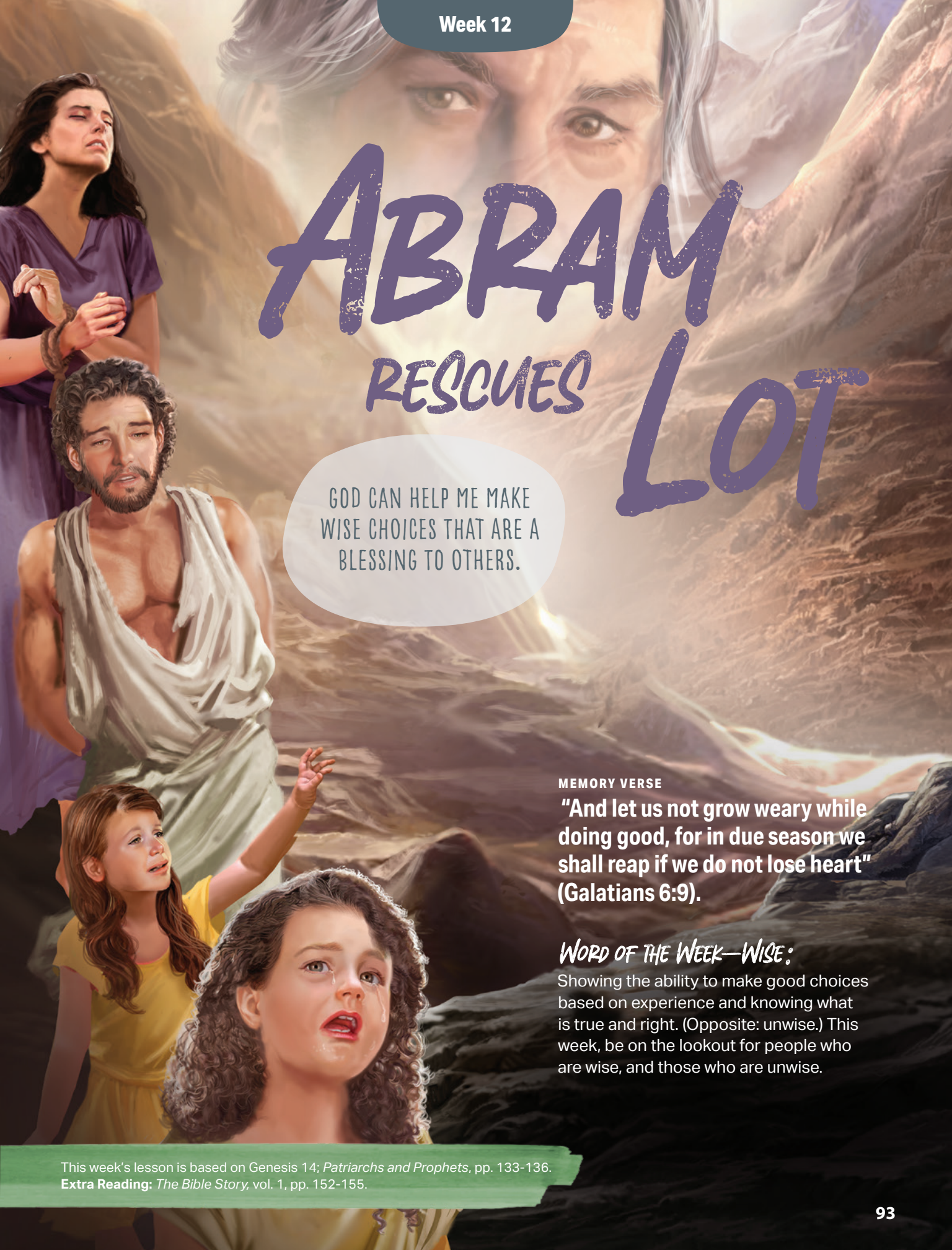


Abram Rescues Lot

God can help me make wise choices that are a blessing to others.

