

2

A Peaceful Parting

Community
We reflect God's love in our families.

POWER TEXT

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives'" (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 13
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 12, pp. 132, 133
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 149-151
- Student lesson on page 32 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family
- No. 7, The Nature of Humanity

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that conflicts can be satisfactorily resolved.
- **Feel** responsible for solving conflicts God's way.
- **Respond** by putting others first to solve problems.

POWERPOINT

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

During trials and hardships Abraham and Lot have lived together in peace and harmony. Now in prosperity there is not enough pasture for both their herds, and arguments between their herdsmen are a regular occurrence. As the elder of the two, Abraham has the right to take what he wants. However, he waives his right and gives Lot the first choice.

This is a lesson about community.

Conflicts will always arise within families. Abraham provides a good role model for all families. By talking about the problem and putting others first, we can resolve conflicts and maintain harmonious relationships.

Teacher Enrichment

"Here the noble, unselfish spirit of Abraham was displayed. How many under similar circumstances would, at all hazards, cling to their individual rights and preferences! How many households have thus been rent asunder! How many churches have been divided, making the cause of truth a byword and a reproach among the wicked! . . . The children of God the world over are one family, and the same spirit of love and conciliation should govern them. . . . Cultivation of a uniform courtesy, a willingness to do to others as we would wish them to do to us, would annihilate half the ills of life" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 132).

What is my usual way of solving conflicts? What can I learn from Abraham?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Unharmonious Sounds* *B. Discordant Sounds*	music recording or musician, paper, pencils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 27. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering box/basket, tree outline, paper leaves, pencils, tapes
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, copies of skit Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Mixed Signals*	written instructions
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Life Conflicts*	
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ music recording OR musician
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Unharmonious Sounds

Say: **I would like you to listen to some music. While you are listening to it I want you to jot down on a piece of paper how you feel.**

Play a discordant piece of music or have someone play a song and deliberately put in some discordant notes.

Debriefing

Ask: **What effect did the wrong notes have on you? How do you feel when you hear people being "unharmonious" in conflict situations? God is a God of harmony. He wants us to live in harmony with one another. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 13:8,**

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives' " (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

Conflicts appear to have risen in Bible families, just as they do in today's families. However, as our power point reminds us:

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

Accommodations for students with special needs

This activity may be challenging for students who are hard of hearing and who find it difficult to differentiate between various sounds. Consider placing these students close to the source of sound and encourage them to contribute to the discussion.

B

Discordant Sounds

Say: **I want you to say something loudly to the person sitting next to you. Let's see who can make the loudest noise.**

While the students are making noises, softly say that there is a drink or treat of some kind on the other side of the room. Then call students' attention and start the debriefing.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who among you heard what I've just told you? Why was it difficult to hear the message about the treat?**

Say: **When people argue and fight, it is like making a loud, harsh noise; it blocks out the good things about relationships. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 13:8:**

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives' " (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

Conflicts appear to have risen in Bible families, just as they do in today's families. However our power point reminds us that

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

Accommodations for students with special needs

This activity might be particularly challenging for students who are hard of hearing and who may try to distinguish between various sounds. Explain to them that even students with excellent hearing have difficulty understanding what everyone else is saying. Then proceed with the debriefing.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96)
"He Has Shown Thee" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 125)
"Come Let Us Reason" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 105)
"Touching Heaven, Changing Earth" (*Praise Time*, no. 22)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering box/basket

Continue to use the box covered with faces of people. Say: **When we give offerings we usually think about the blessing it will bring to others. But did you know that giving brings blessings to the giver too? Why not try it and see. The offerings we give today will help to carry the light of God's Word around the globe.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ tree outline
- ☐ paper leaves
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ tape

Give each student a leaf cut out and ask them to write a conflict situation that they would like to pray for. It can be a national/international conflict or a personal conflict. Invite them to add the leaves to the tree from last Sabbath. Pray for God's wisdom for those involved in the conflicts that they may be able to resolve them. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask students if they have ever had a disagreement with a brother or sister. Call on volunteers to tell briefly what they usually disagree over and how they usually resolve the problems. Say: **Let's say our power text together, Genesis 13:8:**

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives' " (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

Today we are studying about a family conflict in the Bible.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ copies of skit

Experiencing the Story

Ask the students to take turns reading aloud Genesis 13. Then ask for two volunteers to put on the "The Herdsmen" skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think Abraham gave Lot first choice? What kinds of problems do you think Abraham avoided by doing that?**

The Herdsmen

Abraham's Herdsman: Would you look at all the animals my master owns? He seems to have more and more every day.

