Preschool–Grade 6

Abram and Lot

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Be a peacemaker, even when it costs you. Abram gave up his right to choose first and trusted God with the outcome.
Bible passage: Genesis 13:1–18. Students read Genesis 13:1–9 and 13:10–18 out loud themselves.
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)* and "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." *Romans 12:18 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Genesis 12–13. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Fair or Peaceful? (5–10 minutes)

Name one side of the room "I'd stand my ground" and the other side "I'd let it go." Read each situation. Students walk to the side that shows what they would really do. 1) Your sibling took the seat you always sit in. 2) A friend tells everyone the idea was theirs, but it was yours. 3) Two teams both want the better field at recess. 4) You and a cousin both want the last slice of pizza, and you got there first. Ask: *When is letting it go the right thing to do? Is being peaceful the same as being a pushover?* Say: "Abram could have chosen first. Watch what he did."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Genesis 13:1–9. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **the south** (13:1): the dry southern part of Canaan; **Bethel** and **Hai**: two towns in Canaan
- **called on the name of the LORD** (13:4): prayed to God and worshiped Him
- **substance** (13:6): everything they owned; **not able to bear them**: could not hold them all together
- **strife** (13:7): fighting and arguing; **herdmen**: men who took care of the animals
- **the Canaanite and the Perizzite** (13:7): other peoples living in the land at the same time
- **I pray thee** (13:8): please; **we be brethren**: we are family (Lot was Abram's brother's son, 11:31)
- **separate thyself** (13:9): go your own way

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Read out loud: Genesis 13:10–18. Old words in this passage:

- **lifted up his eyes, and beheld** (13:10): looked out and saw; **well watered every where**: plenty of water, good for animals
- **even as the garden of the LORD** (13:10): as green and rich as the garden God planted (Eden)
- **chose him** (13:11): chose for himself; **journeyed east**: traveled east
- **pitched his tent toward Sodom** (13:12): set up his tent near Sodom; **wicked and sinners... exceedingly** (13:13): very evil
- **seed** (13:15–16): children, grandchildren and all who come after; **number**: count
- **in the length of it and in the breadth of it** (13:17): all the way through, long ways and wide ways
- **removed his tent** (13:18): moved his tent; **Mamre**, **Hebron**: places in Canaan

Talk it through: Abram was Lot's uncle, God had called him, and God had already said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land" (12:7). He could have claimed first choice. Instead he made peace first and offered Lot either direction (13:9). Lot chose by what he could see (13:10). Then God told Abram to lift up his eyes, and promised him all of it (13:14–15).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The strife began between the herdmen (13:7). How do arguments between other people (friends, teammates, families) pull you in? How can you be the one who stops it?
2. Abram said, "for we be brethren" (13:8). Why does it matter that Abram's first concern was the relationship, not who was right?
3. Abram let Lot choose first (13:9). What did that cost Abram? Why could he afford to give it up?
4. Lot chose what looked best to his eyes (13:10–11). What are some choices people make today only by what looks good, without asking God first?
5. God told Abram, "Lift up now thine eyes" (13:14) right after Lot lifted up his (13:10). What is the difference between what Lot saw and what God showed Abram?
6. Abram built altars and called on the LORD (13:4, 13:18). How does putting God first make it easier to let others go first?

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4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: in Genesis 13:8, **strife** means fighting and arguing, **I pray thee** means please, **herdmen** are men who take care of animals, and **we be brethren** means we are family. In Romans 12:18, **as much as lieth in you** means as much as it depends on you, and **live peaceably** means live in peace.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Genesis 13:8 this week; keep working on Romans 12:18 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 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). But the greatest peace is peace with God: 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Where is there strife in my life right now: at home, at school, with friends?
2. What would it look like for me to say "let there be no strife" there, and let the other person go first?
3. Write a short prayer asking God to make you a peacemaker and to help you trust Him with what you give up.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: in one argument, be the first to make peace, and let the other person choose.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for the peace we can have with You through Jesus. Make us peacemakers. Help us put people before being right, let others go first, and trust You to take care of us. In Jesus' name, amen."

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

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