



SODOM & GOMORRAH

GENESIS 13, 18-19

GOAL

▶ To help students understand that God judges sin, but preserves righteous people. Sin deserves punishment, but God rewards and blesses those who trust in Him.

CHARACTERS

▶ **Abraham:** He pleaded with God to save the wicked cities in order to save any righteous people who lived there.

Lot: He barely escaped Sodom with his wife and daughters. Lot was Abraham's nephew.

Lot's wife: She turned into a pillar of salt after she looked back at the city that God had destroyed.

Lot's daughters: They fled with Lot away from Sodom.

People of Sodom and Gomorrah: They were people of desperate wickedness who deserved God's judgment.

MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Romans 6:23:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Genesis 13 and 18-19:** Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked cities. Despite the fact that they deserved to be destroyed immediately, God chose to have mercy upon them if there were just a few righteous people. Besides Lot and his family, there were no righteous people in these cities. Two angels came to remove Lot and his family before God's judgment consumed the cities. Through this act, God showed His intolerance for sin and His love and protection for His own people.



SUGGESTIONS

▶ **This is a story of judgment and destruction. It is also a story of mercy. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for their unrepentant sinning lifestyle. Lot and his family were spared from the judgment God would bring on the cities' other inhabitants.**

1. God punishes sinners. For those who do not or will not believe in God and repent, they face punishment for their sins. For those who do believe and do repent, they face the consequences of their sin and sometimes God's discipline. Jesus bore the judgment and punishment for all sin for those who believe in Him, so believers will never be punished for sin.

2. God shows mercy for His people. In two whole cities, there were five people who loved and obeyed God. Rather than carry out His judgment on the cities with them still living there, God sent angels to help them escape.

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PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Flee the Room | *Supplies:*** colored Post-It notes.

Put Post-It notes on items that can be temporarily removed from the classroom. Instruct the students to look around the room and find items with the Post-It notes on them. On "go," the students are to grab two items with Post-It notes, run from the room, and go to the designated meeting spot.

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MEMORY VERSE MEANING

▶ **Romans 6:23:** Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we are no longer slaves to sin and death. When we believe in Jesus and that His death on the cross paid the price for all of our sins, we are promised eternal life in Heaven.



**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

▷ **Get Out of Sodom** | *Supplies:* masking tape.

Write a number of true or false questions relating to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Using the masking tape, create as many spaces as questions that have been written, the last being "Home." Have children line up on the wall. As children answer correctly, they move one space closer to the safety of Home. If they guess incorrectly, they must move back a space.

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**TAKE
HOME**

- ▷ **1. God hears our prayers.** Abraham prayed that God would spare Lot and his family from God's coming judgment on Sodom.
- 2. God is merciful to those who love Him.** God sent angels to help Lot and his family escape the city before God destroyed it.
- 3. Jesus paid our punishment for sin.** There are still consequences for sin, and God will not save us from them, but we will never be punished for our sin.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Why did Abraham and Lot need to separate their herds?

A1: They had so many animals that they ran out of pasture to feed them all.

Q1b: How many cows do you think could be fed for a year on the grass in a football field?

TN: Let students guess. A football field is just a bit larger than an acre. Based on a rule-of-thumb ranchers use, it takes almost 2 acres to feed one cow every year. That means the grass in a football field could feed only one cow for a year. Now imagine how much grass it would take to feed all the animals both Abraham and Lot had for just a day! That's a lot of grass! In order to provide their herds and flocks with enough food to survive, they'd have to be constantly on the move.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: In which direction did Lot decide to take his family and animals?

A2: Lot decided to go south toward the Jordan.

Q2b: Both you and your friend want the last piece of cake. What do you do?

TN: There are a number of things we could do, but the most honorable thing would be to evenly split it in half. When Abraham and Lot surveyed the land from on top of the mountain, they saw good land in all directions. It didn't matter which part either took, only that they divided it between themselves fairly. They knew that God could bless them on either patch of land.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What kind of people did Lot's family find living in Sodom?

A3: Sodom was a sinful city filled with bad people.

Q3b: Do you think it would be hard to continue to obey God in a city filled with evil people?

