



CHAPTERS
14-15

GENESIS

DAY ONE

1. Let's do a quick review; Abram and Lot are no longer traveling together. Sadly, the jealousy and quarreling between Abram and Lot's workers had caused them to have to part company. We too can face conflict even among our inner circles. It is best to find a way to peacefully separate to defuse the animosity. Where are Abram and Lot living at the end of Genesis 13?

- a. Abram and his family _____.
- b. Lot and his family _____.

2. Please read Genesis 14 a few times to become familiar with the events that are taking place. This chapter can be divided into two sections. Title these two sections in just a few words.

- Verses 1-16

- Verses 17-24

3. As we have said, Genesis is a book of beginnings. We have seen jealousy and quarreling in previous chapters but what did you see recorded in this chapter that we have not seen recorded before?

That does not mean this has never happened, but that this is the first recorded instance. It has great significance because of the participants mentioned and those affected by it.

4. Kings at this time ruled over cities for the most part. There are many names in this chapter that we read for the first time. Fill in the charts below.

Genesis 14:1	King's Name	King's rule
1		King of
2		King of
3		King of
4		King of

Genesis 14:2	King's Name	King's rule
1		King of
2		King of
3		King of
4		King of
5		King of

5. After reading Genesis 14:4-7 we see one king who is more powerful than the others. His name is _____ . Highlight his name on your chart in question 2.

What led you to believe he was more powerful than the other kings?

6. This is another time when we read of an event and then we are given further information. Genesis 14:4-7 gives further information that would explain the conflict in verses 1-3. What did you learn that shed more light on the reason for the battle of these four kings against the five?

7. Using the map at the end of this study guide, locate the places and people mentioned in this chapter. These locations are of great historical importance. Some no longer exist, so maps are marked with a (?) to indicate the location is approximate. It is good to know where these places may have been.

8. Genesis 13:12 said, "Lot...pitched his tent toward Sodom," but that didn't last long. Read Genesis 14:12 again, what had changed and made him easy prey?

Are there areas of your life where you may be getting too close to sin?

We must be keenly aware of how close we are to sin and avoid it, or it will surely cost us.

DAY TWO

9. The four kings of verse 1 are now a long way from home. What do you believe these kings and their warriors thought of themselves?

10. Genesis 14:8-12 tells the story of the battle mentioned in verses 1-2. Five kings gather their forces and prepare to battle this amazing army that has gone undefeated, so far. Where did these armies meet to fight one another?

11. The five kings faced the four kings who were obviously either stronger in number, skill or perhaps both. What phenomena of nature sealed their fate?

12. The victory went to the four kings of the east once again. They seized all the goods, food, and people, then headed north. What key person was taken captive in this battle?

13. Even though Lot chose to live among these people, God has not abandoned him. Who else is still very interested in Lot and his well-being?

14. How did Abram hear that something had happened to his nephew?

15. Where was Abram living at this time? (Genesis 13:18 and 14:13)

16. List the names of the three brothers who were allies of Abram in Genesis 14:13?

What nationality were these brothers?

17. The name Mamre means “strength or fatness.” How was this man’s land described?

Genesis 13:18

Genesis 14:13

18. Genesis 14:13 is not the only mention of Eshkol in the Old Testament. The name Eshkol means “cluster.” Read Numbers 13:23-24, what interesting facts can be found concerning the fruitfulness of this man’s land. The valley of Eshkol was near Hebron. Much later in Israel’s history, Moses will send spies to check out the land and bring back a report. As they journeyed through the valley of Eshkol (also spelled Eshcol) what did they find?

19. We do not want to miss the mention of Abram’s nationality. “A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the _____.” This is the first time this name has been used to describe Abram’s ethnicity.

DAY THREE

20. Abram does not hesitate to act when he hears his nephew was taken captive. What did he do?

21. Were you even more impressed with Abram's wealth and the magnitude of those under his care when you read Genesis 14:14?

22. What were the specific qualifications for the men chosen to go with Abram and face the four kings of the east?

What might this requirement ensure?

23. Using the map at the end of the study guide, locate Dan. Using the scale bar at the bottom of the map, approximately how far did Abram travel to get his nephew, Lot, back safe and sound?

24. Abram has never been a man of war, yet he comes up with a very strategic plan. Where do you believe he got this plan?

