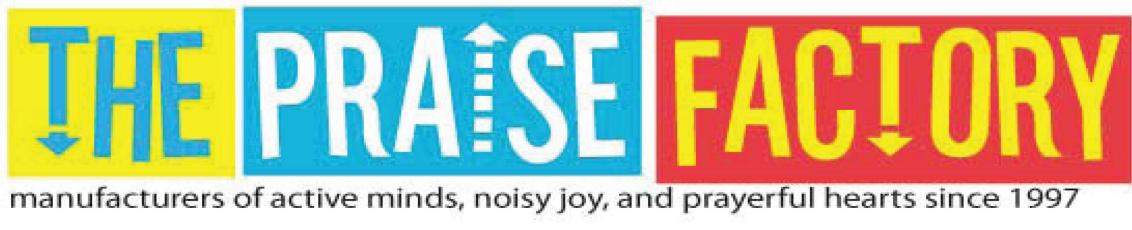




Give-It-a-Go
Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 Prontos
SAMPLE MATERIALS



Curriculum for preschool and elementary age children,
training tools, music and other resources
are available for download or to order at:
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About the “Give-It-A-Go” Materials

Hello, New Friend to Praise Factory Investigators!

If you have gotten this far, chances are you are looking fairly seriously at this curriculum. Rather than having you download or purchase the full versions of the curriculum, I've put together this bundle of materials that will give you a chance to really understand it and to try it out.

This packet is a sort of “mini me” of resources available for each unit of Praise Factory Investigators.

Included in this packet:

1. Black and White pdf of The Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version

(The color version is a huge document that would take a very long time to download). This book is your guide to understanding the curriculum basics. You can also order it through amazon in color or watch the slideshow in the Get Started section of the praisefactory.org website. But sometime, you just want something to get your hands on now! So here it is!

2. Give-It-A-Go Introductory Materials for Praise Factory Investigators

This is basically the introduction and selected appendices that is included in every volume of Praise Factory Investigators Core Curriculum. We are giving it to you here, separately, because you will be referring back and forth from it to the curriculum a lot. It will be much easier for you to follow along if it's in a separate booklet of its own.

3. Give-It-A-Go Praise Factory Investigators Core Curriculum for Unit 1, Bible Truth 1--ESV

(Excerpt from Praise Factory Investigators Core Curriculum ESV Unit 1)

The regular volume includes all five Bible Truths for unit 1--that's 15 sessions of materials and more than you need if you are only in the test-drive stage. This sample book will provide you with all three sessions of materials used with Bible Truth 1.

4. Give-It-A-Go Praise Factory Investigators Prontos for Unit 1, Bible Truth 1--ESV

(Excerpt from Praise Factory Investigators Prontos for Unit 1--ESV)

