

LESSON



Abram to the Rescue

COMMUNITY

Community means loving one another.

References

Genesis 14; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 134–136.

Memory Verse

“I will accept nothing belonging to you” (Genesis 14:23, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Abram served others without accepting a reward.

Feel the joy of selfless service.

Respond by serving others without wanting something in return.

The Message



We serve others out of love.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When Abram learns that Lot and others from Sodom have been captured by enemies, Abram and three of his neighbors prepare a surprise attack and frighten away the enemies. They free the prisoners and collect the things that have been stolen. On their way back to Sodom, Abram meets Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of God. Abram gives a tenth of all he has recovered to Melchizedek and returns the rest to the king of Sodom. He refuses to take any reward for himself, and asks only for rewards for the three men who went to battle with him.

This is a story about community.

Abram willingly rescued those captured by enemies, a selfless act of service to his relatives and neighbors. Abram then gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek and returned the rest to the king of Sodom, refusing a reward for his actions. Children, too, can serve without expecting or accepting a reward.

Teacher Enrichment

“By the usage of war, the spoils belonged to the conquerors; but Abraham had undertaken this expedition with no purpose of gain, and he refused to

TWELVE

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Service With a Smile</i> B. <i>Giving Gifts</i> C. <i>Coin Find</i>	simple objects such as a toy, dish towel, article of clothing, cup or plate, empty food wrapper, paper bag a gift-wrapped shoe box, a small gift for each child 10 coins or cardboard circles covered with aluminum foil or gold paper
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 126. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	10 coins; 10 food items; 10 paper or plastic cups covered with aluminum foil or gold paper (optional) to represent gold items; paper bags; Bible-times costumes (optional)
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible; beanbag or ball; pianist or recorded music
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Think About It</i>	paper or colored construction paper, masking tape
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Picture Love</i>	card stock circles, art supplies, glue, craft sticks

take advantage of the unfortunate, only stipulating that his confederates should receive the portion to which they were entitled.

"Few, if subjected to such a test, would have shown themselves as noble as did Abraham. Few would have resisted the temptation to secure so rich a booty. His example is a rebuke to self-seeking

mercenary spirits. Abraham regarded the claims of justice and humanity. His conduct illustrates the inspired maxim, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' Leviticus 19:18" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 135, 136).

Room Decorations

See lesson 9.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. Service With a Smile

You Need:

- several simple objects such as a toy, dish towel, article of clothing, cup or plate, empty food wrapper, etc.
- paper bag

Place the different objects in the paper bag.

Say: **In my bag are different items that children can use to help or serve someone else. I'm going to ask a child who is sitting quietly to come and choose something out of my bag, and we'll decide how that item can be used to serve others.**

Invite a child to come take something out of the bag. Ask the other children to identify it and to name ways that item can be used to serve others. (Suggestions: put away or share toys; help dry dishes or fold towels; put away clothes; clear dishes from the table or help empty the dishwasher; put trash in the trash can.)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What are some of the ways that you help or serve others? Why does God want us to serve others?** (To show them love. God wants our service to be a gift of love.) **Our story today is about a man who helped or served others out of love. Our message today is:**



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me.

B. Giving Gifts

You Need:

- a shoe box
- gift wrap
- a small gift for each child

Wrap the top and bottom of the box separately so top can be removed easily. Place a small gift for each child in the box.

Show the children the box. Ask: **How many of you have had a birthday? Did you get any gifts? What kinds of gifts did you get? From whom did you get gifts?** (Parent, friends, grandparents, etc.) **Why did those people give you a gift?** (Because they love or like me; they wanted me to be happy, etc.) **Did you have a present wrapped up to give each one of them in return?** (No) **Why not? When people give**

gifts they don't expect a gift in return. They give because it makes them happy to give you a gift. Did you know that you can give gifts to your friends and family every day? What kinds of things can you give to make others happy or to make them feel loved? Think about that while I pass around my gift box. Name something you can give to others when you choose something out of my box.

Debriefing:

Allow response time as you ask: **What kinds of gifts can you give to others?** (You may need to prompt the children. They can give hugs, kisses, smiles; they can be kind to others, share, help pick up toys and clothes, clear the table and help put away dishes, etc.) Say: **There are lots of gifts you can give to others. You can give them out of love, not because you expect to get a gift in return. Why do we help or serve others?**



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me.

C. Coin Find

If coins or play money coins are not available, use pebbles, shells, or beans, and tell the children to pretend the items are money. If you have a large group, hide 10 coins for every five or six children.

