

LIFEGROUPS

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Warming Up

What problems do you see in your community that weigh on your heart and mind?

Read Genesis 18–19 Discovering the Word

1. In 18:1-8 what elements of hospitality does Abraham show even to visiting strangers?
2. Why does the Lord decide to tell Abraham about his decision to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (18:16-19)?
3. In the long conversation that follows (18:20-33), what do you learn about Abraham's attitude toward the wicked cities and toward the Lord?
4. In chapter 19 we get a close look at the people in Sodom. How do their actions help us understand why they were under God's judgment?
5. How is the Lord's mercy evident in his treatment of Lot and his family (19:10-22)?
6. Describe how God's judgment works out in Sodom and in Lot's family (19:23-28).

Applying the Word

In what areas could we intercede with God for our city or country because of its sins?

Leaders Notes

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader. Let the Word of God lead you and your Lifegroup to HEAR God's prophetic message this week as you explore His Word together.

A little context on Genesis 18-19 (taken from a commentary)

Contemporary Christianity has been described as "privately engaging but socially irrelevant." Many of us concern ourselves only with family and church to the neglect of the broader arenas of work and community—the economic, social and political fabric of our society. So far in Genesis, we have seen Abraham wrapped up in his personal and family concerns. But in this passage he broadens his perspective. He becomes involved in the problems of a neighbouring city whose lifestyle is the antithesis of everything he stands for. Abraham's reaction to the news of impending judgment can instruct us today concerning responsible Christian action in our own society.

Adapted from <http://www.ivpress.com/bible/study.php?study=385>

From Matthew Henry's Commentary on Genesis 18:23-33...

Come and learn from Abraham what compassion we should feel for sinners, and how earnestly we should pray for them. We see here that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Abraham, indeed, failed in his request for the whole place, but Lot was miraculously delivered. Be encouraged then to expect, by earnest prayer, the blessing of God upon your families, your friends, your neighbourhood. To this end you must not only pray, but you must live like Abraham. He knew the Judge of all the earth would do right. He does not plead that the wicked may be spared for their own sake, or because it would be severe to destroy them, but for the sake of the righteous who might be found among them. And righteousness only can be made a plea before God. How then did Christ make intercession for transgressors? Not by blaming the Divine law, nor by alleging aught in extenuation or excuse of human guilt; but by pleading HIS OWN obedience unto death.