

LESSON 3: ABRAM GIVES LOT THE BEST LAND

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Genesis 13

09/01/2019

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Genesis 13
- In This Passage: Abram is Lot's uncle, and the two live and travel together. But because God has given them so many animals, they need to split up. Abram lets Lot choose which land he wants, and Lot chooses the side that looks better. God is giving, and Abram reflected God's giving heart by letting Lot have the better land.
- Bible Point: God is giving...
- Application: ...so we're giving.
- Summary Verse: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is giving.* Kids will readily identify with this story, but on a smaller scale. They've likely had instances of breaking a cookie in half or cutting a piece of cake to share and wanting the bigger piece. Help kids see how Abram gave out of gratitude for all God had given him and trusted that God would continue to provide. Inspire kids to do the same...even if it means choosing the smaller half of a yummy dessert.
- Think About: What has God given you? When have you been blessed by giving to others?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that God would give your kids generous hearts that reflect him to the world around them.

Quick Tip

- When you talk about giving with kids, some of them will automatically think of giving away things they don't want (such as a little brother!). Help kids see God's generosity in giving away things he valued and that the recipients valued. Help them see how Abram gave away the better land, even though he likely wanted it. Encourage kids to reflect God's generous heart by giving sacrificially.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids drop more and more water on a penny.

Supplies

- pennies (1 per child) (you'll get them back)
- eyedroppers or plastic straws (1 per child)
- paper towels (1 per child)
- cups of water (1 for every 2 kids)



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids choose which team gets the better side of the room and consider what they have to give.

Supplies

- Bibles
- masking tape
- snacks
- pillows or beanbag chairs
- fun toys such as tops, launchers, or small puzzles
- cups
- pitchers of water
- paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Use masking tape to divide your room into 2 sections—1 significantly larger than the other.
- On the bigger side, place several pillows or beanbag chairs and the toys. Set out plenty of snacks, cups, and pitchers of water to amply provide for half your kids. You'll want this side to look attractive and inviting.
- On the smaller side, place just 1 pillow, 1 cup (no water), and a small number of snacks.
- Hide some snacks where kids won't find them.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a giving game of Tag.

Supplies

- adhesive gift-wrap bows (5 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Peel off the paper from the adhesive squares on the back of the bows and lay the bows adhesive side up on a table so kids can easily grab and stick them to their arms.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game of Go Fish.

Supplies

- playing cards (1 deck for every 5 kids)

Easy Prep

- Remove the jokers from each deck, and shuffle each deck well.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids ask for God's help in giving.

Supplies

- lists from Core Bible Discovery



CRAFT

Kids make duct-tape wallets that help them budget.

Supplies

- "Money Management Wallet Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- plain white paper
- rulers
- scissors
- fun colors of duct tape (several different rolls)
- adhesive Velcro
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids shout this birthday cheer: "Two, four, six, eight; it's birthday time, let's celebrate! Gooooo, [names of birthday kids]!"
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God is giving. In the Bible, he gave generously to Abram. Let's imagine God gave us each a million dollars!**

Share

- Tell kids what *you* would do with a million dollars.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share what *they* would do with a million dollars.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Genesis 13, and say: **God may not give us a million dollars, but he does give us so much! In the Bible, Abram passed on that giving. Let's see how. God gave us the Bible, his special book, to show us how giving he is. The Bible helps us get to know God and reflect his heart. Plus, God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Another great gift! Let's talk with God now.**

Pray, praising God for being giving.



OBJECT LESSON

Giving Drops

[10 min]

Supplies

- pennies (1 per child) (you'll get them back)
- eyedroppers or plastic straws (1 per child)
- paper towels (1 per child)
- cups of water (1 for every 2 kids)

Tips

- We found that using eyedroppers helped control the drops of water better. However, storing and slowly releasing water from a straw with your finger works, too. If using a straw, have kids practice releasing just a drop of water at a time rather than the whole stream of water.
- When we tested this experiment, the penny held 30 water drops.

