

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

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3: John 2

Our story is:

The Case of the Singular Son.

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

1. Who was the singular son? Why was he so unusual?
2. What is the most singular thing that the son delight to do for his father?

This story takes place in during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth. It starts out in a carpenter's shop in the village of Nazareth.

With strong arms and able hands, Jesus the carpenter finished his work. Done! Not just that project, but also his time as a carpenter. For thirty years now, Jesus had known life as the son of Mary. He had grown up with Mary, his mother; Joseph, her husband; and their children—his half brothers and sisters. He grew in favor with his family and with the villagers: always kind, good, loving, wise...and an amazing knowledge and deep love for God. Growing up in a carpenter's family, He had grown to be a fine carpenter: how to make a sturdy cart, a perfectly round wheel, bowls, furniture and hand tools. Yes, no one would doubt that there was a finer man that Jesus, the Son of Mary.

But Jesus was more than the son of Mary: He was Jesus, the Son of God. He had known the Perfect Wonderfulness of love and fellowship of the Father and the Holy Spirit. He had lived in the splendor of glory long, long, long before the world had been created. And when it was created, it was He through whom it had all been created. It was not to become a carpenter that Jesus, the Son of God had left the riches of that fullest of glorious fellowship with the Father and Holy Spirit to live as a man. He had come to do a mighty work, that only God, Himself, could successfully complete:

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God
who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness

forever and ever.

There was no more time for making tables or fixing wagons. It was time for the Jesus, Son of God, the Messiah King, to bring God's kingdom to the world.

Saying goodbye, Jesus started on His way. Taking the south road out of Nazareth, He headed towards the towering mountains of Samaria, then turned east, making the great descent from the high hills down, down to the Jordan River, a twenty-mile walk away.

Green, grassy hills gave way to ones with only dry, scraggly brush, and then finally opened up into green thickets of trees and bushes as the road came to the sparkling waters of the Jordan River. Jesus made His way along the river's edge until He found what He was looking for: his cousin, John, the Baptizer: a wild-looking man dressed in camel's hair clothes, preaching to the crowd that had travelled out to the wilderness to hear him.

"Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near," John the Baptist told them. "It is time for the promised Messiah King to come to save His people. Turn from your sins and ask God for forgiveness so that your heart will be ready to receive Him when He comes. Come, be baptized as a sign to all and to God that you desire to live for Him."

"Are you the Messiah King, John?" the people wanted to know.

"No, I am not the Messiah King. I am only one come to prepare you for Him. "I baptize you with water for repentance, that you might show your heart's desire to love and follow God, not your own sinful ways. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will purifying your hearts of sin and fill them with His Holy Spirit so that you will truly love and obey God. (fire here refers to being purified from sin.)"

Jesus made His way through the clumps of grasses and trees along the shore to where John was standing. As John saw Him, the Holy Spirit whispered in his heart that this was the Messiah King he had been preparing the people for.

"I have come to be baptized," Jesus told John.

John could not believe his ears. The Messiah King had no sin to turn from or be forgiven of. Why should He be baptized? He tried to stop Jesus, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness. (to complete all of God's perfect plan so that He would be the perfect sacrifice given in the place of God's people to save them from their sins.)" For this Jesus was more than the son of Mary. He was the Son of God had come to do a mighty work:

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God
who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness
of fellowship with God they could know,
forever and ever.

Jesus was to save His people by being the substitute for the sins of His sinful people. He must start with being baptized just as they needed to be.

So John and Jesus waded into the River Jordan.

Jesus grasped John's arm as he dipped Him back and down below the surface of the water, then forward, up and out.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, most amazing thing happened. As he came up from under the water, heaven was torn open, and the Holy Spirit came down from heaven like a dove and remained upon Jesus. Then the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

God the Father was proclaiming the good news about Jesus! This baptism was far more than just a baptism. It was an anointing of the promised Messiah King, announcing the beginning of the work He had been sent to do. For this Jesus was more than the Son of Mary. He was the Son of God, come at last to do the mighty work of salvation of God's people.

For, the Father loved the world so much
that He sent His Son to earth,
The Holy Spirit filled His heart
with truth, grace and power,
So that the Son of God

who delighted to obey His Father,
Could save His people from their sins,
Give them the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts
and they could know all of the Perfect Wonderfulness
of fellowship with God they could know,
forever and ever.

