WEEK 11

Abram Lets Lot Choose



Big Idea: God is loving. I will put others first.

Memory Verse
***"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others"* (Philippians 2:4).**

Word of the Week
"Honor" - When you honor someone, you treat them with respect. You do things that show they are special and important to you. You put them first.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 13** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 132-134.

Sunday

Blessed by God

Abram looked left, then right. He looked ahead and behind. Everywhere he turned there were wandering sheep, skipping goats, clip-clopping donkeys, grunting camels, and bellowing oxen. He owned so many animals. There were too many to count!

Abram smiled as he remembered God's promise. God had told him, "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you (Genesis 12:2, ICB).

There was no doubt God had kept His promise! God had already blessed Abram with so much—and it wasn't just animals. What else had God given him? Read **Genesis 13:2**.

Wherever Abram went, people saw how God was blessing him. In fact, they honored him like a mighty prince. But Abram never acted more important than others. Instead, he showed God's humble love and kindness to everyone he met.

Abram had been on a big traveling adventure with God. He had left Canaan in hard times. But now he had returned with more than he'd ever had before. He set up his tent right next to the altar he had built near Bethel. There he offered a sacrifice, saying "Thank You" to God for His many blessings.



I Wonder

» What do you like the most about Abram?

» What are some blessings God has given you (family, friends, pets, a home, church, food)?

Prayer Idea
Thank God for the blessings He gives you.

Do
Do some secret acts of kindness for your family at home this week. Leave a heart in the place where you did the kind act. The person who finds a heart can do something kind for someone else!



Monday

Bursting With Blessings

Abram held up his big walking stick and waved. The sheep in the nearby field raised their heads. The goats in the valley below chomped and chewed. But far in the distance another shepherd waved back. It was Lot, Abram's nephew.

Abram was so glad to be back in Canaan with Lot. They had been many places together since they had left Ur. Abram and Sarai had cared for Lot and taught him to trust and obey God as they did.

Like Abram, Lot was rich with his own herds, flocks, and tents. God had blessed him too! But there was a problem on Abram's farm. What was it? Read **Genesis 13:6**.

Abram and Lot's workers began to argue and fight. There were no friendly waves to each other across the fields. Pointing their fingers angrily, they may have shouted:

"Keep your sheep away from the best grass on the hill—it's our turn!"

"No, it's not! You're just greedy!"

Back and forth, day after day, they fought with each other.

Soon Abram heard about their arguments. It made him sad. He knew that unkind words hurt everyone. The Bible says, "A gentle answer will calm a person's anger. But an unkind answer will cause more anger" (Proverbs 15:1, ICB).

Abram could also see that there wasn't enough land for all the animals to be together. What could they do?

I Wonder

» What do you think Abram and Lot should do about their problem?

» Think of a time you were frustrated about sharing something. What did you do?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you use kind and peaceful words, even when you're frustrated.

Do

Choose a toy that is special to you. How can you be unselfish and share your toy? Look through your toys and take some to Adventist Community Services or a thrift store so they can go to children who don't have many.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

You First!

Abram and Lot had a big problem. There were too many sheep, too many cows, and too many fights on their farm! How could they fix this? Abram thought about his problem. He prayed to God for wisdom. He wanted everyone to be happy and at peace.

Finally Abram said to Lot, "There should be no arguing between you and me. Your herders and mine should not argue either" (Genesis 13:8, ICB).

Abram pointed across the land. What did Abram say they should do? Read **Genesis 13:9**.

How kind of Abram! God had given all this land to *him*—but Abram was choosing to share his land with Lot. Not only that, but he was letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram would take whatever was left.

The Bible says, "Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:3, 4, ICB). And that is exactly what Abram did. He chose God's way and honored Lot more than himself.

It's hard to be generous. Without God's help, it's easy to be selfish and greedy: "I want the biggest; I want the best; I want to go first." With God's love in our hearts, we can be like Abram. We can give God our best and put others first.

I Wonder

» What does this part of the story tell you about Abram?

» How can you show honor to your brothers, sisters, and other family members this week?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to put others first, especially when it's hard.

Do

Abram honored Lot by letting him choose first. Practice "honoring" each other. Take turns offering each other something today (use of a toy, a book, the best seat, the biggest treat).

Memory Verse





Wednesday

The Best for Me!

Lot's eyes opened wide with delight. Uncle Abram was letting him choose to live wherever he wanted. He could choose first!

As Lot looked out over the land, what did he see? Read **Genesis 13:10**.

It was beautiful! Lot had a big choice to make.

Lot should have stopped and said, "No, Uncle Abram, you choose first." But he didn't. He should have asked God to help him choose. But no, Lot didn't do that, either. Lot wanted the very best for *himself*. And Lot was sure that *he* would make the best choice.

Greedily he searched for the greenest and most beautiful land. Finally he pointed. There! Down on the lush, flat, green land! That is where he wanted to live. He thought it looked perfect. It had lots of green grass, good food, and water. And it was really close to the busy city of Sodom.

