#### Lesson 8:

#### Abram and Lot/Sodom and Gomorrah

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 13

MEMORY WORK:

Genesis 1:1

Days of Creation

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I cannot always have my own way or have the best for myself. I should always be willing to share what I have.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we talked about God telling a man to leave his home and move to a new place. Do you remember that man’s name? (Abram) Abram was a very good man. Today, we are going to study about Abram making a good choice.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

* + 1. Review the meaning of the word “faith” and how Abram showed his faith.
    2. In Bible times, a person’s wealth was determined by how much livestock he had. Abram and Lot were both very wealthy men. Genesis 13 tells us that they each had so many animals that the area of land where they were living at that time could not provide enough food for all the animals.
    3. Because there was not enough pasture for all the animals, the herdsmen of Abram and Lot (the servants who took care of all the animals in the fields) quarreled a lot. To keep the peace, Abram suggested that he and Lot no longer live in the same place. God had promised to give Abram all the land of Canaan, but he was willing to share with Lot.
    4. Abram was Lot’s uncle; he was the leader of the family. So, he had the right to choose the best land for himself and send Lot to whatever land was left.
    5. Not only was Abram willing to share, but he let Lot choose the land he wanted. Lot chose the very beautiful, well-watered land around the Jordan River Valley and moved toward the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, south of the Dead Sea.
    6. Abram moved to the town of Hebron and built another altar to worship God. He did not complain or have bad feelings toward Lot because Lot chose the best land. Abram was a happier man because he was unselfish and because he trusted God to take care of him.
    7. Lot did not make a wise choice about where he should live. The Bible says that when he left Abram, he moved “toward Sodom.” Eventually he was living in Sodom. Sodom and Gomorrah were very wicked places. They were definitely not good places to raise a family.

**NOTE:** The Bible does not tell us for certain, but Lot could possibly have married and raised his children after moving toward Sodom. The text seems to indicate that he was there for several years before any trouble started. Genesis 14:12 and 14:16 both mention “Lot and his possessions,” **not** “Lot and his family.”

* + 1. Talk about circumstances when we should let others go first (Romans 12:10, give “preference to one another”).With younger children, use pictures to illustrate those situations and ask them, “What would you do?” and/or “What should you do?”

**NOTE:** Genesis 14:13 is the first mention of the word “Hebrew” in the Bible. Scholars believe this word is a derivation of the name “Eber” (Genesis 10:21-25; 11:14-17), which appears to be related to a verb meaning “to cross over” or “to pass through.”

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Oh Brother...or is it**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=814)[**Nephew?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=814)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to an alleged contradiction regarding the identity of Lot.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

##### “Father Abraham”\*

Father Abraham had many sons

And many sons had Father Abraham

And I am one of them and so are you

So let’s all praise the Lord

(Right arm)

Add (Left arm) (Right Foot) (Left Foot) (Chin up/Head Back) (Tongue Out) (Turn Around…sit down)

**“3 Wandering Jews”**

Once there were 3 wandering Jews (repeat)

Wandering, wandering, Jew-Jew-Jews (repeat)

Once there were 3 wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham (repeat)

Abra-Abra-ham-ham-ham (repeat)

The first one’s name was Abraham

The second one’s name was Isaac (repeat)

I-I-saac-saac-saac, (repeat)

The second one’s name was Isaac

The third one’s name was Jacob(repeat)

Ja-Ja-cob-cob-cob, (repeat)

The third one’s name was Jacob.

The all went down to Canaan land, (repeat)

Canaan, Canaan, land, land, land, (repeat)

They all went down to Canaan land.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Activities should focus on the first part of the lesson – Abram and Lot or on the application concept of sharing.

* Have children sit in a circle, and discuss what it means to share. Tell the children that you brought a ball to share, and they need to share the ball, too. Roll the ball to someone, and ask the child a review question; when he answers, ask him to roll the ball to someone else. Repeat until everyone has had one or more turns
* Provide each child with a sheet of construction paper with the caption, “I can share like Abram

shared with Lot.” Also provide them with pictures from magazines and catalogs of things they can share (toys, books, snacks, etc.).

