

Genesis 13 - 14

Abram, Saria and their nephew Lot were happy to be leaving Egypt. They had traveled to Egypt because of a famine in the land but when they were there, the mighty Pharaoh had taken Sarai away from Abram and put her in his palace. Do you remember how Sarai got out of the palace? God rescued Sarai; He sent a sickness on Pharaoh and his household and Pharaoh quickly sent for Abram and told him to take Sarai and Lot and leave Egypt.



They were all very happy to see the land of Israel again. This was the land promised to him by God. Do you remember how long Abram and his descendants were to live in the land God promised him? It was forever, wasn't it? This meant Abram would have to wait until Jesus returns to raise him from the grave and then he will live forever in this promised land. Abram and his family traveled past new green shoots of grain and fruit trees beginning to blossom. There was no longer a famine in the land and Abram and Lot were anxious to plant some grain and get their tents set up. First Abram stopped to build an altar and say a prayer of thanks to God. Abram always put God first didn't he? When we are happy and God has taken care of us with a warm home, a loving family and food on the table, it's good to stop and say "Thank You" to our Father in heaven for all he does.

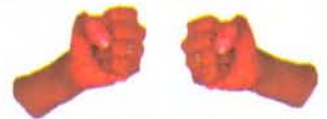


God had blessed Abram in many ways and one way was in many cattle, and sheep, donkeys and camels. Abram's nephew Lot was now grown up and he also owned lots of cattle, sheep, donkeys and camels. They needed lots of helpers to take care of the different herds of animals. These helpers were called "herdsmen."

One day the herdsmen of Abram were moving their sheep to a new pasture. Suddenly there was a shout from Lot's herdsmen. "Hey, you can't put your sheep here, this is where our sheep are going to pasture," Lot's herdsmen said.

"Oh Yeah," said Abram's herdsmen. "We got here first, so what are you going to do about it?"

Does this sound like something you might hear on the school grounds sometimes? Instead of being polite and giving in, sometimes we just want to fight for what we think are "my rights," don't we? This isn't what is pleasing to God, though. Lot's herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen began to fight all the more and more often. They each wanted the best wells and the best pastures and soon there were fights and quarreling all the time. This made Abram very, very sad.



One day Abram called Lot and said, "Nephew, we have problems. We both have so much livestock, we can't keep them separate and our herdsmen are constantly fighting. We will have to separate. Let's climb the hill behind our tents and we'll look over the land and see what we can do." So they climbed the hill to look over all the country around them. Then Abram did a very unselfish thing. All this land had been promised to him and he was the head of the household, but instead of saying "I want this certain land for mine" he said to Lot, "you choose where you would like to live and I'll take whatever area you don't want."

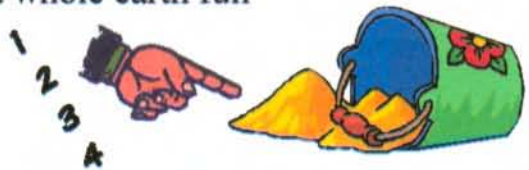
Do you think it's easy to be unselfish? If you had a choice of having the new toy or taking an old beat up one, would you let your little brother or sister or your friend have the first choice? That would be pretty hard to do, wouldn't it? But that's what Abram did, he didn't want to be selfish, he wanted to follow God's ways by treating others as he would like to be treated.

Lot looked all around him and there to the south were green trees and fields full of golden ripe grain. The River Jordan was close by so there would be plenty of water for his animals. There were also some towns close by where there was a lot of activity going on; Lot's wife liked towns, and she would be happy there. Lot chose this area and soon he and his wife and their two little girls packed up their tents and they moved with all his flocks and herds. Sarai and Abram must have felt very sad to see Lot move away. He had grown up in their home and was like a son to them but they knew this was the only way to keep the peace.



That afternoon Abram went out to the hill where he and Lot had stood. He was probably feeling sad and lonely. Abram suddenly heard the voice of God. "Abram, look north and south, east and west; all the land that you see will be given to you and your seed forever." (his "seed" meant his children, grandchildren and their children). Abram's "seed" can also be called offspring or descendants. God told Abram, "Your offspring (seed) will be like the dust of the ground. If a man can count the dust then he can count your offspring."

Have you ever tried to count grains of dirt or sand? Try picking up a handful of dirt and see if you can count each little peice of dirt or how many grains of sand you can count when you go to a beach. Abrams offspring would be as many as a whole earth full of grains of dirt or sand. That woud certainly be a lot of children and grandchildren, wouldn't it?



How do you think Abram could ever have that many offspring? When God made this promise Abram and Sarai were both too old to have children anymore. Abram didn't know what God's plans were, but Abram believed God. When we read Abram's story now, we can get an idea how Abrams seed would be like the dust, for the Jewish people are his offspring and there have been a great many of them since Abram's time. Jesus gave his life so more people could belong to Abram's family. Do you know that WE can become one of Abram's seed? When you get a little older and study the Bible for yourself, you'll be able to be baptized. There is a Bible verse that tells us if we are baptized we become adopted into Abram's family, because Jesus made this possible. All of Abraham's seed (including us today) will inherit the promises to live on the land forever and be blessed by God.

Do you know what "inherit" means? It's when an older person gives a special gift to a chosen relative. A son might inherit his father's house or land, or a daughter might one day inherit her grandmother's diamond necklace.

God has chosen people who believe in him and want to be part of his family by being baptized. Jesus Christ is God's heir - he will inherit all that God has, but we can also be heirs and inherit something. The Bible tells us:

"If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29 Say this over several times...This is your memory verse, when you've learned it put a check in the gold box.

