



WEEK  
**TWO**  
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## Communicator Guide

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Let Go**  
Abram and Lot  
Genesis 13:5-18

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?**

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."**  
Romans 12:18, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

### WEEK 2

**Key Question: Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?** If you walk into a fifth-grade classroom, you'll quickly discover that kids argue with each other about the smallest things. It can be hard for a kid to walk away from conflict because they feel like their entire reputation might be at stake. We pray that our preteens will learn how to make the wise choice and work to make peace.

For week two, we head to **Genesis 13:5-18**. We read how Abram and Lot's herdsmen were arguing because there wasn't enough land for both men's herds. Abram chose to make peace with Lot by letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram could have taken the best land for himself, but instead, he trusted God and allowed Lot to decide.

**Bottom Line: You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.** Sometimes creating peace with someone means giving up what might seem most fair to you. It takes a strong person to have the self-control to make a compromise and walk away. We pray that kids will learn how they can choose peace when it would be easier to argue and fight.

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you head to your Small Groups, think about this:

#### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**"Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?** How have you experienced this before? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be more like Jesus, Who was willing to give up everything to make peace with us! Let's pray!"

#### SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Genesis 13:5-18

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

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what you think is fair?

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## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

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more about each other than  
winning an argument**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters . . .

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! Welcome to [Name of Environment]! Watt is up! You know, like a light bulb? Watt? (pause) I know, I know, all my jokes can't be good ones. The lack of laughter really . . . hertz . . . guys. Okay, I'll stop. And maybe I should, because I gave away all my old lamps, and now I feel positively de-lighted.

"I really am *amped* to be here! Okay, okay. I know when it's cringy. Thankfully, it's time for us to continue with another game . . . um . . . *charged* . . . with fun for everyone!

**SLIDE: "CAN YOU SEE IT?"**

"I don't know about you, but I think blacklights are so cool. How many of you have ever used a blacklight before? (Responses) For this game, each Small Group will use a blacklight flashlight to go on a scavenger hunt. You'll take an answer sheet along, and every time you spot a new word with your blacklight, write it down. We will see who gets the most words!



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*Hand out the blacklight flashlights, paper, and pens. Play high energy music, turn off the lights, and set kids on the scavenger hunt for about two minutes. Once the time is up, gather everyone back to their seats.*

“Okay, there were . . . drumroll please . . . a total of ten words out there! Let’s see what you found!”

*Read off the words, and for the words that they didn’t find, turn off the lights and shine the blacklight on them.*

*The words are: Abram, Lot, flocks, argue, land, left, right, tents, river, and valley.*

“Who got them all? Nine? Eight? Awesome job, everyone! And as you can tell, it sounds like these words might have something to do with our story today . . . but before we get into that, let’s get into some amazing worship. Let’s sing!”



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## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “All right! I’m so ready for Worship, and I can tell you are too. God is worthy of ALL of our praise. When I look at my life, I can’t help but notice the goodness of God. That makes me want to celebrate and sing God’s praise. Let’s do that right now!

**AUDIO:** “*SING YOUR PRAISE*” / TRACK 2 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “*SING YOUR PRAISE*” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“Yes, no doubt about it. I will sing God’s praise. That is a sure thing. Nicely done, friends. Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

“I love David’s words in Psalm 29:11: *‘The LORD gives strength to his people. The LORD blesses his people with peace.’* (NIV) I know I need God’s strength in my life, and I need the kind of peace that only Jesus gives. So many things can shift around us and even try to shake us. But through it all, we know that Jesus will be our peace. Let’s celebrate that together. Sing this with me.

**AUDIO:** “*JESUS IS PEACE*” / TRACK 8 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “*JESUS IS PEACE*” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“Every single day, when the sun rises, we can count on God’s faithfulness. It’s not a ‘maybe’ that God might be faithful. It’s a sure thing! That brings me peace—to know that our God is holding everything together. Let’s sing and thank God for being faithful.”

**AUDIO:** “*YOU ARE FAITHFUL*” / TRACK 6 FROM THIS LOVE

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “*YOU ARE FAITHFUL*” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to be back with you again! If you're anything like me, you love a good 'Would You Rather.' Have you played that before? You know, like would you rather have a nose that's a foot long or have feet that smell things?

"I love it, too! Here at [Name of Environment] we play something similar. It's called This or That. Let's try!

*Have kids vote by moving to one side of the room or the other, depending on their choice.*

"Okay let's start easy. Mexican food (point to the left) or Italian food (point to the right)? Empanadas or Fettuccini? This or That? And . . . go!