In advance, hide the coins around the room. Say: **I have hidden 10 different coins in the room today. Can you find them for me?**

Allow the children to find the coins and bring them to you. Thank each one, but do NOT give them a reward.

You Need:

- 10 identical coins or play money (coins)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **If you had found all this money and then found out it belonged to someone else, what would you do with it?** (Give it back.) **Would you expect a reward for returning what belonged to someone else?** (No) **Our story today is about a man who found things that belonged to someone else. He gave the things back without expecting a reward. That's what God wants us to do too. Think about this:**



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Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 126.

2

Bible Lesson**Experiencing the Story****You Need:**

- the coins from Readiness Activity C
- 10 food items (potatoes, hard-boiled eggs, small bags of dry rice, fruit, etc.)
- 10 paper or plastic cups
- aluminum foil or gold paper (optional)
- paper bags or dark plastic trash bags
- Bible-times costumes (optional)

Before class, cover 10 paper or plastic cups with aluminum foil or gold paper to represent gold items (optional).

Characters

The story lists a large cast of characters that can include all the children. You can simplify the lesson by omitting everyone except Abram and the narrator or by using just some of the characters listed.

- Narrator
- Abram
- Lot
- Friends and relatives of Lot
- Four enemy kings (taller children)
- Five small kings (one of whom is the king of Sodom) (shorter children)
- Melchizedek
- Abram's army

Costumes

- Create Bible-times costumes for the children.

Setting the Stage

Assign parts. Choose the four tallest children to be the four enemy kings. Choose the five shortest children to be the five small kings. Position Lot, the other friends and relatives, food items, coins and golden items on one side of the room. Position the five small kings in front of them, so they are guarding the people, food, and gold. Position the four enemy kings on the opposite side of the room.

Narrator:

Lot, Abram's nephew, lived in the city of Sodom. The city of Sodom had a king. (*Indicate the king of Sodom.*) The city of Sodom also had four neighboring

cities. Each of these cities had a king. (*Indicate the other small kings.*) So there were five cities with five kings. These five cities with their five kings had four enemy kings. The five kings of the five cities decided to go fight the four enemy kings. (*Bring the four kings and five kings out into the center.*) But the four enemy kings were stronger. The five kings of the five cities ended up running away. (*Have the five small kings sit down.*) So the four enemy kings captured the cities and all the people and all the food and all the gold. (*Move the four enemy kings over to the area in front of Lot, the other people, and the bounty.*)

But one person escaped. (*Have one "captive" run to Abram.*) He ran and told Abram, "Your nephew Lot and all the other people have been captured." So Abram gathered together all his fighting men and three neighbors and their men, and they went after the four enemy kings. (*Gather the army behind Abram.*)

Abram waited until nighttime, when everyone was asleep. Then Abram and his men attacked them by surprise. (*Have the four enemy kings sit down.*)

So Abram collected all the people and all the things and left for home. (*Have Abram's army gather the food, money, and gold items. Abram's army and the people follow Abram across the room.*) On his way home Abram met Melchizedek. Melchizedek was the king of Salem. He was also one of God's priests. Melchizedek had a visitor with him. It was the king of Sodom who had run away from the four enemy kings. (*Bring up Melchizedek and the king of Sodom.*)

Melchizedek blessed Abram and said, "God Most High delivered your enemies into your hand." (*Prompt Melchizedek to repeat the words.*) Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything. He

did that to show his thankfulness to God for giving him the victory. We call giving a tenth of everything to God the tithe. *(Have Abram's army sort all the items into groups of 10. Then have Abram give one thing from each group to Melchizedek.)*

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, but keep everything else for yourself." *(Prompt the king of Sodom to repeat the words.)*

But Abram said, "I will accept nothing belonging to you." *(Have Abram repeat it.)*

So Abram took nothing from the king of Sodom except what his men had already eaten. And he asked that the fair share of the three men who helped him be given to them. But Abram took nothing for himself.

