

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 3:

The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

There is only one God; yet, He is God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father reigns over everything according to His perfect wisdom and will. Jesus, God the Son, perfectly loves His Father and delights to obey Him. God, the Holy Spirit, does the will of the Father and the Son. He works in the hearts of God's people. They work together perfectly and they have always enjoyed perfect happiness and oneness in heaven.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are called the "Trinity" (Three as one) because they are three separate persons, but only one God. We cannot understand this easily because God is so different from anything else we know.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

CASE STORY

Genesis 1-3; John 1:1-3,14,17; Philippians 2:6-11;
Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1,12; Revelation 22

Our story is called:

The Case of the Perfect Wonderfulness.

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

1. What is Perfect Wonderfulness? Who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness?
2. Who else will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness? When?

This is a story that starts out before Old Testament times, goes through New Testament times...goes far into the future.

Really, I can't tell you when this story begins, for it begins long before there were days, months and years. I can't even tell you where it begins, for it began before there was earth with all its mountains and trees, birds and animals...or even heaven filled with angels. But even though I can't tell you when it was or where it was, I can tell you a little bit about what it was like: it was Perfect Wonderfulness!

What is Perfect Wonderfulness? It is perfect love, joy and peace. It is the indescribable happiness and fellowship of knowing and loving the greatest Someone there is to know—and to know Him completely and perfectly. It is living perfectly without sin, basking only in the brilliant, infinite glory of spotless holiness and goodness. It is the best anyone can ever know or be. It is better than anything that you or I can ever, ever, ever imagine.

This story is the most amazing love story about the One who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness. It is the story of the God's love for Himself: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who altogether we call "the Trinity:" the Three that are One God.

Before the world began, there was only God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That's all. No people, no angels, no heaven, no earth, no universe. No anything. But God was not lonely; He was completely happy, for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoyed Perfect Wonderfulness. There was nothing more God needed, for God is the most wonderful person anyone can ever know. They loved each other perfectly, they knew each other completely, they delighted in their perfect holiness and glory. God was happier, more satisfied, and more complete than anything you or I could ever imagine. It had always been

that way and it would always be that way.

God, in His Perfect Wonderfulness, decided, for His own pleasure, to create a universe of things that would display His glory: a heaven of millions of glorious angels, a universe of glittering stars, a beautiful, majestic earth of mountains, valleys and plants, overflowing with a countless number of creatures of every kind imaginable. Best of all, He would create for Himself a people who even though very, very different and small compared with His great, glorious, infinite Self; yet, who had a tiny spirit like His to be filled up with as much of His perfect closeness, love, happiness as they could hold. Then they could share a bit of the Perfect Wonderfulness that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit shared together.

God the Father knew His perfect plan for His creation from start to finish. God the Son and the Holy Spirit delighted to carry it out. God the Son was ready to create all things that the Father wanted. The Holy Spirit hovered over the formless, emptiness that was to be the world, waiting the Father's command: "Let there be light... let there be dry ground...let there be plants...let there be birds...let there be animals and fish..." Everything that God the Father desired to create in the heavens and the earth, God the Son delighted to be created through Himself in absolute perfection.

Everything was good that God the Father planned and was created through the Son, but the best was yet to come. Now He would make the people for whom He had planned to enjoy Him and His Perfect Wonderfulness in a way unlike all of His other creations.

"Let's make humans in our own image," God the Father said to the Son and the Holy Spirit, "with an invisible spirit inside their bodies so they can know Us and enjoy our Perfect Wonderfulness." So man was created through the Son of God from the soil of the ground; and then woman was made from the man's rib. God breathed life into them and they were alive.

How delightful it was to be alive! The man and woman—Adam and Eve—looked at all the beautiful things God had created and were amazed at His glory they displayed. They loved each other and enjoyed close fellowship. Best of all, they delighted in the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing God. Every day was filled with knowing more of Him by exploring all of the delightful creation He gave them; and most of all, by enjoying God's

close fellowship with them. Being with God was Perfect Wonderfulness!

But for humans, the Perfect Wonderfulness wouldn't last. In heaven a great angel called Satan led many angels to rebel against God. God cast them out of heaven, for nothing sinful may live in the presence of His Perfect Wonderfulness. In his fury, Satan worked to spoil the Perfect Wonderfulness that people knew with God. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating from the one tree from which they were commanded not to eat—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. "If you eat from this tree, then you will die," God had told them. Adam and Eve ate its fruit and terrible changes came. They tried to hide from God.

