



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

11:30-12:00

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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 counter-intuitive, 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



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group

Picture this scene: Moments before children's church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with their face buried in some papers labeled "Small Group Lesson." They seem oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around them. A bead of sweat rolls down their face. The clock ticks loudly as they read at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? Are *you* this leader? There's no judgment here! We get it — life is often *really* busy and finding the time to volunteer, much less prepare, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good leader to a great one. Here's how:

Read your lesson ahead of time. You saw that one coming, didn't you? When the kids arrive, it's game time. When you've read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you'll be able to lead much more effectively if you're not trying to figure the lesson out for yourself at the same time you're explaining it to your group.

Familiarize yourself with the materials. Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

Prepare your own heart. The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

FRUIT LOOP NECKLACE

Supplies: Fruit Loops (1 box), string (1 piece per child)

Directions: Tell the children to create a necklace by threading their string through the Fruit Loops® cereal. When finished, help the children tie the ends together so they can wear their necklace. Tell the children they can eat the cereal off of their necklace one piece at a time when they are with their family. Before eating each piece, they must tell one person in their family something they love about them.

Say: Did you know that your family is a gift from God. It's true! When you see your family, you can eat the cereal off of your necklace. But for each piece of cereal you eat, you have to tell one person in your family something you love about them.

Question: What do you love most about your family?

KNOCK DOWN (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Plastic cups (15 per group), paper (1 piece per child), tape (1 roll)

Today's Bible verse:

*"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).*

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, use the plastic cups to build a pyramid. Allow the children to help. Create a tape line about 5-6 feet from the pyramid. Give each child a crumpled piece of paper and have them stand behind the line. Have the children say the verse together, then prompt them to throw their paper at the pyramid. If they knock down all of the cups above the bottom row, celebrate and rebuild the pyramid for another round. If they don't, continue playing until all of the cups are knocked down. The children must always recite the verse before throwing their paper ball. Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

DONUT DASH (Application Activity)

Supplies: Donut Pictures (1 per child minus one)

Say: God gives us a family to love. One of the ways we can show love to the people in our family is by sharing with them. Let's play a game that teaches us how to share.

Directions: This game is played like "Musical Chairs." Place the "Donut Pictures" in a circle on the floor. There should be one less donut picture than there are children. Have the children walk in the same direction around the circle of donuts while singing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me." (See lyrics below.) When the song is over, the children must dash to sit down on one of the donuts. One of the children will not have a donut to sit on. Ask the children if anyone would like to make room and share their donut with the left-out child. While the left-out child takes a seat, thank the child who shared their donut and lead the group in cheering for them. Play additional rounds for as long as time or interest allows.

"Jesus Loves Me" lyrics: Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong!

Question: God loves it when we share with our family. What are some other ways you can show love to the people in your family?

STORY STACK (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Story Pictures (1 set per group), small cardboard boxes (5 per group) **Note:** If there is only one small group, you can use the big story cubes from large group instead.

Preparation: Print the "Story Pictures" on paper, then cut apart. Tape each picture to a different, small cardboard box.

Directions: Place the story cubes with pictures in the middle of the group. Ask the children which story cube goes first. When they've chosen the correct cube, ask them to recount what happened in that part of the story. Place the first story cube on the floor or table, then stack each additional cube on top so the story progresses from the bottom up. Continue until the cubes are all stacked and the story is complete.

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

1.3

Small Group Lesson | Preschool



COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: If you were Abram, would you have let Lot pick the land first? Why or why not?

Question: How do you think Lot felt when Abram let him pick first?