

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 6:
God's People Obey Him**

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled in the beginning, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. This disobedience shows in our hearts. Many times, we think we know better than God. We tend to think about ourselves and what we want, most of all. This disobedience also shows up in our lives. We love to get our own way. We choose to say and do things that please us, even if they don't please God. Even if they hurt others.

But God's people seek to be different. They understand that they are sinners and deserve God's punishment. They confess their sins to God and desire to turn away from disobeying Him. (That's what it means to repent of our sins.) They trust in Jesus as their Savior. They want to start a new life of living to please God by obeying Him. God gives them faith in Him and forgives their sins. He gives them a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps them to love God and please Him. He helps them want to obey God in their heart. He helps them to love God and live to please Him with their lives.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse: John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching."

CASE STORY

Deuteronomy 17; 1 Kings 1-12; 2 Chronicles 1-10

Our story is called:

The Case of the Wise Man's Writings.

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

1. Who was the wise man? Why did he want to be wise? How did he become wise?
2. Where are his wise words written down? Who did his wise words not help? Why?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, when Moses led the Israelites, about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

On the high, grassy plain of Moab, a crowd of thousands and thousands of people gathered before Moses. Once a young man, Moses was now 120 years old! Soon he would die. He gathered the Israelites together to speak to them altogether, one last time.

"For forty years you have wandered in the wilderness, now it is time to enter the Promised Land the LORD is giving you and your families, It's only on the other side of these mountains," Moses told them, pointing to the slopes of the Avarim mountains behind him. "I won't be going with you. Joshua will be your new leader. It's time for me to die. But before we part, there are some things I must tell you. Listen carefully so that it will go well for you in the Promised Land," he told them.

Picking up a huge scroll, Moses began to read to them all the laws that the LORD had given him to write down. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.... Remember all His good laws and obey them. Teach them to your children so that they will obey them, too," he urged them.

"One day you will want to have a king like all the other nations," Moses told them. "The LORD wants you to remember to make sure that you have your kings write down their own copies of all the words on this scroll and read them every day, so that they will always know how to obey Him. And make sure that they don't buy lots of horses or have lots of wives. Make sure they don't save up a lot of gold and silver. For if they do these things, they will forget the LORD and His words and lead you astray to worship idols. The king who obeys the LORD will be a good king for you and the LORD will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who doesn't, the LORD will take the throne away from him," Moses told them.

“The LORD has given all these good laws to you and your king. But remember: it’s not enough just to know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you,” Moses reminded them.

The people listened to all the words that Moses spoke and said, “We promise to keep the LORD’s good laws. We promise to teach them to our children. We promise to have our kings obey them, too.”

Years passed. And just as the LORD said, the people of Israel did ask for a king. First came Saul, then David, then Solomon. Did any of these men copy down the Word of the LORD on a scroll for themselves to know and obey? We don’t know for sure. The Bible doesn’t tell us. But of those three, first kings, perhaps David did, because he loved the LORD so much. And perhaps Solomon did, because he desired to rule his people well and obey the LORD, as David did.

Solomon had asked the LORD for wisdom and the LORD made him the wisest man who has ever lived. The LORD showed him that the wisest thing he or anyone else could do was not to just to KNOW God’s wisdom, but to obey it. He must fear (obey and honor) the LORD so that he would be a good king and life would go well for the people. I suppose more than anyone else since Adam and Eve, Solomon knew what to do to obey God. God had given him wisdom to know. As a young king, he tried hard to do everything the law commanded him to do: from writing down the words of the Law, to keeping all the special celebrations and making all the right offerings to the LORD at the Temple.

It didn’t take long for the word to spread about the wisdom of Solomon. Kings from other parts of the world soon ordered their wise men: “Go to Solomon and listen to his wisdom and write down his words, so that my people and I can learn how to live wisely.”

The Queen of Sheba wasn’t satisfied with sending her wise men to hear Solomon. She traveled the difficult, thousands of miles to Jerusalem to hear him, herself. And she, like everyone who came to Solomon’s throne room and listened to him was amazed at His wise words and honored him with rich gifts of wonderful things like gold, silver, horses, and even princesses as wives. Truly he did know what do to live right and obey God.

