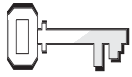


Abram to the Rescue



References

Genesis 14;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 134-136



Memory Verse

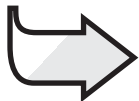
“Serve one
another in love”
(Galatians 5:13, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God wants
them to serve
others without
accepting a reward.
Feel the satisfaction
of selfless service.

Respond by doing something special for somebody every day.



The Message

I will serve others
out of love.

Monthly Theme

God calls us to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When Abram learns that his nephew Lot and Lot’s family have been captured by enemies, he takes 318 men with him and goes after the enemies. He prepares for a surprise attack at night. The enemies are frightened away, leaving behind their camp, their prisoners, and all the things they had taken from the city of Sodom. Abram and his men free the prisoners, collect the things that had been stolen, and go back to Sodom. They are met by Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of God, and by the king of Sodom. Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth of all they had recovered. Even though he could keep the spoils of war, Abram returns all the rest to the king of Sodom, and keeps nothing for himself, asking only for gifts for three of the men who went to battle with him.

This is a lesson about service.

Abram willingly went to the rescue of those captured by enemies, a selfless act of service to his neighbors and relatives. Abram’s unselfish nature is further demonstrated when he gives a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek and returns the other nine-tenths to the king of Sodom. Children, too, can perform simple acts of service without expecting or accepting a reward.

Teacher Enrichment

The Valley of Siddim was low and full of tar pits—like great holes full of asphalt. The River Jordan flowed into this valley and gradually filled it with water until it became the Salt Sea, known today as the Dead Sea, the lowest point of the earth’s surface, about 1,500 feet (395 m) below sea level.

Archeologists believe that Sodom and Gomorrah are under the southern end of the Dead Sea. Lumps of asphalt (tar or slime) are seen today, floating on the surface of the southern end of the Dead Sea.

Salem, the city where Melchizedek was king, later became known as Jerusalem, the city of God. Melchizedek, whose name means, “my king is righteousness,” was both a priest and a king.

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Just for You</i> B. <i>Service With a Smile</i> C. <i>Pass It On</i>	Bible paper bags, assorted objects, Bible Bible
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy, He Is Our Song</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container "Into My Heart"
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult Bible-times costume, adult male Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>What Can You Do?</i> B. <i>Returning God's Tithe</i>	copy of scenario for each group tithe envelopes
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Neighborly Love</i>	copies of certificate on p. 37

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- Bible

A. Just for You

Say: **Without talking about it, think of something you got for free this week, something you had or used that you didn't have to pay for.** Allow time. **Got it? Pick a partner and tell what it was and why it was free. For example, you might say that you found a coin, and it was free because you found it.** Allow time for sharing. Then read James 1:17 aloud.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **If God gives us so many things for free, what do you think He wants us to do with them?** (He wants us to share with others.) **And when we share God's gifts with others, we call it serving. God wants us to serve others out of love. That leads me to today's message:**



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- paper bags
- simple objects (pen, book, tool, paper cup, towel, etc.)
- Bible

B. Service With a Smile

In advance, place a common, simple item in each paper bag.

Form small groups and give each group a bag. (Small class, give each child a bag.)

Say: **You are to look in the bag, but don't show what you see to the rest of the class. Think of a way to show the rest of the class how you can use what's in the bag to serve others.** Allow time, then have each group demonstrate their idea. Ask the class: **How did this group serve others?**

Debriefing

Read Galatians 5:13 (the memory verse) to the class. Ask: **How do you feel when someone helps you? How do you feel when you can help someone else? Why does Jesus want us to serve others?** (to show them His love) **God shows us His love in many ways. We show His love to others when we serve them. And that's what our message says:**



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

Say that with me.

C. Pass It On

Form small groups. (Small class, each child works separately.)

Say: **Close your eyes and think of something nice you can do for someone right now.** If necessary, give suggestions such as hugs, smiles, compliments, kind words, back rubs, etc. **You have three minutes to see how many times you can give your gift to people in the room. Each time you give it to someone, say: "God loves you. Pass it on."** Allow time.

Debriefing

Read Galatians 5:13 (the memory verse) aloud. Ask: **What happened?** (I was busy; I gave away ___; people smiled, laughed; it was fun, etc.) **You were showing God's love to one another. You were serving one another. How does it feel to serve others out of love?**

When we give away God's gift of love, we are doing God's will. Will you give away God's love to others this week? Our message says:



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- Bible

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the children's joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review last week's memory verse. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129)
- "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 126)
- "Father, Accept This Gift" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 147)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 134)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Talk about stewardship, especially relating to Abram. Discuss tithe and offerings as important in the Christian life. Use the same container you used last week.

