

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

There is only one God; yet, He is God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father reigns over everything according to His perfect wisdom and will. Jesus, God the Son, perfectly loves His Father and delights to obey Him. God, the Holy Spirit, does the will of the Father and the Son. He works in the hearts of God's people. They work together perfectly and they have always enjoyed perfect happiness and oneness in heaven.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are called the "Trinity" (Three as one) because they are three separate persons, but only one God. We cannot understand this easily because God is so different from anything else we know.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Fighting Fire.

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

1. Who set the fighting fire? Why did he chose to fight with fire?
2. What did he hope to tell with the fire? What plant helped him tell it?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place around 432, starting in the castle of Niall of the Nine Hostages, High King of Ireland.

"Our enemies, the Romans, are losing control over Britain," Niall told his officers. "Now's the time to raid her villages and take what we want. Prepare the ships!"

Before long, Niall's ships sailed across the Irish Sea and anchored near the village of Bannaven Taberneae in Britain. Soldiers snuck ashore and raided Bannaven Taberneae and other villages, stealing riches and kidnapping people, until their ships could hold no more. Among those kidnapped was Maewyn Succat, the sixteen-year-old son of an important church leader in Bannaven Taberneae. Maewyn's father was a godly man, but his son was nothing like him. Maewyn loved to have wild parties with his friends. His father had urged him to turn from his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior, but Maewyn refused. He wanted nothing to do with God. Now both father and friends were gone. Was God gone, too? Maewyn wondered what would happen to him next.

In Ireland, Maewyn was sold to Miliiuc, a mighty chieftain who owned lots of land. He made Maewyn work out in the rain and cold as a shepherd. Milliiuc wasn't just a chieftain, he was also a Druid. Druids were men trained to talk to gods and the spirits of dead people. The Irish people believed in many gods, but especially honored Bel, the Sun God. They also believed that everything in the earth, sea and sky has a spirit, not just people. They believed that Bel was the one who gave life to people and to everything in nature. Druids cast magic spells and held ceremonies that were supposed to keep these gods and spirit happy. Maewyn learned all about the Irish gods and watched Miliiuc and the other Druids perform their ceremonies. He was disgusted with what he saw. He thought their gods were only idols.

Life as a slave was hard for Maewyn, but the Lord used

to make changes in his heart. He remembered what his father had told him about God. He confessed his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. God forgave his sins and filled his heart with the Holy Spirit. Now Maewyn wanted to live for God.

Not long after becoming a Christian, Maewyn escaped from Miliuc and sailed back to Britain. His love for God and the Bible grew and grew. He went to a special school to become a priest (like a pastor) so he could spend his life teaching others about God. He was baptized and given a new, special Christian name: Patrick.

The Lord had brought Maewyn the gift of salvation through his time in Ireland and now the Lord was sending him back to Ireland to share that same good news with others. "The Irish don't know the one, true God. They only know idols and spirits. They depend upon Druids. I want to go to Ireland to tell them about Jesus," Patrick exclaimed.

Soon Patrick and twenty-five other men set sail for Ireland, praying that the Lord would show them how to reach the Irish people with the gospel.

"If Ireland is to believe in the good news of Jesus, the people must that it is the Lord who is God, not Bel or any of the other Irish gods," Patrick told his men. "We must confront the High King Laoghaire, son of Niall, and the Druids. Then the people will have courage to listen to our words. I have a plan," he said.

"Easter day falls at the same time as Beltaine, the Great Feast of Bel. We will use their celebration of the Sun King who supposedly brings new life to dead things each spring, to tell them about Jesus the true King, who truly conquered death once and for all! We must travel to Slane's Hill the home of Tara, the High King's palace, and prepare everything," Patrick said.

The evening of the Feast of Bel arrived. The steep road up Slane's Hill was busy all day as royalty in their regal finery and druids dressed in long, flowing robes with full hoods drooped low over their faces gathered together at Tara for the great ceremony. That night, King Laoghaire would light a huge bonfire to honor the Sun god, Bel as greatest of all gods. No fire was to be lit that night before Bel's fire had been lit. Anyone who did so would be put to death.

That night, the King, Druids and others gathered for the bonfire, but just before Laoghaire prepared to light the great pile of wood, someone gasped out in horror: "Look there, at the base of Slane's Hill! A great fire burns already!"

"Who dares dishonor Bel like this?" the High King exclaimed. "Bring them to me for questioning and execution!" he ordered.

