

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 ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 12 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 ESV 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, ESV

"Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

CASE STORY

Exodus 14-15

Our story is: The Case of the Forgetful Fretters.

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

1. Who were the forgetful fretters?
2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

This story takes place in Egypt, in Old Testament times, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

"What have we done?" exclaimed Pharaoh to his officials. "How could we have been so foolish as to let those Israelite slaves go? Who will build my grand buildings now? Prepare my army!" he ordered. "We must go after them and bring them back!"

Quickly the soldiers were gathered. "Forward, men!" Pharaoh ordered. "Off to the eastern wilderness to capture our slaves." The air filled with clouds of dust and the thunder of galloping horses and marching soldiers.

While Pharaoh and his men marched out into the wilderness, the Israelites—a two days' walk ahead—reached the shores of the Red Sea, near Pi Hahiroth and settled down for the night. What a wonderful couple of days it had been! At last they were free from their Egyptian taskmasters! No more bricks to make, no more buildings to build, no more whips to bear on their backs. The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. He had rescued them by one amazing miracle after another. Who had ever heard of a god who sent plagues upon His people's enemies? Or who led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night? Or who promised to give a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? How sweet were their thoughts of the LORD that evening!

But how long would the people keep thinking about the LORD and His might miracles like this? Only tow days, the Bible tells us. For as soon as the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army heading towards them, they chose to fret and forget. Thoughts of who the LORD was and what He had done for them vanished.

The Israelites cried out to the LORD and to Moses. But not in a trusting faith for deliverance, but bitter anger: "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt,

“Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians”? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” they cried.

Moses urged the Israelites to think about the LORD as they should. “Don’t be afraid,” Moses told them. “Stand firm and you will see how the LORD will deliver you today. You will never see these Egyptians again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still,” he promised them.

Then the LORD told Moses: “Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” Then, the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel, like a great wall. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind until the waters were completely divided and left a path along the sea bed. Across the dry ground, the Israelites safely crossed the sea, with a towering wall of sea water on each side.

Pharaoh’s men followed after the Israelites along the dry sea bed, but the LORD threw the soldiers into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving.

“Let’s get away from the Israelites!” the Egyptians cried. “The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

But it was too late. “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters flow back over the Egyptians, their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, they exclaimed: “Who is like our God, who hurls both horse and rider into the sea? The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him... Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling...” (Exodus 15:11-13. NIV 1984)

Once more the Israelites were amazed at how the LORD

had rescued them. But how long would they keep on thinking about Him and his mighty miracles? Only three days, the Bible tells us: until the next, big difficulty arose. Once more they would choose to fret and forget.

Drip, drip, drip. The last few drops of water trickled out of the sheep’s-bladder water bottles that the Israelites had carried with them from Egypt. This was terrible news! The last water they had seen was three days ago at the Red Sea. Now, out in the hard, sun-baked, barren wilderness, there seemed to be no water to be found.

“Hey, look over there, in the distance! Aren’t those palm trees and grasses?” someone shouted.

“Why, yes, those are! It must be an oasis!” someone else agreed.

Relieved, the people dashed towards the water of the little oasis. Some plunged their water bottles into the spring while others used their hands and brought overflowing handfuls of sparkling water to their dry mouths.

But halfway into the first swallow, the Israelites began coughing and choking. “Bleeack! This water’s no good! It’s bitter!” they exclaimed. “We can’t drink it!”

Once more the Israelites were in big trouble with no way out. They needed water soon or they would die; yet, there was none to be found. What would they do?

The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. Hadn’t their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

Hadn’t He rescued them again at the Red Sea just three days earlier? They could have remembered these things, but they chose to fret and forget.

“What are we to drink?” they grumbled.

How terrible the Israelites were to the LORD! But oh, how merciful and patient He was to them! As soon as Moses cried out to Him about the water, the LORD showed Moses a tree with special bark that he could throw into the water and make it sweet. Once more the LORD had delivered them. What a shame that they could not keep thinking about Him as they should.

“Listen to me!” The LORD told the people through Moses, “Think about Me and do what is right. Keep all the good laws I am giving you. If you do, I will not bring on you any of the diseases you saw Me bring on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you,” He promised them. He was

their mighty deliverer. They were His people. He wanted to bless them, but they would need to keep thinking about Him and obeying Him. This would be a hard, slow lesson for these stubborn-hearted people He loved.

Having made His point yet again with the bitter spring at Marah, now the Lord showed them also showed them once more how richly He would supply for their every need. He led them to the lush, palm-tree shaded oasis of Elim, where there was not just one spring of water, but twelve. And there He had them camp until they were refreshed.

Our Bible Truth is: God’s People Think about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.”

How quick the Israelites were to forget who the LORD was! It only took five days! Perhaps it’s easy to think that we would be different, if it had been us who saw the LORD mighty miracles. Perhaps we think we wouldn’t fret and forget like they did.

But the hearts of Gods people today really not so different from the Israelites long ago. Many times even today, they are all too quick to stop thinking about the Lord when hard things happen to them.

