



Following God

The Life of Abraham

... coming to Him, and
teaching them.

14 *As He passed by, He
saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus
at the tax booth, and He
said to him, **“*c*Follow Me!”** And
Levi rose and followed Him.

15 And it *happened that
He was reclining *at the table*
in His house, and many tax
collectors and sinners were dining
with Him and His disciples, for



5 things I
admire (and can
learn from)
about Abraham.



So far. . .

- Don't stop half-way.
- God wants to bless your socks off!
- We are blessed to be blessing.
- In this world you will have trouble.
- More often than not we face life in a quandary. — Swindoll
- The Bible's view on money is. . .
medium



So Abram went up
from Egypt to the
Negev, with his
wife and everything
he had, and Lot
went with him.



Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. 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 and where he had first built an altar.



There Abram called
on the name of the
LORD. Now Lot,
who was moving
about with Abram,
also had flocks and
herds and tents.



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.



And quarreling arose
between Abram's
herdsmen and the
herdsmen of Lot. The
Canaanites and
Perizzites were also
living in the land at
that time.



So Abram said to Lot,
“Let's not have any
quarreling between
you and me, or
between your
herdsmen and mine,
for we are brothers.



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."



Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar.



(This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:



Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.
Genesis 13:1-13 (NIV)



#1 Abraham
made a
prioritized
people over
possessions.



So Abram said to Lot,
“Let's not have any
quarreling between
you and me, or
between your
herdsmen and mine,
for we are brothers.



1887

Will and A

of me, John
ment



#2

Abraham
dealt with
stuff.



Is not the whole
land before you?
Let's part company.
If you go to the left,
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Proactive



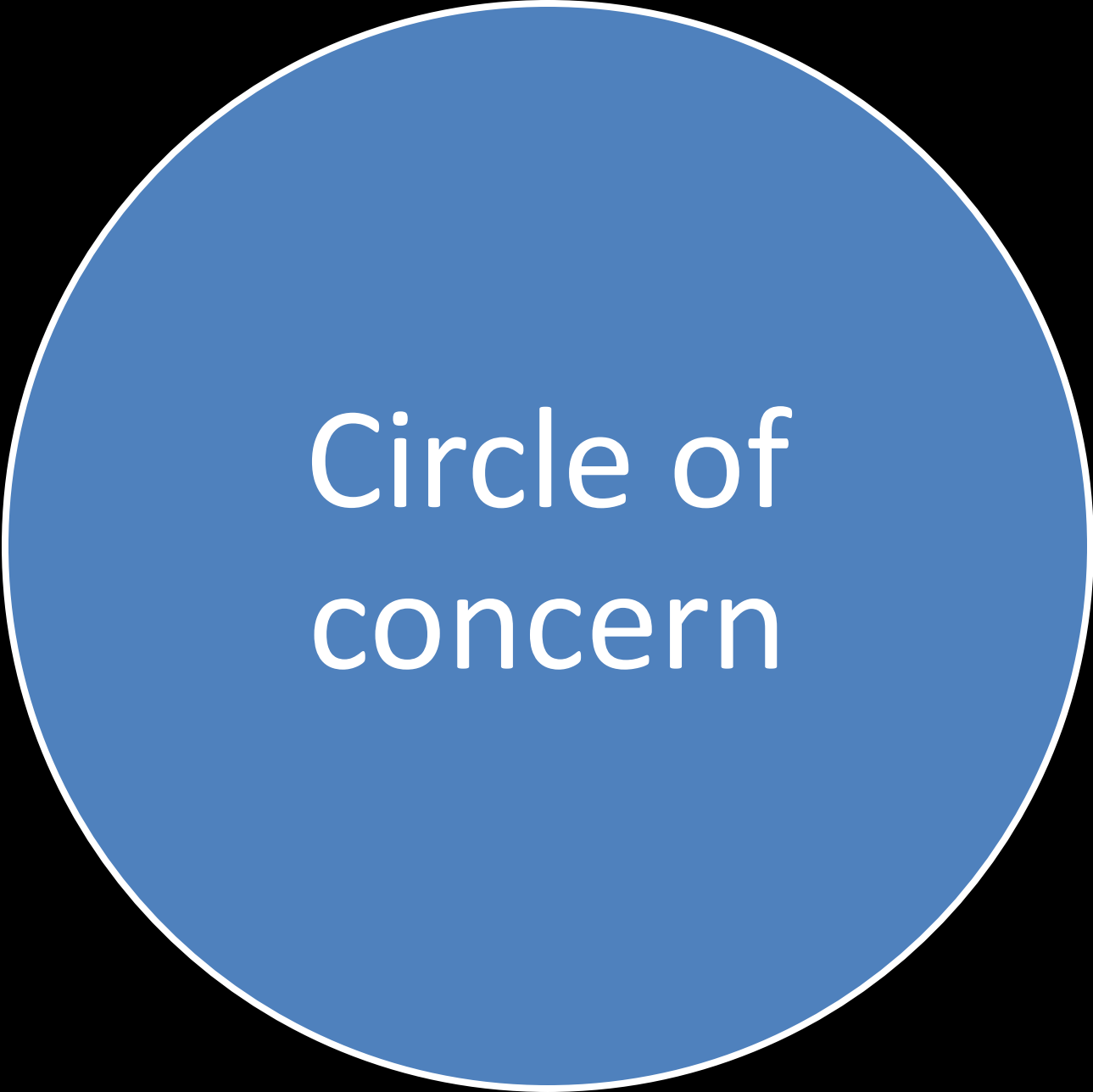
Reactive Language

- There's nothing I can do.
- That's just the way I am.
- He makes me so mad.
- They won't allow that.
- I have to do that.
- I can't.
- I must.
- If only.



