

Family Worship Guide

Week 10

Read

- **Genesis 18:16-19:29**

- **Questions**

1. In the first part of our Bible reading, the LORD told Abraham that He had decided to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The scales had tipped. Abraham pleaded with the LORD to spare the city for the sake of the righteous who lived there. In fact, his nephew Lot lived in the city of Sodom. What did Abraham ask the LORD and how did He respond?

Abraham asked the LORD if He would still destroy the cities if there were 50 righteous people there? The LORD said that He would not destroy the cities if there were 50 righteous people there. Abraham then asked, well how about 40? No. 30? No. 20? No. 10? No. The only people who believed in God in both these cities were Lot and his family. God judges nations with the "scales." When evil completely outweighs good - God brings judgment.

2. When the angels arrived in Sodom, Lot insisted that they come and stay at his house. He did not know, at first, that they were angels. Soon all the men of the city, young and old, surrounded Lot's house and wanted to hurt the men. What did Lot do?

Lot went outside to try and stop the mob from taking the men out of his house. This was a brave thing to do. But Lot then did a very evil thing. He told the mob that they could have his two special daughters, and that they could hurt them if they left the men alone. You may choose to take this opportunity to talk with your children about the fundamental sin of Sodom and Gomorrah of homosexuality. Talk with your children about God's awesome gift of marriage, and that God created sex only to be shared between one man and one woman in marriage.

3. Lot did not trust God. He had been watching and listening to the sin around him for many years. He knew God, but because He did not separate his heart from his culture, and because he continued to watch the evil around him - in this situation he acted even worse than the men of Sodom. After Lot offered the crowd his daughters, what did the angels do?

They struck the entire mob with blindness, pulled Lot back into the house, and shut the door. Even though Lot had done a terrible thing, God was

gracious to him. He showed him mercy. Then the angels commanded Lot and his family to leave the city immediately so that they would not die.

4. The angels gave Lot and his family specific instructions. Don't stop! Don't look back! But what did Lot's wife do and what happened to her? Are we ever like Lot's wife?

Lot's wife, who was behind Lot, looked back, and she was turned into a pillar of salt. God wanted Lot and his family to leave all the evil of Sodom behind them. Unfortunately, our hearts can easily love the things of this world as well. Talk openly as a family about the things in this world and in our culture that tempt your heart away from God.

Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – "He keeps His promises. He speaks to us. He cares for us."
- CONFESSION – "Confess our wrongs"
- THANKSGIVING – How has God blessed you?
- SUPPLICATION – "Do you need more faith? Ask God for it."
- Pray that we will live obediently to God's Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our EFM mission field in Bangladesh. Pray for the new believers and churches that God is planting there! Pray for the leadership! For strength and passion for the Gospel! Pray For Safety of our Missionaries!

Another option for prayer time:

- **Today in our prayer time I would like us to do "High-Low." To start, I would like to see if each person would be willing to share the high, or the best part, of your day (or week) today.**
- Encourage as many people in the family to share their high points.
- **Thank you all for sharing those things. Would someone be willing to pray and thank God and give Him praise for all the blessings that were just shared?**
- If no one is comfortable praying, you can take the lead and thank God for the "highs" that were shared.

- **Now, would someone be willing to tell us about a “low” from today or from this week? What was the worst part of your day/week?**
- It is helpful for you to go first when sharing “lows.” Listen to each person share their lows with the family.
- **Thank you all for sharing those things. It is so important for us to open our hearts to each other. Would someone be willing to pray and ask God to help us with all the things we just heard? God loves us and we can bring everything to Him.**

Memorize

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Option 1

Supplies needed: Just stuff you already have around the house.

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To get our family worship time started tonight, I need a volunteer. Have the volunteer stand up and move into a part of the room where they have some space.

Thanks for volunteering. We need you to pretend that you are an old fashioned scale. Have you ever seen one of those before? I am not talking about the kind of scale that you stand on and it tells you how much you weigh. If you are going to be an old fashioned scale, I need you to put your arms out to the sides - completely straight. Now put your palms up toward the ceiling. We are going to put different things in your hands, and it is going to be your job to tell us which side is heavier and which side is lighter.

Here is where the rest of us come in. Everyone needs to go find three different objects. Each object should be able to be held in one hand. Try not to pick anything that will break, or hurt someone if it falls. Give people some time to find their three objects.

OK, volunteer, it is time to begin. We need you to close your eyes. We are going to come up and put one object in each of your hands, and you need

to 1) guess what is in your hand and 2) tell us which object (right hand or left hand) is heavier. You can do a few rounds of this, and let different people volunteer to be the scale.

Now, we are going to do this a little differently. Stand up again, put your arms out, and close your eyes. We are going to try and pile all of our objects in one of your hands - even piling them on your arm if we have to. Let's see what happens. See if you can hold everything! As you pile the objects on one side of the "scale" eventually that arm will begin to sag and get tired. The scale will "tip" toward the weight.

The reason that we did this game is because it gives us a picture of what we will read about in the Bible. We are going to read about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and how the sin in these cities became so terrible that it outweighed any good that was there. As a result, the scales of God's judgment fell against these cities, and God destroyed them. It is a serious part of the Bible and God has a lot for us to learn.

For Teens

Talk about these questions with your teen

1. Sodom and Gomorrah are two cities that exemplify the biblical truth that when a nation's sin rises to a certain point, God brings judgment. Do you believe that God may bring judgment against America if our sins continue to increase?
2. In the city of Sodom, every man, young and old, was a part of the crowd wanting to have sexual relations with the men inside of Lot's home. The mob was also angry at Lot for "judging" them. Are Christians today accused of "judging" those struggling with homosexuality?
3. Do you know what the Bible teaches about homosexuality? Use a study Bible or go to www.biblegateway.com and find all the references in Scripture to homosexuality. Will you choose to believe what God said or what our culture says?

Specifically for young men:

4. Lot did not act like a godly man when he failed to protect his daughters, and when he failed to protect his wife. One of the true marks of a Christian man is that he protects the women in his life - his mother, sisters, and daughters. How might you grow in this important area of lovingly and sacrificially caring for and protecting the women God has put in your family?