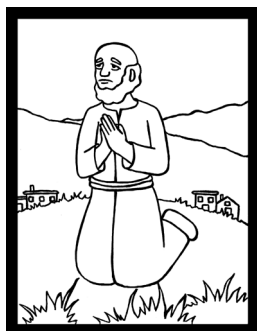


# Lesson C1.3 - Pray to God for Help



## Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

### For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

### Quick Facts for the Teacher

#### Lesson Summary: Genesis 18:17-33

##### ► Bible Characters: Abraham, God

In today's story, Abraham prays desperately for God to save his nephew, Lot (and Lot's family) from certain destruction in Sodom. Have you ever interceded for someone in a similar way? When things are out of our control, praying to God is the most important work we can do. And as today's lesson shows, God hears us.

#### Brief Bible Background

##### ► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

##### ► Scripture Section: Ancestors

God gave his promise to a family of wandering herdsmen, which included Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Rachel and Leah; and Joseph and his brothers.

#### For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

*Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.*

### a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

### b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!  
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:  
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

### c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever wanted to help someone, but didn't know how? We can **pray to God for help!** Say it with me: **Pray to God for help!** God is big and powerful and can help in ways we may never know. So what can you do? **Pray to God for help!** God is always working for good.

- Raise your hand if you've ever prayed for someone else. *[Choose a child to answer.]*
- What are some of the ways God answers our prayers? *[He may do just as we ask or he may do something else for reasons we may not know. Either way, we can trust God and his answers.]*

In today's story, Abraham is worried about his nephew Lot. What does Abraham do? **Pray to God for help!**

### d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

### e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



#### Picture 1

*Tell the children:* One day, the Lord led Abraham to a high hill, where they could look down on a city below. God wanted to tell Abraham something about that place.

*Read the caption:* Abraham had a nephew named Lot who lived in the city called Sodom. The people of that city were mean and very bad.

- *Look at the picture. What is happening here? [Two men are being mean to the man in the red robe.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me which person is Abraham's nephew, Lot. [He is the man in the red robe. The other two men look like they want to fight him.]*

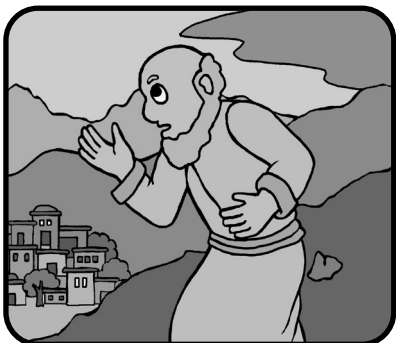


#### Picture 2

*Tell the children:* Abraham wished that Lot didn't live in Sodom. But there didn't seem to be much he could do. Or at least, that's what he thought.

*Read the caption:* God told Abraham, "I am going to get rid of that city because the people are so bad." Abraham was worried about Lot.

- *Look at Abraham in this picture. What is he doing? [Crying and worrying about Lot and his family.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me why Abraham is worried about Lot if Lot is one of the good guys. [Abraham knows God is going to destroy the town where Lot lives.]*



#### Picture 3

*Tell the children:* There were no phones in those days, and there was no way Abraham could tell Lot to leave the city in time. But there *was* something he could do. Abraham could pray.

*Read the caption:* Abraham prayed to God. "Lord, you would not destroy the good people along with the bad people, would you?" he asked.

- *Look at Abraham. What is he doing? [He is praying to God.]*
- *Raise your hand if you have ever prayed for someone. [Call on volunteers.] When we pray, we know that God can be where we cannot. We trust God with everything.*



#### Picture 4

*Tell the children:* Abraham kept praying. "If there are 50 good people in the city, will you destroy them? How about if there are only 10 good ones? What then?"

*Read the caption:* God said, "No. If I find good people in the city, I will save them, no matter how few." God saved Lot and his family from Sodom.

- *Look at the picture. What is happening here? [Lot and his family are leaving the city of Sodom. There were not enough good people there to save the city itself.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me how Lot and his family got out of Sodom if Abraham couldn't warn them. [God sent his angels as messengers to help them escape.]*

Remember today's message: **Pray to God for help!**

## f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Sodom's people were very bad.  
 Their sin and evil made God sad.  
 Since they never would obey,  
 God planned to wipe them all away.*

*God told Abraham his plan,  
 since he was a righteous man.  
 But Abraham — he had his doubts  
 about how this would all play out.*

*“Lord, when you destroy the evil,  
 will you punish all the people?”  
 God said, “No, I vow to spare  
 any good folk I find there.”*

## g. Young Children's Craft (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

## Prayer Plaques

**Materials:** 6-inch square ceramic tiles\*, pencils, colored permanent markers, hot glue gun, picture hanging hooks or large paper clips

**Instructions:** Before class, collect a few short phrases about the power of prayer, such as “God hears our prayers,” “Pray, and trust God,” or “Prayer changes things.”



Give each person a pencil and a ceramic tile. Have them write one of the phrases in pencil on their tile. Using markers, let them trace over their penciled words in color and add other graphic elements as well. When kids have finished decorating their plaques, the teacher can use a hot glue gun to put a large drop of glue on the back of the tile. Then, help kids press the bottom of a picture hanging hook or large paperclip into the glue. When the glue dries and the hook is secure, they can hang their plaques on the wall at home as a reminder that God hears their prayers — and he cares for them.

\* If needed, substitute squares of card stock for tiles. Then, tape and a loop of yarn could be used for a hanger.

## h. Song (optional)

You can listen to this classic hymn online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites. No accompaniment is needed.

*Stand in a circle, link arms, and sway back and forth in rhythm with the song.*

## Trust and Obey

**When we walk with the Lord**

**in the light of his word,**

**what a glory he sheds on our way!**

**While we do his good will,**

**he abides with us still,**

**and with all who will trust and obey.**

Refrain:

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way**

**to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.!**

## i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

*Then What Happened* is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: The Lord told Abraham that the people of Sodom had become very bad. Then what happened?**

*If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.*

## j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the world you made*

*For rain and plants and sun and shade*

*For those we love who love us too*

*We are so blessed because of YOU!*

*Amen.*