

Aim of lesson

To show that God is concerned with the ordinary things of life, and wants his thinking to affect our priorities and everyday decisions.

Bible background

Genesis 13 & 14.

Outline of lesson

Strife

Read together Genesis 13:1-7. Ask the class to spot the problem, what it was and how it arose. What was at stake? Bring out the concern for harmony in the family as well as food for the herds.

Turn to the workbook. Have the class look up the answers in verses 8-13. Discuss the answers as you go along. Bring out Abram's good attitude in offering the choice to Lot, his respect for what God would like him to do. Contrast Lot's self-interested decision. You may like to use a map (there is one at the front of the workbook) to see the advantages of his choice.

A question of priorities

Ask the class to compare the characters of the two men. Use the boxes to rank the priorities each man might have given to family, wealth and God's teaching.

What company do you want?

Consider the possible reasons for Lot's decision to move near to Sodom. Was he looking for better pasture in the plain, the security of a 'civilised', settled community, or bigger markets for wool and hides? Contrast how Abram would see Sodom using verse 13 and the fact that he had been called out of Ur and may well remember the bad things about that kind of environment. It is worth noting that at the beginning of the chapter Abram goes back to a place where he had built an altar to the Lord, and at the end of the chapter he goes to Hebron and builds an altar there. It was the company and fellowship of God that Abram sought.

Areas of ordinary life

In the last question, encourage the class to think of things such as: family quarrels, where you live, the company you keep, where you work, decisions at work, the moral environment for bringing up a family.

Digging deeper

What happened to Lot?

This covers the incident of the battle between the five kings and the four (Genesis 14), and introduces Melchizedek. You could take the importance of Melchizedek further if you think your class is ready for it.

The section about Sodom completes the story of Lot and his wife, which is not otherwise covered in these lessons.

Relevance to our lives

Encourage the class to think what priorities they should have in making decisions in these areas. Can they take these problems to God for his guidance? You may like to choose in particular their attitudes in family quarrels – do they give way or do they demand a 'fair' or advantageous solution.

Prayer

Dear God of Abram, help us to understand the way that you care for us. Teach us to know, as Abram did, that you care about our ordinary everyday decisions. Help us to live all our lives in your presence.

Other suggestions for activities

- Dramatise the discussion between Abram and Lot in Genesis 13:1-13, then take the two men back to their families to explain their decisions.
- A diagrammatic map could be made showing the ways the two men took, and listing their priorities on the arrows showing the direction they went.