

GENESIS 18-19 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE SEVERITY AND KINDNESS OF GOD - ([SERMON MP3](#))

As a result of Abraham's intercession, God agrees to spare the city of Sodom if 10 righteous people are found. Though this number proves to be too high, the concept raises some interesting questions.

- *To what extent do the righteous preserve an entire community?*
- *Summarize the preserving effect of believers in the following accounts (Genesis 50:20-21; 1Samuel 25:1-35; Acts 27:33-44).*
- *Do you think God bases his dealings with a people or nation primarily on the misdeeds of the unrighteous or on the deeds of the righteous and why?*

In Genesis 18:23-25 what is the basis for Abraham's bold pleading on behalf of Sodom?

- *Is God's just character good news or bad news? Explain your answer.*
- *How does Abraham's pleading on behalf of corrupt Sodom for a model for our own attitude toward the godless and sinful that we meet?*
- *Do you think your prayers can change God's mind? Why or why not?*
- *For whom can you intercede as Abraham did?*

What does the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah teach you about God's attitude toward sin? Does God still punish sin today? If so, how?

Lot's decision to live in Sodom, surrounded by depravity, put him in a terrible dilemma – whether to protect his guests or his family. How can the effects of sin complicate life and put people in compromising situations today? Think of an example to share with the group.

Why do you think Lot was so hesitant to leave Sodom? How did the angels finally get him to leave the city?

- *How far is God willing to go to persuade you to leave your sinful life behind?*
- *In what ways has God shown you his grace against your will?*
- *Have you had times where you acted like Lot's wife looking back on your old sin-filled life with longings for particular things? Have you had times where you wished you didn't have to leave it behind? How does that attitude affect your relationship with God.*

What attitudes toward God, people, and self does Abraham express in (Genesis 18:23-33)? What can we learn from them?

- *God*
- *People*
- *Self*

Contrast Abraham’s effect on events with Lot’s inability to influence people. How were the two men different? Is there a lesson for us here?

Abraham’s effect (18:32; 19:29)	Lot’s inability to influence (19:6-9, 14, 26)

Observe what happened to parenthood and the status of women even in a somewhat “righteous” family (Genesis 19:8, 30-38).

- *How does this happen? What is the solution?*
- *How do you process what Peter says about Lot in (2Peter 2:7-8)?*
- *One commentator called Lot “the righteous man without the pilgrim spirit.” How many people are like that? Yes, they are believers, but they also want to have their part in the world. How does (1John 2:15-16) speak to this situation?*

There is an interesting parallel to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Judges 19-21. The sin of Sodom had become the sin of Israel. Sodom and Gomorrah become a biblical symbol for the wrath of God (Deuteronomy 29:23; Zephaniah 2:9; Isaiah 13:19; Matthew 10:15; 2Peter 2:6; Jude 7).

- *What is the uniform teaching of Scripture across different cultures and millennia, regarding the sexual sins of the Sodomites in Genesis 19? See (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:18-27; 1Corinthians 6:9-11; 1Timothy 1:8-10) for additional insight.*
- *How are we supposed to respond to those who practice this lifestyle?*
- *How can Christ solve the problem of bent sexuality in its various forms (1Corinthians 6:9-11)?*
- *What were the other sins of Sodom which also contributed to their judgment according to (Ezekiel 16:49-50; Isaiah 1:10, 17; Jeremiah 23:14)?*

Trace the steps of digression in Lot’s life since leaving Abraham. What does he do or experience in each of the following passages? What does he show about his faith and character? What should we learn? What do you think about (1Corinthians 15:33) in relation to Lot?

Stage of Life in Lot’s Digression	Impact, Example, Lesson, Summary
(Gen. 13:12-13)	
(Gen. 14:11-12,16)	
(Gen. 19:1-2)	
(Gen. 19:8)	
(Gen. 19:15-16)	
(Gen. 19:18-20)	
(Gen. 19:30)	
(Gen. 19:33, 35)	

What moral does the fate of Lot’s wife teach (Genesis 19:17, 26)? See (Luke 17:31-33) for additional insight.

What has God revealed about His nature and values through the way He dealt with Abraham, Sodom, and Lot in (Genesis 18:16-19:29)?

- *What can we learn about God from this section?*
- *What is the most significant truth you learned from this passage about God or what He desires for His people?*

What application steps can you take this week based on what you studied? What do you need to know, believe, or do in response to this truth? Be prepared to share some action steps with your study group.

Who can we intercede for as a study group? Who would you like to see delivered, spared, saved or rescued from the wrath of God? List name(s) below.