



General Church Office of Education

FAMILY LESSON: GENESIS 14

ABRAM AND LOT

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Family Lesson 1 – H

Abram and Lot
Genesis 13:1-13 and 14:1-16

Family Talk:
ABRAM AND LOT

There are times in our lives when we are faced with making some very important choices. Many choices we make are not all that important. When we have a school holiday, for example, we may choose to go to a football game, play games with our friends, or perhaps Dad has asked us whether we would like to go fishing.

Each day our life is filled with choices about the books we read, the TV shows we watch, the music we listen to, the foods we eat, the clothes we wear, when we do our homework, when we help out in our home, and perhaps, at the close of the day, when we say our prayers, and what we read from the Word.

Every day we make thousands of choices. Do they all really affect our lives? Are they all of equal importance? Do we need to think much about them?

The story of Abram and Lot is a story that tells us a lot about choices. It tells us that there are sometimes hidden things in making choices that we need to be aware of and think about. Those hidden things are called *desires*. They are the inside feelings or cravings that cause us to want to do one thing more than another thing. These desires are often born with us — meaning, we got them from our parents, our grandparents, and some of our ancestors who have died a long time ago.

Some of these inherited desires and feelings are good and incline us to want to be led by the Lord, by His Word, and by the parents and adults in our life who are wise.

If we could peek inside the story of the Word, we would find that the story of how Abram and Lot come into the land of Canaan and make it their home, is really a story that describes our hidden good desires and feelings, and how they come from heaven into our mind. They come from deep inside of us, as though they came from a far off country, and try to find a permanent dwelling with us.

Some of our good desires are internal and bring us things of heaven. This is like Abram and his flocks. Some of our good desires are external and bring us delights from the world. This is Lot.

Does the story of Lot separating from Abraham mean that we must give up our desires and loves of the things of the world? No, if all of our desires are led by the Lord and His Word, then our heavenly desires and our worldly desires can live together and in peace. Lot's herdsmen did not need to fight with Abram's herdsmen. And if they were all charitable Lot would not have had to move away.

The fact is that there are mixed in with our good desires of the world a lot of bad desires of the world. Some of these desires may be very strong, very selfish, and very bad. They are often accompanied by feelings of greed, anger, jealousy, revenge, and perhaps even a delight in hurting others.

Such desires live close to things that are actually evil and false. This is described by how Lot went to live near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

So this story of Lot separating from Abram is a story of how we must make choices among our worldly desires. We will keep what is good and try to separate ourselves from what is bad.

When we have a desire to say, do, or experience something, the process of choosing begins. This is when we must stop and reflect about the kind of choice we are going to make. Will we listen to the voice of our conscience, and be guided by what the Lord has taught us? Or will we look away from Abram like Lot did, and make choices that are bad, and that bring us into the presence of things that are dirty and unclean? If we come to dwell in the gate of Sodom as did Lot, that is a very dangerous place to be.

The Lord has given His New Church more freedom than any other church in the history of the world, to freely use and enjoy all the delights and pleasures of the world. He only asks in doing so, that His counsel and wisdom lead us.



