

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

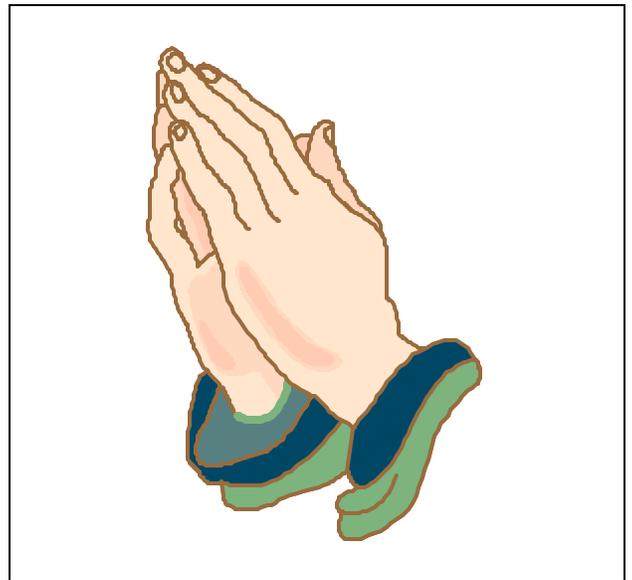
turned into a pillar of salt.

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.

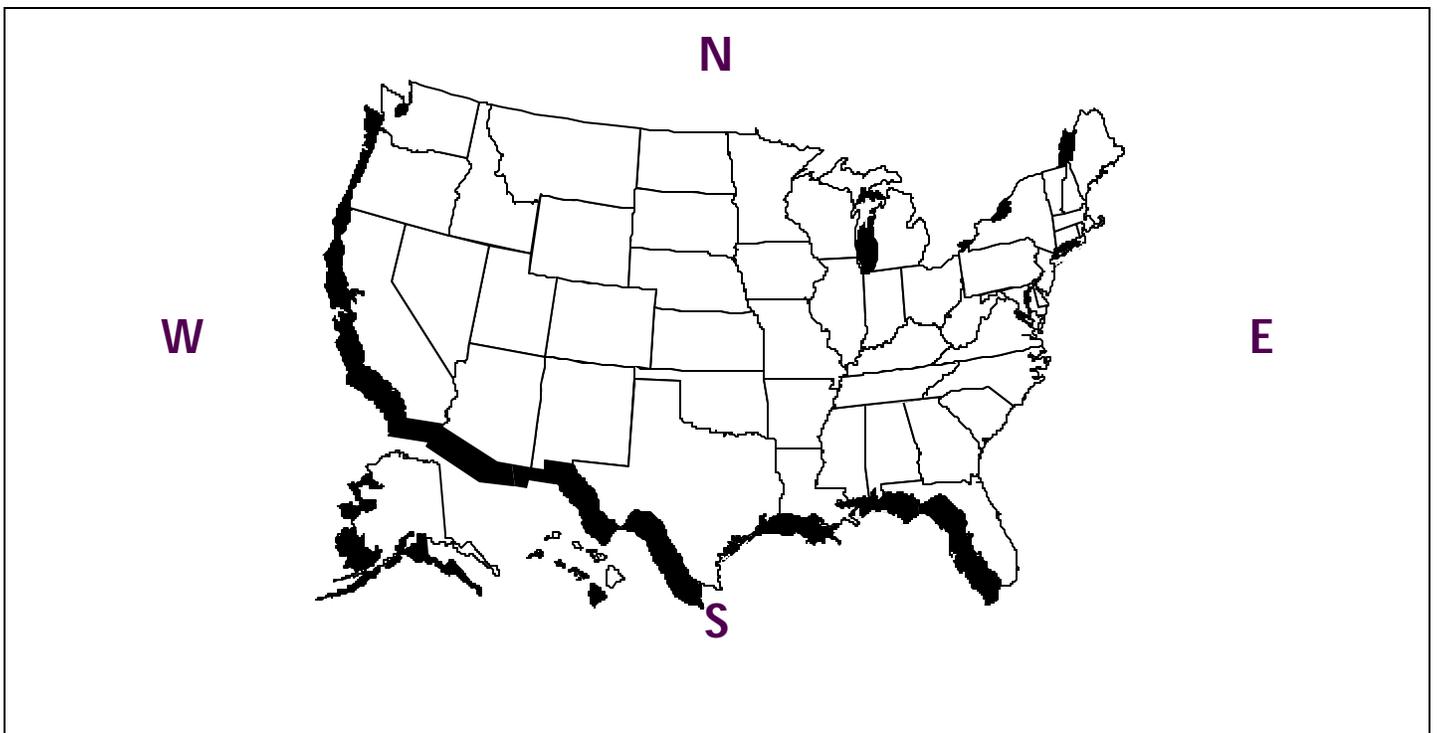
2. This recipe has the advantage of not needing to be cooked.

