



UNIT 3 | SESSION 2

MELCHIZEDEK BLESSED ABRAHAM

GENESIS 14; HEBREWS 5; 7

KEY PASSAGE:

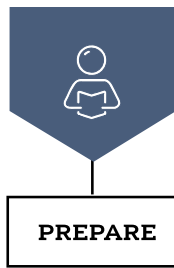
Psalm 135:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Melchizedek means "king of righteousness." Melchizedek reminds us of Jesus, an even greater priest and king who lives forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to bless all who trust in Him by providing forgiveness and eternal life.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

We marvel at stories with two characters who are total opposites of each other. This is why so many stories feature some form of a noble hero and an immoral villain. The contrast of character and conduct is what drives the tension of the story.

In Genesis 14, we find two completely opposite kings: the king of Sodom and the king of Salem. One sought to get; the other sought to give. One sought to curse; the other sought to bless. One sought to take life; the other sought to give life.

These two rulers illustrate the spirit of the world and the Spirit of God, two forces actively at work in our world and in our lives.

This is why Paul reminded us in Ephesians 6 to put on the full armor of God. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand” (Eph. 6:12-13).

We live in the middle of a real fight between two opposing forces seeking to own our hearts. One, the evil spirit in our present world, like the king of Sodom seeks to take from us and generate chaos and confusion.

The other, the Spirit of the living God, like the king of Salem seeks to give life and bring peace and joy.

In our present world, we must recognize that this battle goes on inside of every believer. And we must put on the full armor of God daily that we might withstand the attack of the evil one and faithfully commit to full submission to the Spirit of God. It’s not enough that we deny the evil one; we must say “yes” to God.

This battle is real and raging. And the people of God must fight with great resolve to ensure our allegiance remains to the only good King, the Lord.

TERMS TO KNOW

Priest: In Bible times, priests led people to worship God through sacrifices. Aaron the Levite and his descendants were priests. Melchizedek is the first person in the Bible to be called a priest.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Can you think of a time that someone did something kind for you? Maybe you weren’t expecting it at all. What happened? How did you feel?”

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: WHO’S GOT IT?



Position a chair at the front of the room facing away from the group. Instruct a volunteer to sit in the chair with his back to the rest of the kids. Put a small ball or object under the chair. Explain that one of the kids in the group will sneak up to the chair and retrieve the object.

When he has returned to his seat, ask the volunteer to turn around and guess who has the object. If the volunteer guesses correctly within three guesses, the volunteer may choose someone to take her place. If she does not guess correctly, the player who took the object takes a turn in the chair.

Play additional rounds as time allows.

SAY “In the Bible story we will hear today, Abraham took a small army with him to take back what was important to him. We’ll find out what happened.”

OPTION 2: VERSUS

Put a strip of masking tape across a table to divide it in half. Form two teams of kids. Make sure a team has one more player than the other team. If your group has an even number of kids, ask for a volunteer to run the timer.

Give each team an equal number of table tennis balls (at least one per player), and give each player a large index card or piece of cardstock. When you say go, teams should use their cards to fan the balls and move them across the table. The team with the fewest table tennis balls after one minute wins. Reset the game and play additional rounds if time allows.

SAY “Which team had the advantage? Why? [Allow kids to respond.] One team had more players. Does a team with more players always win? In today’s Bible story, four kings defeated five kings. Then Abraham’s small army went up against the four kings’ armies. Did he win? Let’s see.”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 14. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Melchizedek Blessed Abraham.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

MELCHIZEDEK BLESSED ABRAHAM

“**God had chosen Abraham to be the father of a large family—a great nation through whom God would bless the entire world. Abraham was 75 years old when he obeyed God’s call to go to a new land. He left his home in Haran with his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all of his possessions and servants. They traveled to the land of Canaan.**

God reminded Abraham of His promise. Abraham and Lot moved throughout the land. Finally, Abraham decided to separate from his nephew Lot because the land could not support all of their people and animals at the same time. So **Lot chose where he would live near a city called Sodom, and Abraham went to Hebron.**

In those days, four kings in the area got together and fought a war against five other kings—including the king of Sodom, where Lot lived. In the end, the four kings won against the five. Their armies took everything—all the goods and people—from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The kings even captured Lot and then went on their way.

