

Lot Leaves Abram

Genesis 13:6-18

MEMORY VERSE

GENESIS 13:16

“And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many pipe cleaners and green sheets of construction paper as the number of children in your class; a package of cotton balls (enough for 3-5 pieces per student).

A long piece of butcher paper and markers or crayons.

A package of several small prizes (stickers, pencils or other small toys) wrapped before class with several layers of brown paper.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

The Good Shepherd

Ask your class what a shepherd does. What makes him good or bad? Tell your class that God is our good shepherd and that **we can trust God for our every need.**

Give each student a pipe cleaner, a green piece of construction paper, and three to five cotton balls. Have them form a shepherd's crook out of the pipe cleaner, a field from the construction paper and sheep from the cotton balls. Have them name each sheep and imagine their unique personalities.

Explain that each child is responsible to protect their sheep. Walk around the room and try to blow some of the sheep away, or use a puppet or furry glove to snatch some, or a piece of Velcro to pick some up. Allow the children to protect the puppets with their crooks or hands.

When you are done, ask the children to explain why they tried to protect their sheep. How is this like God? Explain that **we can trust God for our every need.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn that we can always trust God. We continue this week with the story of Abram that is found in Genesis. In our story today, Lot will make a decision and leave Abram; but, God will be faithful and remember the promises He made to Abram.

Remember, God had called Abram out of his own country so he could go to a country God would show him. Abram obeyed God and went to the land of Canaan. With him were his nephew Lot and his wife Sarai. During a bad famine, Abram decided to go to Egypt to escape. As we learned, this was not a good decision and it got Abram into some trouble with the Pharaoh.

He then came up out of Egypt and returned to the land of Canaan where God had called him. He arrived in a place called Bethel, which means "house of God."

Today, as we follow the life of Abraham, we will learn that **we can trust God for our every need.**

GENESIS 13:6-7

Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

These two verses are talking about Lot and Abram. Abram and Lot both had many animals, tents, and people who helped them. There was not enough space for them all to stay together, and the people that took care of the animals began to compete for the land.

Have you ever been in a crowded place? Maybe you share a room with a brother or sister. If you do, has there ever been a time when you did not get along very well because you were living so close together? The people that Abram hired to take care of his livestock and herds of animals were arguing and fighting with Lot's hired people.

Not only that, but there were also Canaanites and Perizzites in the land competing for food and water for their herds. There may have still been a famine in the land, making it especially difficult to supply the needs of a large group of people and animals in a small area of land.

GENESIS 13:8-9

So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.

"Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

Abram was a peacemaker. He went to his nephew Lot and asked that there would be no strife or arguing between them. Notice that he said, "you and me." It sounds like the problems that their herdsmen were having may have begun to affect the relationship between Abram and Lot. Abram reminded Lot that they are brethren, or family. Something like this should not be separating them and making them angry with one another.

Have you ever been upset with a family member? The Lord wants us to work out our problems. We should never allow our anger to bring us to the place where we no longer want to associate with each other. Abram was wise to go to his nephew and talk about it.

Abram then proposes a solution. He decided it would be best if he and Lot split up. If they split up physically, perhaps they would not split apart in their hearts. Abram did not want the lack of space to cause anger and problems between himself and Lot. Abram even let Lot choose what land he wanted. God wants us to avoid arguments also. Abram valued his relationship with Lot more than his possessions. We should always put people before material wealth. We should be the first to show we value our relationships and seek to resolve problems before they turn into arguments. **We can trust God for our every need.**

Mural

Take a long piece of butcher paper and lay it on the floor. With a black marker, draw a line down the center of the length of the sheet. On one side have your class get down, side by side, and using markers or crayons draw all of the things necessary to live. When they are done, have them get on the opposite side of their drawings and draw how God meets those needs.

Ask your class if there is anything on the sheet that God has not provided for? Be sure to distinguish between our wants and our needs. Explain to the class that **we can trust God for our every need.**

GENESIS 13:10-11

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.

Lot chose his land with his eyes. He wanted what looked good to him. He did not ask God to help him choose. Sometimes the thing that looks best to us is not what God wants for us and will wind up causing us problems. Only God knows what is best for us, and we only have to ask Him. **We can trust God for our every need.**

This seemingly simple decision by Lot would later cause him all kinds of problems, as we will find out in coming weeks in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot will eventually lose his wife. We have to be careful about the decisions we make. We need to stay away from sin and make our choices based on what God wants for us, not what we want for ourselves.

GENESIS 13:12-13

Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

Abram took what was given to Him. He did not strive or try to get the best land for himself. So Abram lived in Canaan, but Lot lived by Sodom, a place filled with wicked people. Here we see the beginning of Lot's problems that would hit him like a flood later. Sodom was a very wicked city, and Lot decided to live nearby.

We need to remember that as Christians we are separated from this world. We need to love the people who are in the world and are being deceived by the enemy, but we also need to make sure we do not live too close to those who disobey God. We could end up stumbling and getting into all kinds of trouble.

GENESIS 13:14-17

And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are--northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

"for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

"And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

"Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

God spoke to Abram and promised him that all of the land where he stood, as far as he could see, was going to be for him and all of his descendants. God also promised Abram that all of his descendants, or his family, would be so great in number that they could not be counted. Then, God told Abram to walk through the land and explore what God had given him. God made a promise to Abram, and He kept His promise. The land that Abram was walking on is modern day Israel. God did make a great nation from Abram.

Today, God makes promises to us. There are promises in the Bible we can claim for ourselves, and there are specific promises that God will speak just to us. We need to remember that God is always faithful to His Word. Whatever promise we find in scripture we know that He will honor it in our lives. Let's be like Abram and trust in the Lord to do what He says He will do. **We can trust God for our every need.**

GENESIS 13:18

Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

So Abram dwelt in the land and built an altar. He established a place to worship God. Whenever God gives us something, we should remember to stop and worship Him and give Him thanks. **We can trust God for our every need.**

God loves each of us and has a special plan for our lives. If we are patient, listen to God, and believe Him, He will use us in great ways. Abram listened to God and believed Him, and God blessed the whole earth through Abram. Let's remember to always put our trust in the Lord. **We can trust God for our every need.**

Good Things

Wrap a package of several small prizes (stickers, pencils, or other small toys) with several layers of brown paper and string. Ask your class review questions about the story. If a student answers correctly, have him remove one layer of wrapping from the package; if incorrectly, have him pass the package on to another student.

When all of the wrapping is removed, have the final student pass out the prizes to the class. Tell the class that **we can trust God for our every need.**

We may not see the good thing that the Lord has in store for us right away; but if we are patient and wait on Him, He will reveal it to us in His time.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust God for their every need. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.