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.

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:

Prepare the following recipe and shape into a person:

SALT SCULPTURE

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"How could this remind us of our sins?" The answer will be given at the end of the story.

Sodom & Gomorrah

The Lord had come with two angels and visited with Abraham, and had promised that Abraham and Sarah would soon have a baby son.

When the visit was over, the Lord and the two angels got up 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 they are or not."

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."

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

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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. We will go to heaven to live forever!

Activity One - Use the word box to answer the following questions.

angels	destroy	house	prayed	safe	Sodom	wicked
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1. Lot lived in _____.
2. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were very _____.
3. God planned to _____ Sodom and Gomorrah.
4. Abraham _____ to God to save the cities for Lot's sake.
5. The men who stayed with Lot were really _____.
6. The men of Sodom tried to get into Lot's _____.
7. Although Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, Lot and his daughters were _____.

Activity Two - 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 writing one thing to pray for on each finger of the praying hands.

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



Activity Three - Use a red crayon to underline the sentences that show our sin.
Use a yellow crayon to underline the sentences that show our salvation.

1. The men of Sodom wanted to hurt the angels.
2. Lot was slow in leaving the city of Sodom.
3. Lot's wife looked back at Sodom.
4. We love the world and the things in the world more than we love God.
5. We know that Jesus died to take away our sins.
6. We don't want to listen to God.
7. We will live in heaven forever.
8. Our sins are forgiven.

Passages

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

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

Hymn - TLH #459 v. 1-3

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and pow'r are such
None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, We are sorry that we don't listen to You the way we should. Please help us to remember to come to You in prayer, and remind us that You always hear and answer our prayers. Thank You also 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.

Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18-19

Do you like to watch horror movies?

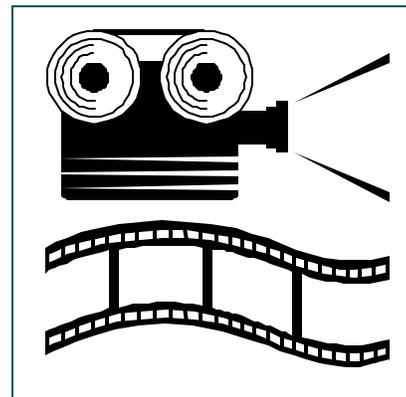
There are some really nasty people in those movies.

Well, there were some nasty people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, too, and Lot found himself right in the middle of a real-life horror.

Prayer

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of
sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt. Amen.



The Story - Genesis 18:16-19:29

Genesis 18:16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. {17} And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, {18} "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? {19} "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

{20} And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, {21} "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

{22} Then the men turned away from

there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. {23} And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? {24} "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? {25} "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

{26} So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

{27} Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: {28} "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"



So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

{29} And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."

{30} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

{31} And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?"

So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

{32} Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

{33} So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. {2} And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

{3} But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. {4} Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. {5} And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

{6} So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, {7} and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! {8} "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

{9} And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

{10} But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. {11} And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

{12} Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city; take them out of this place! {13} "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

{14} So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

{15} When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

{16} And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. {17} So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do

not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

{18} Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! {19} "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. {20} "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

{21} And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. {22} "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

{23} The sun had risen upon the earth

when Lot entered Zoar. {24} Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. {25} So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. {26} But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

{27} And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. {28} Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

{29} And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

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

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

What the Story Tells Us - Decide whether each sentence is true or false. If it is true, write T in the blank. If it is false, write the word(s) that would change the underlined word(s) to make the sentence true.

1. ____ Lot prayed to God to save the city of Sodom for the sake of the believers.
2. ____ The angels went to the city of Sodom.
3. ____ Lot invited the angels to stay at his house.
4. ____ The men of Sodom tried to break Lot's arm.
5. ____ Lot offered to give himself to men of Sodom if they'd leave the angels alone.
6. ____ Lot's sons-in-law wanted to leave the city.
7. ____ Lot wanted to escape to Zoar instead of the mountains.
8. ____ Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of marble.
9. ____ The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were saved.

Hymn TLH 414 v 1, 2, 6

The man is ever blest
Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands,
Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God
His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day
And watches of the night.

He knows, and He approves,
The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet
A dreadful overthrow.

