

# Lot's Captivity And Rescue

Genesis 14

## MEMORY VERSE

GENESIS 14:20

“And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.”

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A rubber ball.

Black pepper, toothpicks, a bowl of water, liquid detergent, and a saucer.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### I Am Made Strong

Have your students group into pairs. Have one person of each pair put their index finger firmly on the top of their heads. Have the other partner try to move the finger away from the head of their partner by firmly pulling the arms away (no jerking or pushing aloud). They shouldn't be able to do it.

Read Psalm 1:1-3 and explain that when we live a life that honors God, He strengthens us with His great power. He can do many miraculous things but the greatest thing He does is empowering us to live godly lives. In Christ we can be stronger than we think we are. **God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.**

## LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will learn about Abram and Lot, and how God gave Abram the victory in rescuing Lot. In return we will see how Abram gave God the glory for the victory. There are many lessons we can learn from this chapter in Genesis, but an important lesson is that **God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.**

### GENESIS 14:1-12

And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations,

that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness.

Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar.

And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim

against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains.

Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.

They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Here we have an account of the first war in the Bible. The invaders were four kings; two of them invaded the cities of Sodom, Gomorah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. The reason for this war was the revolt of the kings from the government of Chedorlaomer. They had served him for twelve years, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled against him.

In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer, along with his allies, fought against the rebellion. The four kings laid the neighboring countries to waste and took the riches of the land for themselves. Along with all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, they took away Lot, Abram's nephew.

Now, we last saw Lot when he departed from his uncle, Abram. They went separate ways because of a disagreement between their herdsmen. There wasn't enough pasture to take care of all the

needs of the livestock. So we learned that Lot took the land that looked good and dwelt near the city of Sodom. We were also told that the city of Sodom was very wicked.

Now, a while later we see that Lot is living inside the city of Sodom. Because he is dwelling there he is taken captive along with the others in that city. We will learn more about Sodom in later chapters, but there is an interesting lesson here. Because Lot chose to live in this city he was taken captive along with them. We need to be careful about our associations in this world. We are in this world, but the Bible calls us to be separate. Had Lot remained out in the plains this may not have happened. But God works all things together for His glory (Romans 8:28).

#### GENESIS 14:13-16

Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

We are told that someone came that had escaped and told Abram, the Hebrew, (this is the first time that the word "Hebrew" is used in the Bible). Abram had a decision to make. In the previous chapter,

Lot had chosen by sight, and because he had chosen Sodom, he became a part of Sodom, he also became part of the trouble there. Yet Abram was not embittered toward Lot, and he went at once to help Lot, gaining a complete victory over the kings, and bringing Lot and his whole company back again from their captivity. God gave Abram the victory. **God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.**

Have you ever made a bad decision and gotten into trouble before? That is kind of like what happened to Lot. But God is merciful and will often help us even when we get ourselves into trouble. God rescued Lot through his uncle and helped him in his time of need.

## God Never Moves

Abram trusted God because God is trustworthy. For this activity you will need a large ball (like a soccer ball or playground ball). Have a few volunteers try to move a ball along a wall with their middle section by rotating along the wall with the ball in between. If the ball falls, ask the child who moved, the child or the wall?

Explain that God's faithfulness is like the wall; He never moves. When we fall, we've moved out of the protection and fellowship He offers.

### GENESIS 14:17-21

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

"And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

In this passage we see a contrast between two kings. First, we see the king of Sodom, who is grateful to Abram for rescuing them. Then we meet Melchizedek, king of Salem (Hebrew – Shalom or “peace”). No other reference is made to this man, Melchizedek, except in the book of Hebrews who speaks of him in the matter of his priesthood as a type of Christ. We see he was a priest, "the priest of the Most High God". He also was a king, "King of Salem," and thus a royal priest.

We see the offices of priest and king combined, and thus he was a type of our great High Priest, who was of the royal tribe, the tribe of Judah. His name, Melchizedek means "King of righteousness." Not only did he combine in his person the offices of king and priest, but his titles combine righteousness and peace. Melchizedek met with Abram, bringing out bread and wine, and pronouncing the blessing of God Most High. Abram responded by giving to this king and priest a tithe of everything he obtained by winning the battle. In verse 21, the king of Sodom also offers Abram something, "take the goods to thyself." How would Abram respond?

#### GENESIS 14:22-24

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

"that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'—

"except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

Abram refuses the offer of the king of Sodom. Again, he chose to walk by faith and not by sight. Abram knew that in heaven he had a "better and enduring substance." He did not want the things of the world; they were not the true riches to him. He would not give man any glory for what God was doing in his life, and was to do in the future. His trust was truly in the Most High God. This is one of the reasons that Abram becomes known as a man of faith. **God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.**

We see in Lot that when we disobey God's voice, we no longer hear it, and can end up in terrible situations which still fail to bring one to obedience. Even after this trial, Lot went back to Sodom to live. In Abram, a right attitude toward God gives us a right attitude towards men. Abram chose to walk in victory, and the outcome was obedience.

## **Flee Temptation**

You will need black pepper, toothpicks, a bowl of water, liquid detergent, and a saucer. Sprinkle pepper over the surface of the water in the bowl. These represent the people who love the Lord. Pour a few drops of liquid detergent into the saucer and dip the end of the toothpick into the detergent. This represents sin. Break the surface of the water in the center of the bowl with the toothpick. The pepper will quickly move to the edge of the bowl away from the soapy toothpick.

Explain to your class that we need to respond to sin the way that pepper responded to that soap. We need to run for our lives in the opposite direction of sin.

So often after a victory, we have the flesh telling us to take the glory or that moment of fame. Yet, we have the Spirit wanting to give the glory to the Lord, and that is the real victory. And the end of a real victory is a response of praising God, and God in return blesses us exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or imagine. **God calls us to walk by faith and not by sight.**

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of faith, asking God to help them walk by faith and not by sight. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.