Add Water Drops to a Penny

Say: **God is giving. He fills our lives with good things—even more than we might expect. Let's see how much water we can give to a penny. We'll count to see how many water drops the penny will hold without the water spilling over.**

Ask: • **How many drops do you think a penny will hold?**

Say: **You've made some good hypotheses. Now let's find out!**

- Have kids each place a penny on a paper towel to absorb the water that spills off the penny.
- Have kids each place an eyedropper or straw into a cup of water and draw up some water.
- Show kids how to carefully add a drop of water to the top of the penny; then encourage them to do the same.
- Invite kids to count how many drops of water the penny will hold before it spills over the side.
- Have kids repeat the experiment to see if they arrive at similar results.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you notice about the water on top of the penny?**

Say: **As the water reached the edge of the penny, the water molecules clung to each other and made a dome or bubble shape on top of the penny. Each new water drop formed a hydrogen bond until it all finally spilled over the side of the penny.**

Ask: • **How are water drops on a penny like the good things God gives?**

Say: **God is giving. Sometimes he blesses us in more ways than we expected. He gives us more and more blessings until they spill over from our lives and affect the world around us as we reflect his giving heart.**

**Abram Gives Lot the Best Land (Genesis 13)**

Supplies

- Bibles
- masking tape
- snacks
- pillows or beanbag chairs
- fun toys such as tops, launchers, or small puzzles
- cups
- pitchers of water
- paper
- pens

Easy Prep

- Use masking tape to divide your room into 2 sections—1 significantly larger than the other.
- On the bigger side, place several pillows or beanbag chairs and the toys. Set out plenty of snacks, cups, and pitchers of water to amply provide for half your kids. You'll want this side to look attractive and inviting.
- On the smaller side, place just 1 pillow, 1 cup (no water), and a small number of snacks.
- Hide some snacks where kids won't find them.

Tip

- You don't necessarily have to use all the supplies suggested. The idea is just to make one side of the room significantly more appealing than the other one. You could add even more embellishments, such as party decorations or Christmas lights, to make one side the clear winner!

Choose a Side

Gather kids near the middle of your room along the tape line. Form two equal groups.

Say: **As you can see, our room is divided into two sections. One group will go to one side, and the other group will go to the other side. You can't all go to the same side, and you can't move things from one side to the other. You have three minutes to work together to decide which group will go to which side. If you don't all agree in three minutes, no one will get anything you see on either side.**

Allow three minutes for kids to discuss and debate. When the three minutes is up, have kids tell you their decision.

If they were able to make a decision everyone agrees on, have groups go to their sides, and allow a minute or so for kids on the larger side to enjoy their treats. Then ask these questions. If they weren't able to decide, skip these questions.

Ask the kids on the larger side: • **How do you feel knowing your friends on the other side let you have the better side?**

Ask the kids on the smaller side: • **How do you feel knowing that your friends on the other side are comfortable and well fed?**

After discussion, get out the snacks you hid earlier, and give them to the kids on the smaller side. Say: **Because you were generous and let others have the better side, I'm going to bless you with a huge supply of snacks!** Let kids eat their snacks as you continue.

If your kids were *not* able to reach an agreement, remove all the snacks, pillows, and other good things you set out, and have kids sit wherever they want. If they did reach an agreement and you already had the above discussion, skip these questions.

Ask: • **Why couldn't you reach an agreement?**

• **What do you miss out on when you try to take the best for yourself?**

Say: **We've all had times we've had to choose whether to put ourselves first or other people first. If your mom cut a piece of cake in half and one half had a lot more frosting, most of us would take the half with the most frosting and give our brother or sister the other half.**

That's a lot like what happened in the Bible story today. Let's check it out. First let me explain that Abram and Lot were two relatives in the Bible. Abram was Lot's uncle. They were living near each other, but they were both really rich and had a lot of animals. God is giving, and he'd given both of them a lot of stuff! But it was getting to be a problem because it was too crowded. Let's see what their solution was.

Read Genesis 13:8-11.

Ask: • **Why do you think Abram let Lot have the first choice?**

• **Tell about a time you had to decide whether to give something good away or keep it for yourself.**

Share your own example first. Then have kids share in pairs.

Say: **We don't know if Abram was sad that Lot chose the better land. I know sometimes I'm sad to give up what I really want. But God is giving, and we can be giving, too!**

What we do know is that if Abram felt sad, he didn't have much time to be sad! You see, as soon as Lot left, God told him something.

Read Genesis 13:14-17.