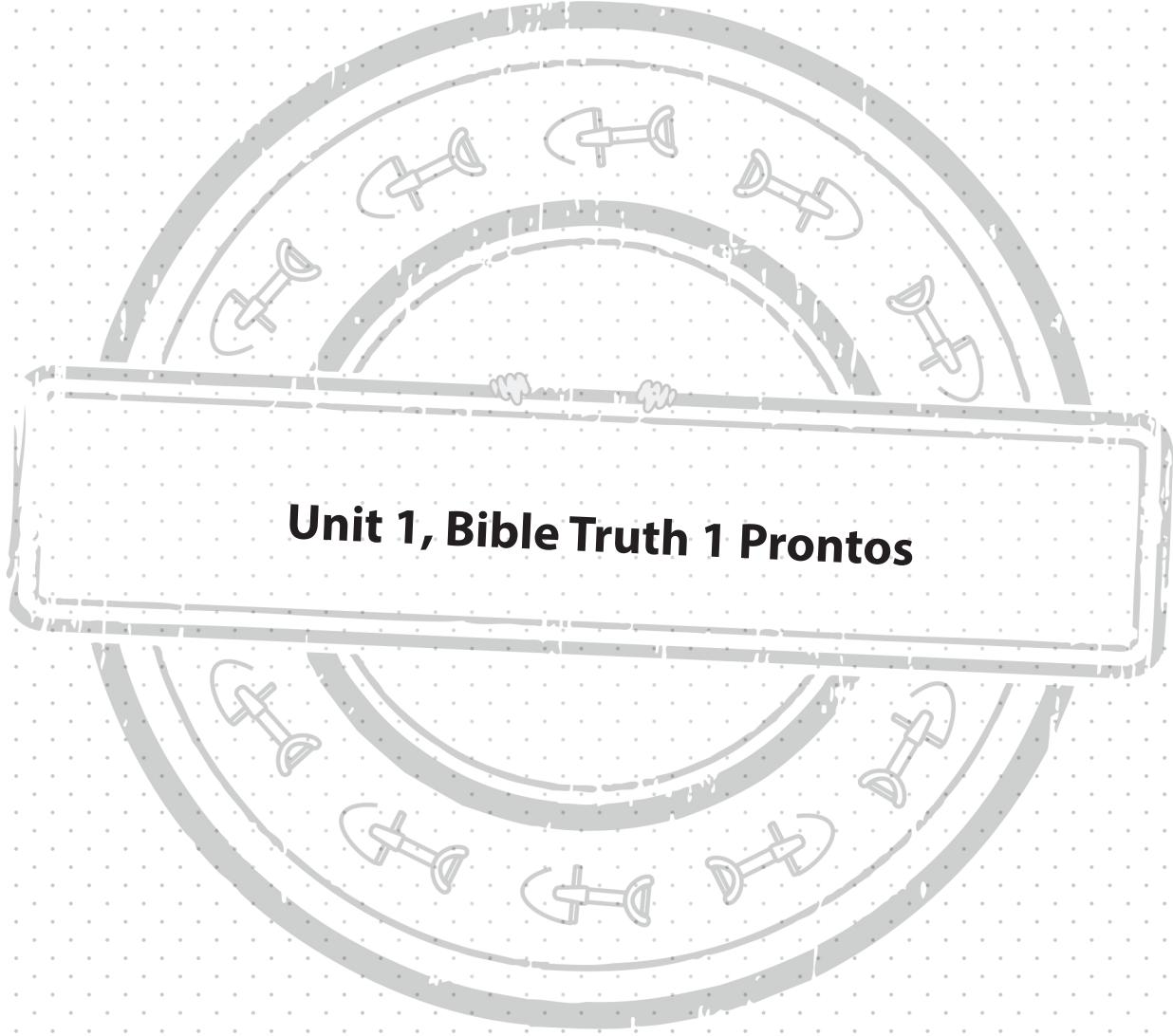
These are your rather beefy take home sheets. They include the text of each story, lyrics to two songs, an ACTS prayer and some questions to answer. These give your parents lots to use with their children at home. Some teachers like to teach from the Prontos. The regular volume includes the Prontos for all of Unit 1. This sample includes the three Prontos for the three stories used in Unit 1, Bible Truth 1.

5. Give-It-A-Go Praise Factory Investigators Songs for Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 (Excerpt from Praise Factory Investigators Unit 1 ESV Songbook)

The large-format lyrics, the sign language and sheet music for all the songs used in Unit 1, Bible Truth 1. The full songbook contains all of the songs used in Unit 1.

6. Give-It-A-Go Praise Factory Investigators audio music files for PFI Unit 1 ESV Songs

Enjoy!



Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 Prontos



**Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 Prontos:
Lesson 1--New Testament**

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 1 Big Question and Answer:

How Can I Know What God Is Like?

He Shows Me What He's Like!

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, ESV

"For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 1:
God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

CASE STORY

Acts 17

Our story is called:

The Case of the Stone and the Seekers.

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

1. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek?

2. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts?

This story is a New Testament story. It takes place about 20 years after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead.

What a place ancient Athens was to visit! Its white, stone temples and buildings were beautiful to look at. Its people were smart and loved to talk about interesting things... for hours! No wonder so many people travelled great distances to visit Athens!

The people of Athens loved to build beautiful buildings and talk about important things, but also they loved to worship, too. Did you know the people of Athens worshipped HUNDREDS of gods and goddesses?! They would carve beautiful, stone statues of them. Some statues were put in the big temple buildings. Other statues were put in little shrine buildings. And many more statues were put along the streets and in gardens. Everywhere you looked in Athens, there seemed to be a statue to another god!

When Paul went to Athens, he was shocked by these hundreds of gods. And, he wasn't just shocked. He was so, so sad! So many gods, yet none of them was the LORD, the one, true God. The LORD was the one who had made these people with a heart to know and love Him; yet, He was completely unknown to them. So many gods, but none could save! How the people of Athens needed to hear the good news of His Son, Jesus! But how?

The answer came to Paul as he looked down among all those statues and saw a very old, very simple stone. On it, someone had carved the words, "To an Unknown God."

There was an amazing, old story behind that simple, little stone. A man named Laertius wrote it down. Many years earlier, a terrible sickness had spread through Athens. Many people were dying. The leaders tried everything they could think of. The people brought worship gifts and prayed to every god. But still the sickness continued. Things seemed hopeless.

