

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 NIV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4

Unit 1 Bible Verse: Amos 4:13, NIV 1984

"The LORD reveals His thoughts to man."

PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 2:
God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Psalm 19:1-4

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

CASE STORY

Adapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old*, vol. IV,

compiled by Joel Beeke

Our story is called:

The Case of the Chilly Camouflage.

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

1. What was chilly? What was camouflaged?
2. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1890's, just outside of Stralsund, a great city on the cold, northern coast of Germany. Stralsund was called the jewel of the Baltic Sea in those days. It was an important center for ship-building and trading. From Stralsund, it was easy to sail up to Russia for buy animal furs for coat-making; or, to other parts of Europe to sell fish and salt. The Kings of Sweden, Prussia and Pomerania fought each other for the great city. In battle after battle, they would send in their troops into Stralsund. Each time, many people would be hurt and everything they owned destroyed. Everyone dreaded these wars.

In a little cottage on the edge of Stralsund lived an old woman named Bertha Schmidt. Some would say Bertha had a hard life. Her husband had died. She was old and was often sick or in pain. She would be all alone in the world, if it were not for her son, Karl who lived with her and cared for her.

Bertha was grateful for Karl, but she was even more grateful for someone else--the Lord! Bertha knew and loved Him. She trusted Him to care for her every day of her life, and so, her heart was filled with joy.

One summer, Karl met and fell in love with a wonderful girl. A few months later, on a chilly winter's day, Karl married her. After the ceremony, Bertha, Karl and his bride returned to Bertha's cottage to celebrate.

The next morning should have been the bright beginning of their lives together, but it was not.

"Enemy soldiers are on the move!" spread the terrible news. "They're headed for Stralsund! They'll be here anytime! Prepare your homes and families!"

The day passed in watchful fear as everyone waited for the soldiers. As the sun went down, the people were still waiting and watching. As the night dragged on, a new problem arose. A terrible snowstorm struck the city. How cold it would be for those who lost their homes when the

soldiers came and attacked. Who could possibly survive all of this?

But how was it within the widow's cottage? Karl barricaded the doors and windows to try to keep the soldiers out. But they knew it was really hopeless. A few boards with nails in them were no match for the soldiers coming through. They would have no problem busting in or setting the whole cottage on fire. So at last, Karl sat down next to his frightened wife and waited. There was nothing else he could do. He felt so helpless.

But Bertha Schmidt disagreed. She knew where hope and help was to be found--with the Lord! He could take care of them, even when everything looked hopeless! She sat in her chair, looking down at the words in her little hymnal and soaking in the truths she read. After a while she looked up with a big smile on her face, as she repeated aloud what she had read: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear."

"What do you say, mother?" replied Karl, "Is your faith as strong as that? Do you really expect God will build a wall round our poor hut, strong and high enough to keep out an army? I wish I could believe it right now. It is terrible to wait for the soldiers as worried and fearful as I am," he confessed.

"Hasn't my son read that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the will of our Father; that faith has stopped the mouths of lions, and turned aside the edge of the sword?" Bertha replied.

Karl knew those truths, but his heart had a hard time finding comfort in them now that soldiers were coming. Would the Lord really rescue them like He did in those Bible stories from long ago?

Just before midnight, there was a lull in the storm. "Dong, dong," the town clock struck midnight. At the same moment, from the opposite direction, the faint sound of the drums and pipes of the enemy soldiers could be heard. The terrible hour had come at last!

The little family drew closer together, holding hands. Karl and his wife became even more fearful, but not Bertha Schmidt. She squeezed her son's hand and again repeated: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear." Bertha kept trusting in the Lord, even then.

The music drew nearer, and now they could hear the sound of marching feet and the fire of guns. There was the

sound of people crying and the crackling of flames and the crash of falling houses. It was so sad! All around them the soldiers were destroying Stralsund! Karl and the two women waited for the soldiers to start in on their little cottage; but no one ever came, as if angels were encamping around it.

At long last, the music grew faint, the shooting stopped, and the sound of marching feet could be heard no more. Everything became completely silent. Bertha, Karl and his wife sat there and kept listening. Finally after a few hours, Karl dared to open one of the boarded up window shutters and look outside. As he opened the shutter, to his amazement all he could see was snow! The storm in the night had dropped so much snow that it had heaped up to the very top of the window!

Cautiously Karl next opened the door, but here again a wall of snow met his view, and he had to dig his way through it to get to open air. Pulling himself through his tunnel of snow and up onto the ground he stood in astonishment at what he saw. Huge drifts of snow had completely surrounded the cottage, and made it in appearance a mere mound of snow. There was no sign of the cottage. Not even the steep roof or the chimney stuck out the top to give a clue of the little house that lay beneath the snow, like hidden treasure. It was exactly as his mother had believed: they had, indeed, been hidden by a "wall," kept safe from all their enemies.

Karl led Bertha out to see her "wall of faith." The widow looked out upon the mounds of snow and rejoiced in her heart.

Bertha Schmidt was a woman who knew and loved God. Each day of her life she had seen God's goodness and care for her. She had trusted Him, even with these enemies all around. But never had Bertha seen anything like this! God had even created a snowstorm and used His complete control over it to save her little family and to reveal to them His mighty power and faithfulness to them. Bertha praised God and wept for joy. "Faithful is He who has promised. He also has done it," she exclaimed. Karl and his wife completely agreed!