*Pause as kids vote. Time permitting, call on a few kids to defend their decisions.*

"I'm a meatball person myself. I love a spicy-a meatball! I've got lots more. Are you ready?

*Play This or That by using the suggested list below. Feel free to add your own, or have choices specific to your own area (Mets or Yankees, Cubs or White Sox, etc.).*

#### **Possible This or That List**

- The beach or the mountains
- Play sports or play video games
- Learn a new instrument or learn to dance
- Math or reading
- Marvel or DC
- Cats or Dogs
- Drive in a car or fly on a plane

"Okay, final one. Eat a pound of asparagus or a pound of lima beans!

*Pause for reactions.*

"Yeah, I know. Those aren't great options, but you have to pick one of them!

*Pause while kids vote.*

"Yeah, that was a bad one. Thanks, everyone! You can head back to your seats."

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Whew! Have you ever faced a choice like that? Okay, maybe not exactly like choosing to eat asparagus or lima beans but one where you had to choose and *neither* one was great? What do you do?"



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“How do you even pick? Choose one way, it’s bad. Choose another way, it’s just as bad. Maybe the correct decision is to not decide at all . . . but isn’t that just prolonging things? When you’re stuck between a rock and a hard place, what do you do?”

“It’s a tough question, for sure. Thankfully we’ve got this (*hold up the Bible*) to help us navigate those tough questions. The wisdom written throughout this library of books and letters and poems is priceless, and we’re about to find some of that wisdom to help us make peace.”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today, we head all the way back to the beginning of the Bible—to the book of Genesis in the part of the Bible we call Old Testament. Genesis is actually a book of beginnings! Lots of them—the beginning of the world, the beginning of light and dark, of animals, stars planets, and ultimately the beginning of people.

“It was a peaceful, loving, perfect time. God walked side by side among the beautiful creation.

“Sadly, it was the beginning of sin, too. When sin entered the world, it changed everything. It didn’t take long to see what God made ‘in the beginning’ was broken by sin. The peace that was there at first between humans was replaced by anger, shame, suspicion, and violence.

“Thankfully, God had a plan to fix what was broken. Genesis, the book of beginnings, is also the beginning of redemption. And it started when God called a man . . .

### SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #1

“Through whom would be a family . . .

### SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #2

“Through whom will eventually be a nation . . .

### SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #3

“And this nation would help to do God’s work, to heal and restore what was broken and lost. Anyone know this man’s name? (*Pause for responses*) Yes! Abram! You might know him as Abraham.

“One day, God called out to Abram and told him to leave his country, his people, and his household he’d known his whole life and set out to travel to a brand-new land. If Abram was wondering which land or where he’d end up, God didn’t tell him that. Rather, God just asked him to go.

### SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #4

“The crazy thing is that Abram did it. Without question. He just up and left! And Abram wasn’t alone—his wife and nephew, Lot, went with him. Don’t be confused. I didn’t say a *lot* of nephews went with him. That was the name of his nephew . . . Lot. One guy.

“Let’s pick up the story here.



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Open the Bible to Genesis 13:5 (NIRV) and read.

*“Lot was moving around with Abram. Lot also had flocks and herds and tents.”*

“Flocks and herds. What kinds of animals do you think Lot had? (pause for responses) Yep! Sheep, goats, and cattle. Plus many tents. Many tents means many people, servants and workers and such. Lot was actually a bit wealthy, and he decided to bring all of this stuff with them on their journey.

“So Abram’s nephew, Lot, had a lot of things. Abram had a lot on his plate because Lot’s lot was a lot. Maybe Abram also has a lot on his mind, but it’s not Lot he had on his mind but Lot’s lot, which is a lot to take in.

“I can do this all day, people.

“Anyway, having flocks and herds and tents and people and servants and wealth sounds like a great thing—but unfortunately it posed a bit of a problem.

Open the Bible to Genesis 13:6 (NIRV) and read.

*“The land didn’t have enough food for both Abram and Lot. They had large herds and many servants, so they weren’t able to stay together.”*

“Abram’s nephew, Lot, had a lot, and Lot’s lot was cramped on the plot of land they found. In short, Lot’s lot was too much for the plot. There wasn’t enough food to go around. Too many people and animals and things in one spot.

“Lot’s lot was a lot for this spot’s plot.

“They’re going to have to split up. I’m sure the thought of this hurts a Lot. And it hurts an Abram. To make matters worse, people started bickering with one another.

