



Genesis 18:22-19:38 Small Group Discussion Questions

- The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is often considered "difficult" or challenging to read and discuss. Why is it important for us as Christians to engage with difficult passages like this one?
 - What happens to our understanding of God when we avoid or skip over the “hard” parts of Scripture?
 - How might a selective reading of Scripture lead to a distorted view of God’s sovereignty, power, and character?
 - What are some practical ways we can approach difficult passages with humility and a desire to learn?
 - If someone approached you and said that some stories in the Bible—like Sodom and Gomorrah—are so challenging that we as Christians should just skip over them because they probably don’t reflect accurately God’s love, how would you respond?
 - When has wrestling with a difficult passage in the past deepened your faith or understanding of God?
- Have someone in your group read Genesis 18:22-33. Abraham pleads with God for the righteous in Sodom in verses 18:23-32. What does this dialogue reveal about God's justice and mercy?
 - Why does Abraham appeal to God's justice rather than simply asking for mercy?
 - What does it mean that God is willing to spare an entire city for the sake of a few righteous people?

- How does understanding God's judgment help us appreciate His grace more deeply?
- Have someone in your group read Genesis 19:1-11. This is an action-packed set of verses; what happens in this part of the story?
 - This passage reveals the evil that can captivate the human heart in those who know the Lord (like Lot) and in those who do not. How should we address evil when we see it, and how should we remain on guard against the capacity of our own hearts for evil?
 - Have someone in your group flip to Ezekiel 16:49-50. What do these verses reveal was one aspect of the sin of Sodom?
 - Wesley preached that social immorality—mistreatment of the vulnerable—was one aspect of Sodom's sin. Sodom was a wealthy and comfortable city; how does wealth and comfort sometimes lead to indifference toward the vulnerable today?
 - What are some practical ways we can guard against becoming "overfed and unconcerned" in our own lives?
 - How might God be calling you to greater compassion for the vulnerable in your life?
 - As a small group, how can we be intentional this Spring about modeling a different approach to the vulnerable in the wealthy, comfortable, and powerful city that we live in?
- The passage describes the men of Sodom attempting to commit sexual violence against Lot's visitors. This includes homosexuality and a clear rejection of God's design for sex. How does this scene reflect what happens when a society abandons God's moral order?
 - How does sexual sin—including homosexuality in Sodom-- lead to the devaluing of people's inherent worth?
 - How can we hold a biblical stance on homosexuality while still showing Christ's love to those struggling with same-sex attraction?

- The Bible several times says that the only appropriate reaction to sexual sin and temptation is to flee. How can we practically flee sexual sin in our own lives?
- We live in a hyper-sexualized culture as well. How should we live as Christians called to remain in the world while protecting our minds, hearts, and bodies from sexual sin?
- Have someone in your group read the remainder of the chapter. How do the various characters of this story respond to the destruction of Sodom?
 - Let's talk about Lot first. Lot is described as "righteous" in 2 Peter 2:7-8, yet we see him making horrific compromises in this narrative. What does Lot's story teach us about the danger of compromise with Sodom?
 - Lot lived in Sodom despite knowing its sinfulness. How does this warn us about growing comfortable with cultural sins today including the normalization of homosexuality?
 - What are some ways that Christians today might be tempted to compromise with the surrounding culture?
 - How can we discern when we're accommodating to culture in harmful ways versus engaging culture redemptively?
 - What are some "early warning signs" that we might be compromising our faith, both as individuals and as a church?
 - Wesley pointed out a small part of Genesis 19:14, that Lot's sons-in-law think he is joking when he warns them about God's judgment. Why do you think they responded this way?
 - What makes it difficult for people to take warnings about God's judgment seriously today?

- When have you found it challenging to communicate spiritual truth to family members or friends who don't share your faith?
 - How can we communicate difficult biblical truths in ways that people will hear?
- Another tragic character in this story is Lot's wife. Wesley reminded us of Jesus' warning concerning her in Luke 17:32-33. What do you think it means to "Remember Lot's wife" as Jesus taught us?
 - What might it mean to "look back" spiritually?
 - Why is it sometimes hard to leave Sodom behind when we're called to follow Christ? Why isn't it easier to leave our old life behind us?
 - What are some things in your own life that you have found difficult to "leave behind" in your walk with Jesus?
 - How can community help us to keep our eyes fixed ahead?
 - What is one specific area where God might be calling you to "leave Sodom behind" in your own life? What step of obedience can you take this week?
- Throughout this passage, we see both God's judgment and His mercy. How does this narrative point to our need for a Savior?
 - Abraham pleaded for the righteous, but ultimately rescue came through removing Lot from judgment. How does this foreshadow Christ's work of salvation?
 - The chapter ends with a story of further perversion between Lot and his daughters. But Wesley preached that verse 37 shows a glimmer of hope. Read Ruth 1:3-5 and Matthew 1:5-6. Where does the hope of God's mercy shine through in these verses?

- What does God's ability to bring total salvation generations down the line from utter perversion tell us about God's ability to heal us in our brokenness?