

Bible Stories for Adults

Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18 - 21

Opening

Gathering: Tell of a choice you made that appeared right at the time, but turned out to be wrong.

Today's Focus: To recognize God's desire to protect us during our daily lives and to save us from the punishment we deserve.

Key Verses: *This is my prayer: that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.* Philippians 1:9-10

"Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked?" declares the Sovereign LORD.

"Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" Ezekiel 18:23

If He rescued Lot, a righteous man who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials. 2 Peter 2:7-9

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Uncle Abe (Genesis 11:31-13:5)

Who was Lot and how was he related to Abram?

Genesis 11:31

Why does Lot play a big part of the story of Abram?

Genesis 12:1, 4

Why did Lot go with Abram instead of staying home in Haran?

Genesis 11:28

How did God bless Abram during his first years in Canaan and Egypt?

Genesis 13:1-2

What was a big part of God's purpose in blessing Abram?

Genesis 12:2

Was Lot blessed by being with Abram in Canaan and Egypt?

Genesis 13:5

Separate Ways (Genesis 13:6-13)

What caused Lot to separate from Abram?

Genesis 13:6-9

Abram trusted God to provide when he gave Lot the choice. Did Lot trust God in choosing?

Genesis 13:10-11

How can Lot's choice be a sign of a weak faith?

Proverbs 16:2, 25

How did Lot's choice seriously challenge the faith he had?

Genesis 13:12-13

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Uncle Abe to the Rescue (*Genesis 14*)

What happened to Lot while he was living near Sodom?

Genesis 14:3, 10-12

How was Lot and his family saved from lives of slavery?

Genesis 14:14-16

How was God involved in this story?

Genesis 14:18-20

God's Business (*Genesis 18:1-21*)

Why did God visit Abraham when he was 99 years old?

Genesis 18:10-11

How did God appear to Abraham during this visit?

Genesis 18:1-3

Did God have any other places to go during this visit to earth in human form?

Genesis 18:16

Why was God going to Sodom?

Genesis 18:20-21

Why did God tell Abraham His plans?

Genesis 18:17-19

Abraham Negotiates (*Genesis 18:22-33*)

Did God leave Abraham immediately after speaking of His judgment?

Genesis 18:22

What did Abraham think about God judging the city where his nephew lived?

Genesis 18:23-25

How did God respond to Abraham's bold request?

Genesis 18:26

How did Abraham speak even more boldly with the Almighty Creator?

Genesis 18:27-28

How did God further show His patience with Abraham?

Genesis 18:29

Did this satisfy Abraham?

Genesis 18:30

Did Abraham's boldness in trying to negotiate with God upset Him?

Genesis 18:31

To what extent did God show His love to Abraham?

Genesis 18:32-33

Note: Lot's family was at least 6 - Lot, his wife, 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law (betrothed, not married)

Lot had a household of servants when he left Abraham

Abraham likely felt that Lot would be protected at 10

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Men of Sodom (*Genesis 19:1-9*)

Was Lot just living near Sodom, or had he become a citizen of the city?

Genesis 19:1

Did Lot show any of the hospitality of his uncle Abraham?

Genesis 19:2-3

How many days did the angels spend in Sodom before its evil was revealed?

Genesis 19:4-5

How did Lot show his sacrificial service to these men of God?

Genesis 19:6-8

Being a city leader, was Lot able to reason with the men?

Genesis 19:9

Guardian Angels (*Genesis 19:10-22*)

How did Lot find out that his two visitors were more than just men?

Genesis 19:10-11

Besides saving Lot from the men, how else did the angels protect Lot?

Genesis 19:12-13

How difficult was it for Lot to get his family safely out of Sodom?

Genesis 19:14-15

Where is Lot's great wealth and servants?

How did the angels intervene again to save Lot and his family?

Genesis 19:16-17

What last way did the angels protect Lot and his family?

Genesis 19:18-22

God Destroys Sodom & Gomorrah (*Genesis 19:23-29*)

How far out of town was Lot when God began destroying the cities?

Genesis 19:23-25

Did all of Lot's family make it to Zoar in time?

Genesis 19:26

Had God saved Lot and his daughters because they were righteous?

Genesis 19:27-29

Edersheim - *The Dead Sea basin was examined and found to consist of two lakes: one 1300 ft deep and the other 13 ft deep. The shallow lake is likely the site of Sodom & Gomorrah, which were likely on the shore of the deep sweet-water lake. The chemical composition of the Dead Sea points to volcanic activity that may have destroyed, then submerged the area.*

Moabites and Ammonites (*Genesis 19:30-28*)

Did Lot stay in Zoar or did he go back to his uncle Abraham?

Genesis 19:30

What problem did Lot's daughters have where they took matters into their own hands?

Genesis 19:31-32

How did Lot react to their plan?

Genesis 19:33-36

Why was this story important enough to be included in the Bible?

Genesis 19:37-38

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Abraham's Trust (*Genesis 20*)

- Had Abraham always exhibited a stronger faith and trust in God than Lot?
Genesis 12:11-13
- Did Abraham learn to better trust in God after years of closeness with God?
Genesis 20:1-2
- How did this lack of trust especially threaten God's plan?
Genesis 18:10a
- How did God protect His plan despite Abraham's careless distrust?
Genesis 20:3-7
- How did Abimelech respond to God's command?
Genesis 20:8-10
- Why did Abraham lie to Abimelech?
Genesis 20:11-13

Blessed to be a Blessing (*Genesis 20:14-18; 21:22-24*)

- How did God bless Abraham in this incident despite his lack of trust?
Genesis 20:14-16
- How did God allow Abraham to be a blessing to Abimelech?
Genesis 20:17-18
- How do we see that God began to make Abraham into a great nation and make his name great?
Genesis 21:22-24

Abraham and Abimelech - Again (*Genesis 21:25-34*)

- How was Abraham's view of Abimelech confirmed as a man of honor with a true fear of God?
Genesis 21:25-26
- What type of treaty did the two likely make?
Genesis 21:27
- What was done to help each other remember the treaty?
Genesis 21:28-31
- What did Abraham do to thank God for blessing him with greatness so that he could be a blessing?
Genesis 21:32-33
- Did Abraham return to the land of Canaan that God had promised to give to his descendants?
Genesis 21:34

Closing Prayer

Response

1. Do I look for God's will in the decisions of my life? (*Genesis 13:8-13; 1 Kings 3:9-12; Psalm 119:133; Jeremiah 10:23; Luke 22:42; James 4:13-15; 1 John 2:17*)
2. Would God count me among the righteous in my community?
(*Genesis 5:24; 6:8-9; 18:22-32; Job 1:8; Ezekiel 14:12-20; Luke 1:5-6; James 2:14-26*)
3. How would I treat God's angels if they came to me?
(*Genesis 18:1-8; 19:1-8; Judges 6:11-13; 13:2-23; Hebrews 13:2*)
4. Do I obey God in the simple and seemingly minor instructions He gives?
(*Genesis 19:17, 23-26; 1 Samuel 13:5-14; Luke 16:10-12; James 2:10*)
5. Do I trust God for protection, or would I lie to save my skin?
(*Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18; Proverbs 12:22; Nahum 1:7; John 14:1*)