

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 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. 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 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22, ESV

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

CASE STORY

Our story is called:

The Case of the Million Mile Man.

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

1. Who was the Million Mile Man? Why was it so surprising he traveled so much?
2. Who was sure that he couldn't do this? Why did he know that he could?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts in 1837, in Esperance, New York...in the middle of a fire!

Giant flames of fire and great billows of smoke engulfed a little log house and the land around it. Out of the hot flames, a man and his wife ran for their lives, clutching their only child—a three year old little boy.

When they were a safe distance away, the parents bowed their heads and thanked God: "Lord, we thank You for saving our little boy, Sheldon, from dying in a fire two times! You saved when he rolled into the fireplace and caught on fire as a tiny baby. And now today, You have saved him from being killed in this terrible fire," they prayed. "You are the great God who knows all things. Surely You have saved his life two times because of some great purpose You have for him. So right now, we dedicate him to You to use him one day to tell others in faraway places about Your Son, Jesus. Give us wisdom to know how to raise him best for Your purposes. Guide him so he might know what Your will is," they asked God. And from then on, Sheldon and his parents never forgot that prayer.

Sheldon grew up much like all the other little boys in the farmlands of New York. He chopped wood, hoed the crops in the fields, milked cows, and had fun playing in the streams and woods. But always in the back of his mind, Sheldon thought of the special calling the Lord had for him. He knew God was the God who knows everything there is to know, so he would pray,

"Lord, even though I do not know what faraway people You are preparing me for, You do. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Teach me more and more about You and Your Word. Prepare me for what You have planned for me, whatever it might be," Sheldon prayed.

Every Sunday, Sheldon and his parents would ride in their wagon many long miles over bumpy, dirt roads. Nothing would keep them away, not even the feet of snow and the bitter winds that swept over New York in

the long winters. They would put the ax and shovel in their sleigh, pack plenty of food, place heated soapstone rocks on their laps, bundle up in thick, buffalo robes and set off at dawn for the three-hour-long journey to church. As they rode along, they often told over and over again tales from faraway places like Siam in East Asia, and of men who did great things for God.

As Sheldon grew up, he wasn't satisfied to just hear stories of the great things others did for the Lord. He wanted to do them himself. So he went off to school to get special training to be ready to go to the faraway place the Lord was preparing for him. He studied as hard as he could. And as he studied, his heart filled up with a love for the people of Siam. Sheldon knew God was the God who knows everything there is to know. Perhaps God had put this love in Sheldon's heart to prepare him to go there.

So Sheldon would pray, "Lord, even though I do not know which faraway people You are preparing me for, You do, for You are the God who knows everything there is to know. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Help me to learn all I can so that I will be the best missionary I can be. Teach me more and more about You and Your Word. Prepare me for what You have for me, whatever it might be. And, Lord, if it be Your will, let it be Siam."

Finally, Sheldon finished school and sent in his application for work in Siam with the Foreign Mission Board. Eagerly, he waited and waited for their reply. At last one day it came. Trembling with excitement, Sheldon opened up the letter and read:

Dear Sir,

You are a fine man, well trained and godly. However, you are barely 5 feet tall—that is just too short. You have weak eyes and many stomach problems. You do not seem strong enough to survive the hardships of Siam. We regret to inform you that your request to go to Siam has been rejected. Thank you for your application and may God bless you in His plans for your life.

Sincerely,

The Foreign Mission Board

Sheldon was in shock! He couldn't believe it! From the time he was only four years old, he had felt sure that God had been preparing him to go to a faraway people. Had he been wrong? He always believed that the Lord was the God who knows everything there is to know. Had God not

known the Foreign Mission Board would reject him? There must be some mistake!

"No," thought Sheldon, "the Lord IS the God who knows everything. He knew what the Foreign Mission Board would do. It must not have been His plan for me to go to Siam."

"Lord," he prayed, "now I know that You do not want me to go to Siam. But I still know that there is a faraway people You are preparing me for. Guide me so that I might know what Your will is. Prepare me for what You have for me, whatever it might be, even though it isn't Siam. I know You will show me where You do want me to go."