The king of Sodom took back all his people and all his things, except the tenth that Abram had given to Melchizedek. And they all went home. *(Have Abram give all the food, gold, and people to the king of Sodom. Have the king of Sodom lead the people home.)*

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:
What happened when the five little kings went to fight the four enemy kings? (The four enemy kings won; they captured Lot and others; the five little kings ran off.) **What did Abram do to help his nephew Lot? Who really won the battle for Abram?** (God) **How do we know that?** (Melchizedek said so.) **Why did Abram give a tenth of everything to Melchizedek? What do we call the tenth?** (The tithe) **We still give back a tenth to God today. Why do you think we do that? What did Abram choose to keep?** (Nothing) **What did he ask the king of Sodom to do?** (To give the fair share to the three men.) **Who was Abram thinking about?** (Lot, the other people, his men) **Why do you**

think Abram helped Lot and the others without wanting a reward? Just like Abram,



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Genesis 14. Point to the verses and say: **Here is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: **Who was captured by enemies?** (Lot) **Who went to help him?** (Abram) **What did Abram want for helping Lot and the other people?** (Nothing) **Why? Just like Abram,**

You Need:

- Bible



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Genesis 14:23 and say, **This is where we find today's memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Read the verse aloud, then teach it by playing the following game:

Have the children stand in a circle. Give the beanbag to one child. Start the music. The first child passes the beanbag to the right and says the first word of the memory verse. The second child says the second word and passes the beanbag to the right, and so forth. Continue until all know the verse, then stop the music. The child holding the beanbag is out and sits down. Continue playing until only one child is left. To end the activity, have all children say the verse together.

You Need:

- Bible
- a beanbag, small ball, or soft stuffed toy (something children can pass quickly)
- a pianist or recorded music

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.

Suggested Songs

- "I'm So Small" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 96)
- "God's Ways" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 260)
- "The Friendship Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 255)
- "My Best Friend Is Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 218)
- "Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 279)
- "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102)
- "Little Feet, Be Careful" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 307)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **When we bring our offering to Sabbath School, we are giving a gift to other people. We are helping them learn about God. Why do we do it? Because we love them too.**

Prayer

Use the community prayer cube from lesson 9 to help you decide which aspect of your community to remember in prayer in a special way.

* Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

3

Applying the Lesson

Think About It

You Need:

- paper or construction paper (different colors)
- masking tape

Label two pieces of paper A and B (or use two different colors of construction paper) and tape them to opposite walls.

Designate walls A and B. Children who think the first answer is correct should go stand by wall A. Children who think the second answer is correct should go stand by wall B.

Read the following scenarios aloud.

A. Mother asks Jonathan to help set the table. Jonathan wants some

candy. Should Jonathan say, (1) "If I set the table, may I have some candy?" Or should he say, (2) "Yes, Mother"?

B. Sarah and Mother are walking into the grocery store. Sarah sees a man's wallet on the ground and picks it up. She and Mother look inside and find the man's name and phone number. There's a lot of money in the wallet. Mother calls the man and tells him they have found his wallet. He says, "If you give it back to me, I'll give you

some of the money.” Should Sarah and Mother say, (1) “How much money?” or (2) “We don’t want any money; we just want you to have your wallet back”?

C. Terry has just received a new computer game for his birthday. Terry’s sister, Angela, asks Terry if she can play it. Terry remembers that when he wanted to play the new game Angela got for Christmas, she wouldn’t share. Should Terry say, (1) “OK, I’ll let you have a turn” or (2) “I’ll let you play with

my game if you let me play with yours”?

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Do we help or serve others for what we can get in return? (no) Why do we help or serve others?**



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Picture Love

You Need:

- card stock circles or paper plates
- art supplies
- glue
- craft sticks

In advance, prepare large card stock circles or use paper plates.

Distribute the circles and art supplies. Have the children draw a smiley face (☺) and color it. Help them glue the face to a craft stick.

someone you want to help or serve. **Take your smiley face home and tell that person about Abram and the time he served Lot and the king of Sodom and didn’t take any reward. If you want to serve others out of love as Abram did, ask that person how you can serve them. Then help them without expecting anything in return. Why? Because**



We serve others out of love.

Say that with me one more time.

Debriefing

Say: **You have made some wonderful happy faces. Think about**

Closing

Ask God to help the children remember to serve others out of love instead of seeking a reward in exchange.

STUDENT LESSON

Abram to the Rescue

References

Genesis 14;
Patriarchs and
Prophets, pp.
134–136

Memory Verse

"I will accept
nothing be-
longing to you"
(Genesis 14:23,
NIV).

The Message

We serve
others out
of love.

Who helps you when you are in trouble or afraid? Abram helped Lot when some enemies captured him. It may have happened like this . . .

Abram sat near the door to his tent, enjoying the fresh breeze. Suddenly he stood up and put his hand above his eyes to shade the sun. He could see a man running toward him. Abram walked out to meet him.

