



## LESSON 9

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** Trust in God instead of money, things, and status

**Bible Character(s):** Abram, Lot

**Scripture Reference:** Genesis 14:14-24



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read through Genesis 14. Lot had

chosen the fertile land near Sodom to settle with his family and possessions after Abram allowed him first choice of land. However his selfish choice brought repercussions when he was taken captive after an alliance of kings invaded the Jordan Valley and defeated the local kings. In response to hearing of his nephew's captivity, Abram assembled his men and defeated the forces holding Lot. Abram recovered Lot, his household, and all of his possessions. After returning, Abram is greeted by the King of Sodom and Melchizedek (mel-kih-zeh-deck), the King of Salem. Melchizedek provides food and wine for Abram and his men and blessed Abram, attributing his victory to the power of God. Abram recognizes God's sovereignty and provision and presents a portion of his goods to Melchizedek. When the King of Sodom displays no gratitude or honor to God, but presents Abram with an offer for goods, Abram rejects the offer and takes nothing for himself. His dependence on God to make him into "a great nation," outweighs the opportunities provided through the gifts of earthly kings.

As you reflect on the principles taught in this chapter, think about your dependence on God. Do you trust Him to be your sovereign provider? Do you live with the belief that everything comes from Him and you are only a steward, or do you view all of your belongings as your own? How do you recognize God's provision by giving back to Him? How do you struggle with sacrificing for the sake of the Gospel? Spend some time in prayer as you prepare to teach the principle of trust this weekend.

### 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!

Ask your campers to think about things they put their trust and hope in. It could be video games, toys, feeling accepted, etc. Write these things down on the white board. Ask them why they put their trust

and hope in these things. How would they feel if these things were taken away?



## **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 continue with the story of Abram and study what it means to trust in God and depend on Him for everything we need. We will learn that everything we have is God's and was given to us by God and that giving back to Him is an act of worship.

## **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 about in Big Group? What was the first guest, Lil' Brat, like? (Prideful and selfish, thought he would have everything he ever wanted.) What happened when he lost it all? (He was upset and ran off crying.) What was the other guest like, Doris Ledbetter? (She already had everything she needed, which was Jesus, before she won the money; they gave their money back to God by helping others out; she depended on Jesus.)

Who can remember what we talked about last week? (Allow responses.) What happened with Abram and Lot? There was a conflict between Abram and Lot because they needed more space to live; they needed to spread out into the land around them. How did they resolve this conflict? Abram gave Lot the first choice to pick the land he wanted. Abram gave up what he wanted and allowed Lot to take the best land. What did this teach you about Abram? Abram was selfless; he cared more about Lot than himself. How did God respond to Abram's selflessness? God blessed him.

We are going to continue where we left off with Abram and Lot. In chapter 14, a war broke out between several of the kings that lived in the area where Abram and Lot lived. Lot was captured by one of the armies in the war. One of his men escaped and told Abram everything that happened.

Let's continue in Genesis 14 [NLT], and see what happens to Lot.

### **Genesis 14: 14-16**

*14 When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer's army until he caught up with them at Dan. 15 There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer's army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. 16 Abram recovered all the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions and all the women and other captives.*

Abram knew that Lot needed help. He gathered his men, defeated Kedorlaomer's army and freed Lot and his family. He also got back everything that had been taken.

### Genesis 14: 17-18

*17 After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).*

*18 And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine.*

When Abram returned from his victory, the king of Sodom and Melchizedek, the king of Salem, went out to meet him.

Let's take a closer look at these two men.

### King of Sodom vs. Melchizedek



The purpose of this activity is to distinguish between the two kings so the campers can understand why Abram responded to each one the way he did.

#### Supplies:

Worksheet – “Kings Characteristics” side (1 per camper)

As a class, read Genesis 13: 12-13 (to tell them about the area of Sodom) and Hebrews 7: 1-2 (to tell them about Melchizedek). Give each camper a worksheet. Read over the characteristics listed below the pictures. Have campers draw a line from the characteristic to the king who it represents.

#### Answer key:

King of Sodom: sinful king (disobedient to God), Genesis 13: 13 (city was filled with evil and sin)

Melchizedek: was a high priest, Hebrews 7:2 (“king of justice” or “king of peace”), represents God in this story

### Tie It Together



When Abram came back from his victory, the King of Sodom and Melchizedek went out to meet him in the valley. These kings were two very different men. What did you find out about King Sodom? (Allow responses.) He was a sinful king who came from a city that was filled with evil and sin. How about Melchizedek? (Allow responses.) He was a high priest whose name means “king of justice” or “king of peace.” He followed and obeyed God. We will see why it is important to understand who these two Kings were as we keep reading. We will also see how Abram responded to each of them.

