

# Sodom And Gomorrah

Genesis 19:1-30

## MEMORY VERSE

2 PETER 2:9

...then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment...

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Bring in some tree leaves (or if in a season when leaves aren't available cut out leaves from construction paper), cardstock paper, crayons or markers and glue.

Before class cut out two circles (approximately 2" in diameter) from poster board (or cardboard, it must be sturdy) for each child in your class. You will also need markers or crayons and masking tape.

Fruit preserves, matching fresh fruit, and crackers.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### Make Like a Tree and Leave

Gather some leaves for each child in your class (can be green leaves of fall leaves. If out of season, cut out leaves from construction paper).

Have each child draw a tree trunk on a sheet of cardstock or white construction paper and have them glue the leaves to the branches of the trees.

Explain to your class that in today's lesson, angels will tell Lot to "leave" Sodom. This was probably very hard for him to do as he was leaving two daughters with their husbands in the doomed city. Explain that we should be obedient to God even when it is difficult. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

## LESSON TIME!

Today we are going to learn about the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Last week, we talked about how Jesus and the two angels came and talked to Abraham. When the two angels left going toward Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord stayed behind and told Abraham what He was planning to do with Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities; that He was planning to judge and destroy them.

Abraham pleaded with God and asked if there were fifty righteous people in the cities, would God spare the cities. He kept bargaining down to the ten righteous people. God told Abraham that if only ten righteous people could be found in the entire city He would spare it. God is truly merciful and gracious down to the last moments of judging those who are evil. His desire is that all would turn from evil to Him. Today we will learn that **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

Keep in mind as we hear today's story, that once we accept Jesus in our hearts, we become His children. Through the work that Jesus did on the cross, God sees us as righteous; He will deliver us and protect us. In the world today it seems as though the ungodly are getting away with all of their sin, but God will undoubtedly punish them. The reason that He hasn't up to now is because He is merciful and gracious, desiring that all would turn to Him. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

### GENESIS 19:1-3

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.

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."

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.

Two of the angels that were with Abraham had left and made their way to Sodom in the evening. Now Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom, which meant that he was a judge or a leader in the city. Judges usually sat by the city gates, the public places, (John 29:7, 12-17) where legal and business transactions were finalized.

Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7-8), but his flesh was also strong. He first pitched his tent close to Sodom, but later he moved into Sodom, now we see that he is part of the leadership in the city. It appears that the city ended up controlling his life. We must be so careful to not follow what looks good to us by sight. Lot knew that what went on in Sodom was wrong. In fact, he made the attempt to bring righteousness into Sodom with him, but he was lacking power.

There is always a danger as God's people to become too comfortable in this world. We are to be "in" this world, but not "of" it. We are salt and light, but we need to be careful that the things and the ways of this world don't control our lives. We must always go where God calls us, for then He will go with us. But if we go where we want to, out of God's will, then God will not bless the work we do, even if we do it with the best of intentions.

Lot saw the two angels and he recognized them and went and bowed down to them. He invited them into his house but they refused and said they would stay in the open square. Lot continued to persist strongly, and they did come into his house. Notice the difference between the angel's attitude toward Abraham

and Lot. With Abraham all three ate with him but with Lot, they would hardly enter his house. Yet God's wonderful grace, against such a dark background, was to save Lot and his family. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

#### GENESIS 19:4-11

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.

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."

So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him,

and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!

"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."

And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to sojourn, 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.

But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

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.

Here we see that the men of the city must have seen the angels. They were so filled with sin that they wanted to come and treat the angels very badly. They were going to hurt the visitors in order to commit their sin and wickedness. These men had allowed sin to so fill them that they would do anything to commit sin. Their intentions toward the angels were an abomination before the Lord.

Now we must realize that God didn't destroy Sodom because of any one sin; sin is sin in God's eyes. But when a culture accepts a sin as normal lifestyle, it indicates that that culture is devoid of morals and filled with sin. If they accept one sin as normal lifestyle, they will accept anything and do anything regardless of God's standard. Even though Sodom was filled with sin and wickedness, God would have spared them if only a few would have turned to Him. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

We must never accept sin. It is so easy to go with the flow and say that things are all right. No, we must see sin through God's eyes. How do we see sin through God's eyes? We read the Bible. It's like putting on a pair of glasses so you can see clearly. Remember, God wants us to love those who are controlled by sin in their lives, but we should never accept any kind of sin as a normal way of life or a right thing to do. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

Lot went out to try to calm down the people. He even offered his two daughters to them, further indicating how far he had compromised with the world. What a sad place for Lot or anyone to be in! The world has no respect for a compromising Christian. They cried out as if to say, "Who does this guy think he is? He thinks he can judge us." So they decided to treat him worse than they were going to treat the angels, and they pressed him against

the door to the point of almost breaking it down. Then the angels stretched out their hands and blinded the wicked people and confused their senses so they could not find the door.

