

“Basic Bible Stories – Sodom and Gomorrah”  
*Genesis 13-14;18-19*

*Open: Story*

- An increase of blessings became a point of contention between Lot and Abram. **Gen. 13**
  - **NOTE:** Recognize the direct link between the physical blessings from God and having a personal relationship with God. **Gen. 13:1-4**
  - We find the personal conflict between those who have a personal relationship with God and those who do not. **Gen. 13:5-7**
  - We find the conflict being resolved by the one(s) who have a personal relationship with God. **Gen. 13:8-9**
    - Abram was seeking a peaceful solution; he was not trying to get rid of a potential problem.
    - Lot failed to see the third option; to develop a relationship with God and learning how to live with peaceably with others.
    - Lot’s decision only goes to show the wisdom of Abram and the carnality of Lot.
  - We discover the wisdom of making wise decisions being directly related to one’s personal relationship with God. **Gen. 13:10-18**
    - Lot’s carnal wisdom caused him future problems. **vs. 10-11**
    - Abram’s faith brought him protection and future prosperity. **vs. 12-18**
- **An added layer of protection to Abram, and a powerful warning to Lot. Gen. 14**
  - We find Lot being in a place of conflict, potentially unnecessarily, because of a carnal decision. **Gen. 14:1-12**
    - If Lot had made a wise decision, he may have been able to keep himself and his family from this time of great difficulty.
    - Lot did not learn from this difficult time and continued to dwell in a place outside of God’s protection.
  - We find Abram being used of God to defeat an enemy of God. **Gen. 14:13-16**
    - Abram was prepared for conflict.
    - Abram pursued the enemy till victory was attained.
  - We find Abram remaining dependent on God after a time of great victory. **Gen. 14:17-24**
    - Abram did not elevate himself after a victory. – *“Don’t elevate yourself after a time of success, evaluate what made you successful, and repeat it.”*
    - Not only did Abram not take any personal glory for the victory, he also did not take any financial compensation. – He refused to give way for any man to take credit for what God had done and would do in his life.
- God brings to Abram’s attention the destruction of wicked cities before He destroys them. **Gen. 18**
  - God thought enough of Abram to give insight to Abram of future events. **Gen. 18:17-22**
  - Abram was close enough to God to persuade God to influence God’s decision. **Gen. 18:23-32**
  - Abram returned to what he was doing before God came to him. Abram did not allow future events to deter him from continuing on in the doing of things that God could bless. **Gen. 18:33**
- **Lot’s poor life decisions brought on unforeseen problems. Gen. 19**
  - The value of Lot’s family was diminished because of a lack of a relationship with God. **Gen. 19:1-11**
  - His family had no relationship or respect for God. **Gen. 19:12-14**
  - A desire/addiction for carnal things that exceeded life itself. **Gen. 19:15-22**
  - A complete disruption and destruction to his family structure. **Gen 19:23-26; 30-38**
    - Son in-laws killed. **vs. 16**
    - **Wife turned into a pillar of salt. vs. 26**
    - Incest in the family. **vs. 30-38**

**Tran:**

- Don't mistake prosperity in your life as God's approval of your lifestyle.
  - Lot interpreted his prosperity as God's acceptance of his lifestyle. He failed to realize his prosperity was because of his uncle's relationship with God.
- Don't trade physical prosperity for spiritual blessings.
  - Physical riches will fade away, while spiritual blessings will have a lasting effect. **Prov. 10:2-3,22** *"Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. [3] The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. [22] The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*
- **God did not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the presence of wickedness, but because of the lack of righteousness.** **II Chron. 7:14** *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*
  - Would you be numbered among the righteous?
- Don't ignore God's warning shots in your life. **ILL: Lot, Elimelech & Naomi, and Balaam.**

## **I. Lesson #1: Recognize that you do not have to trade a relationship with your family for a relationship with God; you can have both.**

- a. Draw closer to your family by drawing closer to God. **Prov. 16:6-7** *"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. [7] When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."*
  - "You cannot build a spiritual relationship on a carnal foundation."
    - i. A parent and a child who have a weak relationship with God will have a weak relationship with each other.
    - ii. A husband and wife who do not have a proper relationship with God, will not have a proper relationship with each other.
    - iii. Siblings will only be as close to each other, as they are to God.
    - iv. A leader or a follower who has a poor relationship with God will have a poor relationship with each other.
- b. **Compromise never resulted in unity.**
  - i. Carnal logic says, "If I cut out the spiritual then I can have unity with the carnal"; but God's word clearly tells us, that the only way unity between carnal man is possible is through a spiritual channel. **Ps. 86:11** *"Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."*
  - ii. Compromising the spiritual for the carnal will only lead to contention. The only way for unity to be brought about in a relationship is through a spiritual bond. **Eph. 4:2-6** *"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; [3] Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; [5] One Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*
  - iii. Unity in truth is the only way to have unity in a relationship. **Eph. 4:13-16** *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ [14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; [15] But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: [16] From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

## II. Lesson #2: Do not underestimate the importance of proper decision making.

- a. Recognize and teach the next generation that every decision has a predetermined outcome.
  - i. **Prov. 4:18-19** *“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. [19] The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”*
  - ii. **Prov. 2:13, 21-22** *“Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; [21] For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.[22] But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.”*
- b. Understand that the only way to get the desired outcome is to make the proper decision(s).
  - i. **Prov.3: 13-18** *“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. [14] For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. [15] She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. [16] Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. [17] Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. [18] She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.”*
  - ii. **Prov. 4:26-27** *“Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. [27] Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.”*
- c. Recognize and teach the next generation that the wisdom needed to make the right decisions comes only from God.
  - i. **James 1:5** *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*
  - ii. **Prov. 3:7** *“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*

### **Close:**

- Abram was blessed continually by God because he did not exchange the promises of God for carnal logic.
- Lot brought into his life many unnecessary difficulties because of his pursuit for carnal pleasures.
- Don't mistake prosperity in your life as God's approval of your lifestyle. Build your life on the truths and promises of God's Word.

## **II Cor. 5:7**

*“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”*

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### ***“Review Questions”***

1. Who found himself being protected and provided for because he trusted in the promises of God? **Abram.**
2. Who found his life and family being ruined by poor decision making? **Lot.**
3. What two cities were destroyed because of a lack of righteousness? **Sodom & Gohmorrah.**
4. Who was turned into a pillar of salt for look back at these wicked cities? **Lot's Wife.**
5. Compromise never resulted in **?????** **Unity.**