WEEK 12

A Brave Rescue



Big Idea: God is loving. He can help me to be a loyal friend.

Memory Verse
***"A friend loves at all times"* (Proverbs 17:17).**

Word of the Week
"Loyal" - When you are loyal to someone, nothing can stop you from being their forever friend. You can always be trusted to stand for what is true and right.

This week's lesson is based on **Genesis 14** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 134-136.

Sunday

A Happy Home

Abram woke up with a big yawn. The bright sun was up. It was time he was up too!

His home in the hills was a happy one. It was peaceful here. Abram could talk to God under the shady trees. He could listen to God while he looked after the little lambs and the cheeky goats. He could offer sacrifices to God at the altar, right near his tent.

Thanks to God, Abram had lots of animals, workers, and tents. But he knew the only thing he really needed was God.

Over the hills and down on the flat land were Lot's tents. He looked out on beautiful land, all lush, green, and growing. But just down the road was the busy city of Sodom. Do you remember what the Bible said about the people of Sodom? Read **Genesis 13:13**.

Lot didn't seem to care. This land was the best, and he wanted the best. Lot thought that the best would be the most beautiful place. But for Abram, the most important thing was God.



I Wonder

» Are you more like Abram or more like Lot? What makes you say that?

» Are there things you would like to get? Would these things draw you closer to or lead you further away from God?

Prayer Idea
Ask God to help you make good choices this week that will help you grow closer to Him.

Do
Draw or have someone write a list of things you would buy if you had lots of money. Cross off the things that could distract you from Jesus or make your heart more selfish. What is left?

Tell
Tell the people in your family that you love them every day this week.



Monday

Sodom

Lot had chosen to live on the beautiful land near the wicked city Sodom. Perhaps he thought *I'll just put my tent over here far away from the city. I don't want to be too close. I think we're far enough away from all those bad choices.*

But it wasn't long before Lot started to think: *Hmm. Sodom is not far away. I can go there, but I won't go there very often.*

Then later: *Oh, let's go to Sodom and have some fun!*

Then later: *It's not too bad here in Sodom; I have some good friends here now.*

Then later: *Oh, let's just move here to Sodom. They have really nice houses with walls and a roof—that's so much better than living in a tent! Life will be so nice and cozy.*

Then later: *Oh, Sodom's not really a bad place: it's a good place! I don't know what I was thinking before.*

As days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months, Lot slowly changed. The people around him made terrible choices and treated others very badly. This wasn't a good place for Lot!

It's hard to make good choices when everyone around you is making bad choices. The Bible tells us that "bad friends will ruin good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33, ICB).

The Bible also tells us how we can be wise. What does it say? Read **Proverbs 22:3**.

I Wonder

» Do you think Lot was being wise or foolish? What makes you say that?

» Are you choosing good friends? Are you helping your friends make good choices?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you make good friends.

Do

Toast some bread. As it is toasting, stop and have a look at how it is slowly changing. How is this like Lot?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Bad News

Trouble was headed for the city of Sodom! Four troublemaking kings from far away were coming to fight Sodom. What a scary surprise! Five kings from around Sodom joined together to fight back. There would be a battle!

Arrows flew and swords crashed. The four kings were stronger, and they won. The frightened kings of Sodom and nearby Gomorrah ran away. The Bible tells us the winning armies "took everything the people of Sodom and Gomorrah owned. They also took all their food" (Genesis 14:11, ICB).

Every little thing was taken! What happened to poor Lot? Read **Genesis 14:12**.

Oh, no! Lot and his family had become prisoners!

There was one man from Sodom who escaped. Very quietly he hid from the enemy soldiers. When the soldiers had gone, he ran to Abram's home and told Abram what had happened.

When he heard the news Abram felt sad. Poor Lot! Right away Abram chose to be a loyal friend and help Lot. *But how?* Abram thought and prayed hard. Then he made a big rescue plan. From his own camp he gathered 318 brave men to help him save Lot.

Even though Lot had made some bad choices and had not been kind enough to honor his uncle, Abram loved Lot. He was loyal to him. He returned selfishness with loving-kindness. He knew that "a friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17). Abram was like Jesus, who came to our world to die for us, even though we've made bad choices. Jesus loves us so much!

I Wonder

» How do you think Lot felt when he was marched away with the enemy soldiers?

» Have you ever had to protect your younger brother, sister, or friend? What did you do?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for saving us even when we choose to do the wrong thing.

Do

Get a raw egg. Draw a face on it. See if you can keep the egg on your lap for a meal without it breaking. Who are the "eggs" in your life that God has called you to look after? (siblings, cousins, pets, etc.)

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Daring Rescue

Quickly and bravely Abram gathered his troops. Then he raced to find the enemy who had taken Lot as prisoner. The Bible says they "chased the enemy all the way to the town of Dan" (Genesis 14:14, ICB).

