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 = Son of Haran, Grandson of Terah, Nephew of Abram

Why does Lot play a big part of the story of Abram?
Genesis 12:1, 4 = He went with Abram to Canaan when God called Abram

Why did Lot go with Abram instead of staying home in Haran?
Genesis 11:28 = His father Haran had died, Abram took him under his wing

How did God bless Abram during his first years in Canaan and Egypt?
Genesis 13:1-2 = With great wealth in livestock, silver and gold

What was a big part of God’s purpose in blessing Abram?
Genesis 12:2 = Blessed to be a blessing

Was Lot blessed by being with Abram in Canaan and Egypt?
Genesis 13:5 = Yes, he also became very wealthy

Separate Ways  (Genesis 13:6-13)

What caused Lot to separate from Abram?
Genesis 13:6-9 = Conflicts between herdsmen of large flocks and herds

Abram trusted God to provide when he gave Lot the choice. Did Lot trust God in choosing?
Genesis 13:10-11 = He picked what was appealing to his eyes

How can Lot’s choice be a sign of a weak faith? = We need to look for God’s guidance in what is right
Proverbs 16:2, 25 = What seems right to a man is not necessarily right to God

How did Lot’s choice seriously challenge the faith he had?
Genesis 13:12-13 = He lived with the most evil and faithless men of the time
Uncle Abe to the Rescue  *(Genesis 14)*

What happened to Lot while he was living near Sodom?
  Genesis 14:3, 10-12  =  He & his family were captured in a battle by the Elamites
How was Lot and his family saved from lives of slavery?
  Genesis 14:14-16  =  Abram and his trained men rescued them
How was God involved in this story?
  Genesis 14:18-20  =  He gave Abram and his few men the victory over four armies

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

Why did God visit Abraham when he was 99 years old?
  Genesis 18:10-11  =  To announce the coming of the promised covenant child, Isaac
How did God appear to Abraham during this visit?  =  Do we recognize God in others?
  Genesis 18:1-3  =  Abraham recognized Him among 3 visitors standing outside his tent
Did God have any other places to go during this visit to earth in human form?
  Genesis 18:16  =  They were going to Sodom
Why was God going to Sodom?
  Genesis 18:20-21  =  To verify the wickedness of Sodom & Gomorrah
Why did God tell Abraham His plans?
  Genesis 18:17-19  =  God likes to reveal His purposes to His chosen faithful

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

Did God leave Abraham immediately after speaking of His judgment?
  Genesis 18:22  =  No, the two angels left, but God stayed for Abraham's sake
What did Abraham think about God judging the city where his nephew lived?
  Genesis 18:23-25  =  He asked God for mercy for the sake of 50 righteous
How did God respond to Abraham's bold request?  =  2nd time Abraham defends his nephew & Sodom
  Genesis 18:26  =  He accepted Abraham's request out of grace
How did Abraham speak even more boldly with the Almighty Creator?
  Genesis 18:27-28  =  He negotiated for 45 righteous
How did God further show His patience with Abraham?
  Genesis 18:29  =  He accepted Abraham's further request for 40
Did this satisfy Abraham?
  Genesis 18:30  =  No, he negotiated further for 30

Did Abraham's boldness in trying to negotiate with God upset Him?
  Genesis 18:31  =  No, He lovingly listened to Abraham's request and graciously granted it
To what extent did God show His love to Abraham?
  Genesis 18:32-33  =  He agreed to save this most wicked city for the sake of 10 righteous

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 = He was even a city ruler - City rulers sat in the gate to judge / govern
Did Lot show any of the hospitality of his uncle Abraham?
   Genesis 19:2-3 = Yes, he urged them to stay with him and he fed them
How many days did the angels spend in Sodom before its evil was revealed?
   Genesis 19:4-5 = That very night - All the men from every part of the city
How did Lot show his sacrificial service to these men of God?  = Replace one wrong with another
   Genesis 19:6-8 = Offered his own daughters in order to protect the men
Being a city leader, was Lot able to reason with the men?
   Genesis 19:9 = No, they turned on him and called him an outsider

Guardian Angels  (Genesis 19:10-22)

