

When Relationships Collide
Lesson 3: Stand Down
Genesis 13:1-18

Question: *As a kid, what made you call "mine" most often?*

Genesis 13:1-7

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.
2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.
3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier
4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.
5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.
6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.
7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.¹ Samuel 24:8-15

Genesis 13:8-13

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives.
9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."
10 Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)
11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:
12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.
13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Genesis 13:14-18

14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west.
15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.
16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.
17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."
18 So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

Life Application Questions

1. When has a time of worship changed your perspective or course of action?
2. What keeps us from approaching conflict the way Abram did?
3. How could your willingness to take the short end of the stick impact your relationships?
4. What choices to stand down have you made that had unexpected results?

Live It Out

- **Conflict happens.** So what's our plan for handling conflict in a way that honors God?
- **Focus on the end result.** Evaluate what really matters in the long run and work toward
- **Humble yourself.** Listen to the other person and speak with humility.
- **Heal a relationship.** Seek out someone who's been a casualty of a conflict with you and reconcile with that person.