It was not long before Sheldon received his answer. The LORD did have a faraway people for him to go to, but they were not far away in the east in Siam. They were far away in the Wild West of America. There were thousands and thousands of Native Americans who had never heard about Jesus. There were thousands and thousands of settlers heading west on their wagons with no one to teach them the Bible. This was what the Lord had planned for him to do.

Sheldon Jackson and two of his friends stood high on a bluff, looked West and prayed,

"Lord, you know all things. You know the plans You have. You know about the faraway peoples out there in the West who need to know about You. Lord, help us to win the West for You!" And with that prayer, Sheldon set out West.

Was Sheldon crazy? The Foreign Mission Board had looked at his application and decided he wasn't fit for Siam, could he really handle the Wild West? Yes, he could! Why? Because the Lord, the God who knows everything there is to know, suited Sheldon Jackson for it perfectly.

This man, who had not been big enough to go to Siam, was just small enough to easily fit inside an Indian teepee and talk to the Indians inside about "The Great Father in the Sky." He was just the right size to curl up in a canoe, or fit on a narrow mountain ledge, or squeeze into a hollow log for the night. He was just the right size for what the Lord wanted him to do.

And this man who the Foreign Mission Board thought too small to face the Siamese people, God made courageous enough to ride into dangerous Indian territory with little more than a Bible in his horse's saddlebag and a shotgun resting on his lap (just in case), and stand up to Indians trying to scalp him. He made Sheldon was brave enough to not give into stagecoach robbers pointing

twelve revolvers at his head; and even brave enough to leap off of an out-of-control wagon as it tumbled off of a steep mountain cliff!

And this man, who they thought too sickly to survive in Siam, the Lord gave strength to travel almost a million rough and hard miles the next forty years! He traveled by railroad, by stagecoach, by foot, by horse, by mule-train, by ox-cart, and even by reindeer sleigh. And he did in everything from the hot, hot sun in the dry, lifeless deserts of the West to the bitter cold and deep, deep snow of Alaska!

Everywhere Sheldon Jackson went people joked at how little, weak and sickly he looked; but then they were amazed at the great boldness with which he shared about the Lord. What made the difference between the way Sheldon looked and what he did? It was his complete trust in the Lord who was the great God who knew everything there is to know.

Even a little child he had known that the Lord was preparing him for a faraway people. What did he have to worry about when the great God who had planned this for his life was the great God who knows everything there is to know? Why doubt a God like that? Surely He knew just what He was doing!

Yes, the Lord certainly did! By the time Sheldon Jackson retired from his work, fifty years later, he had started one hundred churches and seen many settlers and Native Americans all over the West come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Our Bible Truth is:
The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22
"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