The soldiers in the enemy camp didn't think anyone would chase after them. They didn't think anyone cared about the people they had as prisoners. But loyal Abram cared. He was brave and strong, and God helped him.

Day turned to night. The enemy soldiers sat around their campfires, eating and laughing together. Their prisoners were all tied together nearby. They thought all was well. Then what happened?
Read **Genesis 14:15**.

What a surprise those soldiers got! Abram and his men worked quickly and with lots of energy. All the prisoners were saved!

Sometimes we are faced with big, scary problems. God is so much bigger than any problem we can ever have, and He is always with us to help us. The Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

I Wonder

» What might Lot have said to Abram when he was rescued?

» Do you think this will change Lot's mind about living in Sodom?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that no problem is ever too big for Him to help us through.

Do

With a friend or with your toys, act out a big rescue. Pretend someone needs your help and race to help them. But before you do, remember to ask God for His help.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Meeting a King

After his hands were untied, Lot gave Uncle Abram a big hug. He felt so happy that Abram had saved him! Even though Lot had made some sad choices, Abram loved him very much. What did Abram do then? Read **Genesis 14:16**.

It was now time for Abram to go home to his tent in the hills. On his way home, a special king came out to greet him–Melchizedek, the king of Salem. Melchizedek was king and the temple priest who worshipped and followed God.

"Abram," said Melchizedek, "may God Most High give you blessings. . . . We praise God Most High. He has helped you to defeat your enemies!" (Genesis 14:19, 20, ICB).

Abram's heart filled with joy. He was so happy to hear these words. God had helped him win the battle. All the things Abram had won from the battle weren't *really* his. God had won the battle, so Abram wanted to give some back to God.

"Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had brought back from the battle" (Genesis 14:20, ICB). So for every 10 pieces of gold, he gave one of those to the king and priest Melchizedek! Abram gave back to God what was already His.

Today we can be like Abram. If we get ten coins, we can give one back to God. It's our way of showing God that we give back to Him what belongs to Him because He asks us to do this. We call this "tithe." In this way we also show God that we are loyal to Him.

I Wonder

» What do you think Melchizedek did with the gift?

» Can you think of a way to thank God for always loving you and helping you?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He is always there to help us be loyal and brave, and choose to do the right thing.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Tell your child about a person who has been a faithful, loyal friend to you.





Friday

A King's Riches

Another king came to meet Abram after his big rescue. It was the king of Sodom. He was happy that Abram saved all the people from his city! His friends and neighbors were all safe.

The king of Sodom saw all the treasures–the silver and gold and precious things–that Abram had collected from the enemy kings. He said to Abram, "You may keep all these things yourself. Just give me my people who were captured!" (Genesis 14:21, ICB).

Wow! The king of Sodom was offering to give Abram *everything* that had been taken from the city of Sodom, except for the people. All of that gold, silver, and animals would make Abram *very, very* rich.

What would you say? Abram shook his head. What did he say to the king of Sodom? Read **Genesis 14:22, 23**.

Abram wouldn't take anything!

Abram had been loyal to Lot and now showed his loyalty and trust in God. He knew he didn't need a king's riches. God would always provide for him. God had promised Abram, "I will bless you" (Genesis 12:2).

For a long time the people of Sodom talked about Abram's bravery as they sat by the city gates or walked through the marketplace. Abram was a loyal and brave hero.

I Wonder

» What did Abram teach the people of Sodom about his God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the example of brave, loyal Abram.

Do

For the next week, use your family journal as your "noticing" book. Try to "notice" whenever someone does something in your home "just to be kind" or "just to do the right thing." Ask a parent or caregiver to write it in your "noticing" book to share on Friday evening next week.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw three simple pictures: Abram, a heart to represent Jesus, and you/your family. Talk about loyalty for each picture. Make a prayer, using your memory verse.

For You, Parents

"The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven" (Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 360).

Read-along Story

(Parents: read while your child reads with you from looking at the pictures below.)

How many ideas from this quarter can you remember? Let's see . . .

In the beginning God created the  and the . On day 1, God made shine in the darkness. On day 2, God separated the  and made air. On day 3 God created land, , and delicious  as well as beautiful . On day 4, God made the . On day 5, God made the  and the . On day 6, God created every kind of animal. God also made . On day 7, God rested, blessed, and made the Sabbath day holy. After Adam and Eve listened to the  and ate the in the Garden of Eden, the  changed—people became sad and mad, and not everyone  God anymore. God cleaned the , and Noah and his family were safe on the . Lots of people filled the earth again, and God promised that He would bless one , Abram, so that his family would be like the in the sky. Everything in the  is true, as God always keeps His promises.

