

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 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 139:7-10

"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."

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Stony Speech.

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

1. Who made a speech? What did he tell in his speech?
2. What was stony about his speech? Why did he trust that the Lord would take care of him?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's in southern India.

"Go to the Kingdom of Hyderabad! Why would you do that?" Jacob Chamberlain's missionary friends asked him, in shock. "That country is filled with tigers! The Muslims and Hindus there hate Christians and will be happy to kill you. Don't go!"

But Jacob and his four, Indian friends stood firm. "Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and tell them about Him. He said He would be with them wherever they went. Will we not go to Hyderabad and trust that He will be with us?" Jacob replied.

So the five men packed two carts full of Bibles and other books about Jesus and prepared to leave. "Men, before we go, let's make a promise together to God," Jacob said. "Let's promise that we will tell the good news of Jesus in every town we come to, no matter how hard it is." The others agreed and committed their plans to God. They knew they could never do this without Him. Then they mounted their horses and set off.

Down narrow footpaths, through thick, towering forests of teakwood and banyan trees, the men traveled. They fought off wild boar, massive snakes and fierce tigers. They shared the good news of Jesus in every village they came to, though sometimes the people were very angry and their lives were in danger. But God was with them always, everywhere they went and in everything they faced, just as He promised He would.

One day, the men came to a great city with tall, white granite walls and huge, iron gates. This was the wickedest city in the whole Kingdom of Hyderabad! No Christian had ever dared share about Jesus inside its walls. Jacob and his friends might have passed it by, too, but they remembered their promise to God. They knew what they must do.

"This is a very wicked city, but we promised the Lord we would share the gospel in every city. He has promised to be with us everywhere we go, so we will trust that He take

care of us in this city, too," they reminded each other.

Jacob's four friends went ahead of him into the city to sell Bibles and the other books about Jesus. Jacob came after them a bit later, looking for a good place to preach to the crowds. Jacob got no further than the first city street when his four friends came rushing towards him, followed by a very angry crowd!

"Jacob, it's not safe here! As soon as the Hindu and Muslim priests began to read our books about Jesus, they got very angry. They could see that if people believed in Jesus, they wouldn't be Hindus or Muslims anymore. They began to tell people lies about our books. They told them that they were made from the skins of cows (an animal the Hindu think is holy and should not be killed) and pigs (an animal the Muslims think is so UN-holy that it should not be eaten or touched). They told them they should not even touch the books unless they wanted to upset their gods. Look at this angry mob behind us! Hurry, we must get out before they kill us!"

"No, we can't leave," Jacob told them. "Not until we've told them the good news of Jesus. We will trust that the Lord will be with us and help us, just as He promised He would."

So instead of leaving the city, the men went to the market square. Jacob faced the crowds. "Friends," he greeted them, "thank you for your kind welcome of my friends and me to your city. I have come from far away to tell you some good news. I will tell it to you and then we will go."

"No," said some of the leaders said. You have come to talk about another god. Leave the city right now and we will see you safely out of the gates. Dare to say a word against our gods and we will send this mob upon you," they threatened.

These men meant every word. Already some of the mob had picked up cobble paving-stones in their hands and were preparing to stone them, Jacob noticed.

"I have come this long way with a royal message from a King far higher even than the great Nizam, King of Hyderabad. I have come to tell a story sweeter than any ear has ever heard. It is clear that most of you don't want to hear it, but I think I see a few men here who seem interested. "You there, with the red-bordered turban...and you there, with the yellow-, the gold-, the brown- and the pink-bordered turbans, you five seem like you might want

to hear. Am I right? Then step forward here and I will whisper my message to you," Jacob invited them. "But the rest of you, step back and wait. When I finish telling them, you may come forward and throw your stones."

Then Jacob started to tell those five men the good news of Jesus, starting with a whisper, then speaking more and more loudly until all could hear.

He told them: "God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we're all sinners who've rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus to earth as a man to save sinners. Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who's ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. You can be God's people, too, if you turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your own Savior."

When Jacob looked out upon the crowd of faces as he spoke, he could see that many more than just the five men in front had been moved to tears as they heard about the wonderful gift of Jesus.

"Now," Jacob said, folding his arms, "I have finished my story. You may come and stone me."

"No," they said, "we don't want to stone you now. We didn't know whose messenger you were, nor what you had come to tell us. Do your books tell more about this wonderful Savior, Jesus?"

"Yes, much more," Jacob told them. "I haven't told you half of the amazing things He did and taught. We're going on our way early tomorrow morning. But we can leave some of our books with you, so you may read about Him even when we are gone."

With that, the people took from Jacob and the others, all the Bibles and the other books they had brought into the city with them.

The next morning, the leaders of the city came up to Jacob and his four friends as they were about to leave and

said, "Forgive us for how we treated. We didn't know whose messengers you were. You're welcome back to our city anytime." Jacob and his friends left rejoicing that the LORD, the great "I Am with You Always" had not only protected them, but He had worked in the hearts of many people that day that they might come to know Him.

