

SESSION 2

A PRIEST OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

MAIN POINT

Jesus is a Priest-King who blesses all people.

GENESIS 14:8-9, 11-12, 14-16 • ABRAM IS LIKE A KING WHO RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

8 Then 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 lined up for battle in the Siddim Valley **9** against King Chedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. ... **11** The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on. **12** They also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, for he was living in Sodom, and they went on. ... **14** When Abram heard that his relative had been taken prisoner, he assembled his 318 trained men, born in his household, and they went in pursuit as far as Dan. **15** And he and his servants deployed against them by night, defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah to the north of Damascus. **16** He brought back all the goods and also his relative Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the other people.

GENESIS 14:17-20^a; HEBREWS 7:1-3, 7 • ABRAM IS BLESSED BY A GREATER PRIEST-KING

17 After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley (that is, the King's Valley). **18** Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. **19** He blessed him and said: Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, **20a** and blessed be God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you. ... **1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings, **2** and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means king of righteousness, then also, king of Salem, meaning king of peace. **3** Without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. ... **7** Without a doubt, the inferior is blessed by the superior.

GENESIS 14:20^b; HEBREWS 7:4-6 • ABRAM RESPONDS TO GOD'S BLESSING WITH WORSHIP

20b And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ... **4** Now consider how great this man was: even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him. **5** The sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a command according to the law to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their brothers and sisters—though they have also descended from Abraham. **6** But one without this lineage collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

1. ABRAM IS LIKE A KING WHO RESCUES HIS PEOPLE

READ GENESIS 14:8-9, 11-12, 14-16

HOW DOES MOSES PRESENT ABRAM AS A CONQUERING, RESCUING KING?

HOW IS ABRAM NOTICEABLY DIFFERENT FROM THE KINGS IN THIS STORY?

2. ABRAM IS BLESSED BY A GREATER PRIEST-KING

READ GENESIS 14:17-20A;
HEBREWS 7:1-3, 7

HOW MIGHT MELCHIZEDEK POINT TO JESUS' WORDS IN JOHN 8:58?



BIG
QUESTION

IS MELCHIZEDEK AN
APPEARANCE OF
CHRIST HIMSELF?

Melchizedek's true identity has been the subject of debate. There are many parallels between Jesus and Melchizedek, so some believe he was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. Another possibility is that the author of Hebrews was drawing the parallel from a **literary** observation. Genealogies are significant in Genesis—the stories of every major character include their genealogy, birth, and death. So, Melchizedek stands out as a major character whose father and mother and beginning and end are not recorded. So, the author of Hebrews seems to have concluded that Melchizedek **resembled** the Son of God. The bottom line is: Melchizedek points to Jesus, the priest-king who would bring God's blessing to the covenant people forever.

READ **GENESIS 14:20B; HEBREWS 7:4-6**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ABRAM'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S BLESSING?

WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN WORSHIP AND PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE?



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

CHRIST AS PRIEST

As our Great High Priest, Jesus accomplishes the work of reconciling us to God. He is the One whose perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification. He is the One who intercedes for us before the Father (Heb. 7:25; 9:24) and prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

HEAD



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LOT ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SURROUNDING YOURSELF WITH UNGODLINESS?

HEART



WHAT DO OUR PRIORITIES REVEAL ABOUT OUR HEARTS?

HANDS

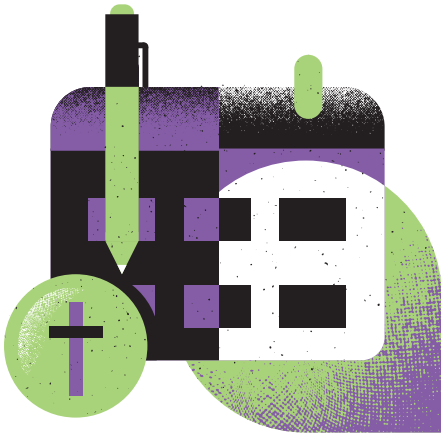


HOW MIGHT ABRAM'S RESCUE OF LOT BE AN EXAMPLE FOR HOW WE SHOULD GO AFTER OUR LOST FAMILY AND FRIENDS?