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT\*

### \*Wednesday’s lesson is different than the Sunday lesson this week.

INTRODUCTION

Sunday, we studied about how Abram shared. Who did he share with? (Lot) What did he share? (Land that God promised him) He let Lot pick first and the best land. What can we share with our friends? When can we let others “go first”? Tonight, we are going to talk about Lot and about how he moved to a bad city.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. For younger children: Focus on main points about Lot moving to a wicked city and about how God destroyed the city with fire. Discuss the importance of picking good friends to be around and the importance of putting good things in our mind (Not watching bad TV shows, etc.). We should think about good things and pick friends who also try to think about good things and do what’s right.
3. When Abram gave Lot his choice of land, Lot moved toward the city of Sodom, which was most likely located on the southwestern coast of the Dead Sea. Genesis 13:10 says that this area was “like the garden of God” at this time. As time went by, Lot moved closer and closer to Sodom until he actually lived inside the city, which was already known for its great wickedness.

**NOTE**: In Genesis 17, God appeared to Abram again, renewed His covenant, and instructed Abram to circumcise the males in his household, and his descendants. This, too, was part of the covenant. At that time, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, and Sarai’s name to Sarah.

1. The Lord (in the form of a man) and two angels appeared to Abraham and told him that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed, because there were so many wicked people there. Remember that God destroyed the whole world by flood in Noah’s day because the people had become so wicked. God promised not to destroy the whole world again by flood, but He would punish different groups of people at different times because of their wickedness.
2. Since Lot and his family were in Sodom, Abraham asked God if He would spare the cities if there were even a few righteous people there. Abraham asked God if He would not destroy the cities if there were 50 good people there. Knowing how wicked the cities were, Abraham asked six more times to spare the cities for the sake of the righteous. He pleaded with God for 45 people, then 40, then 30, 25, 20, and finally only 10 people. God agreed to leave the cities alone if there were only 10 righteous people in the cities. (We don’t know how many people lived in the cities. But if they were the size of even a small U.S. city [give the name of a familiar city in your area] and there were not even 10 good people, imagine what a horrible place this would have been to live in!)

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**‘Righteous Lot’?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=2400)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to a charge against the Bible regarding 2 Peter 2:7-8 and its depiction of Lot as “righteous.”

1. The two angels left Abraham and went on to Sodom. They arrived there in the evening. Lot was sitting at the city gate and saw them coming, not knowing they were angels (Lot sitting at the city gate meant he was a man of prominence.). He invited them to his home and prepared food for them. The two strangers said they would just spend the night in the city square, essentially sleeping on the street. But Lot knew that something terrible could happen to them if they stayed on the street, and he insisted that they spend the night in his house.
2. When the people of Sodom found out that two strangers had come to Lot’s house, they came from every part of the town to Lot’s house and tried to get the two strangers to come outside. Lot knew the huge mob would hurt his guests and treat them very badly. When Lot wouldn’t send his guests out to the mob, they tried to break down the door of the house.
3. The angels then struck blind all the people in the huge crowd, and the mob left Lot alone.
4. The angels told Lot that they were from the Lord and that the cities were about to be destroyed by Him. They told Lot to get every member of his family ready to leave town quickly.
5. Lot told his two sons-in-law that they had to leave quickly, but they thought Lot was joking and refused to leave town.
6. Early the next morning, the angels told Lot it was time to leave. When he hesitated, they took Lot, his wife, and his two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city, telling them not to look back.
7. Lot and his daughters hurried toward the city of Zoar, a few miles away. When they were at a safe distance, God sent fire and brimstone from the heavens and completely destroyed the cities. Lot’s wife did not listen to the warning of the angels and turned around to look at the city that had been her home for so long. Instantly, she turned into a pillar (large block) of salt.

**NOTE**: The angels told Lot to go to the mountains, but he was given permission to go east to Zoar. After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot decided to go to the mountains and live in a cave (Genesis 19:30). For more information on the location of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other “cities of the plain, see: [https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz_EB5Igw1U) [watch?v=Fz\_EB5Igw1U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz_EB5Igw1U).

**NOTE**: **Brimstone**, in the Old Testament, is translated from a Hebrew word which means bitumen or pitch, which is very flammable. “**Sulphur**” is often given as the meaning of brimstone. Whatever the meaning, the destruction of “the cities of the plain” was so complete that the area was uninhabitable for 2,500 years.