"Oh, Abram," the man panted. "There's been a great battle. The king of Sodom and four other kings went to war against their enemies." The man took more deep breaths.

Abram looked worried. His nephew, Lot, lived in Sodom. "What happened?" Abram asked.

"The king of Sodom and the four other kings lost the battle. The enemy kings captured Sodom and another city. They carried away all the food and the gold and the animals and the people. They took your nephew, Lot, and his family."

"You rest here," Abram said, then went to pray. He asked God to guide him.

Soon after, Abram gathered his soldiers and told them his plan. Three neighbors and their men joined him. They would find the enemy kings and follow them. But they would wait to attack until the enemy had made camp for the night.

That night they surprised the enemy kings. The startled enemy kings ran away, leaving behind the gold, the food, the animals, and the people.

"Oh, Uncle," exclaimed Lot when he saw Abram, "I am so glad to see you!"

"Let's go home," Abram said. So the people gathered the gold and the food and the animals and followed Abram. Abram had won the battle, and that

gave him the right to keep those people and all their things if he wanted to.

As they neared Lot's home, two men came out to meet them. Melchizedek, the king of a city named Salem and a priest of God, brought food to Abram and his men. He blessed Abram and said, "God Most High delivered your enemies into your hand."

Abram knew that God had won the victory for him. He was so grateful that he gave God's tithe—one of every 10 animals and pieces of gold—to Melchizedek, God's priest.

The other man, the king of Sodom, said to Abram, "Give me back the people, and keep everything else for yourself." He knew they should all belong to Abram because Abram won the battle.

But Abram didn't want anything. "I didn't go to battle to get rich," he said. "And I will accept nothing." Abram asked just for the food his men had already eaten, and for shares for the three neighbors who helped him. Abram was happy to serve others out of love.

We can serve others out of love too.



Do and Say



Sabbath

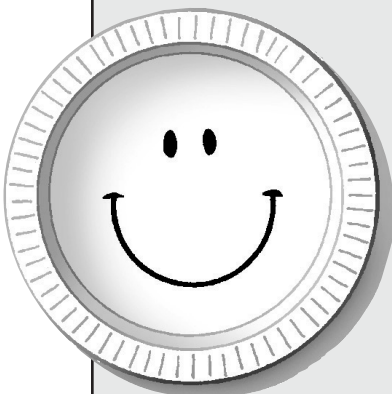
Ask your child to show the smiley face made in Sabbath School to someone and tell them about Abram. Make a plan to help that person sometime before next Sabbath. Encourage your child to serve without expecting or accepting anything in return.

Review the memory verse together. (See page 63 in the Bible study guide.)

Sunday

Together, read the lesson story from Genesis 14:11–24. Ask: Why did Abram go to battle? To whom should the gold and animals have belonged? Why did Abram give a tithe to Melchizedek? How much did Abram keep for himself? Why did Abram serve others?

Monday



Help your child use a plain paper plate and a black marker to make two faces, a smiling face on one side and a sad face on the other. Review the story and have your child hold up the appropriate face as you read about story incidents. Who was sad? Who was happy?

Sing a “happy” song before you pray.

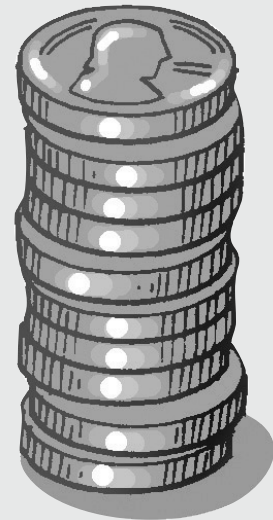
Tuesday

Provide ways for your child to help others at home today without receiving something in return. Help your

child identify times others serve your family without asking for anything in return. Sing a song about helping others.

Wednesday

Help your child plan and do something special today for a friend or neighbor without expecting anything in return. When finished, ask: How does it make you feel to serve someone without expecting anything in return? Why do we serve others? Whom are we like when we serve without expecting anything?



Thursday

Make several piles of 10 coins, dry beans, or pebbles. Help your child take one from each pile and set it aside as tithe.

Allow your child to help or watch you prepare your tithe envelope. Explain that tithe is the one tenth that belongs to God.

Friday

Use your family members to act out the Bible story. Use stuffed animals, coins, and so on as props. Have your child say the memory verse for the rest of the family.

Sing a “helping” song, then thank God for caring people.