

The Story of Abraham and Lot Based on Genesis 13:1-17 and Its Implications for Problem Solving in Today's Christian Family

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Abstract

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 describes the conflict over land ownership they faced after returning from Egypt, which has important implications for how Christian families today resolve problems, especially in terms of spiritual priorities and decision-making. The story of Abraham and Lot also shows the importance of open communication and compromise in resolving conflicts and making wise decisions based on the values of the kingdom of God in building a harmonious family. The aim is to reveal how the story of Abraham and Lot can be a guide for Christian families today, in building harmonious relationships. The research method used is Biblical, namely to analyze the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17. This approach focuses on interpreting the biblical text holistically, and connecting it with the context of today's family and collecting existing data.

Keywords: *Abraham, Lot, Chrystian family.*

INTRODUCTION

This article will explore two major conflicts that often shake the harmony of Christian families, drawing parallels with the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17. This story, which depicts a dispute between two close relatives resulting from a struggle for resources and differences in values, provides a valuable framework for understanding the dynamics of conflict in the context of the modern family. We will analyze how similar conflicts arise in Christian families today, especially in terms of resource management (financial, time, attention) and differences in life views (lifestyle, children's education, gender roles) (Isnania, 2020).

First, examine how struggles over resources, such as that between Abraham and Lot, can lead to strife and division in family. Lack of effective communication, unclear roles, and imbalance in contributions are often the main triggers.

The second discusses how differences in values and priorities, reflected in Lot's choice to stay in Sodom, can create tension and conflict among family members. These differences can involve things like children's education, employment, or even theological views. Through an in-depth analysis of the story of Abraham and Lot, we will identify effective conflict resolution strategies for Christian families. This includes

the importance of open and honest communication, fair negotiation, search for mutual benefit, and the important role of forgiveness and love in rebuilding broken relationships.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of modern life, with all its complexities and challenges, the Christian family remains an important foundation in building a society with noble morals (Septiani et al., 2023). However, maintaining harmony in the family is not easy. Conflicts and disputes can arise at any time, threatening family integrity and happiness. In looking for solutions to resolve conflicts, Christian families often refer to inspirational stories in the Bible, one of which is the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17.

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 is one of the classic stories in the Bible that describes the conflict that arises in family relationships. This story has deep relevance for today's Christian families, because it provides valuable lessons on how to solve problems wisely and lovingly (Atmadja, n.d.).

This story depicts a situation familiar to many families, namely conflict due to the growth of wealth and resources. Abraham and Lot, who were initially united in their journey, were faced with a dilemma when their livestock increased and the pastures in Canaan were no longer

enough to accommodate both of them (Hendrawan, 2024). Disputes arise between their herdsmen, threatening peace between the two families.

Here, Abraham shows extraordinary wisdom and love. He did not choose to retain his rights to the land, but instead offered Lot to choose which area he wanted to occupy. Abraham's attitude shows that he prioritizes family harmony rather than personal gain (Irawati et al., 2023).

As the wise and faithful head of the family, Abraham showed generosity and concern for Lot, his nephew. He prioritized common interests above personal interests and gave Lot the freedom to choose the territory he wanted (Pasaribu & Sormin, n.d.). Lot was Abraham's nephew who chose the Jordan Valley region, even though the region was inhabited by evil people. His decisions were based on what he saw as logical choices, without considering God's will. God is present in this story as a way out and guide for Abraham. He promised Abraham the land of Canaan and many descendants, showing that God always accompanies His people in facing conflict (Harianto, 2021a).

This article aims to find out the implications of the story of Abraham and Lot based on Genesis 13:1-17 on how to solve problems in today's Christian family?

METHOD

The research method used is *Biblis* to analyze the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17. This approach focuses on interpreting the biblical text holistically, taking into account the historical context. Through text analysis, this research identifies the values and principles contained in the story, especially in the context of resolving conflicts, disputes and the context of Christian family life, as well as providing practical guidance in resolving conflicts and disputes in the family.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Political situation

At that time, Abraham and Lot were experiencing political conflict because they both had large livestock and needed large areas of land for their livestock to return it. There were fights

between their herdsmen, showing competition and fighting over resources. Abraham, who was wiser, offered Lot to choose which region he wanted to live in. Lot chose a more fertile region, one close to the city of Sodom, which was known for its wealth and luxury. This decision shows that Lot was more interested in worldly riches than in the spiritual blessings God offered Abraham. Lot's choice had a bad impact on him in the future, because Sodom was finally destroyed by God (Mataheru, n.d.).

