

Bible Point ▶

God loves us and gives us what we need.

Bible Verse

We trust God (adapted from Psalm 52:8b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- experience sharing what they have with others,
 - hear how Abram shared the land with Lot,
 - help Whiskers share his toys, and
 - ask God to help them share.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Abram and Lot share the land.

**Genesis
13:1-18**



In Genesis 13:5 we discover for the first time that Lot was wealthy. Perhaps Abram had been generous to him, or maybe he, like Abram, had been successful in Egypt. At any rate, it became apparent that a single area was not sufficient to support both of their families' flocks and herds. Conflicts between their herdsmen over land use could have easily become quarrels between Abram and Lot (Genesis 13:8).

In this situation and culture, etiquette dictated that Lot allow Abram to take whatever he deemed was rightfully his because Abram was the more powerful and wealthy, as well as the respected elder. So Abram's offer probably shocked Lot—this was turning out far better than he had hoped! Abram was willing to give up what was rightfully his. Lot, thinking only of himself, made a choice that his entire culture would have deemed unthinkable. The actions of these two men demonstrated the differences in their hearts. But after Lot left, God spoke again to Abram, expanding on the promise made earlier.

Prayer

- Read Mark 9:35.
- How does putting others first fit in with common practice in our society?
- When is it difficult for you to follow this command from Jesus?
- Pray: Dear Lord, please help me to be a servant this week and show the children I teach how to put others first.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Desert Tent Name Tags” (p. 135), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: City Builders —Build a city out of blocks, and hear how Lot chose land near the city.	Blocks	
	Option 2: Shepherders —Herd cotton ball “sheep” into egg cartons, and hear how Abram’s and Lot’s herdsman quarreled.	Two egg cartons, cotton balls	
	Option 3: Color Sharing —Share crayons as they draw pictures, and hear how Abram and Lot shared the land.	Crayons, paper	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Divide the class so everyone has a place to sit, and hear how Abram and Lot divided their land.	Red and blue construction paper, scissors	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Make animal sounds as they listen to the story of how Abram shared the land with Lot.	Bible, construction paper strips from “Setting the Stage”	
	Do the Bible Story —Share “land” in the classroom like Abram shared land with Lot.	Construction paper strips from “Setting the Stage,” masking tape	
Closing 	Sharing Isn’t Easy —Help Whiskers share a new toy.		
	Sharing Prayer —Pray with partners, and ask God to help them share.	Construction paper strips from “Setting the Stage”	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Desert Tent Name Tags” (p. 135), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about Abram’s altar?” or “How did you show your love for God this week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► *God loves us and gives us what we need.***
- Hand out the desert tent name tags children made during Lesson 9, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extra name tags on hand for children who were not in class that week and to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What are some things we need that God gives us?” or “Tell me about a time you shared something with a friend or family member.”

■ Option 1: City Builders

SUPPLIES: blocks

Set out blocks, and help children build a city. Have them tell you what kinds of buildings they’ve seen in your city, and help them construct buildings similar to those. Talk about all the fun things they can do in their city. Tell children that today’s Bible story is about how Abram shared the land with his nephew Lot. Explain that Lot chose the land near a big city.

■ Option 2: Shepherders

SUPPLIES: two egg cartons, cotton balls

Set out two empty egg cartons and a bag of cotton ball “sheep.” Explain that the egg cartons are two fields where their sheep are going to graze. Tell children that today they’ll hear how Abram’s shepherds and Lot’s shepherds had a hard time learning to share the land. Let children divide the cotton ball sheep between the two egg cartons. If children begin to argue about who has more cotton balls or egg cups, encourage them to share. Remind them that ► *God loves us and gives us what we need.*



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



■ Option 3: Color Sharing

SUPPLIES: crayons, paper



Show children the *Bible Big Book* pictures from Lessons 9 and 10. Review what they've learned about Abram and Sarai so far. Then set out paper and a few crayons. Invite children to draw a picture of something from the Bible story. Explain that you only have a few crayons today, so they'll need to share and take turns as they draw their pictures. Let children work out how they'll share the crayons. As children work, explain that today's Bible story is about how Abram and his nephew Lot learned to share the land that God provided for them.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: red and blue construction paper, scissors



Before class, cut strips of red and blue construction paper. You'll need one red or blue strip for each child in your class. You'll use the colored strips to help children form two groups.

