

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful

Unit 6 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?"
Bad Things Came Through Sin!"

PFI NIV Songs 6, Tracks 3,4

Unit 6 Bible Verse and Song: Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:

God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they received the terrible consequences of their sins, just as God had warned them they would. They had enjoyed a life without sin. Now all that changed. Their hearts used to be full of peace and love. Now they were afraid and selfish. Their work used to be a complete pleasure. Now it became frustrating and unsatisfying, filled with troubles. Their bodies had been full of health and life. Now they grew weak and sick. One day they would die. Worst of all, they used to enjoy wonderful fellowship with God, and now that fellowship was broken. This is what the Bible calls being dead in sin. How Adam and Eve and all God's creation groaned under sin!

Adam and Eve deserved no relief from their punishment, but God treated them better than they deserved. He gave them hope, even that day. He promised them that a son of Eve's would come to defeat Satan and bring salvation.

Who was that son? Jesus, the Son of God! He would live the perfect life that Adam and Eve should have lived, but did not. On the cross, He would offer it up as the perfect payment for the sins of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. God, Himself, would satisfy His justice so that He could show us mercy!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

CASE STORY

Our story is called: The Case of the Dead Eyes.

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

1. Whose eyes were dead? Why were these such hard eyes for a doctor to heal?
2. What did God use the dead eyes to help many new people see?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1940's in South Africa.

The evening was coming quickly. As the sun disappeared behind the dark treetops of the Xhosa Mountains, Dr. Everts was making his end-of-day check up of the sick children at "Moria," the mission hospital where he worked. How sad it was to see all those sick, young children from the nearby Zulu tribes! As a doctor, Dr. Everts longed to heal their little bodies. But as a Christian doctor, these sicknesses were also reminders of the sad results of Adam and Eve's sinful choices made so long ago. Sickness and death came when Adam and Eve rebelled against God! And even these Zulu children were affected by that choice.

But there was something else about those children that made Dr. Everts even sadder than the children's sick bodies. It was another, even worse consequence of Adam and Eve's sin. What was this terrible thing? It was that these children--like all people-- were sinners, who also had rebelled against God. They deserved God's punishment and needed Jesus, the Savior who God promised Adam and Eve He would send to crush Satan and save His people. So Dr. Everts had traveled half way around the world to care for these Zulu people and tell the good news of Jesus. How he longed for them to be saved!

And so this evening, Dr. Everts cared for the sick Zulu children and then prayed for them, "Lord, thank You for these children. Please heal their bodies. Please help them to turn from their sins and trust in Your Son, Jesus, as their own Savior. Amen."

As the doctor turned to leave the room, a small hand reached out to stop him. "Doctor....doctor!" the young child exclaimed.

"Yes, what is it?" he replied.

"Doctor, will it now soon be Christmas, and will you then come and tell us a Bible story?"

"Yes, it is almost Christmas," the doctor replied. "And I promise to tell you about the shepherds and their flocks of sheep; about the great Light in the dark night; and,

flocks of sheep; about the great Light in the dark night; and, about the birth of the Savior, Jesus. After the sun shines two more times, then it will be Christmas; but now you must go to sleep," he told them.

"Christmas, only two days away? It is hard to believe! Where were the tightly bundled people plodding through snow? Where were the Christmas lights and the churches full of people?" Dr. Everts thought.

Zulu territory wasn't anything like Dr. Everts' home in America at Christmas time. It had lions, giraffes and rhinoceroses. There certainly wasn't any snow! Why it was so hot that people barely wore any clothes at all. And instead of brightly lit houses and churches, there were mud huts and witch doctors. No. Zulu country didn't feel like Christmas at home at all. But that didn't bother Dr. Everts as he walked from the hospital to his little house that night. In just two days, Dr. Everts would get another chance to tell those sick Zulu children the wonderful story of the Savior God sent to the world to crush Satan and save all who believe in Him from their sins. Getting to tell that story was all the Christmas Dr. Everts wanted.

Well.... it was almost all Dr. Everts wanted. As he looked up at the disappearing sun shining on the tops of the Xhosa Mountains, there was more one thing he really wanted for Christmas and it was high up in those high up really, really wanted for Christmas. It was something high up there on one of those mountaintops: the Xhosa Mountains, where the sun was setting. It was telling the people of Kakoela village about Jesus.

Kakoela was the home of powerful Chief Chuana. All the Zulus lived in fear of him. Chief Chuana had heard about Dr. Everts, but he refused to let his people go to the hospital: "We have witch doctors to take care of our sick people. We have our own spirits we worship," he told his people. "I will punish anyone who goes to Moria for help! They not given anything to eat for many days!" he threatened.

Dr. Everts offered to travel to Kakoela to help the people and tell them about Jesus, but Chief Chuana refused.

"Stay away from me and my people!" he ordered.