Our Bible Truth is: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 19:1-4

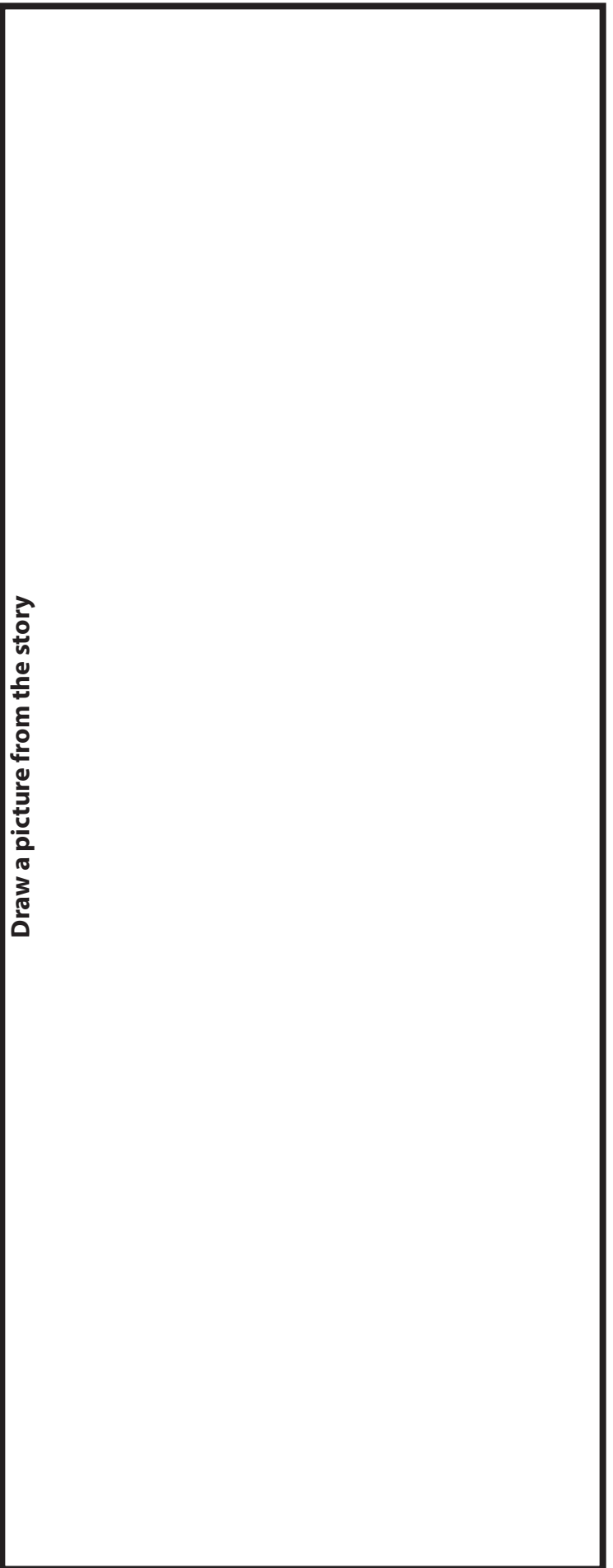
"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

Bertha Schmidt and her little family got to see the heavens declare God's glory and the skies proclaim the work of His hands in a most amazing way! But did Bertha's faith in God begin with that snowstorm? No, it didn't. It began much earlier when Bertha heard the wonderful good news of salvation through Jesus, turned from her sins and trusted in Him as her Savior. And since that day, God's Holy Spirit had been at work in her heart, helping her to know and trust Him more and more. So when the day of trouble came, Bertha didn't fear. She trusted and rejoiced in God.

Each day you and I have the same choice as Bertha. We can choose to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to forgive our sins and send His Holy Spirit to work in our heart—just like He did in Bertha.

Let's praise our wonderful God who is Creator over all things and uses even things like snowstorms to take care of them! Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might trust Jesus as our Savior, just like Bertha Schmidt did!

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

God’s creations tell us about Him, but He didn’t make many things for us to see and learn about Him from.
 Answer: False. God created everything in heaven and earth. Everywhere we look we see things that God made and that tell us what He’s like.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. What was chilly? What was camouflaged?

Answer: The snow was chilly. The widow’s house was camouflaged.

b. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage?

Answer: That He is in control of all things, including all creation. He is always able to rescue His people and can even use His creation to do it in remarkable ways.

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

Psalm 19:1-4

“The heavens declare the ___ of God; the skies proclaim the ___ of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not ___. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

Answers: glory; works; heard.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

O, Worship the King

PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 9

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air,
 it shines in the light,
 It streams from the hill,
 It descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Words: Robert Grant Music: Attr. Johan Michael Haydn

All of God’s creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being so faithful to take care of Your people. We praise You for being the Powerful Creator who controls all of nature and uses it to do all of His good will.

C God, we confess that many times we don’t have faith like Bertha. We worry and are afraid. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank you for always being faithful to take care of Your people. We thank You that there is never anything that we need to be afraid of when we are trusting in 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 trust in you, like Bertha did.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

The Heavens Declare

PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 10

The heavens declare the glory of God,
 The sky proclaims the works of His hands
 Day after day, they pour out speech,
 Night after night, they display knowledge,
 There is no language, where their voice is not heard.
 Their voice goes out into all the earth.
 The heavens declare the glory of God,
 The sky proclaims the works of His hands
 Psalm Nineteen: one through four.

Words: Psalm 19:1-4, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God loved His people long before they loved Him. He loved them and chose to adopt them as His people, even before He created (founded) the world. Why did He do this? Because it pleased Him to do it! It would show how wonderful He is and how great the good gifts He gives His people because of Jesus. We think of what He’s done and we praise Him for being so good to people like us. People who are sinners, but through Jesus, are made to be holy--without sin and without blame in His sight.