Melchizedek Blesses Abram

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

Main point: God owns heaven and earth. Give to Him first, and don't let anyone else take the credit for what God has done for you.
Bible passage: Genesis 14:17–24. Students read it out loud themselves. Background: Genesis 14:12–16; Hebrews 7:4.
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)* and "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." *Psalm 24:1 (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 14 and Hebrews 7:4. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Would You Take It? (5–10 minutes)

Read each offer. Students stand if they would take it and stay seated if they would not, then explain. 1) A classmate offers to let you copy their homework. 2) A store clerk gives you too much change. 3) Someone offers you a prize for a contest you didn't really win. 4) A friend wants to pay you to say something that isn't true. Ask: *When is saying "no thanks" to something free the right choice?* Say: "Abram once turned down a king's whole reward."

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

Tell the background in your own words: four kings made war in the vale of Siddim and carried off Lot, Abram's brother's son, with his goods (Genesis 14:9–12). Abram armed his 318 trained servants, went after them, and brought back Lot, the goods, the women and the people (14:14–16).
Read out loud: Genesis 14:17–24. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **slaughter of Chedorlaomer** (14:17): Abram's victory over Chedorlaomer and the kings with him; **the king's dale**: a valley, the valley of Shaveh
- **brought forth** (14:18): brought out; **Salem**: Melchizedek's city; **priest of the most high God**: one who served the most high God and offered worship for the people
- **blessed** (14:19): asked God to do good to him; **possessor**: owner
- **delivered thine enemies into thy hand** (14:20): God gave Abram the victory; **tithes of all**: a tenth of everything. Hebrews 7:4 says "the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils"
- **persons** (14:21): the people Abram had rescued
- **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD** (14:22): I have made a solemn promise to God
- **from a thread even to a shoelatchet** (14:23): not even a thread or a sandal strap; **lest**: so that you could never
- **save only** (14:24): except; **portion**: share

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Melchizedek blessed Abram and then blessed God, "which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand" (14:19–20). Why do you think he praised God, not Abram, for the victory?
2. Abram gave "tithes of all" (14:20; Hebrews 7:4) right after a big win. What does giving a tenth say about who you believe owns what you have?
3. Abram used the same words as Melchizedek: "the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth" (14:19, 14:22). How did believing that change what he would and wouldn't take?
4. Abram turned down the goods "lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich" (14:23). Who do people in your life give the credit to for what they have? Who do you?
5. Abram didn't force his choice on others: Aner, Eshcol and Mamre took their portion (14:24). How can we hold ourselves to a standard without looking down on others?
6. Psalm 24:1 says "The earth is the LORD'S." What is one thing you treat as "mine" that you could start treating as God's?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Genesis 14:19 and Psalm 24:1: **blessed** means asked God to do good to him; **most high** means higher than everyone and everything; **possessor** means owner; **fulness thereof** means everything in it.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Genesis 14:19 this week; keep working on Psalm 24:1 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Everything belongs to God, and the greatest gift He gave us was Himself. 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.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

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

1. List five good things I have. Next to each one, write how it came from God.
2. What would giving God the first tenth look like for me, with money, time or something else?
3. Write a short prayer thanking God, the possessor of heaven and earth, for one thing on your list.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: every time someone praises something you did or have, quietly thank God for it. If you get money, set aside a tenth for God first.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, You are the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth. Everything we have is Yours. Help us give to You first, give You the credit, and be fair to others. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks more about Melchizedek: Genesis 14 tells us only that he was king of Salem and the priest of the most high God, that he brought bread and wine and blessed Abram, and that Abram gave him the tenth (14:18–20; Hebrews 7:4). Stay with what the Bible says.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post