But Dr. Everts wasn't one to give up. That very night, he and his wife got down on their knees and prayed, "Lord, make a way for us to share with Chief Chuana and the village of Kakoela the wonderful story of Jesus. We want them to know about the Savior You sent to the world to crush Satan and save all who believe in Him from their sins. We know You can do anything, so we ask that You would even do this by Christmas. Amen."

Acting in faith, Dr. Everts sent a messenger to Kakoela, asking Chief Chuana again if he could come to their village to heal their sick and tell them about Jesus. Before long the messenger returned: "The Chief is furious! He doesn't want any Christians or the Bible book of the white man in his village," he exclaimed.

Doctor Everts was disappointed that day as he went about his work. And yet, there was still hope in his heart. This was only Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day. The Lord still might "give" him Kakoela for Christmas.

Christmas Eve passed, and Christmas morning came. Dr. Everts spent it telling the children the wonderful story of Jesus. As he headed back home, a Zulu boy ran up to him, out of breath. "Oh, doctor...", he gasped, "come at once to Kakoela! The eyes of the Chief are dead, he can't do any work!"

Chief Chuana's eyes are very sick?" he asked the boy.

"No, no," he insisted, "they are dead! Come quickly to put light in the dead eyes again, so the Chief can make his journey."

Dr. Everts grabbed his doctor's bag and two African helpers. They put a stretcher in the back of his car, and headed up the bumpy, narrow mountain road to Kakoela. It seemed that God was giving him the Christmas present he had asked for after all!

But to his great surprise, who should Dr. Everts see as he rounded the corner into Kakoela? None other than Chief Chuana himself, dressed in his fine red cloak, staring at him with his two, perfectly bright and seeing eyes!

"Chief Chuana, I came at once when I got your message, but I was told your eyes were sick," Dr. Everts said.

"Yes, yes, they are very sick! I will show them to you. Follow me," the Chief exclaimed. "Follow me!"

The chief led Dr. Everts to an old freight truck, the Chief pointed to the headlights and said, "Look, the eyes are dead. Can you put new light in them?"

Dr. Everts didn't know quite what to think. He was a medical doctor, not an auto mechanic! The Chief did not seem to understand the difference between people's eyes and a truck's headlights. What would happen if he could not help the Chief? Would Chief Chuana resist hearing the good news of Jesus even more?

Dr. Everts set to work on the truck and to his great surprise, he fixed it! The Chief's happy face shone as brightly the lights on his truck! "Make a celebration fire outside of my hut, men! Make some good food for the doctor, women! He has fixed my car!" he ordered.

The chief and Dr. Everts sat together and ate until they could eat no more. Then came the Christmas present Dr. Everts had hoped and prayed for. The chief had all the people gather around the fire and said, "Doctor, many times you have asked to come to my village to bring medicine for my people and to tell us stories from the book of your God. Each time I have said no. But tonight, I will let you tell one story from your book, to say thank you for healing my eyes."

So Dr. Everts began: "In the beginning the Creator God made everything in the world perfectly good. But the first people—named Adam and Eve— rebelled against Him, bringing sin and death into the world. The Creator God is not only just; He is merciful, too. Though they would die, He promised He would send a Savior to crush Satan and bring salvation to all who would turn from their sins and trust in Him," Dr. Everts told them. "And it was on this very day— Christmas Day--thousands of years ago, that the Savior Jesus came into the world. He lived a perfect life and then as the perfect sacrifice for sins of all who would ever trust in Him. He rose from the dead and reigns in heaven. God offers you salvation and eternal life through Jesus, if you will turn from your sins and trust in Him," he urged them all.

When Dr. Everts finished his story, everyone was quiet. They had never heard a story like this before! At last Chief Chuana arose and said, "We thank you for your wonderful words. Perhaps you will come back and tell us more stories from the book of your God."

It was very late by the time Dr. Everts said his final good-byes to the people of Kakoela and headed home. How thankful to God he was, as he made his way down the bumpy, windy road. Did the words to "Joy to the World" come to his mind that Christmas night as drove home? There very well could have: "Joy to the world! The Lord had come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing. No more let sin and sorrow grow, or thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as ...far as...the curse is found"--even as far as Kakoela village in Zulu territory! What an unforgettable Christmas it had been!

Our Bible Truth is:

