

Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18-19



God answered Abraham's faithful prayer and showed mercy to Lot by rescuing him from wicked people.



The Story

Introduction:

Sally's birthday was coming up, and she knew just what she wanted. The carnival was coming to town, and she wanted to ride on the Ferris wheel. Sally talked to her dad, and told him what she wanted.

But when Sally's birthday came, she wasn't at the carnival. Instead, she was on an airplane, heading to Florida. She was going to Disney World with her mom and dad! She didn't get to go to the carnival, but she got something better!

Our parents don't always give us what we ask for. But God always answers our prayers. Sometimes He has to say no, because we want something that would hurt us. Sometimes He gives us exactly what we asked for. And sometimes He gives us something even better.

Sodom & Gomorrah

The Lord and the two angels left Abraham's home and started walking toward the city of Sodom. Abraham went along with them.

The Lord said to Abraham, "I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are doing terrible sins. I will go there now and see if they are as evil as I have heard."

The two angels continued walking toward Sodom, but the Lord stayed with Abraham. Now, Abraham knew that the Lord planned to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. But his nephew Lot lived in the city of Sodom, and Abraham didn't want Lot and his family to be destroyed. So Abraham spoke boldly to the Lord. "Are you going to destroy the good people along with the evil ones? Suppose there are 50 believers in the city. You don't want to destroy the good people along with the evil ones. You are the Judge of all the earth. You always do what is right."

The Lord answered, "If I find 50

believers in Sodom, I will not destroy the city."

Then Abraham spoke again to the Lord, "I know that I am not worthy to ask this of You, Lord, but suppose there are only 45 believers in Sodom? Will you destroy the whole city because there were just five fewer than 50 believers?"

Again the Lord answered, "If I find 45 believers in Sodom, I will not destroy the city."

Abraham went from 45 to 40 to 30 to 20. Finally, Abraham said, "Lord, do not be angry with me if I ask one more time. Suppose there are 10 believers in Sodom?"

And the Lord answered, "I will not destroy Sodom if there are 10 believers there."

Then the Lord went on His way, and Abraham went back home.

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting at the gate of the city. When Lot saw them, he begged them to spend the night at his house. He made a feast for them to eat. Before they went to bed that night, the men of the city surrounded Lot's house. They knew that Lot had two guests at his house. They called to Lot, and told him to send the guests out of the house. Those wicked men wanted to hurt the two "men". They wanted to do very wicked things to them.

Lot didn't want anyone to hurt his guests. He went out to talk to the wicked men of Sodom. "Don't do these wicked things," he begged. But it didn't help. They threatened to do even worse things to Lot, instead! When they tried to break down the door, the angels inside reached out of the house and pulled Lot into the house, and shut the door. Then the angels made the wicked men outside become blind. Even this didn't make the men stop!

They kept trying to find the door, but they could not. Finally they were tired of trying to find the door, and they left.

Then the angels asked Lot, "Do you have anyone else here? Get all of your relatives and take them out of here, because we will destroy this city soon. The Lord has sent us to destroy it."

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, but they just thought he was joking.

When morning came, the angels told Lot, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters and get out of this place or you will be destroyed along with the city!"

Still Lot and his family did not hurry. So the angels held them by the hand, and led them out of the city. Then one angel said, "Escape for your life! Go to the mountains, and don't look back!"

Lot and his two daughters were saved, but Lot's wife was not. She looked back at the burning city, and she was

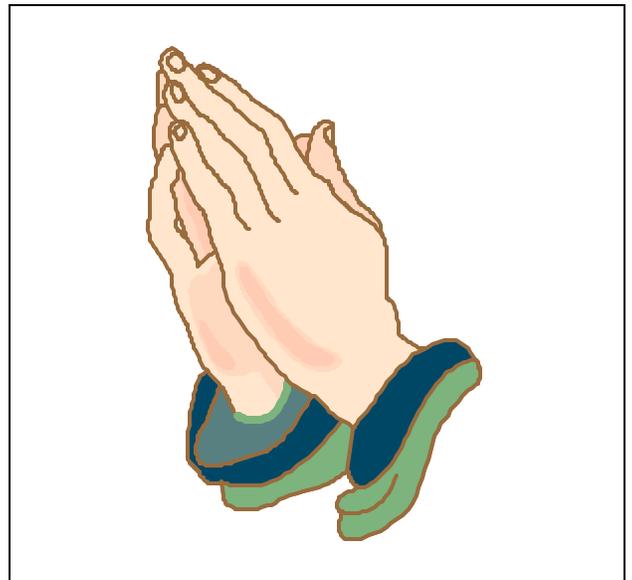
turned into a pillar of salt.

Early the next morning, Abraham looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah. He saw clouds of smoke, and he knew that God had destroyed the cities. But God had also answered Abraham's prayer. He had led Lot and Lot's family out of Sodom, and they were safe in the mountains.

Lot had a very bad problem. He was living in a wicked city, and was in danger of being burned up with the city! But God didn't forget about him. God sent angels to save Lot.

We have a problem that is even worse than Lot's problem. We are living in a wicked world, and we deserve to go to hell because of our sins. But God didn't forget about us. God sent His Son to die on the cross and save us from our sins. Because we believe that Jesus died to forgive our sins, we will go to heaven to live forever!

Activity One - We need to take all of our problems to God in prayer. We know that He always hears our prayers, and answers them. Make a prayer list by saying one thing to pray for on each finger of the praying hands.