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Before prayer, sing "Into My Heart" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 125).

Ask the children how they have helped others recently. Pray that God will bless each child as they look for ways to serve Him and others.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- adult Bible-times costume
- adult male

Experiencing the Story

Ask an adult male to act the part of Abram. Have the children practice the following before the story is told:

When they hear:	They do:
four kings/cities	Hold up four fingers.
five kings/cities	Hold up five fingers.
God	Point upward.
prisoners	Cross hands at wrists.

Have an adult male read or tell the story.

Hello, boys and girls. My name is Abram. **God** [point upward] has been with me and blessed me in many ways. Let me tell you about a time **God** [point upward] helped me to serve my neighbors.

It all began when **four great kings** [hold up four fingers] decided to attack **five small cities** [hold up five fingers]. The kings of the **five small cities** [hold up five fingers] drew up a battle plan to save their **five cities** [hold up five fingers]. But it didn't work! Soon they were running for their lives! Many of their soldiers and people became lost.

Soon the **four great kings** [hold up four fingers] reached the city of Sodom where my nephew Lot lived. They captured the city and took many **prisoners** [cross hands at wrists], including my nephew, as well as many animals and treasures.

One of the **prisoners** [cross hands at wrists] escaped and told me what had happened. I quickly gathered my 318 servants who were trained to do battle, and we hurried after the **four great kings**

[hold up four fingers]. I invited some other leaders to help us. As we all chased those **four kings** [hold up four fingers], I prayed constantly.

We finally caught up with the **four great kings** [hold up four fingers] and their armies in the north at a place called Dan. That night, we launched a surprise attack. The **four kings** [hold up four fingers] were sure that there was a great army surrounding them. They dropped everything and ran! They left behind their **prisoners** [cross hands at wrists] and everything they had captured. They even left their own things behind!

Soon we were all marching home. Everyone from the **five small cities** [hold up five fingers] was greatly relieved and happy to be safe again.

On the way home, we met the king of Sodom. He was so pleased that we had succeeded where the **five kings** [hold up five fingers] had failed. We also met Melchizedek, the king of Salem, who also served **God** [point upward] as a priest. He gave us food and drink, and a special blessing from **God**. [point upward]

I knew that **God** [point upward] had given us the victory, so I gave the king-priest **God's** [point upward] tithe on everything that we had captured. The king of Sodom said I could keep the rest, but I said no. I gave everything back to those people who had suffered so much at the hands of the **five kings** [hold up five fingers]. I was just glad God has helped me to serve others.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

How do you think Lot and the others felt when they were captured? What would you have done if you had been one of those captured? How do you think Abram felt when he heard that

all those people had been taken captive? What did Abram do as he chased the four great kings? Who really won the battle? (God did!) **Why did Abram give a tenth of everything to Melchizedek?** (Melchizedek was God's priest; everything belongs to God; it was God's tithe.) **Why didn't Abram keep anything for himself? What do you think the king of Sodom thought when Abram refused to keep anything? Let's read Genesis 15:1.** Allow time. **Did Abraham receive a reward?** (Yes, God was with him.) **Do you think God will be with you when you serve others? Abram served his neighbors out of love. When we serve others out of love, we make God happy. And that reminds us of our message for today. Say it with me.**



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

Memory Verse

Help the children find Galatians 5:13 in their Bibles. Read the verse aloud: **"Serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13, NIV).** Use the following to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know it.

Serve one another in love.	Bow to one another. Point to one another. Cross arms over chest.
Galatians 5:13	Palms together, then open

You Need:

- Bibles

Bible Study

Help the children find Genesis 14. Adult helpers assist as needed. Read and discuss texts as follows:

Verses 1-9. Ask the children to count

the kings as you read. Then ask: **What was the cause of the war between these two groups of kings?** (See verse 4. Rebellion against Kedorlaomer who had ruled the five kings for 12 years.) The children will enjoy learning to say *Kedorlaomer*, if you choose to have them do so.

Verses 10-12. Ask: **What was the result of the battle described here?** (The four great kings won; the five kings of little cities lost. The great kings took from Sodom various goods, all the food, and they captured many people, including Lot and his family.)

Verses 13-16. Ask: **What did Abram do to help his nephew Lot?** (He went to battle the four great enemy kings; planned a surprise nighttime attack; rescued Lot and all the others, etc.)

