

Abraham: Life of Faith

Week 2 – Genesis 13

Leaders' Notes

The purpose of a small group is to delve deeper into the Bible, draw closer to God and one another. Don't feel you need to ask every question or answer them in the exact order they are written. These study questions should be your servant, not your master. ☺ (Apologies to the engineers and accountants who may find this approach difficult).

It is good to ask individuals for an answer to a question, rather than just throw every question out to the group. Some people feel far more comfortable than others speaking when uninvited. By asking questions of individuals, it helps keep everyone involved.

Ice Breaker Question:

Tell about a time when you had to resolve a significant issue with a close member of your family or dear friend that had the potential of creating conflict or strife?

Going Deeper from Sunday

Sermon Synopsis

Abram returned from Egypt very wealthy with a great deal of livestock. His nephew Lot had also become wealthier while in Egypt. The land could not support both of them with all their clans and flocks. Their herdsman began to quarrel forcing them to separate. Abram let Lot choose where he wanted to dwell. Lot chose the more fertile-looking plain of the Jordan near Sodom, leaving Abram with the land God had promised him in Israel. Then God reaffirmed his promise to Abram and told him He would give him all the land as far as his eye could see. Abram worshipped God.

Application: Abram chose to walk by faith when he deferred to Lot's choice of the best land. When we are trusting God, we are able to relinquish control knowing God blesses those who trust in him. In contrast Lot walked by sight when he chose the land that "looked" better but was inhabited by wicked people, which eventually led him to more trouble.

Are there any reflections or questions you had from Sunday's Sermon?

Question for Reflection

What must it have been like for Abram to have offered to Lot the very land that God had promised to give *him* and his descendants? What was his temptation?

Mining the Scriptures

Read Mark 8:27-38

What does Jesus question his disciples about in vv. 27-29? What is the difference between his disciples' perception of who he is and the rest of the crowd's?

According to Jesus, what does it mean to be "the Christ"? (see v. 31)?

Why does Peter rebuke Jesus? (Follow-up question: What does Peter object to in what Jesus is saying?)

Why does Jesus rebuke Peter and say: "Get behind me Satan"? (Follow-up: Satan is the Tempter. Jesus is accusing Peter of taking Satan's part as the Tempter and tempting Jesus. What temptation is Peter raising for Jesus?)

Notice that the text says, "But turning around and seeing his disciples, Jesus said, 'Get behind me, Satan!'" What does Jesus *seeing* his disciples have to do with the temptation to save his own life? (What Peter was saying was actually a temptation to avoid the cross and *save his own life*. But when he saw his disciples, Jesus was reminded of the reason the Father had asked him to lay down his life in the first place, and he was able at once to resist that temptation and rebuke the tempter.)

What are the two choices Jesus then sets before his disciples (and us) in verses 35 and 36? How do the choices set before Abraham and Lot compare to these choices?

Application questions

In what ways are we tempted to "save" our own lives? What might "losing your life" and trusting Jesus look like for us today?

In Mark 8:35, Jesus says, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." In both these scenarios we lose our lives, but only one scenario do we end up actually saving our life. How can a sense of our own mortality help us to live a life more trusting in Jesus?

Close in prayer

Spend some time praying for each other.