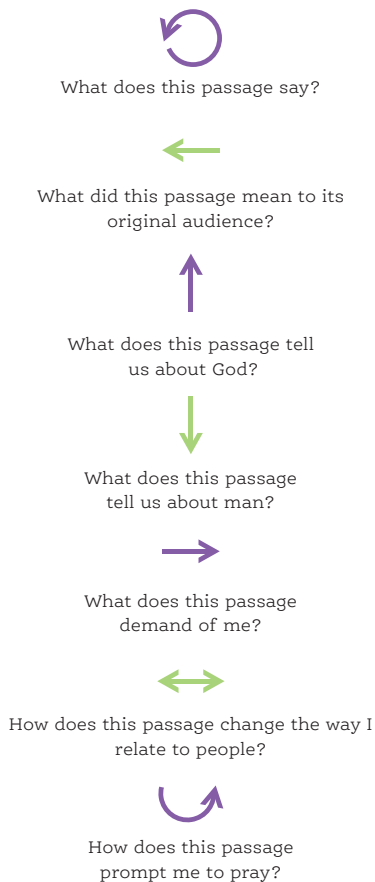
CHRIST CONNECTION

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



DAY 01

GENESIS 13:1-13

Lot was looking for greener pastures, but “The grass isn’t always greener on the other side.” He chose the best land, but he didn’t choose the best people. He left Abram and surrounded himself with those who were “sinning immensely against the Lord” (13:13). This decision would have bad consequences for Lot and his whole family. We may not see the danger of our choices right away, but choosing sin and selfishness will always backfire. When you choose your friends, you are, to some degree, choosing your future. Think through your major choices carefully and be wise in your relationships.

WHAT IS A TIME WHEN YOUR SELFISHNESS BACKFIRED?

HOW CAN YOU IMITATE ABRAM'S SELFLESSNESS?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS THIS WEEK?

DAY 02

GENESIS 13:14-18

DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO GET THE BEST (SEAT, SLICE OF PIZZA, CLOTHES, ETC.)?

HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME A SPIRIT OF COMPETITION AND COMPARISON?

WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO LET GO OF IF YOU KNEW YOU WOULD INHERIT EVERYTHING IN THE FUTURE?

Abram let Lot have the first pick of the land. But God promised Abram that he would possess the whole land. Later, Paul broadened the application of God's promise to Abraham, saying his children would "inherit the world" (Rom. 4:13). Jesus said in the Beatitudes—"Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). We don't have to get everything in the present. We don't have to be first, because we know our inheritance is safe and secure in God (1 Pet. 1:4). "Everything is yours... the world or life or death or things present or things to come—everything is yours, and you belong to Christ" (1 Cor. 3:22-23).

DAY 03

GENESIS 14:1-16

Lot's decision to move toward Sodom put him in danger. Sodom rebelled against a powerful king who came with other allies to reclaim Sodom. In the process, Lot was taken captive. But Abram was deeply committed to Lot. He risked his life to rescue Lot from captivity. Our sinful choices lead to bondage. But Jesus came to rescue us. He paid the ultimate price to set us free. Live in that freedom today.

WHAT ARE SOME UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR SIN?

HOW MIGHT SIN HAVE YOU IN BONDAGE?

WHAT CAN YOU DO THIS WEEK TO LIVE IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST?

DAY 04

GENESIS 14:17-24

HOW CAN YOU HAVE A MORE GENEROUS HEART?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COME BETWEEN YOU AND GOD?

WHAT MIGHT GOD WANT YOU TO GIVE UP FOR HIM?

One way that we can worship God is through generosity. Abram responded to God's blessing by giving a tenth of everything he had. When the king of Sodom offered him all the possessions that had been regained through the battle victory, Abram refused. In both cases, Abram demonstrated faith in God and a godly relationship with possessions. Our possessions can often keep us from God because we love them too much. But here, Abram showed us how to use our possessions to show our love for God.

DAY 05

HEBREWS 7:1-10

Melchizedek points us to Jesus. They are both priest-kings. Melchizedek's genealogy and death are not recorded in Genesis like most characters' were. So, he resembles Jesus in many ways as a kind of eternal priest-king. He blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave generously to him in return. If Melchizedek points to Jesus, then Abraham represents the people of God. Like Abraham, we should give ourselves and our resources to the one who has blessed us—Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN USE YOUR RESOURCES FOR GOD?

HOW MIGHT YOU BE USING YOUR RESOURCES IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT HONOR GOD?

HOW CAN YOU WORSHIP JESUS MORE TODAY?