Verses 17-20. Ask: **Who really won the battle?** (God) **How do you know?** (Melchizedek's blessing says so.) **What did Abram give to Melchizedek?** (a tenth of everything) **Why did he do that?** (He was thankful that God had been with him, had blessed him.) **What do we call the tenth today?** (tithe) **Why do we give tithe to God?** (Because He gives us all we have, blesses us, provides for our needs, takes care of us, etc.)

Verses 21-24. Say: **Abram had recovered all the things the four great kings took from Sodom. By the rules of war they were his. What did he choose to keep?** (Nothing. He gave a tenth to Melchizedek and everything else to the king of Sodom.) **Abram asked the king of Sodom to do something. What was it?** (Give a share to the three men who went with him.) **All during this time, who was Abram thinking about?** (his nephew Lot, others, his friends, his helpers, etc.) **Why do you think Abram served others without wanting a reward?** (He cared about them, they were his friends, his servants.)

Debriefing

Say: **Did Abram receive a reward? Let's find out by reading the first verse of the next chapter.** Have Genesis 15:1 read aloud, then ask: **What was God's message to Abram?** ("Do not be afraid . . . I am your shield, your . . .

reward.") **Having God with us, what a wonderful reward!**

Let's say today's message together:



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- scenario copies

A. What Can You Do?

Form small groups. Give each group one of the following written scenarios and ask them to think of a solution to share with the class. (Small class, give one to each child.)

A. Your neighbor is sick. Their yard is getting overgrown. How can you serve them?

B. Your neighbor wants to give you some money for taking care of their dog while they are away. What can you do?

C. A new person has joined your class. Others are not including them. You don't want to stand out from your friends; they might laugh at you. What can you do?

D. Your parents have been at work all day. Now at home, they are working hard to get everything ready for Sabbath. What can you do?

E. Your grandparents sent you some money for your birthday. How can you show your thanks to God?

Debriefing

Read aloud Romans 15:2: **"Each of us should please his neighbor for his**

good, to build him up" (NIV). Then ask: **What do you think about serving others? How does it make you feel? How does it make them feel? What does God think when we serve others? Do you want to serve others? Why? Let's say our message together:**



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

B. Returning God's Tithe

Distribute tithe envelopes (use those designed for children if you have them) and talk to the children about showing their thanks to God by returning to Him one-tenth of all the money they earn or are given.

Provide coins and let the children tell how to figure God's tithe. Have a volunteer demonstrate how to count the coins and put the tithe in a tithe envelope and write their name in the right place. Encourage the children to bring tithe next week. Until they get accustomed to tithing, they can give the tithe in Sabbath School. That way you can continue to encourage faithfulness.

You Need:

- tithe envelopes

4

Sharing the Lesson

Neighborly Love

Read aloud Genesis 14:23. Say:

Abram knew that the victory over the four enemy kings was God's gift to him. When he gave the king of Sodom the things he had recovered after the battle, it was like not accepting payment for serving (helping) others.

Talk with the children about things they can do to share love with their neighbors (walk the dog, sweep the walk, rake leaves, fold clothes, take out trash, draw a picture, sing a song, give a hug, say a memory verse, smile, wave, etc.). Remind them that there are some things they should not do without the neighbor's permission.

Distribute the Neighborly Love certificates and say: **You can take this home with you and share it with a neighbor.**

Ask that person to check something you can do to help them, then decide together when you will do it.

Debriefing

Ask: **To whom will you give your certificate? What will you say when you give it to them?** Encourage each child to respond. Help them as necessary. **Why do you want to help them? Be ready to share your experiences with us next Sabbath. Let's say our message again:**



I WILL SERVE OTHERS OUT OF LOVE.

Closing

Offer a prayer of thanks for each child and ask God to help them find ways to serve others without expecting to be rewarded.

You Need:

- copy of Neighborly Love certificate for each child

Neighborly Love Certificate

"Serve one another in love" Galatians 5:13, NIV.

This certificate is good for one of the following gifts of love (choose from the list below) _____ plus a hug.* This service will be performed without charge, at your convenience.

Signed _____

Date _____

- Say a memory verse.
- Sweep the walk.
- Sing a song.
- Rake the leaves.
- Carry groceries.
- Walk the dog.
- Take out trash.
- Draw a picture.

* Payable on demand

Abram to the Rescue

References

Genesis 14;
Patriarchs and
Prophets,
pp. 134-136

Memory Verse

“Serve one another
in love” (Galatians
5:13, NIV).

The Message

I will serve others
out of love.

When elderly Mr. Gomez became sick and had to spend a long time in the hospital, Becki and Justin decided to help Mrs. Gomez. Without saying a word, they cut her grass and cleaned her yard . . . and would not accept any money.