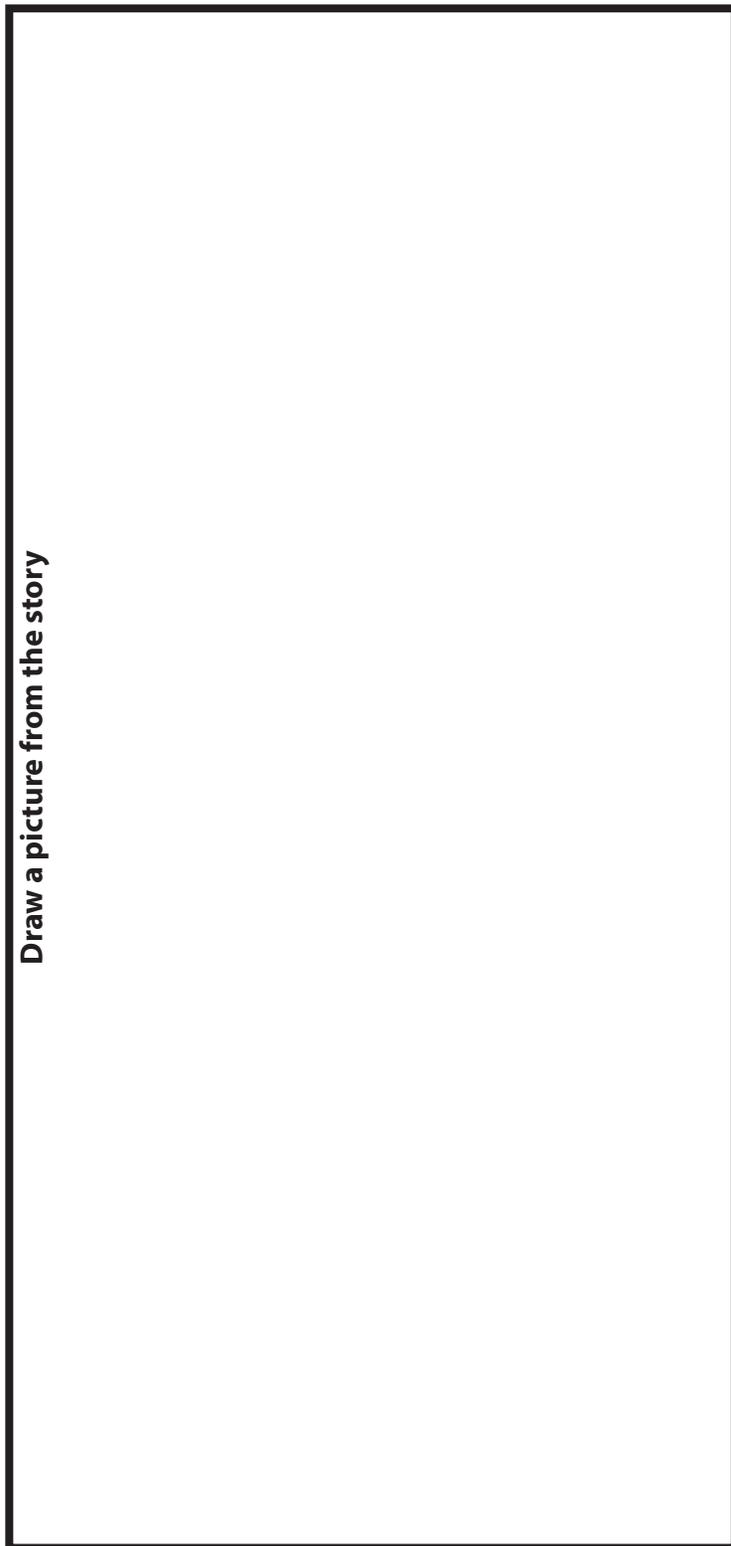
And in some ways, what they do is even worse that what the Israelites did. For while the Israelites forgot to remember the amazing way that the LORD delivered them from the Egyptians, God’s people today are too quick to forget the even more amazing way that the LORD has delivered them from sin and death through Jesus’ death on the cross.

What about you and me? We’ve heard about God’s mighty faithful to His people long ago. We’ve heard how we can become God’s people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus. What will we do? Will we fret and forget about God or will we think about Him? Will we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus? Will we ask Him to help us to think about Him as we go through every day of life He gives us?

Let’s pray right now that He will. Let’s praise God for

His great mercy and patience with His stubborn, forgetful people. Let’s pray that by His Holy Spirit, God would help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Let’s ask Him to help us to think about Him more and more. Let’s pray that when we are faced with difficult—even seemingly impossible—situations that He would help us to remember His powerful deliverance and to cry out in faith that He would rescue us.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God uses the time God's people spend with Him each day to strengthen their faith in Him.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who were the forgetful fretters?

Answer: The people of Israel.

b. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

Answer: They worried that they would die out in the wilderness because they had no food or water. They forget in just five days the amazing ways that the LORD had delivered them from the mighty Egyptians. If they had thought about the LORD and all He had done for them, they could have turned away from worrying and trusted that the LORD would take care of them.

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

Psalms 63:3-6

"Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will ___ you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My ___ will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my ___, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Answers: praise; soul; bed.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31

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 the Great, Always-Faithful God. You will always take care of Your people, even when it looks impossible.

C God, we confess that we are like the Israelites, forgetting how faithful You have been to us in the past. How quickly we distrust You and Your goodness. How quickly we grumble. Please forgive us!. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for treating us with so much mercy and patience, even when we do forget and distrust You. Thank You for taking away all of our sins through Jesus. Thank You for continuing to be faithful, even when we do not trust You as we should.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to always trust You, no matter how impossible it looks for You to rescue us and take care of us. Help us to rejoice and wait for You to act. Help us to remember how You have always been faithful in the past.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32

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 ESV 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.