Tell children that when you flash the lights, they're to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Built a city; drew a picture of Abram; put sheep in egg cartons.)

Say: **Some of you built a city out of blocks, some of you shared egg cartons and cotton ball sheep, and some of you shared crayons as you drew**

pictures of our Bible story. You were all learning important things about our Bible story.

Hold up the *Bible Big Book*. Say: **Today we're going to read some more about Abram from our *Bible Big Book*. We'll hear how Abram shared his land and how God made sure Abram's sheep had enough food and water. Abram trusted God. We should trust God, too.**

Our Bible verse today is from Psalm 52:8, and it says: ►We trust God. Let's say that together. Have children repeat the verse with you. **Abram trusted God, and God gave Abram what he needed. ►God loves us and gives us what we need, too.**

Open the *Bible Big Book*, and hold it over your head. Say: **Let's get ready to hear our Bible story. I'd like everyone who drew a picture to join me under our *Bible Big Book*.** Pause for children to join you. **Now I'd like everyone who built a block city to join us.** Pause for children to join you. **Now let's have everyone who herded cotton ball sheep join us, too.**

Encourage children to scoot together, and try to fit everyone under the *Bible Big Book*. They won't all fit. Put the *Bible Big Book* down and say: **I have an idea. I have some strips of paper made out of two different colors. Can you tell me what these colors are?** Let children respond, and then continue: **I'm going to give each of you one of these strips of paper.** Hand out the strips.

Say: **Since we don't have enough room for everyone to sit under our *Bible Big Book*, I want everyone who has a blue strip to sit on this side of me for our story time.** Point to your left side. **I want everyone who has a red strip to sit on the other side of me.** Point to your right side.

Wait for children to find their seats. Then say: **Does everyone have a seat? Then we're ready to bring out our Bible and hear how Abram shared his land.**

Have children keep the paper strips for later in the lesson.

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Now would be a great time to lead children in singing "We Trust God" (adapted from Psalm 52:8b) with the CD (track 13).

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

tracks 3, 4



Say: **Now it's time to choose a helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today.**

Lead the children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *star stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *star stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ **Hear and Tell the Bible Story**

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper strips from "Setting the Stage"



Open the Bible to **Genesis 13:1-18**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. Today I'd like you to help me tell our Bible story. We're going to hear about Abram's animals. Abram and his nephew Lot had lots of cows and lots of sheep. So every time I say the word "animals," I want everyone with a red strip of paper to say "moo" like a cow. Let's practice that. Animals.**

Encourage children with red strips to moo. Then continue: **If you have a blue strip of paper, when you hear me say "animals," I'd like you to say "baa" like a sheep. Let's practice that. Animals.**

Encourage children with blue strips to baa. Then say: **Now let's hear you both together. Are you ready, sheep and cows? Animals.**

After children practice their animal noises together, give the signal to regain children's attention. Wait for children to respond, and then bring out the *Bible Big Book*. Open the *Bible Big Book: Abraham* to pages 4 and 5. You may want to set the open *Bible Big Book* on a chair so all the children can see it.

Read the following story text. Pause each time you say "animals" so children can make their animal sounds.

Abram and his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot, lived in the new land and God blessed them. Soon they had so many *animals* that their shepherds couldn't find enough grass and water to feed them all. Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds began to argue.

"Hey! Abram's *animals* were here first."

"No way! We always bring Lot's *animals* here. You'll have to find another place for Abram's *animals*."

Abram said to Lot, "This is silly. Our shepherds shouldn't be fighting. God has given us this whole land. You choose which part of the land you want. Then I'll take my *animals* somewhere else."

Lot looked all around. On one side he saw a green valley with plenty of grass and water, and even some cities. The other side looked rough and hilly. There was hardly a patch of grass for his *animals* to eat! So Lot said, "I'll take that green valley over there."

Abram could have said, "No! You just want the best land for yourself!" But he didn't. Abram was kind, and he knew that God would provide food and water for his *animals*. And sure enough, God gave Abram just what he needed. ► God loves us and gives us what we need, too.