But it’s one thing to be wise and another thing to obey, As Solomon became more and more famous and received

more and more presents, he began to stop obeying the LORD’s laws and stop listening to the wisdom the LORD had given him. When offered great riches, Solomon should have protected his heart and not kept them for himself. But he kept it and became one of the richest men in the world. When offered beautiful, strong horses, he should have protected his heart and not kept them for himself. But he kept them, until he had 12,000 of them! He even had 1400 chariots to go with them. And when the beautiful princesses were offered to him, he should have not accepted them. But instead, he took them as wives. Seven hundred of them, plus another three hundred who weren’t princesses. Solomon had been given the wisdom to know how God wanted him to live, but he didn’t choose to obey what he knew. Like us, Solomon was a sinner with a sinful heart. He chose to do what pleased himself, instead of God.

I am sad to say that everything turned out as the LORD’s wise words, given through Moses years earlier, had warned. As Solomon grew old, he turned away from worshiping the LORD and worshiped the false gods of his wives. He bowed before Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians with his Sidonian wives. With his Ammonite wives, he offered sacrifices before the terrible Molech. And on a hill east of Jerusalem--the very city where he had built the LORD’s Temple-- Solomon built an altar to worship Chemosh with his Moabite wives. And these were only some of the gods that Solomon worshiped with his wives.

Long ago the LORD had warned through Moses: “The king who obeys the LORD will be a good king for you and the LORD will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who doesn’t, the LORD will take the throne away from him,” Moses told them. “The LORD has given all these good laws to you and your kings. But remember: it’s not enough just to know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you,” he promised. What would happen to Solomon now that he had disobeyed the LORD and forgotten His good laws?

“Since this is you haven’t kept my covenant and my good laws, I will take the kingdom from you and give it to one of your servants when your son takes your place as king,” the LORD promised.

And that is just what happened. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, one of Solomon’s high officials, rose up against him and in the end took away almost all of Israel away from Solomon’s

son.

Oh, how sad it was to be for Solomon, his son, and the people of Israel, as a result of Solomon’s disobedience!

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Obey Him

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:23-24

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

What a sad ending for the wisest man in the world! If there were any person who knew how to please and obey God, it was Solomon! Yet even Solomon disobeyed the LORD!

How can that be? Is it really not enough to know how to wisely obey the LORD? No, it isn’t. It doesn’t matter how wise or smart any of us are, we all have sinful hearts that stray away from God’s good ways. It wasn’t what Solomon knew, it was what was in Solomon’s heart that was the problem. He was a lover of himself, not of God, in his heart of hearts.

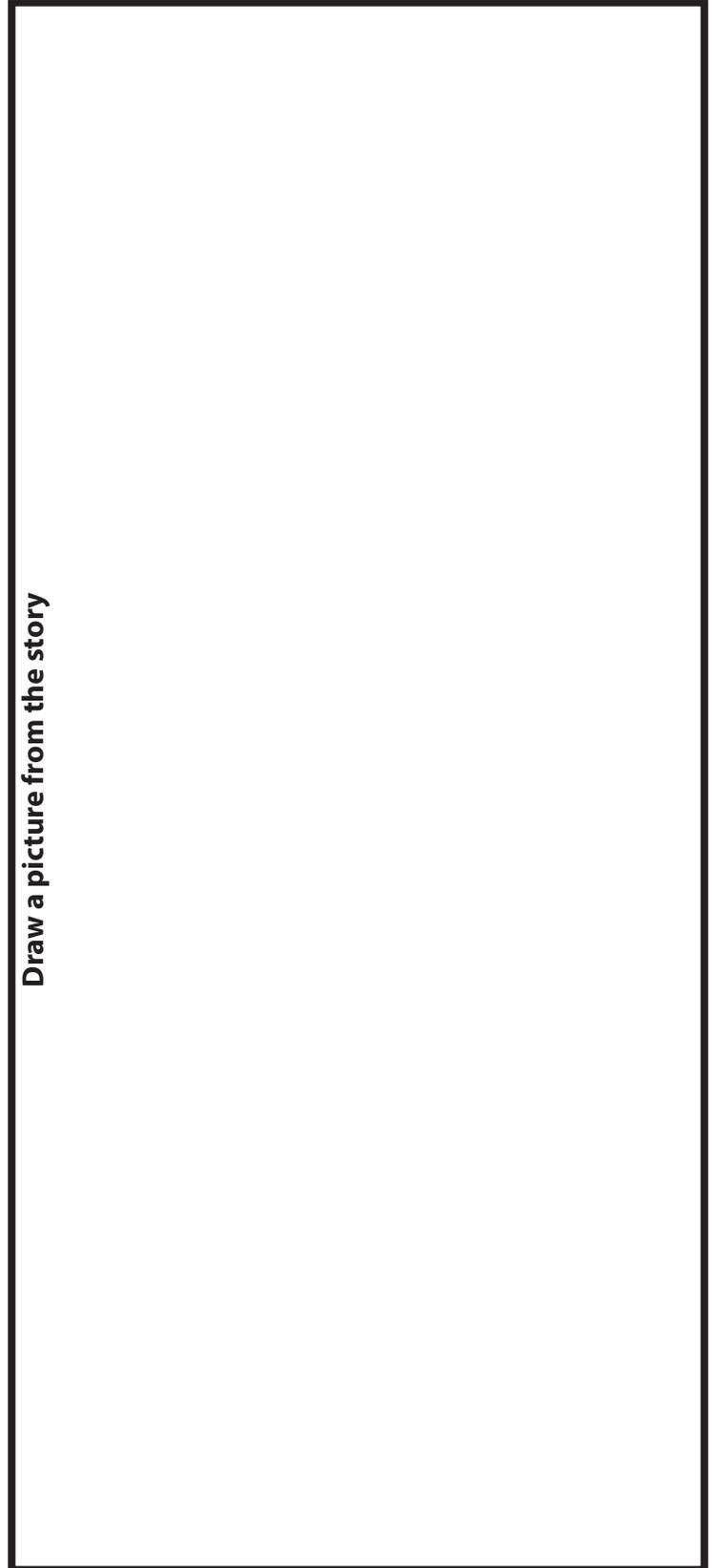
What about you and me? If a wise man like Solomon turned away from the LORD’s wise ways, what hope is there for us? Aren’t we lovers of ourselves, too? Yes, we are all sinners, just like Solomon, but the LORD is a God full of mercy! There is wonderful hope for every one of us.

