

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
GENESIS 18 AND 19 • FEBRUARY 21, 2021

The
P A T R I A R C H S
A B R A H A M

Abraham welcomed God and interceded for Sodom - Lot welcomed Sodom and was ruined.

WARM UP

What is something that made you laugh this week?

1. **If you had a surprise chance to host the Creator of the universe, your Savior what would you do?** What did Abraham do? 18:1ff. What happened in this fellowship? [“stand near by” = knock] Rev. 3:20 is Jesus’ invitation to us. What does it mean to have a private intimate dinner with our Savior King? Share as a group some practical ways you have made this a vital part of your lives?
2. **What makes you smile about Sarah’s interchange with God in Chapter 18?** What are the hard facts we are given in v11? How did her name come up? Coincidence? What do you think God was doing?
3. **Judging from Sarah’s laughing in unbelief at God’s promise, how do you explain the fact that Sarah is one of only two women mentioned in the Bible’s honor roll of faith?** See Heb 11:11 (most versions) and Gen 21:1-7. What does this tell you about God and how He works? About Sarah’s faith? Your faith?
4. In 18:18 it sounds like God will unconditionally accomplish His promise but v19 sounds like there is human responsibility that has to take place for it to happen. **Abraham was to train those in the covenant with him to “keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right” so the Lord will bring about those promises?** Cf also 17:1-2 Didn’t God know Abraham would at times fail in the process?
5. Consider Eph 2:8-10, 1 Pet 1:13-16, and Titus 2:11-14. **In what way does God’s sovereign grace not only include sure ends but also the human responsibility?** How does this give believers security before God while sensing the need for practical holiness? – **Doing right from grace not in order to get grace.**
6. How does Abraham practicing caring intercession for Sodom and grasping God’s justice relate to his calling and purpose in the world? **How is God training you right now for your calling and life purposes?**

Do not love the world or anything in the world...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 JOHN 2:15-17

We are meant to contrast Abraham’s faith choices and behavior in chapter 18 with Lot’s in 19. – A warning!

CONCLUDING CHALLENGE

Verses 19:1-7 and 14 indicate Lot knew right from wrong and even knew God. What does this tell us about the dangerous alluring and holding power of evil? Even in the hour of judgement what was Lot interceding (really negotiating) for with the angel? V 17-20. What good impact did he make in the city? What influence did settling down in the city have on him and his family?

What do you think Lot was telling himself to justify each little step downward toward disaster? Beware! What warning signs did he ignore? What warning signs does God provide for us to keep us from abandoning our pilgrim tents and settling down in this world?