They called for a wise man named Epimenides to come help them. Epimenides listened to their problem and came up with a very surprising idea. "You worship many gods...hundreds of gods...but there must be another. An Unknown God who has power to heal this illness. We must seek Him and ask Him to help you," he told them.

"Meet me tomorrow morning at Mars Hill-- that grassy hill where you have put the statues of your many gods," Epimenides said. "Bring a flock of sheep of all different colors. Make sure they are healthy and very hungry. Bring stonemasons with their carving tools. Bring lots of stones and mortar (like cement), too," Epimenides ordered. "We will cry out to this Unknown God and offer Him worship gifts. Perhaps He will hear us and help us, even though we do not know His name," he told them.

"We will do what you ask," the leaders agreed, then sent off servants to make the necessary preparations.

The next morning, the leaders of Athens met Epimenides on Mars Hill with everything he had asked for. Many of the people of Athens came, too. Everyone watched and hoped.

"Very good," Epimenides said, as he looked at the hungry sheep. "Don't let them eat until I say so," he told the shepherds. "They must stay hungry!" This was not an easy job! The sheep kept trying to nibble the juicy grass of Mars Hill.

"Quiet!" Epimenides said, "I'm going to pray to the Unknown God and ask for His help." Everyone listened as Epimenides prayed: "Great Unknown God! Please hear our prayers and help us! These sheep are our offering to You. Show us that You hear us and accept our worship gifts by causing these hungry sheep to lie offering to You. Show us that You hear us and accept our worship gifts by causing these hungry sheep to lie down on the grass instead of eating it. Please help us, though we do not know Your name. Please stop the plague," Epimenides begged.

When Epimenides finished praying, he turned to the shepherds and said, "Release the sheep! Watch them carefully! Notice which ones eat and which ones lie down. We will offer the ones who lie down as worship gifts to the Unknown God," he told them.

"This is crazy!" many thought. "These sheep are straining to eat the grass! It would truly be an act of God for sheep as hungry as these to not eat!"

But sure enough, sheep all over the hillside lay down

instead of eating! "It's a sign from the Unknown God! These are the sheep to offer to Him as worship gifts!" everyone shouted in excitement.

"Come, stonemasons!" Epimenides ordered. "Bring your stones and tools. Make an altar where each sheep is lying down. On the side of each altar, carve these words: 'To an Unknown God,'" Epimenides told them.

Soon the air was filled with the loud banging of chisels and hammers of the stonemasons. When they finished, the sheep were placed on the altars as worship gifts. Then everyone prayed and waited.

Within a week, the plague had stopped completely! The people of Athens were overjoyed! The Unknown God had heard their prayers and helped them. They offered Him more worship gifts on the stone altars. They prayed to Him, saying, "Thank You for stopping the plague."

This was the story of the great sickness that was stopped and the great, mysterious One who rescued the people of Athens, as Laertius wrote it down. And now, six hundred years later, Paul would use that old story and one of the simple, little stone altars left on that hill to tell the people of Athens the good news of Jesus.

Paul stood up and said, "I can tell by your hundreds of gods that you are seeking to find God. But the true God you are looking for is the one you call 'The Unknown God.' I want to tell you about Him," he told them. The people listened eagerly. Could it be, after all these years, would they finally hear more about the Unknown God?

"The God you worship as the Unknown God is the Creator of heaven and earth," Paul told them. He made everything that you see and enjoy. He is why we live. He created people to know Him, that they would seek him and find Him," Paul told them. "He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of all who put their trust in Him as their Savior. He rose from the dead in victory over sin and death. Turn away from your sin and seek after this true God! Be saved from your sins!" he urged. "Be ready, for one day He will come back on the clouds of heaven. Yes, the Lord Jesus, Himself, who rose from the dead, shall come to judge all the world," he said.

"Ha!" laughed many. "A god who died on a cross and rose from the dead! How silly!" they said and left. They wanted to worship gods, but not one like this! They liked their fake gods who let them do what they wanted to do—like have wild parties to honor them. They wanted nothing to do

with this Unknown God, even if He was the one, true God, as Paul claimed.

But others, like Damaris and Dionysius, listened to Paul and stayed. As Paul told them more about Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, helping them believe. They turned from their fake gods and began to follow the Lord Jesus. At last these thirsty hearts were fully satisfied with knowing the one, true God!

Our Bible Truth is:**God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV**

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Our Bible Truth tells us that God gave us a heart to know and love Him. That include you and me! Who will we be like today? Will we be like the people of Athens who laughed when they heard the good news of Jesus? Or will we be like Damaris and Dionysius, with hearts thirsty for God? They wanted to know more about Jesus. They turned from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior and were saved!