Ask: • **What one word might describe how Abram may have felt when he heard that from God?**

• **Tell about a time you got something even better than you expected because you showed God's giving heart.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in pairs. After a couple of minutes, have a few kids share with the whole group.

Say: **Giving is not a guarantee that we'll get even more. But God is giving, and a lot of times when we're giving like Abram, God gives us even better things!**

Make a List

Distribute paper and pens.

Say: **Abram knew God is giving. Listen to what God had given Abram.**

Read Genesis 13:2.

Say: **Not only did God give Abram a lot of money and animals, but before today's story he'd also promised that Abram would have a big family and a lot of land.**

God gave so much to Abram, and Abram trusted that God is giving. Abram gave generously to Lot because he knew and loved God, who gives generously. Listen to this verse about what God has given us.

Read James 1:17.

Say: **Anything you have that's good is a gift from God! Let's think about what God has given to us. Make the longest list you can of things God has given to you. Try to be specific. For example, don't just write "clothes." List what kinds of clothes you have. You can also include things you can't buy, like life, health, sunshine, eyesight, the ability to draw, or your family members.**

Allow about three minutes for kids to make their lists.

Say: **Wow! God is giving. He's given us so much! Let's thank him by praying. I'll start the prayer, and then you can take turns shouting out something from your list.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for giving us so much! Thank you for giving us... Pause for kids to share their responses. When responses begin to die down, end the prayer: In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Abram knew that God is giving because God had given him so many good things and promises. Abram showed God's giving spirit when he let Lot choose first. And when we're grateful for what God has given us, we can give generously out of *our* gratitude. God is giving, so we're giving. Circle one thing on your list you can give this week. Giving might mean giving that thing away or it might mean sharing it with a friend or sibling. If you listed a talent, it might mean using that talent to make a gift you can give. Remember that true giving is sacrificial giving: giving up something that's a little hard to give up.**

Allow time for kids to each circle what they can give, and then have them tell a partner what they plan to do. After everyone has shared with a partner, ask a few kids to tell the whole group.

Say: **God is giving. He gave Abram money, animals, a big family, and land. But Abram didn't get greedy and keep all those blessings to himself; he shared the best of what he had with Lot to pass on the giving. Let's do the same this week!**

Have kids save their lists for the Life-Application Wrap-Up Time.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Someone's Gotta Give

[10 min]

Supplies

- adhesive gift-wrap bows (5 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Peel off the paper from the adhesive squares on the back of the bows and lay the bows adhesive side up on a table so kids can easily grab and stick them to their arms.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).

Try to Give All the Bows Away

Say: **In our Bible story, Abram was very giving and kind to his nephew when they were deciding which land would belong to each man and his family. Abram showed God's giving heart!**

Let's play a game where you'll get to give, too. In fact, giving is the whole goal!

- Have each child take five bows from the table and stick them to one of his or her forearms.
- At your cue, the kids will run around trying to give away all their bows by sticking them to another person's arm.
- Bows can be given away only one at a time to one person at a time. Players *cannot* stick multiple bows from their arms onto one other person; they must go to different people.
- Give a signal to start the game. If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- When three kids have given away all their bows, have all the kids reset their number of bows back to five and play another round.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What made giving fun in this game?**

• **When have you had fun giving in real life? Maybe you've shopped for gifts for another family at Christmas or you gave your time to play with little kids.**

• **When is it hard to give?** Share an example of your own such as when money is tight or when you really want to keep something for yourself.

Say: **There are times it's easy and fun to give and times it's harder. When we really want or need something for ourselves, putting others first and giving can be tough. But God is giving, and he's given us so much! He helps us reflect his generous heart.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Cheerful Giver

[10 min]

Supplies

- playing cards (1 deck for every 5 kids)

Easy Prep

- Remove the jokers from each deck, and shuffle each deck well.

