

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 9:
God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

CASE STORY

Luke 10:25-42

Our story is called:

The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook.

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

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook?
2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

This story takes place when Jesus lived on earth. It takes place in Bethany, a village in the hills outside of Jerusalem.

Big Sister had a lot to do! Feeding an extra thirteen, hungry men who showed around meal time back in took a huge effort. She could rush out and buy some grilled lamb or fish freshly fried, but most everything had to be made from scratch.

Women would go to the outdoor market in the center of town to buy the fruit, vegetables, grains, and live animals they needed. Then they brought it home to kill, pluck, clean, chop, mix and cook it all up into a fresh meal. There were no modern ovens or microwaves or stoves. Usually there was just an outdoor, beehive-shaped clay oven in the courtyard, heated by fire to bake flatbread. And another fire to cook everything else. Even an ordinary, simple dinner of vegetable -lentil stew with some flatbread to scoop it out, could take quite some time to prepare.

But who said this was an ordinary meal? Big Sister was planning a meal as special as her guests--Jesus and His twelve disciples! The usual vegetable-lentil stew didn't seem good enough to honor Jesus. Only her very best would do. She would make lots of different dishes for Him. What herbs should she put with the vegetables? Should she have lentils, barley or Egyptian rice? She could serve cakes sweetened with figs and dates as well as the usual flatbread. Maybe she would even splurge and boil some dove or lamb along with fish.

Big Sister's head swam with the details of the meal, as she tried to figure out what to have and how she would work out cooking all the different dishes so they would all be hot and ready to serve at the same time.

"It was a good thing that I have Little Sister to help me," Big Sister surely thought. "There would be no way I could pull off this special meal without her help!"

As Big Sister and Little Sister busily prepared the meal in the courtyard, Jesus and His disciples made themselves comfortable in the main room of the house. Jesus reclined

in one of the few chairs and began teaching His disciples, who sat at His feet, as serious disciples usually did. Perhaps some men would have spent this time in casual talk, but not Jesus. He was always thinking about His Father in heaven and doing what pleased Him. He knew how little time was left with His disciples. He would make the most of it by teaching them something important.

We don't know what Jesus taught His disciples that evening. But perhaps he reviewed the conversation He had had with the expert in the law that day.

"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" this man had asked Jesus.

"What does the Bible say?" Jesus had replied.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,'" the expert answered back.

Jesus had been pleased with this answer. "You have answered correctly," Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live." Here was a man who was hungry to please God. He was the kind who thought about God. Who prayed to Him and wanted to know His Word, the Bible. He lived to please God by serving Him and others.

Whether it was this or something else, Little Sister listened to what Jesus said as she chopped, plucked and kneaded the food to make her very curious. Before long, the little bits and pieces she caught from the other room just weren't enough to satisfy her. Little Sister had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry for food, her heart grew hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him. So, unknown to her big sister, Little Sister put down the food she was supposed to be preparing, slipped out of the courtyard, and joined the twelve disciples, sitting at Jesus' feet. Here, she could catch every crumb of what He had to say.

Big Sister was so distracted with the meal that at first that she didn't notice her sister had disappeared. Was it burnt vegetables left untended; the fish found still uncleaned of head, tail and bones; or the bread dough left unfinished that was her first clue that Little Sister was no longer doing her part? Maybe.

"Where has that girl gone?!" Big Sister wondered, a bit

frustrated. "Here we are in the middle of making this fine meal for Jesus and His disciples, and she decides to get up to go who knows where! How unthinking she is being of our guests and of me! How will I ever get everything for this meal properly cooked without her help?" Big Sister worried. "I must find her!"

Big Sister didn't have to go far before she found Little Sister. She could hardly believe her eyes when she found her there sitting among Jesus' disciples. Not only had Little Sister left her to prepare this big meal alone, but she had even settled herself at Jesus' feet. Everyone knew that was no place for a woman! Only men disciples who were training to follow after their teacher were supposed to do that!

Big Sister blurted out to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that Little Sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Surely Jesus would see things her way, she thought. Little Sister's place was in the courtyard with her preparing dinner, not at His feet like a disciple! What was Little Sister thinking?

Jesus understood Big Sister completely: she was showing her love for Him by preparing a good meal for Him and His disciples' hungry bodies. She was thinking about who Jesus was and wanted to make a meal she thought would be worthy of Him.

But Jesus understood Little Sister, too. She was thinking about Jesus, too, as she left food preparations to listen at His feet...and in a far more important way than making that fancy meal. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others. She longed to follow Jesus as much as any of His men disciples. Jesus wanted all of His disciples to think about Him like Little Sister did. He would not have this taken away from her.

"Big Sister, Big Sister," Jesus answered her, "you are worried and upset about your many things, but only one is needed. Little Sister has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Big Sister had a lot to think about as she turned to the courtyard and somehow finished the meal by herself. Perhaps she had been thinking about Jesus in her service to Him, but Little Sister was thinking about Jesus, too, by taking time to learn from Him.

How did the meal turn out that night? Were the

vegetables burnt? Were there bones in the fish? Was the bread baked? Did all the dishes get prepared? The Bible doesn't tell us. But even if the meal didn't come out just right, Big Sister, Little Sister and Jesus' disciples all learned that feeding a hungry heart-- one that is eager to think about God, to know and love Him more was even more important than anything they ate at that dinner. For from hearts hungry for God, come lives that seek to keep pleasing Him throughout the day, with loving service to Him and to others.

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Think about Him**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6**

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Did you guess that this was the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus' good friends? I wouldn't be surprised if you did! Jesus helped these sisters see what is truly important in God's eyes: thinking on Him, that they might know Him and love Him.

What about you and me? Are our hearts hungry to know and love God like Mary? Do we long to think about Him so much that we even want to set down our work and the things we love to do to spend time with Him? Our Bible verse tells us that when we do spend time thinking about Him as we pray and read the Bible, that He satisfies our heart as much as the tastiest foods satisfy our stomach!

Let's praise God for being so wonderfully satisfying to our heart. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior—the great, first step in loving God and knowing God. And let's ask Him give us hearts hungry to spend special time each day thinking about Him and to help us to keep thinking about Him in everything we do, all throughout the day.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God made our bodies with daily needs, but not our hearts.
We don't need to spend time with God each day.

Answer: False. Our hearts will grow to love and know God best when we spend time with Him each day.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the eavesdropping cook?

Answer: Mary.

b. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

Answer: Mary listened in on Jesus teaching His disciples. It was a good thing because it showed that she loved to think about God and wanted to know how to better love and live to please Him.

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

Psalms 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than ____, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My ____ will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I ____ of you through the watches of the night."

Answers: life; bless; think.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne

Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He's like.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being better than anything we could enjoy in this life. No one or nothing is as wonderful or satisfying as You.

C God, we confess that many times we do not choose to seek to be with You and know You better. Many times we look for our happiness in far less important things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You love for us to think about You and spend time with You. Thank You that You promise to show Yourself to us when we seek after You.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to seek after You and find our greatest delight in knowing You and being with You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Your Love Is Better than Life

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Words: Psalm 63:3,4 NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

These verses remind us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.