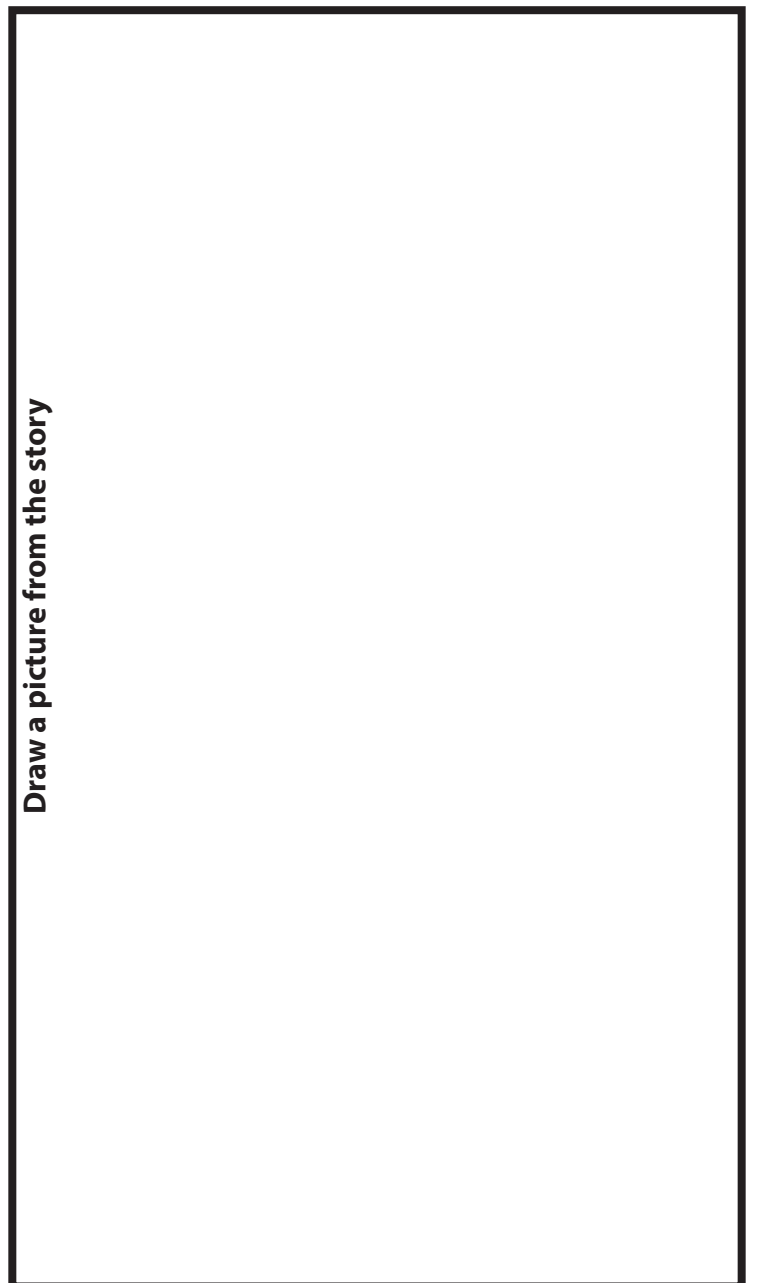
Many have called Sheldon Jackson the most amazing missionary that America has ever known; yet, he was a smaller, weaker, and sicklier man than most. They thought he didn't look like he would amount to much, but it just goes to show, that it doesn't really matter what other people think. What really matters is what the LORD--the God who knows everything there is to know--thinks.

If Sheldon Jackson was here right now, I'm sure there are

two things he would want you and me to know. The first one is the good news of Jesus: that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be saved.

The second thing Sheldon Jackson would want us to know is: God's people shouldn't worry if others don't think they will amount to much. Let God be the one who decides that! He is the God who knows everything there is to know. He knows what plans He has His people--great plans to do great things for Him!

Like Sheldon Jackson, let's praise the Lord for knowing everything there is to know. And let's ask Him to use us to do great things for Him.. Let's ask Him to help us to trust not in how weak or strong we look, but His perfect knowledge of what He wants us to do.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God is very different from us because He knows everything in the whole universe and even more. Answer: True.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. Who was the Million Mile Man? Why was it so surprising he traveled so much? Answer: Sheldon Jackson. He had health problems that should have kept him from doing them.</p> <p>b. Who was sure that he couldn't do this? Why did he know that he could? Answer: The Foreign Mission Board. If the Lord who knew all things was calling him to be a missionary, then surely he would be able to do whatever was required.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22 "Blessed be the name of ___ forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives ___ to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and ___ things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. Answers: God, wisdom, hidden.</p>	<p>Immortal, Invisible <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 23</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, Hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.</p> <p>Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune</p> <p>The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for being the God who gives power to Your people to do whatever You want them to do...even if it looks impossible to others!</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we give up too easily from doing things that seem too hard. We forget that You know all things and can help us do whatever You want us to do.</p> <p>T God, we thank You for Your amazing plans and Your great strength to bring them about in us. Nothing will ever defeat You!</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. Give us wisdom to know what You want us to do. Give us strength to do great things for You.</p>	<p>Blessed Be the Name of God <i>PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 24</i></p> <p>Refrain Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, To whom belong wisdom and might, To whom belong wisdom and might.</p> <p>He changes times and seasons; He gives wisdom to the wise, He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what in the darkness lies, And the light dwells with him, And the light dwells with him, To you, O God of my fathers, To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, I give thanks and praise. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-three.</p> <p>Words: Daniel 2:20-23, ESV Music: Constance Dever ©2015</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.</p>