

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2024, Week 2

**Today's Bible Story:** Let Go (Abram and Lot) • *Genesis 13:5-18*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Romans 12:18 (ESV)

**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.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Give thanks to Jesus for making peace between God and us. Pray that the kids in your group would learn to let go of what's fair and instead choose to trust God no matter what happens. Pray for any kids in your group who may be exposed to ongoing, unfair situations. Ask God to position you or other adults in their lives to help them navigate those situations well.*

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### SMALL GROUP

**SOCIAL:** Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Just For Fun

### LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

**STORY:** Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

**WORSHIP:** Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

### SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

**GROUPS:** Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: And . . . ACTION!

Application Activity: Letting Go of What's Fair

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Movin'

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

**HOME:** Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

*Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.*

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

### What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

## **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

### **1. Just For Fun**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Offering container

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- As the kids arrive, ask them to share a high (great moment) and a low (not-so-great moment) from this past week.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Once at least three kids have arrived, instruct them to stand up and spread out.
- Introduce the game: “Quiet Statues.”
- Explain that on the count of three, you will call out a statue and instruct the kids to make that statue with their bodies. For example:
  - monkey
  - elephant
  - tiger
  - hamburger
  - ball
- When you count to three, direct the kids to form their statue and freeze.
- Pick the best statue out of the group.
- Invite the “winner” to whisper the next statue to you.
- Repeat in the same way for several more rounds.
- Winners who pick the next statue can continue participating in each round.
- As you finish, ask: “Did that game seem fair or not?”
- Let kids discuss their thoughts. (*There is no right or wrong answer. It’s just a way to get them to start thinking about what seems fair/unfair.*)

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **Story Exploration**

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well.

In 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.

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.

Here are some ways peace and following Jesus intersect.

**Humility and Selflessness:** Despite being the elder and patriarch, Abraham defers to his nephew Lot in choosing the land for grazing. This act of humility and selflessness mirrors Jesus' teachings on servanthood and putting others before oneself. Following Jesus involves humbly considering the needs and interests of others, even if it means sacrificing personal preferences or rights. (1 Peter 4:10)

**Conflict Resolution:** When tensions arise between Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen due to the scarcity of resources, Abraham takes proactive steps to resolve the conflict peacefully. He recognizes the importance of maintaining harmony within the family and seeks a mutually beneficial solution. Following Jesus entails actively pursuing peace and reconciliation in relationships, resolving conflicts with grace and understanding. (1 Corinthians 7:15)

**Trusting in God's Provision:** Despite Lot choosing the more fertile land of the Jordan Valley, Abraham trusts in God's provision and guidance. He understands that true prosperity and security come from obedience to God rather than material wealth or possessions. Following Jesus involves trusting in God's faithfulness and provision, even when circumstances seem uncertain or unfavorable. (Matthew 6:26)

**Choosing Peace:** After parting ways with Lot, Abraham settles in the land of Canaan without harboring bitterness or resentment. He prioritizes peace and reconciliation over holding onto grievances or seeking revenge. Following Jesus means actively pursuing peace with others, even in situations where conflicts arise, and choosing forgiveness and reconciliation over division and strife. (Matthew 5:9)

Overall, Genesis 13:5-18 provides a foundational example of following Jesus and living in peace. Abraham's humility, commitment to resolving conflicts, trust in God's provision, and pursuit of reconciliation offer valuable lessons for believers seeking to embody the principles of peace and love taught by Jesus.

## \* 1. And . . . ACTION!

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Abram and Lot Script” Activity Page, “Abram and Lot Cue Cards” Activity Page, stick-on nametags, and a marker

### What You Do:

- Assign the following parts to the kids in your group. Make sure each kid has a part. (*Choose 1-3 kids for the last four roles, depending on your group size.*)
  - Abram
  - Lot
  - Shepherds
  - Herdsmen
  - Sheep
  - Goats
- Write each character’s name on a nametag.
- Give each kid a nametag to wear.
- Give each kid a cue card from the “Abram and Lot Cue Cards” Activity Page according to their assignment.
  - For pre-readers, make sure they know what’s written on their card. Practice it with them as needed.
- Explain that you will read a summary of today’s Bible story, and will point to kids when it’s time to do their part.
- Refer to the “Abram and Lot Script” Activity Page and read the story.
- As you read, lead the kids to act out their story part by pointing to them during their turn.
- After the story, instruct the kids to circle up, and ask:
  - Why was there so much fighting between Abram’s and Lot’s shepherds and herdsmen? (*There wasn’t enough room for all their animals.*)
  - Instead of joining the fight, what did Abram do to fix the problem? (*Abram said they should separate—one go right, and one go left. He let Lot choose first.*)
  - Why did Abram decide to let Lot choose his land first? (*He knew that keeping the peace was more important than getting the best. He let go of what was “fair.”*)
  - What can we learn from Abram’s example and the choices he made? (*We can learn that letting go of what’s fair might be better in the long run. Also, protecting our relationships might be the best way to find peace.*)

### What You Say:

“In our story today, Abram let Lot choose first when Abram had every right to take the better land. But Abram decided his relationship with Lot was more important than getting the best. Abram let go of what was fair so he could make peace with his nephew.

