

General Church Education



# Abram & Lot Separate

Genesis 13:1-18

## Lesson 6

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

# Abram & Lot Separate

## Genesis 13:1-18

### Ideas for Parents & Teachers

In the journey of life we are to leave our “home country,” “our kindred,” and “our father’s house” which stand for the evil and selfish feelings and thoughts that cause conflict in our natural life before regeneration. Each of us receives a call to the land which the Lord will show us—a heavenly state of life which will open to us, gradually, if we accept the Lord’s guidance and obey His commandments. The land of Canaan stands for heavenly or spiritual life. The lush green plains in this story stand for natural life and its sensual pleasures. The desires of the senses, such as eating and drinking, are right and good when they serve the spiritual part of our nature, but these and other things that are naturally pleasant must be separated when they do not serve our spiritual life. Otherwise we will feel continually at war, and our heavenly life will be hindered. This is not an easy journey. We repeatedly have to separate ourselves from selfish desires. Young children are naturally attracted to their own desires, but they can be led to know the satisfying results of loving the Lord and helping the neighbor.

### Ideas for Children

- Abram was kind to Lot.
- Lot chose the way that seemed easier (the plains and valley) and went to Sodom. We sometimes choose ways that seem easier.
- The Lord again blessed Abram, and Abram built another altar to show his gratitude.
- A life of willing obedience to the Lord will lead us to heaven.

### From the Writings

Abraham represents the internal person. Lot represents the external person and the pleasures the external person derives from things of the senses. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1996, 1547

People have been created so that they are simultaneously in the spiritual and natural worlds. People are endowed with an internal and an external. The internal allows them to be in the spiritual world, the external allows them to be in the natural one.... The interiors of the mind of spiritual people are lifted toward heaven, for heaven is their primary aim; in the case of the purely natural, the interiors of the mind are turned away from heaven. See *True Christian Religion* 401

The judgment of sensual people relies upon their senses. They believe only what they can see with their eyes and touch with their hands, regarding these things as real and rejecting all else. The interiors of their minds are shut off.... A wise person thinks on a higher level than sense impressions. When thought is raised above this level, a person comes into brighter light, and eventually into the light of heaven. This is how a person perceives truth, which is what intelligence really is. See *True Christian Religion* 402

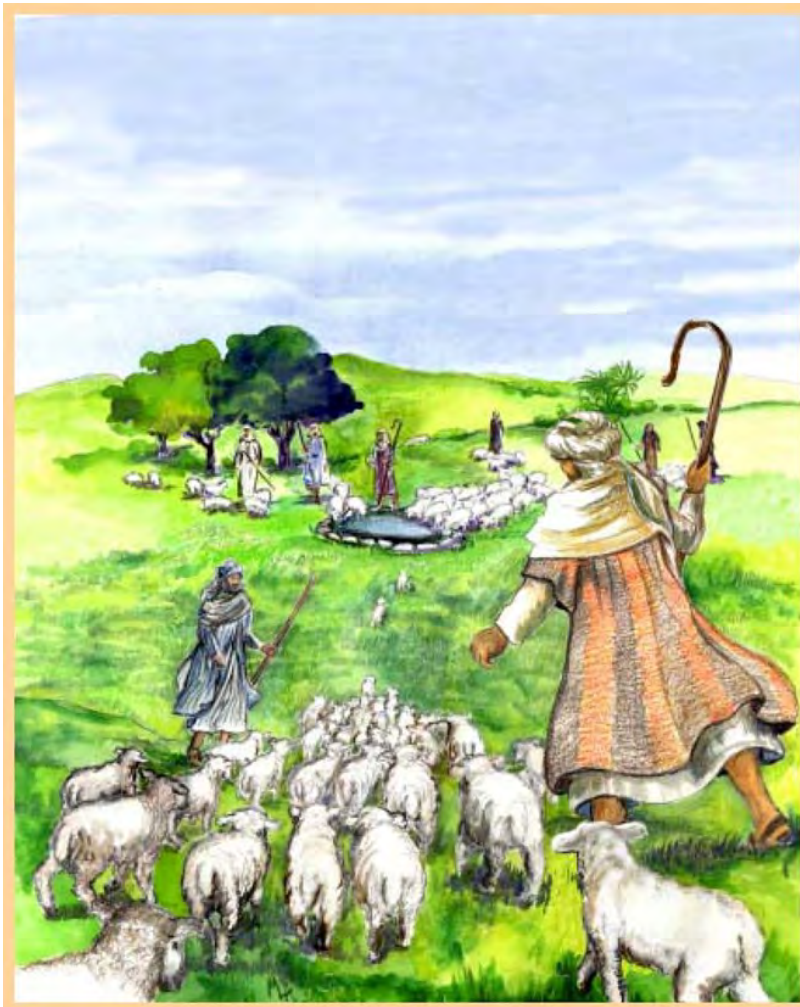
## Abram & Lot Separate

The Lord is like a shepherd who watches over his sheep. We have been learning about how the Lord watched over Abram and brought him to a new land.

Do you remember what a famine is? (When there is not enough rain to grow food, and people go hungry.) What country did Abram and his family go to when there was a famine in the land of Canaan? (Egypt.) What happened to them there? (The Lord protected them, and they became even richer.) Did they return to Canaan? (Yes, when the famine was over.)