Prayer

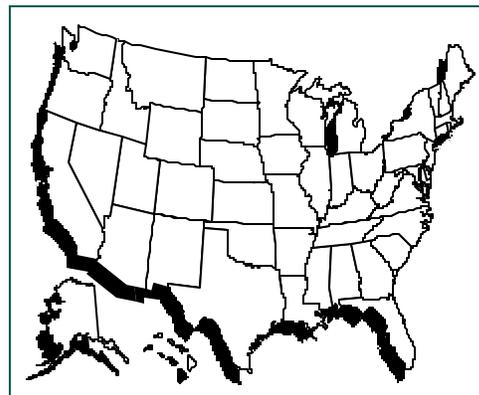
Dear Jesus, We are sorry that we don't listen to You the way we should. Please help us to remember to come to You in prayer, and remind us that You always hear and answer our prayers. Thank You also for taking care of us all the time. Thank You for protecting us from danger. Most of all, thank You for saving us from our sins so we will go to heaven. Amen.

Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18-19

We know that every person has a reputation. But did you know that some cities or areas of a country also have a reputation? The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah also had a reputation, and it was a very bad reputation which was well deserved. Let's see if you can match the place and its reputation.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ! | Bible Belt of the US - | - Seattle, WA |
| ! | Gambling city in the US - | - Arkansas, |
| ! | City where you go if you want to be in the movies - | Tennessee |
| ! | States with hillbillies - | - Salt Lake City, UT |
| ! | State with lots of retired people - | - Las Vegas, |
| ! | New Age religion centered here- | Nevada or Atlantic City, NJ |
| ! | Bigamists (men who have two wives) live here - | - San Francisco, CA |
| ! | City full of gay people - | - Florida or Arizona |
| | | - the Southeastern section of the United States |
| | | - Hollywood or Los Angeles, CA |



Prayer

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,
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great, and because their sin is very grave, {21} "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

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righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

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{6} So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, {7} and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! {8} "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

{9} And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

{10} But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. {11} And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

{12} Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city; take them out of this place! {13} "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

{14} So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

{15} When the morning dawned, the

angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

{16} And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. {17} So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

{18} Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my Lord! {19} Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. {20} See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." {21} And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not

overthrow this city for which you have spoken. {22} "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

{23} The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. {24} Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. {25} So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. {26} But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

{27} And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. {28} Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

{29} And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

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

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions about the story.

1. Why did the angels go to Sodom?
2. Why did Lot invite them to stay with him?
3. What were the men of the city trying to do?
4. Why didn't Lot's sons-in-law go with the rest of Lot's family?
5. Lot was afraid to go to the mountains when he escaped. What did he ask instead?
6. What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah?
7. What was the reputation of the city of Sodom?
8. What do we also learn to do from Abraham's prayer?
9. What sin did Lot's wife commit that caused her to be turned into a pillar of salt?

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up each of these passages in your Bible. Explain how each of them applies to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then explain how each of them applies to you.

Psalm 34:7-8

Luke 11:28

John 3:16

II Timothy 1:8-9

II Timothy 4:18

Titus 3:3-7

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

Your Turn - Unscramble the words from the the Bible passage 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and put the letters in the box. Then use the numbered boxes to make the Bible passage from Luke 17:32 at the bottom.

DGO				RUO				SIOAVR						
		10				8			12			14		

SEERISD							LAL				ENM			
		2			1				9			3	15	

OT			EB			DAEVS					AND TO
	11			6	4						

MECO					TO THE
			5		

WEGOKENDL											OF THE TRUTH.
				13					7		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

9	10	11	,		12

13	14	F		15	.

Hymn - TLH 414 v 1, 2, 6

The man is ever blest
 Who shuns the sinners' ways,
 Among their counsels never
 stands,
 Nor takes the scorners' place,

But makes the Law of God
 His study and delight
 Amid the labors of the day
 And watches of the night.

He knows, and He approves,
 The way the righteous go;
 But sinners and their works
 shall meet
 A dreadful overthrow.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, We are sorry that we don't listen to You the way we should. Please help us to remember to come to You in prayer, and remind us that You always hear and answer our prayers. Thank You also 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.



STORY

Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 18:16- 19:29

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord God, protect me from the many dangers of body and soul that are all around me in this wicked world. Let Your holy angels guard me so that no harm comes to me. I pray this also for my students that You have called me to love and teach. In these formative years do not let this sinful world attract them and lead them astray. Help them learn Your Word so that the message of Your love will keep them safe and secure in Your flock. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

righteous - one who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior

OUTER AIM

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

INNER AIM

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

BACKGROUND

Today's lesson is a continuation of last week's lesson. The three men (two angels and the Son of God) are now about to leave Abraham. God had decided to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great wickedness. Their sins sent a great cry to heaven. What was their sin? Not inhospitality--but homosexuality--a sin against God's law of man and woman sexual relationship. Cf.

