



LESSON 8

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Abram is selfless. God blesses Abram.

Bible Character(s): Abram

Scripture Reference: Genesis 13:1-18



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Genesis 13:1-18 and 1 John 2:15-17. Abram, Sarai, and Abram's nephew Lot were sent away from Egypt. They returned to the land where Abram had first made an altar, but there was not enough room for both Abram and Lot's households. Conflict arose, and Abram provides a picture of selflessness in offering to allow Lot to choose first the land he wanted. Lot selfishly chose the more fertile Jordan Valley, which is within the vicinity of Sodom. Verse 13 tells us, "the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord." Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and God reaffirmed His promise to make Abram the father of many nations. Abram's selfless and gracious nature brings glory to God, reflecting the One who would come and provide the ultimate example of selflessness and grace.

Spend some time examining whether your life shows love for God or love for the world. Think specifically about some of the choices you have made this week. Have your choices been based on what looks "pleasing to the eyes" and what makes you feel valued? Do you recognize that decisions motivated by self-gratification lead only to temporary rewards? Are you aware when you are making choices based on self-gratification? Think about how your decisions reflect your trust in God. Someone who trusts in the Lord lives in a way to bring God glory, and to receive His eternal blessings instead of the treasures the world has to offer. Your campers are faced with many pressures and decisions each day, so spend some time praying that they would live each day with a desire to honor God with their choices, and reflect Jesus to the world.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Remind the campers of last week's lesson in which we learned that we are called to live by faith. We also talked about how our sins affect others.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will discuss how we can make choices based on what is pleasing and a blessing to ourselves or what is pleasing to God and a blessing to others.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group today? Which contestant was trying to get the best for himself and acting greedy during the game? (Contestant #2.) Was he playing the game fairly? Who ended up with the best prizes? (The other Contestant.)

Let's review what we have learned about Abram so far. What did God ask Abram to do? He asked Abram to leave his home and family, and go to Canaan. How did Abram respond? Abram trusted God through faith, and obeyed what God asked. What happened after Abram got to Canaan? Abram built an altar to God and worshiped Him there. Then there was a famine in the land. What did Abram and Sarai do? They went to Egypt. Was Abram faithful in Egypt? No, he lied about who Sarai was because he was afraid of Pharaoh. What was the result of Abram's sin? It impacted a lot of people around him. God sent great plagues to Pharaoh's household. Pharaoh sent Abram's wife back to him and sent them all away.

Last week, we learned that God calls us to live by faith. When we live by trusting in His ways, He will watch over us and bless us. But, when we live by trusting in our own desires and abilities, He will bring about hard times not only for ourselves, but also for others.

This week, we'll see an example of how Abram lived out his faith in God. Let's begin by reading from Genesis 13 [NLT].

Genesis 13:1-4

1 So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. 2 (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) 3 From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. 4 This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.

Who can remember from last week why Abram had to leave Egypt? (Pharaoh was mad because Abram lied about Sarai not being his wife.) How do you think Abram felt as he left Egypt? (Upset that he sinned, glad to be back in the promised land, tired from moving all the time.) Have you ever had to

move before? How did it make you feel? (Allow responses.) Moving to a new place can be sad or exciting, but the process of moving everything you own is usually a lot of work. Notice that verse two says Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. So not only was he forced to move, but he had a lot of stuff that he needed to bring with him! He was probably very tired by the time they put up their tents, but what did Abram do right after they set up their tents? (Allow responses.) He worshiped God. No matter how tired he was after a long journey, he still chose to worship God first.

Let's continue reading.

Genesis 13:6-7

6 But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. 7 So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot.

Abram and Lot each had a lot of stuff, but they didn't have much room to share with all of their families and animals. Do any of you share a room with a brother or sister? Is it hard to share one room with someone else? What makes it hard? (Allow responses.) Sharing can often lead to conflict, or fighting with others, over stuff or space.

Conflict Over Stuff



The purpose of this activity is to illustrate how we can fight over earthly treasures.

Supplies:

Bag of 20-25 pieces of candy (1 per session)

Put the bag of candy in the middle of the table and tell the campers that all of it is for them. Lead the children in a discussion on different ways to distribute the candy fairly:

- a) Throw it on a table
- b) Give 2 per camper
- c) Earn it by being smart
- d) Earn it by good behavior
- e) Other

Give them a few minutes to figure out how to divide it all up among themselves. (Some children might want to split it evenly, while some children may try to grab as much as possible.)

Tie It Together



What was the first thing you thought of when you saw all the candy? Did you think of yourself first, or everyone else? How did you want to split up the candy? (Allow responses.) Sharing is a difficult thing to do because we like to keep things for ourselves and do whatever is best for ourselves. That is one way we see sin in our life, because we want to put ourselves first. God tells us to always put Him and others above ourselves. That is how we can show His love in our life. Let's see how Abram responds to the disputes.

Genesis 13:8-9

8 Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives!" 9 The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left."