Cultural Situation

a cultural situation in the land of Canaan characterized by competition over resources and differences in values. Abraham and Lot, who were both rich, had much livestock, silver, and gold, but the land of Canaan was not large enough to accommodate them both. The dispute between their shepherds shows that this conflict was not a personal problem, but a cultural problem that was common in that era (Sung, 2019).

Faith or religious context

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 takes place in the context of Canaanite culture, which was filled with a variety of religious beliefs and practices. At that time, the Canaanites worshiped many gods and goddesses, with strong polytheistic beliefs. They also perform various religious rituals, including sacrifices and worship of their gods.

Despite living in the middle of this culture, Abraham and Lot showed different beliefs in the One God. Abraham had accepted God's promise to bless him and his descendants, and he showed firm faith by offering Lot to choose which region he wanted to live in. Abraham prioritized spiritual blessings from God over worldly wealth (Abraham, 2021).

On the other hand, Lot chose a more fertile region, which was close to the city of Sodom, which was known for its wealth and luxury. Lot's choices show that he was more interested in worldly riches than in the spiritual blessings God offered Abraham. This story shows that belief in God is a personal choice that can be tested in various situations.

Genesis Chapter 13:1-17 בְּרֵאשִׁית

—וַיַּעַל אַבְרָם מִמִּצְרַיִם הוּא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ, וְלוֹט עַם הַנֶּגֶב. 1.

2. וְאַבְרָם, כָּבֵד מְאֹד, בְּמִקְנֵהוּ, בַּכֶּסֶף וּבַזְּהָב.
ג וַיֵּלֶךְ, לְמִסְעָיו, מִנֶּגֶב, וְעַד-בֵּית-אֵל--עַד-הַמְּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה
3. שָׁם אֲהֲלָה בְּתַחֲלָה, בֵּין בֵּית-אֵל, וּבֵין הָעֵי
אֵל-מְקוֹם, הַמְּזֻבָּח, אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה שָׁם, בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה; וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם
4. אַבְרָם, בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה.
ה וְגַם-לְלוּט--הֵהָלַךְ, אֶת-אַבְרָם: הָיָה צֹאן-וַיִּבְקֹר, וְאֵהֲלִים. (5)
ו וְלֹא-נָשָׂא אֹתָם הָאֲרָץ, לְשִׁבְתָּ יַחְדָּו: כִּי-הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב
6. וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לְשִׁבְתָּ יַחְדָּו.
ז וַיְהִי-רִיב, בֵּין רָעִי מִקְנֵה-אַבְרָם, וּבֵין, רָעִי מִקְנֵה-לוּט
7. וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי, וְהַפְּרִזִּי, אִזּו, יָשָׁב בְּאֲרָץ.
ח וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל-לוּט, אֵל-נָא תְהִי מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ, וּבֵין
9. רָעִי, וּבֵין רָעִיךָ: כִּי-אֲנָשִׁים אַחִים, אֲנִיחֶנּוּ. (8)
י הֲלֹא כָל-הָאֲרָץ לְפָנֶיךָ, הִפְרָד נָא מֵעָלַי: אִם-הִשְׁמַאל
11. וְאֵימָנָה, וְאִם-הִימִין וְאֲשַׁמְאִלָה. (9)
יא וַיֵּשֶׂא-לוּט אֶת-עֵינָיו, וַיִּרְא אֶת-כָּל-כַּפַּר הַיַּרְדֵּן, כִּי כָלָה
12. מִשְׁקָה--לְפָנָי שְׂחַת יְהוָה, אֶת-סֹדֶם וְאֶת-עֲמֹרָה, כְּגֹן-יְהוָה,
13. בְּאֲרָץ מִצְרַיִם, בְּאֶבֶקָה צֹעַר
14. יֵא וַיִּבְחַר-לוֹ לוּט, אֶת כָּל-כַּפַּר הַיַּרְדֵּן, וַיֵּסַע לוּט, מִקְדָּם
15. וַיִּפְרְדוּ, אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו. (11)
יב אַבְרָם, יָשָׁב בְּאֲרָץ-כְּנַעַן; וְלוּט, יָשָׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכַּפָּר, וַיִּשְׁאַל
16. עַד-סֹדֶם. (12)
יג וְאֲנָשֵׁי-סֹדֶם, רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים, לִיהוָה, מְאֹד. (13)
יד וַיְהִי אָמַר אֶל-אַבְרָם, אַחֲרֵי הִפְרָד-לוּט מֵעִמּוֹ, שָׂא נָא
17. עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה, מִן-הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה שָׁם--צָפְנָה וַנִּגְבְּהָ, וְקִדְמָה
18. וַיִּמָּה. (14)
טו כִּי אֶת-כָּל-הָאֲרָץ אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה רֹאֶה, לָךְ אֲתַנְּנָה, וְלַזְרָעָה, עַד-
19. עוֹלָם. (15)
טז וְשָׂמְתִי אֶת-זְרָעָה, כְּעֶפְרַת הָאֲרָץ: אֲשֶׁר אִם-יִיכַל אִישׁ
20. לְמַנּוֹת אֶת-עֶפְרַת הָאֲרָץ--גַּם-זְרָעָה, וַיִּמָּה. (16)
יז קוּם הַתְּהַלֵּךְ בְּאֲרָץ, לְאַרְבַּע וּלְרַחֲבָהּ: כִּי לָךְ, אֲתַנְּנָה. (17)