Abram and Lot
Genesis 13:1-13 and 14:1-16
LEVEL 1 – ABRAM’S AND LOT’S LIVESTOCK

MATERIALS NEEDED

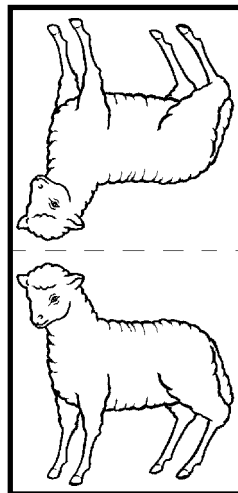
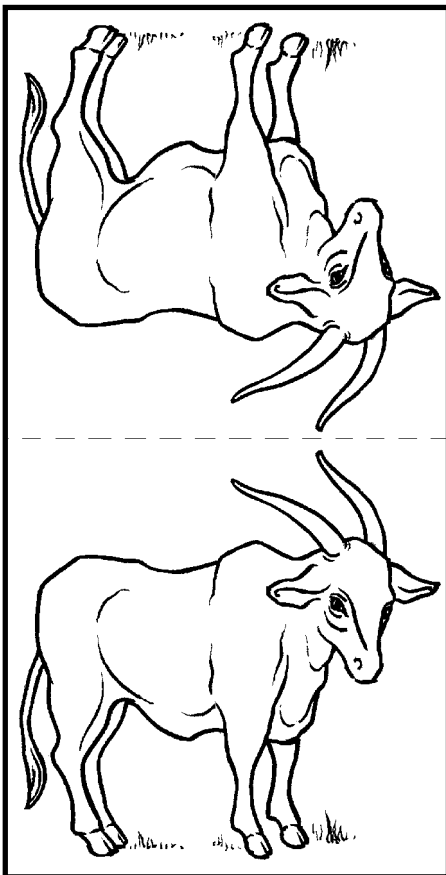
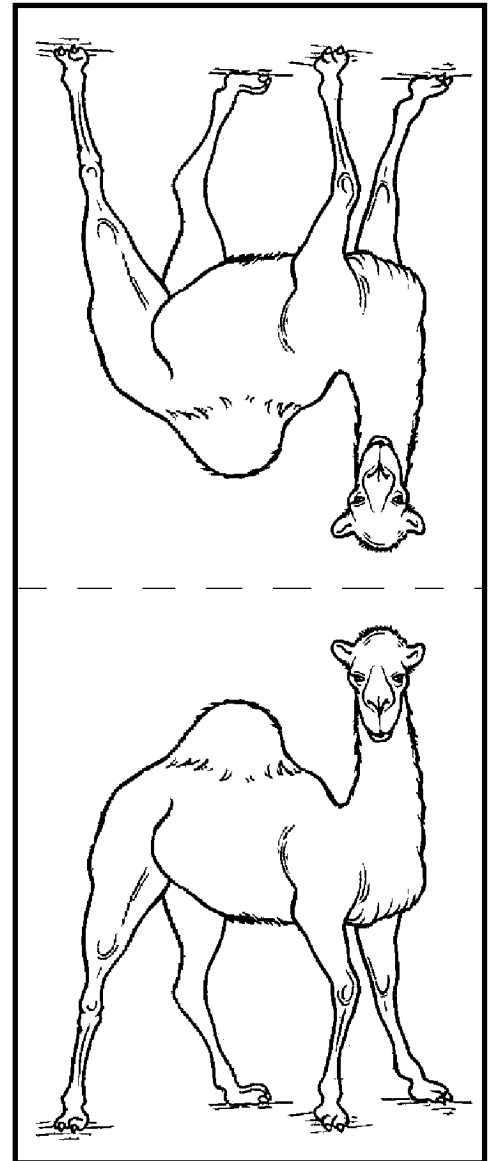
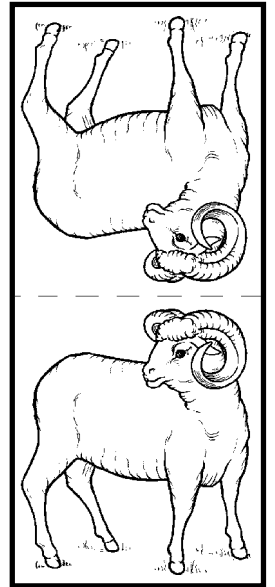
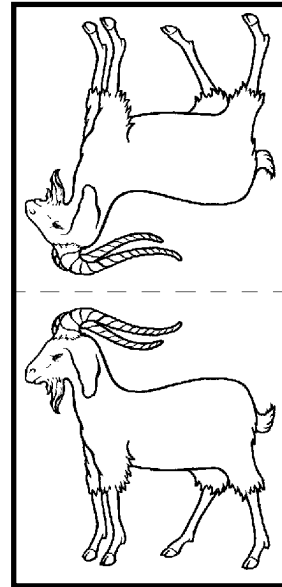
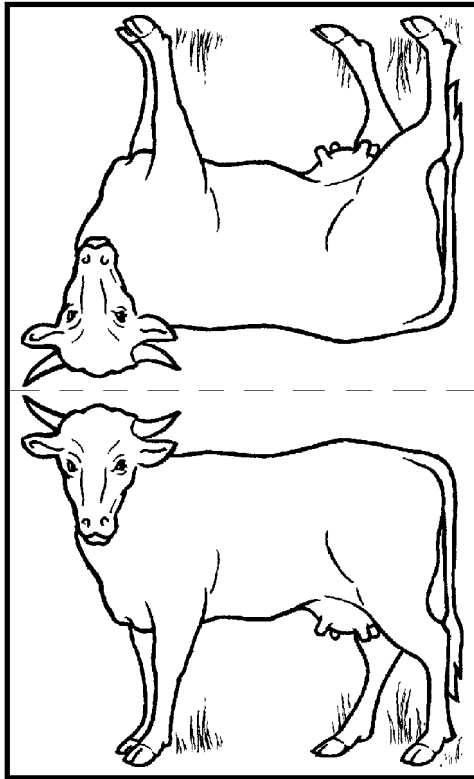
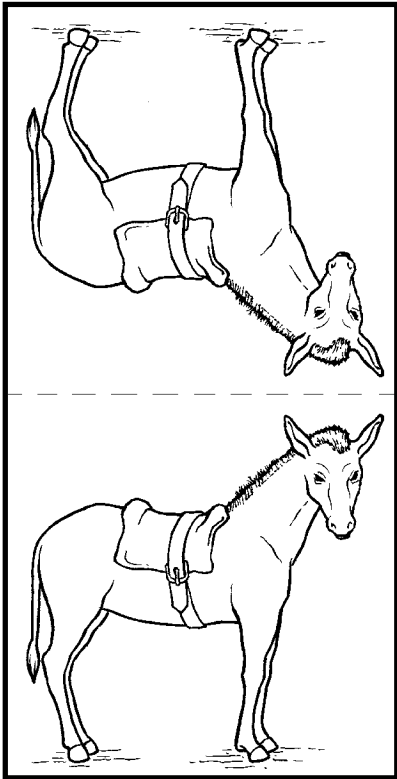
Crayons, scissors