Patrick and his men were brought to Loaghaire. "How dare you defy Bel with your fire?" the king asked.

"I am Patrick. My men and I dare defy Bel because we know that neither he nor any of the other of the gods you worship are worthy of praise. You worship Bel as the Sun King, highest of all the Irish gods. You believe that he is the Bringer of new life to dead things each spring. But I tell you, Bel is not God. He cannot do these things. There is only one true God of everything: He is the Lord. We urge you now to turn from your sinful, rebellious ways. Leave Bel and follow the Lord. He is the loving Father God who sent His Son, Jesus, to come and die for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in Him for forgiveness. We celebrate Him with our fire tonight on the eve of the great day when He rose as Conqueror of Death once and for all time. He sends His very Holy Spirit to live in His people's hearts that they might have the joy of knowing Him and serving all of their lives. In Him there is hope and joy; not in Bel or any of your other fake gods. This is the message He has called me and my men to come to Ireland to tell you and all the people of Ireland."

The High King was amazed at Patrick's bold words. He was curious about this strange new God that Patrick spoke of. "You say you worship one God, yet you speak of three—Father Son and Holy Spirit. Which is it? Surely it is one or the other?"

Stooping down Patrick plucked a shamrock growing in the grass at his feet. "King Laoghaire, the true God is not like us. He is more than we can know. He will always be a mystery to us, but nothing is a mystery to Him. If He says that it is so, it must be."

Holding up the tiny, three-leaved, clover-shaped little plant to the King, Patrick said, "Look at this shamrock, does it have three leaves or one? It is both. Is it so hard to believe that the Lord who made a small plant with such a mystery, could also be Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet just one God?"

"This man answers well. Could he be telling the truth?" the king wondered.

Then the Druids confronted Patrick: "You talk big, but if your god is truly God, He must have given you powers to prove it. Call down snow on this spring night!" they demanded.

"It's not for me to tell God what to do. He is the one who makes snow and decides those things. I have no power to do what you ask," Patrick humbly answered.

No one knows for sure what happened next, but some say that upon Patrick's words, snow did indeed begin to fall to the great amazement of everyone.

Whatever happened that night, it was enough to change the mind of the king. For instead of killing Patrick and his men, he freed them and gave them permission to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Ireland.

Patrick spent the next thirty years of his life traveling the green hills and valleys of Ireland, telling everyone he could about Jesus. Through his preaching, tens of thousands of Irish people turned away from Bel and the Druids and began to worship the Lord, the one, true God.

Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Patrick had been a young man who not too unlike you and me. He grew up hearing all about the good news of Jesus, yet it was not until many hardships later that he came to truly believe what he had been taught.

Let's praise our merciful God who would love someone like Patrick who knew all the right answers, but still rejected Him for many years. Let's pray that God will send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, so that we would confess our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior even now.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together, perfectly fulfilling all of God's plans. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who set the fighting fire? What was he fighting with the fire? Answer: Patrick. The worship of Bel, the Sun god, the people of Ireland worshiped.</p> <p>b. What did he hope to tell with the fire? What plant helped him tell it? Answer: He hoped to tell about the true God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A shamrock (a three-leaved clover.)</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:18 "May the ____ of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of ____ and the fellowship of the ____ be with you all." Answers: Grace; God; Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Early in the morning, Our song shall rise to Thee; Hoy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>The LORD--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is the Trinity. All that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is and does shows us His perfect holiness, mercy, and mightiness. He has shown such love and goodness to sinners by all that He has done that God's people cannot help but call Him the blessed Trinity.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the one, true God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Maewyn, we have heard the good news of Jesus, but often choose to keep on living our own way. We need Jesus to be our Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your great patience with sinful people like Maewyn and us. Thank You for using things in our lives to turn us away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to tell others the good news of Jesus, too.</p>	<p>May the Grace <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17</i></p> <p>May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God, And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. May the grace of Lord (Jesus Christ), And the love of God (God the Father) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. Second Corinthians Thirteen, fourteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Each of these things that Paul wants God's people to know and enjoy are gifts from each person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives them the free, undeserved gifts of salvation through faith in Him. The Father loves His people so much that He gave Jesus to die for them. And, He continues to love them every day of their lives. The Holy Spirit lives inside them, giving them closeness with God (fellowship). He helps them to know, love and obey God better.</p>