

Life Lessons from Lot

In Genesis 11:27 we are told that Lot was the son of Haran, who was Abram's brother. But Lot's father had died. Then in Genesis 12:1-5, we are told that God has instructed Abram to leave the country he is now living in and go to a land that God will show to him. So Abram departs and Lot goes with him.

Lot is Blessed by Abram

Read Genesis 13:1-5 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. ... Abram went up from _____, ... and _____ with him ... (Genesis 13:1)
2. Abram was very rich in _____, in _____, and in _____. (Genesis 13:2)
3. _____ also, who _____ with Abram, had _____ and _____ and _____. (Genesis 13:5)

Reflective Thoughts ...

When Abram left his country, he went to the land of Canaan. However, there was a famine in the land so he took his wife, Sarai, and nephew, Lot, to Egypt. While he was there, Pharaoh took a liking to Sarai and brought her into his house. He richly blessed Abram because he thought he was Sarai's brother. Abram had told Sarai to pretend to be his sister, instead of his wife. But when God sent plagues on Pharaoh's household because of Sarai being there, he commands Abram to leave. But he does allow Abram to keep all the blessings he had bestowed upon him. Apparently Abram had been sharing his blessings with Lot for we read in Genesis 13:5 that Lot is richly blessed too.

It is apparent that Abram knows he has done wrong because when he leaves Egypt he goes immediately to an altar he had made earlier and calls on the name of the Lord. (see Genesis 13:4). It is always good to keep short accounts with God. When we sin we need to go immediately to God and repent just like Abram did.

Lot didn't seem to mind taking whatever Abram was willing to give to him and didn't seem to feel a need to repent for accepting what Abram had received because of a lie, as there is no mention of Lot calling on the Lord too. This is an important factor that will cause Lot to make numerous mistakes during his lifetime.

Lot Begins Complaining

Read Genesis 13:6-13 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Now the _____ was not able to _____ them (Abram and Lot), ... for their _____ were so _____ ... (Genesis 13:6)

2. ... there was _____ between the herdsmen of _____ livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's _____ ... (Genesis 13:7)
3. So Abram said to _____, "Please let there be no _____ between _____ and me, and between my herdsmen and _____ herdsmen: for _____ are _____. (Genesis 13:8)
4. Is not the _____ land before _____? Please _____ from me. If you take the _____, then I will _____ to the right; or, if you to the right, then I will go to the _____." (Genesis 13:9)
5. And Lot lifted his _____ and saw all the _____ of Jordan, that it was well _____ everywhere ... like the _____ of the Lord ... (Genesis 13:10)
6. Then Lot _____ for himself _____ the plain of Jordan, and Lot _____ east. And they _____ from each other. (Genesis 3:11)
7. Abram dwelt in the land of _____, and Lot dwelt in the _____ of the plain and pitched his _____ even as far as _____. (Genesis 13:12)
8. But the _____ of Sodom were exceedingly _____ and sinful against the _____. (Genesis 13:13)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Lot does not seem to be very grateful for all that Abram has done for him. Therefore, it brings about the age-old problem – this place is not big enough for the two of us. Abram does not want there to be a problem between him and his nephew, so he is willing to let Lot choose where he wants to be. Lot seems to think that the plain of Jordan looks good and he wants to go there. It would have been a good idea to check with God first before making a move, but Lot doesn't do that. He will eventually have to reap the consequences of not doing this. God always knows what is best for us and we should always consult with Him before making a decision.

Lot's Choice

Answer the following statements with True or False – based on Genesis 13:6-13. (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. _____ Lot may not have been satisfied with the way things were and his herdsmen knew it and just voiced Lot's discontentment.
2. _____ Lot tried to bring about peace between his herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen.
3. _____ Lot consulted with God as to what he should do.

4. _____ Lot appears to be self-centered, thinking only about what might be good for him.

Reflective Thoughts ...

Lot wants what looks like the best for himself. There is no thought of God or his uncle, only what he wants. He is gaining what he thinks is the best but it will cost him everything in the end. We can see from the beginning that God was not the center of Lot's life. He has not asked God's advice in making a proper choice. If he had, God would have told him that the place he had chosen was a wicked and sinful place. But since he didn't ask God, he will have to learn the consequences of living in such a place the hard way.

In John 2:16 we are told that there are three worldly temptations that tempt mankind – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Lot has allowed himself to surrender to the temptations of the world and the day will come when he will have to pay the consequences of his choice.

God has good plans for us but we have to ask Him for those good plans, He will not force them on us. He will allow us to go our own way, for He has given us a freewill, but we will have to suffer the consequences of our wrong choices. Wrong choices come about because we fail to ask God's advice.

Lot is Taken Captive

There is a war and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah flee and Sodom and Gomorrah are conquered and Lot is taken into captivity.

