

January 19/20, 2002

Study Questions

By Faith We Live: A Study of the Life of Abraham

Faith and Our Choices

Genesis 13:1-18

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever trusted someone for something important and he/she let you down? Share what happened. How did it make you feel? How did it affect your ability to trust in the future?
2. What did you learn about faith and trust growing up? Did you learn you could trust others or did you learn you must only trust yourself? How did you learn this?
3. Would you say that trusting others comes easily for you today... or is it difficult? Why is that? How do these experiences affect your ability to trust God?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 13:1-18.
2. Review what it was that caused Abram to flee to Egypt and lie about his wife Sarai.
3. Genesis 13:1 reminds us that Lot was still with Abram. He was a nonplayer in the drama in Egypt, but will be a major player in the drama in chapter 13. Discuss what Lot experienced as he observed Uncle Abram's crisis of faith. How might that have affected his view of God and his faith in God?
4. In 13:2-4 Abram returned to the places he'd established when he first entered the land (12:6-9). Why do you suppose he did that? What do we learn from Abram's journey?
5. In 13:5-7 it is God's blessings on Abram and Lot that revealed two distinct value systems which required separation. In what ways do God's blessings sometimes reveal our selfishness?

Is it possible that sometimes God doesn't bless us because of what we would do with those blessings?

6. The first time in the Old Testament that Abram speaks, he demonstrates selfishness and a lack of faith (12:11-13). If we didn't know how the story ends we might be surprised that the next time Abram speaks, he demonstrates great faith and selflessness (13:8-9). What lesson did Abram learn that changed him?
7. While Abram learned from his trip to Egypt, it appears Lot learned something else. Based on 13:10-13 what did Lot learn in Egypt?

8. How do Abram's and Lot's choices line up with what Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, 24?

In simple terms, what is the contrast between Abram and Lot in Genesis 13?

Describe a modern day Abram and a modern day Lot.

9. Notice the structure in Genesis 12-13 focused around the dialogue. God speaks and promises Abram blessings (12:1-3). Abram speaks in a crisis of faith forfeiting the blessings (12:11-13). Abram speaks reflecting trust in God (13:8-9). God speaks again restating the promise of blessing (13:14-18). What does that pattern teach us about faith and blessings?

Application

1. At this point in your life do you tend to be more like Abram or Lot in Genesis 13?

What daily behaviors or attitudes would support your conclusion?

2. What will be necessary to experience the promises and blessings of God?

List 3 practical steps you can take to get you from where you are to where you need to be.

3. Spend time in prayer asking God to teach you what it means to trust Him and walk by faith.