

## Giving in Thanks – Leader’s Notes

Genesis 14:11-20

*The week of March 8, 2020*

**Background:** Abram’s nephew, Lot, was taken captive by an alliance of four kings during a siege against five other kings. This caused Abram to raise a small army to rescue him and recover all of the stolen bounty. Upon their return, Abram was blessed by Melchizedek who was king of Salem ([Salem likely was the town that later became known as Jerusalem](#)) and priest of God Most High. To acknowledge the blessings of God, Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of the goods they had recovered.

### Discussion:

1. What had the alliance of four kings taken with them in their successful attacks against Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboyim, and Bela? [See vs. 11-12 & 16. They took food, possessions, people \(presumably to be slaves\), and whatever goods they thought had any worth.](#)
2. Shortly before this episode, Abram and Lot had parted ways to avoid competition and fighting between their families (see 13:5-12). Lot selfishly chose the more favorable land, yet Abram came to Lot’s rescue when he was captured. Why did Abram do this? [Abram viewed Lot as a close relative \(13:8\) and he trusted the promises God made to him \(see Genesis 12:1-3\) that he would be blessed and kept safe.](#)
3. Read Hebrews 7:1-4. As “king of righteousness” and “king of peace”, in what ways did Melchizedek foreshadow Christ Jesus? [They both serve as priests through whom God brings righteousness and peace between us and God. Neither one could claim being a Levitical priest \(from the line of Levi\), with Melchizedek preceding the Law and Jesus being from the tribe of Judah, but God blessed His people through them.](#)
4. How do Melchizedek’s blessings compare to the blessings God bestows upon us? [Melchizedek affirmed that Abram’s success was by the grace of God. God bestows His grace on us in countless ways through Christ.](#)
5. How did Abram demonstrate his thanks to God? [He gave ten percent \(a tithe\) of his newly acquired possessions to God’s representative, Melchizedek.](#)
6. What are ways we can demonstrate our thanks to God for all of the blessings He has bestowed upon us? [Answers will vary – praise, giving, serving, etc.](#)