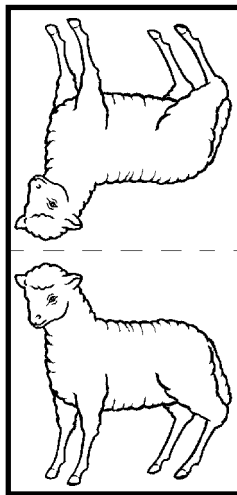
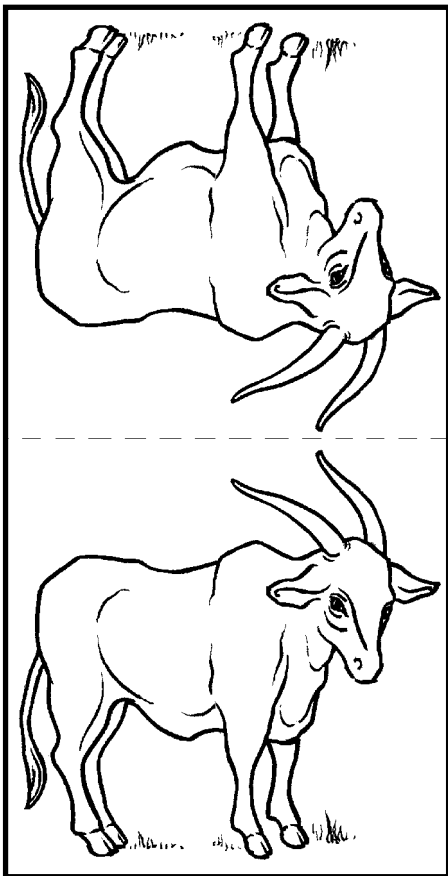
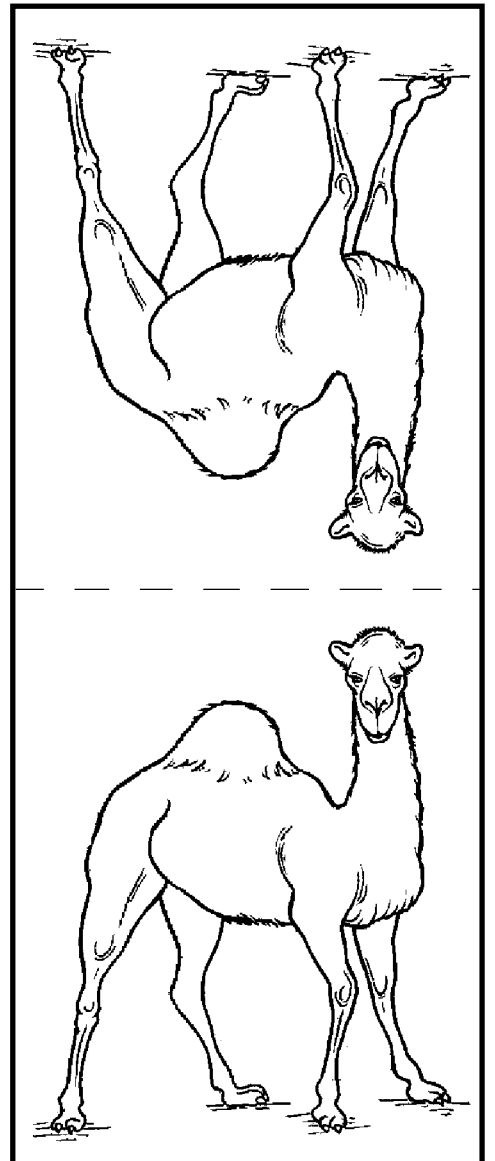
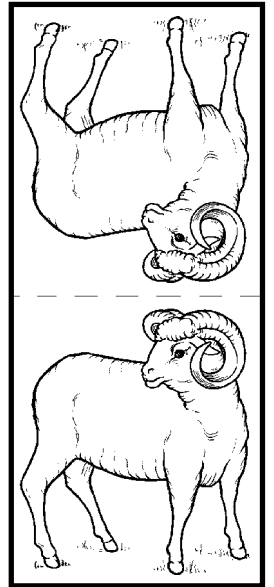
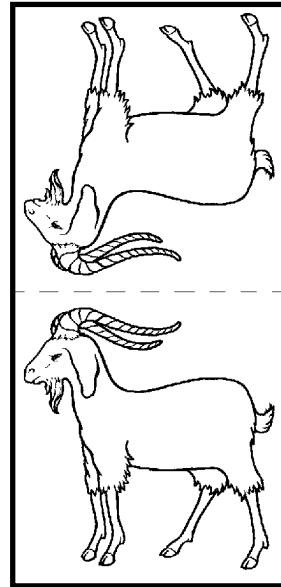
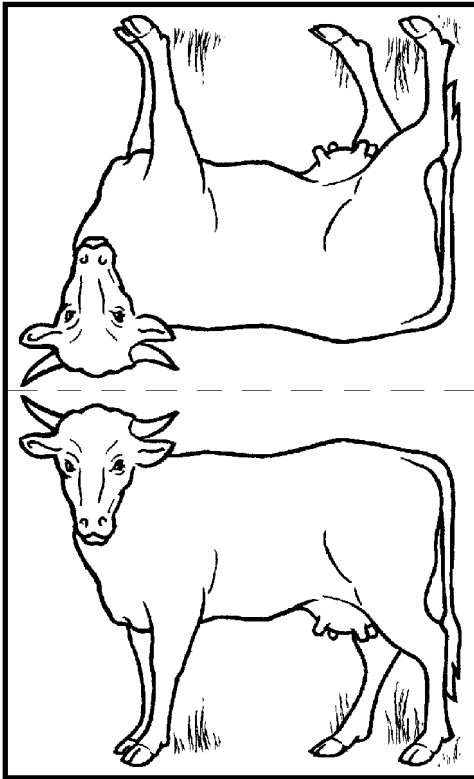
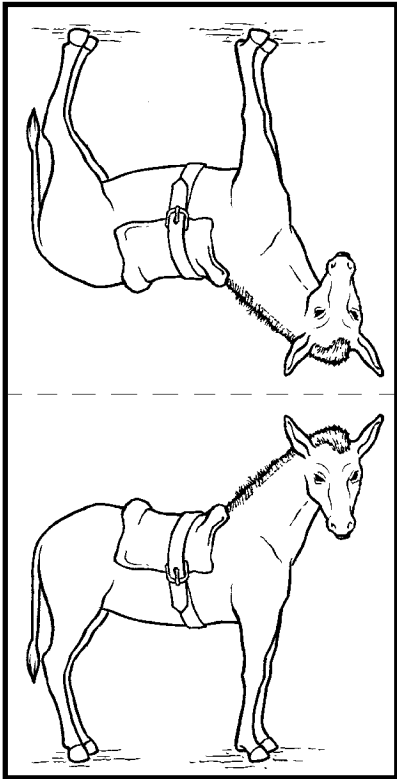
Blocks /popsicle sticks or stones/sticks