God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

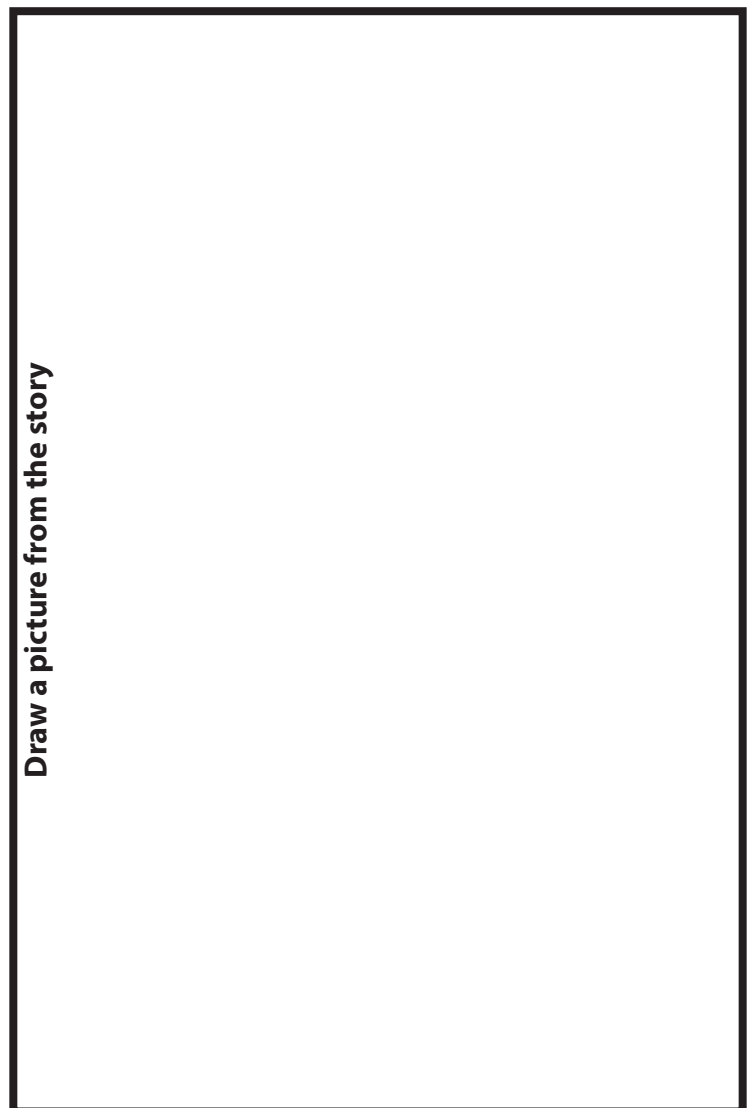
Our Bible Verse is: Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Did you know there are millions of people right here in our own country who have yet to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. Perhaps you are even one of them. People everywhere need to know the good news of Jesus! They need a Savior to save them from their sins and bring them into wonderful fellowship with God. Today is the day of salvation for all who will turn from their sins and trust in Jesus!

And did you know there are still hundreds of thousands of villages like Kakoela in the world? Places where the curse of sin and death are found, but no one has yet heard that the Savior Jesus has come. Who will go to these places and tell them? Perhaps it will be people like you and me one day.

Let's praise God for letting us know about the Savior the Savior, Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with love for people who do not know about Him and courage to take the good news of salvation to them that they might turn and believe in Him, too.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Nothing much changed after Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They were just as happy and loving as ever.
 Answer: False. Most everything changed after Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They became afraid and selfish. Their work was frustrating and painful. Their bodies grew sick and died. Their perfect fellowship with God was broken.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Whose eyes were dead? Why were these such hard eyes for a doctor to heal?
 The lights on the chief's truck. He call them eyes. The doctor wasn't trained in fixing cars.

b. What did God use the dead eyes to help many new people see?
 The doctor fixed the truck's lights and then was allowed to tell Bible stories so that the tribe's people could hear the good news of Jesus for the first time. At last they could "see" (under-stand) what God was like and how they could be saved.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
Romans 6:23
 "For the wages of ___ is death, but the gift of ___ is eternal ___ in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 Answers: sin, God, life.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9

Verse 1
 Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
 Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
 Jesus ready stands to save you,
 Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Refrain
 I will arise and go to Jesus,
 He will embrace me in His arms.
 In the arms of my dear Savior,
 O there are ten thousand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

Adam and Eve--and all people after them-- suffer the consequences of their sinful rebellion. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to crush Satan. Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the Changer of Your people's hearts so that they are filled with love for You and want to give their whole lives to serve You, even in very hard places.

C God, we confess that even though we have heard the good news of Jesus, we often to do seek to love You with all of ourselves like William Carey did.

T God, we thank You for Your Holy Spirit that You put in Your people's hearts to give them love for You.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit, that we might love You with all of ourselves.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

For the Wages of Sin Is Death
PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 10

For the wages of sin is death,
 But the gift of God is eternal life,
 Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
 For the wages of sin is death,
 But the gift of God is eternal life,
 Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Romans Six, twenty-three.

Words adapted from Romans 6:23 Constance Dever © 2011

Because God is good and just, He punishes sin. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, He punished their sin. What is the punishment for sin? It is death--separation from God and all His good ways. Adam and Eve knew some of that separation from God that very day. When their bodies died they deserved to know complete separation from Him. But God is so very merciful. He treats sinners who repent of their sins and trust in Him so much better than they deserve! That same day God gave Adam and Eve the punishment for their sins, He also gave them the promise of eternal life through Jesus, the son of Eve who would crush Satan once and for all.