The LORD still kept a promise He made to David and Solomon: that through their family a Savior would come. Yes, through that family, the LORD sent Someone even greater than Solomon to rescue us—the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was even wiser than Solomon (for He is God and knows everything there is to know). He knew exactly how to please God. And even more important for us, Jesus was more obedient than Solomon. He was God’s Son. And though He was tempted in every way to sin like Solomon and like us, He always obeyed God’s laws perfectly.

He offered up His perfect life as the perfect payment for the sins of all confess their sins, who turn away from them and trust in Him for forgiveness. And that is only part of the wonderful news: to all who come to Him in faith, He promises to give them new hearts, filled with His Holy Spirit who will help them love Him more and more and obey Him more and more. He will give to them strength to help them obey Him.

Let’s praise this God for being so merciful for offering

forgiveness our disobedience through Jesus and power to love and obey Him through His Holy Spirit. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we would not just know what is wise, but have the strength to obey.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Even since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, some really bad people have decided to disobey God and some good people decided to obey Him.
Answer: False. All people have chosen to disobey God. We all need a Savior! We all need God's help to obey Him and His good ways.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Who was the wise man? Why did he want to be wise? How did he become wise?
Answer: Solomon. He wanted to be wise to be a good king. The LORD gave him great wisdom when he asked Him for it.
b. Where are his wise words written down? Who did his wise words not help? Why?
Answer: In the Bible. His wise words didn't help him because he did not obey them or the LORD's others words to him and turned away to do what he wanted to do.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
John 14:23-24
 "Jesus replied, "If anyone ___ me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love ___, and we will come to him and make our ___ with him. He who does not love me will not ___ my teaching."
Answers: loves; him; home; obey.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 18
Verse 4
 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

*Words: Frances R. Havergal
 Music: Henri A.C. Malan*

Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God's good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Giver and Revealer of Your Good Laws. You tell us how to obey You. You tell us the right way to live.

C God, we confess that like Solomon, we are all sinners who too many times turn away from You and Your good laws to do what we want. We all need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You offer us forgiveness for all our sins when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we would obey You more and more.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Jesus Replied
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 19

Jesus replied, "If anybody loves me,
 He will obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 Jesus replied, "My Father will love him and we will come,
 And make our home with him," Jesus replied.

But that's not all Jesus said....

Jesus replied, He who doesn't love me,
 Will not obey my teaching," Jesus replied,
 John Fourteen, twenty-three and twenty-four.

Words adapted from John 14:23-24 Constance Dever © 2011

In these verses, Jesus teaches that love for God is more than just a good feeling in our hearts or saying that we love Him. True love for God shows itself by obeying Him. This is the kind of person who gets to know the wonderful fellowship of God through His Holy Spirit living in their heart.