Romans 1:26-27 "For even their

women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

v. 23-25

Abraham's bold faith - not cocky or presumptuous but taking God at His Word; trusting His mercy and grace.

Luther's address to the Lord's Prayer: "with all boldness and confidence ask our dear Father."

James 5:16 says "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

v. 27

Note Abraham's humility as he realizes what he is before God

v. 31

How willing God is to withdraw His punishing hand and to forgive if the sinner will only turn from his evil ways! The Lord wants "All men to be saved."(1 Timothy 2:4)

2 Peter 3:9 God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Exodus 34:6-7 He is a "compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

v. 32 Not even for ten? Nothing could have shown more clearly than these words that God would much rather bless than punish.

It is because of the believers even now that the word still stands and is not burned up by God's wrath.

v. 2-3

Lot is like his uncle in that he is hospitable to the strangers.

Knowing the evil intent of the men of the city Lot encourages them not to sleep in the streets.

v. 4

The wickedness permeated both the old and the young. Total corruption is seen.

We see the extreme danger of putting ourselves into temptations.

Not only was Lot's faith tested daily, but his life was in danger. II Peter 2:7-8

v. 10-11

The Lord saved Lot by means of a miracle of His grace. II Peter 2:9

First article states "defends me against all danger, guards and protects me from all evil."

v. 14

Lot's daughters were pledged to be married to unbelievers.

They thought Lot was a fool. "Hell, it doesn't exist! End the world, you've got to be kidding!" We still hear that today. "God will punish. NO WAY!"

v. 15-16

Even Lot shows his weakness, at dawn he hesitates.

He was led out by the hand. Hebrews 1:14 calls angels "ministering spirits."

Abraham's fervent prayer had not been in vain. The believers were spared.

v. 17-20

Lot again shows his weak faith by not obeying the angels and does not go into the mountains. Would not the Lord protect, provide and sustain him there as well?

v. 24

How did the cities burn? The sulphur from heaven ignited the mineral pitch mines - burned to ashes as stated in 2 Peter 2:6.

Sudden destruction upon an unsuspecting people.

The end of the world?

v. 26

Lust of the world, materialism had taken such a strong hold upon Lot's wife that she could not stand leaving - parting from all she called her own. She took one last look - punishment was instantaneous. What a serious

warning to us ALL, especially in this materialistic society. "You cannot serve both God and mammon (riches)." 1 John 2:15-17, Luke 17:28-33

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Savior, help me be more and more aware of the many temptations and dangers that are all around me. This world is not a friend to us Christians. I thank You that through Your holy angels You are always watching over me and all of Your children and protecting us daily from harm. I pray You keep my heart in Your Word ruled by the Holy Spirit so that all that I think, say and do may be to Your glory. Lord, help me do this. Amen.

APPLICATION

1. The effectiveness of prayer. Encourage our children to pray every day for all people. To continue to pray and take God at His Word - He will answer according to His Will.
2. The Justice of God over against sin: God is a jealous God punishing those who reject Him, who refuse to submit to His will. His justice must be met. **IT HAS BEEN MET BY CHRIST!**
3. The mercy of God toward All: God is also a loving God willing to forgive and save to the uttermost. May we cast ourselves with repentant hearts upon God's mercy in Jesus Christ. It is because of Jesus' payment of our punishment that we are under God's grace.
4. The serious danger of worldliness - materialism: it leads us to live only for this life and not for the eternity of perfection and joy that Jesus has earned for us.
5. The warning especially today against homosexuality: about twenty years ago AIDS was just beginning, it wasn't heard of much. Today it is one of the biggest plagues earth has seen. God will allow only so much of man's haughty, proud rebellion. It is not God who makes a homosexual but the person allows his sinful lusts and desires to take over his body.
6. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is a type or picture of Judgment Day. It will be total and unexpected by all.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

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

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

Middle

II Timothy 2:3-4 " - ...God our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

I John 2:15 - "Do not love the world or the things in the world."

Upper

James 5:16 - "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

II Peter 3:9 - "The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Hebrews 1:14 - "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

HYMN CHOICES

Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare - TLH #45

The Man Is Ever Blest - TLH #414

And will the Judge Descend - TLH #610