

## Abram Lets Lot Choose First



## Overview

**Materials You'll Need**

- 🍷 various snacks (i.e. granola bars broken into smaller pieces, cookies, cake, fruit, water)
- 🍷 paper plates
- 🍷 cups
- 🍷 napkins

**Scriptures**

Gen 12:1-9; 13:1-12

**Bible Truth Objective(s)**

Abram let Lot choose first; God blessed Abram

**Behavioral Objective(s)**

To not fight with our family or friends; to let others choose first and learn to share

**Memory Verse**

"He will be blessed on the earth." (Ps 41:2)

**Bible Knowledge****Abram**

Abram ("father is exalted"), was the son of Terah, a descendant of Noah's son, Shem (Gen 11:27). Terah moved to Haran with the family and died there some years later. God called Abram to migrate to Canaan, assuring him that he would be the father of a vast nation.

In letting Lot choose first, Abram showed the magnanimous nature of a man of faith. Both Abram and his nephew, Lot, had become very wealthy in livestock. They had just returned from Egypt to the land of Canaan, and they shared the available grazing area with the Canaanites and the Perizzites. The land simply could not support all those animals, and the servants of Abram and Lot began to quarrel over pasture. Abram suggested a solution: they should separate. He offered Lot the first choice. The choice of left and right was a choice of west and east. Since the fertile plain of the Jordan River looked the best, Lot chose that and traveled eastward. God spoke to Abram after Lot left. Perhaps Abram was wondering if he had done the right thing to separate from Lot, but God reassured him

that he had. God told Abram to look in all directions. He promised to give Abram all the land he could see! Abram's example shows us how to respond to difficult family situations:

1. take the initiative in resolving conflicts;
2. let others have first choice even if that means not getting what we want;
3. put family peace above personal desires.

**Lot**

Lot's character is revealed by his choices. He took the best share of the land even though it meant living near Sodom, a city known for its sin. He was greedy, wanting the best for himself and thought nothing of Abram's needs or what was fair.



## Understanding Your Students

Sensitivity and selflessness are qualities that strongly need to be developed in children. We see our society becoming more and more self-centered. Everything is about "me." There is much we can do within the classroom setting to model acts of selflessness and to encourage the students to share. We can watch what we do, and consider what we say. Do we promote sharing and perform selfless acts? Children are like sponges and they will pick up on positive behavior when they see it. Also make it a point to look for the positive things

going on in your classroom. Consistent praises will help the students realize the inherent goodness in sharing and helping without getting anything in return. Take the opportunity to discuss values and manners that please God. Look for activities that will allow the children to work together by coming up with group projects, where there is only one finished product. After these projects are completed, talk about how the students felt when working on these projects together. Did anyone have to compromise? Was it difficult to share the materials? Encourage the students to thank one another for sharing and helping.



## Vocabulary

### Canaan

the land promised by God to His people, the Israelites

### Crowded

when there is a lot of something in one place

### Selfish

when you care only about yourself



## Before You Teach

We often teach our children to share and to let others go first. It seems like the right thing to do. But our actions don't often reflect that message. A good example is "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving where many stores open at 5:00 am with can't-pass-up savings. Many people line up outside these stores as early as 2:00 am to make sure they are first in line so they can purchase that new MP3 player or big screen television at discount prices. And what typically happens when the doors swing open is a stampede of customers pushing and shoving their way into the store. Many accidents, some fairly serious, have been known to occur. We can be sure that no one is thinking about the other

person and letting them choose first. It's all about "me" and "what I can get." On a smaller scale, we have all been upset, to some degree, if someone cuts in line or takes something we feel rightfully belongs to us. Again, we are not thinking about being the better person.

Yet, we teach our children that it is important to share and let others go on ahead, even if it means it will be at our expense. What Abram did for Lot took a big heart and a lot of love. He did it unconditionally, and more importantly, he did not complain about it after the fact or boast about his deed to others. He did it in quietness and meekness. We are right to teach our children these qualities and we should also show them in our lives. Our actions can speak louder than words.



## Bible Story

### Abram Moves to Canaan

The Bible teaches us that God wants us to do what is right. Last week we learned about how Noah obeyed God's words by building the ark. Because he listened, he and his family were saved. This week we will learn about how God wants us

to let others choose first.

Many, many years after the time of Noah, there was a man called Abram. Abram loved God and obeyed Him. One day, God told Abram to move to a new place to live. It was called Canaan. Abram had never lived in Canaan before and did not know what it was like. He was a little bit scared to move to a new place but he also trusted that God would guide him and protect his family. So he packed up

everything and moved to Canaan with his family and his nephew Lot.

