



Lot and Abram Divide the Land

Genesis 13


Preadolescence is the stage of groups and cliques. Kids band together and seem as if they can't live without each other. This is fine for those who are part of the group but difficult for those kids who are inevitably left out. It may seem like wasted effort trying to get the cliques to include the kids who are left out. But you can use this lesson to help kids in cliques discover the ways God wants us to treat and respect all people.



► **Bible Point**
God wants us to put others first.

Key Verse
"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will practice treating others as they want to be treated.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Balloon Herding <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Attempt to herd balloons while others try to scatter them.</p>	<p>balloons (5 each of 2 colors), 2 yardsticks or brooms, cellphone timer or watch</p>	<p>Inflate balloons, and place 2 chairs 2 feet apart at one end of the room.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>I Deserve the Very Best <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Debate the reasons for choosing the best land from Abram and Lot's situation in Genesis 13.</p>	<p>Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens Teacher Pack: "Which Land Would You Choose?" poster</p> 	<p>Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Then separate the two pictures on the "Which Land Would You Choose?" poster.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Coin Flip <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game with coins where everyone gets a fair share.	5 coins per child, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Getting Along 101 <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Explore personal situations where they face choices about how to treat others.	Bible Buzz, pens	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Balloon Herding Supplies

balloons (5 each of 2 colors)
2 yardsticks or brooms
cellphone timer or watch

! BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

Balloon Herding Easy Prep

Inflate balloons, and place 2 chairs 2 feet apart at one end of the room.

1 GETTING STARTED

Balloon Herding

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form two equal (or nearly equal) teams, and ask teams to gather together at the end of the room away from the chairs. Have each team elect one Shepherd, and give each Shepherd a yardstick or broom. Then give each Shepherd five same-colored balloons.

Say: **Shepherds, your job is to herd your balloons to the other end of the room and get them between the chairs. You can't touch the balloons; you must use the yardsticks [or brooms] to direct your "flock" of balloons.**

Ask each team to also select two designated Balloon Blowers. Say: **The Balloon Blowers will stand behind one of the chairs at the far end and attempt to blow the other team's balloons off track when the opposing team's Shepherd tries to get balloons between the two chairs.**

Position the Balloon Blowers, and say: **You can't actually touch a balloon, but you can blow at it. Lung power counts here!**

The rest of your team will be Obstacles between the starting place and the goal that the Shepherds will have to make their way around. Obstacles have to stay in place, but you can reach out and try to knock the balloons away from the Shepherds as they move around you. Shepherds, you'll have just 90 seconds. At the end of that time, whichever team has shepherded the most balloons between the chairs wins. If either team is first to get all of its balloons through, that team wins, even if 90 seconds haven't passed yet. Any questions? Allow time. Get into positions. Ready? Go! Allow time, and then declare a winner. Gather both teams into one group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain why you're happy or unhappy with the way this game turned out.
- What conflicts arose as the other team blew your balloons off course or your Shepherd had trouble getting around an Obstacle?
- How did you handle the competition?

Say: **Today we'll look at another situation where shepherds had to compete. Let's see if the way they handled the conflict was the way we handled our competition.**



As we look at what they did, we'll discover that ► **GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.**



2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

I Deserve the Very Best

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute Bibles, and have kids open to Genesis 13. Say: **Abram and Lot faced a dilemma. They had to divide a piece of land. Some of the land was fertile and great for flocks of animals. Part of the land was rugged and almost useless. The fair way to divide the land would be for each man to get some of the good land and some of the poor land. The cultural way to divide the land would be for the older person, Abram, to get first choice. But when Abram left it up to Lot to decide, that's not the decision Lot made.**

Have kids form two new groups. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz page. Assign one group to represent Lot and the other Abram.

Say: **We'll now debate who deserves the best land. The information described in Genesis 13 and the pictures from our poster are the only evidence you may use to support your arguments. You can read the Bible passage in sections and write down important details as you learn about what happened with Abram and Lot. Make your notes on the "Why My Guy Deserves the Very Best Land!" section on your Bible Buzz page. Be careful to be consistent with the descriptions found in the Bible text, or the other team can object. I'll serve as a moderator for the debate and decide whose argument wins the debate.**

Give groups 10 minutes to study the text and prepare their arguments. Ask each group to select two spokespersons. Each side will speak twice, taking up to 60 seconds each time. Each side may use either of the two land posters to help make their points.

When 10 minutes have passed, say: **You'll take turns presenting arguments. While one spokesperson is presenting an argument, write down in the "What the Other Team Said About Their Guy!" section on your Bible Buzz page why that team thinks their guy deserves the best land. You'll need this information to refute what the other team said. Any questions?** Clarify the directions as needed, and invite the Abram group to present its arguments first.

After opening statements, give groups up to two minutes to discuss how to refute the arguments from the other team. Encourage them to refer to the notes they took during opening arguments. Then allow the Lot team to present first, and have another round of 60-second presentations for kids to refute each other's arguments. At the end of the debate, applaud all efforts, and determine that both sides presented equal arguments.

