

ABRAHAM AND LOT: SELFISHNESS

LESSON #1

TEACHER'S GUIDE

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: The story of Abraham and Lot is about selfishness

Key Question: What can we do to be unselfish?

Memory Verse: "Whoever wants to be first among you must be the servant of everyone else." **Mark 10:44**

Overview: Today we're starting a new series and it's all about guarding against things that can ruin our lives. Today we're going to focus on selfishness. We're going to learn about selfishness through an Old Testament story in the Bible about Abraham and Lot. Abraham was Lot's uncle and they were traveling together to find a new land to call their own. But there was a problem. They both had big families and a lot of animals to take care of so they couldn't share one piece of land. So, when they came upon a beautiful valley full of green grass, a choice had to be made. Both men couldn't live there. This is where the lesson on selfishness comes into focus. What would you have done if you were in this situation? Wouldn't you say, "I want this land for my family!" You would be thinking about what's best for you, not for the other person. But Abraham chose to be **unselfish** and gave Lot the first pick knowing full well he would choose this land for himself. And, that's what Lot did. Not only was Lot selfish but his choice was also dangerous because he chose the land that was near a wicked city named Sodom known for doing bad things. In the end, God rewarded Abraham for being unselfish and gave him a better land and a blessed life.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** Share a time someone's selfishness hurt your feelings. Share a time when your selfishness hurt someone else?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Philippians 2:3-4](#). What does this passage tell us NOT to do? What does it tell us we should do?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.
 - Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

We all struggle with selfishness from time to time. It's always easier to think about ourselves before others. But selfishness is hurtful to others and to ourselves. God wants us to be unselfish.

Answer: Put the needs of others ahead of your own.

Being unselfish is the opposite of being selfish. A selfish person thinks of themselves first. They want the biggest piece of candy or the first pick for the team. But an unselfish person puts other people first. So, they would take the smaller piece of candy and would let someone else have the first pick. If you want to be unselfish, think about what you would want but then give that to someone else first.

Bonus Questions: What does it mean to be selfish? Give some examples of selfish choices. How can you be unselfish with your friends?

4-5th: How does selfishness hurt people? How has God been unselfish with us? (died on the cross for us)

We shouldn't be selfish or try to impress others and shouldn't put our own needs ahead of others. Instead, we should be humble (don't think we're better than others), put others ahead of ourselves, and look out for the needs of others. God wants us to love and serve others and we can't do that if we are only focused on ourselves.

Make sure kids bring their Family guide home or tell them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities **2nd-5th**

Option #1

Abraham Craft

- Give each kid a brown paper sack.
- Give each kid a piece of white construction paper.
- Give each kid an Abraham template (**page 5**).
- Then, have kids create their own Abraham
 - The bag (bottom side up) will serve as the head and body.
 - The white paper can be used to make hair, eyes, nose and beard. (see image below)
 - Then have kids cut out the arms and sandals and glue to the sides and bottom of the bag.
 - Using crayons they can design a robe for Abe's body.



Supplies needed

- Brown paper sacks, 1 per kid
- White construction paper, 1 sheet per kid
- Abraham template (pg 5), 1 set per kid
- Scissors
- Crayons

Bonus Activity:

Play **True or False**.

See who's the quickest to answer correctly.

1. Lot was the hero in the story. (F)
2. Abraham was unselfish. (T)
3. Sodom was a great city. (F)

Option #2

Abraham and Lot Tic Tac Toe

- Draw a tic tac toe board on the whiteboard.
- Divide the class into two teams. Assign each team either an "X" or an "O".
- Choose one team to start. Ask a question from below. If correct, they get to put their symbol on the board. If wrong, the other team gets a chance. First team to get 3 across, wins.

Questions:

1. Who traveled with Abraham? (Lot)
2. How were Abe and Lot related? (uncle/nephew)
3. Why were they traveling? (find new land)
4. Who chose the land first? (Lot)
5. Why was Lot's choice a bad idea? (near Sodom, bad city)
6. What did God do for Abraham? (blessed him with better land)
7. Who was selfish in the story? (Lot)
8. Who was unselfish in the story? (Abe)
9. From what book in the Bible is our memory verse found? (Mark)
10. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)

Supplies needed

- Whiteboard and markers

Bonus Activity:

Play **Fast Facts**.

See who's the quickest to answer correctly.

1. ____ (Lot) was the hero in the story.
2. ____ (Abe) was unselfish.
3. Sodom was a ____ (wicked) city.

The Story of Abraham and Lot | Sabotage #1 (Kids)

 www.pursuegod.org/the-story-of-abraham-and-lot-sabotage-1-kids/

Hey kids, today we're talking about two guys from waaaay back in the Old testament. But, before we get to the lesson, I have a joke for you. Joke: Why did the lobster lose all of his friends? Because he was shellfish! Get it? Shellfish sounds like selfish!

The story of Abraham and Lot is a story about selfishness

Abraham was unselfish and gave Lot the first choice of land. Wasn't that nice? Think about when you're at recess and you're picking teams for dodgeball. You want the first choice, right? You want to grab the best player first. That's what Lot did, He chose the best spot.

Selfishness always gives you less than you think

See, Lot thought that choosing the best spot meant only good things would happen to him. But this spot was close to a wicked city named Sodom. It was famous for naughty people who did things that didn't honor God. Lot didn't care. He wanted the land and that's all he cared about.

Unselfishness always gives you more than you think

God want us to serve others before ourselves. That's what Abraham did and he was blessed for it. Abe goes on to be one of the most famous people in the Bible, known for his great faith and love for God. He even has his own song!! (start singing song)

Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *Share a time someone's selfishness hurt your feelings. Share a time when your selfishness hurt someone else?*
3. *Why were Abraham and Lot traveling together?*
4. *Who made the selfish choice? How was Lot selfish?*
5. *How did God reward Abraham for being unselfish?*
6. *Read [Philippians 2:3-4](#). What does this passage tell us NOT to do? What does it tell us we should do?*
7. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Bonus Questions: Use these passages to have more conversations this week.

1. *Read [John 15:13](#). How can you be an unselfish friend to people in your life?*
2. *Read [Romans 15:2](#). How can you help your friends to honor God? How can you encourage them to know God more?*
3. *Read [2 Corinthians 8:9](#). How has Jesus been unselfish towards us?*

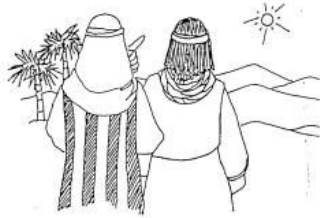
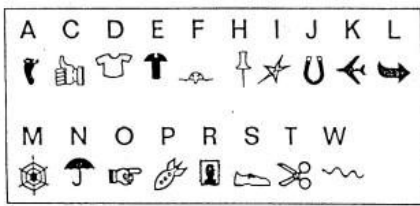
ACTIVITY PAGE #1

2nd-5th Grade

Kids

PUZZLE # 1

Decode the message using the symbols below



BIG IDEA

KEY QUESTION

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever _____ to be
_____ among you must be the
_____ of everyone else."

Mark 10: _____

COLOR



