

PEACE

LESSON 10

Removing Contention

The word "peace" gives the idea of quietness and rest. If there is noise and activity surrounding us, it is hard to feel peaceful. Sometimes we say that beautiful landscapes are peaceful. We may find listening to slow and gentle music peaceful. Sometimes we have to change our environment to find peace. Abraham did this.

God spoke to Abram and told him to leave the city of Ur where he lived because there were too many idols there, too many distractions and wrong ideas. God sent him on a journey of wandering through the land we now know as Israel, with his family and possessions, living in tents.



Many people go camping to get away from the every day world and slow down their lives. Without the television and the computer and all the usual luxuries, life becomes a little more down to earth and simple. Abram was asked to camp for the rest of his life! After many years, Abram became rich. He had lots of silver and gold, and he had a huge herd of livestock.

But there was a problem. Abram's nephew Lot had been travelling with Abram, because he loved God too and wanted to get away from all the idols. He became rich as well. He also had a huge flock of sheep, lots of cattle and many tents.

There were so many animals that there wasn't enough food and water for them all. And consequently, Abram and Lot's shepherds and herdsmen were fighting over the best watering holes and pastures!

When Abram discovered this, he knew he had to make a difficult choice. He took Lot up to the top of a hill, and told him to choose where he wanted to go. "If you go to the right, then I will go to the left," said Abram, "Or if you go to the left, then I will go to the right".

Lot looked down from the hill to the right and saw a green and well-watered land. He looked the other way and saw scrubby bushes and hills and rocks. It didn't take him long to make up his mind. He chose the right hand and led his family and herds and flocks away from Abram. Although Abram had to take his family away from the green and pleasant land that certainly looked attractive, to the rough and less attractive land to the left, it was the only way of bringing about peace.

Sometimes in our lives, we may have warring forces like Abram and may need to remove the reasons for contention. We may have to choose what might not be attractive to the natural man, so that we can *"let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts"*.

Student Name: _____

WORKSHEET 10: REMOVING CONTENTION

ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE:

What do these verses say about "contention"?

Proverbs 17:14 _____

Proverbs 18:19 _____

Proverbs 22:10 _____

Proverbs 26:21 _____

Proverbs 27:15 _____

WORD STUDY:

"rest"

Look up this word in a concordance. Find where it is used in Leviticus 25. What is the Hebrew word and what does it mean? Why was it important that the land had a year of rest?

APPLICATION:

God gave the Hebrews instructions regarding the Sabbath -- the seventh day of the week. On this day they were to rest from their usual labours and instead focus on God and spend time with their family and friends. This gave them a time of peace every week to renew them for the week ahead.

Think of what you do every day. How could you make one day each week bring peace to your life? What sorts of things would you do differently?
