

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 ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, ESV

Bible Verse: "O LORD...there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath."

PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 6,7

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 4:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

The LORD made people finite. That means they have things they can do and things they can't do. People can only be at one place at one time. They have to travel to move from one place to another. They have a time to live and a time to die.

The LORD is very different from people. He is infinite—He is everywhere, all the time. He never began and He will never end. There never was a time when the LORD was not alive. There will never be a time when He will stop living. He knows and plans what happens, even before something has begun. He sees everything in all times and in all places, all at the same time.

Because the LORD is everywhere, all the time, He is able to hear and answer all of His people's prayers at the same time. He is able to protect them and help them, no matter where they are. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

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

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 139:1-3,7-10 ESV

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."

CASE STORY

Genesis 24

Our story is called:

The Case of the Worshipful Wife-Picker.

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

1. Who was the Wife-Picker? Who did he pick a wife for?
2. Who did he worship and why?

This story is an Old Testament story. It starts out in Canaan about 2000 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Abraham called his most trusted servant to his side. "I am a very old man and soon will die," he told him. "Go to Haran where my family lives and get a wife for my son, Isaac."

"But what if the woman won't come back with me?" the servant replied. "Should I take Isaac back to Haran?"

"No, Isaac must stay here, in the land the LORD has given us," Abraham insisted. "But don't be afraid! The LORD will be with you. He will even send His angel before you." Abraham had known the LORD for many years. Always the LORD went with him. He always fulfilled His good plans. He was the God who was everywhere, all the time.

Ten camels were loaded with rich gifts to give Isaac's future wife and her family, then Abraham sent his servant and his helpers on their way to faraway Haran. After weeks and weeks, they arrived. Dusty and thirsty, they headed straight to the town well for a drink of refreshing water.

It was sunset and the well was crowded with young women collecting water used in preparing the evening meal. Abraham's servant was delighted. Perhaps Isaac's wife would be among these women! But how to figure out which one she was? He had no idea how to pick her out, the he knew someone who did: the LORD!

The servant prayed for a big sign: "O LORD, God of Abraham, please show me exactly who You want Isaac's wife to be. Please may it be that when I ask the right young woman to give me a drink of water, she gives me a drink of water and also agrees to water these ten camels."

All ten camels! That would be a huge job! Camels are able to drink a lot of water. She might have to make eighty trips back and forth to the well! to quench their thirst! But nonetheless, this was the servant's prayer. And before he had even finished praying, the LORD answered it! A beautiful, young woman named Rebekah came with

her jar on her shoulder and began filling it at the well.

"Would you give me some water from your jar, please?" the servant asked her.

"Drink, sir and I'll give your camels their fill of water, too," she offered.

"That's the sign I asked for! This must be the right young woman!" the servant thought excitedly. "The LORD has led her right to me!"

When the camels had finished drinking, the servant took out a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets and gave them to the young woman. What could these presents mean, the girl wondered. They were worth thousands of dollars!

"Whose daughter are you? And do you think your family could give us a place to sleep tonight?" the servant asked. (This sounds odd to us, but there weren't hotels to stay in. This was what visitors did.)

"I'm Rebekah, Bethuel's daughter, granddaughter of Nahor," she answered. "And yes, we have plenty of room for you and your camels."

Now the servant knew for sure this was the right woman. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother! So right there, in front of Rebekah, the camels, and everyone else at the well, he bowed down to the ground and worshiped the LORD. "Praise be to the LORD!" he exclaimed. "He is faithful! He has led me straight to his brother's family!"

Rebekah couldn't believe what was happening to her. She ran home and told her family. Everyone was excited. Laban, Rebekah's brother went down to the well to meet the servant and welcome him to their home. The camels were stabled and feed. The servant and his helpers were brought water to wash the dust off their feet, then food to satisfy their appetites.

But the servant refused to eat. "I won't eat until I've told you what I have to say."

"Speak up, then," Laban replied.

The servant then told them everything that had happened, ending with his bold prayer at the well and how the LORD had brought Rebekah in answer to it.