### **Abram and Lot**

After they moved, Abram and Lot's families were getting used to living in this new place called Canaan. Now, Abram had many servants and owned large flocks of cattle, sheep and donkeys. Lot also had many sheep, donkeys, cattle, and camels. All their servants and animals were getting used to this new land too. But soon, everyone settled in. Every day, Abram's servants took care of the animals that belonged to Abram and Lot's servants took care of Lot's animals. Every day, the animals needed to eat grass and find places to sleep. The helpers did their best to find food and water for them. But after a little while, there were just too many animals. It got so crowded that the helpers who looked after the animals began to argue about the water and the food.

"Your animals are eating too much grass. We won't have enough left for our sheep and cattle," complained Lot's servants.

"Well, your donkeys and camels stand near the rivers all day long and drink up all the water," replied Abram's helpers. They argued so much that Abram heard about this problem.

### **Abram Sees a Problem**

Abram could see that they had a problem. Lot had many animals and so did he. There just wasn't enough space for everyone to be staying together. So he decided to talk to Lot about it.

"Lot," he said, "our helpers are fighting. We don't want our servants arguing. We are one family. We should be kind to one another."

### **Abram Lets Lot Choose First**

Abram didn't want to argue; and besides, there was plenty of land to choose from. Abram told Lot to pick where he would like to live in this new land. After Lot chose, then Abram would go the other way. Then there would be plenty of grass, water and space for everyone. Lot was glad that his uncle Abram let him choose first. It was very nice of him to do that.

Lot looked one way and saw a hilly country. He looked the other way and saw nice, grassy, flat land by a river. Which do you think he chose? He chose the best land by the river.

"Uncle Abram, I think I will move to the flat land over there by the water. There will be plenty of space for my animals and it will be a good place to build my home," said Lot.

Lot was a little bit selfish. He wanted the best for himself so he chose the flat land. He didn't want to live near or in the hills. He didn't stop to think about his uncle Abram. He didn't say, "Oh, no, Uncle Abram. You are older, so you choose first."

But Abram did not argue or say that Lot should save the better land for him. He agreed with Lot's choice. That meant that Abram would go the other way and move to the hilly country. So everyone packed up their things and moved. Lot and his family went to live in the flat lands while Abram and his family moved towards the hilly mountains.

### **God Blesses Abram**

After Abram and Lot separated, Abram was a little bit sad because Lot and his family didn't live with them anymore. Lot was like a part of his family. But he was glad that they were not arguing anymore. And God was very pleased with Abram. God promised Abram that all the land he could see in every direction would belong to his family.

"Abram, look up from where you are standing. Look in all directions: north, east, south and west. Everything you see before your eyes will one day belong to you and your people."

When Abram heard this, he thanked God for blessing him and his family. Even though he did not get the better land, God promised him even more than he had ever dreamed of.

God continued to say, "Abram, you will have many children and grandchildren too! There will be so many people that belong to your family that it will be hard to count them all."

Abram was really blessed by God! He was blessed because he listened to God and moved to a new place he had never been to before called Canaan. Then when there wasn't enough room for everyone, he let Lot choose the land first. God always blesses those who listen and do what is right. Abram showed us today what it means to let others go first. Even though it is hard sometimes to let others go ahead of us, we learned that God will bless us in the end with even more.



## Check For Understanding

1. **Why did Abram and his family move to Canaan?** (Because God told him to.)
2. **What were Abram's and Lot's servants arguing about?** (There wasn't enough space, food, and water for all the animals.)
3. **What did Abram do when he found out?** (He let Lot choose the land first so they could each have their own place to live.)

4. **What did Lot choose?** (The better flat land, near the river.)
5. **Did Lot let his uncle Abram choose first since Abram was older?** (No, he was a little selfish and only thought about himself.)
6. **Did Abram get mad that Lot chose the better land?** (No, he was happy they were not arguing anymore.)
7. **How did God bless Abram even more after he and Lot separated?** (Blessed him with the whole entire land and with numerous descendants.)



## Life Application Story

### The Big Surprise

Mrs. Lim looked happy when she returned from the Christian book store. Nicole and Lisa were in the living room as she entered the house. Their mom's big smile excited them, and they wanted to know what she had done.

"Why the big smile, mom?" Nicole asked. Mrs. Lim sat down opposite the girls on the couch.

"You know that beautiful Bible we've been admiring at the bookshop?" she asked. The girls remembered. It was a lovely pink Bible (the girls adored pink) and was trimmed with lace and had roses drawn on the cover. It had been a little expensive, so they hadn't bought it.