Play a Game of Go Fish

Say: **Our story from the Bible today was amazing because Abram did a generous thing for his nephew Lot. Let's play a fun game where you can see how hard or easy it is to be a cheerful giver like Abram.**

- Form groups of five, and give each group one deck of playing cards.
- Have each group sit in a circle or around a table, and give five cards to each child.
- Place the remaining cards facedown in a pile in the center of the group.
- Most kids will know how to play Go Fish. Confirm that everyone does, and then let them play to collect four-of-a-kinds. If they don't know how, the rules are below.
- Kids can look at their cards to see if they have four cards of the same number—a four of a kind. If anyone does, he or she can lay those cards down in a pile nearby to count as a point; then the child can draw four new cards.
- If no one has a four of a kind, the game can begin.
- Kids will look over their cards to see if they have any matching numbers. If they do, they'll ask others for cards of that number to try to get four of a kind. If they don't have any matching numbers yet, they can pick whatever number they like from the cards they're holding.
- Invite the person with the birthday closest to today to be the first to go "fishing." The "Fisher" will ask any other player for a card with the desired number.
- If the person has the card the Fisher asked for, he or she must give it to the Fisher, even if it's a number he or she is also trying to collect.
- When a Fisher asks for a card that the other child doesn't have, he or she will respond with "Go fish." Then the Fisher will draw one card from the center pile. If it's the number the Fisher asked for, he or she gets to go again. If not, the next person in the circle, moving clockwise, will get a turn and can ask anyone for a card.
- Encourage kids to pay attention to what cards other players are asking for because it gives clues about the cards they have, and they might identify someone who has a card they're looking for.
- If a person runs out of cards and there are cards left in the center, he or she can draw five new cards.
- The game ends when kids have matched up all the sets of cards or when time is up. The person with the most piles of four of a kind wins.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to be asked for a card you really wanted to keep?**

• **Tell about a time you gave away something valuable or let someone else have first choice.** Share an example from your life such as giving money to someone in need or allowing a travel companion first choice of where to sit on an airplane.

Say: **God is giving, and he gives so much to us with a cheerful heart. When we give cheerfully, without complaining or letting ourselves be jealous, it makes giving a lot of fun. There's joy in knowing you've done something good for someone else, and we can be part of the way God gives to others.**



Supplies

- lists from Core Bible Discovery

Pray About Lists

- Have kids take out their lists from Core Bible Discovery.
- Allow time for kids to silently thank God for giving them the things on their lists.
- Have kids each look at what they circled during Core Bible Discovery and ask God for help giving that thing.

Pray

Say: **God is giving, so we're giving.** Let's ask for God's help reflecting his giving heart.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for all you've given us. We know that on our own we're not always generous. But when you help us, we can show others how giving you are. Help us show your giving heart by giving the items we circled this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Supplies

- "Money Management Wallet Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- plain white paper
- rulers
- scissors
- fun colors of duct tape (several different rolls)
- adhesive Velcro
- permanent markers

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Duct-Tape Wallets

Show kids the sample craft you made. Say: **We're learning that God is giving, and he helps us be giving, too. God can help us manage our money well so that we can be giving like Abram was. Let's make wallets that will help us manage our money and reflect God's giving heart.**

Set out supplies to share, and have kids follow the instructions on the "Money Management Wallet Instructions" handout to make duct-tape wallets.

- Cut a piece of paper to be 6½x6½ inches.
- Fold it in half, and then unfold it.
- Cover the side inside the fold with duct tape. Try to avoid putting any tape where the fold is.
- Fold the paper back up. Cover the whole outside with another color of duct tape, sealing the edges with duct tape, but leave the top open.
- Fold the wallet in half, and then attach Velcro so it will stay closed. You can also decorate the front of the wallet with a phrase like "God is giving" or "God loves a cheerful giver."
- Cut two pieces of paper that are each 6x3¼ inches.
- Cover both pieces of paper with duct tape, and insert them into the wallet.
- Use duct tape to make three tabs that will stick up from the wallet. The first one will stick up from the inside of the wallet, and the other two will stick up from the paper inserts.
- Label the tabs Give, Save, and Spend.

Talk About It

Say: **A good rule of thumb for every \$10 you get is to save \$1, give \$1, and spend the other \$8. Setting aside \$1 of every \$10 to give is called *tithing*.**

Ask: • **What do you normally do with your money?**

• **Why do you or don't you think it's important to set aside money for giving and saving?**

Say: **God is giving, and he gave amazing things to Abram! Abram also reflected God's giving**

heart by letting Lot have the land that looked better. And God can show how giving he is through *us* when we manage our money and set aside some as a tithe to give to church or people in need. Use your wallet to help set aside money to give and save instead of spending it all.

Have kids take their wallets home and show their friends and families how they'll be managing their money as a demonstration of God's giving heart.

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