How did Lot find out that his two visitors were more than just men?
   Genesis 19:10-11 = They protected Lot and blinded the men of Sodom
Besides saving Lot from the men, how else did the angels protect Lot?
   Genesis 19:12-13 = They warned him of impending destruction and told him to leave
How difficult was it for Lot to get his family safely out of Sodom?  = Didn't want to leave it all behind
   Genesis 19:14-15 = Sons-in-law refused to go, Lot & family still around at daylight
   Where is Lot's great wealth and servants?  = Lost in evil Sodom away from God's blessing?
How did the angels intervene again to save Lot and his family?  = Lot resisted God's saving grace
   Genesis 19:16-17 = They led them safely out of the city and gave instructions
What last way did the angels protect Lot and his family?
   Genesis 19:18-22 = Allowed them to reach protection in Zoar instead of distant mountains

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

How far out of town was Lot when God began destroying the cities?  = whole plain wiped clean
   Genesis 19:23-25 = God waited until Lot reached Zoar - God destroyed, not the angels
Did all of Lot's family make it to Zoar in time?
   Genesis 19:26 = Yes, but his wife looked back longingly disobeying the warning by the angels
Had God saved Lot and his daughters because they were righteous?
   Genesis 19:27-29 = No. He did it for the sake of Abraham
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 = Neither, he and his daughters moved to a cave in the mountains
What problem did Lot's daughters have where they took matters into their own hands?
   Genesis 19:31-32 = There were no men around to give them families
How did Lot react to their plan?
   Genesis 19:33-36 = He didn't learn about it until after it happened
Why was this story important enough to be included in the Bible?
   Genesis 19:37-38 = The children of this incest were ancestors to Moabites and Ammonites

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Abraham’s Trust  (Genesis 20)

Had Abraham always exhibited a stronger faith and trust in God than Lot?
Genesis 12:11-13  =  No, he had not trusted God to protect him and Sarah in Egypt
Did Abraham learn to better trust in God after years of closeness with God?  =  Sarah was 89-90
Genesis 20:1-2  =  No, he took the same approach when he moved to Gerar (Philistia)
How did this lack of trust especially threaten God’s plan?  =  Isaac to be Abraham’s son, not Abimelech’s
Genesis 18:10a  =  God had promised the birth of Abraham’s covenant child within a year
How did God protect His plan despite Abraham’s careless distrust?  =  Abe is first to be called a prophet
Genesis 20:3-7  =  Kept Abimelech from touching her, Told Abimelech to return her
How did Abimelech respond to God’s command?
Genesis 20:8-10  =  He addressed the problem with Abraham immediately in the morning
Why did Abraham lie to Abimelech?  =  Not a full lie since she was his half-sister - Still a lie
Genesis 20:11-13  =  He was afraid that God would not protect him in this place

Blessed to be a Blessing  (Genesis 20:14-18; 21:22-24)  =  Will cover 21:1-20 next week

How did God bless Abraham in this incident despite his lack of trust?  =  Right to live anywhere in land
Genesis 20:14-16  =  Abimelech gave Abe and Sarah lots of sheep, cattle, slaves and money
How did God allow Abraham to be a blessing to Abimelech?
Genesis 20:17-18  =  Abraham prayed for Abimelech, God healed his household from infertility
How do we see that God began to make Abraham into a great nation and make his name great?
Genesis 21:22-24  =  Abimelech found the need to make a treaty with Abraham

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  =  Abimelech apologized for a well being taken that he didn’t know about
What type of treaty did the two likely make?  =  See last week  (Genesis 15)
Genesis 21:27  =  A blood covenant involved sacrificing large animals and gifting to each other
What was done to help each other remember the treaty?  =  Beersheba means well of the oath
Genesis 21:28-31  =  Abraham gave lambs to Abimelech as witnesses
What did Abraham do to thank God for blessing him with greatness so that he could be a blessing?
Genesis 21:32-33  =  Planted a tree in the desert and worshipped God
Did Abraham return to the land of Canaan that God had promised to give to his descendants?
Genesis 21:34  =  No, he stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time

Closing Prayer

Response

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)
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)