live there and grow rich!

"I'll take that whole plain over there, Uncle. You can have the hills of Canaan," Lot told Abraham. Abraham agreed, and the two men, their flocks and households parted ways.

Had Abraham been wise to let Lot choose first? Had he been wise to choose to be a peacemaker and reflect God's good ways rather than taking the best land for himself? Yes, he had. God's blessing to him was as rich and full as ever. After Lot had left, the LORD said to Abraham, "Look around you. All the land you see will be yours and your children's one day. That is my promise."

Abraham moved south and went to live near the great trees of Mamre in Hebron. There, he built another altar to the LORD. Abraham would keep worshiping Him, not idols as the Canaanites did. He would keep seeking to glorify the LORD alone.

The LORD kept on blessing Abraham with both riches and power, but Lot was running into trouble. Soon, mighty King Kedorlaomer of Elam, along with four other kings from the lands near Ur (Abraham's old homeland) invaded Canaan, conquering everything in their way. They headed straight for the rich Jordan River Valley land just like Lot had. There was a huge showdown of armies right there in the Valley of Salim, next to the great Salt Sea. It was the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah and three other allies versus King Kedorlaomer and his allies. The winner would take all of the land, people and possessions of the loser!

King Kedorlaomer's soldiers quickly smashed the Jordan Valley kings. Kedorlaomer won everything— including Lot, his family and riches! One man escaped the enemy and ran to Hebron to tell Abraham: "Your nephew Lot and everything he owns has been taken by King Kedorlaomer in the great war! He needs your help!"

Some men might have chosen not to help. Hadn't Lot acted selfishly in his choice of land? Wouldn't Abraham be risking everything if he went to Lot's aid against Kedorlaomer? But Abraham trusted in the LORD and wanted to glorify Him with his whole life. The LORD was merciful and he would be, too. Abraham would trust the LORD to help him rescue Lot.

So Abraham gathered his 318 trained men and headed

to Damascus after King Kedorlaomer. He and his men camped at the town of Dan, only a few miles away. He called his men together and revealed his plan. "We're going to sneak up on Kedorlaomer's men tonight. Have to you will come with me and attack on one side, the other half will attack from the other side."

The plan worked! Completely surprised and unprepared, Kedorlaomer's soldiers couldn't escape. After twenty miles of chase, the king surrendered to Abraham. He gave him all the things he had taken together with Lot, his household and all the other peoples.

After Abraham returned from defeating King Kedorlaomer, Bera, king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh along with Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the LORD, God Most High. Melchizedek laid out a celebration banquet before them. As they enjoyed their food, Melchizedek rose to his feet and said, "Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who gave you victory." Like Abraham, Melchizedek worshipped the LORD and sought to glorify Him with his whole life.

When Melchizedek finished, King Bera stood up and said: "Abraham, in honor of your great victory, I want to reward you. I want to give you all the treasures of the five kingdoms you captured. You will be fabulously rich! All I require is you give me the peoples. The treasure is all yours!" Melchizedek told Abraham.

How different what each of these two kings offered Abraham! One offered glory to God. The other offered incredible wealth. Riches might have been tempting, but Abraham turned them down. He agreed with Melchizedek. All the good things he enjoyed were blessings from the LORD. He was the one who had given him this victory. He would glorify Him.

Abraham turned to Melchizedek and said, "I want to give up to a tenth of everything I earned to you, to honor of The LORD, God Most High." Then he turned to Bera, king of Sodom and said, "I have promised the LORD that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a measly thread of cloth or a piece of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abraham rich.' I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, the men who went to battle with me. I want to make it clear that it is the LORD, not you, who has made me rich."

Bera met have been shocked at Abraham's answer, but he understood what he meant. As delightful as the riches the five kingdoms might have been, they would never be as delightful to Abraham as glorifying the LORD, God Most High.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Delight in God's Glory

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 66: 1-3,5,9,16

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds!' Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf! Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard...Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me."

Abraham turned down the chance to own the riches of five kingdoms to glorify the name of his God. Can you imagine doing that? God gave Abraham a great faith to know that worshiping and living for Him was far better than any treasure the world had to offer. He gave him a great delight in His glory.

What about you and me? Perhaps we'll never have to turn down such great wealth to glorify God as Abraham did, but each day God gives us our own set of choices to make. Will we make our greatest delight to glorify God each day by loving others and obeying His Word, even when it is very hard? He will help us to do this, if we ask Him.

And what is the first step God calls all of us to make in choosing to glorifying Him and obeying Him? It is turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do this, God will forgive our sins and make us His special people. He will fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to delight in Him and glorifying Him more and more.

Let's praise God for being the glorious God who He is. 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 help us to delight in His glory most of all. Let's ask Him to think each day how we can bring Him the greatest glory in our lives.

Draw a picture from the story

