Preschool–Grade 6

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

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

Main point: Everything belongs to God, so we give to Him gladly.
Bible passage: Genesis 14:17–24. Read it before class.
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, 5 paper strips, a marker, tape, ten blocks or paper squares for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Genesis 14:19 and Genesis 14:23.

1. Opening game: Count Out Ten (5 minutes)

Give each child ten blocks or paper squares. Say "Go!" and see who can count out all ten in a row first. Then say: "Push one block forward." Count together: "One out of ten!" Play twice. Say: "Today we will meet a man who gave one out of every ten to God's priest. The Bible calls it **tithes**."

2. Bible story: Melchizedek Blesses Abram (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 14, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Abram loved God. His nephew, **Lot**, lived in a city called Sodom. One day some kings came and took Lot away, with all his things (Genesis 14:12). When Abram heard it, he took 318 of his own servants and went after them, and he brought back Lot, his things, and all the people (14:14–16).

When Abram came back, the king of Sodom went out to meet him (14:17). And **Melchizedek**, the king of **Salem**, brought out **bread** and **wine** (14:18). And Melchizedek was not just a king. He was "the **priest** of the most high God" (14:18). A priest is a man who served God and worshiped God for the people.

Melchizedek **blessed** Abram. To bless means to ask God to do good to someone. **Read Genesis 14:19 from your Bible:** "Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth." Say: "A **possessor** is an owner. God owns heaven and earth. Everything belongs to God!"

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

The story continues: Melchizedek also praised God: "blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand" (14:20). That means God was the one who helped Abram win and bring Lot home.

Then Abram gave Melchizedek **tithes** of all. A tithe is a tenth, one out of every ten (14:20; Hebrews 7:4). Hold up ten fingers, then fold down nine. Say: "Abram gave one out of every ten, because God had helped him."

Then the king of Sodom said, "Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself" (14:21). That means he would give Abram the goods. But Abram said **no**. He had promised the LORD, "possessor of heaven and earth," that he would not take anything from the king of Sodom, not even a thread or a **shoelatchet**, the strap on a sandal (14:22–23). Why? So the king of Sodom could never say, "I have made Abram rich" (14:23). Abram wanted everyone to know that God was the one who took care of him. He kept back only what his young men had eaten, and he let Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, the men who went with him, take their portion (14:24).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who did Abram bring back home? *(Lot, his nephew, and all the people and the goods, Genesis 14:16)*
2. Who came out with bread and wine? *(Melchizedek, king of Salem, 14:18)*
3. Melchizedek was a king. What else was he? *(The priest of the most high God, 14:18)*
4. Who owns heaven and earth? *(God, the most high God, "possessor of heaven and earth," 14:19)*
5. What did Abram give Melchizedek? *(Tithes of all, a tenth, 14:20; Hebrews 7:4)*

4. Memory verse: Up and Down Verse (5 minutes)

Tape the 5 strips up in order: *And he blessed him, and said, / Blessed be Abram / of the most high God, / possessor of heaven / and earth: Genesis 14:19.* Explain the old words: **blessed** means asked God to do good to him; **most high** means God is higher than everyone and everything; **possessor** means owner. Read the verse together. Point up on "heaven" and down on "earth." Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God owns everything, and He gives us everything we have. Abram gave back to God, and he wanted everyone to know God took care of him. God gave us His best gift of all. 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 get something good, say, "Thank You, God! It all belongs to You." If you get money, set aside one out of every ten for God.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Melchizedek word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/melchizedek-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/melchizedek-craft), or **Heaven or Earth?:** name things God made: the sun, a fish, the stars, a mountain, a bird in the sky, a tree, the moon, a lion. If it is up in the sky, kids reach up high. If it is on the earth or in the sea, they touch the floor. After each one, everyone says, God owns it! (Genesis 14:19).

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, like Abram did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about the fight: say simply that enemy kings had taken Lot away, and Abram went to bring him home (Genesis 14:12–16). Melchizedek said it was God who "delivered thine enemies into thy hand" (14:20).

If a child asks who Melchizedek was: the Bible tells us he was the king of Salem and the priest of the most high God (14:18). Genesis doesn't tell us more, so we don't add anything.

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