Lot's decision was made. He said goodbye to Abram and Sarai. Then he gathered his family, his workers, and his animals. Together they walked down the hill and set up their tents near Sodom.

He was so happy with his me-first choice! But the Bible says that "the people of Sodom were very evil" (Genesis 13:13, ICB). Uh-oh, that doesn't sound like a good place to live, does it?

I Wonder

» What had Abram done to be like the words in your memory verse? (See Philippians 2:4.)

» Do you think Lot's choice was a good choice or a bad choice? What makes you say that?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you a heart that is happy to put others first.

Do

If possible, go to a lookout or a place in nature where you can admire the view. If this isn't possible, perch yourself high on furniture and use your imagination. Pretend you were given Lot's choice. What would you say and do?

Memory Verse

Thursday

Too Many Blessings to Count!

Abram hummed as he set up his tent. It was so peaceful in the spot he had chosen for his new home. His tent looked out at green grass and big shady trees. But best of all, it faced an altar to God.

God loved seeing Abram set up his home around the altar. He had a surprise to give His friend. What did God say to him? Read **Genesis 13:14, 15**.

All the land in every direction would be his, and his family's, forever!

God promised Abram, "I will make your descendants [children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren] as many as the dust of the earth. If anyone could count the dust on the earth, he would count your people" (Genesis 13:16, ICB).

A family too big even to count? That is a *very big family*!

Abram was as old as a grandfather, and he still didn't have a child of his own. But God wanted Abram to keep trusting Him. God would make it happen! God always keeps His promises.

God said to Abram, "Get up! Walk through all this land. I am now giving it to you" (Genesis 13:17, ICB). With a big smile Abram jumped to his feet. What a kind gift from his loving Friend.

Parent Faith Talk

Tell your child about some blessings God has given you and how you have decided to use them.

I Wonder

» Why did God bless and honor Abram so much?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always keeping His promises.

Do

Go outside and, if possible, find some dirt or dust. Take a handful. Look at all the fine little grains you can see. What a promise God gave to Abram!

Memory Verse





Friday

God's Bright Light

Abram and Sarai made lots of friends in Canaan. They told all their friends about God and His love for everyone.

The people in Canaan noticed that Abram was different from other people. He was happy, friendly, and kind. He put others first, instead of himself. He spoke wise words about God. And he left "thank-You" altars to God everywhere he went.

Abram *was* different—he had God's love in his heart! It made him stand out like a bright light that shines in the darkness.

The Bible says, "Be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, ICB).

With God's love in your heart, you can be a bright light too. You can smile at others, say hello, speak caring words, show kindness, and tell others about your Best Friend Jesus. When you do these things, you are shining God's love.

Who knows, maybe others will notice and want to make Jesus their best friend too!

I Wonder

» How can you shine God's love to someone this Sabbath?

Prayer Idea

Read your memory verse (Philippians 2:4). Ask God to help you honor others.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a big flashlight or a candle on your page. Inside the picture, write how Abram shone for God. Then write ideas on how you can honor others and show God's kindness and love too.

For You, Parents

"While Christ is dwelling in the heart it is impossible to conceal the light of His presence, or for that light to grow dim. On the contrary, it will grow brighter and brighter as day by day the mists of selfishness and sin that envelop the soul are dispelled by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 134).

Sabbath

God's Secret Agents

(Note : Place your hand over the picture of the bees on the flowers, until you have read to the end of the second paragraph).

God made so many amazing creatures. Whether you look for creatures at the beach, in the forest, or in the desert, you can find living creatures that teach us about God.

God made secret helpers in gardens for a special mission: to make flowers, fruit, and vegetables grow. Do you know what these creatures are? Here's a clue: they have five eyes and six legs. Their wings flap so fast, some at 11,000 flaps per minute, that they make a buzzing noise when they fly. And did you know they make honey?

You've got it: bees are God's incredible secret agents! If you can, go outside and sit very still. See if you can see any bees near some flowers. These female bees are called worker bees. They have left their home, called a hive, to collect pollen and nectar from flowers. It's also their job to build, clean, and protect their hive and raise baby bees. Their big family is called a colony, and their leader is called a queen bee. She has male bees who help her called drone bees.



We need to be careful around bees, because when they sting, it hurts! But bees have something very special to teach us.

Bees are called pollinators, which means that they go from flower to flower collecting nectar to bring back to the hive to make honey. Whenever they land on a flower, the pollen sticks to their legs. The bees pass the pollen from one flower to the next, like a secret agent. This is called pollination, and it is what gives flowers the food they need to be able to grow and become so beautiful. Their work of spreading pollen also means we end up with fruits and vegetables we need to survive.

Wherever we go, we can be like bees and spread God's blessings. When we honor others, just as Abram did, we are God's workers too. Choose to be like a bee, spreading love and kindness wherever you go.

Kindy Joke Corner

What did the queen bee say to the naughty bee? ***Bee-hive yourself!***

What do you call a bee you don't understand? ***A mumble bee.***

What do bees say when they return to the hive? ***Honey, I'm home!***