

The Life of Abraham: Dependence

Key Scriptures: ^{NET} Genesis 14:

v. 1-9 summary: {Five kings in Canaan (including Sodom and of Gomorrah) rebelled against king Kedorlaomer who had made them pay tribute for 12 years. So he and 3 allied kings came to re-assert his authority in the land. Four kings fought against five in the valley of Siddim, and the five lost.}

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them, but some survivors fled to the hills. ¹¹ The four victorious kings took all the possessions and food of Sodom and Gomorrah and left. ¹² They also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions when they left, for Lot was living in Sodom. ¹³ A fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and Aner. (All these were allied by treaty with Abram.) ¹⁴ When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he mobilized his 318 trained men who had been born in his household, and he pursued the invaders as far as Dan.

¹⁵ Then, during the night, Abram divided his forces against them and defeated them. He chased them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ He retrieved all the stolen property. He also brought back his nephew Lot and his possessions, as well as the women and the rest of the people. ¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh (known as the King's Valley). ¹⁸ Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (Now he was the priest of the Most High God.) ¹⁹ He blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ Worthy of praise is the Most High God, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything. ²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and take the possessions for yourself." ²² But Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I raise my hand to the LORD, the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth, and vow ²³ that I will take nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal. That way you can never say, 'It is I who made Abram rich.' ²⁴ I will take nothing except compensation for what the young men have eaten. As for the share of the men who went with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre—let them take their share."

Key Point: Only God gets the credit for my rescue and reward!

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Describe "What's a time in your life when you were really stuck and someone came through to help you? How did that change how you viewed them—or even how you viewed God?"

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- How do you discern when to step into someone else's conflict or problem, and when to step back?
- What stands out to you most in Abram's response when he hears Lot has been taken captive (v. 14)? What does this teach us about faith and action?
- Melchizedek blessed Abram in the name of "God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth." How Should this name of God shape the way we view our challenges today? How is Melchizedek's reminder important to us when we succeed?
- Why do you think Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything? How might this connect to our own worship and giving?
- Why do you think Abram refused the king of Sodom's offer of riches (vv. 22–24)? What might this reveal about where his trust was?
- How does Melchizedek foreshadow Jesus Christ, and why is it good news for us that Jesus is our eternal priest after the order of Melchizedek? (Read Hebrews 7:1-4, 14-17, 23-25, 8:1). What throne does He sit on?
- What do we learn about Abram's character from the events in Genesis 14?
- If the key lesson of Genesis 14 is "dependence on God," where in your life right now do you most need to lean on Him instead of your own strength or resources?

Start doing: This week make a note of any time you are "rescued" or "rewarded" and make sure you give God the credit!

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you. Pray that God would help you choose to depend on Him and seek to honor him in every endeavor.

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