1. From his tent, miles away in Hebron, Abraham looked toward the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah the next morning and could see great clouds of smoke from the destruction.
2. Lot had not intended for his family to be influenced in bad ways by choosing to live in Sodom. But his two daughters married very wicked men who had no respect for their father-in-law, and his wife became so attached to that wicked place that she willfully disobeyed God. (It is highly possible that Lot met and married his wife after he moved to Sodom. She was very

likely leaving family and friends behind.)

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Historical research suggests that there was no civilization of any kind on the plains around the Dead Sea from the Early Bronze Age (2,500 to 1,800 B.C., which covered the time of Abraham) until Byzantine times, 600 years after Christ. “The region was so destroyed, as the Bible says, that it took 2,500 years of climatic influence to bring it again to a condition fit for habitation.”

“The only correct description of the natural conditions of life on the plain ever given is that found in Genesis, ‘like the garden of the Lord’ ‘before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah’ (Genesis 13:10). The climate is an ideal winter climate. With proper irrigation ten thousand acres could be turned into a tropical garden in which five crops a year could be raised, and this region would then be again a veritable ‘garden of the Lord.’” Geologists have uncovered evidence of the great catastrophe recorded in the Bible. “This is a burned-out region of oil and asphalt. It is 150 feet thick and exposed for six miles; how much may be under the ground no one knows. This stratum of salt is overlaid with a stratum of marl through which is mingled free sulphur in a very pure state.... The great smoke, like the smoke of a furnace, which Abraham saw from far-off Hebron, is explained when we remember the asphalt that is found in this region. What makes a greater smoke than boiling asphalt! Thus the remains in this region show that the catastrophe did take place exactly as narrated in Genesis” (*Living Bible Encyclopedia*, vol. 15).

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**The Unity of the**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=2151)[**Bible**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=2151)” by Kyle Butt, and “[**Sodom—Inhospitality or Homosexuality?**](http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&amp;article=614&amp;topic=36)” and “[**The**](http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&amp;article=689&amp;topic=36)[**President and Homosexuality**](http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&amp;article=689&amp;topic=36)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for relevant articles relating to the Sodom and Gomorrah narrative.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Activities should focus on the second part of the lesson – Sodom and Gomorrah.

* Draw a rough outline of an ancient city’s skyline. Draw a woman’s silhouette looking back at the city.. For four and five year olds, die cut figures of a woman could be made; the children could glue onto their papers. Let the children brush a thin layer of white glue onto the silhouette, then sprinkle salt on it. They can also color flames over the cities.

### Review Questions

**Abram is Unselfish toward Lot**

1. Why did Abram and Lot separate?
   1. (Because their herdsmen were so many that they were fighting each other)
2. What was Lot’s dad’s name?
   1. (Haran)
3. Where did Lot move?
   1. (Sodom)
4. Why did Lot go that way?
   1. (Because it was better land)
5. In what book and chapter in the Bible is this story found?
   1. (Genesis 13)
6. Where did Abram move when he and Lot separated?
   1. (Hebron)
7. Did Abram make a good choice when dealing with Lot?
   1. (Yes)
8. Why did Abram make a good choice when dealing with Lot?
   1. (He was unselfish.)

**Sodom and Gomorrah: Lot is in Bad Company**

1. What was the spiritual condition of the city that Lot chose?
   1. (Wicked)
2. Who informed Abraham about what was going to come upon Sodom and Gomorrah?
   1. (God through angels)
3. Did Abraham find out that Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be saved?
   1. (No)
4. What did Abraham do when he was told that Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be destroyed?
   1. (He tried to reason with God not to destroy the cities if there were as few as 10 righteous people in Sodom)
5. What did the angels do to the men at Lot’s house?
   1. (Struck them blind)
6. Did Lot’s sons-in-law leave when Lot told them to? Why or why not?
   1. (No, because they thought that Lot was joking)
7. Was Lot destroyed in Sodom?
   1. (No)
8. When angels appeared to Lot, what did he do?
   1. (Invited them inside his home)
9. What did the angels tell Lot?
   1. (He was instructed to leave his home.)
10. What happened to Lot’s wife and why?
    1. (She was turned into a pillar of salt because she disobeyed God by looking back at Sodom’s destruction)

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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