



Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Weekly Devotionals | November 2

OPEN with prayer.

Find a quiet place where you can set aside distractions. Ask the Lord to meet you in His Word.

In Genesis 13-14 and Genesis 18-19, we read about Abram's (Abraham's) nephew: Lot. Biblical scholar and theologian Peter Leithart summarizes:

Abraham's nephew Lot plays a surprisingly large role in the Genesis narrative. The son of Abraham's dead brother Haran, Lot tags along with Terah, Abraham, and Sarah when they leave Ur in Chaldea to set out for Canaan. Unlike Terah, who settles in Haran, Lot continues to the land of promise. Once there, Abraham's herdsmen quarrel with Lot's and they have to separate. Abraham generously lets Lot choose where he prefers to settle, and Lot goes south toward Sodom, which is well-watered like the garden of Yahweh. When Lot is captured during a war of five kings against four, Abraham rescues him.

Lot drops out of the story for a few chapters, but we anticipate that he'll find himself in trouble again. The narrator tells us the Edenic territory around Sodom is filled with men who are "exceedingly wicked and sinners against Yahweh" (Gen. 13:13). The clamor of their wickedness rises to heaven, and the Lord sends two angels to determine whether or not the city is as bad as it appears. When Yahweh reveals what he intends, Abraham negotiates for mercy to protect his nephew. The angels can't find even ten righteous men in Sodom, and the Lord rains fire from heaven after whisking Lot and two of his daughters to safety. Lot's story ends in a cave, where his daughters make him drunk and have sex with him so they can continue the family line through their sons Moab and Ammon.

READ Genesis 13:2-9.

- What similarities do you see between Abram and Lot from these verses?
- Where does Lot go?
- How is Sodom characterized in Genesis 13:12?

READ Genesis 14:1-24.

- What do you learn about Abram's faith and Abram's loyalty towards his family from this passage?

READ Genesis 18:1-15.

- What do you notice about Abram and Sarai's disposition towards the LORD and the angels/outsideers that accompany Him?

READ Genesis 18:16-33.

- What do you learn about Abram's heart in this passage?

READ Genesis 19:1-38.

- Though Abram and Lot had many similarities, they also had some key differences. Think through the following categories and note whether you see any more similarities or differences between Abram and Lot:
 - Faith/Loyalty towards God:
 - Care for family:

- Concern to be around a sinful culture:

REFLECT:

- In Lot's case, he dwells in a land full of sin and temptation (i.e. Sodom). See Genesis 13:12. This, in some ways, impacts his faith/obedience/loyalty to God. Lot not only "lingers" in Sodom (19:16), but has to be pulled out by the angels of the LORD (19:16).

In what ways might the surrounding culture be causing you to "linger" in your obedience to God?

- What's interesting is that Lot's current lot in life (pun intended!) not only impacts his own spiritual vitality (e.g. the "lingering"), but it also impacts his family. His son-in-laws stay in Sodom. His wife looks back and becomes salt. All Lot is left with are his two unmarried daughters (and they wind up taking advantage of him!).

Consider this: How do you navigate the kind of environment you allow your family and those under your care to be exposed to? Are there ways in which perhaps your family is affected by the culture around them? How can you circumvent this?

PRAY

Spend a few moments in prayer. Consider Abraham's way of life. Consider Lot's. Where are you being challenged or convicted from today's passage? Where are you needing encouragement from the Lord to step out in obedience to God? Share your thoughts with Him. Ask for His help.