

## 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 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

## BIBLE VERSE

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

### Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

## CASE STORY

### Our story is called:

#### The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream.

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

1. Who was the Greene girl?
2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who was born in Seattle, Washington in America, but wound up traveling to many parts of Africa in the 1940's.

"I've got a birthday surprise for you, two," Albert Greene told Betty and Bill, his sixteen-year-old twin daughter and son, as they drove along beautiful Lake Washington. "How would you like to take an airplane ride?"

What an amazing birthday present this was! This was 1936 and airplanes were still something most people only dreamed to get to ride in. Betty almost burst with excitement as they parked their car at the little airstrip and headed towards the planes.. She had loved planes ever since she was a little girl. She learned all about them and the famous men and women who flew them: Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart—the first man and woman to fly across the Atlantic solo; Richard Byrd and Brent Balchen—the first men to fly to the South Pole, as well as many others. Now at last she would get to fly like these great men and women!

The experience was everything she dreamed it would be and more! What a feeling of freedom as they soared over the land and through the clouds! As the airplane touched back down on the runway, all Betty could think about was when she could go back up again. Fortunately for her, a generous uncle had given her enough birthday money to pay for flying lessons. Within days, Betty was back in that airplane for her first flying lesson and within two weeks she was flying completely solo. Betty's money ran out all too soon; and with it, her opportunity to fly. But whether in the air or just dreaming about being there, flying remained Betty's passion.

It would be years before Betty had another chance to fly. Her parents encouraged her to go to college to be a nurse and Betty honored their wishes. But after two years of studying bones and muscles, bandaging wounds and

taking temperatures, Betty knew she was never cut out to be a nurse. She wanted to serve people, but not this way. With her parents' approval she left nursing school and returned home to work for her father and figure out what work the Lord would have her do with her life.

"Betty, you seem unhappy. What's wrong?" asked Mrs. Bowman, a dear old family friend.

"I just don't know what to do with my life," Betty answered.

"Well, tell me, dear. What is it that you love to do?" Mrs. Bowman asked.

"I love to fly and I love to tell people about Jesus," Betty responded.

"Perhaps you could find some way to do both, like using your flying to help missionaries," Mrs. Bowman suggested.

"Why, of course!" exclaimed Betty. Why hadn't she thought of that before? Surely there must be a way to do that, but how? As Betty walked back home down the gravel road from Mrs. Bowman's house she prayed, "Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next."

The Lord was not slow to answer Betty's prayer. He had a big plan to use Betty's love of flying and desire to serve Him, but first she would need the skills of a fighter pilot to fulfill His plans. Within weeks, Betty began two years of intense pilot training that would put her in the U.S. Army in World War II, testing out the limits of the new B-17 Flying Fortress Bombers and pulling huge targets behind B-34 Bombers for soldiers to practice shooting from the ground. "Boom! Bang! Boom!" Betty cringed as the bullets exploded through the air on either side of her plane. She prayed that the men on the ground would remember to hit the target and not her plane!

As busy as Betty was with flying missions, her mind was still thinking about how the Lord could use her flying skills to serve Him, especially on the mission field.

"Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next," she kept praying.

At last a wonderful idea came to her: why not use her expert skills in flying to transport missionaries in and out of remote parts of the world, where the good news of Jesus was being taken for the first time. Often missionaries spent weeks hiking through difficult and dangerous

conditions to get to these unreached peoples. How much time could be saved and dangers avoided if they could simply be flown to their destination instead, Betty wondered. And what happened when a missionary had a medical emergency? Wouldn't an airplane be far faster and better to get a sick person to the urgent care they needed?

This idea excited Betty so much that she couldn't keep it to herself. She wrote an article about it and sent it into a Christian magazine. Perhaps others who read her article would want to help make it happen. Sure enough, her idea worked. Before long a letter came in the mail for her: "Dear Miss Greene,

I read your article and am writing you to tell you that me and some other pilot friends of mine share your dream of using airplanes and pilots to spread the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Can you meet me in Washington, DC to talk about making this dream really happen?

Sincerely Yours,  
Jim Truxton

Betty and Jim met in Washington, DC and began to make plans to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, as they decided to call themselves.

Within a few years, Betty was making her first of what were to be hundreds of expeditions to aid missionaries all over the world. And oh, what work the Lord had for her to do! She needed every bit of training she had gotten in the army to do it! She was the first woman pilot to fly over the dangerous Andes Mountains. She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a river in Peru as its engines died and it tumbled out of the sky. In Africa, she once flew a new mother and her baby through a huge sandstorm. Another time, she sped to airlift a little girl choking to death to a hospital, hundreds of miles away. Far out in the Pacific Ocean in the untamed jungles of Irian Jaya, she trekked through thirty-five miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and snuck around fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway cut out of the side of the jungle.

After thirty some years of work with the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship (now called Mission Aviation Fellowship), Betty Greene retired from service. Long ago she had prayed that the Lord show her how to use flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, if that was the work He had planned for her. How marvelously the Lord had answered those prayers. Even today, the

wonderful work that began with the dream of one young woman is still going on, bigger and better than ever. Every four minutes, every day of the week, every day of the year, one of the eighty-four planes of Mission Aviation Fellowship is taking off or landing at some three thousand different little airstrips all over the world.