MEMORY VERSE

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

Word of the Week—Wise:

Showing the ability to make good choices based on experience and knowing what is true and right. (Opposite: unwise.) This week, be on the lookout for people who are wise, and those who are unwise.

This week's lesson is based on Genesis 14; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 133-136.
Extra Reading: *The Bible Story,* vol. 1, pp. 152-155.

SUNDAY

Home in the Wicked City of Sodom

Abram and his household of tent dwellers loved God and lived peacefully under the oak trees in the hills of Mamre. Abram's new home suited him. Here he could live a simple life, learning more about God's love from the beauty of nature and by caring for the land, the animals, and his household. This quiet spot in the countryside helped him become closer friends with God. With a thankful heart Abram built an altar to God beside his tent.

Meanwhile, the excitement of the big city of Sodom had grabbed Lot's attention, and moving through the lush plains of the Jordan, he pitched his tents close by. The Bible says, "The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord" (Genesis 13:13). But now, instead of looking at God's good things, Lot was focused on these very men and their sinful city.

The dazzling city of Sodom soon lured Lot into faulty thinking: *It would be an exciting place to live . . . I can get rich quick selling in the busy markets . . . The people aren't as wicked as they seem . . . We won't worship idols . . .* In the end he believed his faulty thinking and made an unwise choice to move right into wicked Sodom! What had he forgotten? **Read Proverbs 14:12.**

Abram and Lot each made a choice, one wise, one unwise. God will always help us to make wise choices if we ask Him and put Him first.

PRAY: Thank God for helping you make wise choices.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Abram looked out of his tent at an altar to God, while Lot looked out of his tent at Sodom. How did this guide their choices?*
- *What can you look at in your day to help you make wise choices? What might you avoid looking at?*

DO: Use your Sabbath School craft as a prop, share last week's story with someone who lives near you and may not know God as their friend yet.





☐ MONDAY

Calamity and Capture

Trumpets of war blasted their message through the streets of Sodom and out across the plains. "Prepare for war! Prepare for war!"

For 12 long years five kings down on the plains had served and paid lots of money in taxes to a powerful, greedy king in the east. Now they were tired of it and rebelled. This may have been an unwise choice, for it made the king of the east extra mad.

After a while he and three of his king friends prepared for battle and marched with their armies onto the plains. The kings who lived there banded together to fight right back.

The battle raged, and the five kings on the plains were losing badly. They dropped their weapons, quit fighting, and ran for their lives to hide in pits, or up to safety in the mountains. The enemy rushed into Sodom and greedily took everything the people of Sodom and Gomorrah owned. They also took all their food (Genesis 14:11). What else did they take? **Read Genesis 14:12.**

Weighed down with their stolen goods, the proud invaders headed toward home, taking with them many people they had captured in the cities. Tied together and marching along with all the other captives, Lot and his family must have felt very frightened. And Lot had plenty of time to think. Maybe he thought, *If only we hadn't moved into Sodom. If only I had asked God to help me make the right choice.*

PRAY: Ask God to help you with an important choice you need to make now or in the future.

DO: Make a paper chatterbox. Look for a guide online. Under the inside flaps, write down the references to Bible verses you love. Start with Galatians 6:9. Play with your family and be grateful that all God's words are good choices.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Who in the story, besides Lot, made unwise choices?*

God wants to help us make wise choices. He knows that one bad choice can sometimes lead to another, and that trouble might follow, as it did for Lot.

FOR YOU, PARENTS: Be encouraged that as you teach your children to seek God's wisdom instead of fighting, He is teaching alongside you. "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children" (Isaiah 54:13).



TUESDAY

A Runner Brings Bad News

Somehow one of the captives made a daring escape from the clutches of the enemy kings. Thinking quickly he dashed up into the hills of Mamre to share the bad news with Abram. Puffing and barely pausing for breath, the runner told the terrible story of the battle and how Lot and his family had been captured. Imagine how Uncle Abram took this news.