Optional: small plastic animals such as sheep, donkeys, goats, cows, horses, and camels

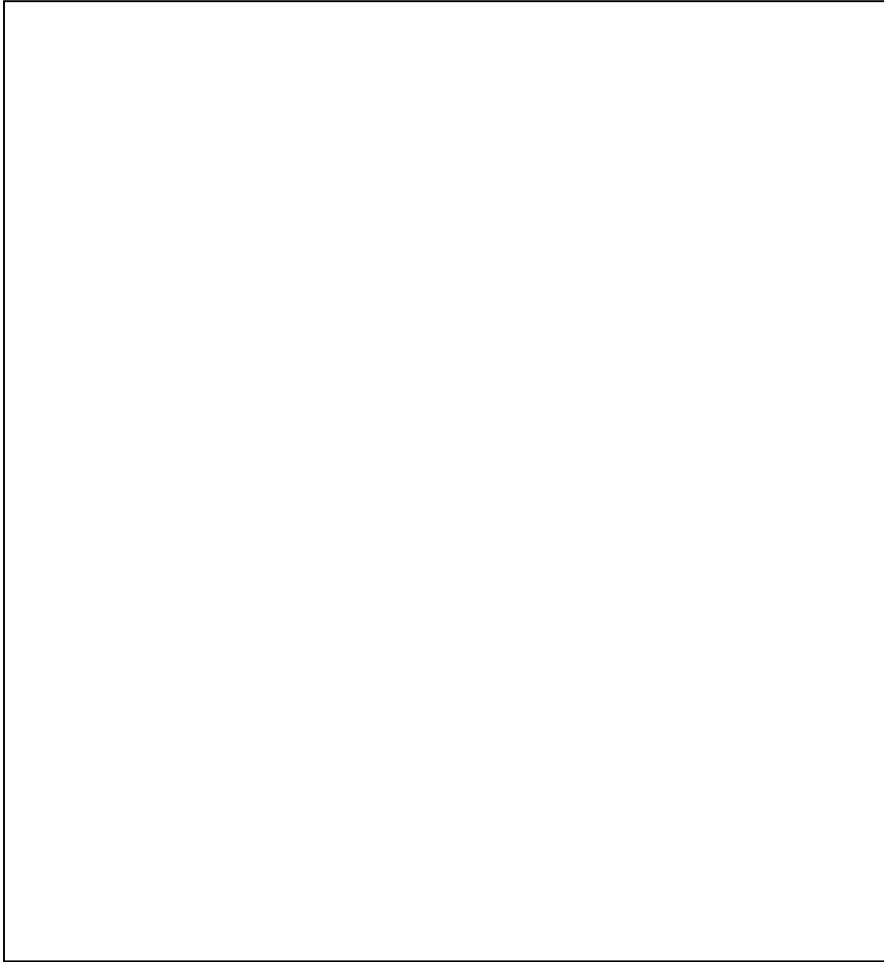
Lot and Abram moved away from each other. Each took their livestock with them. In Old Testament times, livestock could have been oxen and cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, camels, and horses.