"Your sin has broken the wonderful fellowship you had with Me," God told them. Now all people deserve separation from Me and My Perfect Wonderfulness forever. But I will send a Savior to crush Satan and make the way for sinners to know Me and My Perfect Wonderfulness again," He promised.

Who was that Savior to be? God always knew who it would be: it would be Jesus, God the Son. Only He could pay for the sins of God's people and restore them to the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing God.

But what of the Perfect Wonderfulness God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit knew? Would the Father really send His Son away from that perfect fellowship? Would the Son really set aside the perfect happiness of their fellowship to save sinners? Yes, He would! God the Son delighted to do His Father's will, even this very, painful, hard thing. So He left the fullness of that fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit and took on the skin and bones of a human baby. He was named Jesus, "God saves." He was still completely God, but now He was completely man, too.

When Jesus grew up, He traveled all over Israel healing sick people and teaching about God. He told them He had come to be their Savior, so that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him would be saved. The Holy Spirit would come and live inside them. Through Him, they would know God and some of His Perfect Wonderfulness right here on earth. He promised He was going to heaven to make a place for them. When they died, they would go and live there forever and be completely filled up with God's Perfect Wonderfulness.

Every day, Jesus prayed to His Father; the Holy Spirit

comforted Him; and He delighted to carry out His Father's plan. Yet He longed to for His work on earth to be finished and He would go home to enjoy the fullness of God's Perfect Wonderfulness again. Would that would not come until after the day He paid for the sins of God's people on the cross.

What a terrible day of pain and suffering that was for Jesus! His body hurt terribly, but that wasn't the worst of what He suffered. For when Jesus offered His life up in the place of His people's, part of what He offered up was the Perfect Wonderfulness He knew with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me!" the Son of God cried out, as He was cut off from Them. How great was God's love that He would even do this in order that we might know Him and His Perfect Wonderfulness, though we have done nothing at all to deserve it!

But not even death could cut off the perfect Son of God forever! Jesus completely paid the punishment for God's people's sins when he suffered and died on the cross. On the third day after He died, Jesus rose up from the grave as the conqueror of sin and death forever. He rose to heaven to be restored fully again to the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.

What rejoicing there was then and will always be! Rejoicing over the Perfect Wonderfulness of God's fellowship enjoyed by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And, rejoicing over the restored fellowship that all God's people can now have with God, too. Here on earth, they will get glimmers of Perfect Wonderfulness through the Holy Spirit living in their heart. But later in heaven, it will full, bursting-at-the-seams enjoyment of God's Perfect Wonderfulness. And it will last forever and ever.

