





HELLO!

**What's the worst
experience you've
had on a holiday?**



**GROWING YOUR
FAMILY IN CHRIST**

**BCEC FAMILY RETREAT
MAY 2-4 2014**

£125 adults

£65 4-12 / £85 13-16

ReGeneration

2014 English-Speaking Uni Student Conference
@COCM, Milton Keynes

11th-14th April 2014

£85 early bird (before 25th Feb)
£100 after (before 25th Mar)

www.regeneration.cc





WANTED: FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

HELP WITH:

- **Sorting donated food for distribution**
- **Working in the foodbank centre meeting people and giving out food**
- **Helping out at one-off activities (i.e. supermarket collections, Harvest and Christmas etc)**

Training day:

Sat 1st March (10am-12.30pm) For more info contact Hoi Fei

I N R E V E R E N C E

**CD launch concert showcasing Christian
artists and musicians fundraising for
Birmingham Central FOOD BANK**

**Saturday 22nd March at 7:30pm
Birmingham Christian Centre**

Tickets £5 adults / £3 child

For more info contact LARRY



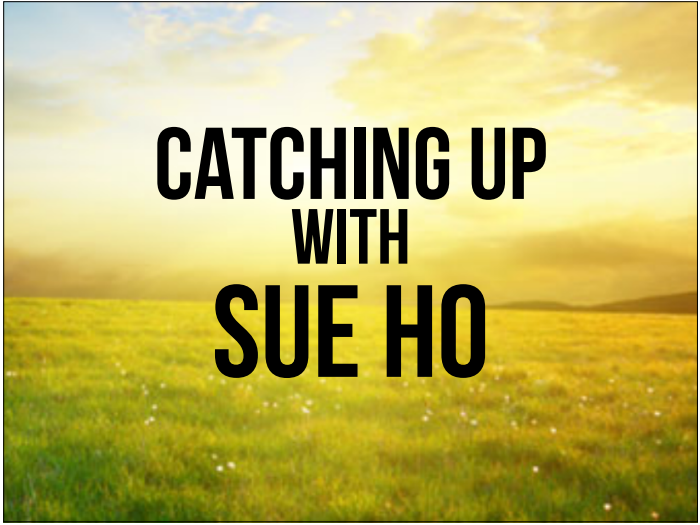
MARCH
MISSIONS
MONTH
LIVING IN CHRIST



**SPECIAL PRAYER
MEETING**

TUESDAY 8PM





**CATCHING UP
WITH
SUE HO**



Sodom & Gomorrah

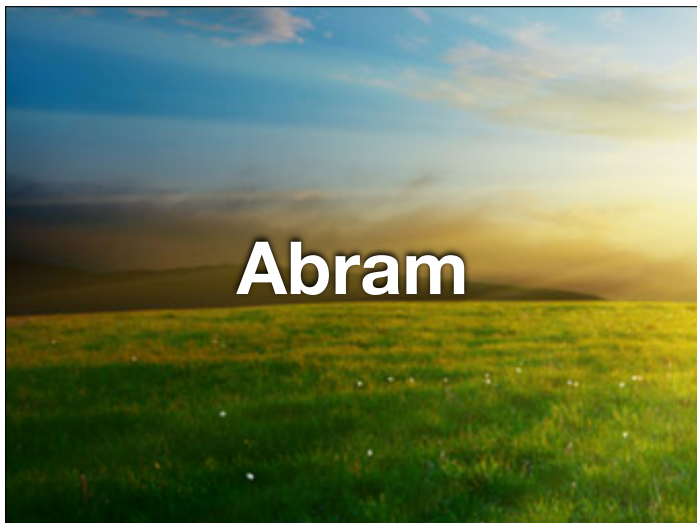


**Lot &
Abraham**

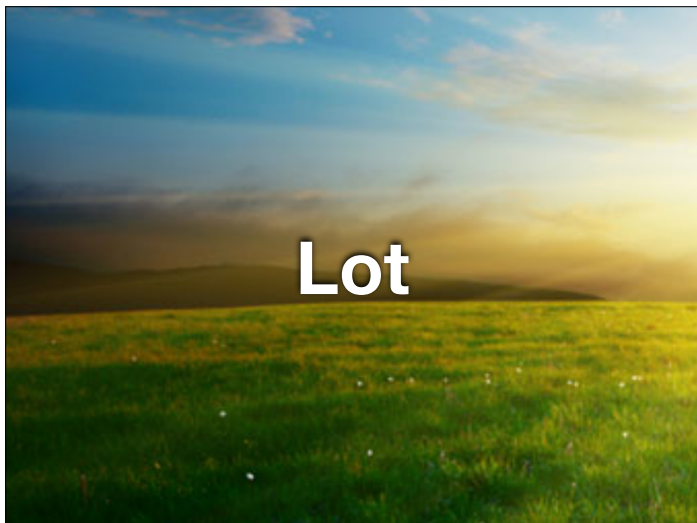


Where's Your Focus?

