

A Word from Kathy

The scriptures do not say that God told Abram to take his family down to Egypt, during the famine. It is possible that it was Abram's plan and not God's. Yet if God had allowed this famine, wasn't He able to care for Abram where He had called him? There may be times when we find ourselves in a similar situation. A trial has come, and we try to temporarily handle it in our own way. What then? This trial of Abram serves as a lesson not only for him, but for all those who are true followers. We, like Abram, must repent and return. To repent literally means to turn from our own ways and to look to God. Before we get into the lesson this week, let's ask ourselves if there is an area where we have gone out on our own and tried to handle a trial in our own way, in our marriage, in our parenting, at work, or in the ministry. If so, this great man of faith shows us exactly what to do: Return and call on the name of the LORD. Aren't you glad that God's Word shows men, like Abram, for their great faith and their frailties? Pray and ask God to speak to you as you spend time in His Word.

Observation

1. Look at the map at the end of this study guide and locate where Abram was (Egypt) and where he had to go (back to Bethel), in order to return to the place where he had last worshipped the Lord. When we return, it is often a time-consuming and difficult journey of retracing the steps we took in our own plan, but God is with us every step of the way.
2. What did Abram do in Genesis 13:3-4?
3. Abram's life was very similar to ours; he had many difficult situations and trials to deal with from time to time. What is Abram's next trial that arises? Gen. 13:5-7
4. How does Abram handle this problem? Gen. 13:8-9
5. What does Lot do when faced with the decision of which way to go? On what do you believe he based his decision?
6. What type of place had Lot chosen? Gen. 13:13

7. What do you believe were Lot's priorities?
8. Make a list of the things you learn about Lot's new home.
9. Even though it looks very selfish that Lot chose the area of land he did, what do we know about God's sovereign plan and His ability to bless Abram, as He had promised?
10. What promises did God make to Abram in Gen.13:14-17?
11. What length of time did God state that He had given the land to Abram and his descendants? Gen. 13:15
12. What act of Abram's devotion do you see in Gen. 13:18? How many times have we seen Abram do this very thing?

Interpretation

13. What did Abram do in Genesis 13: 4 that revealed his true heart's desire? What he did do is equally as important as what he did not do. He did not waste time worrying about the time wasted in Egypt or the lack of faith he had shown going there, nor did he beat himself up over the poor example he had been in front of those under his leadership. What will God do for Abram and for us?

Are you wasting any of your time fretting over past sins? Are you allowing the past to keep you from all God has for you today?

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

14. What does it mean to "call on the name of the LORD"?

15. In Genesis 13:5-10, we see a problem come to the surface; quarreling breaks out among those who really should be getting along and working together. What was the root problem among the herdsman of Abram and the herdsman of Lot? The better we are at looking past the surface problem and understanding the root

issues, the better we will be at handling them according to scripture. As a parent, can you look past your children's quarreling and discern the true problem? Can you think of other situations where the ability to carefully discern the root issue might be valuable?

16. Where had Lot gotten his start? Where would Lot be if it weren't for Abram?
17. Did it make good business sense to choose as Lot did? What factors should we consider in making our business decisions?
18. As we look at Lot and the choice he made to live and to work alongside the sinful people of Sodom, what does that tell you about his priorities?
19. When you study this story of Abram and Lot, the quarreling, the divisions that have arisen, and the selfishness we see as Lot makes his choice; what are your thoughts and feelings toward Lot? Do you have anyone like Lot in your life? Have you been guilty of being a Lot in certain situations?
20. After Lot moves, God speaks to Abram and reaffirms His promises. How important is it that God said He will give this land to Abram and his descendants forever? Does this have any importance today?

Application

21. Are there areas where you have gone off in your own understanding and tried to remedy your situation? What instructions are given in Prov. 3:1-10 that would prove helpful?

Prov. 3:1-10 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

22. Genesis 13:4 tells us that Abram “called on the name of the LORD”; what does that look like in the life of a Christ follower?
23. Are there areas of your life where divisions and decisions need to be made? Are you more like Lot or Abram?
24. Do you have an Abram in your walk of faith? Someone who has had a dramatic influence on your life for good?
25. Maybe you are feeling like you got stuck with the short end of the stick. Perhaps someone in business has selfishly advanced, and you are left with second best. What truth can we glean, from this study of Abram, that should encourage your heart?
26. As we began this chapter, we asked God to open our hearts and minds to all He wanted to say to us through this story of Abram and Lot. Now that we have spent a considerable amount of time observing the text, interpreting the lesson behind the story and considering the application to our own life, let’s spend a few minutes talking to God about all we have seen. We do not want to be merely hearers of God’s word, but we desire to be doers of it. Obedience, in every area of our life, is the goal that we are striving for.



Map taken from ESV Study Bible pg.75