



SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Genesis 18:16-21: When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week’s “Vacation” spot takes us to Sodom and Gomorrah, two wickedly sinful cities. When God met with Abraham, He revealed two things to him: 1. Abraham would have a son, and 2. God was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham’s decision to follow God led to the development of the nation that God would eventually use to send His Son Jesus into the world. God’s promise was fulfilled and through Abraham’s lineage, the whole world has been blessed. This is a great example that the decisions we make determine the direction of our lives. By prioritizing God, that is, putting Him at the forefront of our thoughts and activities, we can gain His perspective and be blessed by His provision.

Read Genesis 18:1-15:

1A) Describe the Lord’s plan for Abraham and Sarah, and Sarah’s reaction. What poignant remark does God make in verse 14?

1B) PERSONAL: Given Sarah’s age and difficulty conceiving, what are your thoughts about her reaction?

1C) PERSONAL: Ponder a seemingly insurmountable situation in your life. Insert it into the following question:

Is _____ too hard for you, Lord?
Knowing His answer to this question, how does this effect your trust in Him when you pray for a positive outcome?

Read Genesis 18:16-33:

2A) Briefly explain the bargaining that takes place between Abraham and God, and the final number settled on.

2B) PERSONAL: What do you learn about God from their exchange?

3) PERSONAL: We get a glimpse at how deeply sin was entangled in the people of Sodom in Genesis 19:1-9. Lot showed moments of redemption as he tried to save the angels from the crowd. In the midst of current day evils, there is a lot of good going on as well. List some virtuous current events you have witnessed or heard about.

Read Genesis 19:15-17:

4A) Write out the angels' actions and commands in these verses.

4B) PERSONAL: The Lord showed great mercy on Lot because Abraham requested it. What are your thoughts about the following statement? A righteous person can often affect others for good, therefore pray for others to be saved.

Read Genesis 19:24-26:

5A) Describe the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

5B) PERSONAL: Lot's wife looked back at the burning city to her detriment. Are you holding onto pieces of your sinful nature that are preventing you from moving forward with God's design for your life? Write out a prayer asking God to help you let go without a backward glance.

6) How do the following verses about loving God, doing God's will, and making God a priority in your life impact your faith?

Romans 12:2

Luke 12:34

Matthew 22:37-38

Colossians 1:16-17

7) PERSONAL: What is your take-away from our journey to Sodom and Gomorrah in-regards-to understanding God's anger toward sin and His mercy and patience when we sin?

ACT: God's objective has always been for His people to have a relationship with Him, but the choices we make determine the paths our lives take. God wants us to live abundant lives and He will bring good to us when we trust Him and keep our eyes on Him. When we keep making decisions that God doesn't want us to, He will try to bring us back to Him. So we need to: "Make" God first, "Seek" God first, and "Watch" God do something great.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week read about the rewards that come to us when we seek God and make him a priority in our lives.

Monday:

Matthew 6:33 NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Tuesday:

Deuteronomy 4:29 NIV

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Wednesday:

Psalms 14:2 NIV

The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

Thursday:

Acts 17:27-28 NIV

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Friday:

Hebrews 11:6 NIV

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Saturday:

2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Sunday:

Matthew 7:7-8 NIV

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