1. If you are not using plastic animals, color the animals on pages 2 and 3.
2. Then cut out each animal, and fold on the dotted line. Now your animals will stand.
3. Mix up the animals and put them in a pile.
4. Make two separate pens for the animals, one that will belong to Abram and the other to Lot. This could be done inside with blocks or popsicle sticks, or outside in the grass with stones or sticks. Another option is to use the page of two pens provided with this lesson.
5. Divide up the animals like Abram and Lot did, putting some in Abram’s pen and the others in Lot’s.



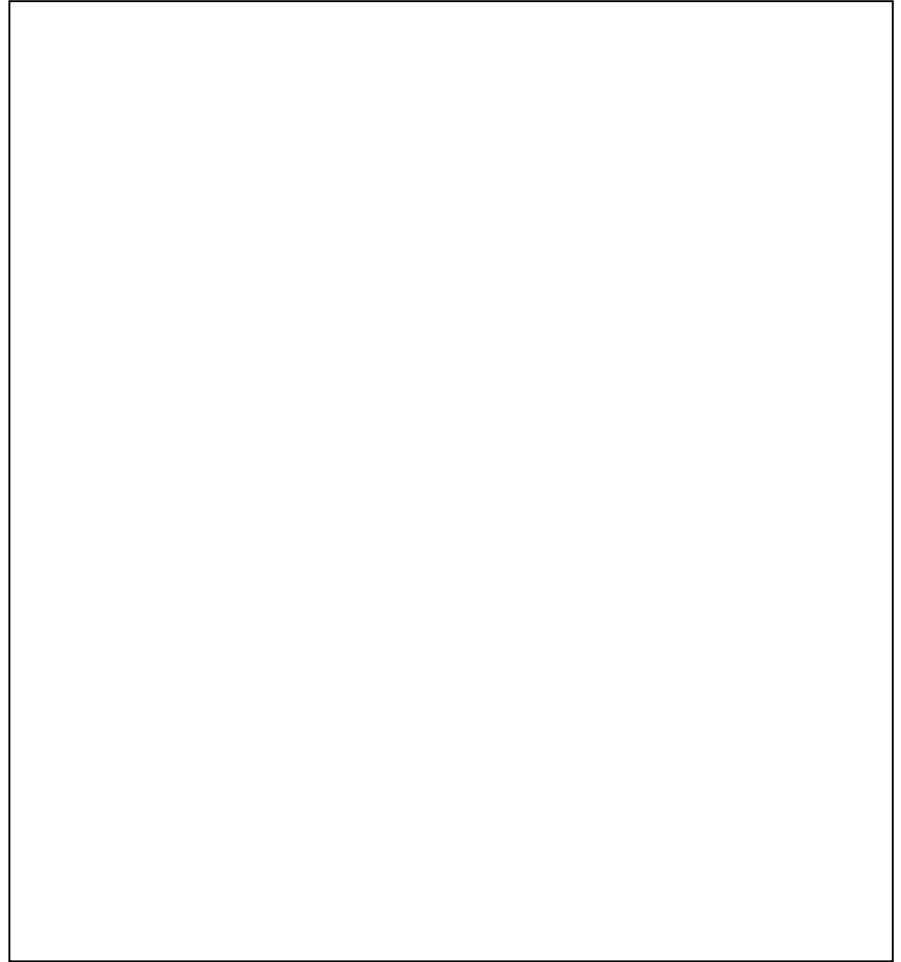


Abram



Abram and Lot, Level 1

Lot



page 4

Abram and Lot
Genesis 13:1-13,14:1-16
LEVEL 2 – HIDDEN LIVESTOCK

Abram and Lot decided to separate from each other.