### What Separates People

One thing that separates people is when everyone wants to have their own way or when everyone wants to have the same thing at the same time. This story tells us that Abram and Lot both wanted to live in the same place at the same time, but this was not possible. To prevent their herdsmen from fighting, they had to separate from each other peacefully.



When Abram, Sarai and Lot returned from Egypt, they were very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. They came back to the hills of Bethel, the place where they had camped before. There were beautiful hills on all sides and a lush, green valley or plain stretching off toward the sea in one direction.

Let's read and find out what Abram did when he came back to this familiar place, to the altar that he had built when he first saw this land.

#### **Read Genesis 13:1-4.**

What did Abram do at the altar? (He called on the name of the Lord.)

Abram worshiped the Lord at the altar, thanking Him for a

safe return. But then something happened that spoiled this happiness. Let's read on and find out what caused a problem.

**Read Genesis 13:5-7.** Why was there strife or quarreling? (They had so many animals that the land could not support or feed all of them.)

Think how it would be if there were many shepherds with hundreds of sheep and goats trying to get water from the same well or spring. Besides the herdsmen of Abram and Lot, there were also herdsmen of the Canaanites, or native people of the land, all trying to water their flocks from the same places. The Canaanites often tried to drive others away and keep the water for themselves. It is easy to see how quarrels would start and there would be strife between the herdsmen.



Abram did not want to quarrel with Lot. Abram was a kind man and wanted them to separate in peace. The next reading tells what Abram did. “Brethren” means brothers or family members. Abram had taken Lot with him on all of his travels and protected his nephew Lot as a father would take care of his son.

**Read Genesis 13:8-13.** What did Abram offer Lot? (The first choice of a place to live.)

What did Lot choose? (The green lowland.)

This lush, green plain was well watered. It looked so good to Lot that it seemed like the Garden of Eden. So Lot left, and he and Abram went their separate ways.

Now the land Lot chose looked good, but there was danger because two wicked cities, Sodom and Gomorrah, were nearby. Do you think Lot thought about that when he made his choice? Do you think he might get in trouble because of his decision? Lot chose the plain, flat land, and Abram lived in the hills of Canaan. It was here that the Lord once again spoke to Abram.

**Read Genesis 13:14-18.** What did the Lord say to Abram? (He once again promised all this land to Abram's descendants. He also promised very many descendants for Abram.)

This time the Lord said Abram's descendants would be like the dust of the earth, there would be so many of them. Abram built another altar and once again thanked and worshiped the Lord.

## The Blessings of Peace

Peace brings us much happiness. It comes directly from heaven but it does not come by itself. People must work and pray for it. Hardest of all, people must sacrifice for it. To sacrifice means to give up something that we love. Abram had to sacrifice Lot's companionship in order to get peace. He knew they would argue if they stayed together. He knew that his herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen would fight if they lived in the same land. He also knew that fighting is from hell and that he must do all that he could to prevent it. Fighting can lead to war. Countries often fight wars over land or money.

Sometimes someone wants a toy that belongs to another person. They might cry or even fight over it. These behaviors drive away the angels, but the evil spirits are very happy to stay near when there is such trouble. Do you think the Lord likes to hear children or grownups quarreling?

Next time you get angry because you did not win a game or because another child got what you wanted, remember this story. Remember how Abram prevented a war between his herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. He was willing to be fair. He let Lot choose first and then took what was left. In that way they could both live in peace. If you learn to share in your games and play, you will feel protected by the Lord and His angels. You will feel the blessings of peace.



### Discussion Questions

- Do you think Abram had a good solution to the problem of overcrowding? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)
- Why isn't the first, easy way always the best path to take? (Answers may include that we need to look carefully before making decisions, that what looks good may not always be the best in the long run, that we need to think of others as well as what we want for ourselves.)
- Do you think the Lord will help us if we try to be kind to others? (Yes, He is always giving us ideas of ways to help others because He wants us to live peacefully together.)



# Activity Overview | Abram & Lot Separate

## Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:2, 3

## Songs

*Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-guide-me-o-thou-great-jehovah-2/>

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-holy-holy-holy/>

## Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Abram Separates from Lot Word Scramble
- Activity 2 | Find the Hidden Livestock
- Picture to color

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Heavenly feelings of peace and happiness are a gift from the Lord. The Lord can bring us peace and happiness when we are kind and thoughtful of others. Abram was willing to sacrifice something for peace with Lot. Look for opportunities to be fair, caring, generous, friendly, helpful or loving this week. Try to think of one thing each day. If you want, make a chart showing each day of the week and try to do one kind thing each day to write on the chart.
- Make a miniature well using plasticine, clay or playdough and small stones.

## Activity 1 | Abram Separates from Lot Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words?

choose  
valley

mountain  
herds

quarrel  
pasture

Look at each group of letters and match it with one of the words above. Write the word on the line.

pasrute \_\_\_\_\_

alelvy \_\_\_\_\_

esoohc \_\_\_\_\_

mtinnoua \_\_\_\_\_

rdshe \_\_\_\_\_

elquarr \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2 | Find the Hidden Livestock

### Directions

1. Abram and Lot decided to separate from each other.
2. Can you find the livestock so that Abram can stay in Canaan and Lot can go to Sodom?
3. Remember that in Old Testament times, livestock was a mixture of oxen, cows, goats, sheep, horses, camels and donkeys.
4. Color or circle the hidden animals. There are two of each.





