

Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Three: Sodom & Gomorrah – Genesis 18:16-19:38

Read Genesis 18:16-33.

1) Reread Genesis 13:8-13 and 14:10-12, 21-24. What do we learn about Sodom and Gomorrah from these passages and from chapter 18?

2) From verses 17-19:

a) What reason did the Lord give for deciding to tell Abraham what He was about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah (verse 18)?

b) How does this relate to God's purpose in choosing Abraham (verse 19) and His ongoing purpose for people today? (See also Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 78:2-7; Psalm 105:1, Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:16 and Galatians 3:8.)

3) Specifically, what are you doing (or will you begin doing) to direct others to know and keep the ways of the Lord?

Read Genesis 18:22-33.

4) Recall the focus of Abraham's previous questions in Genesis 15:2, 8 and 17:17. How is the focus of the series of questions Abraham asks in Genesis 18:22-33 different from his previous concerns? What does this tell you about Abraham's spiritual growth?

- 5) Do your prayers primarily reflect the kinds of concerns Abraham had in 15:2, 8 and 17:7 or the more mature focus of 18:22-33? How might you change or expand a prayer you have recently been praying to reflect this more mature perspective?

Read Genesis 19:1-29.

- 6) Compare verses 5 and 13 with Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:18, 26-27. Summarize the teaching of these verses on homosexuality.
- 7) What was the significance of Lot's wife "looking back" (verse 26)?
- 8) Are there sins in your past (or present) you secretly relive (relish the memory of)? If so, will you confess this to the Lord now and ask Him to keep you from looking back? (You will not be asked to share about this in class unless you volunteer to do so.)

Read Genesis 19:1-29.

- 9) Compare verse 14 with Genesis 13:12-13 and 2 Peter 2:7-8. Considering Lot's character, explain why Lot's sons-in-law did not take him seriously.
- 10) a) Skim the following passages and name the occasions when God chose to completely annihilate a people group:
- Genesis 6:11-13 and 7:21-24:
- Genesis 18:20-21 and 19:24-25:
- Genesis 15:12-16 (the Amorites is a collective name for Canaanite peoples) together with Deuteronomy 7:1-2 and Joshua 11:12-15:

b) According to the verses, what is the common reason that God brought judgment in each instance?

11) To what future event does the New Testament compare the Flood in Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? See Luke 17:20-35, 2 Peter 2:5-6, Jude 1:7 and Revelation 20:11-15.

12) Apparently, not even ten righteous individuals were found in Sodom, or God wouldn't have destroyed it (Genesis 18:32). See 2 Peter 3:9 and record what you have learned about God's character from this lesson.

Read Genesis 19:1-38.

13) How were Lot's daughters' actions a reflection of the culture from which they came?

14) List all the consequences given in chapter 19 of Lot's decision to live near Sodom.

15) In light of all you have learned about Lot, how could you improve the effectiveness of your influence in your family, neighborhood, or workplace? Be as specific as possible.