Preschool–Grade 6

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

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

Main point: God is the possessor of heaven and earth. Everything we have comes from Him, so we give to Him gladly and give Him the credit.
Bible passage: Genesis 14:17–24. Read it before class (and 14:12–16 for the background).
Memory verse: "And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:" *Genesis 14:19 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), 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 Gets the Credit? (5–10 minutes)

Read each situation. Kids call out who should get the credit. 1) Your team wins because one player worked really hard. 2) A friend helps you finish your project, and the teacher thinks you did it alone. 3) You get a good grade after your mom helped you study every night. 4) The sun comes up and the rain makes the garden grow. Ask: *Why does it matter who gets the credit?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who made sure God got the credit."

2. Bible story: Melchizedek Blesses Abram (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 14. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The rescue. Four kings made war on the king of Sodom and other kings, and they took Lot, Abram's **brother's son** (his nephew), who lived in Sodom, with all his goods (Genesis 14:1–2, 14:12). **Look up Genesis 14:14.** Abram **armed** (got ready for battle) his trained servants, 318 men, and went after them. **Look up Genesis 14:16.** Abram brought back everything and everyone.

Two kings come to meet Abram. The king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh, "the king's **dale**," a valley (14:17). **Look up Genesis 14:18. Salem** was Melchizedek's city. A **priest** served God and offered worship for the people. Melchizedek was both a king and a priest.

The blessing. Look up Genesis 14:19. To **bless** someone is to ask God to do good to them. **Possessor** means owner: God owns heaven and earth. **Look up Genesis 14:20.** Melchizedek gave God the praise for Abram's win: God "delivered thine enemies into thy hand." Then "he gave him **tithes** of all." A tithe is a tenth. Hebrews 7:4 tells us who gave to whom: Abraham "gave the tenth of the **spoils**," the goods taken in the battle.

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Abram says no. The king of Sodom said, "Give me the **persons** (the people), and take the goods to thyself" (14:21). **Look up Genesis 14:22–23.** "I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD" means Abram had made a serious promise to God. A **shoelatchet** is a sandal strap. Abram would not take even a thread or a sandal strap from the king of Sodom, "lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich." Abram wanted God to get the credit. He asked only for what his young men had eaten, and that his friends Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, who went with him, should take their share (14:24).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

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

1. Melchizedek said God is "possessor of heaven and earth" (14:19). If God owns everything, what do we really own?
2. Abram gave a tenth of the spoils (14:20; Hebrews 7:4). Why do you think he gave back to God after God helped him?
3. Abram would not let the king of Sodom say, "I have made Abram rich" (14:23). Why did that matter so much to him?
4. Abram took only what his young men had eaten, and made sure Aner, Eshcol and Mamre got their portion (14:24). How can we be fair to others when we are blessed?
5. What is something good in your life that you can thank God for this week?

Recall questions

1. Who was Melchizedek? *(The king of Salem and the priest of the most high God, Genesis 14:18)*
2. What did Melchizedek bring forth? *(Bread and wine, 14:18)*
3. What would Abram not take from the king of Sodom? *(Not "from a thread even to a shoelatchet," nothing that was his, 14:23)*

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

Explain the old words: **blessed** means asked God to do good to him; **most high** means higher than everyone and everything; **possessor** means owner. 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.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God owns heaven and earth, and everything we have comes from Him. The greatest thing He gave us is Himself. 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: when something good happens, tell someone, "God did that." When you get money, set aside a tenth for God.

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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 14:12: Who was Lot? *(Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom)*
2. Genesis 14:14: How many trained servants did Abram take? *(Three hundred and eighteen)*
3. Genesis 14:17: Where did the king of Sodom meet Abram? *(At the valley of Shaveh, the king's dale)*
4. Genesis 14:18: What was Melchizedek king of? *(Salem)*
5. Genesis 14:19: What did Melchizedek call God? *(The most high God, possessor of heaven and earth)*
6. Genesis 14:20: What did God deliver into Abram's hand? *(His enemies)*
7. Genesis 14:23: What did Abram not want the king of Sodom to say? *("I have made Abram rich")*
8. Genesis 14:24: Name Abram's three friends who went with him. *(Aner, Eshcol and Mamre)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth. Everything we have comes from You. Help us give to You gladly, and help us give You the credit for every good thing. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about the battle: keep it simple. Enemy kings took Lot, and Abram went to bring him home (Genesis 14:12–16). Melchizedek gave God the praise: God "delivered thine enemies into thy hand" (14:20).

If a child asks more about Melchizedek: Genesis tells us only that he was king of Salem and priest of the most high God, and what he did (14:18–20). Stay with what the Bible says.

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