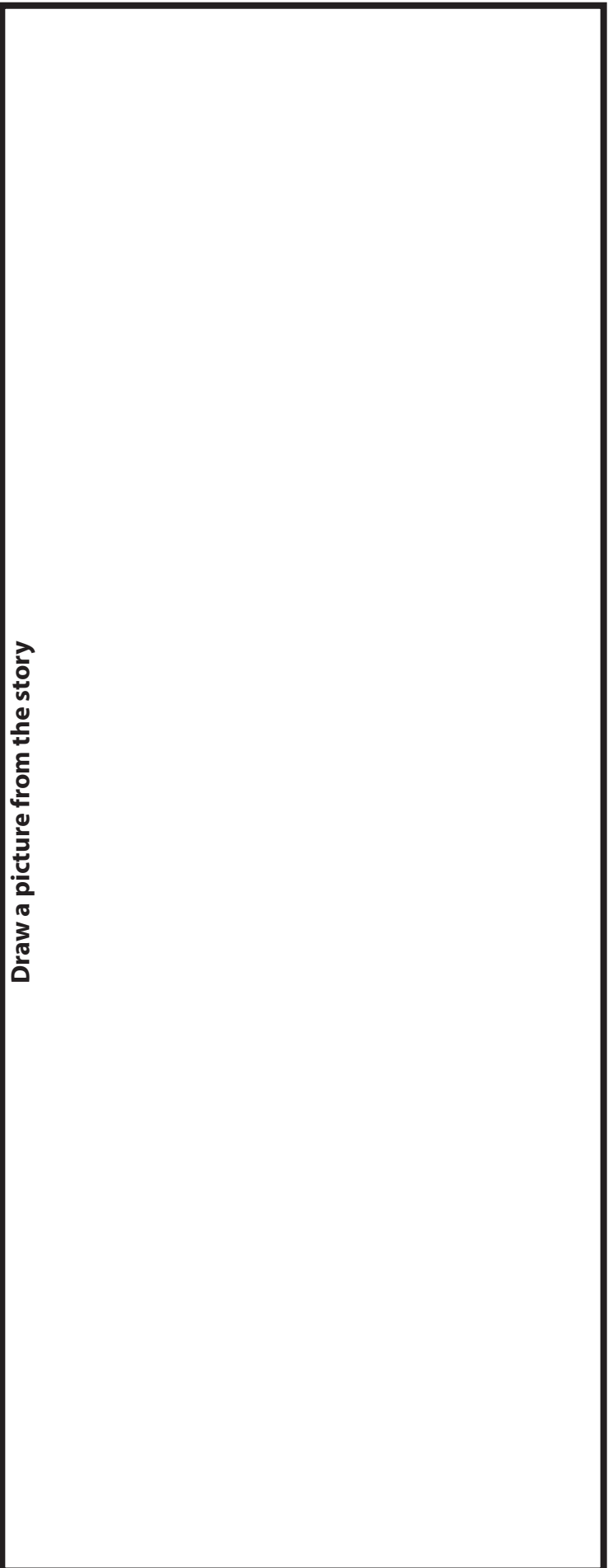
Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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.”

Can you imagine what it would have been like that day when all three persons of the Trinity made Themselves so clearly known? To be present when Jesus, the Son of God was announced by the very voice of God the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit for the mighty work He had come to do. Will we ever have a chance to experience the Father, Son and Holy Spirit like this? This side of heaven we will never have that amazing experience. Yet, for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, there will be a time in heaven when they will experience not just a glimpse of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but will be filled up as full as humans can be with Their Perfect Wonderfulness; and they will enjoy this Perfect Wonderfulness forever and ever.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 The big Bible word for God being one God, yet three persons in Trinity which means three as one.
 Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions

a. Who was the singular son? Why was he so unusual?
 Answer: Jesus. He was the Son of God and the son of Mary.

b. What is the most singular thing that the son delight to do for his father?
 Answer: He chose to leave His home in heaven, come to earth as human, suffer and die on the cross to save God's people from their sins.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
2 Corinthians 13:18
 "May the grace of the ___ Jesus Christ, and the ___ of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with ___ all."
 Answers: Lord; love; you.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11

Verse 1
 Holy, holy, holy,
 Lord God Almighty,
 Early in the morning,
 Our song shall rise to Thee;
 Hoi, holy, holy,
 Merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons,
 Blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginlad Heber Music: John B. Dykes

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.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being for being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one God, yet three persons. Amazing and more than we can understand.

C God, we confess that unlike Jesus, who was without sin and did not need to repent or be baptized, we are sinners! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to be the Savior of all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, just as John the Baptist hoped that the people who listened to him would. Work in us that we might be Your people and know some of the Perfect Wonderfulness of knowing You right now; and then in heaven, know all of Your Perfect Wonderfulness that we can know—forever and ever.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

May the Grace
PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 11

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.

Words: 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012

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.