"Well," Mrs. Lim continued. "It went on sale, so I bought it!" she said, holding up the brand new book.

The girls were surprised! They ran over and gave their mom a hug. Mrs. Lim laughed, then cleared her throat.

"There's just one thing, girls," she said. "This was the last copy. I could only get one. Therefore, one of you will receive this pink Bible, and the other will get this one," she said, pulling out a sim-

ple yellow Bible out of the bag.

The girls stopped for a moment. The pink one clearly was the prettier of the two, and both girls wanted that one. Lisa stood up and yelled, "The pink one's mine!" and grabbed it. Nicole frowned.

"That's not fair, Lisa! I want the pink one too."

Lisa stood up and stuck her tongue out. "Well I'm younger than you, so I get to choose. Anyway, I saw it first at the bookstore."

Nicole looked down at her hands. "Okay ... you can take it." With the beautiful Bible held tight to her chest, Lisa skipped away to her room.

Nicole's eyes filled with tears, but she didn't cry.

"It's okay," she said, picking up the yellow Bible. "This one is beautiful too." Mrs. Lim walked over and sat next to Nicole. She gave her a big hug.

"Open the Bible, Nicole," she said. Nicole opened the Bible, and to her surprise, a silver necklace with a big crystal pendant fell out. She gasped as she held it up to the light to watch it sparkle. It was the most beautiful necklace she had ever seen.

"Mom!" she said breathlessly, "This must've cost more than both Bibles together! Why are you giving it to me?"

Her mother smiled. "This was my necklace when I was a child. It was very special to me, and I hope it will be special to you."

She paused to give Nicole a hug. "Today, you learned to put other people before yourself. Some

people take a whole lifetime to learn this, and I'm very proud of you. The necklace is to remind you that when you sacrifice things for God, you will be blessed."

Nicole gave her mom a hug. "Thank you for the Bible, mom. And thank you for the necklace. I'm going to wear it forever!" she said as Mrs. Lim fastened the beautiful necklace around her neck.

After all was said and done, Nicole sat in her mom's arms, and listened to the story of how God blessed Abram because he sacrificed for his nephew. And they read it straight from her new yellow Bible, of course!

### Questions to Think About

1. **Why did both girls want the pink Bible?** (They thought it was prettier.)
2. **Was it right for Lisa to just grab the one she liked and say it was hers?** (No, she should have

worked it out with her sister and mom.)

3. **How did Nicole feel after her sister took the pink Bible away?** (Sad because she wanted it too.)
4. **How was she surprised after she opened the yellow Bible?** (Her mom's necklace was hidden in there.)
5. **Why did Nicole's mom give her the necklace?** (Because she was willing to let her sister have the pink Bible even though she really wanted it too.)
6. **Is it hard for you to let someone else choose first?** (Let students answer.)
7. **If there was a toy both you and your friend wanted to play with at the same time, what can you do to show your friend you can share?** (Let students answer.)
8. **What are some other things you can do to show others you can share?** (Let students answer.)



### Activity 1

#### Abram and Lot

Look at the picture. What is Abram letting Lot do? Find out the answer by solving the riddle. Look at the small pictures under each line. Find the letter that matches the picture and then write the letter on the top of the line. "Abram is letting Lot \_\_\_\_\_ (choose first)."



### Activity 2

#### How Can We Let Others Choose First?

Look at the pictures. What is each person doing that is letting the other friend choose first? Which one can you try to do this week? Circle it and remember to let someone go ahead of you. God will bless those who obey Him and follow His teachings.



### Activity 3

#### If I Have Love

Provide one page per student. Have them fold along the dotted lines to make a small booklet, with the cover "If I have love." Encourage them to talk about how to love another person, as Abram loved Lot by letting him go first. Read the book aloud with them, and if time permits, they can color it in.



### Optional Activity

#### Sharing Our Snacks

##### Materials:

1. various snacks (i.e. granola bars broken into smaller pieces, cookies, cake, fruit, water)
2. paper plates
3. cups
4. napkins