All the way home they felt as if they were walking on air. And that must have been exactly the feeling that Abram had the day he met Melchizedek.

It all started when four great enemy kings led their huge army to war against five little cities. One of the little cities was Sodom. Abram’s nephew Lot lived in Sodom. The kings of the five little cities took their armies into the Valley of Siddim.

“We can surprise the four great enemy kings,” they said. “Let us stop their army and save our cities.”

And so King Bera of Sodom led the way. But the fighting went against them. They got lost among the huge tar pits in the valley. Many of the soldiers fell into the tar.

The four great enemy kings knew their way around the tar pits. They soon got to the city of Sodom. Enemy soldiers captured the people, including Lot. They carried the people and many of their animals and other things away.

One captive escaped and ran to tell Abram what had happened. “The four

great enemy kings attacked us. Your nephew Lot is captured along with all his family,” the man reported.

At once Abram called his 318 men who were trained to fight. Together they hurried after the four great enemy kings.

Imagine Abram and his little band chasing after four great enemy kings and their thousands of trained soldiers. Surely they would destroy Abram’s little group.

But Abram had God on his side. Surely Abram prayed for God’s help all the way north to Dan where he caught up with the four great enemy kings.

During the night, Abram and his men made a surprise attack.

The four great enemy kings thought that they were completely surrounded by a huge army. They dropped everything and ran. They left the captives, all the stolen things from Sodom, and their own things besides.

The frightened soldiers ran all the way north past Damascus, to Hobah.

Lot and the other captives from Sodom were soon set free. Everyone began gathering up the things left by the defeated enemy kings. Soon they were tramping back toward Sodom. How happy Abram was—God had used him to save Lot and all the families from Sodom.

On the way home, Abram’s band entered the Valley of Shaveh, not far from where Jerusalem is today. There the king of Sodom came out to meet them. Imagine how impressed this king must



have been—Abram and his herdsmen, with God’s help, had done what five kings could not.

Melchizedek, king of Salem, also came to welcome Abram and the others. He was also a priest who served God. Melchizedek brought food and drink for Abram and his men. The kingly priest prayed over Abram and blessed him, saying: “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth . . . who delivered your enemies into your hand” (Genesis 14:19, 20, NIV).

Abram knew that God gave him the victory, so he gladly counted out all the silver and gold and flocks that he brought back. He gave the kingly priest God’s tithe of everything—one of every ten animals, pieces of silver, and gold.

The king of Sodom saw all the things Abram gave as tithe. Gratefully, he told Abram to keep for himself all the rest. “Give me the people and keep the goods” (Genesis 14:21, NIV), he said. But Abram would not take anything. He gave it all back. He was happy to serve others just for the love of helping them.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Find a quiet place and read your lesson story with your family. Ask: Why did Abram go after the enemy kings? What can we do when someone in our family is in trouble?
- Teach the memory verse to your family.
- Pray for people in prison.

Sunday

- Read and discuss Genesis 14:8-24 with your family. Compare it to your Bible lesson story. What did you learn from the Bible that wasn’t in the lesson story?
- Think about a time when someone outside your family helped you. Make a thank-you card and deliver or mail it to them today. Thank Jesus for that person.

Monday

- Review the lesson story by reading Genesis 14:8-24. In your own words tell the story for family worship. Ask your family how you can help each other today.
- Say the memory verse together. Then pray for opportunities to help others.

Tuesday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 14:18-20. Ask: Who was Melchizedek? Why did he come out to meet Abram and his men? What did Abram give to Melchizedek? Why?
- Say the memory verse together. Then pray for the leaders of your country.

Wednesday

- During family worship, read and discuss Malachi 3:6-12. Ask: How does someone rob God? If you had 10 coins, all alike, how many would you give as tithe? How many would you give as an offering? What is the difference between tithe and an offering?
- Ask God to help your family to be faithful in giving tithes and offerings. Thank Him that you have something to give.

Thursday

- Make a picture of things for which you are grateful. Show and tell about it during worship.
- Read and discuss Genesis 14:21-24 with your family. Ask: Why was the king of Sodom grateful to Abram? Why didn’t Abram keep the things he brought back from the war? Ask family members to tell about a time they were grateful to God for something special.
- Sing a thank-you worship song, then thank God for all the things He has given your family.

Friday

- Say the memory verse for your family during worship. Tell them why you want to do nice things for other people. Tell about something you did today.
- Ask your family to help you do something nice for a neighbor. Make a plan and do it. Will you expect a reward?
- Sing a song about helping others. Then pray for your neighbors.