

March 9/10, 2002

Study Questions
By Faith We Live: A Study of the Life of Abraham
Faith and Blessings
Genesis 18

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever warned someone of something, only to have them go ahead anyway and have a negative experience? How did you feel, having warned them and been ignored?
2. Have you ever ignored someone else's warning, or your better judgment, only to learn the hard way that you should have listened? Why did you have to learn the hard way?
3. What do most people in our culture believe about the wrath and judgment of God? Even if they do believe in the wrath of God, do they believe they are deserving of God's wrath? Why or why not?
4. What do you think it means to be a friend of God?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 18:1-8. Do you believe Abraham knew who his visitors were? Why or why not?

Compare with Hebrews 13:2. Does this still happen today?

2. Read Genesis 18:9-15. Why did Sarah laugh?

Does your lack of faith ever cause you to laugh when God makes a promise? In what ways might we "laugh" in our own way?

3. Talk about the implications of Genesis 18:14. What things can you name right now, today, that seem impossible?

Are you expecting God to do the impossible? When was the last time you prayed for God to do the impossible?

4. Read Genesis 18:16-21. Why does God say He is going to tell Abraham what He is going to do?

What is Abraham called in these passages?

2 Chronicles 20:7

Isaiah 41:8

James 2:23

How does that name compare with Abraham and God in Genesis 18?

5. Compare Psalm 1 with Genesis 18. Does God treat the righteous and the wicked alike? History proves over and over again that there is a path of life and a path of destruction. Why do people continue to take the path of destruction when they could have God's blessing?
6. Read Genesis 18:22-33. Does the faith of just one person matter? If Lot had only reached his family, the people of Sodom would have been spared God's judgment at that time. What does this tell you about the importance of the church in the world today?

Do we need to be a majority to make a difference?

7. What is the difference between those who experience God's blessings and those who experience God's wrath? Is there any middle ground?

Application

1. List the first names of 5 people you know who have chosen the path of sin. Are any of them happy and satisfied?

While sin may prosper for a season, it will not satisfy in the end. Do you have any doubt this is true? (Read Psalm 73 to help with this.)

2. List one specific "impossibility" you can pray for over the next 30 days. One of the great blessings of faith is that we dwell in relationship with the God of the impossible. Every day is a reason for hope.
3. What specific things can you do to influence others down the path of God's blessing rather than the path of God's judgment?

