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CANAAN, THE PROMISED LAND

Theme : The choices we make in life all have outcomes

AIM:

To learn to make sacrifices in our choices and resolve conflicts with others in a Christian perspective.

TEACHER PREPERATION:

We often look to choose the best for ourselves, forgetting what the consequences may be. As Christians, we need to consider others and make sacrifices as needed. We should look to resolve conflicts not by fighting but through love.

Today's lesson highlights the difference between two men and how they acted differently in the same situation.

Abram (later known as Abraham) is considered the father of the Jewish faith. His faith is an example to all believers. In this lesson, we focus on his unselfish love for his family.

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

In order to demonstrate the choices we have, the teacher should bring in two gift wrapped boxes: one big (with a fake \$1 dollar bill) and one small (with a fake \$100 bill). Ask each child to pick one of the boxes. After all have picked, ask for their reasoning. Did they think of the other children in the room when making their selection? Also explain what we think is the better choice, is not always better in the long run.

Sometimes, things are not as they seem. Even though one box was big and beautiful on the outside, it only had a \$1 inside. However, the smaller box, though not as attractive as the other bigger box, contained \$100. In today's lesson, we'll learn about a man who chose the seemingly better option but choosing that option had a significant negative impact on him and his family.



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UNIT 1

CANAAN, THE PROMISED LAND

Theme : The choices we make in life all have outcomes

Genesis 13:5-18

AIM:

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⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷ And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

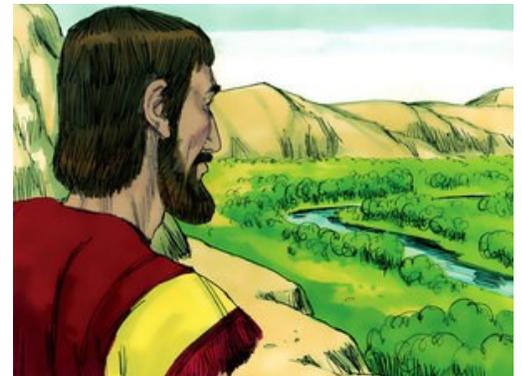
¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly

against the LORD.

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.



Introduction

We all make plenty of choices on a daily basis. For example, the clothes you are wearing right now could be one of the choices you made today. While some choices are simple and straight, others are much more complicated and will have long term impacts. The choices we make may also affect people around us so it is important to take other people's needs into consideration.

When making important decisions, it is also important to rely on God for his guidance. Sometimes the choice that seems appropriate and desirable may not be the best choice. So it is important to put our faith in God when we make our decisions. In today's lesson, you'll learn that Abram and Lot acted very differently when they had to make a choice. Abram was both unselfish and trusting in God when he made his decision but Lot was selfish and relied on his own judgment.

Bible Exploration

In today's Bible portion, we learn about Abram and his nephew Lot. Lot had accompanied Abraham in his journey from Haran to the 'Promised Land' Canaan. In the long run, they both prospered. It became impractical for them to live together due to vast number of animals and wealth they possessed and constant arguments between their servants.

In order to resolve the conflict, Abram decided that it would be better for the two families to separate and live apart from each other. Being older and having authority on the household, Abram could have kept the best places for himself. But he was thinking of only of the family so he asked Abram knew that no matter which land he chose, God would provide for him. After reviewing the lands, Lot chose the fertile and seemingly beautiful land. He made the decision solely on the appearance of the land. He did not consider Abram's needs or even trust God's providence. He made the decision based on his own judgment.

Abram and Lot were very different people. Lot followed his own way and lived for himself. He chose the land that seemed green and fertile but the people were very wicked. In the next lesson, we'll see what happened to him and his family after he chose the beautiful land. On the other hand, Abram fully trusted God and chose the land that was available to him. Because of his faithfulness and unflinching trust, God blesses Abram abundantly

Did You Know?

The Reformation movement in Malankara Church led to the formation of Mar Thoma Church.

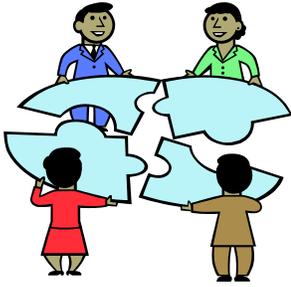
Following a Court order, the Mar Thoma Church had to make a **choice** between reformation and starting a new church with many obstacles or remaining with the Malankara Church. Our forefathers chose reformation.

Mar Thoma Church today is a global church with over one million members.

Canaan Today

Canaan is located in present day Israel, the Palestinian territories and parts of modern day Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.



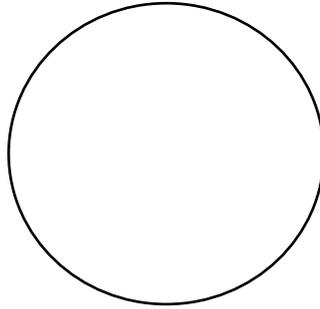


Activities

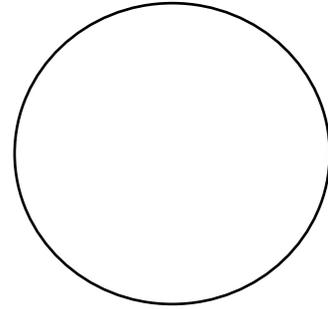
Circle of Love

In the circle to the left, write the names of people who were in Abraham's circle of love. These are the people he was willing to sacrifice for because of his love.

In the circle below, write the names of people who are in **your** circle of love. Write the names of those who **are not** in your circle of love outside of the circle. What can we do to make those people part of your circle of love?



Abraham's "Circle of Love"



Your "Circle of Love"

Let's Review

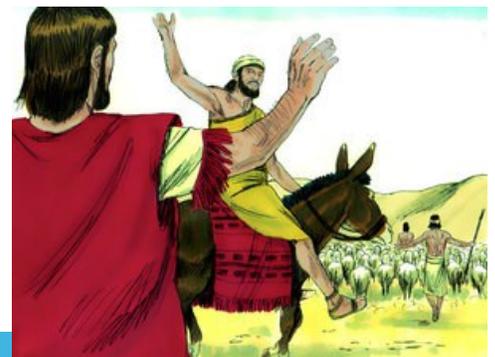


We see that God blessed Abram & Lot but there were problems. What's the problem? What suggestions would you have given to them to resolve the problem?

What does this show about Abram

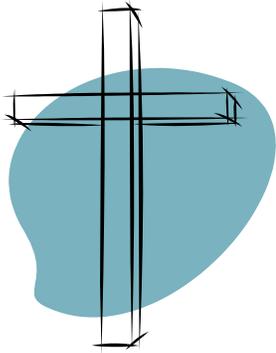
Compare and contrast Abram & Lot's actions. How would we act in this situation?

What does God promise Abram? Why do you think he appeared to Abram and not Lot?



Values For Life

What about you? Do you live for God and do things God's way or do you want to do things your way? Jesus Christ summarized 10 commandments in to two – Love your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Material wealth is not the measurement of a successful Christian life. What matters is our faith in God and our faith in action.



Faith In Action

- Let us be unselfish in thoughts and our actions towards others.
- In times of conflict, let us look to resolve conflicts in a loving and Christian manner



Memory Verse

The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring

Genesis 13:14,15



Closing Prayer

Let us thank God, the great provider, for all His blessings in our life and pray that we learn to be unselfish in our love to others