Upon hearing the dreadful story, Abram decided immediately that Lot must be rescued. He could have done nothing, and let Lot suffer for his unwise choices. But he didn't. Abram's big heart loved Lot too much for that. The Bible tells us, "Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help" (Proverbs 3:27, ICB). Lot sure needed help right now!

The first thing Abram did was pray, for he knew he would be risking his life to rescue his nephew. But he also knew he could trust God to show him what to do, just as he had many times before. Then what did Abram do? **Read Genesis 14:14.**

These 318 men were Abram's loyal servants. They loved God, respected Abram, and knew how to defend themselves against invaders in the hills. Three neighboring rulers joined in with their armed servants too. Together the newly formed army marched toward Dan on their dangerous mission. Lot's captors far outnumbered them, but Abram's men were brave. After all, they had God on their side. And He is very wise and powerful.

PRAY: Before Abram acted, he stopped and prayed. Run around, outside if you can, really fast, then STOP! When you're perfectly still, tell God silently what's on your mind. Repeat, and think about how we should pray before we act.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Why do you think Abram was so willing to risk his life to rescue Lot?*
- *How willing would you have been to join Abram on his rescue mission?*

When we pray to our powerful and wise God, He will show us what to do to help others who may be in trouble.

DO: Draw and decorate a shield. On the front, write down four things the little army trusted God to give them as they went to face the enemy. For example, courage. Remember that God offers you His "shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16).



☐ WEDNESDAY

Abram to the Rescue

Abram's army hurried on their way to track down the four greedy kings and their captives. One night as they neared the city of Dan, they spied the enemy camp. Quietly, ever so quietly, they crept closer to check things out.

What they saw made them wonder why they'd bothered to sneak up silently! The enemy armies were celebrating the victory with a lively party. They had figured there was nothing at all to worry about, for hadn't they just overthrown five kings, stolen their goods, and captured their people?

While thinking they were such clever warriors, they were really very unwise. If only they knew how God was working just outside their camp. Not wasting even a minute, Abram quickly organized his troops. What do you think Abram did? Read *Genesis 14:15*.

What a wise plan that was! Surprised beyond belief at the sudden attack, the stunned soldiers quit partying and leaped up to flee. Never mind the captives, never mind the stolen food or treasures. Leaving everything behind, they ran for their lives, with Abram's men chasing hot on their heels.

Seeing his kind Uncle Abram filled Lot with relief and made him hugely grateful. What a blessing! Abram had wisely trusted God and lived by the words "Learn to do good, seek justice, rebuke the oppressor [stand up for those who are not free or don't have the power to act]!" (Isaiah 1:17).

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Read your memory verse. What will Abram reap for doing good and rescuing Lot?*
- *You may never need to face an enemy and rescue captives, but what could you do to help someone else in trouble? Look for ways to help someone this week.*

Pray: Thank God that He can help us to help others.

Parent Faith Talk: You may like to further unpack Isaiah 1:17 with your child. What would it look like for them to do good, seek justice, or defend others with less voice on the school playground, at home, or in other contexts relevant to their lives?

Fast Fact: There are many wars, big and small, being fought in the world at any given time. Sadly, many people lose their lives, and many more are left homeless and hungry.



THURSDAY

A Grateful King

With his happy group of rescued captives, Abram and his troops headed back to Sodom and home. All the stolen goods and treasures were packed up and taken too.

Imagine how relieved Lot's family was to be free. They had come so close to spending the rest of their lives as the enemy's slaves! On the slow journey home, Lot may have thought about his decisions. He'd landed in deep trouble because of his selfish choices. We can be wise, like Abram, by following God's advice to us in the Bible. God's advice to us is still the same. "Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:4, ICB).

Because Abram's interest in the lives of others had brought about such an amazing rescue, everyone around was buzzing with the news. When he and his band of weary travelers finally arrived back home, he was welcomed as a hero. The grateful king of Sodom and all his royal assistants came out to greet and honor him.