Let's continue reading.

### Genesis 14: 19-20

*19 Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:*

*“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.*

*20 And blessed be God Most High,*

*who has defeated your enemies for you.”*

*Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.*

## “It’s Mine, Isn’t It?”



The purpose is to help the campers see that they, like Abram, have a chance to worship God by giving back to Him.

### Supplies:

Situation and questions guide (1 per bin)

White board

Read through each situation and ask the campers the questions after each situation. After you have read through the examples, encourage your campers to think of examples in their own life when they have been given money or presents. How have they used what they have been given? Do they view these things as their own or do they view these things as God’s? Write any examples on the white board.

## Tie It Together



Everything we are given, whether through blessing or by working for it, is given to us by God. Let’s examine the encounter between Melchizedek and Abram. Melchizedek brought bread and wine out to Abram and then blessed him in the name of God. Abram then gave some of his possessions back to Melchizedek for this blessing. Abram recognized that everything he had was God’s. Nothing he had was his own; God had given him everything he had, and he viewed all of his possessions (animals, clothes, food, tents, etc) as God’s.

It’s the same for us. Everything we have, even each breath of life, was given to us by God. God wants us to recognize that everything we have is His and was given to us by Him. We can trust and depend on Him for everything we need. He gives us the responsibility of taking care of what He gives us, and using everything we have to bring Him glory. When we choose to give back to God what He has given us, it is an act of worship. God gave us His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sin. We have already been given more than we deserve. Giving to others is a reflection of our heart. It shows that our trust and hope are in Jesus and what He has done for us. We can worship Him by giving back to Him.

Let’s continue reading to see how Abram responds to the king of Sodom.

## Genesis 14:21-24

*21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered.”*

*22 Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’ 24 I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.”*

## Give It Away



The purpose is to help the campers understand what it means to have a giving heart.

#### Supplies:

\$1 bill (1 per bin)

Hold the \$1 bill in front of the campers and tell them this is your \$1 bill. Hand it to one camper and make it clear that it is not their dollar, but *yours*, and that you are asking them to give it away. When they give it to another camper, make sure they know to tell the camper they give it to that the \$1 bill is not either of theirs, but it's *yours* (cabin leader), and the camper giving it away needs to ask the next camper to give it away. Continue until the \$1 bill has been passed around the room and everyone has had a chance to give it away.

### Tie It Together



How hard was it to give away that dollar? Was it easier to give it away because you knew it was my money and not yours? (Allow responses.) When we recognize that everything we have is not really ours but is God's, it makes it much easier to give back to God. Abram recognized that everything he had was given to him by God. He did not take anything that belonged to the King of Sodom because he trusted God to bless him with everything he needed. He took only what had already been given to him, and he shared his goods with his allies. He gave a portion of his possessions to Melchizedek because he knew it was what God wanted him to do. Abram did not put his trust in money or any of the possessions he recovered. He trusted God and depended on Him for everything he needed. He worshiped God by giving back to Melchizedek. Abram gave God the glory for the victory and His provision.

### I Can Give Back To God



The purpose is for the campers to think of how they can give back to God.

#### Supplies:

Worksheet – blank side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the back side of the worksheet from earlier. Ask them to write down or draw a picture of some ways in which they can give back to God (share toys with others, give food to someone in need, give a gift, give money, share clothes, spend time helping someone, etc).

### Tie It Together



There are many ways that we can give back to God. God has blessed each of us with more than we need. We can take what He has given us and give Him glory by having a giving heart. When we have a giving heart, it shows that our trust and hope are in Jesus, and not in this world. We trust in Him to give us everything we need, and believe that His plan for us is good. We worship God by giving back to Him.

### Wrapping Up

God wants us to recognize that everything comes from Him. When we acknowledge that everything is His and nothing is ours, we show our dependence on God through our willingness to give back to Him. He wants us to love Him more than anything else. He knows when we choose to love anything else more than we love Him because He knows our hearts. God desires to have your whole heart. Do you love God with your whole heart? Do you trust and depend on Him for everything you have and need? How are you worshiping Him by giving back to Him for the blessings He has given you?

## Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for being our giver and provider. Praise Him for being a God we can trust and depend on to give us all we need. Ask Him to help us have giving hearts to worship Him.



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