

## Rights

Genesis 13

(black Bibles page 9; Children's Bibles page 27)

We continue our series *The Gospel According to Abraham*.

Today's question: **Would you give up a right?**

- And if so, why?

The story of Genesis 13 in a nutshell:

- The problem: having much livestock caused strife between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot (13:5–7)
- The solution: they must separate, and Abram instructs Lot to choose his land (13:8–9)
- The lesson: Abram, as elder/uncle/patriarch, undoubtedly **had the right to choose his land**, but he did not exercise this right in order **to foster a lasting peace**.

Three truths about rights:

1. Sometimes it is good and wise to exercise your right (see Acts 16:35–40), but sometimes not (see Proverbs 19:11).
2. You will not exercise your right if you can gain something of greater value to you.

3. Choosing to exercise your rights – or not to – says a lot about who you are.
  - (And if you always exercise your rights, then there must be nothing of greater value to you.)

Consider the chapter that discusses rights the most in the entire Bible: 1 Corinthians 9. Why does Paul give up his rights? What does he value more than exercising his rights?

This series will show us Jesus and the gospel. What about today?

- “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped [*he gave up the rights of being God!*], but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:5–8

### Community group or further discussion

1. When have you given up a (legitimate) right? Why? For what purpose, value, or goal? What was more valuable to you than exercising the right?
2. When do you think it is wise to exercise a right? When did the apostle Paul or Jesus do this?
3. What would an un-churched person think of this passage? (Genesis 13) How could you explain to them how this connects to the gospel of Jesus Christ?