A Note on the Source of This Story:

Don Richardson, author of Eternity in Their Hearts, cites this incident in Greek ancient history. Diogenes Laertes is the Greek historian who records the plague and Epimenides' solution in his book, Lives of the Philosophers 1.110. Paul's quote in Titus 1:13, "All Cretans are liars..." is actually a quote from Epimenides, himself. Even though this story may be new to us, the Greeks would have been familiar with Epimenides as a philosopher, and the incident with him and the altar to the Unknown God.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**

We know God through the heart that pumps blood through our body.

Answer: False. We know God through a special, invisible heart that is different from the heart that pumps blood. It's also called a spirit and it never dies!

2. Crack the Case Questions:**a. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek?**

Answer: The people of Athens sought an Unknown God. They wanted Him to stop the plague. They laid down this stone (and many others) as altars on which to sacrifice sheep as worship offerings to this Unknown God.

b. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts?

Answer: Paul used the stone many years later to tell the people of Athens about the Lord, the one, true God, they had long ago worshiped as the Unknown God. He told them that the Lord made their hearts to worship and know Him.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:**Psalm 63:1,5**

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul ___ for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My ___ will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will ___ you with joyful lips."

Answers: thirsts; soul; praise.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like the Athenians were. And, even though we know that You are the One, True God, too many times we still do not seek You as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for showing us who you are, especially in Jesus. Thank You for showing Yourself to us so we can know You.

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 know You and love You more and more.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**Be Thou My Vision**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

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.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom,
And Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one.

Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley

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.

BIBLE VERSE SONG**Oh, God You Are My God**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Refrain:

O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You,
O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You
My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.
My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.

My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you.

Words: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God made our bodies (or flesh) to need water to live. When we go too long without water, such as on a hot summer's day, we get so thirsty that nothing else will do. It's the same with our heart (our soul). God made our heart to need Him. Our hearts long to be satisfied by knowing and loving God. God's people especially know this because His Holy Spirit lives in their heart. They praise God because He satisfies them like nothing else can. God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.



**Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 Prontos:
Lesson 2--Story of the Saints
(Church History/Missions)**

PFI PRONTO

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 1 Big Question and Answer:

How Can I Know What God Is Like?

He Shows Me What He's Like!

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, ESV

"For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 1:
God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die—it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Unit 1, Bible Truth 1, Lesson 2: Story of the Saints

CASE STORY

Adapted from Religious Stories for Young and Old, vol. IV,
compiled by Joel Beeke

Our story is called:

The Case of the Prayerless Man.

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

1. Who was the man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray?
2. How did he change and why?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's in London, England.

What a busy, crowded city was London! People rushed to and fro on foot and by horse-drawn carriages along the cobblestone streets. Clackety-clack! Clackety-clack! You could hear the carriage wheels over the streets day and night.

Our story is about two men: a pastor named Charles Spurgeon and a Streetlayer. What is a pastor? He's a man who preaches God's Word and cares for the people in his local church. But Mr. Spurgeon wasn't just any pastor. He was one of the greatest, most famous preachers of God's Word, not only in London, but all over the world! Did you know that even today, people still love to read and learn from his sermons!

But in Spurgeon's time, people didn't just read his sermons. They went to hear him preach in person. And that's what thousands of people would do every Sunday. They would jam into the Metropolitan Tabernacle—Spurgeon's church—and listen to him tell about Jesus from the Bible. Everyone wanted to hear him preach—even the Prince of England himself! Wow!

Well, ALMOST everyone wanted to hear Spurgeon preach. The other man in our story—the Streetlayer—certainly did not. Let me tell you about him. A streetlayer is someone who lays down the big, heavy cobblestones that made up the roads of London. Streetlaying was a hard, tiring job, but this Streetlayer was pretty cheerful about it. As he pulled up damaged stones and laid down the new ones on the streets of London, he would sing in a loud, happy voice. But this Streetlayer didn't always sing as he worked. If he smashed his hand between stones, his happy singing changed to a bad temper and bad words! People covered their ears as they listened to the awful words that came out of his mouth!

But far worse than the Streetlayer's bad words, was

what was going on in his heart! This Streetlayer may have been made to know and love God, but he did not want to know Him...at all! Yet God, in His kindness, had even given this man a wife and three children who loved God. Each day, he could watch them and see how good it was to know and love God, but still he wanted nothing to do with God! What a very hard heart this Streetlayer had!

No, the Streetlayer didn't want to know or love God, but his family did! They prayed for him and urged him to join them in praying and worshiping God, too. But no matter what they did or said, the Streetlayer's answer was always the same: "No! I will not pray!"