Can you find the livestock so that Abram can stay in Canaan and Lot can go to Sodom?

Remember that in New Testament times, livestock was a mixture of oxen, cows, goats, sheep, horses, camels and donkeys.

Color or circle the hidden animals. There are two of each.



Abram and Lot
Genesis 13:1-13; 14:1-16
LEVEL 3 – PATHS THROUGH CANAAN

MATERIALS NEEDED

The Word or Bible
Colored pencils or markers



The story of Noah and the other stories of the Word before the story of Abram are about make-believe people. The Lord told Moses to write down these stories because they teach us about the Lord and how to live a useful life.

From the story of Abram and for the rest of the Word, the Lord uses real people and real places to teach us. We need to learn the stories of the Word well while we are young. They are like a treasure chest full of wonderful treasures. As we grow older we can learn more and more of the wonderful treasures hidden in each of these stories, and we will be able to learn more and more about the Lord and how to live a useful life.

This lesson picks up the story of Abram after he has left Ur of the Chaldees and has journeyed through Canaan to Egypt. This happened about 4,000 years ago.

On the map of Canaan on page 3, you are going to draw the paths taken by the people in the story.

Use **red** for Abram, **blue** for Lot, **black** for the kings of the North and **brown** for the kings of the South.

1. With **red** and **blue** draw lines:
from where Abram and Lot started (*Gen.13:1*) _____
to where they made their first stop (*Gen.13:3*) _____
2. Color the altar where Abram and Lot stopped **purple**. Here the red and blue (Abram and Lot) were together.
3. What happened next? (read *Genesis 13:9*) _____
4. Where did Lot go? (read *Genesis 13:12*) _____
With **blue** draw a path to this city.
5. Where did Abram go? (read *Genesis 13:18*) _____
With **red** draw a path to this city.
6. With **black** for the four kings of the North, draw a path from Ashteroth down to the Valley of Siddim.
7. With **brown** for the five kings of the South draw paths from Zoar, Sodom and Gomorrah to the Valley of Siddim.

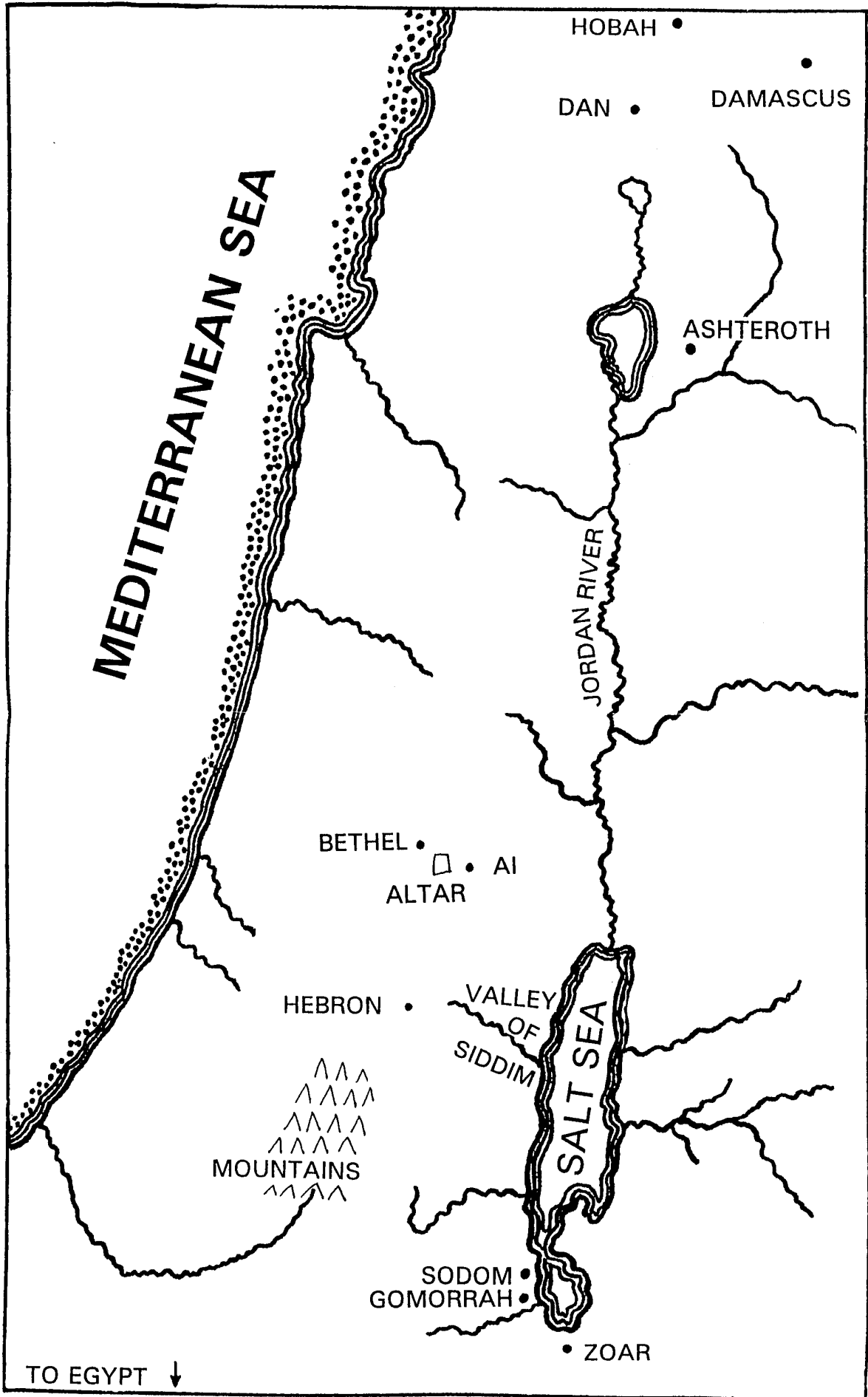
8. What happened in the Valley of Siddim? (read *Genesis* 14:8 & 9)
- _____
9. Where did the kings of the South go after the battle? (read *Genesis* 14:10)
- _____. With **brown** draw their path to that place.
10. What did the kings of the North do next? (read *Genesis* 14:11 & 12)
- _____. With **black** draw their path to that place.
11. The kings of the North captured Lot and took him to their lands. Draw their **black** path and Lot's **blue** path up to Dan and then on to Hobah.
12. What did Abram do when the men who escaped told him that Lot was captured? (Read *Genesis* 14:14 & 15) _____
Draw Abram's **red** path up to Dan and Hobah.
13. Where do Abram and Lot go next? (read *Genesis* 14:16) _____
Draw their **red** and **blue** paths back to the place they were in the beginning.