Laban and Bethuel—Rebekah's father—listened to the servant tell his amazing story and said, "This is from the LORD. Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

Once more Abraham's servant bowed down to the

ground and worshiped the LORD. How He had perfected worked out His plans! He truly was the God who was everywhere, all the time.

Then the servant gave Abraham's presents to the family. He gave Rebekah lots of expensive clothes and jewelry. He gave Laban and Rebekah's mother expensive gifts, too.

After a good night's sleep, the servant was eager to take Rebekah back to Canaan to her new home.

Laban and Rebekah's mother weren't ready for her to go. "Let us have ten more days together," they asked.

"Please don't make me wait now that the LORD has given me success," he pleaded.

"We will leave it up to Rebekah," Laban and her mother decided. "What do you say, Rebekah?" they asked her.

What would she say? She had only met this man yesterday afternoon and now she was to leave her family and move hundreds of miles only one day later? Most girls would have had a year to get ready to leave their families! But the LORD, the God who is everywhere, all the time, had been at work in Rebekah's heart, preparing her for this day, even though she didn't even know it was coming. "I will go," she said. So they blessed Rebekah and sent her on her way, along with her nurse, Deborah and Abraham's servant and his men.

For weeks they traveled west to Canaan. At last, they neared Abraham's lands. Rebekah looked up and saw a man in one of the fields coming towards them.

"Who's that man coming to meet us?" Rebekah asked the servant.

"It's Isaac," he told her.

"I must quickly cover my face with my engagement veil so he'll know that I'm his bride!" Rebekah thought.

As Isaac came up to them, the servant told him the amazing story of how the LORD led him to Rebekah.

"Isaac, everything was just as your father said that it would be. The LORD has been so good to me. He never left me alone. He was always with me to guide me to do what He wanted me to do and to fulfill His great plans. The LORD is the God who is everywhere, all the time. He was with me every step of the way. Truly He sent His angel ahead of me so that I could get just the right wife for you."

Isaac only had to take one look at Rebekah and see how good the LORD had been to him. He had given him a beautiful treasure in her. Then Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she

became his wife, and he loved her.

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 139:1-3,7-10

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

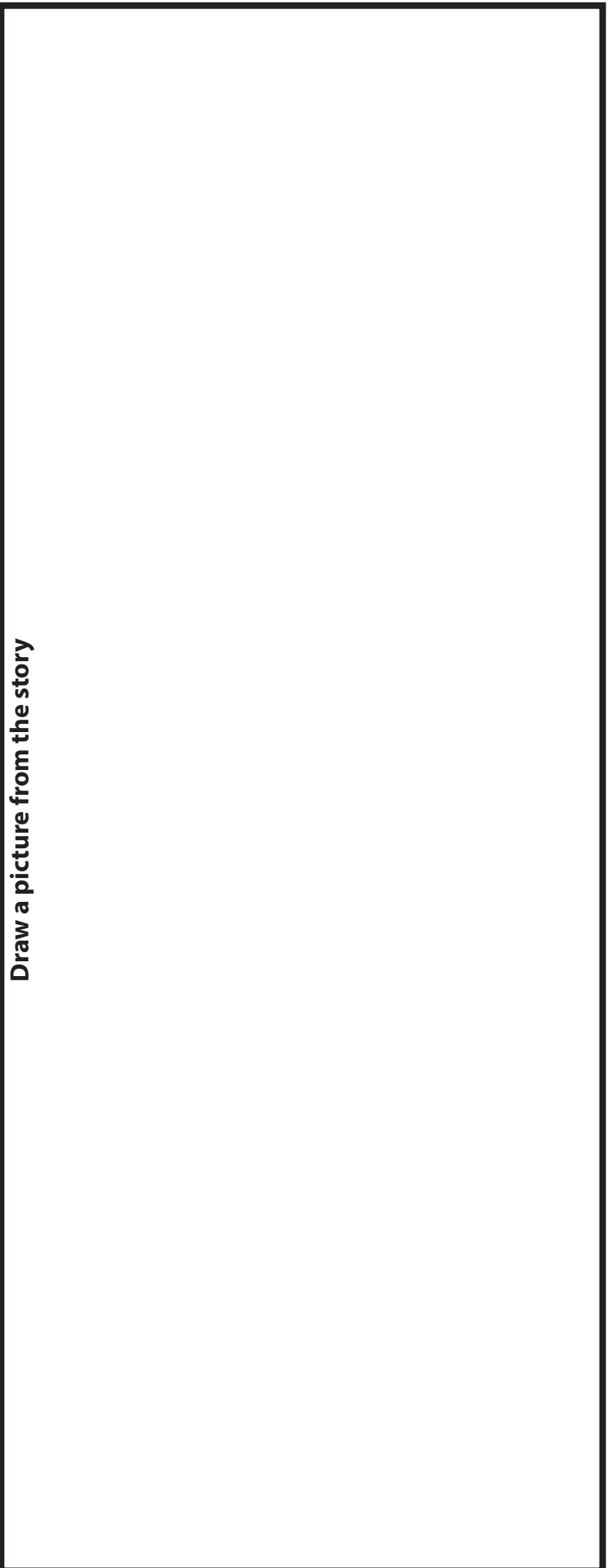
These verses remind us that God is never limited to being in just one place at a time. He knows and sees and is at work everywhere, all at the same time, just as we saw today in the lives of Abraham’s servant, Rebekah and Isaac. How amazing the LORD is! He’s not like anyone else!