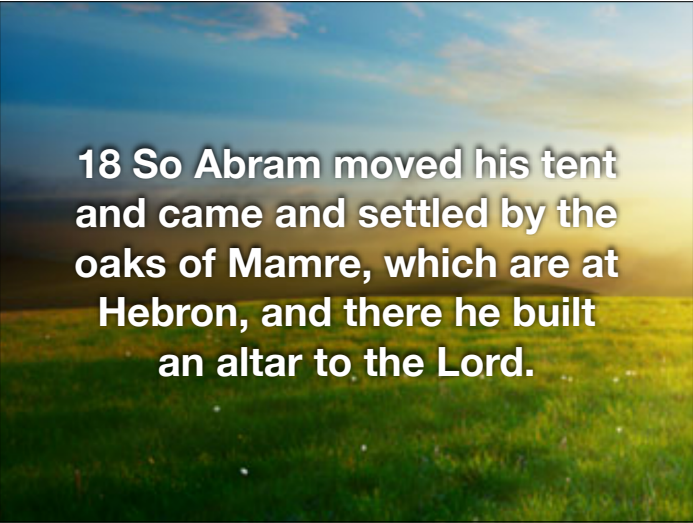
1. Abram's wealth - hard working, but realises it's God's blessing
2. Abram asks Lot - because he trusts God to provide
 - a. Abram actually has first choice.
 - b. where do you want to go?
 - c. Lot looked at the land that looked good and took that
 1. attracted to something, profit, cities, who knows



8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."



10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.



18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

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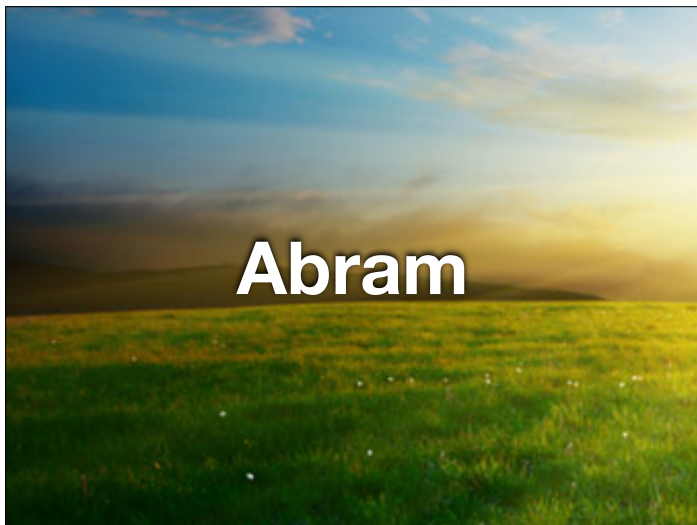
14 The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northwards and southwards and eastwards and westwards, 15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring for ever. 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." 18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord

Abram's first act is worship.

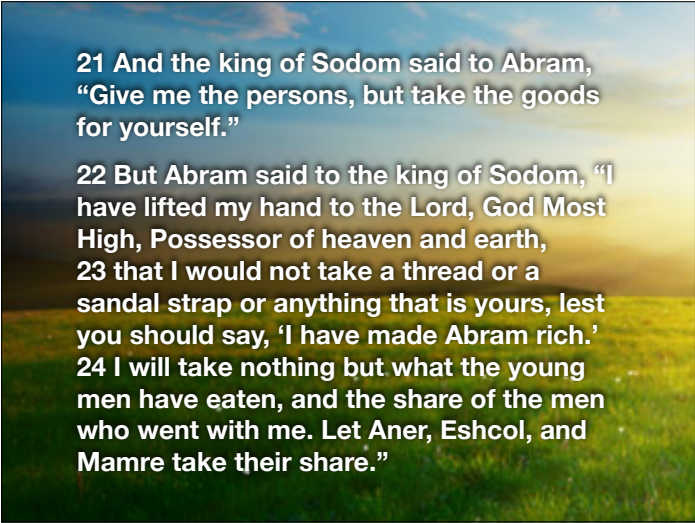
Story of my friend Leslie and praying at work



1. Abram's Continued trusting v Lot's continued not
2. Genesis 14 — King of Sodom attacked and overthrown
 1. Lot and all his possessions get taken away
 2. 12 They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.



1. Abram goes and gets Lot and all the possessions back
2. 14 When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. 16 Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.