One survivor found Abraham and told him what happened. Abraham gathered together 318 men, and they went after the four kings. **Abraham’s small army attacked the kings and their armies at night, defeated them, and chased them off.** Abraham brought back Lot, many possessions, and also many people.

When Abraham returned from the battle, Melchizedek (mel KIZ uh dek)—the king of Salem—came to Abraham. Melchizedek was **a priest to God Most High.** Melchizedek **blessed Abraham** and said, “God has blessed Abraham. Let everyone bless God, who created heaven and earth, because He has handed over Abraham’s enemies.”

Then Abraham gave Melchizedek a gift: one-tenth of everything he had.

Christ Connection: Melchizedek means “king of righteousness.” Melchizedek reminds us of Jesus, an even greater priest and king who lives forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to bless all who trust in Him by providing forgiveness and eternal life. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display a map: Show a Bible times map of Abraham’s travels after he left Haran. Point to the various locations mentioned in the story.

Use lighting effects: Dim the lights when telling the story of the kings in the land. Brighten the room when Melchizedek appears to convey a better king.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Abraham believed God’s promise. We know that because Abraham obeyed God. He left his home and went to the land of Canaan. He walked around the land like God told him to do. Abraham’s nephew Lot did not stay in Canaan. He chose to live outside of Canaan, near—and later in—the city of Sodom.

The area where Abraham and Lot lived was not empty. Groups of people lived there, and each group was ruled by a king. Sometimes the kings formed alliances to defeat their enemies. In Genesis 14, we hear about five kings forming an alliance to wage war against four other kings.

The four kings won the war. What did they take from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Look at Genesis 14:11-12. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 14:11-12.] The kings took everything from the city—including Abraham’s nephew Lot! When Abraham heard about it, he decided to go rescue Lot. Was Abraham a king? No. Did he have a big army? No. But he took his servants—just over 300 men—and attacked the kings at night, rescuing Lot and bringing him, possessions, and the people who were captured in the war back to Canaan.

When Abraham returned from the attack, the king of Salem came to meet with him. What was the king’s name? Look at Genesis 14:18. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Gen. 14:18.] His name was Melchizedek (mel KIZ uh dek). Say that with me: Melchizedek.

Melchizedek was a priest and a king—like Jesus. We don’t know a lot about Melchizedek from Genesis 14. He may have been an appearance of God in human form or a mysterious man sent by God. But if we read the New Testament book of Hebrews, we see that Melchizedek points us to Jesus. Look at Hebrews 7:1-2. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Heb. 7:1-2.]

Melchizedek blessed Abraham. He also blessed God, who gave Abraham victory over his enemies. In response, Abraham gave Melchizedek one tenth of everything he got from the battle. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Melchizedek means ‘king of righteousness.’ Melchizedek reminds us of Jesus, an even greater priest and king who lives forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to bless all who trust in Him by providing forgiveness and eternal life. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What is a priest? What role did priests have in Bible times? ”

Guide kids to recognize that priests are men whom God chose to do special work for him. In Bible times, priests came from one family—the family of Aaron, who we will hear about later. Priests led people to worship God through sacrifices and offerings. Point out that the first time a priest is mentioned in the Bible is with the introduction of Melchizedek.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 5:1.)

| **SAY** “ How should we respond to God’s blessings in our lives? ”

Lead kids to recall that God gave Abraham the victory. Everything we have ultimately belongs to God. Blessing and success comes from God. Abraham gave a tenth of everything he got back to God. He gave God credit instead of pretending that his success came from himself. We honor God when we give Him credit and thanks for His blessings. We can give back tithes and offerings, showing trust for His provision.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:9.)

| **SAY** “ How can we point others to Jesus? ”

Point out that as a priest of God, Melchizedek pointed Abraham to God who had given Abraham victory over his enemies. We too can point others to Jesus by acknowledging God’s blessings and blessing them by boldly telling what God has done for sinners through His Son, Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:3.)