

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



Busy Bible Builders

Abram Shares with Lot

BIG IDEA: God wants me to share with my family.

BIBLE BASIS: Genesis 13

KEY VERSE: "As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-11:00

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica. Scripture marked "NirV" is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™, Copyright ©1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved. All scripture references are taken from NirV unless otherwise stated.

User Agreement:

The GO! curriculum by Go Tell It, LLC is intended for download and print by subscribing entities only. It may not be transferred electronically to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. If the GO! curriculum is cost prohibitive for your organization, please contact us about assistance. We are awesomely generous! All use must be in accordance with the Terms of Use agreement as described on the website www.gocurriculum.com.



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

If you have any doubt that greed and selfishness are inherent in people from the very beginning, just spend a little bit of time with a toddler. I'm proud to say that my oldest daughter's first word was "dadda" (although mamma may dispute that). But very shortly afterwards, she developed a new favorite word — "mine." According to her, just about everything she could point to was "mine." Blankie — "mine." Pacifier — "mine." TV remote — "mine." Cordless power drill — "mine." And I have no doubt that she understood what "mine" meant, because whenever she was denied access to what was "mine," she would erupt in tears.

I've always believed that my daughter was way more advanced than any other human child (what father doesn't), so I could have easily thought she was ahead of the curve on developing her selfish streak. But two kids later and it's become apparent that she was no more or less selfish than any other kid that age. It's ingrained in our sinful selves from the very beginning that we should get what's "mine" and we should get it first! That's why it's so counterintuitive to heed the Apostle Paul's command:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

I have to continually remind myself that my "autopilot" is set to selfish. As much as I love serving others, it's still a daily battle for me to value others above myself, but it's a battle worth fighting. Although it seems slightly counterintuitive, I find that putting others before myself is far more rewarding than the alternative. I find that God has a way of blessing me in my most selfless moments. I find a deep and enriching peace in abstaining from the race to grab what's "mine." I find an immense pleasure in saying the words, "you first."

If you haven't already, try to step outside of your "autopilot." Be willing to open your hands and let go of what you believe to be "mine." For when you empty your hands of what you believe is rightfully yours, you give God a chance to fill them with things far greater.

David Rausch

Go Tell It Founder and Creator



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Large Group

Here's a short story for you: A man gets up in front of a room full of kids and with no forethought or preparation he delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons explode. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction." Great messages don't just happen without a little work on the part of the communicator. In short, your goal as the Large Group Leader is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, though, you've got to do a little prep work. Here are a few ways you can prepare:

Live the message. Authenticity is one of the most important traits of a good communicator. When we tell kids that they need to be pursuing God, they need to know we're doing that ourselves. That doesn't mean you have to be perfect; it just means that you have to be working towards living out the message in your own life.

Memorize. Sounds scary, right? It doesn't have to be. We'll spend more time in the future talking about how to memorize, but for now let's just say this: Effective communicators memorize. When you're tied to a script, you lose eye contact and your body becomes less animated. And when that happens, your level of engagement goes down. If you've never memorized before, start small. Pick a section of the lesson to memorize and pay attention to the difference it makes with your audience.

Rehearse. In short, don't let service time be the first time you've ever delivered your message. It might seem awkward at first, but run through your message a few times in advance. If possible, do it in the actual space where you'll be teaching.

Pray. When we deliver God's message, we're not alone. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your co-teacher!

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Let's get busy building! During "Busy Bible Builders," preschool kids will look high and low for the colored building blocks around the room. Each block contains a picture from the Bible story. As the blocks stack up, so does the story. When the stacking stops, the preschoolers will have discovered how God has made them and given them a family to love.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a set of 5 boxes that are a little larger than a piece of 8½ x 11 paper.
- Print the "Large Number Set" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one large number to each of the 5 boxes.
- Print the "Bible Story Pictures" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one picture to each box on the opposite side as the large number. The pictures also have numbers on them. Be sure the picture and the large number correspond with each other.
- Print the "Two Donuts" picture on 8½ x 11 paper and place in the storytelling area.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Story Time Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½ x 11 cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

Slide: Show “Busy Bible Builders” title graphic
Music: (Optional) play upbeat music as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME AND MUSIC

As children enter the story time area, give them a high energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you’re glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one or two upbeat worship songs of your choosing and lead the kids in singing.

