Preschool–Grade 6

Abram and Lot

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Be a peacemaker. Abram stopped the fighting and let Lot choose first, and God took care of Abram.
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, masking tape (or two blankets), 6 index cards, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: tape one small square on the floor, just big enough for about half your class to stand in. Write the memory verse on the 6 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 13.

1. Opening game: Too Many Animals (5 minutes)

Say: "This square is a field. You are cows and sheep." Send the kids into the square one at a time. Each one says "Moo!" or "Baa!" as they step in. Keep going until the square is too crowded and kids are bumping into each other. Ask: *Is there room for everyone? What happens when it gets too crowded?* Then tape a second square (or lay down a second blanket) on the other side of the room, and send half the "animals" over to it. Say: "Now there is room for everyone. Today we will meet two men who had so many animals that one land could not hold them all."

2. Bible story: Let There Be No Strife (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 13, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

A long time ago lived a man named **Abram**. God had told Abram to go to a new land, the land of Canaan, and Abram obeyed. His nephew **Lot** went with him (Genesis 12:4–5). A **nephew** is your brother's or sister's son. Lot's father was Abram's brother (11:31).

Abram was very rich. He had lots of **cattle**, and silver, and gold (13:2). Abram and Lot came back to the place between Bethel and Hai, where Abram had built an **altar** before, a pile of stones for worshiping God. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. He prayed and worshiped God (13:3–4).

Lot had lots of animals too: flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and tents (13:5). They had so many animals that the land could not hold them all together (13:6). Abram had **herdmen**, men who took care of his animals, and Lot had herdmen too. And the herdmen started to argue and fight. The Bible calls it **strife** (13:7).

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The story continues: Abram did not want to fight. **Read Genesis 13:8 from your Bible:** "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." Say: "That means: please, let's not fight. We are family!"

Then Abram said, "Is not the whole land before thee?" That means, "Look, the whole land is in front of you." Abram let Lot choose first. If Lot went to the left, Abram would go to the right. If Lot went to the right, Abram would go to the left (13:9).

Lot looked up and saw the **plain of Jordan**, flat land by the Jordan River. It had water everywhere. It looked like a beautiful garden (13:10). So Lot chose the plain of Jordan for himself and went east (13:11). Abram stayed in the land of Canaan. Lot put up his tent near a city called Sodom (13:12). The people of Sodom did very wrong things (13:13).

After Lot left, God spoke to Abram. God told Abram to look up and look north, south, east and west. God said, "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (13:14–15). That means all the land Abram could see was for him and his family forever. God said Abram's family would grow as many as the **dust** of the earth, too many to count (13:16)! So Abram moved his tent to Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD (13:18).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Why could Abram and Lot not stay together? *(They had so many animals that the land could not hold them, Genesis 13:6)*
2. Who started to fight? *(Abram's herdmen and Lot's herdmen, 13:7)*
3. What did Abram say? *("Let there be no strife... for we be brethren." Let's not fight, we are family, 13:8)*
4. Who chose first? *(Lot. Abram let him choose, 13:9–11)*
5. What did God promise Abram? *(All the land he could see, for him and his family, 13:14–15)*

4. Memory verse: Peace Pass (5 minutes)

Write the verse on 6 cards: *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.* 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 together. On "for we be brethren," everyone shakes hands with the person next to them. Then take one card away and say it again. Keep taking cards away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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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 Jesus came to make a way for us to have peace with God (Romans 5:1). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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: when you start to argue with your brother, sister or a friend, stop and say, "Let's not fight." Then let them choose first.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: 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), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/abram-and-lot), or **Left or Right:** everyone stands in the middle of the room. Read a question from part 3 with two answers, and point left for one answer and right for the other. Kids walk to the side they choose. Say "Let there be no strife!" before each new question, and everyone comes back to the middle.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You take care of us. Help us be peacemakers like Abram. Help us stop fighting and let others go first. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about Sodom: answer simply and gently. The Bible says the men of Sodom were wicked, which means they did very wrong things (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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