After you finish the story, ask:

- **What were Abram's and Lot's shepherds arguing about?** (They wanted more grass; they didn't want to share.)
- **What did Abram do to help the shepherds stop arguing?** (Let Lot choose the land he wanted; made them take the animals somewhere else; helped them share.)
- **It was hard for Abram's and Lot's shepherds to share the land. What are some things that are hard for you to share?** (My teddy bear; my toys; my blocks.)

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to share things. When Abram shared his land with Lot, Abram had to take his animals somewhere else. If we share a toy with someone, that means we have to play with something else for a while. But we don't have to worry that we won't have anything to play with. ► God loves us and gives us what we need, including toys and people to play with. Most of us have plenty of toys to share, just as Abram had plenty of land to share.**



Say: Jesus tells us in the Bible that we should share with others. In fact, he tells us that the more we give, the more we'll receive! I'll bet that if you share your toys with your brothers and sisters or your friends, they'll share with you, too. Let's thank Jesus for teaching us how to share. When we're done with our prayer, share a handshake with the person next to you!

Pray: Dear God, teach us to be as unselfish as Jesus. Help us to share with others because we know you will always give us what we need. In Jesus' name, amen.

Say: Let's play a game together to help us remember our story about Abram's land.



For extra fun, lead children in singing the bonus song "Abram's in the Hills" (track 22 on the CD). Lyrics are on page 161.



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: construction paper strips from “Setting the Stage,” masking tape

Choose one helper from the blue group and one helper from the red group. Say: [Name of child from blue group], **you’re going to be one of Abram’s shepherds. Everyone else who has a blue strip of paper will be Abram’s animals.** [Name of child from red group], **you’re going to be one of Lot’s shepherds. Everyone else who has a red strip of paper will be Lot’s animals. Shepherds, your job is to find a pasture area for your animals. We’ll let Abram’s shepherd choose first.**

Encourage Abram’s shepherd to choose a section of the room for the red group. Mark off that section with masking tape, making sure it is barely large enough to hold all of Abram’s “sheep.” Then suggest that Lot’s shepherd “herd” Lot’s animals to that very same spot, convincing him or her that the grass is greener there and that there is water for the sheep.

Quarrels and confusion will inevitably arise as children discover they cannot all fit in the same pasture area. Encourage children to work out their own quarrels as Lot and Abram did. Repeat the activity until each child has had a chance to be a shepherd. If you have a large class, you may want to appoint pairs of shepherds each time.

When everyone has had a turn being a shepherd, say: **Now I’m the shepherd. Animals, let’s return to our story area.**

“Herd” children back to your story area. Then ask:

- **Shepherds, was it hard to choose where to take your herd of animals?**

(Yes, I didn’t know where to take them; no, I took them by the sink so they could have a drink of water.)

- **Lot’s shepherds, what was it like to choose first?** (Good, I got the most land; it was hard to decide where to go.)

- **Abram’s shepherds, what was it like to take the land that was left?** (We didn’t have enough room because there wasn’t much left; we didn’t get the place we wanted.)

Say: **Sometimes sharing isn’t so easy. We may be afraid that if we share, we won’t have enough or get what we want. But ► God loves us and gives us what we need, just as he gave Abram enough land for his animals. So when it’s time to share, just think about how happy our friends are when we share with them. We all like to have people share with us. Let’s see if we can find Whiskers today. I bet we can teach him some things about sharing.**



BIBLE POINT ►

Closing

■ Sharing Isn’t Easy

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Live It!



Whiskers: *(Sounding disgruntled)* Hi, everyone.

Teacher: What's the matter, Whiskers? You don't sound very happy today.

Whiskers: Cousin Joey came over to play with me.

Teacher: I thought you liked playing with your cousin Joey. What happened?

Whiskers: As soon as he came into my room, he started playing with my new bulldozer. He thought that since he was the guest he should get to play with it. I didn't think so. It's my bulldozer, and I wanted to play with it.

Teacher: I can see how that might cause a problem. Boys and girls, can you think of times when you had to share a new toy? *(Let the children respond.)*

Whiskers: I'm glad I'm not the only one who has to share my toys. But I still don't want to share my new bulldozer.

Teacher: I have a thought, Whiskers. Do you have any other trucks?