Genesis 13:1-17

1. So Abraham went from Egypt to the land of Negev with his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot took together with him.
2. As for Abraham, he was very rich, with lots of cattle, silver and so on.
3. He went from resting place to resting place, from the land of the Negev to Bethel, where his tent first stood, between Bethel and Ai,
4. To the place of the altar made it first there; that is where Abraham called the name of the Lord.
5. Also Lot, who went with Abraham, had sheep and oxen and tents.
6. But the land was not large enough for them to live together, because their property was so much that they could not live together.
7. Because of this, a fight broke out between the shepherds of Abraham's sheep and the

- shepherds of Lot's sheep. At that time the Canaanites and Pharisees lived in that land.
8. So Abraham said to Lot: "Let there not be a fight between me and you, and between my shepherds and your shepherds, because we are relatives.
 9. Isn't the whole country open to you? Well, separate yourself from me: if you go to the left then I go to the right, if you go to the right then I go to the left".
 10. Then Lot raised his eyes and saw that everything was their valley. Jordan has plenty of water, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, right down to the zear- this happened before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
 11. That's why Lot chose for him the whole Jordan valley, then he went to the east and they separated.
 12. Abraham remained in the land of Canaan, but Lot decided to settle in the cities of the Jordan valley near Sodom.
 13. As for the people of Sodom, they were very wicked and sinned against God.
 14. After Lot separated from Abraham, the Lord said to Abraham: "Look around you and look from where you stand to the east and the west, the north and the south,
 15. Because I will give the whole land that you see to you and to your descendants forever.
 16. And I will make your descendants like the dust of the earth in abundance, so that, if anyone can count the dust of the earth, your descendants will also be able to count.
 17. Prepare to walk the land along its length and breadth, reason to you I will give the land."

Abraham and Lot's Strategy in Solving Family Problems

1. **How does the story of Abraham and Lot illustrate the importance of open communication and empathy in resolving family conflicts, especially in dealing with differences in needs and desires?**
The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 illustrates the importance of open communication and empathy in resolving family conflicts, especially in dealing with differences in needs and desires. When their livestock competed for pasture, Abraham

showed wisdom by inviting Lot to a discussion.

Instead of imposing his will, Abraham offered Lot first choice in selecting the territory he wished to occupy. This attitude shows empathy and a willingness to understand the needs of others in the family. Abraham also emphasized their family relationship by saying, "Let there be no fighting between me and you, or between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we are relatives." This attitude shows the importance of maintaining family relationships and resolving conflicts in a loving and respectful manner. This story teaches that open communication and empathy are the keys to resolving family conflicts, especially in dealing with differences in needs and desires (Harianto, 2021b).