What a lesson we can learn about compromising with the world. Let's remember the lesson of Lot and his family and remain committed to be faithful to the Lord no matter what.

#### GENESIS 19:12-14

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!

"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."

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.

Then the angels asked Lot about his relatives. The invitation was to any righteous in Sodom. So Lot went to his sons-in-law and asked them to come, but they thought he was joking. Another warning to us of doing something God does not call us to do. Lot shouldn't have been in Sodom, because he couldn't handle it. He wasn't changing the city towards righteousness, the city was changing him to be more like it. How many times do we do what our friends do, or accept what they do even if it's against the word of God? When we try to stand up for God, they don't take us seriously. We must be ruthless—unwilling to accept compromise and sin--while at the same time loving those who are deceived by sin with the same compassion that Jesus has for those who don't know Him.



## GENESIS 19:15-22

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."

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.

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."

Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!

"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.

"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."

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.

"Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.



Now the angels told Lot that it was time to leave Sodom, but Lot was hesitant to go. The angels grabbed hold of his hands and brought him out of the city. They told them to not look behind them. So it is with sin sometimes. We have sin in our lives that God wants us to get rid of and leave behind. A lot of the time, we can be reluctant to give that sin up. It's like we can give God almost every area of our lives, but there is this one area, whether it is pride, selfishness, or disobedience; God wants all of us.

## **I'm "Outta" Here!**

Before class cut out two circles (approximately 2" in diameter) from poster board (or cardboard) for each child in your class. You will also need markers or crayons and masking tape. Allow the children to decorate their two chips with anything related to the Bible or Jesus. Next clear the center of the floor and place two strips of masking tape approximately 3 feet apart. Have 4 or 5 children at a time line up behind one line. They should then lay down one chip and using the other chip they can set it on the edge of the chip on the floor and make it pop up and move forward. Allow the children to race and see who will be the winner. If you have a large class have the winners of 2 or 3 races race against one another.

Explain that Lot should have run away from such a place as Sodom long before he did, but when the angels took him and his family by the hand out of the city, they fled. Just like the chips need "encouragement" to go by applying pressure to them, sometimes the Lord has to apply pressure to our lives to get us to move in the direction He wants us to.

God knows that any sin that has a foothold in our lives will destroy us, but once we lay it down and give it to Him and walk away from it, He doesn't want us to return to it. Lot then bargained with the angels to go to the small town of Zoar instead of taking on the perils of the mountains. If God were saving him from the

judgment of Sodom, would he not save him from any danger in the mountains?

God gracefully granted Lot's request. Remember that the Bible calls Lot "just" (2 Peter 2:7,8). His deepest desire was right. His problem was his compromise. Such compromise is disastrous in the life of a Christian. When we compromise we end up causing a great deal of problems in our own lives and in others lives.

### GENESIS 19:23-26

The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Once Lot had gotten into the city, God started His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities. It says He rained fire and brimstone on the cities. God kept His word, as He always keeps His word, and everything was destroyed, even what grew on the ground. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

Many people believe that this is where the Dead Sea now is and that it covers the remains of the former cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Dead Sea is a lake in Southern Palestine. The Jordan River, and other smaller rivers flow into it, and because it's at the lowest place on earth, no water flows out of it. The water evaporates so quickly that salts and other minerals have become so

highly concentrated that nothing can live in it. That is why they call it the Dead Sea.

God completely wiped out everything. Lot's wife disobeyed the angels and turned to look back, and as she did, she became a pillar of salt; she still loved Sodom. We see here another problem with compromise; it affects the people around us. Maybe Lot could handle Sodom better than his wife, and could leave easier than she could, but his wife could not. We must strive to be obedient, especially as leaders in our home or other areas of life because our obedience or sin will affect those we love. **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

#### GENESIS 19:27-29

And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

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.

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.

Now we see that Abraham got up early in the morning to see what had become of the cities he had been interceding for. He saw the smoke and desolation, for it was great. Now remember that when Abraham pleaded for God to spare the city, he probably had Lot in mind. God's mercy is so great, for God delivered Lot and his family, only four, and after Lot's wife became a pillar of salt, it was only three.

So, God answered Abraham's prayers, for it says, "God remembered Abraham", and He delivered Lot out of the city. So the deliverance of Lot wasn't due to anything in his own life, but to the prevailing intercession of the man of faith.

The country and the world we live in is very wicked and filled with blatant sin. We must not compromise. We must ask for God's strength to be righteous in a wicked world. We must do what God has called us to do and not do what we want, even if it's with the best of intentions. We must stand for Jesus to everyone around us, and we must pray without ceasing for others who don't know the Lord. We must always understand that **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

## Preserves

Bring crackers to class and an unopened jar of fruit preserves. If possible bring some of the same fruit in its fresh form. Ask the class what would happen if the fruit were just left in the pantry in a plastic bag.

Explain that the fruit in the jar has been preserved. Share it with the class on crackers and discuss how **God will deliver the righteous, but will punish the wicked.**

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live righteous lives before the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.