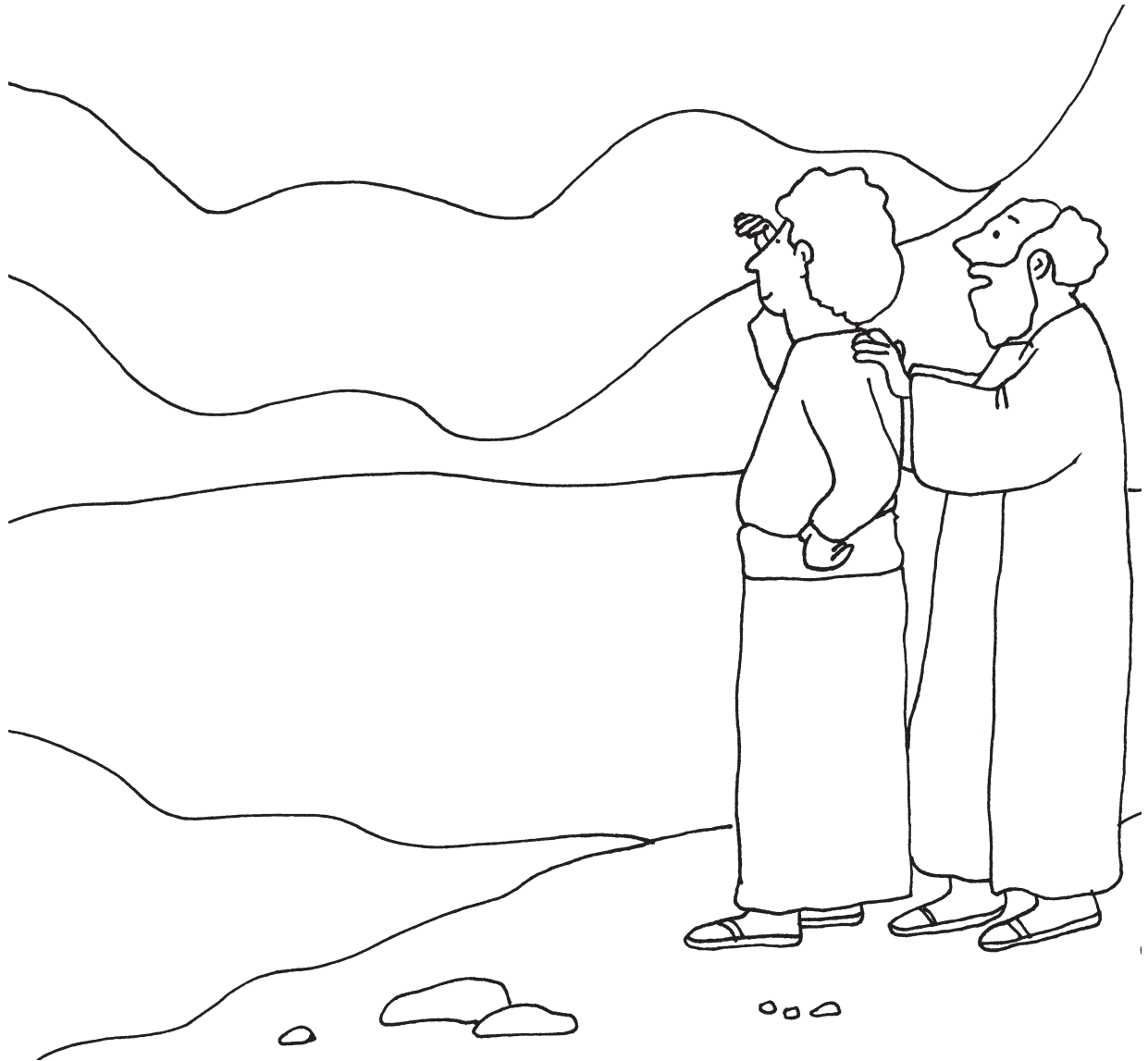
##### Directions:

1. This activity will work much better if the teacher can ask parents in advance to bring in a small snack each. That way, each student

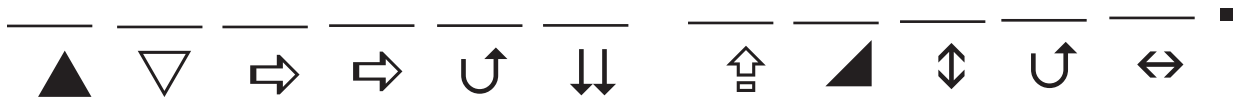


*knows he/she brought it in and is sharing what belongs to them.*

- 2. Put a small amount of one snack on a paper plate.*
- 3. Ask one child to come up and offer his snack to his friends around the table.*
- 4. Make sure he says, "Here, you can have the first choice," to each friend he is offering the snack to.*
- 5. Make sure each student has a chance to get up and offer a snack to their friends and practice letting others choose.*
- 6. The student who is giving out the snack will get to sit down after all his friends have gotten theirs and choose his portion.*
- 7. As students are snacking, talk about how it felt to let others choose first. Encourage the students to learn to share and let others go first so that they will be blessed as Abram was.*