And no, the Streetlayer did not care about God, but God cared about him. God wanted him to know and love Him and He planned to change this stubborn man's heart. And so He did, using a sickness, three pounds (a pound is the name of English money, like American dollars), and Mr. Spurgeon.

It all started when the Streetlayer sat down to eat lunch with his family one day. His wife and children gave thanks before eating, as usual. And also as usual, the Streetlayer refused to pray with them. His little girl did not like this and said, "Mommy, Daddy never prays with us; you must also teach Daddy a little prayer."

This made that Streetlayer very mad! He lost his temper and yelled at his sweet little daughter, "Say, you little rascal, don't worry about me and my prayers! I will not pray!" That silenced them all, but how sad he made his little girl by his harsh words!

The next day the Streetlayer went to work laying cobblestones. As usual, he sang cheerfully, until something bad happened, then, as usual, out came all those bad words again! But then something happened that was not usual at all. For in God's great plan, the Streetlayer was working on Mr. Spurgeon's street that day!

Mr. Spurgeon was working in his study when first he heard the Streetlayer's loud singing, and then all those bad words. "This is terrible! I can't work with that man yelling those bad words outside my house!" Spurgeon said to himself. "I must do something about this man, but what? If I tell him to stop saying bad words, he probably won't listen. Besides, what he really needs is to know the God who made him. What shall I do?"

Then an idea came to him. He got up from his desk and

went out to the Streetlayer. "Good morning, sir. I am Mr. Spurgeon," he greeted the man cheerfully. "What wonderful work you are doing on my street! It will be so much easier to travel on now," he told the Streetlayer. "Everyone enjoys your cheerful singing as you work, but sir, when you get angry, your bad words are terrible to listen to! I suppose it shall be of no use to ask you to stop talking like this because you would not be willing or able to stop it. But, may I ask you something: Do you ever pray?"

"*Oh, no, here come more questions about prayer!*" thought the Streetlayer. "Pray? No, I will not pray!" the man replied to Spurgeon. "That would never work for me, because you cannot pray and say bad words at the same time," he said.

"Listen here," answered Mr. Spurgeon. "I shall give you three pounds in English money, if you will promise to NEVER pray in your whole life. I would offer you two pounds more if you will promise not to say bad words anymore, but I don't think you will do that. So, let's just leave it at this: these three pounds are yours to keep, if you promise to never pray! But, as soon as you pray, you must promise me that you will give me back the three pounds," Spurgeon said, as he held out three pounds to the man.

"*What a strange request! Who would expect a pastor to ask someone to promise to never pray?!*" the Streetlayer thought, but that didn't stop him from wanting all that money. "Yes, I give you my word. I will not pray!" he told Mr. Spurgeon. He put the money in his pocket and went back to work. Mr. Spurgeon went home, too, and waited for what would happen next.

The rest of the morning, Mr. Spurgeon already noticed the Streetlayer's bad words had stopped. How nice! At last he could get good work done! But what had Mr. Spurgeon really done? Had he really wanted this man to never pray? Didn't he remember that the Streetlayer had a heart made to know and love God? If he wouldn't pray, how could he ever seek after God and know Him? But let's see what happens. Perhaps there was more to this promise than first it appears.

The Streetlayer went home to join his family for lunch, but this time he didn't sing as usual. He was worrying about his promise to never pray. In his heart the Streetlayer knew there was a God and he should seek Him. Yet he had promised to never speak to this God for just three pounds and this bothered him!

As the Streetlayer joined his family at the table for lunch,

he noticed that the chair of his little girl was empty. "Where is Mary?" he asked.

"She's in bed," his wife replied. "She had such a bad headache this morning that I had the doctor come. She's to rest with a wet cloth on her head," she replied.

The Streetlayer worried about his little girl. He thought about how he had treated her the day before and wished he hadn't lost his temper with her just because she wanted him to pray. He worried about her sickness. Would the doctor heal her? Would she die? Could God help her if they prayed? But then the Streetlayer's promise to Mr. Spurgeon came to mind: "I will never pray," he had promised.. So the Streetlayer did not pray.

The Streetlayer didn't tell his wife about his promise to Mr. Spurgeon or the money, but it bothered him. Would he really not ask God to help his sick, little girl...all for three pounds and a promise? Soon he was so upset he couldn't even eat. He went upstairs to see his little girl instead.

"How are you? Do you have a headache?" he asked. "I hope you get better quickly," he told her.

Hello, Daddy," she sweetly replied. How sick she looked! The Streetlayer worried even more for her.