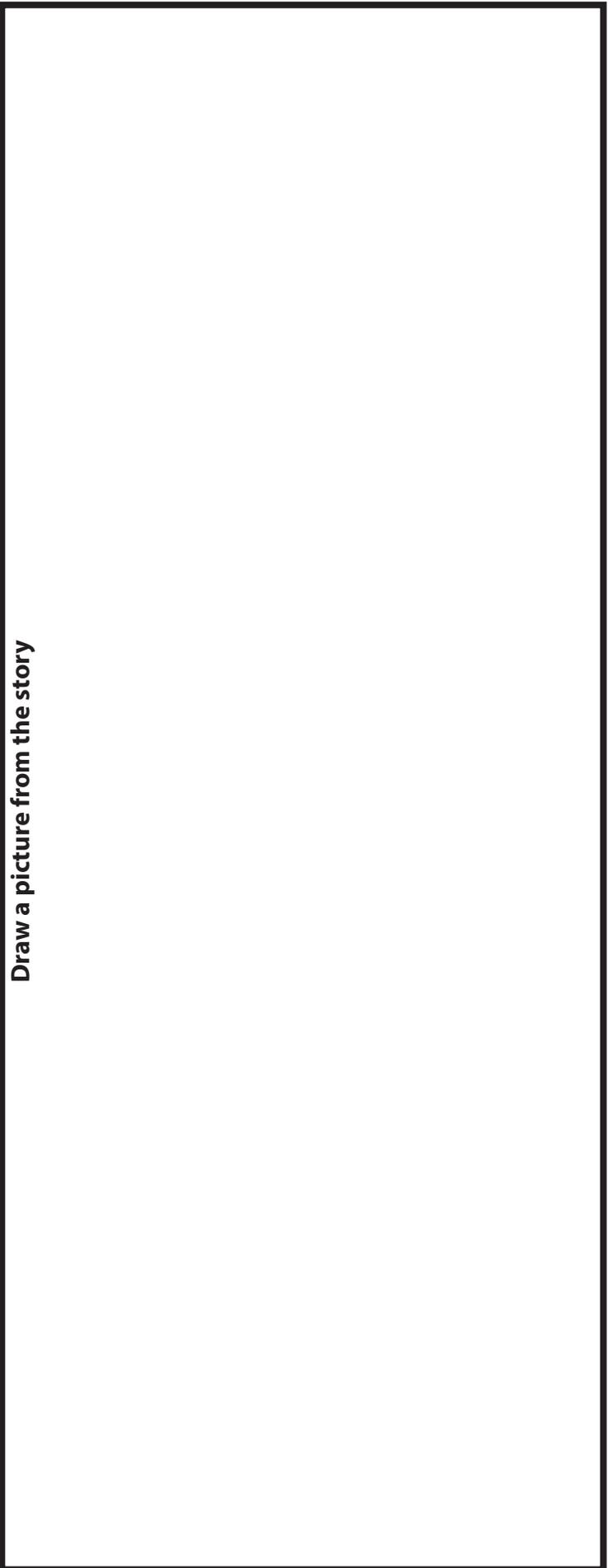
Our Bible Truth is:**The LORD Is Everywhere, All the Time****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 139:7-10**

"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."

The Jacob and the others risked their lives to tell the people of Hyderabad is the message we most need to hear, too. We, too, can become God's people, if we do repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. And if we do, we know that the Lord will be with us, always, too. Taking care of us and helping us to do all the good works He has planned for us to do. With the LORD, the God who is everywhere, all the time, there is no limit to what He might choose to do-- even through you and me.

Let's praise this great "I Am with You Always". Let's ask Him to call us to do great things for His name and to trust Him to completely take care of us, no matter what.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

The LORD is infinite. He is everywhere, all the time. He never began. He never will end.

Answer: True.

2. Crack the Case Questions:

a. Who made a speech? What did he tell in his speech?

Answer: Jacob Chamberlain. He shared the good news of Jesus.

b. What was stony about his speech? Why did he trust that the Lord would take care of him?

Answer: The people in the great, walled city picked up stones and prepared to kill Jacob and his friends for sharing the good news of Jesus. Jacob knew the Lord had promised to be with His people everywhere they went. He would be with him there in that city, too.

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

Psalms 139:7-10

"Where can I ___ 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 ___ 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 ___ me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Answers: go; depths; guide.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

God Is Working His Purpose Out

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 13

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.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

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

A God, we praise You for being the great God who is always with His people, helping them do everything He wants them to do.

C God, we confess that many times we forget You when we are scared. Instead of trusting You will be with us, we run from doing things that are difficult for us.

T God, we thank You that You are always faithful to Your promises. You are always with Your people. They can trust that You will always take care of them.

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. Make us people who trust that You are always with us and can help us even go to dangerous places to tell others about You.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

Where Can I Go?

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 14

Where can I go from your Spirit? (no where!)
 Where can I flee from your presence? (no where!)
 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.
 Where can I go from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
 Psalm One-thirty-nine, seven through ten.

Words: Psalm 139:7-10 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.