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God's People Do Good Works He Prepared for Them**

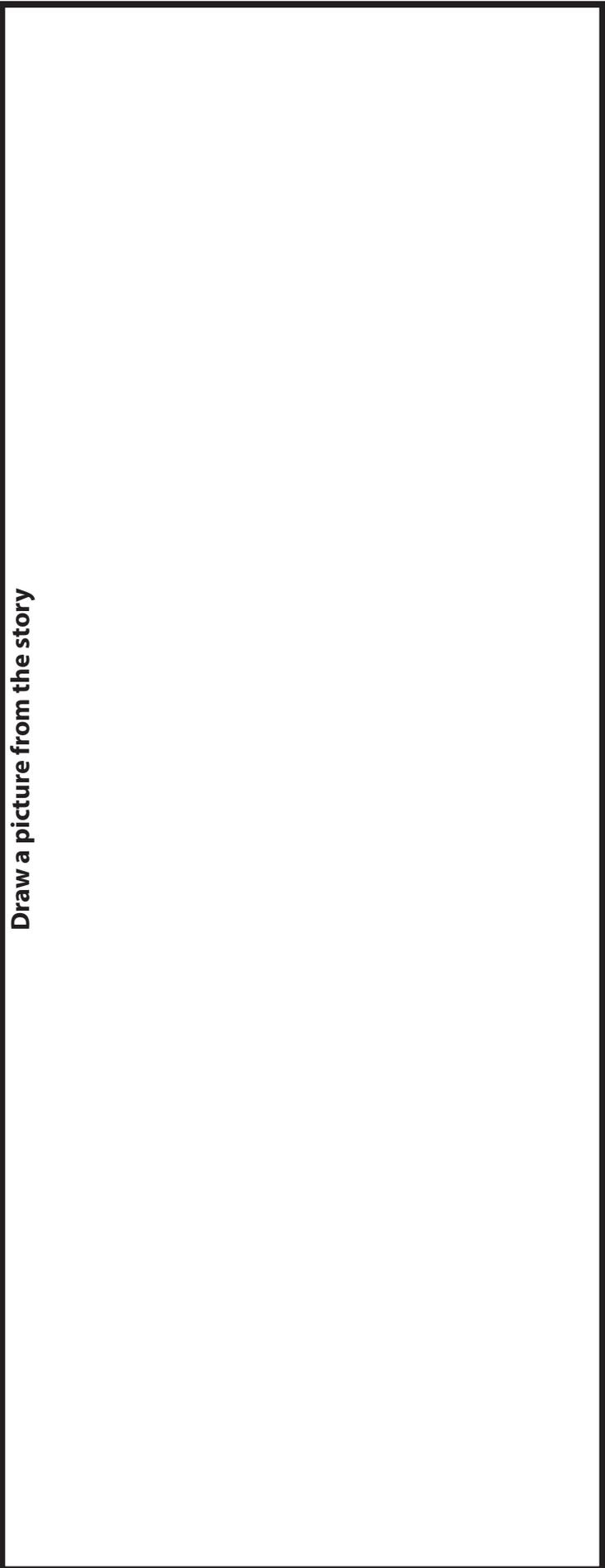
**Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

What wonderful work the Lord had prepared in advance for Betty Greene to do! And just to think, it all began with a love for planes and a desire to serve God as a little girl. Who would have guessed that something so great could have started with someone so small!

What about you and me? What is it that we love to do? Could it be that the Lord has planted that love in our heart as the start of some great work He has for us? What is the best first step in becoming someone God will use? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's praise God for preparing good works for His people by placing special loves in our hearts. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to turn the special loves we have into good works that help others come to know and love Him.

**Draw a picture from the story**



**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

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

God prepared good works for each of His people to do ahead of time. He wove them into His good plans for this world.

Answer: True.

**2. Crack the Case Questions**

**a. Who was the Greene girl?**

Answer: Betty Greene.

**2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?**

Answer: Betty's dream was to use her flying skills to someone help spread the good news of Jesus to unreached peoples around the world. God used Betty to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, a group of pilots who helped missionaries who took the good news of Jesus to faraway, hard-to-reach places. He used her to fly on hundreds of expeditions, helping missionaries.

**3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in \_\_\_\_ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to \_\_\_\_do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve \_\_\_\_, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever \_\_\_\_ he does..."

Answers: Christ Jesus; do; wholeheartedly; good.

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

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

**A** God, we praise You for being the Giver of Good Talents to Your people to be used for Your glory and their good.

**C** God, we confess that too many times we only think about how we can use the good gifts You have given us to use for our own good or so that others will praise us. We need Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You that You delight to give wisdom to Your people when they seek Your will.

**S** God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Please use the good talents You have given us to do good works for You.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**Take My Life and Let it Be**

PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22

**Verse 1**

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands  
and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love,  
At the impulse of Thy love.

**Verse 3**

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my moments  
and my days,  
Let them flow in  
ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in  
ceaseless praise.

**Verse 2**

Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King,  
Always, only for my King.

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

To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him. God's people ask God to use their whole lives for His good and perfect purposes. With their feet and hands, they want to serve Him. With all of their silver and gold (their money), they want to do whatever He wants them to do with it. Not a mite of it--not a bit of it--do they want to use for anything other than what He wants. They want every moment, every day of their lives to be lived for Him. And, because they know He has planned good works for them to do, they trust that He will help them do this, giving them the strength they need, by His Holy Spirit at work inside of them.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**For We Are God's Workmanship**

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23

For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,  
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
Which God prepared for us in advance to do.  
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,  
Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men,  
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.  
For we are, for we are, For we are God's workmanship,  
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works.  
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

Words: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8, NIV 1984

Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!