2. How can the principles Abraham demonstrated in resolving the conflict with Lot be applied to today's Christian families facing differences in opinions, values, and lifestyles?

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 provides a concrete example of how to resolve family conflicts in a wise and loving way (Kamagi & Telaumbanua, 2022). Abraham, who had greater wealth and influence, chose to put Lot's needs above his own by giving him the first opportunity to choose territory. This shows the importance of empathy and a willingness to understand the perspectives of others in the family. Abraham also emphasized the importance of maintaining family relationships by saying, "Let there be no fighting between me and you, or between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we are relatives."

These principles can be applied to today's Christian families facing differences in opinions, values, and lifestyles. Open and honest communication is very important to understand the root of the problem and find a solution together. Empathy and a willingness to listen to differences of opinion can help build bridges and find common ground (Kawatu et al., 2024). Emphasizing the importance of family unity and finding

solutions that benefit all parties can help maintain harmony and avoid divisions. By applying these principles, Christian families can deal with conflict in a constructive and loving way, in accordance with the values taught in the Bible (Moses & Bulan, 2024).

3. How can the story of Abraham and Lot be a lesson for Christian families in facing worldly temptations and maintaining spiritual integrity in the family?

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 provides valuable lessons for Christian families in facing worldly temptations and maintaining spiritual integrity. Although Abraham chose a more remote residence, Lot chose a fertile area near Sodom, a city known for sin and vice. Lot's choice led to disaster for his family. This story is a warning about the dangers of pursuing worldly pleasures which can distance the family from God (Den et al., 2023).

Christian families can learn from this story to prioritize spiritual values over momentary pleasures. Building a strong family foundation based on faith and obedience to God will help families face temptation and remain steadfast in spiritual integrity. Choosing fellowship with believers and avoiding bad influences from the surrounding environment is also important. In this way, Christian families can maintain spiritual integrity and pass on a strong faith to the next generation (Siswantara, 2023).

4. How can the story of Abraham and Lot provide guidance for Christian families in facing the problem of wealth and inheritance?

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 offers valuable lessons for Christian families in facing struggles over wealth and inheritance (Budi, 2024). When their livestock competed for pasture, Abraham showed wisdom by offering Lot first choice in choosing the territory he wanted to settle. This attitude shows the importance of empathy and a willingness to understand the needs of others in the family, even when faced with differences in desires. Abraham also emphasized the importance of

maintaining family relationships by saying, "Let there be no fighting between me and you, or between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we are relatives." (Harianto, 2021b).

Christian families can learn from this story to place spiritual values above worldly wealth. Prioritizing family relationships and shared well-being over personal desires can help avoid conflict and division. Open and honest communication in discussing inheritance issues, as well as finding solutions that are fair and beneficial to all parties can help maintain harmony and avoid dispute (Sangadji, 2024). By applying these principles, Christian families can face the problem of fighting over wealth and inheritance in a constructive and loving way, in accordance with the values taught in the Bible (Nainupu & Emiyati, 2020).

5. How can the story of Abraham and Lot be an example for Christian families in building healthy, supportive relationships, despite differences in opinions and desires?

The story of Abraham and Lot, although depicting conflict, also offers a valuable example for Christian families in building healthy, supportive relationships, despite differences in opinions and desires. Even though there are disputes due to limited resources, their family relationship still takes priority. Abraham, as a more influential and richer figure, did not impose his will on Lot. On the contrary, he showed a wise and loving attitude by giving Lot the freedom to choose the territory he wanted. This shows the importance of respecting individual autonomy and choice within the family, while emphasizing the importance of open and honest communication to resolve conflict. Abraham's attitude also reflects the importance of empathy and understanding. He understands Lot's needs and tries to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties (Paramita et al., 2024). He not only focused on his own interests, but also considered the welfare of Lot and his family. Abraham's statement, "Let there be no fight between me and you, and between my shepherds and your

shepherds, for we are relatives," shows the importance of maintaining family unity and harmony. Even though there are differences of opinion and desires, family relationships still take priority. Christian families can learn from this story to build healthy, supportive relationships by prioritizing effective communication, empathy, and mutual understanding. Differences in opinions and desires are normal in a family, but it is important to find a solution that is fair and benefits all parties, always prioritizing love and family unity. By applying the principles demonstrated by Abraham, Christian families can build strong, harmonious and mutually supportive relationships, regardless of differences of opinion and desires (Widiyastuti, 2020).

