

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 5:
God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

CASE STORY

John 10:22-42

Our story is called:

The Case of the Lips of Life or Death.

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

1. Who thought he had life or death on his lips?
2. Why was he wrong?

This story is a New Testament story. It takes place in Hierapolis, Turkey, about 70 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

In the middle of a magnificent room with towering arches and gleaming tile floors, stood an elderly, eighty-seven-year-old man. Soldiers had brought him to this great hall to appear before none other than the Roman proconsul of Turkey. Now the proconsul was an extremely powerful man. No one except Caesar, the Roman king, had more power than him. He could do whatever he wanted. He didn't even have to keep his own laws! You could say that he held the life or death of others on his lips, because if he said they were to live, they lived. But if he said they were to die, then they died. And today, it was the life or death of this old man that the proconsul held on his lips.

Who was the old man? It was Philip, one of Jesus' first, twelve disciples. And what had he done to deserve death? Philip, his sister Miriamme, and another Christian named Bartholomew had come to Hierapolis to tell the people there about Jesus. Few in the city knew the good news of Jesus and many were curious to hear. Among them was the proconsul's sick wife, Nicanora. Nicanora had suffered one illness after another. Too sick even to leave her bed, she invited the three Christians to come to her and tell her about Jesus. They did and not only did Nicanora become a Christian, but God healed her sickness as well!

You might think the proconsul would be grateful for his wife to be healed at last, but far from it! He was furious! And that's why he had ordered Philip be arrested and brought before him, on trial for his life!

"Look what you've done, old man!" the proconsul said to Philip. "By some magic you have healed my wife, Nicanora and put her under a spell that she would reject our great god Apollo for this dead man Jesus you worship as God. I command you to stop your lies about Jesus. Turn away from worshiping Him as God now, and you will go free and live. If you do not, you will die today!" the proconsul threatened.

Jesus. Turn away from worshiping Him as God now, and you will go free and live. If you do not, you will die today!" the proconsul threatened.

The words of life or death rang in Philip's ears. Which would he choose? Was he really so certain that Jesus was God? So certain that he even would die for Him?

Once, fifty years earlier, Philip had asked Jesus, "Show us the Father, that will be enough." Philip had been Jesus' disciple for three years, yet he still didn't completely understand that Jesus was God.

"Philip," Jesus had answered him, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. (John 14:9-11, NIV 1984)

Yes, of course, the miracles! He been with Jesus when the terrible storm came upon them all on the Sea of Galilee. He seen Jesus stand up and say, "Peace be still!" and the wind and the waves stopped immediately. "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over all of nature. Yes, Jesus was God!

He been with Jesus when four men lowered their paralyzed friend through a roof on a mat to be healed by Jesus? He seen watched Jesus as He turned to the man and said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven. Take up your mat and walk." And the man did.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over sin and sickness. Yes, Jesus was God!

He had been with Jesus as He stood outside of the tomb of a man dead three days and shouted, "Lazarus, come forth!" He had seen the dead man came out with his burial clothes still wrapped around his body?

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over death. Yes, Jesus was God!

He been there to watch Jesus die on that awful cross and buried in a cold, dark tomb to be the only perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's amazing love that would offer up His perfect holiness in payment for His people's sins. Yes, Jesus was God!

And most amazing of all, he had been there when on the third day Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to them the first time, then many more times in the next month. Then he had seen Jesus rise up into the sky to rule in heaven.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete victory over death and His splendid glory as ruler over all things. Yes, Jesus was God!

Whatever doubt or confusion Philip might have had fifty years early was certainly gone now! Jesus was truly God! And Philip would not deny Jesus, even if it meant he were to die!

"I see you are an old man. Perhaps you are slow of hearing, the proconsul jeered. "I'll say it again. You have a choice: give up Jesus as God and live! Or, keep confessing Him as God and die!"

The old man simply looked at the proconsul straight in the eyes and said, "You ask me to give up my God and live. I cannot. Jesus is God! And I say to you, proconsul, as I say to all: 'Accept Jesus and save your soul.'"

"Have this man beaten...and crucified like His "God"... only crucify him upside down!" ordered the proconsul in fury. And so it was done.

Philip endured terrible punishment that day and died. But Philip suffered with joy. He knew Jesus was God; his death that day was but a beginning. The proconsul had said, "Confess Jesus as your God and die!" but he was wrong. Philip confessed his God and lived! For that very day, Philip entered heaven, the land of eternal life. There, he would see His God, face to face, and worship Him and enjoy Him forever!