Whiskers: *(Thinks for a moment)* I have a dump truck. But I want my bulldozer!

Teacher: I understand that, Whiskers. But sometimes we have to share what we have with others. We heard a story today about a man named Abram who had to share, too. Children, let's tell Whiskers what happened when Abram shared.

(Help children tell Whiskers about Abram sharing his land with Lot. Explain that God gave Abram everything he needed. Point out that ► God loves us and gives us what we need, too.)

Whiskers: Wow! I guess if Abram can share all that without complaining, I can sure share my bulldozer.

Teacher: Maybe while your cousin Joey is digging with your bulldozer, you can use your dump truck to haul the dirt away. Then you can trade and take a turn digging while Joey hauls the dirt.

Whiskers: That's a great idea! That sounds like a lot of fun. I think working together will make sharing fun. Thanks, friends. I'll go get my dump truck right now. Goodbye!

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■ Sharing Prayer

SUPPLIES: construction paper strips from “Setting the Stage”

Have children holding red strips pair up with children holding blue strips. Say:
► God loves us and gives us what we need. We’re going to say a sharing prayer right now to thank God for meeting our needs and even giving us enough to share. Find a spot to sit with your partner, and then we’ll say the prayer together.

Let children spread out around the room with their partners. When they’ve all found places, say: **Look at me. If I hold up a red strip, I’d like red partners to repeat the words of the prayer after me. If I hold up a blue strip, I’d like blue partners to repeat the words of the prayer after me.**

As you read each line of the prayer, hold up a red or a blue strip. Repeat the prayer twice so children will get to say each line. Then hold up both strips, and have the children say “amen” together.

**Help me, dear Lord, when I play
 To share toys with my friends each day.
 And just as Abram trusted you,
 Help me trust for my needs, too.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Lively Learning: Abram's in the Hills*

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 22

Play “Abram’s in the Hills” (track 22) while you play a game similar to The Farmer in the Dell. Have the children form a circle, and choose one child to be Abram and stand in the center. As you sing the words below to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell,” have children in the circle hold hands and walk around Abram. At the end of each verse, choose another person to join Abram and company in the center.



**Abram's in the hills.
Oh, Abram's in the hills.
Heigh-oh the desert, oh!
Abram's in the hills.**

Additional verses:

**Abram takes Sarai along...
Sarai takes Lot along...
Lot takes a shepherd along...
The shepherd brings a sheep...
The sheep brings a cow...**

■ *Make to Take: Animals to Share*

Before class, make edible dough by mixing Rice Krispies cereal and marshmallow creme until the dough is firm and not too sticky. Have children wash their hands, and then give each child some dough. Have children use their dough to make two of Abram’s animals. Encourage them to make one animal to keep and one animal to share. Talk with them about who they’ll share their animals with. As children work on their animals, talk about the different kinds of animals Abram and Lot might have had. Remind children how Abram and Lot shared the land so all the animals would have enough to eat.

When children finish making their animals, have them line the animals up to form a large herd. Then let each child in your hungry “herd” feed on one of his or her animals. Provide small paper plates or resealable bags for children to take their other animals home to share.



■ *Treat to Eat: Animal Cracker Herds*

Serve animal cracker herds. Set out a large bowl of animal crackers. Tell children you’re going to divide up the herd among everyone. Let them help you by suggesting how many animals each child should get. Encourage them to make sure everyone gets enough. Before you eat your herds, thank God for providing enough animal crackers for everyone. As children enjoy the snack, review how Abram and Lot shared the land so their animals would all have enough to eat.



■ *Story Picture: God Provides for Abram*

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons, glue, and cotton balls. Let children color the picture and then surround Abram and Lot with cotton ball “sheep.” As children work, review how Abram and Lot shared the land in order to provide for all of their animals.

Today I learned... God loves us and gives us what we need.

Help me learn this:

We trust God (adapted from Psalm 52:8b).