Proactive Language

- Let's look at our alternatives.
- I can choose a different approach.
- I control my own feelings.
- I can create an effective presentation.
- I will choose an appropriate response.
- I choose.
- I prefer.
- I will.



Circle of
concern

Circle of concern

Circle of
control

The diagram consists of two concentric circles. The outer circle is larger and contains the text 'Circle of concern'. The inner circle is smaller and contains the text 'Circle of control'. Both circles are filled with a solid blue color and have a white outline. The text is centered within each circle.

Circle of concern

Circle of control



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."



#3 Abraham
came up
with a
shrewd
solution.



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."



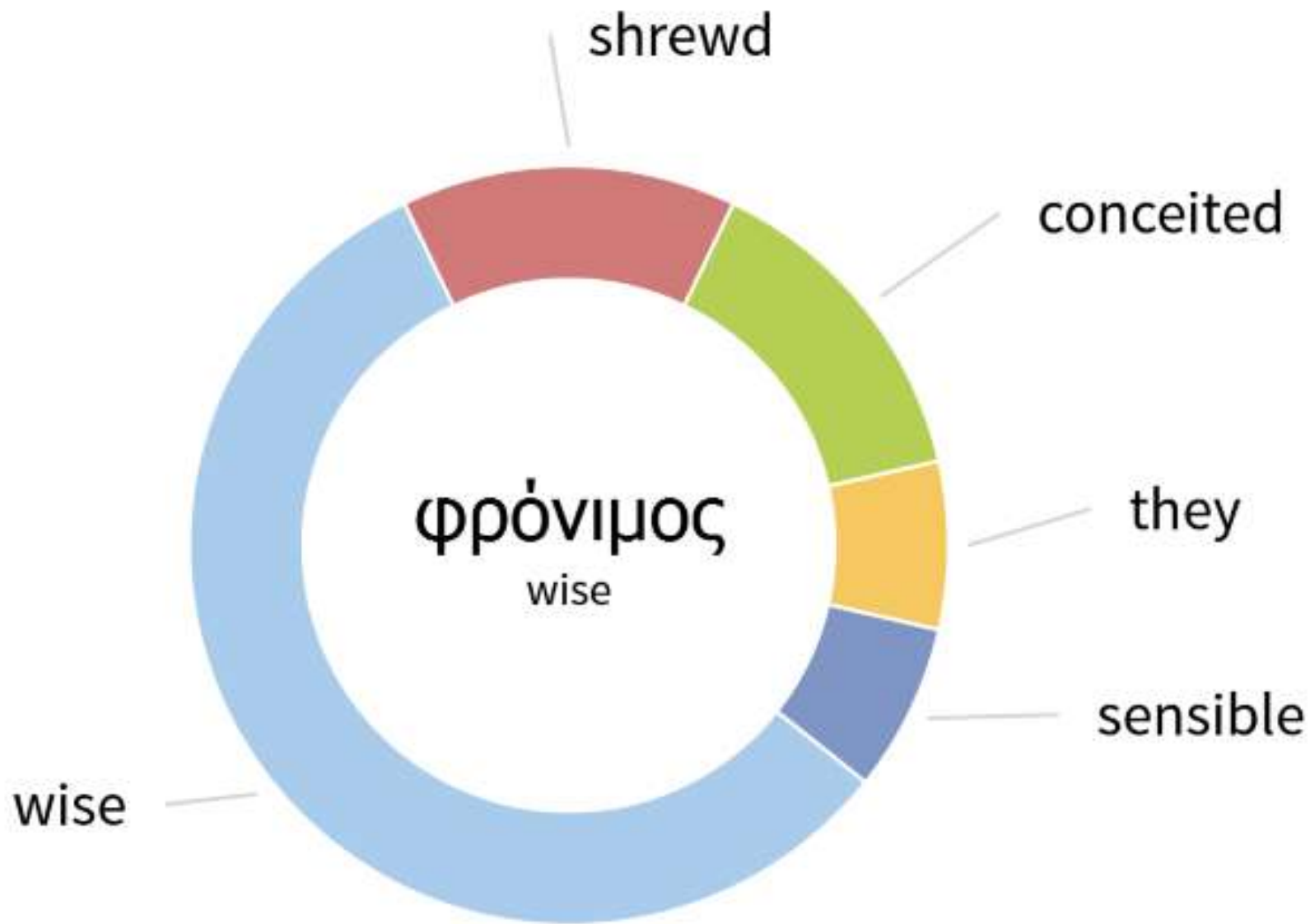
I am sending you out
like sheep among
wolves. Therefore be
as shrewd as snakes
and as innocent as
doves.

Matthew 10:16 (NIV)



I am sending you out
like sheep among
wolves. Therefore be
as shrewd as snakes
and as innocent as
doves.

Matthew 10:16 (NIV)





Matthew 25:6–9 (NIV)

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’



7 “Then all the virgins
woke up and trimmed
their lamps. 8 The
foolish ones said to
the wise, ‘Give us
some of your oil; our
lamps are going out.’



9 “ ‘No,’ they replied,
‘there may not be
enough for both us
and you. Instead, go
to those who sell oil
and buy some for
yourselves.’



The master commended
the dishonest manager
because he had acted
shrewdly. For the people
of this world are more
shrewd in dealing with
their own kind than are
the people of the light.
Luke 16:8 (NIV)



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Trying hard
to get along
is rarely the
solution.



#4 Abraham
understood
the concept of
boundaries.

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HOW TO SAY NO
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DR. HENRY CLOUD & DR. JOHN TOWNSEND





#5

Abraham
let others
pick first.



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)