That afternoon the Streetlayer went back to work, but he did little work. He thought of his sick, little daughter. But would he pray for her? No, he would not...He COULD not! "I will not pray!" he had promised, but it was getting hard to keep it now.

At the end of the day, the Streetlayer hurried home to check on his daughter again. She was sicker! Now she thrashed about from side to side in her little bed with a terribly high fever. The doctor feared she had meningitis and might die!

At dinner, the youngest boy prayed. "Lord, bless this food, and please make Mary better."

The Streetlayer wanted to pray with them, but he remembered his promise and forced himself to stop.

He went to see his daughter. "Oh, Lord," he began to pray; but, quickly he caught himself: "No! I must not pray!" He went to the barn, then to the house. He tried to read the newspaper. But all he could think about was not praying about Mary. "Ah ha! I've got it! I cannot pray," thought the Streetlayer, "but others can! I will get my wife to pray again for her. Perhaps this will help me feel better," he decided.

He went straight to his wife and said: "Wife, how is Mary now? You've been praying for her, haven't you?"

The Streetlayer's wife could not believe her ears. "When did you begin to care that I pray?" she asked him. Then the Streetlayer told her the whole story and together they decided what to do.

The next morning, the Streetlayer went to Mr. Spurgeon's house. "Mr. Spurgeon, here are your three pounds back," the Streetlayer said. "I cannot keep my promise," he confessed. "I must pray!" He told Mr. Spurgeon about his daughter and what the Lord had done in his own heart. Mr. Spurgeon went to see little Mary and pray for her, too.

What a lot Mr. Spurgeon, the Streetlayer and his family had to praise God for! Mary got well. And the Streetlayer turned away from his old life of wanting to disobey God and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. No longer was the Streetlayer a man who would not pray to God. Now he was a man who knew God and loved Him in his heart...and he stayed that way the rest of his life!

Our Bible Truth is:**God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV**

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Like the Streetlayer, we are made to know and love God. And like him, we can know God. How? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. If we do, God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

"

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 man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray?**

Answer: The Streetlayer wouldn't pray to God. His family, Mr. Spurgeon (and God!) wanted him to pray.

b. How did he change and why?

Answer: The Streetlayer became a praying man. His family and Mr. Spurgeon prayed for him and encouraged him to pray. God worked in his heart, helping him to turn to Him and pray.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:**Psalm 63:1,5**

"O God, you are my God; ___ I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a ___ and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be ___ as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Answers: earnestly; dry; satisfied.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**Be Thou My Vision**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

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.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom,
And Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one.

Words: Samuel J. Stone Music: Samuel S. Wesley

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.

BIBLE VERSE SONG**Oh, God You Are My God**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Refrain:

O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You,
O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You
My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.
My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.

My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you.

Words: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God made our bodies (or flesh) to need water to live. When we go too long without water, such as on a hot summer's day, we get so thirsty that nothing else will do. It's the same with our heart (our soul). God made our heart to need Him. Our hearts long to be satisfied by knowing and loving God. God's people especially know this because His Holy Spirit lives in their heart. They praise God because He satisfies them like nothing else can. God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