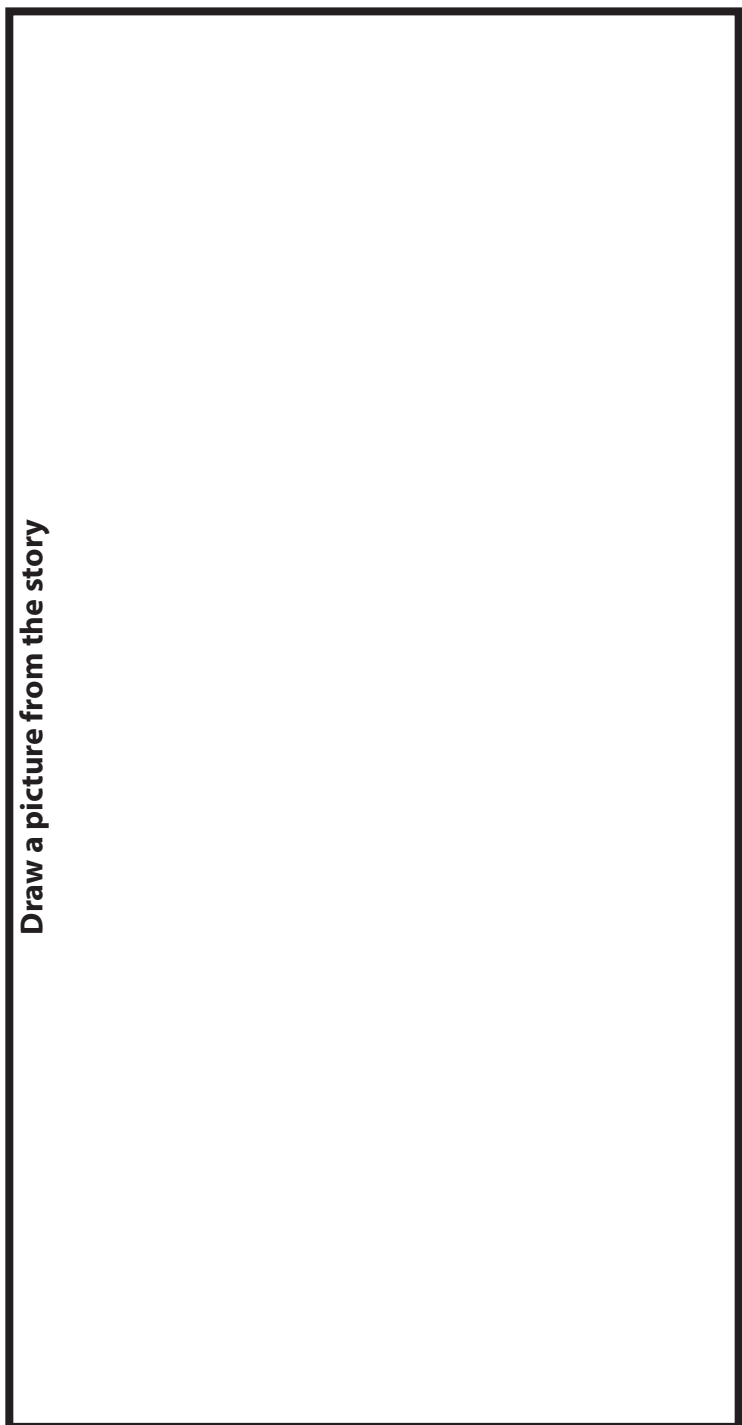
Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

What a difficult idea the Trinity is for us: The LORD who is One God, yet Three Persons! But is that so surprising that our great God who made everything and knows everything is greater than our little human minds can understand? How amazing that God would want to share

Perfect Wonderfulness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with sinful people! That will be the most indescribably awesome thing anyone has ever or could ever experience! Let's praise God for being Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let's praise Him for calling sinful people—even people like you and me—to share in His Perfect Wonderfulness, when we repent of our sins and turn and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would, by His Holy Spirit, know some of His Perfect Wonderfulness right here on earth...and one day, be among those in heaven who are filled up forever and ever, with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as they can hold.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: The LORD is three gods, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Answer: False. The LORD is one God, but three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is very hard for us to understand, but it is true.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What is Perfect Wonderfulness? Who lives in Perfect Wonderfulness? Answer: It is the indescribably wonderful fellowship of love, joy and peace that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have with each other.</p> <p>b. Who else will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness? When? Answer: All of God's people will get to enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness when they go to live with God.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:18 "May the grace of the Lord ____, and the love of God and the ____ of the Holy Spirit be with you ____" Answers: Jesus Christ; fellowship; all.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>Holy, Holy, Holy <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Early in the morning, Our song shall rise to Thee; Hoy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!</p> <p>Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes</p> <p>The LORD--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- is the Trinity. All that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is and does shows us His perfect holiness, mercy, and mightiness. He has shown such love and goodness to sinners by all that He has done that God's people cannot help but call Him the blessed Trinity.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being perfectly wonderful and satisfied in Himself. Praise Him for being Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>C God, we confess that we have not acted like knowing Him and obeying Him is perfect wonderfulness. We choose to live life our own way. We need Jesus to save us.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save sinners. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside the hearts of Your people.</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. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit so we can know some of Your Perfect Wonderfulness now. Take us home to be with You, one day, so we can be filled up completely with Your Perfect Wonderfulness.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>May the Grace <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 12</i></p> <p>May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, And the love of God, And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. May the grace of Lord (Jesus Christ), And the love of God (God the Father) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with you all. Second Corinthians Thirteen, fourteen.</p> <p>Words: 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>Each of these things that Paul wants God's people to know and enjoy are gifts from each person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives them the free, undeserved gifts of salvation through faith in Him. The Father loves His people so much that He gave Jesus to die for them. And, He continues to love them every day of their lives. The Holy Spirit lives inside them, giving them closeness with God (fellowship). He helps them to know, love and obey God better.</p>