Meanwhile Lot and his wife and daughters had settled down close to the two towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot was learning that his choice of land wasn't as good as he thought. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were very wicked. Lot tried talking to them about God but they only laughed and wouldn't listen to him. One day a huge army invaded the land. Five kings got their armies together and marched out to fight the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. There was a huge battle with swords clashing and horses charging and armor clanking. Screams and shouts filled the air...but when the battle was over the five invading kings were the conquerors. Even though Lot and his family didn't join in the fighting they were captured and put in chains along with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Poor Lot and his family must have been very frightened as the army moved toward the north. They were dragged along in a long line of captives, marching away from their homes to become the slaves of these kings.



While all of the fighting was going on, Abram was quietly tending his sheep and cattle. Abram had two friends who lived nearby and when they heard about the armies in the area, Abram and his friends got all their herdsmen and servants together and began to train them to be soldiers as well as carry on their usual jobs. Abram didn't realize that Lot was in danger until one day a man staggered into his camp. The man's clothes were bloody and torn. He had escaped from the captives when Sodom was captured. He told Abram about the battle and how Lot and his family had been captured.

What do you think Abram did?

He got together with his two friends and asked if they would help him go fight the four kings and their armies. This must have seemed very frightening to all of them. Abram and his friends only had 318 trained servants who could fight. The four kings from the north would have thousands of soldiers! How could these few men ever win a battle against thousands of tough, well-trained soldiers?



Well, Abram had a secret weapon...do you know what it was? He had God on his side. That was his secret weapon. God is THE power! If God is on your side you have nothing to ever be afraid of. Abram prayed and then he and his friends and their servants set out to follow the king's armies. With so many captives and stolen goods and sheep and cattle to take along, the huge army was moving slowly, so it wasn't long before Abram and his group caught up with them. It was night when they saw the encampment. Abram divided his people into groups and they quietly surrounded the camp. Probably the kings had been drinking and partying and were all sleeping soundly when suddenly Abram and his servants started shouting and running into the camp. The sleeping soldiers awoke hearing noise and clashing swords and shouting and they probably began swinging their swords at anything in their way as they started running away. Because God was with him, Abram and his friends and servants were able to chase the kings and their armies into the surrounding hills where they were scattered. Abram gathered up all the stolen goods and the cattle and sheep and freed Lot and his family and all the other captives. Abram must have said many prayers of thanks as he and his friends marched back toward their homes with all of the captives safely in their care.

As Abram neared home he was met by a special man who was a priest of God as well as a king. He had a very long name.

It's Melchizedek (this is how you would say it Mel - kez - a - deck).

This priest - king came out of his town to meet Abram and bring him food

and drink. I bet Abram and his group were really hungry and thirsty by now.



Abram gave Melchizadek a tenth of everything he had and Melchizadek gave Abram a blessing.. Many years later we can read in the Bible that Jesus Christ will be a priest and a king just like Melchizadek. Jesus will be a king over all the earth and he will be a priest and will bless all of us who follow God's words and try to obey the teachings in the Bible. We are promised that someday many of Jesus' followers will be priests and kings and will rule along with Jesus when God's kingdom is set up here on earth.

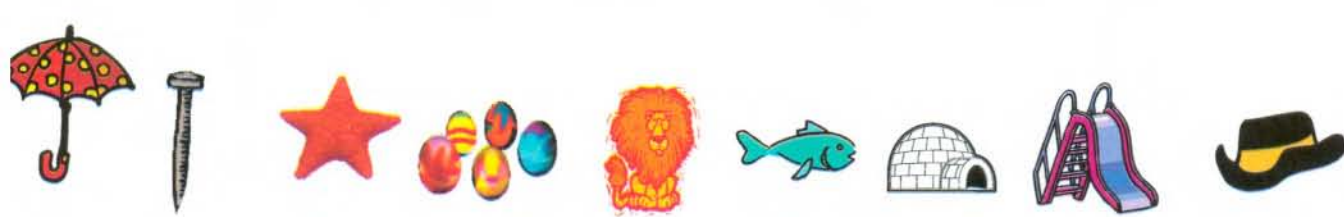
How many of the questions below can you answer?

1. Why did Abram and Lot separate and live in different areas?
2. Who chose the best land, Abram or Lot?
3. What was the name of the city Lot lived close to? (a) Endor (b) Sodom (c) Bethlehem
4. God told Abram to look north, south, east and west ... then what did God promise?
5. True ___ or False ___? We can become Abram's heirs and inherit the promise God gave to Abram and his seed by reading the Bible and believing in Jesus and being baptized
6. What did God tell Abram about the dust of the earth?
7. What happened when four mighty kings and their armies fought against Sodom?
8. What happened to Lot and his wife and daughters?
9. How did Abram find out about Lot?
10. What did Abram and his two friends teach their servants?
11. Who came out to meet Abram when he returned from conquering the four northern kings?
12. Circle the three things the king-priest Melchizadek give to Abram? (a) a puppy (b) food (c) a Bible (d) a blessing (e) drink (f) a tent (g) a suitcase (h) a robe

Each object below starts with a certain letter. Put that letter in the space under the picture to make a sentence. The first letter has been done for you



A _____









THE ORB WEAVER SPIDER

Help this spider weave her web by connecting the dots labeled A - Z. Then connect the numbered dots (you may have to go over a line more than once). When you get to 43 you can keep going until you fill up the whole space.

The Orb Weaver Spider builds her web in almost the same order as this. But when she is finished she will turn around and head back. As she goes she rolls up the first spiral and lays down a stickier one that will do all the bug catching.

A. F. U. B.
 E. I.
 O.

X.



L.

R.

S.

M

D.

J.

Y.

V.

G.

P. C.