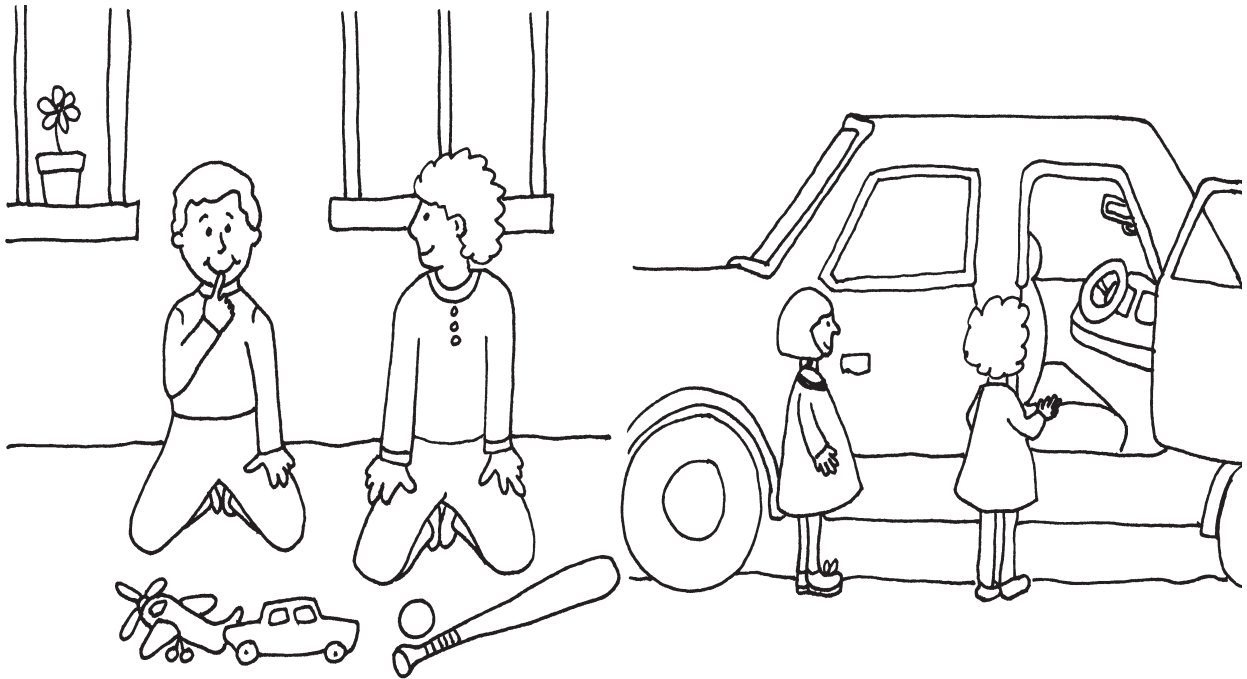


Abram is letting Lot



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### How Can We Let Others Choose First?



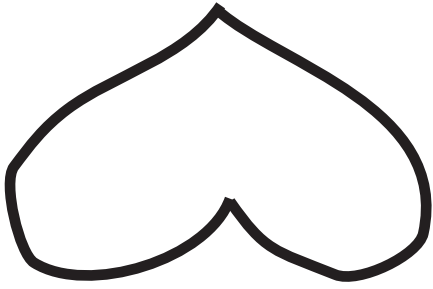
1. How is this friend letting the other choose first?

2. How is this friend letting the other choose first?



3. How is this friend letting the other choose first?

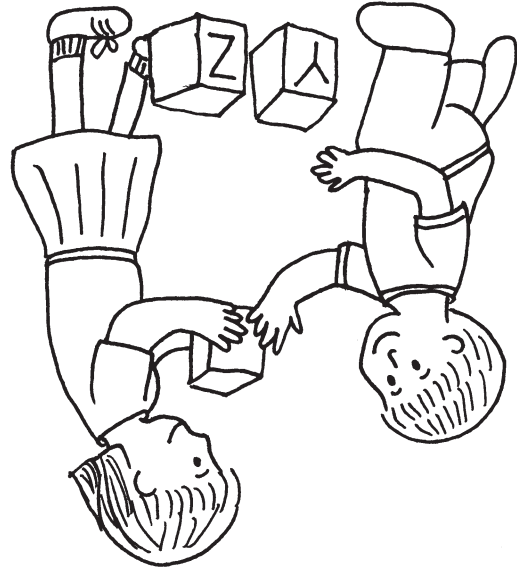




have

If I

I share.



fold 1



I take turns.

fold 2



I am a good friend.