Our Bible Truth is:
God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Our Bible Verse is: Hebrews 1:1-3

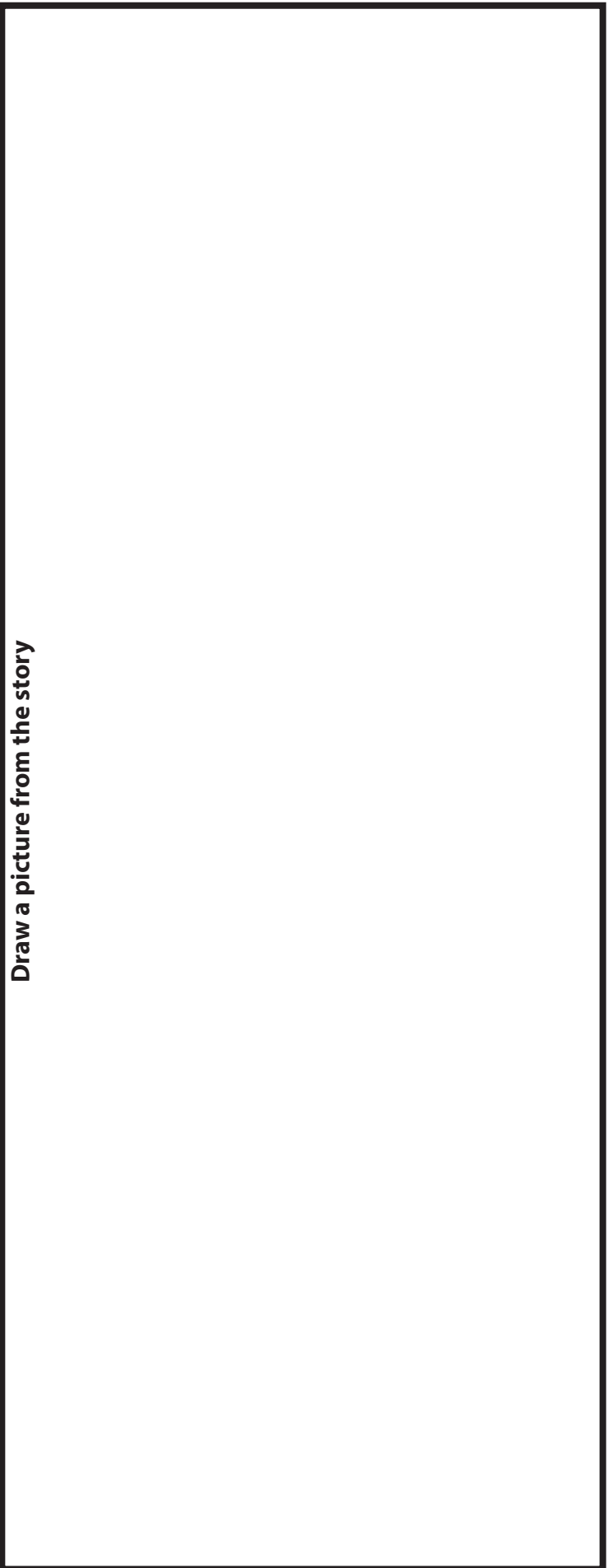
"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Jesus shows us what God is like more than anything or anyone else. Why? Because Jesus is God! Philip knew this better than most. In just three short years as Jesus' disciple, Philip had seen so much of God in Jesus! So much, that not even the threat of a terrible death could change his mind--Jesus is God! Philip was certain of that!

What about you and me? How will we respond to this great God who has revealed Himself so completely through Jesus? When we are sick, will we remember that He has power over sickness—to sustain us and, if it is His will, to heal us? As sinners who have rebelled against God and His good ways, will we remember that He will forgive those who humbly turn away from their sins and trust Him as their Savior? When we are faced with death, will we remember that He conquered death and reigns in heaven?

Let's praise God for revealing Himself in Jesus so that we might know Him. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to help us remember who He is and to trust Him with everything we are faced with-- in life, and in death.

Draw a picture from the story



<p align="center">SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE TRUTH HYMN</p>
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: When Jesus came to earth, he was born a baby, but wasn't God anymore. Answer: False. Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who thought they had life or death on his lips? Why was he wrong? Answer: The proconsul thought he had the power to preserve life or bring death to someone. He was wrong because God was more powerful than him. He could do whatever He wanted to do. Philip would not die that day unless it was within His good will. And, because the proconsul didn't understand that while Philip's body might die that day, Jesus had given Philip eternal life...and that is real life!</p> <p>b. Who really had life or death on his lips? Answer: Philip spoke the words of life to the proconsul, so he had the words of true life or death on his lips. But ultimately, Jesus was the one who had life or death on his lips. It is through Him only that we can be saved from the death we deserve and receive God's eternal life.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3 "In the ___ God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his ___....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the ___ representation of his being..." Answers: past; Son; exact.</p>	<p>O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing <i>PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 1 O, for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!</p> <p>Words: Charles Wesley Music: Carl G. Glaser</p> <p>"These verses remind us that Jesus is the great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners."</p>
<p align="center">AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY</p>	<p align="center">BIBLE VERSE SONG</p>
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for revealing Yourself so completely through Your Son, Jesus.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we forget what we don't live by what we know about You because we forget what You've taught us about Yourself through Jesus.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for wanting to show us what You are like! Thank You for all we can better understand about You because of Jesus. Thank You for helping Your people bravely endure suffering for the honor of Your name, like You helped Philip.</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, like Nicanora. God, make us brave and help us to keep on trusting in You, even when it is very hard, like Philip did.</p>	<p>The Son Is the Radiance <i>PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 17</i></p> <p>The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory, The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory, And the exact representation of His being, And the exact representation of His being. The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory, The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory, Hebrews Chapter One, verse three.</p> <p>Words: Hebrews 1:1-3, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!</p>