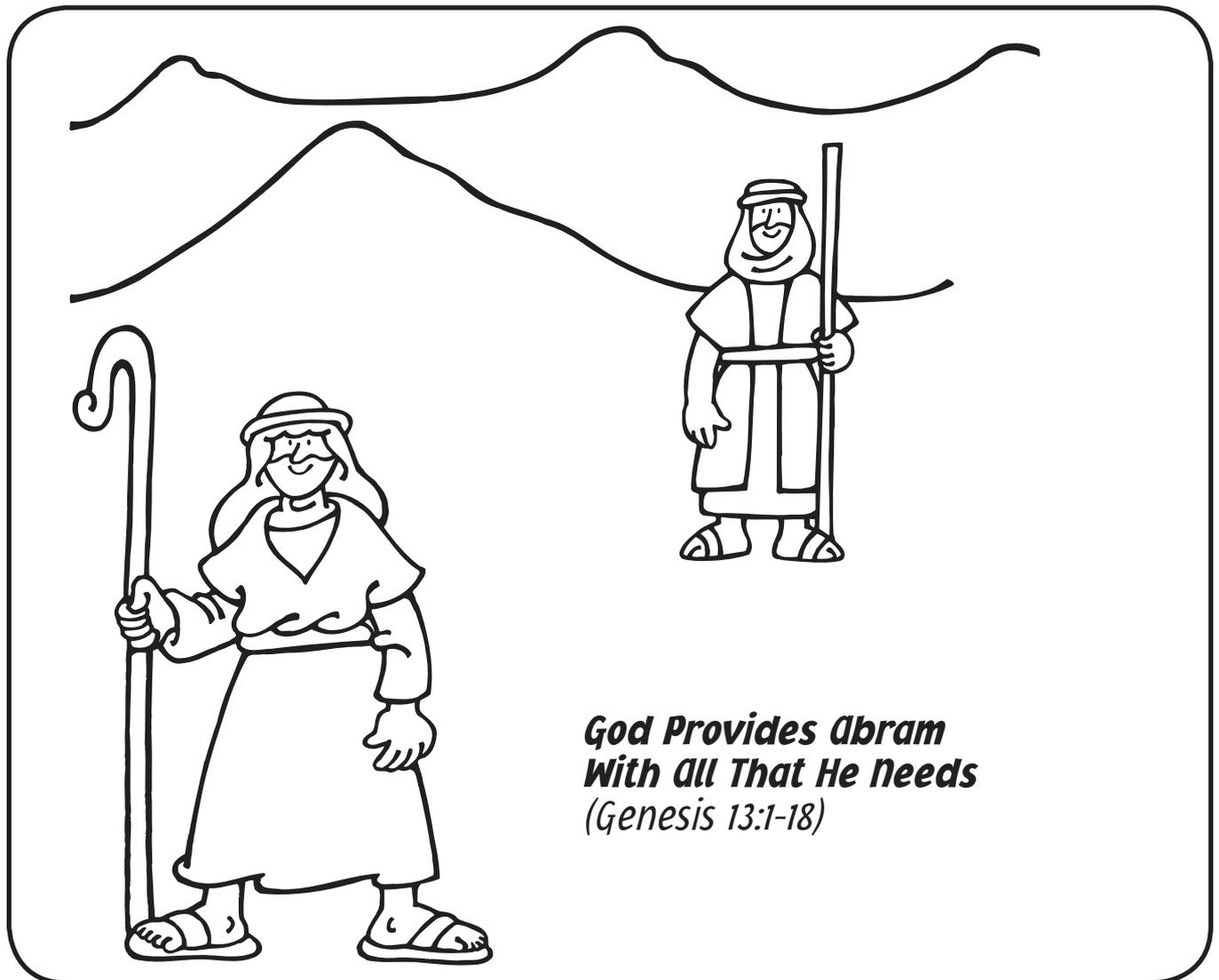
Ask me:

- What were Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds quarreling about?
- Tell me about a time you shared something.
- How can our family share with another family this week?

Family Fun

- Plan a family sharing project. You can make a food basket to donate to a local food bank or collect outgrown clothes to donate to a homeless shelter. After you deliver your items, thank God together for the way he provides your family with the things you need.

Lesson 11
Today your child learned that **GOD LOVES US AND GIVES US WHAT WE NEED**. Children heard how God provided for Abram after he shared the land with Lot. They thanked God for giving them enough to share.



**God Provides Abram
With All That He Needs**
(Genesis 13:1-18)