

Discussion Guide

Week of July 13, 2014

Genesis 19

Passage Overview: Abraham's nephew, Lot, moved to Sodom with the prospect of increasing his wealth, forgetting that he was a sojourner and exile on earth. Lot was the only righteous man in Sodom, but his righteousness was unstable and overshadowed by the wickedness of the city. After he hospitably welcomes two angels to his house, he shockingly offers his daughters to satisfy the unruly mob. The angels save Lot from this danger, and the next day save him and his family from a more frightening circumstance: the wrath of God. Lot is hesitant to follow the angels, but God mercifully rescued him. Lot's wife dies as they escape, and later his daughters get him drunk and are impregnated by him. This chapter is a candid look at human depravity and the deeper grace of God.

Understanding God's Word—Read Genesis 19

- Lot, like Abraham, greets and serves the heavenly visitors. In what ways are their experiences different?
 - Read Ezekiel 16:45-50. How does this passage shed light on the situation in Sodom?
 - How do the people of Sodom respond to Lot's intervention and requests?
- Lot's sons-in-law disbelieve his warning that the city will be destroyed. What does this reveal about the spiritual life of the family?
 - How is God merciful to Lot? How does this correspond to our salvation?
 - What does this incident teach us about the nature of salvation? In particular, consider Lot's reticence to leave despite the warnings of the angels.
- Lot's wife is killed as they attempt to escape. In Luke 17:28-36, Jesus urges us to "remember Lot's wife" (v.32). What does this teach us about repentance?
 - God remembered Abraham and rescued Lot. What does this teach us about the importance of intercessory prayer?
- The Bible is a trustworthy book. Sometimes there are unsavory and gruesome events in the Bible. However, the Bible never commends the evil actions of people. What are the consequences of Lot and his daughters' sin?

Living and Applying God's Word

- Lot's sons-in-law considered his warnings a joke. How do you respond to God's warning of a future judgment?
- Lot's wife was destroyed when she looked back. Are you looking back to the world, or are you looking forward to the heavenly city?
- Jesus says that the Day of Judgment will be similar to the time judgment fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. Are you consumed by the cares of this life—career advancement, recreation, etc.?
- Lot and his daughters sinned grievously after they were rescued. Are you vigilant in your fight against sin, or are you unconcerned?

Prayer: Thank God that those who trust in Christ will not fall under judgment/condemnation, but will pass from death to life (John 5:24). Pray also for one another.

Announcements

- Midweek Fellowship (July 9, 16, 23, 30)—Dinner at 5:45; teaching from 6:30-7:30
- Baptism (Sunday, July 20; email Robert Ward)
- Starting Pointe (September 12-14)