Implications for Problem Solving Methods in Today's Christian Families

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17, although brief, offers profound implications for the way problems are resolved in Christian families today. The conflict between Abraham and Lot, which arose due to a struggle for resources, reveals important principles that are still relevant and much needed in modern family dynamics (Chia & Th, 2020). Differences of opinion, struggles over property, and differences in lifestyle are some of the challenges Christian families face today, and the lessons from this story can provide valuable guidance in overcoming them.

Open and Honest Communication

One of the most important lessons from this story is the importance of open and honest communication. Abraham did not avoid conflict, but he spoke directly with Lot. In the context of today's Christian families, this means creating an environment where each family member feels safe and comfortable to express their thoughts, feelings and needs without fear of being judged or ignored (Tanusaputra, 2005). Open and honest communication allows each family member to understand each other's perspectives and find solutions together. Without effective communication, small conflicts can develop into major disputes that damage family harmony.

Empathy and Understanding

Abraham's attitude in giving Lot the first choice in choosing a territory shows deep empathy and understanding. He did not impose his will, but took into account Lot's needs and desires (Simanjuntak, 2021). In today's Christian family, empathy means seeking to understand each family member's perspective and feelings, even if we don't always agree with them. By putting ourselves in other people's shoes, we can build bridges and find solutions that are acceptable to all parties. Empathy helps build mutual trust and respect within the family (Lickona, 2022).

Sacrifice and Willingness to Surrender

Abraham demonstrated a willingness to give in to maintain family unity. He chose to move to another area, even though he had the right to choose first because of his wealth. In today's Christian families, this means a willingness to sacrifice personal desires for the welfare of the family as a whole (Kuncahyono, 2011). This does not mean always giving in, but rather a wise and loving attitude in finding solutions that benefit all parties. Sacrifice shows love and commitment to family.

Respect Differences

Abraham and Lot had differences in their choice of residence. Abraham chose a more remote place, while Lot chose a more fertile place but close to Sodom. This story shows that differences in opinions and life choices are normal in a family. It is important to respect these differences and not impose personal views or values on other family members. Respecting differences can create an inclusive and tolerant environment in the family (Tridonanto, 2014).

Keeping the Family Association

Abraham emphasized the importance of maintaining family unity by saying, "Let there be no fighting between me and you, or between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we are relatives." This statement shows that family relationships are more important than possessions or resources. In today's Christian families, maintaining family unity means

prioritizing love, supporting each other, and maintaining harmonious relationships between family members (Harianto, 2021b). Conflicts must be resolved in a way that is constructive and does not damage family ties. By applying the principles learned from the story of Abraham and Lot, today's Christian families can face various challenges and conflicts in a way that is wise, loving, and in accordance with Biblical values (Hendrawan, 2024). Open communication, empathy, sacrifice, respect for differences, and maintaining family unity are the keys to building healthy, harmonious, and mutually supportive relationships in Christian families (Kharisma & Prihanto, 2024).

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, this article concludes the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 with the aim of exploring the dynamics of the relationship between two important figures in the Bible and how conflict can arise in a family context. The author wants to show that conflict often arises from differences in interests and incompatible ambitions. In this story, both Abraham and Lot had great wealth, but limited space caused discord between them. Through the depiction of this conflict, the author wants to invite readers to reflect on the root causes of discord in their own families, such as greed, lack of communication, and the inability to share.

Additionally, the author underscores the value of sacrifice, as demonstrated by Abraham when he gave Lot first choice in determining which land to settle. This action reflects an attitude of putting other people's interests first, which can help create harmony in family relationships.

By presenting this story, the author hopes that readers not only understand the importance of preventing conflict but also learn to identify early signs of tension that may arise in their relationships. Thus, this article not only educates but also provides practical guidance for creating a more harmonious and mutually supportive family environment (Berasa et al., 2024).

SUGGESTION

The story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 13:1-17 teaches the importance of humility, sacrifice, and communication in resolving family conflicts. Relevant values in today's Christian family to overcome differences with love and understanding

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