

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 17: ABRAHAM BARGAINS WITH GOD
GENESIS 18:16-33

Then the men left and went to a place where they could look down at Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. And the LORD said to Himself, "I will not hide from Abraham what I am going to do. His descendants will become a great and mighty nation, and through him I will bless all the nations. I have chosen him in order that he may command his sons and his descendants to obey me and to do what is right and just. If they do, I will do everything for him that I have promised." Then the LORD said to Abraham, "There are terrible accusations against Sodom and Gomorrah, and their sin is very great. I must go down to find out whether or not the accusations which I have heard are true." Then the two men left and went on toward Sodom, but the LORD remained with Abraham. Abraham approached the LORD and asked, "Are you really going to destroy the innocent with the guilty? If there are fifty innocent people in the city, will you destroy the whole city? Won't you spare it in order to save the fifty? Surely you won't kill the innocent with the guilty. That's impossible! You can't do that. If you did, the innocent would be punished along with the guilty. That is impossible. The judge of all the earth has to act justly." The LORD answered, "If I find fifty innocent people in Sodom, I will spare the whole city for their sake." Abraham spoke again: "Please forgive my boldness in continuing to speak to you, Lord. I am only a man and have no right to say anything. But perhaps there will be only forty-five innocent people instead of fifty. Will you destroy the whole city because there are five too few?" The LORD answered, "I will not destroy the city if I find forty-five innocent people." Abraham spoke again: "Perhaps there will be only forty." He replied, "I will not destroy it if there are forty." Abraham said, "Please don't be angry, Lord, but I must speak again. What if there are only thirty?" He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty." Abraham said, "Please forgive my boldness in continuing to speak to you, Lord. Suppose that only twenty are found?" He said, "I will not destroy the city if I find twenty." Abraham said, "Please don't be angry, Lord, and I will speak only once more. What if only ten are found?" He said, "I will not destroy it if there are ten." After he had finished speaking with Abraham, the LORD went away, and Abraham returned home.

17. ABRAHAM BARGAINS WITH GOD

GENESIS 18:16-33



"And he said, 'Oh, don't be angry Lord, I will only say this one thing: What if there are 10 good people found there? And He said, 'I will not destroy it for the sake of the 10.' "

GENESIS 18:32

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MEMORY VERSE:

"As righteousness leads to life, so he who chases after evil chases it to his own death." PROVERBS 11:19

Review Questions

True or False

1. The LORD said, 'I will hide from Abraham what I am about to do.'
2. The LORD said, 'Because the accusations about Sodom and Gomorrah are great, and because their sin is very bad, I will go down now and see whether or not the accusations against them are true or not.'
3. Then the men turned away and left toward Sodom, but the LORD stayed behind with Abraham.
4. Abraham said, "LORD, you should destroy the innocent along with the guilty."
5. The LORD said 'If I find 500 innocent people in Sodom, I will spare the whole city for their sake.'
6. Abraham asked the LORD three times if He would destroy the innocent people along with the guilty people in the city.

Questions

1. Why was the LORD going down to Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. What did the LORD do when the two other men left to go toward Sodom?
3. What did Abraham ask the LORD the first time?
4. What did Abraham ask the LORD the second time?
5. What did Abraham ask the LORD the third time?
6. What did Abraham ask the LORD the fourth time?
7. What did Abraham ask the LORD the fifth time?
8. Every time the LORD answered Abraham, what did He say he would not do?

Lesson 17 Activities

Persistent Pillow Perch

Bring a small pillow to class. Show it to the kids and ask them if they think it is too heavy to hold up. Select an eager volunteer to come to the front of the class to demonstrate. Have the volunteer hold his arms straight out in front of his body. Place the pillow gently on his arms. With a stopwatch or the second hand of a watch, time the pillow holder.

While he is holding the pillow, tell the class about persistence in prayer. The dictionary defines perseverance as persisting in what is undertaken, and maintaining a course in spite of difficulty or obstacles, to continue steadfastly. It is not easy to persist in prayer...the TV is on, there are chores to do, we forget. But, the God of all creation is ready to listen when we pray. He will grant the requests that are according to His will.

Let the pillow holder hold it up as long as he can. Ask him if it got heavier the longer he held it up. Have him sit down and give someone else a turn. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about persistence in prayer and how God answers our prayers.

[God hears us when we pray!](#)

God Hears

Let the children think of things that are not right in the world; for example, some people need to know Jesus, some people are hungry, some need homes, some need jobs, some people are mean, and some are sick. Ask your students to choose one or two things and commit to intercede for (pray for) those people or situations. Have them write it on a 5" x 11" sheet of copy paper. Roll these into scrolls and tie them with ribbon. Ask your students to tell you what God does as a result of their prayers.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to intercede in persistent prayer. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.