Read Genesis 14:1-16 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures(New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Then _____ (the conquers) took _____ the goods of _____ and _____, and _____ their provisions, and went their _____. (Genesis 14:11)

2. They also took _____, Abram's brother's son who _____ in Sodom, and his _____, and _____. (Genesis 14:12)

3. Now when _____ heard that his brother (actually his nephew) was taken _____, he _____ his ... servants ... and went in _____ ... (Genesis 14:14)

4. So he _____ back _____ the goods, and _____ brought back his brother _____ (actually his nephew) and his _____, as well as the _____ and the _____. (Genesis 14:16)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Lot had been taken captive because he suffered the consequences of living in Sodom. But he doesn't learn his lesson and returns to Sodom after Abram rescues him. But soon more trouble will be coming to

Lot because of his unwise choice to return to Sodom. Again, Lot has not bothered to ask God where he should go after being rescued, but decides on his own where he wants to go.

God Talks with Abraham

In Genesis 18:17 the Lord says, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing." God says this shortly after He has spoken to Abram and told him that He is going to change his name from Abram to Abraham and that he will become a father of many nations and that he would be a blessing to others.

Read Genesis 18:17-33 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. And the Lord said, "Because the _____ against Sodom and Gomorrah is _____, and because their _____ is very grievous. I will _____ down now and see whether they have _____ altogether _____ to the outcry _____ it that has _____ to Me, and if _____, I will _____." (Genesis 18:20-21)
2. And Abraham came _____ and said, "Would You _____ destroy the _____ with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:23)
3. Suppose there were _____ righteous within the city ...?"(Genesis 18:24)
4. And the Lord _____, "If I find in Sodom _____ righteous within the city, then I will _____ all the place for _____ sake." (Genesis 18:26)
5. "Suppose there were _____ less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy _____ of the city for _____ of five?" And He (God) said, "If I find there _____, I will _____ destroy it." (Genesis 18:28)
6. "... Suppose there should be _____ found there?" And He (God) said, "I will _____ do it for the _____ of forty." (Genesis 18:29)
7. "... Suppose _____ should be found there?" And He (God) said, "I will _____ do it if I _____ thirty there." (Genesis 18:30)
8. "... Suppose _____ should be found there?" And He (God) said, "I will not _____ it for the _____ of twenty." (Genesis 18:31)

9. "... Suppose _____ should be found there?" And He (God) said, "I will _____ destroy it for the _____ of ten." (Genesis 18:32)

10. So the Lord went His _____ as soon as He had _____ speaking with Abraham; and Abraham _____ to his place. (Genesis 18:33)

Reflective Thoughts ...

Through God's conversation with Abraham, we see that it is never God's Will for anyone to perish. He also gives Abraham an opportunity to fulfill being a blessing to others as He told him he would be. Abraham knows that Lot and his family are in trouble and he intercedes on their behalf. A wonderful picture of what Jesus does for us. He is always interceding on our behalf when we have sinned and should come under judgment. We are saved for Jesus' sake. Once Abraham was sure that he had covered Lot and his family, he stopped asking God to intervene. Then God went on His way to do what He knew was best and Abraham was content to leave it in God's Hands.

Two Angels and Lot

While God was talking with Abraham, two of God's angels were on their way to check out the grievous sins that were going on in Sodom and Gomorrah. When they arrived in Sodom, they saw Lot and he insisted that they come home with him.

Read Genesis 19:1-29 and then fill in the missing words from the following Scriptures (New King James Version of the Bible was used):

1. Now the two _____ came to Sodom in the _____, and _____ was sitting in the _____ of Sodom ... (Genesis 19:1)

2. And he _____, "Here now, my lords, please _____ in to your servant's _____ and spend the _____, and wash your _____; then you may rise _____ and go on your _____." And they said, "No, but we will _____ the night in the open _____." (Genesis 19:2)

3. But he _____ strongly; so they turned in to him and _____ his house. Then he _____ them a feast, and baked _____ bread, and they _____. (Genesis 19:3)

4. Now _____ they lay down, the _____ of the city, the men of _____, both old and young, _____ the people from _____ quarter, surrounded the _____. (Genesis 19:4)

5. And they called to _____ and said to him, "Where are the _____ who came to you tonight? Bring

_____ out to ____ that we may _____ them carnally." (Genesis 19:5)

6. So Lot went out to _____ through the doorway, _____ the door _____ him, and said, "Please, my brethren, do _____ do so _____!" (Genesis 19:6-7)

7. ... the men (angels) _____ out their _____ and pulled _____ into the _____ with them, and _____ the door.(Genesis 19:10)

8. And they (the angels) struck the _____ who were at the _____ of the house with _____, both small and great, so that _____ became weary _____ to find the _____. (Genesis 19:11)

9. Then the men (angels) said to _____, "Have you _____ else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and _____ you have in the city - take them _____ of this place! (Genesis 19:12)