25. What did Abram do with his army while the kings of the east were camped for the night?

What would be the benefits of an attack like this?

26. It was a decisive victory for Abram. The kings of the east may have had military experience but what did Abram have?

What were Abram and his men able to regain possession of?

27. The Valley of Shaveh, also known as the King’s Valley, is located just outside Jerusalem. Genesis 14:17 tells us the king of Sodom came out to meet with Abram in this valley. What did the king want to discuss with Abram? (verse 21)

28. Abram met another man. Who is his next royal visitor? (verse 18)

29. Let’s spend some time reading and considering prayerfully what we can learn about this man Melchizedek. “Then Melchizedek _____ brought out _____ and _____. He was _____ of _____, and he _____ Abram...” (Genesis 14:18-19)

What are the two positions of leadership we see concerning this man Melchizedek?

DAY FOUR

30. The place named Salem will eventually be changed to Jerusalem. In Hebrew the word Salem means peace. He is the king of peace. The Hebrew name for the God Most High is, El Elyon. This name means he is the Sovereign God and has supremacy over all. Other than Abram, have we read of anyone else who is familiar with God like this?

31. Melchizedek’s name in Hebrew means “king of righteousness.” There is a scarlet thread that runs throughout the Bible. It is the great scarlet thread of redemption through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. This could have been a foreshadowing of the Savior, a symbol of Christ, a picture of the coming Messiah. The author of Hebrews gives us even more insight into this king, Melchizedek. He is a priest and king before the priesthood was established in Israel. He has no recorded genealogy or date of birth. But, as we see, he was greater than Abram because Abram gave him a tithe. Some have suggested that it was a preincarnate or temporary appearance of the eternal Son of God. Read Hebrews 7:1-4, do you have a greater understanding of this difficult section of scripture?

Jot down any thoughts you want to remember for our discussion.

32. In Genesis 14:18, Melchizedek is referred to as priest of God Most High. This priest and king came out to bless Abram and give God the glory. Abram then gives a tithe back to God. What do you believe Abram is acknowledging by this act of tithing?

33. What does Abram say to the king of Sodom when he offers him a sizeable reward of all goods that had been brought back? Who does Abram choose to trust for all his blessings?

34. Abram went to great lengths to rescue his nephew. He showed great compassion and love. How far will you go to help others?

Can you let go of past hurts and disappointments and be genuinely interested in their well-being?

It is easy to help those who treat us well. Read Luke 6:27-36, what does the Lord desire of us?

35. As you studied Genesis 14, did you notice we experience some of the same type of trials?

We may face selfishness from those to whom we have extended kindness. We may experience work-related problems and family crisis situations. As difficult as these battles are, we would do well to remember there is something more sinister going on behind the scenes. It is imperative that Christians stay alert and fully armed against Satan's schemes. Are you armed for all the battles that may come your way today?

Read 1 Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:10-18, how are we to arm ourselves?

36. Genesis 15 opens with the words "after this." After Abram's great victory over the four kings of the east, and his meeting with the king of Sodom and the king of Salem, he now meets with God. The king of Sodom wanted to reward Abram. He told Abram to take all the stuff as his reward. The king only wanted the people. This king knew something people today often forget. People are more important than stuff. You can always get more stuff. Look back at Genesis 14:22-23, what was Abram's answer to the king of Sodom?

Now read Genesis 15:1, what does God tell Abram?

37. I am sure Abram was thrilled to hear God promise that he would be his shield and reward. Do you remember the three promises God had already made to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3?

But more than anything, what does Abram want?

More than anything, what does he need if God's previous promise was to come to be?

38. It was the custom of Abram's day for all belongings to go to the highest-ranking servant if there was no heir. That would be _____ of _____ in Abram's household. God reassures Abram by telling him that it will not be your servant, but a child of your own. Where did the LORD take Abram? What did he show him?

DAY FIVE

39. The importance of Genesis 15:6 could never be overstated. This is the key to God's divine plan of salvation. "Abram _____ the LORD, and he _____ it to him as _____."

This is known as justification.

Look up and define the word justification.

40. Abram was justified by believing in and trusting God. Justification is simply a big word used to describe the remission of sin and absolution from guilt and punishment. It has always been by grace. God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous. Read Hebrews 11:1, 6, 8. What do you learn from these verses that reinforce Genesis 15:6?