I Deserve the Very Best Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- "Which Land Would You Choose?" poster

I Deserve the Very Best Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Then separate the two pictures on the "Which Land Would You Choose?" poster.





Say: **You did a great job making your cases. Now let's talk through what we've learned about Abram and Lot.**

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **After our debate and hearing different points of view, explain why you think it's fair or not that Lot got the good land.**
- **What did Abram show about his character when he allowed Lot to choose first and take the good land?**
- **Tell about a time you put someone's choice above your own.**
- **What about Abram's choice to put Lot above himself made him more deserving of the good land?**
- **What good can come from putting others first?**

Say: **It's clear Abram felt that getting along with Lot was more important than having the best land. Is that how you feel when you're having a fight with your brother, sister, or a friend? Too often, even for adults, getting along isn't as important as getting our own way. But ► GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST. Let's explore more of what that means with a simple game.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Coin Flip

What You'll Do

Give each child five coins. Have kids form pairs.

Say: **The rules are simple. Each of you flips a coin and then compares the coin with your partner's coin. If the coins match, with both showing heads or both showing tails, the person wearing the most blue wins. If the coins don't match, the other person in your pair wins. The person who wins collects both coins. You'll play five times with a new partner each time. Before flipping your coins, always decide first who's wearing the most blue. Any questions?** Clarify the directions as needed. Play "Do to Others" (track 17 on the CD) while kids play the game.

After kids have each had a chance to play five rounds, ask kids to raise their hands when you call out the number of coins they have left. Go in this order: **0-1-10-2-9-3-8-4-7-5-6.**

Coin Flip Supplies

5 coins per child
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Do to Others"
(Luke 6:31) (track 17)





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think made this game fair or not fair?
- Tell about a time you felt you were treated unfairly.
- When something doesn't seem fair to you, who do you tend to focus on—you or the other person? Explain.
- Are you more likely to try to get your own way or to be fair with someone else? Explain.
- If someone isn't fair to you, do you think you can choose to be fair toward him or her? Why or why not?

Say: **Not everything is designed to be fair. In this game, you had better odds of winning if you had on more blue than your partner. When things are unfair toward us, it's natural to think of ourselves and how to make it more fair. It wasn't exactly fair for Abram to be stuck with the poor land, but he made a choice to put Lot first. Abram chose to put Lot above himself, and Abram was still rewarded for treating his nephew as God wants us to treat others. ► GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.** Let's talk about ways we can do that in our own lives.

Getting Along 101

What You'll Do

Ask kids to form new pairs and find the "Getting Along 101" section on their Bible Buzz page. Make sure everyone has a pen.

Say: **We all have conflicts with others from time to time. Think about a conflict you have with someone. Maybe it's frequently fighting with your brother or sister about the room you share or which movie you'll watch. Maybe it's an ongoing fight with your parents or someone at school. Describe one conflict to your partner, and write it under the first statement on your Bible Buzz page.** Allow time.

Now follow the remaining four steps to resolving conflict by writing responses to the steps and discussing them with your partner. You'll have five minutes. Allow time.

Have kids find the Key Verse, Luke 6:31, on their Bible Buzz page, and invite a willing child to read it aloud: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In the conflict you identified on your Bible Buzz page, did your conflict solution involve treating someone as you'd like to be treated? Explain.
- What do you think our Key Verse tells us about how to put others first? Describe specifically what it means for the conflict you wrote about.



Getting Along 101 Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

Say: The way Abram handled his conflict with Lot offers a great example for us to follow as we face conflicts with other people in our lives. And we're reminded that ► **GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST** by following our Key Verse that says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Putting others first is very important to God! Let's decide on how to use what we've learned and put others first this week.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST** as we interact with those close to us this week.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Let a person you've had a conflict with go first at something.**
- **When a conflict arises, consider the questions on the "Getting Along 101" section of your Bible Buzz page to think of how to resolve it.**
- **Talk to a person you've had a conflict with about your differences, and make sure you really listen to him or her.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas. Allow time.**

Say: When we keep in mind that ► **GOD WANTS US TO PUT OTHERS FIRST**, our relationships will improve as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week. And we have a great example to follow by seeing how Abram put Lot first.



Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about putting others first. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Say: **Let’s end by praying silently. I’ll mention something to pray about, you pray silently, and then I’ll mention something else.**

Pray: **Lord, thank you for loving us. Help us to put others first the way you put us first. One of the biggest struggles I have with putting others first is...** Invite kids to silently tell God what in their lives is an obstacle to putting others first.

We’re each going to think of someone with whom we have a conflict. Please hear us as we silently pray for that person right now. Pause for time to pray.

Pray: **Please help us find a way to resolve our conflicts, God. If that means forgiving the person and letting him or her win the conflict, please help us be like Abram and do so willingly. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