Lot's Herdsman: You're right. And my master's flocks are growing to huge proportions too.

Abraham's Herdsman: God certainly is blessing them. Hey! Wait a minute! You've got your herd of sheep in the wrong field. They're eating the grass allotted to my sheep herd!

Lot's Herdsman: No, I don't. That's where my master's sheep are supposed to be. Why don't you mind your own business?

Abraham's Herdsman: This is my business! How can I get any of my master's animals properly fed if you're going to be grazing yours in all the best places?

Lot's Herdsman: I'm going to have to tell Lot that you are pushing us around again.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Write the following Bible texts on the board. Divide the students into seven groups and give each one of the following references. Say: **There are many different ways of solving conflicts. Some are positive and some are negative. Let's explore some different responses recorded in the Bible and then decide which conflict resolution tactics we want to adopt the next time we are in a conflict situation.**

1. Genesis 4:3-8
2. Genesis 27:41-45
3. 1 Samuel 17:20-24, 40-50
4. 1 Kings 3:16-28
5. John 18:25-27
6. Matthew 18:15
7. Matthew 18:21-35

Invite the groups to report back what they discovered. Say: **We can't choose or control how others behave, but when we are in a conflict situation we can choose how we respond. We can choose to be angry, lie, run away, or we can choose to talk, to put others first, and when necessary go to someone else to mediate. Let's say together our power text, Genesis 13:8:**

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives'" (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

Conflicts appear to have risen in Bible families, just as they do in today's families. Remember the power point:

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

Accommodations for students with special needs
Have students with visual impairments sit near the board or prepare for them ahead of time a handout in large font, listing the Bible references and the questions for this activity.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ written instructions

Mixed Signals

Divide the class into two equal groups; give each group a set of written directions concerning a "common" goal for the entire classroom. This goal can be anything that is suited to your class area such as: stacking chairs, moving tables, setting up a prop, singing a song, getting a snack ready, etc.

Give each group a different set of directions; instruct each group that they are *not* to talk to the other group but are all to work together to accomplish the goal, being very careful to follow the directions in exactly the order they are listed.

Example: (you might say) **You have three minutes to complete the goal. The goal is to get all the chairs stacked *together*, away from the center of the room**.

Give group one a set of directions to read together which might be like this:

1. Take each chair, one by one, to the back of the room.
2. Stack the chairs together in stacks of three—*no fewer.*
3. Turn all the chairs so that the backs of the chairs face the center of room.
4. Each member of the group should stand side by side in front of chairs, facing the chairs.

Give group two a different set of instructions to read together:

1. Take each chair, one by one, to the *front* of the room.
2. When every chair in the room has been moved to the front, stack the chairs in stacks of two—*no higher.*
3. Turn all the stacks so that the backs of the chairs face the back of the room.
4. Each two members of the group should stand back to back in front of the chairs.

Give the signal to begin the task when both groups have read their instructions. Allow them to struggle with the conflicting directions for a few moments.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why are you unable to complete your goal? How is this like when people spend a lot of time trying to do their own thing? How much can we accomplish when we are operating in conflict with others? What can you do, together, right now, to get this goal accomplished? Remember the power point:**

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

Life Conflicts

Invite students to share with the class their experiences from last week. Ask: **Did you talk to someone with whom you had a conflict? How did you resolve your conflict with the other person? How did that person respond? What did you do to build a friendship with that person by sharing Jesus' loving spirit?**

Quickly review the acceptable alternatives for conflict resolution as discussed in Exploring the Bible. Divide the students into pairs. Ask them to identify and share with their partner one or two conflict areas that need a solution. Using the conflict resolution tools, help them to work out a plan to deal with the conflict.

Debriefing

Ask: **What have you learned today that you can actually use this coming week? Who else can you share this information with? Who will benefit from your conflict strategies?**

Say: **Facing conflicts is never easy, but we can be sure that when we try to resolve things in a positive way God will be with us. We can choose how to react. Let's repeat once again the power point:**

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **God is a God of peace and harmony. He wants His followers also to live in peace, taking constructive steps to resolve conflict. Let's pray and ask God to help us when we get into conflict situations.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Abraham makes his own plan. God wants us to trust Him and His plans for our lives.**

Notes

Student lesson

A Peaceful Parting

Have you ever had a hurtful argument? How did you feel? When there is conflict, someone usually gets hurt. Abraham discovered one way to avoid conflict. Imagine how it happened.