It may be hard to understand that the Lord is teaching us how to lead a useful life in this story of separation and war. But every story in the Word is filled with “treasures”, wonderful meanings that we can continue to discover throughout our lives in this world, and forever in heaven. We will never run out of new things to discover in the Word.

Lot is that part of every person that wants to have fun all the time and chooses the easy way and the best for himself. Lot went to the well-watered part of the land and did not notice all the evil people that were also there. This got him in trouble. He was captured by more evil people and had to be rescued.

Abram would rescue Lot because he represents that part of every person that can think about the Lord. We can all learn the Lord's commandments. Then we can remember the Commandments and use them to help us.

When we get ourselves in trouble by doing things just to make us happy, and do not notice the bad things that these things will lead us to, if we remember and do the Commandments, the Lord will lead us out of the trouble. [Abram and Lot, Level 3 page 2](#)



CANAAN AND SURROUNDING TERRITORY

Abram and Lot

Gen. 13:1-13; 14:1-16

LEVEL 4 – THREE CHURCHES: A COMPARISON CHART



Among the many things revealed by the Word of the Lord's Second Coming is the fact that all the stories in the Word contain a hidden meaning, a meaning which is called the internal or spiritual sense of the Word.

When the Lord called Abram to come to the land of Canaan with Lot and make a new home, the Lord was also describing a journey that your mind takes in its preparation to enter your land of Canaan—heaven.

After the time of the Most Ancient Church, people became less and less spiritual and more and more worldly. At the time that this story takes place, they did not know very much about spiritual things—about the Lord, and heaven, and true marriage. They were very worldly, and would often disobey the Lord's commands.

Abram and Lot chose to go in different directions. The story of Abram separating from Lot is a story about choices that you have to make in your life. Will you follow Abram or Lot? As you grow older, you start making choices between things that have spiritual value, and worldly things.

Lot looked over the plain of Jordan. It was well watered and pleasant looking. He saw cities where people seemed to be enjoying themselves. When we look out over the world, we see many things that attract us. They look easy and fun. Lot is like that part of us that finds these worldly things more pleasing and desirable than spiritual things.

Abram chose to dwell in the land of Canaan. He is like that part of us that wants to value the spiritual things that will lead us to heaven. That is the part of us that wants to obey the Lord and make choices according to the commandments.

It was not long before Lot found himself in trouble. When we make "Lot" choices, we also find trouble in our lives. Making "Abram" choices often involves not going along with the crowd. That is not easy when you are young. One example is the choice to use or refuse drugs. It is a choice between what looks like fun and our mental and physical well-being. It is a choice between following our conscience and following the crowd.