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello everybody — I’m so glad you’re here for another week of “Busy Bible Builders!” Today, we’re going to get busy building our Bible story with blocks.

Today’s true Bible story is going to teach us that **God wants me to share with my family.** That’s our Big Idea for the day. Let’s say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God wants me to share with my family.** It’s true! **God wants me to share with my family.** In fact, today’s memory verse is all about families. Let me teach it to you.

*“As for me (point to self with thumbs)
and my family (trace a circle in front of you with fingers),
we will serve (march in place)
the Lord (point up).”
Joshua 24:15 (extend hands like holding a book).*

Let’s do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.)*

STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you kids are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BUSY BIBLE BUILDERS INTRO

Say: If you like donuts, rub your tummy and say, “Yummy, yummy!” (*Children respond.*) Let’s imagine something together. (*Hold up picture of two donuts.*) Imagine there were only 2 donuts left at your house. You want to eat BOTH of the donuts, but your brother wants one too. What would you do? Would you eat both donuts, or would you share one with your brother? (*Take answers.*) Now imagine this — you decide to share with your brother, but you really, REALLY want the chocolate donut. Would you pick a donut first or would you let your brother pick first? (*Take answers.*)

Say: Sharing with your family can be really hard. Letting them pick first can be even harder! That’s what the man in today’s true Bible story did. He didn’t have any donuts, but he had lots and lots of land. Not only did he share his land, he let someone from his family pick first.

Say: If you’re ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. (*Children wiggle fingers.*) Great! First, let’s get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. (*Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.*) I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It’s true, it’s true, the Bible is true!

(Repeat the words with the children, then turn on the Super Duper Bible Box light so that the Bible is revealed. Optional: play the “Bible Box” sound effect when you turn the light on.)

Slide: Show the “Abram Shares with Lot” slide

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — ABRAM SHARES WITH LOT

(Note: Ahead of time, place the numbered story blocks all around the room so they are visible from the seating area. Place the blocks so the numbers are visible, but not the pictures.)

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, there was a man named Abram. Let's get busy building. Let's find the **blue #1** block so we can see Abram. *(Once found, retrieve the story block and place it in the storytelling area with the picture facing the children.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Abram loved God very much. He was also rich! He had lots and lots of silver and gold and animals. There was something else that Abram had. Let's find our next story block to see what it was.

Say: Can you find the **green #2** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Abram had a nephew named Lot. That means Lot was a part of Abram's family. Wherever Abram went, Lot went too. There was only one problem. Lot also had lots of animals and the land didn't have enough food for both Abram's animals *and* Lot's animals.

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **yellow #3** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Abram showed Lot all of the land that was in front of them. He said, "We're part of the same family, so let's not argue with each other. We can share the land. I'll let you pick first. If you go this way *(point left)*, I'll go that way *(point right)*. And if you go that way *(point right)*, I'll go this way *(point left)*."

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **red #4** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Lot looked all around. In the distance, he saw a river valley with lots of food and water for his animals. It was like a beautiful garden. So Lot chose this land for himself. He said goodbye to Abram and traveled to his new home.

Say: Let's find our last story block. Can you find the **purple #5** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Abram looked at the land that was left. It was also very nice. God blessed Abram and his new land. God said to Abram, "Look in every direction. I will give you all the land you see. It will be for you and all your family who come after you." So Abram set up his tent there. He was so, so happy with his new home.

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In today's true Bible story, Abram and Lot were a part of the same family. Did you know that your family is a gift from God? It's true — God gives us a family to care for us and to help us love and follow Him. I have an idea — let's thank God for the people in our family. Let's get down really low and quiet. When I point to you, jump up and shout, "Thank you, God!"

Say: For our mommies and daddies, let's shout... *(Point to children. Children jump up and shout, "Thank you, God!" Have the children get down low again and repeat for each of the following.)*

- For our brothers and sisters.
- For our grandmas and grandpas.
- For our aunts and uncles.
- For our cousins.

Say: Our family loves us and we can love our family too! Abram showed love to Lot by sharing the land and letting him pick first. We can show love to our family in the same way. Instead of saying, "That's mine!" we can share. And instead of saying, "I'm first!" we can let our family go before us. God loves it when we do that because **God wants us to share with our family.**

1.3 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

(Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.)

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God wants me to share with my family**. On the count of 3, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God wants me to share with my family.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for giving us our family. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a family.
I love them very much.
Help me share with my family.
And help me let them go first.
Amen.