

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 4:
God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly.

When we read the Bible, God tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible. But in it, He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever. And by His Holy Spirit working in our hearts, He can use His Word, not to just know these things, but to do them in us.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

"Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."

CASE STORY

Luke 24:13-35

Our story is called:

The Case of the Burning Hearts

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

1. Who had burning hearts? What does that mean?
2. What made their hearts burn?

This story is a New Testament story. It took place right around the time Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"What a Passover week this has been!" exclaimed Cleopas and his companion as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. It had begun with great hope, but ended with hopelessness!

Now, as Cleopas and his friend walked home this Sunday afternoon, they tried to make sense of it all. Like thousands of other Jews, they had gone to Jerusalem for the yearly Passover celebration. While they were there, they had been with Jesus. What wonderful things He had taught about God and His kingdom! What astonishing things He had said about Himself! What miracles He had done!

The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened to Jesus and watched what He did. "Jesus is more than a prophet," they had decided. "He must be the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible! How exciting to see God's promises to save His people being fulfilled right before their eyes!

But by the end of the week, everything had changed. Thursday night, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested and brought Him to trial. "You deserve to die, Jesus! You say that you are the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible, but you aren't! You must die for saying such things and making others believe them," they said to Jesus. Then they handed Him over to the Romans to be crucified! Jesus, the Messiah was dead on Passover Friday. They could hardly believe it! From Messiah to dead man in one week!

But then, today, this very Sunday morning, they had heard something even more confusing...or was it amazing? Some women had gone to Jesus' tomb and it was empty. Jesus' body was gone! Two angels in dazzling robes appeared to them and said: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be

delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified on the third day rise?" they told the women.

The women ran to tell Jesus' disciples what they had seen and heard. Peter and John hurried to see for themselves, but they found nothing but an empty tomb. Were these just the tales of silly women? It seemed so. They all lost hope.

"This is all so confusing! What does it mean?" Cleopas and his friend thought. They tried to make sense of it as they slowly walked home.

As they were discussing it all, a man came up and began walking with them. Cleopas and his friend didn't know it yet, but it was Jesus, Himself! (Perhaps He wore a hood over His head, or simply kept them from understanding who He was in a way that only God can do, we don't know.) Jesus knew what Cleopas and the other disciple were talking about. He knew they were confused. He had come to reveal Himself to them and explain what had happened. He WAS the Messiah. He was the one who God spoke about in His Word, the Bible. Jesus would remove their confusion by first showing them what had been written about Him there, in the Bible. So by God's power, Jesus kept them from recognizing Him as He came up to them and started talking.

"What are you talking about?" Jesus asked the two.

"Haven't you heard what happened in Jerusalem lately?" they replied in shock.

"Tell me what has happened," Jesus replied.

"Jesus of Nazareth was a powerful prophet, preaching God's Word and doing miracles in God's name," they told him. "But the chief priests and our rulers gave him over to the Romans to be crucified. We had thought he was the Messiah promised by God in His Word. We thought He had come to save God's people."

"This is the third day since He was crucified and buried, yet some of the women came with an amazing story. Early this morning, when they went to His tomb to put fresh spices on His body, His body was gone! They said angels spoke to them, saying that Jesus was alive. Some of the men went to the tomb and found the body missing, just as the women had said, but they didn't see Jesus," they told Him.

"How slow you are to believe what the prophets' wrote in God's Word!" Jesus replied to them. "Didn't they say that the Messiah would have to suffer like this then be

glorified?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus went through the Old Testament showing how His life fulfilled all God's promises about the Messiah.

God gave Moses these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

Deuteronomy 18:15: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like you...I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command."

The Messiah was to be the greatest of prophet who spoke God's words!

God gave David these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me...All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him...They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.'" (Psalm 22)

"Did you hear that?" the disciples thought with amazement, ***"That prophecy about the Messiah is exactly what happened to Jesus before He died!"***

God gave the prophet Isaiah these words to write down about the Messiah in the Bible: "He was pierced for our transgressions...the LORD has laid on him the sins of us all." "Did you hear that?" the disciples couldn't believe their ears. ***"Jesus fulfilled that prophecy, too, when He died on the cross!"***

On and on through the Bible Jesus took them, to verse after verse that God had spoken about the Messiah.