Abraham sighed. This was not the first time that the herdsmen had come and complained about Lot's servants. If the quarreling between Lot's servants and Abraham's servants continued, someone could get hurt.

Abraham was a wealthy man. Unlike a rich man today who counts his wealth in stocks, money, or real estate, Abraham's wealth was in flocks of sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. For this reason he needed a lot of land to feed his flocks of animals. Finding grazing for all these animals was difficult.

That was only part of Abraham's problem. His nephew Lot lived with him, and he was rich too. He had lots of sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys as well. As long as Abraham and Lot stayed together, the land couldn't support all those hungry mouths. That was why the servants were always bickering and fighting. Like a big family in a little house, they had outgrown their space. It was time to go their separate ways.

As the older of the two, Abraham had the right to decide where he wanted to live and to ask Lot to move on. However, Abraham loved Lot and knew that if he did that, it might cause bad feelings. So Abraham went and talked to Lot.

He said, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left" (Genesis 13:8, 9, NIV).

Lot stopped to think. He owed everything to his uncle Abraham. He knew that he had acquired all his riches because he had chosen to live and travel with Abraham. A while ago they had gone to Egypt and come back with even more wealth. Lot knew that the socially acceptable thing to do was to say, "No, Uncle Abraham; you have the first choice." In their society the older men always had the first choice. Good manners dictated that he give Abraham the first choice. Lot knew that God had promised all this land to Abraham and his descendants. He looked around.

Over there on the left were fields of waving grain, olive groves, and vineyards. Not bad. He could be comfortable there. But there on the right—wow! That was the most fertile valley in the country. It was as rich and green as the Garden of Eden. The cities, too, were rich and beautiful!

Quickly Lot decided that since Abraham had offered him a choice, he would take advantage of the situation. He chose to go to the east, and the two parted company with no hard feelings.

But what if Abraham had chosen first and selected the fertile valley? Would Lot have gone the other way with no hard feelings, as Abraham did? Or would it have been the beginning of a family feud? Families have been torn apart over less. Just watch grown brothers and sisters go to war with each other over their parents' possessions and belongings.

The story of Abraham and Lot has a happy ending, but not because of anything Lot did. The two parted peacefully because Abraham gave up his right to the best. He was simply practicing the best principle known for getting along with others, especially family members.

Moms are really good at this one, probably because they hate family bickering more than anyone else. Ever notice what happens when there are four people in the family and three pieces of pie? Mom decides she doesn't really want any. Or if someone is cold and left their coat at home? Mom wraps hers around the shivering child.

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets," Jesus said (Matthew 7:12, NIV). "Honor one another above yourselves" is how it's put in Romans 12:10, NIV. This is also the message of Abraham's story. It could be summarized this way: "Give others the first choice and be happy with what you get." It's an ancient rule for getting along that still holds true today.

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 13
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 12, pp. 132, 133
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 149-151
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 23, 7

POWER TEXT

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives'" (Genesis 13:8, NIV).

POWER POINT

We follow God's plan for solving conflicts when we put others first.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read Genesis 13 and this week's story, "A Peaceful Parting."

REVIEW Review the power text, Genesis 13:8.

PRAY Pray for those living in conflict situations.

Monday

READ Read 1 Kings 3:16-28.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list the steps Abraham took to resolve the conflict between himself and Lot.

APPLY Think of ways you could resolve conflicts and allow wisdom to guide your decisions.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you resolve your conflicts & Practice what you learn this week.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 18:15, 16.

ADD In your Bible study journal, add to your list of tools for resolving conflicts.

APPLY Plan to use one of these tools next time you are in a conflict situation.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for someone with whom you have had a conflict. Ask for wisdom to make peace with that person.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 18:21-25.

THINK How many times should you forgive others?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for a forgiving attitude toward everyone.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 18:26-35.

CREATE Create something that illustrates how you feel when you are living at peace with everyone.

WRITE Write a song or a poem about the way to resolve conflicts.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for wisdom to make peace with someone.

Friday

READ Read Hebrews 12:14.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family for worship.

SHARE Share your song or poem with your family.

DISCUSS Discuss how you may each apply a tool for resolving any family conflicts you may have.

SAY Repeat aloud the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the tools He provides so that we may be effective in solving conflicts in our relationships. Ask Him for help to do so.