Another king, the King of Salem, also came to visit and bless Abram. Abram gave this special king a special gift in return—but we'll find out all that tomorrow!

The King of Sodom then made Abram a very big offer. He said, "You may keep all these things for yourself. Just give me my people who were captured" (Genesis 14:21, ICB). How did Abram answer the king? **Read Genesis 14:22, 23.**

Abram's reply was another wise choice. Most people would have gladly accepted the king's generous offer and become very rich. But Abram was far more interested in showing the king and the captives what God is like. It warmed his heart to see the people gratefully receive their stolen goods and return to their homes. Everyone was filled with joy. Best of all, God was happy. He always is when we make kind and wise choices to help others.

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *If you were there, how tempted would you have been to accept the king's offer and keep the stolen goods? (If Abram would have kept all these things, what would have become more difficult for him? What would have been easier for him?)*
- *Why is it wise to trust God, even when others don't trust Him?*

Pray: Ask God to help you make the right choices, especially when you are tempted not to.

Do: Collect objects around your home that make a sound when banged. Think about the story so far, and use your objects to create a "soundscape" in which you represent each part of the story in order: peace, war, creeping up on the enemy, grateful Lot, etc.



☐ FRIDAY

Giving to God

The king of Salem had wisely not been involved in this war. The name Salem actually means peace. Salem was ruled by a true friend of God, King Melchizedek, the king of peace. The Bible tells us this king was also a priest, and he had a special blessing to give Abram, along with bread and grape juice:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand" (Genesis 14:19, 20).

Abram had been a brave leader and now he was a blessed leader. With a grateful heart he gave the priest Melchizedek one tenth of all the goods he had recovered. The Bible calls this one tenth "tithe." When Abram gave the tithe to Melchizedek, whom was he really giving it to? **Read Leviticus 27:30, 32.**

In Bible times people gave a tithe of food, animals, or goods. Today we give one tenth of the money we receive. We should always thank God for all He has given to us, but when it comes to tithe, God asks that we return it to Him. Just as Melchizedek blessed Abram, God says to us, "I will . . . open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Your tithe money supports pastors and others who share the good news of Jesus' love. This money allows more people to know and love God. How does knowing this make you feel about giving tithe?*

Friday Night

Share and Praise

Invite family members to share:

- How they have been blessed by helping others.
- How they have been blessed by giving tithe.
- Their favorite song. Teach your child hymn no. 534, "Will Your Anchor Hold?" from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* and explain this message.

Family Journal

- If you could choose to put yourself in this week's story, who would you be? Why?
- Reflect on the Word of the Week question: Who in the story made wise choices? Who made unwise choices?

Do

If you have money, why not give God your tithe this Sabbath? Ask your family to help you organize this. If you don't have tithe, ask your parents if you can do some work around the house to earn some money. Then calculate how much one tenth is and give this as tithe next Sabbath. Alternatively, do 10 coin rubbings together on a piece of paper. Circle one and label it "tithe."

Pray

Thank God for Abram's beautiful examples of wisdom in this story.

Service Challenge

Pick a bunch of flowers or draw a cool picture to give to a leader in your church. Thank them for giving their talents to God. Include Melchizedek's words: "May God Most High give you blessings" (Genesis 14:19, ICB).



SABBATH SPECIAL

Hot Seat Game

- As a family, find a comfy spot to reread the story sections of the lesson to familiarize yourselves with the characters and events.
- Sit in a circle and choose one spot to be the "hot seat."
- The person in the hot seat chooses to be a character from the story.
- The rest of the family asks the hot-seat person questions with a yes-or-no answer to find out which character they are. Be sure to use the words "wise," "unwise," "unselfish," "kind," etc.
- Invite family members to take turns being in the hot seat.

Art Time: Color in this drawing of Abram and the altar he built to thank and praise God for the wisdom and protection He had provided.