As Cleopas and his companion listened to Jesus, their hearts felt like they were burning, they were filled with such faith and with joy. "This man is right! We have been foolish and slow to believe," they exclaimed. "We knew these things which God had spoken in His Word, the Bible, about the Messiah, yet we did not remember them or believe them. But now we do! The Messiah really was supposed to suffer first! Perhaps Jesus really was the Messiah after all!" they hoped.

The sun was beginning to set as the three of them reached Emmaus. It was time for travelers to seek the hospitality of a host for the night. Soon darkness would set in and the road would be pitch black. Anyone left out on the road was in danger of harm from wild animals or robbers. Cleopas and the other disciple headed to their home, while Jesus acted as if he were going farther. It

would be rude for Jesus to invite Himself to their home. He waited for their invitation.

“Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over,” Cleopas and his friend urged. Jesus accepted their invitation and headed to the house with them.

As good hosts, Cleopas and the other disciple immediately set about preparing food for their guest. When everything was ready, they sat down at the table. Usually Cleopas would host the meal, but shockingly, their guest picked up the bread and served the others as if HE was the host!

“How strange!” Cleopas and his companion must have thought, but they allowed their honored guest to continue.

What happened next was even stranger! When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them, something happened. Maybe they saw the nail prints in his hands, maybe it was the way He broke the bread and prayed, or maybe it was the Holy Spirit at work inside of them, but the Bible tells us that they recognized Jesus, then He vanished—He completely disappeared from their sight.”

“It’s Jesus! It’s Jesus! He is alive! Of course! Who else would be show us God’s plans for the Messiah through the Bible like that! No wonder our hearts felt like they were burning within us as He taught us! We must go and tell the others! Jesus is alive!”

So right then they got up and hurried the seven miles back to Jerusalem down that dark road. They didn’t care if there might be wild animals or robbers along the way. They would take their chances! This good news could not wait!

When at last they arrived in Jerusalem, they found the Eleven (Jesus’ closest disciples) and those with them, gathered together. These believers were bursting with excitement, too. “It’s true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon Peter,” they exclaimed.

Cleopas and his friend told what had happened to them. How Jesus had gone through the Bible and explained everything, then how they recognized Him when He broke the bread at dinner. Everyone was so excited! Jesus was alive and was appearing to His followers to prove it! Surely He was the Messiah!

Even as they were talking about all these things, Jesus Himself suddenly stood among them and said, “Peace be

with you.” Jesus was really alive! He had worked forgiveness of sins for God’s people, just as God had promised in His Word that He would!

Our Bible Truth is:

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:18,72-73 ESV

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

What about us? We have heard from God’s Word the wonderful promises God made about Jesus that Cleopas and the other disciple heard that Sunday, two thousand years ago. They are still just as true now as they were then. What will we do with them?

Let’s ask God to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to hear His Word, the Bible, and believe the good news of Jesus.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: People wrote down God’s words all on their own without any help. Answer: False. The Holy Spirit worked inside the people who wrote down the Bible so that everything they wrote down was exactly what God wanted written.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who had burning hearts? What did that mean? Answer: Cleopas and his friend as they listened to Jesus. It means that they were so full of faith and joy with the truths that Jesus was explaining to them. b. What made their hearts burn? Answer: The truths of the Bible that Jesus explained, showing that He really was the Messiah, come to save God’s people.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from Psalm 119:18,72-73, ESV “Open my eyes that I may behold ___ things out of your law...The law of your ___ is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your ___.” Answers: wondrous; mouth; commandments.</p>	<p>Amazing Grace <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20</i></p> <p>Verse 4 The Lord has promised good to me, His word, my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.</p> <p>Words: John Newton Music: Virginia Harmony: arr. Edwin OI Excell</p> <p>This hymn reminds us that God’s people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs. They know they can depend on Him for these things their whole live because God always does what He promises to do.</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 Giver of Your Word and the Savior who came to pay for the sins of Your people.</p> <p>C God, we confess that like Cleopas and his friend, many times we don’t remember or believe what You have promised in Your Word.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for helping us to understand the truths in Your Word.</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. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us understand and believe Your Word, the Bible.</p>	<p>Open My Eyes <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21</i></p> <p>Open my eyes that I may behold, Wondrous things out of your law. Open my eyes that I may behold, Wondrous things out of your law. The law of your mouth is better to me, Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands they made me and fashioned me. Give me understanding That I may learn your commandments. Open my eyes that I may behold, Wondrous things out of your law. Open my eyes that I may behold, Wondrous things out of your law. Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.</p> <p>Words: Psalm 119:18,72,73, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God’s Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God’s people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.</p>