Preschool–Grade 6

Abram and Lot

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Be a peacemaker. Abram stopped the strife and let Lot choose first, and he trusted God to take care of him. God gave him a promise bigger than anything Lot could see.
Bible passage: Genesis 13:1–18. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." *Genesis 13:8 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Who Goes First? (5–10 minutes)

Split into teams of three or four. Give each team paper and a pencil. Say: "You have two minutes. List every time in a normal week when two people both want the same thing or the same turn." When time is up, teams read their lists (the front seat, the last cookie, the first turn on a game, the TV remote). For each one, ask: *What usually happens? What would happen if one person said, "You choose first"?* Say: "Today we'll meet a man who could have chosen first, and he let the other person choose."

2. Bible story: For We Be Brethren (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 13. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Who were Abram and Lot? God had called Abram to leave his home and go to a land He would show him. Abram obeyed, and Lot went with him (Genesis 12:1, 12:4–5). Lot was the son of Abram's brother Haran, so Abram was his uncle (11:31). They had gone down to Egypt during a famine (12:10), and now they came back (13:1).

Back to the altar. Look up Genesis 13:2–4. Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold. He went back to the place between Bethel and Hai, where he had built an **altar** (a pile of stones for worshiping God), and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Too many animals. Look up Genesis 13:5–6. Lot also had flocks, herds and tents. Their **substance** (everything they owned) was so great that the land was not able to **bear** them (hold them) together. **Look up Genesis 13:7.** There was **strife** (fighting and arguing) between Abram's **herdmen** and Lot's herdmen, the men who took care of their animals. And other people lived in the land too, the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

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Abram makes peace. Look up Genesis 13:8–9. Abram said, "Let there be no strife... for we be **brethren**" (we are family). Then, "Is not the whole land before thee?" He let Lot choose: if Lot went to the left, Abram would go to the right, and if Lot went to the right, Abram would go to the left.

Lot chooses. Look up Genesis 13:10–11. Lot **lifted up his eyes** (looked out) and saw that the plain of Jordan was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD. Lot chose all the plain of Jordan for himself and **journeyed** (traveled) east. Abram stayed in the land of Canaan, and Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom (13:12). The Bible says the men of Sodom were **wicked** (very evil) and sinners before the LORD (13:13).

God's promise. Look up Genesis 13:14–15. After Lot left, the LORD told Abram to lift up his eyes and look northward, southward, eastward and westward: all the land he could see, God would give to him and to his **seed** (his children and their children) forever. God said Abram's seed would be like the **dust of the earth**: if anyone could count the dust, they could count his family (13:16). God told him to walk through the land (13:17). **Look up Genesis 13:18.** Abram moved his tent to the plain of Mamre in Hebron, and built an altar to the LORD there.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The fight started between the herdmen, not between Abram and Lot (13:7). How can a fight between friends or family members spread to other people?
2. Abram said, "for we be brethren" (13:8). Why is it extra sad when family members fight?
3. Abram let Lot choose (13:9). Why is it hard to let someone else choose first?
4. Lot "lifted up his eyes" and chose what looked best (13:10). Then God told Abram, "Lift up now thine eyes" (13:14). What was different about what Abram saw?
5. Twice in this chapter, Abram built an altar or called on the LORD (13:4, 13:18). What does that tell you about Abram?

Recall questions

1. What was Abram very rich in? *(Cattle, silver and gold, Genesis 13:2)*
2. Which way did Lot travel? *(East, 13:11)*
3. What did God compare Abram's family to? *(The dust of the earth, 13:16)*

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4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **strife** means fighting and arguing, **I pray thee** means please, **thee** and **thy** mean you and your, **herdmen** are men who take care of animals, and **we be brethren** means we are family. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Abram made peace with Lot. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God' (Matthew 5:9, KJV). And the Bible says, 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: be the first one to stop an argument. Say, "Let's not fight," and let the other person choose first.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 13:2: What three things was Abram very rich in? *(Cattle, silver and gold)*
2. Genesis 13:3: Between which two places was Abram's tent at the beginning? *(Bethel and Hai)*
3. Genesis 13:5: What did Lot have? *(Flocks, and herds, and tents)*
4. Genesis 13:7: Who else dwelled in the land? *(The Canaanite and the Perizzite)*
5. Genesis 13:10: What was the plain of Jordan like? *(Well watered every where, even as the garden of the LORD)*
6. Genesis 13:12: Where did Lot pitch his tent? *(Toward Sodom)*
7. Genesis 13:16: What did God say Abram's seed would be like? *(The dust of the earth)*
8. Genesis 13:18: Where did Abram go, and what did he build? *(The plain of Mamre, in Hebron; an altar unto the LORD)*

Or choose the **Abram and Lot word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/abram-and-lot-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/abram-and-lot-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/abram-and-lot-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/abram-and-lot-worksheet).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You take care of us. Help us be peacemakers. Help us stop arguments, let others go first, and trust You to give us what we need. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about Sodom: answer simply and gently. The Bible says the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD (Genesis 13:13). Lot's story goes on later in Genesis (chapters 14 and 19). God is always good and fair, and He wants everyone to come to Him.

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