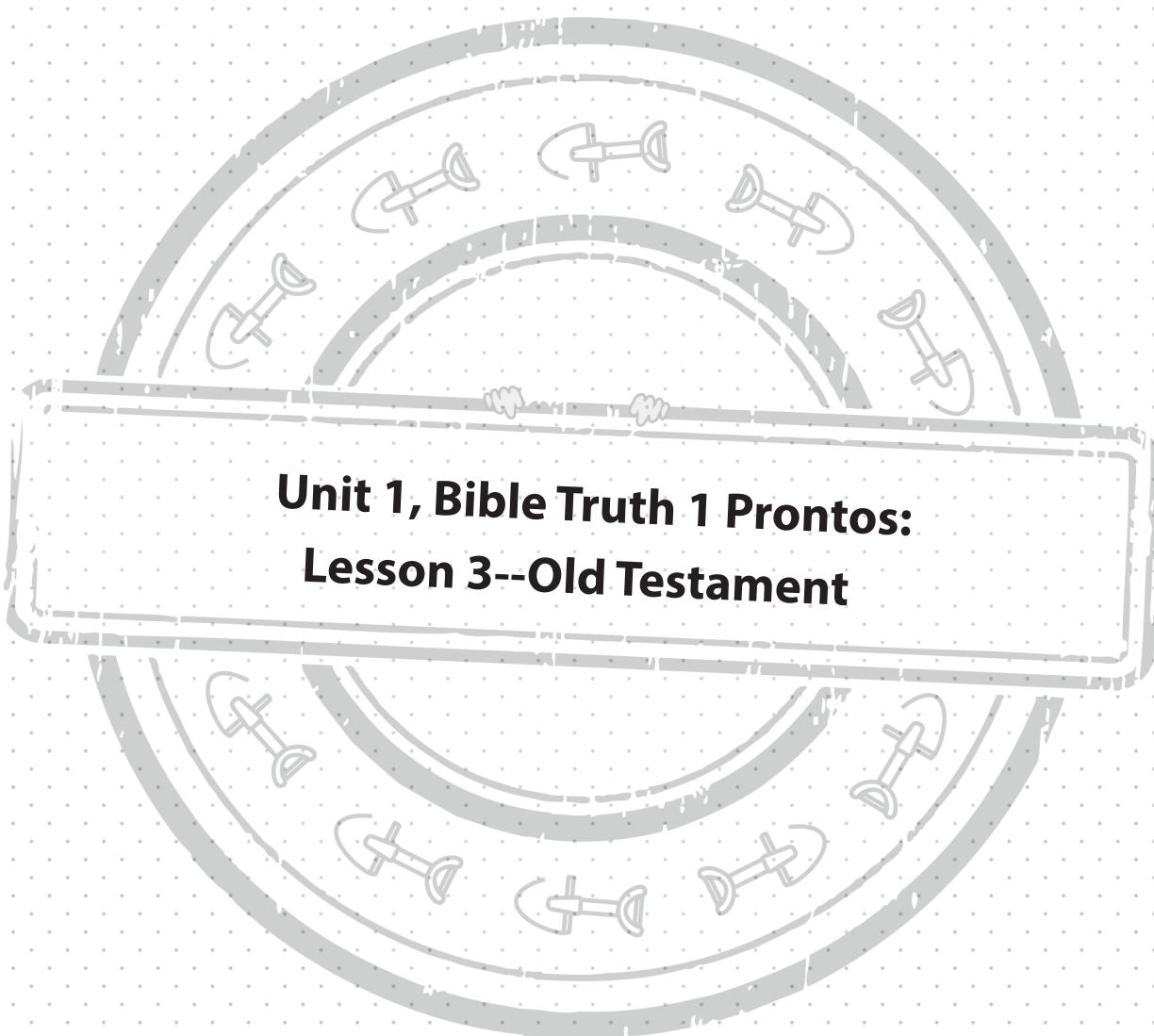
A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like the Streetlayer was. And, even though we know that You are the One, True God, too many times we still do not seek You as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for showing us who you are, especially in Jesus. Thank You for showing Yourself to us so we can know You.

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 know You and love You more and more.



**Unit 1, Bible Truth 1 Prontos:
Lesson 3--Old Testament**

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Unit 1 Big Question and Answer:

How Can I Know What God Is Like?

He Shows Me What He's Like!

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, ESV

"For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

**We're learning... Bible Truth 1:
God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die—it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

CASE STORY

Psalm 19, 23, 24, 62; 1 Chronicles 29; 2 Samuel 5-6,15

Our story is: The Case of the Man After God's Heart.

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

1. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean?
2. How did God reveal himself to this man and help him?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Out in the hills of Judah, not far from the village of Bethlehem, lived a man named Jesse and his family. Now Jesse's family might not have seemed special at first glance. They were farmers and shepherds, just like many others who lived in Bethlehem. But in God's eyes, there was something very special about this family—and particularly, the youngest son in this family.

It wasn't something on the outside that made this son special to God. It didn't have to do with how handsome or strong or smart he was. The "something special" had to do with something that was inside him. For there inside his heart was something that pleased God so much that God gave this son of Jesse the highest compliment of all: God called him "a man after His (God's) own heart."

What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart? It means to have a heart full of wanting to know, love and obey God. It's a heart that is thirsty for God, just like we are thirsty for water on a hot day. Nothing but God would satisfy the heart of young man!

What was the name of this son? Perhaps you can guess. It was David. He was the man after God's own heart! God had done a wonderful work in David's heart. He helped David know that He was the one, true God. He gave David faith in Him and love for Him. He helped David want to live for Him. So much so, that only knowing and loving God truly satisfied David. And so, everywhere he went, and everything he saw and did, David was reminded of his wonderful God.

Sometimes David would take out his harp and make up his own songs to sing to God. He sang: "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). At night when he was out with his father's flocks of sheep, David would look up at the skies and think: "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1). During the

day, David would look up at the blue sky and puffy, white clouds as they floated above the beautiful, grassy hills and he would exclaim: "Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love!" (Psalm. 36:5-6).