TN: It might be, but it could also be an opportunity to share our faith with people there. We should always pray for people who do not know Jesus. Not everyone will come to accept Jesus, but God wants everyone to be given a chance. It's our job to spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What were the angels sent to Sodom to do?

A4: They were sent to help Lot and his family flee the city safely.

Q4b: You arrive at the cafeteria to find everyone in the middle of an epic food fight. The principal gives everyone in the room detention. Is that fair?

TN: No, we had nothing to do with it! Unlike the principal, God can see everything and knows everything. In two entire cities, God could see who deserved punishment and who deserved mercy. God sent angels to save Lot's family—the only people in two whole cities who deserved mercy.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did the angels do to the angry mob?

A5: The angels struck the mob with blindness.

Q5b: If a doctor ordered you to not eat peanuts because you are allergic, would you ever eat peanuts again?

TN: No way! If peanuts make us sick, we'd steer clear of them. Lot's wife knew that Sodom was bad and that the people there were bad, but she looked back longingly for the life she lived there. God also told her to run and not look back. So when she looked back, she was disobeying God and longing for a life she wasn't meant to live. God punished her by turning her into a pillar of salt.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: How did God destroy the cities?

A6: God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by raining down fire on the cities.

Q6b: Does God send natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, and tornadoes, to punish us?

TN: It's difficult to answer this question. There is plenty of evidence in the Bible to prove that God is in control of nature; however, many weather-related disasters occur because of naturally occurring weather patterns. So while God could use natural disasters as a way to punish us, He has never made it obvious that the destruction was intended as punishment. God is our loving Father in Heaven. If punishment is necessary, the lesson we are meant to learn and the behavior we are meant to stop would be made clear to us.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▷ **Romans 6:23:** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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BIG IDEA

▷ God will punish sin, but show mercy to those who love Him.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▷ Dear God, thank You that through Your Son, Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Help us to obey You. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



In the land of Canaan, Abraham and his nephew Lot lived happy and prosperous lives. Both of them had a lot of animals, servants, and possessions. They had so many donkeys, sheep, goats, camels, and cows that they ran out of pasture to feed them all. It came time for both Abraham and Lot to separate and find a new home with bigger pasture for their herds.

SLIDE 2



One day Abraham and Lot decided to climb a high mountain that overlooked the entire valley. Abraham kindly said to his nephew, "If you go to the left, I'll go right. If you go right, I'll go left. Lot looked around, and to the south, he saw the well-watered valley of Jordan and decided to take his family, flocks, and herds in that direction. With Lot's decision made, Abraham went the opposite direction.





LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



Lot and his family settled in the city of Sodom, and it was much different than they had hoped. It was an evil, sinful city filled with bad people. Lot and his family were the only people who served God, but they still decided to stay in that evil city. The city of Sodom was so sinful that God decided to judge it. He was going to destroy both Sodom and Gomorrah. Even though Lot was a righteous man, he had made a foolish decision by living in Sodom.

SLIDE 4



God started His judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah by sending two powerful angels to help Lot and his family flee the city safely. Lot was afraid and hesitant to leave all his possessions, but the angels made it clear that everyone and everything in the city was going to be destroyed. As the angels were speaking with Lot, the evil people living in the city heard about it and came to Lot's house. They wanted to break down his door so they could harm them. They did not realize that these two men were angels from the Lord. Lot tried to argue with them, but the wicked men outside would not listen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



At that moment, the angels sprang into action. They grabbed Lot, pulled him to safety, and faced the angry mob. Suddenly, all the wicked men were struck with blindness. They cried in terror, groping for the door, and ran around in a confused frenzy. "It's time to go," the angels demanded. "Grab your family and move out as fast as you can!" Lot knew that they were right. "Don't stop! Go as fast as you can! Don't look back!" Lot ran. His daughters ran. His wife ran. But then, in a moment of foolishness and longing, his wife looked back. Immediately, she was turned into a pillar of salt. Lot was torn with sadness, but he kept running.

SLIDE 6



Lot was still running by the time the sun came up. The moment the sun peeked over the horizon, the Lord rained down fire on the cities. In a blazing explosion of heat, smoke, and light, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Smoke billowed into the sky as the wicked cities burned to the ground, never to rise again.