41. Many people attempt to have a relationship with God by doing something themselves to make up for their sin. They misunderstand the purpose of God's laws and commands. They believe they need to earn forgiveness. It is impossible for anyone to pay for their own sin. The Apostle Paul addresses this very issue in Galatians 3:6. The law had not been given when Abram believed, and yet when he believed it was counted as righteousness. What is the key to a reconciled relationship with God?

If you are still not sure go back and read Genesis 15:6 again. What was the only thing Abram did to be in right standing with God?

What blessing did Abram receive when he believed God?

God is no respecter of persons; what he did for Abram he will do for all.

42. There are those who find it hard to take God at his word. If we could do anything to save ourselves and pay for our sins, why would Jesus have to come to Earth and experienced all he did for us?

43. Have you taken time to seek God personally?

Do you believe he finished the work and is ready to give you peace?

Romans 10:9-13 is very clear; what is necessary for one to have their sins forgiven?

You might want to highlight Romans 10:13 in your Bible.

44. What reminder did the LORD give to Abram in verse 7?

45. God knew Abram's heart. Abram placed his trust in God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. In verse 8, Abram comes to God seeking clarity. He asked, "How can I know..." This is the Hebrew word Yada' and is translated "know." It means to know something by experience; to perceive, to see, to find out and to discern. God does not reprimand his children for seeking clarity. He responded with patience and grace. God is not obliged to answer all our persistent questions, but he loves it when we look to him for understanding. What instructions did Jesus give his followers in Matthew 7:7-8?

46. The LORD instructs Abram to bring the objects of a covenant and prepare them. This might seem a bit strange today, but it was a common practice in that day. What did Abram bring and what did he do with it?

47. Through the years I have heard several preachers as they taught this section of scripture. They all mention how difficult it must have been for Abram to wait on God that day. The sacrifice was prepared but God had not shown up. How good are you at waiting on God?

48. It was the practice of those making this type of binding agreement to walk between the cut-up carcasses signifying that something just like this should happen to them if either party broke this covenant agreement. The LORD waited to arrive. Scripture tells us Abram was exhausted and he fell asleep. God appeared to Abram in a vision. While he was in a deep sleep, he heard the LORD speak. What did the LORD tell him would happen?

What details of future events were given?

49. Who was the only one to pass between the pieces of this sacrifice?

God gave no conditions, only a promise. What was the promise given in verses 18-21?

Abram did not walk through the pieces; whose responsibility would it be to see that this covenant was carried out?

50. A firepot and blazing torch would have been instruments used by the priest to ignite a sacrifice. For a sacrifice to be accepted by God, it needed to be burned. What do you think Abram saw when he awoke?

51. What have you learned from these two chapters that will change how you walk, talk, and deal with others?

52. Has your faith been challenged and strengthened?

As a child of God, how have you been prepared for the events that will come your way?

GENESIS



DAY TWO

Question 18

Numbers 13:23-24 (NIV)

²³When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there.

DAY FOUR

Question 31

Hebrews 7:1-4 (NIV)

¹ This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. ⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!

Question 34

Luke 6:27-36 (NIV)

²⁷ But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Question 35

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of

truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

DAY FIVE

Question 40

Hebrews 11:1, 6, 8 (NIV)

¹Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Question 41

Galatians 3:6

⁹If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." [a] ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Question 43

Romans 10:9-13 (NIV)

⁶So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Question 45

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

B I B L E C H A P T E R S

Genesis 14 (NIV)

- ¹At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim,
- ²these kings went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).
- ³All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley).
- ⁴For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.
- ⁵In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim
- ⁶and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert.
- ⁷Then they turned back and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazezon Tamar.
- ⁸Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim
- ⁹against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.
- ¹⁰Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills.
- ¹¹The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away.
- ¹²They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.
- ¹³A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.
- ¹⁴When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- ¹⁵During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.
- ¹⁶He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.
- ¹⁷After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
- ¹⁸Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,
- ¹⁹and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.
- ²⁰And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
- ²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."
- ²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,
- ²³that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.'
- ²⁴I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

Genesis 15 (NIV)

¹ After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

⁷ He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

⁸ But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

⁹ So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

¹³ Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

¹⁵ You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,

²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”