Abram gave Lot the first choice in land. The passage goes on to say that Lot chose the Jordan Valley because it had lots of water, was very fertile for growing crops, and was beautiful like the garden of the Lord. Abram settled in the land of Canaan. We are also told that the people of the land that Lot chose "were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord." (Verse 13)

Was Abram looking out only for himself? (Allow responses.) No, he was selfless and allowed Lot to choose first. He did not want this conflict to come between him and Lot. Abram was older and could have chosen whatever land he wanted, but he was selfless instead. What about Lot? How did he make his choice? (Allow responses.) Lot made a choice based on what he wanted, what he thought would be best for him. He put himself first.

Selfish and Greedy



The purpose is to help the campers understand what it means to be selfish and greedy.

Supplies:

White board

Ask your campers to give examples of times when they have been selfish towards their family and friends. Write these examples on the white board.

Tie It Together



Being selfish is easy for us because we are sinful. When we choose to put ourselves first and do what is best for us, we are being selfish. All of these examples you've shown are ways that you have been selfish. When we are selfish, we are living in sin. We need to go to God and ask Him to help us. He can help us choose to be selfless, or unselfish. He can help us choose to love others first. By doing this, we are actually loving God and giving Him the glory. This is how God wants us to live our lives. Abram lived this way. Even though God had already promised Abram land (Genesis 12:7), Abram chose to love Lot and also love God more than what was promised to him. In Big Group today, which character was more like Abram (unselfish and humble) and which character was more like Lot (selfish)? (Allow responses.) In our last activity, were you more like Abram (putting others first) or like Lot (putting self first)? (Allow responses.)

Bookmarking Our Steps



The purpose is to focus on how we can treat others in a selfless manner.

Supplies:

"How To Deal With A Conflict" bookmark (1 per camper)

Markers/crayons

Give each camper a bookmark and help him/her through the steps of dealing with a conflict.

Tie It Together



What steps did Abram take to be unselfish and put Lot first? (Allow responses.) The first thing he did was offer a solution. He did not want the conflict to come between them, so he said they could divide the land. Then he let Lot have the first choice, even though it meant Abram would probably not get the land he wanted. Abram chose to love Lot more than he loved himself, and by doing this he brought glory to God.

Conflict will happen in your life. Having conflict is not a sin, but how we respond to it will show if we love God or love ourselves more. Philippians 2:4 says, "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

Jesus was the best example of what it means to put others above ourselves. What did He do to show love and put us first? (Died for our sins.) We can learn from Jesus about how to love others more than we love ourselves. We can trust that God will take care of us when we are obedient to Him. On your bookmark put "Be the first to offer a solution" as step #1 and "Let others have the first choice even if it means we do not get what we want" as step #2. Keep this bookmark with you to remember what it means to treat others selflessly.

Let's keep reading.

Genesis 13:14-18

14 After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction – north and south, east and west. 15 I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. 16 And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! 17 Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you." 18 So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the Lord.

Who can remember what God had already promised Abram? (Allow responses.) God had told Abram that he would be made into a great nation, with land and descendants. Abram knew this promise when he allowed Lot to choose the land first. He trusted in God's faithfulness, and he was faithful in living in a way to bring God glory. What did God do for Abram? (Allow responses.) God blessed Abram. He gave him abundant land and uncountable descendants. On the other hand, Lot was not blessed for his choices. He was selfish and got what he wanted. There was no blessing from God for the choices Lot made.

Should you trust in what God has for you? Should you live to bring glory to God, or live to bring glory for yourself? Should you try to get what you want, or should you trust that God will take care of you? (Allow responses.) God loves you so much. He wants to bless you and give you more than you can imagine. You have a choice to be like Lot (selfish, tried to get his own blessings) or like Abram (selfless, had faith that God would take care of him and bless him).

God Blesses Us



The purpose of this activity is to show how God blessed Abram with many descendants.

Supplies:

Pie pan or bowl with sand (1 per bin)

Ask the campers to try to count all of the pieces of sand in the pan. Give them a few minutes to do so.

Tie It Together



Were you able to count every piece of sand in the pan? (Allow responses.) Probably not. God told Abram that He would give him “so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted.” Just like it was difficult to count every piece of sand, it is impossible to count the blessings that God gives us. When we follow God and seek Him with all of our heart, He blesses us in ways that we can see, and ways that we cannot see. Think about the blessings in your life that God has given you, and know that there are many more that you cannot even see right now.

Choosing Selflessness



The purpose is to help the campers understand how they can be selfless towards others.

Supplies:

Paper (1 per camper)

Give campers a piece of paper, and ask them to draw a picture of people in their life that they can put above themselves.

Tie It Together



Each of the people you have drawn are people in your life that you can choose to put above yourself. Can you think of ways that you can love them more than you love yourself? (Allow responses.) Those are all great answers! God wants us to be selfless and love others more than we love ourselves. We have opportunities everyday to live this way. When we love others first, we are loving God and giving Him the glory!

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for providing us with the ultimate example of selflessness and humility in Jesus, and for the numerous blessings He provides. Ask God to help us live in a way that brings Him glory.



2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615 Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222