Open the Bible to Genesis 13:7 (NIRV) and read.

*“The people who took care of Abram’s herds and those who took care of Lot’s herds began to argue. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.”*

“In other words, because Lot’s lot was a lot for this spot’s plot, the people fought.

“Everyone realized there wasn’t enough food to go around for all these herds and flocks, so they began to argue. A lot. With Lot, with Abram, and with each other. The whole scene got pretty messy . . . and not just because there are flocks and herds there, if you know what I mean.

Open the Bible to Genesis 13:8-9 (NIRV) and read.

*“Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not argue with each other. The people taking care of your herds and those taking care of mine shouldn’t argue with one another either. After all, we’re part of the same family.”*

“Great, common-sense advice, if you ask me. Abram’s a smart guy. (Continue reading)



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"Isn't the whole land in front of you? Let's separate. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right. If you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

"So either this . . .

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #5**

"Or this.

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #6**

"A for Abram, L for Lot. This is quite a This or That, right? 'Take this land or that land.' But even more, just like broken arms or broken legs, this This or That has two choices that aren't so great.

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #7**

"Uh oh. The land on one side didn't have many places to plant food. It was rocky, barren, and hard to farm.

"So the choice is this: stay together and not have enough resources like food and water for everyone? Or split up and have half the family starve because that part of the land wasn't so good? This . . . or that?"

"The amazing thing about this choice is that Abram lets Lot choose first. Technically this should be his first choice. After all, God spoke to Abram. This is the land God promised to him. So you'd think Abram would choose the good land for himself.

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #8**

"But instead, Abram let Lot pick first.

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #7**

*Open the Bible to Genesis 13:10-11 (NIRV) and read.*

*"Lot looked around. He saw that the whole Jordan River valley toward the town of Zoar had plenty of water. It was like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. So, Lot chose the whole Jordan River valley for himself. Then he started out toward the east. The two men separated."*

"Lot picked the most beautiful, fertile, luscious land. It looked like a place his flocks and herds would have plenty of food and water. The grass was greener, so Lot jumped at the chance to live there. But what about Abram? He's stuck with the rest. It might seem like he got a raw deal.

"It *might* seem like that . . . if it were not for God.

*Open the Bible to Genesis 13:14-16 (NIRV) and read.*

*"The Lord spoke to Abram after Lot had left him. He said, "Look around from where you are. Look north and south, east and west. I will give you all the land you see. I will give it forever to you and your family who comes after you. I will make*





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*them like the dust of the earth. Can dust be counted? If it can, then your family can be counted."*

"What a promise! God is telling this man . . .

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #1**

"And the family he will have . . .

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE #9**

"And even more the NATION that will come from that family that THIS will be their land . . .

**SLIDE: STICK FIGURE MAN #3**

"THIS will be their home. And there are going to be so many descendants in THIS land, it would be like trying to count the dust!

*Open the Bible to Genesis 13:17-18 (NIV) and read.*

*"Go! Walk through the land. See how long and wide it is. I am giving it to you. So Abram went to live near the large trees of Mamre at Hebron. There he pitched his tents and built an altar to honor the Lord."*

"And as Abram walked the land, he could see with his very own eyes the promise God was making. AND . . . that God could be trusted. How much could God be trusted?

*"(Pause) A lot."*

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Abram found himself in a tough spot with his nephew, but I love how he didn't hold tightly to what was his but instead offered it to Lot to keep the peace. After all, Abram was the guy God spoke to in the first place. The land was promised to him. Instead of keeping it, he gave it away to keep the peace.

"Abram showed incredible trust in God. First, packing up and leaving without question. Second, giving away a promise believing God would take care of him. In the end, God kept that promise in some incredible ways I'm sure Abram never could have dreamed of!

"I'm guessing you have found yourself in a place where keeping the peace meant deciding to put someone else first. Maybe it's not your night to unload the dishwasher or your turn to clean up after the dog, but you know that it'd be helpful. You could complain and put up a fight about 'what's fair' or just take the time to help.

"Maybe you worked really hard on your team to become a captain but someone else is just as deserving—and you could choose to give someone else the opportunity to succeed.

"There are times when something isn't fair and needs to be made right . . . and you just might need the help of an adult. That's okay, too. But when you're faced with your own This or That, think about what it means to care for others, even if that means giving up what you think is fair."



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25 MINUTES

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you head to your Small Groups, think about this:

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**"Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?** How have you experienced this before? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be more like Jesus, Who was willing to give up everything to make peace with us! Let's pray!"

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**