Application

Think about times in your life when you have to make choices. Describe these different choices and the consequences you can expect from them.

Which choice would "Abram" make?

Which choice would "Lot" make?

What can you do to help you make the "Abram" choice?

You may prefer to use this topic for discussion with your family.

Separating Abram and Lot Choices I Make in My Life

A series of 22 horizontal dashed lines for handwriting practice.

Handwriting practice area consisting of 25 horizontal lines.

Abram and Lot
Genesis 13:1-13; 14:1-16
LEVEL 5 – SPIRITUAL HISTORY

The early stories of the Word are epic tales of Creation, the Garden of Eden, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. All of these are fables of the first men on the earth, as well as allegories telling about phases of every man's spiritual growth.

True history in the Word

With the 12th chapter of Genesis, the stories of the Word change. Now we read the history of one man and his family. The Writings for the New Church tell us that these stories of Abram and his descendants are true history rather than fables. But they are also allegories of man's spiritual life.



Abram and Lot separate

The story of Abram

The Lord's call of Abram from Ur, Abram's willingness to obey and his journey to Canaan, his sojourn in Egypt during famine with his nephew Lot, and their return to Canaan, are all things that really happened. They really did settle in Bethel where their herdsmen quarreled, and they really did separate, with Lot and his family choosing the easy and attractive life in the fertile valley rather than the more exalted hills.

The story of the battle between the kings of the Tigris-Euphrates valley and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and other towns of the Jordan valley did take place. Lot was saved by Abram, then later saved by the Lord when Sodom and Gomorrah fell, but his life was always difficult and dangerous on that deceptively pleasant plain.

Currently scholars believe that this plain is part of the land under the Dead Sea. The site of Sodom is probably now covered by the hot brine of that sea, so while scholars agree that it did exist, it is not possible to excavate it.

It's also the story of your life

All these stories did happen historically. They can be studied as history. But unlike most history, they also tell what happens in the lives of every man of every generation. Therefore they are much more valuable than most tales of family history and minor wars. The story of Abram and his nephew Lot tells of the necessary separation between the regenerate man and his natural desire for sensual pleasure.

Application

You have studied time lines in history. On page 3 is a time line, but rather than dates, the order of the history is defined by its spiritual story.

1) Read over the spiritual steps on page 3.

2) Read the clues below.

ABRAM.....the internal man

CANAAN.....a heavenly state

EGYPT.....a state of acquiring knowledge

MOUNTAINS.....looking upward to spiritual things

VALLEY.....natural living

LOT.....the sensuous man

BATTLE.....temptations

SODOM.....evil

3) Now see if you can identify the part of the historical story that matches each spiritual step on page 3. *(These stories are listed below in mixed up order.)*

Lot Chooses the Fertile Valley

Abram rescues Lot

Herdsmen Arguing Separation of Abram and Lot

Lord calling Abram

Abram won't Accept Riches from the Kings

Trip to Egypt

Lot Captured During Battle of Kings

Return to Canaan

4) Write the historical parts of the story next to the spiritual steps on page 3.

(Answers on page 4)

SPIRITUAL STEPS	HISTORICAL PARTS OF THE WORD
<p>As we grow up the Lord calls us to make a journey toward spiritual life.</p>	
<p>At first the new state seems fine, but soon we realize we need to learn more truth.</p>	
<p>But we must not stay in <i>just</i> learning—we must start to <i>live and do</i> the truth.</p>	
<p>Sometimes our newly growing internal state disagrees with the desires and attractions of our sensual life.</p>	
<p>This part of our life still urges us to live in ease and comfort.</p>	
<p>But indulging in selfish pleasures can carry a person away—we become captive to those pleasures.</p>	
<p>Fortunately, the habit of obedience can free us.</p>	
<p>Concentration on external pleasures still causes problems. These must be separated more and more from the real life of the internal man.</p>	

SPIRITUAL STEPS	HISTORICAL PARTS OF THE WORD
As we grow up the Lord calls us to make a journey toward spiritual life.	Lord calling Abram
At first the new state seems fine, but soon we realize we need to learn more truth.	Trip to Egypt
But we must not stay in <i>just</i> learning—we must start to <i>live and do</i> the truth.	Return to Canaan
Sometimes our newly growing internal state disagrees with the desires and attractions of our sensual life.	Herdsman Arguing - Separation of Abram and Lot
This part of our life still urges us to live in ease and comfort.	Lot chooses the Fertile Valley
But indulging in selfish pleasures can carry a person away—we become captive to those pleasures.	Lot captured during battle of the Kings
Fortunately, the habit of obedience can free us.	Abram rescues Lot
Concentration on external pleasures still causes problems. These must be separated more and more from the real life of the internal man.	Abram won't accept riches from the Kings