

FATHER ABRAHAM

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 April-June Sermon Series Study Guide

Genesis 14:17-24 (NIV)

17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

20

And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your
hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.”

Abram and Melchizedek

OPEN

- When have you felt honored recently?
- Prepare for this passage by skimming Genesis 14:1-16. How does Abram defeat the four kings in verses 13-16? What is remarkable about his victory?
- Read Genesis 14:17-24.

STUDY

- What new characters do we meet in this section and what do we know about them?
- What does Melchizedek do and why? What does he know about God?
- The New Testament author of the book of Hebrews describes Melchizedek prefiguring Christ as an eternal king-priest of righteousness and peace (see Hebrews 7). What stands out to you about this mysterious figure?
- Why was it significant for Abram to give a tenth (tithe) of the spoils to Melchizedek?
- How does Abram honor God in verses 22-24? How does he honor the men who went with him into battle?
- What does this say about Abram's character and his relationship to God?
- How can you honor God by blessing someone else with your words or your wealth this week? How will you do it?

PRAY

- Pray together as the Holy Spirit leads!