10. For we _____ destroy this _____, because the outcry _____ them has grown _____ before the _____ of the Lord, and the Lord has _____ us to _____ it." (Genesis 19:13)

11. When the _____ dawned, the angels urged _____ to hurry, saying, "_____, take your _____ and your _____ daughters who are _____, lest you be _____ in the punishment of the _____ ." (Genesis 19:15)

12. And while he (Lot) _____, the men took of his hand, his _____ hand, and the hands of his two _____, the Lord being _____ to him, and they brought him _____ and set him outside the _____. (Genesis 19:16)

13. Then the Lord _____ brimstone and fire on _____ and Gomorrah, from the Lord _____ of the heavens. So He _____ those cities, all the _____, all the _____ of the cities, and what _____ on the ground. (Genesis 19:24-25)

14. And it came to pass, when God _____ the cities of the _____, that God remembered _____, and sent _____ out of the _____ of the overthrow, when He overthrew the _____ in which Lot had _____. (Genesis 19:29)

Where Did Lot Go Wrong

Answer the following statements with True or False based on Genesis 13:6-13 and Genesis 19:1-23.

1. _____ Lot should have consulted with God before he separated from Abraham.
2. _____ Lot could make a wise decision on his own.
3. _____ Lot was only thinking about what looked good to the eyes.
4. _____ If Lot had asked God about Sodom, He would have told him not to go there.
5. _____ Lot should not have returned to Sodom after Abraham rescued him.
6. _____ Lot did not know how wicked the people of Sodom were.
7. _____ Lot should have taken his family and moved from Sodom.
8. _____ Lot was ready to go when the angels told him to leave.

Reflective Thoughts ...

Lot's decision to return to Sodom was not a wise choice. Sodom is symbolic of the world. Once we have been rescued from the world we should not return to it. The world never gets better no matter what it goes through. There had been a war and Sodom and Gomorrah had been plundered but they didn't learn anything from what had happened. The people just continued their wicked and sinful ways. Lot returns to live among these wicked and sinful people. They had no regard for God or His righteous thoughts and ways. God says there has been an outcry regarding their wickedness so He is sending angels to verify the truth of the outcry. But God is merciful and wants to do what He can to save Abraham's nephew, Lot. So God gives Abraham an opportunity to intercede for Lot before judgment falls on Sodom.

Lot is aware of the wickedness of Sodom but has never removed his family from the area. Now it is going to cost him most of his family. When the two angels arrived in Sodom looking like men, Lot knew they were in trouble and he does try to protect them by taking them home with him. However, that does not deter the wicked men of Sodom, and they display just how wicked they are. But they are no match for the angels of God. God has promised Abraham that He will not destroy the area if He can find ten righteous people. But there are not ten righteous people so judgment must go forward. But even though the angels warn Lot of the destruction of the cities because of their wickedness, he still hesitates to leave and the angels have to drag him, his wife, and two daughters out of Sodom. Lot has other family members but they are not interested in leaving, they will have to suffer the consequences of their choice. This could have been why Lot was so reluctant to leave.

Lot is Rescued

"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."
Genesis 19:29. NKJV.

Read Genesis 19:15-30 and then fill in the blanks and answer the True or False statements (New King James Version of Bible was used):

1. Who were the four people who barely escaped the punishment of Sodom? (Genesis 19:15)

2. _____ True or False: Lot and those with him were told not to look back nor stay anywhere in the plain. (Genesis 19:17)
3. Where was Lot told to escape to? (Genesis 19:17) _____
4. Where did Lot want to go instead? (Genesis 19:17-22) _____
5. _____ True or False: Lot is still determined to do things his way instead of God's way. (Genesis 19:17-22)
6. Who looked back and became a pillar of salt? (Genesis 19:26) _____
7. _____ True or False: God does not always know what is best for us. (See Jeremiah 29:11)
8. Who did God remember so that Lot was removed from Sodom before the destruction? (Genesis 19:29) _____
9. _____ True or False: Lot and his two remaining daughters stayed in Zoar? (Genesis 19:30)
10. Where did Lot and his two daughters finally end up? (Genesis 19:30) _____

Reflective Thoughts ... God really does know what is best for us!

Lot had always insisted on doing things his way. And he never seemed to learn that doing things his way did not turn out good for him or his family. Lot did not have a good ending because of always stubbornly insisting on doing things his own way. In the end, his daughters caused him to sin a sin that created troubles for others for generations. (see Genesis 19:30-38) How different Lot's life and the life of his family could have been if he had only sought God's wisdom regarding what was best for them to do. May we learn from Lot how important it is to have God at the center of our lives and to constantly seek His wisdom and guidance regarding our lives and the lives of our family. Then we will be able to be a blessing to our family and others.

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6. NKJV.**