David thought about God as he took care of his father's sheep. He led them to grassy meadows to feed and rest. He rescued them out of holes with his shepherd's staff. He chased away hungry lions and bears with the sharp, spiky nails of his rod. As David took care of the sheep, he thought about how God cared for him: "The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters....His rod and his staff they comfort me," he sang. (Psalm 23:1-2, 4)

God blessed David in many ways. He chose David to be king over His people, Israel, and He helped him to lead them well. God gave David and his soldiers victory over all their enemies. He gave David the love of the people of Israel! He blessed David with a big family; a beautiful, cedar palace to live in; and lots and lots of money. Oh, how great were God's blessings to David!

But what would all these blessings do in David's heart? Would they make him proud? Would he stop seeking God and just be satisfied with all of God's blessings instead? No, he would not! Even when all these good things happened to David, David just praised God more. David made up new songs to praise God, the true King and the Giver of all the good things he enjoyed.

But David wasn't satisfied with just worshiping God himself. He wanted everyone to worship the LORD. So David made plans to build a big, beautiful Temple where all could come to worship God. David didn't even wait until the Temple was built to lead the people in praising the LORD. No! Long before even the first stone of the Temple would be put in place, David had 16,000 men come and serve before the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant.

Each day these men would lead the people in offering sacrifices and praising God. Did you know that David chose 4000 of these men just to be teachers, singers and musicians? Their job was to teach the people about God and to lead them in singing praises to Him. Lyres, harps, flutes, trumpets and cymbals would sound out as the great

choirs of these worship leaders led the people in praising the LORD. David would stand in front with them, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You: You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name" (1 Chronicles 29:10-13).

Yes, David was a man who wanted to know and love God with all his heart. But let's get one thing straight: that didn't mean David was a perfect man. David was a sinner, just like you and me. And don't think that just because he loved God that he lived a perfectly happy life. Sad things happened to David, just like they do to you and me, too.

One of the saddest things in David's life happened when he was an old man. His son Absalom came up with a plan to kill him and make himself king in his place. Absalom talked many people into rebelling against David, too--even some of David's closest friends! Can you imagine how sad David was? His own son getting some of his best friends to help kill him!

Absalom's plan worked, in part. He didn't kill David, but he made him leave his beautiful palace in Jerusalem and run away to the dry, lonely desert of Judah for safety. As David ran away, some people yelled mean things and threw rocks at him! He! Their king!

What was inside David's heart as all these sad things happened to him? Would he stop thinking about God? Would he stop wanting to know and love Him now?

No, David would not! David picked up his harp, even out there in the wilderness and sang this song, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water... 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." (Psalm 63:1,3-5)

Maybe he did not have a palace any more. Maybe his son didn't love him any more. Maybe people threw stones at him and called him bad names. But David still knew God in his heart. He knew God would always be with him and

He was all that David really needed.

David was right! God did sustain him through all those hard days. And after a while, Absalom and his helpers were defeated. David returned to Jerusalem and ruled as king until he was a very old man.

At last it came time for David to die. What was inside David's heart then? Did he worry what would happen to him when he died? Would God take care of him even in death? David didn't worry. He knew God would take care of him! Once he wrote a song about this. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever," he wrote (Psalm 23:6). How happy David knew he soon would be! Yes, he would have to die, but then he would get to be live face to face forever with the God he had loved and known in his heart for so many years! And that would be best of all!

**Our Bible Truth is:
God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5

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The words of this psalm were one of the songs written by David in some of his most difficult times. He knew only the LORD could help him through! How he loved the LORD!

What about you and me? What will we do with the special heart that God has put in us to know and love Him? Let's ask God to work in our heart today, helping us to know, love and obey God, like David did.

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Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**

God's Holy Spirit works in our hearts to help us know God and love Him more and more.

Answer: True!

2. Crack the Case Questions:**a. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean?**

Answer: David. It meant that David loved God and trusted Him to be who He was--the one, true God!

b. How did God reveal himself to this man in his heart and help him?

Answer: God's Holy Spirit whispered into David's heart the truths he had learned from the Bible. He reminded David that God could be trusted to be who He said He was. He would always take care of David. This helped David step out in faith and do courageous things to the glory of God.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my ___ thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no ___. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with ___ lips."

Answers: soul; water; joyful.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that many times when bad things happen to us, we are not like David. We get upset with You and do not trust You. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for inspiring David to write down his psalms so we can know them and sing them, too.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Work in our heart like you worked in David's, helping us to love and know You, more and more. Help us to trust You like David did, even when very hard things happened to him.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**Be Thou My Vision**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

Verse 1

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BIBLE VERSE SONG**Oh, God You Are My God**

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My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
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My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
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