“When Jesus came to earth, He let go of what was fair too. Jesus died on the cross, though He’d never done one wrong thing, to make a way for everyone to have a relationship with God! When we choose to let go of what’s fair, we can find peace too. As followers of Jesus, God’s Spirit will help us so we can make peace with others. Remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.”

***[Make It Personal] (Tell about a time as a kid when you let go of what was fair to keep the peace and protect your relationship. Maybe you let a friend win an argument. Maybe you let someone else go first. How did your choice to let go of what's fair bring peace to the situation?)***

## 2. Letting Go of What's Fair

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** “Let it Go Scenarios” Activity Page, ball, index card, marker, and tape

#### **What You Do:**

- Write the word “FAIR” in big block letters on the index card.
- Tape the card securely to the ball.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain that kids are going to practice letting go of what's fair by thinking about treating others the way they want to be treated.
- Read a scenario from the “Let it Go Scenarios” Activity Page.
- After reading the scenario, lead the group to say, “That's not fair.”
- Choose a kid to pick a number between 1 and the number of kids you have in your group.
- Pass the ball around the circle, counting until you get to the number chosen.
- Read the scenario again and ask the kid with the ball to hand it back to you (literally, letting go of what's “FAIR”).
- Direct the kid who let go of the ball to share how they might let go of what's fair in the situation.
  - If kids are stumped, there are possible responses on the “Let it Go Scenarios” Activity Page.

#### **What You Say:**

“When something doesn't seem fair, it can be hard to just let it go! When you find yourself about to say, ‘that's not fair’—stop! In that moment, change your thinking from ‘that's not fair’ to ‘I should treat others the way I want to be treated’ instead. This will help you do or say something that's helpful instead of hurtful.

“When you let go of what's fair, it's a way to show we trust that God will take care of us no matter what. Sometimes though, things aren't fair and they really should be. If you notice someone being picked on or left out or treated in a way you would not want to be treated, always let a trusted adult know. This week, instead of insisting on getting your own way, remember: **[Bottom Line] you can show you care by letting go of what's fair.**”

### 3. Memory Verse Movin'

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

#### What You Need: Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 12:18 following the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Romans* at the top of the page as you say "Romans" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 12 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 12 for the little 18; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

***Finding verses with 1<sup>st</sup> graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letters R-O. When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 12.

- Read the verse aloud and lead the kids to repeat each line of the verse after you.
- Call on the kids to recite the verse as you call out different things for them to do each time. For example:
  - hop on one foot
  - march in place
  - touch their toes
  - stand like a statue (only moving mouths to say the verse)
  - give high-fives to other kids in the group
  - pat your legs
  - wiggle your nose
  - stick out your tongue, etc.

#### What You Say:

"According to our verse, we should live in peace with who? (*Pause for responses.*) Everyone! That means any time we find ourselves not getting along with someone, we should look for ways to bring peace. Remember, Jesus did that for us! Jesus made a way for us to have peace with God so we could be part of God's family that lasts forever. When we put our trust in Jesus, God's Holy Spirit lives inside us to help us make peace with others. That's why **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care by letting go of what's fair."



#### 4. Pray and Dismiss

##### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

##### What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

##### What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- As you lead the kids in the call and response prayer below, direct the kids to respond with, "Show I care by letting go of what's fair."

##### What You Say:

"Let's pray. Dear God,

SGL: "When I'm mad and want to win, help me to . . .

KIDS: . . . show I care by letting go of what's fair."

SGL: "When I'm frustrated because I got the smaller half, help me to . . .

KIDS: . . . show I care by letting go of what's fair."

SGL: "When I really just want to have my way, help me to . . .

KIDS: . . . show I care by letting go of what's fair."

SGL: "Thanks for loving us, God. Help us to let go of what's fair so we can show others we care about them this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, see if kids can remember their assigned part from the "And . . . ACTION!" Activity and how it fits into the story of Abram and Lot to show us that **[Bottom Line] you can show you care by letting go of what's fair.**

## GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

### **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

#### **Just For Fun**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

##### **What You Need:**

- Offering container

### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Story applies to real-life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.*

## Story Exploration – No Supplies

### **\* 1. And . . . ACTION!**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

##### **What You Need:**

- Print "Abram and Lot Script" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Print "Abram and Lot Cue Cards" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Stick-on nametags, one for each kid
- Marker, one for each Small Group

### **2. Letting Go of What's Fair**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

##### **What You Need:**

- Print "Let It Go Scenarios" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Ball, one for each Small Group
- Index card, one for each Small Group
- Marker, one for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group

### **3. Memory Verse Movin'**

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

##### **What You Need:**

- Bibles (marked at Romans 12:18 for Kindergartners), one for each kid

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

##### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

##### **What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

##### **HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**