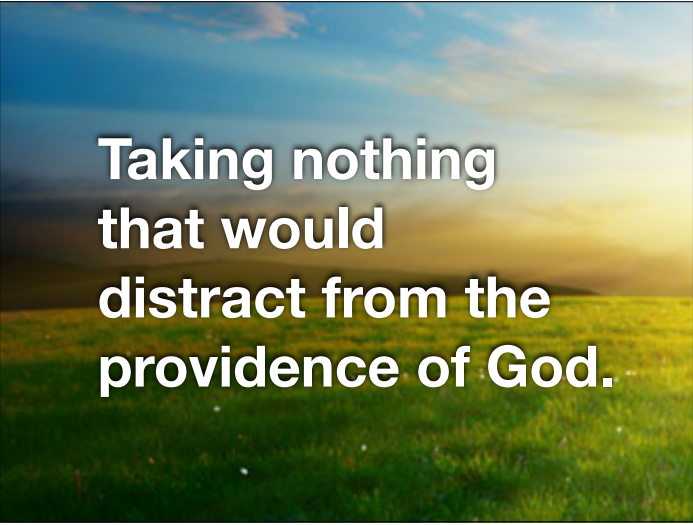
21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' 24 I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

Dialogue between Abram & King of Sodom

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**Taking nothing
that would
distract from the
providence of God.**

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People ask me, "At what point have I crossed the line? Is it this far? Is it this far? How much temptation can I get away with before it counts as a sin?"

If you're focusing on the rules, or the law, or the sin, your focus is in the wrong place. Focus on God, and growing with him, and enjoying His holy life.



1. Sodom is a bad bad place.
 1. Recap the brutal story
 2. But Lot can't seem to see how bad it is
 1. Here, have my two daughters instead
 3. Lost perspective, lost focus
 1. 9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. 10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.
 4. This is kind of like Noah isn't it?
 1. Angels blind the mob. They can't even find the door.
 2. How appropriate is this scene!



Sodom is a
bad, bad place.

GENESIS 19 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 bowed himself with his face to the earth 2 and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." 3 But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." 6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." 9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. **10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.**

1. Lot can't seem to see how bad it is.
2. Loss of perspective, loss of focus



Losing Focus Losing Perspective

More loss of focus

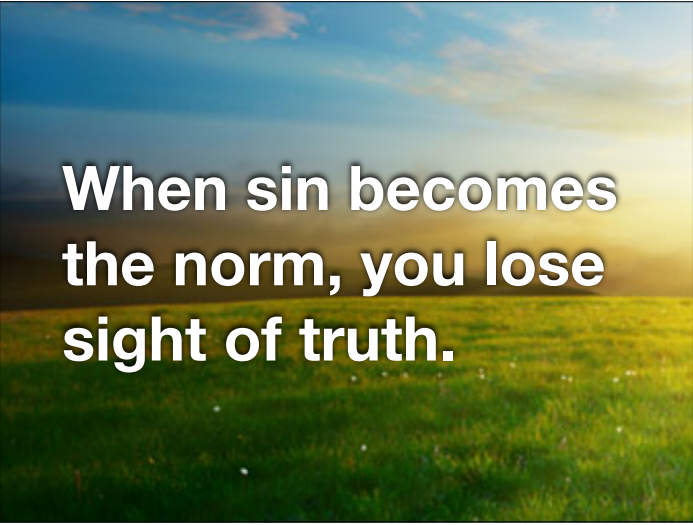
14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the

men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said,

"Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."


SERIOUSLY?!!



**When sin becomes
the norm, you lose
sight of truth.**

When sin becomes so standard in your life,
you lose sight of what is right and wrong
you lose sight of the importance of life

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What is your focus?

When sin becomes so standard in your life,
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**Ask God to give
you focus.**

What sin needs rejecting
What ways of thinking needs repairing
Where are you going wrong?

Ask him to give you laser eye surgery.



Shall not the Judge of the Earth do what is just?

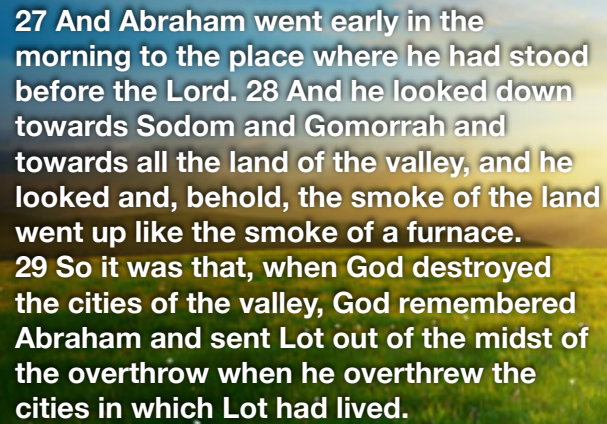
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Abram's Intercession

1. Why does Lot get saved?
2. Abram's intercession
3. A conversation with God
4. 18:22 So the men turned from there and went towards Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. 23 Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" 26 And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."
5. 45, 40, 30, 20, 10
6. But does God find any righteous people?
7. Who is righteous compared to God?
8. God saves Lot out of mercy.
9. 27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 And he looked down towards Sodom and Gomorrah and towards all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.
10. 29 So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.



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**Pray for those you love.
Pray for them to be saved.
Set an altar for the Lord.**

1. PRAY FOR THOSE YOU LOVE
2. PRAY FOR THEM TO BE SAVED
3. SET AN ALTAR FOR THE LORD
 1. This place is dedicated for God
 2. This heart is given to God
 3. Christ's sacrifice on the altar means I am saved, and belong to God