

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | November 2

Open with questions and prayer (20 minutes).

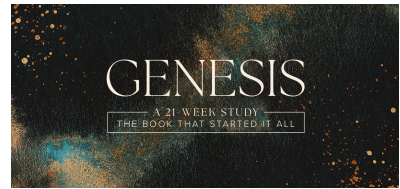
Start your group time by reading this summary of events in Genesis 13-14 and 18-19 from theologian Peter Leithart.

"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 magnanimously 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 "wicked exceedingly 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."

As you reflect on this story, reflect on the following:

- What stands out to you about God's nature and character from these chapters in Genesis?

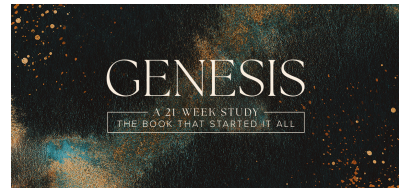


- What stands out to you about man and woman-kind's nature and character from these chapters in Genesis?
- In general, what questions do you have OR what do you find interesting OR what do you find challenging from these chapters in Genesis?

After some sharing, pray together.

Reflect on Dan's sermon on Genesis 13-14, 18-19 (40 minutes).

- What resonated or stood out or challenged you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?
- Read Genesis 13:10-13. In explaining these verses, Dan mentioned how Lot sought financial gain (e.g. fertile land) at the expense of spiritual gain (e.g. proximity to Sodom). Do you ever feel tempted to pick something that promises worldly gain, even if it's bad for your faith or could potentially compromise your obedience to Christ? Explain.
- Read Genesis 19:1. Referencing this passage, Dan noted how Lot "went from living outside the city, to living inside the city, to now sitting at the city gates." What this points to is that Lot was slowly enveloped by sinful Sodom. As Dan mentioned, the lesson is that we are to, "Avoid enchantment and entanglement with evil at all possible costs." When have there been times in your life when you've gotten "enchanted" or "entangled" by evil/sin? What happened?
- As you think on that time of enchantment/entanglement in sin, did you notice any correlation with the idea that blessings follow godliness instead of worldliness? How so?
- In the sermon, Dan talked about how Lot's proximity to evil exposed him to danger in this passage. How did that transpire for Lot? How has that transpired in your life? Do you agree that our families are likely to reflect the culture you expose them to? Explain. How might your family be reflecting (for good or for ill) the culture around them?
- In the sermon, Dan reminded us from this passage that God will punish sin. Why is the acknowledgement that God will punish evil and sin important to remember? How does Luke 17:27-28 relate? What about 1 Cor. 6:9-11?



Split into groups of 3-4 for prayer (20 minutes).

Take a few moments to have each smaller group pray out loud the 1 Cor. 6:9-11 passage above. To do this, look at the Scripture, the reflection/prayer prompts, and, instead of talking about your answers to these, pray your thoughts/answers out loud. Work through each movement, one at a time, until finished.

- "Wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God"
 - Thank God for being just towards sin

- "And that is what...you were..."
 - Thank God for salvation in Christ

- "You were washed"
 - Thank God for washing you clean

- "You were sanctified"
 - Thank God for setting you apart

- "You were justified"
 - Thank God for giving you the righteousness of Christ

- "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit"
 - Praise Father, Son, and Spirit who work inseparably to bring about our salvation!

Finish by sharing prayer requests and have someone pray over the smaller group.