But what about you and me? The LORD is still everywhere, all the time now. He still knows what’s best and does what’s best. He wants us to trust Him with our whole lives. The first step in doing that is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

And when we do, we can know that just like with Abraham, God will always be at work fulfilling all of His good plans to do good to us and to bring Himself glory. And, we can know that no matter where we are or whatever He calls us to do, that He will be with us, helping us do it, because He is the God who is everywhere, all the time.

Let’s praise the LORD, for being the God who is everywhere, all the time. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to know that He is with His people, everywhere, all the time.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The LORD made people finite, just like Him. That means there is a limit to what they can do.

Answer: True, the LORD made people finite. But false, He is not like us. He is infinite. There is no limit to what He can do.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who was the Wife-Picker? Who did he pick a wife for?

Answer: Abraham's most trusted servant was the wife-picker. He picked a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son.

b. Who did he worship and why?

Answer: He worshiped the LORD who was everywhere, all the time. He had guided the servant to the right young woman, all according to His perfect plan and timing.

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

Psalms 139:1-3, 7-10

"O LORD, you have ___ me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my ___ and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways Where shall I ___ from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the ___ and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall ___ me."

Answers: searched; path; go; morning; hold.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the God who is everywhere, all the time. You are at work in all things so that they come out perfectly according to Your good plans.

C God, we confess that too many times we don't act like Abraham's servant. We don't pray to You and ask You to guide what we do. Instead, we just do what we want to do.

T God, we thank You for Your good plans that You are always working out for the good of Your people and the honor of Your name.

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 be like Abraham's servant, asking You to guide our lives and remembering to praise You when You answer our prayers.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

God Is Working His Purpose Out

PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 19

Verse 1

God is working his purpose out
As year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
And the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger Music: Constance Dever ©2012

God is everywhere, all the time. He not only sees everything that happens, but He is in control over it and is using it all for His perfect purposes. Yes, the best and good things that happen in this world. And, yes, even the sad and awful things, will all be used perfectly, for His absolutely amazing, glorious purposes. It may be hard for us to see these now, sometimes, but nonetheless it is true. Year comes after another and everything is being fulfilled, until at last God's full plan will be done. All of God's people will be gathered together safely home with God. And all of God's plan will be seen as good and perfect. It will all show God's goodness and greatness--it will all bring God glory.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

O LORD, You Have Searched Me

PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 20

Verse 1

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts, My thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

Refrain: Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! You are there!

Verse 2:

If I take the wings of the morning
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
Your right hand shall hold me. *Refrain*
Psalm One-thirty-nine, verses one through three,
and seven through ten.

Words: Psalm 139:1-3,7-10, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2012

These verses tell us that God is everywhere, all the time. There is no where we can flee from God's Spirit. Everywhere we are, He is, too. God knows us inside and out. He hears all of our prayers. He will help and protect those who trust in Him, no matter where they are. He will always be guiding them according to His perfect plans.