Activity Two - Make a salt sculpture as a reminder of the passage in Luke 17:32 - "Remember Lot's wife." It is a warning against loving sin and loving the world.

RECIPES FOR SALT SCULPTURE

1. Combine 1 cup salt and ½ cup cornstarch with ¾ cup cold water
Mix the ingredients together in a double boiler and heat, stirring constantly for 2 or 3 minutes until thick. Remove the mixture from the heat, allow to cool, and then knead for several minutes until an even consistency is attained. It is now ready for use. This clay doesn't shrink when drying. It will harden to the consistency of stone. It won't powder.

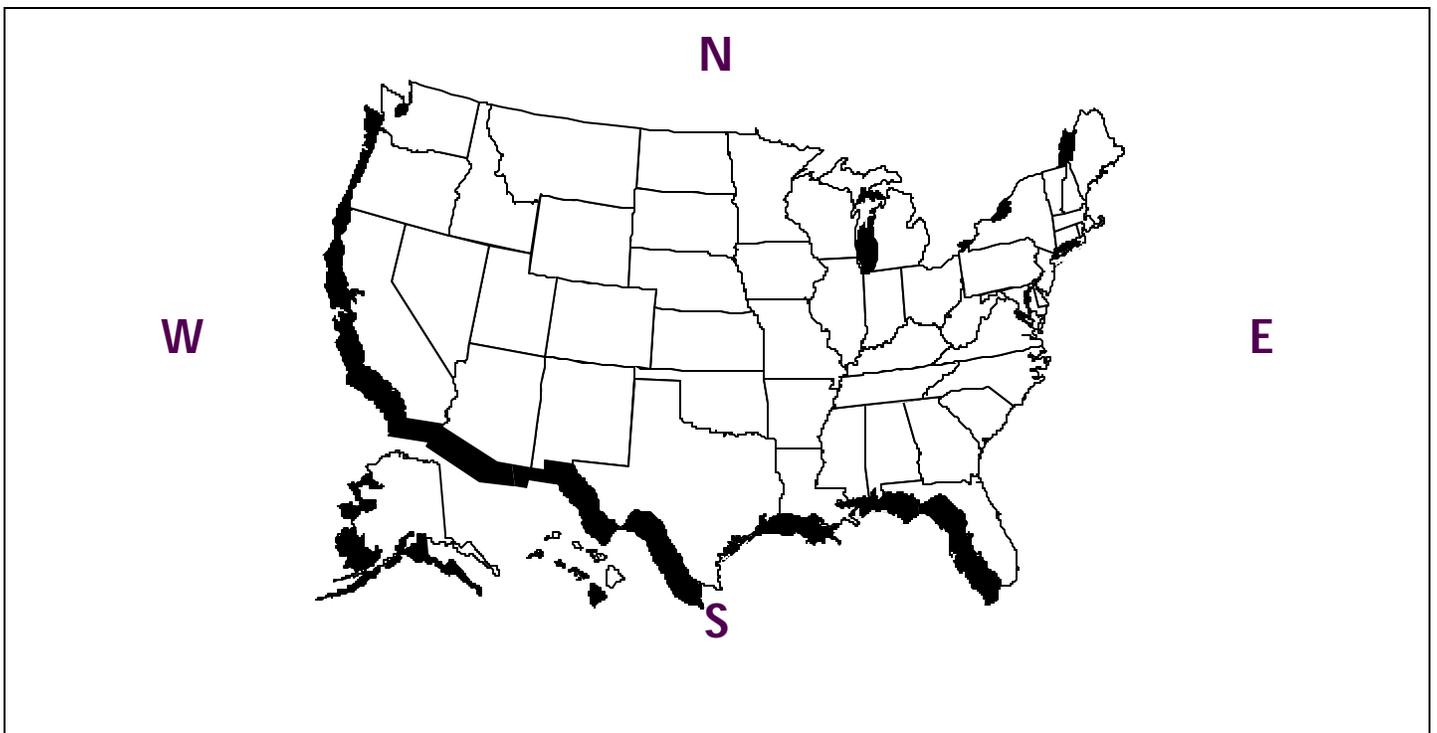
2. This recipe has the advantage of not needing to be cooked.

2 parts table salt
1 part flour
water

Mix the salt, flour, and water into a dough-like consistency. Break off small pieces, form into ball, and pierce with a toothpick. Let dry, then string. You have a salt bead necklace.

Note: make the clay before class. Have squares of wax paper ready for the children to place their sculptures on to dry. A roll of masking tape and a pen are handy to make quick labels to slap onto the wax paper.

Activity Three - Color the map showing different places you are when the LORD is near to you. Psalms 145:18 - "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him." We need Him to be near us all the time, and everywhere.



God shows mercy to us by rescuing us from Satan and this sinful world.

Passages

Luke 17:32 - "Remember Lot's wife."

Psalms 145:18 - "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him."

Hymn - TLH #428 v. 1, 2, 4

I am trusting Thee, Lord, Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

"Oh, Be Careful" - Sung to the tune "If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands.."

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see, *(point to eyes)*
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see,
For the Father up above is looking down in love,
(point up)
So be careful little eyes what you see. *(point to eyes)*

Oh, be careful little ears, what you hear, *(point to ears)*
Oh, be careful little ears what you hear,
For the Father up above is looking down in love,
(point up)
So be careful little ears what you hear. *(point to ears)*

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for taking care of us all the time. Thank You for protecting us from danger. Most of all, thank You for saving us from our sins so we will go to heaven. Amen.