



SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 13-14

Last week in our study of Genesis, we zeroed in on one particular family, Abram & Sarai, and the promise God made to Abram to make him a great nation that will bless all the nations of the earth. We watched as Abram, Sarai, and their nephew Lot obeyed God's command to leave what was familiar for what was unknown but best. This week we will follow the story of Abram and Lot as they grow into mighty communities and separate, as well as trace the story of Lot's capture by rival kingdoms and rescue from captivity by Abram.

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- At the beginning of this story, we see Abram leave Egypt after he had been sent away for lying to Pharaoh about his wife. We spoke last week about Egypt often being a symbol of self-reliance in the Bible. However this week, Abram returns "to the place where his tent had been at the beginning" and calls upon the Lord.
 - Outside your story of salvation, can you think of another time in your life when God brought you out of your sin to dwell with Him and rely on Him again?
 - What do you think "calling upon the name of the Lord" means?
 - What did "calling upon the name of the Lord" look like for you in that season?
- After Abram & Lot divide the land and settle the Lord continues to clarify and color in more of his promise that he had made to Abram in Genesis 12. Read Genesis 13:14-17. In this promise, God shows Abram the land where his nation of blessing will reside and multiply. There is abundance emphasized in this promise. From the land to the number of Abram's descendants as grains of dust, God's blessing will reach both great lengths and depths.
 - God has made numerous promises to Christ's followers. What promise of God do you find easy to believe and trust in? What promise of God do you find difficult to believe or trust in?
 - In Christ, we are part of the fulfillment of this promise. How does knowing that God's promises are abundant and sure give you hope in your circumstances/life today?
- In a great war among the nations, Lot, Abram's nephew is captured by an enemy kingdom. Abram leaves his home with his men in pursuit of Lot, rescuing him and his possessions. Throughout the Bible we are able to find shadows of Christ, this story is no different. What similarities can you find between this story and the work of Christ? (ex. the incarnation of Christ, the pursuit of Christ for us "behind enemy lines", leaving the 99 for the 1, rescue from captivity, etc.)
 - Read Colossians 1:13. We can often forget the pursuit of God on our behalf (Abram) and our helpless state dead in our sin (Lot). It can be helpful in our walk with Christ and in our relationship with others to remember what we have been saved from and to by God's grace alone.
 - In your walk with Jesus, what do you think recalling his work of salvation on your behalf would change about your relationship with him? (ex. increase gratitude, foster humility, deepen dependence, etc.)
 - Is there a particular area of suffering or sin that remembering his work of salvation would be a refreshment to?
 - In your relationships with others, what do you think recalling his work of salvation on your behalf with change how you interacted/served/loved others? (ex. increase compassion, motivate deeper forgiveness, supply strength for patience, etc.)

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ!

- Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:
 - Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
 - How can the group pray for the group member & the person they are walking with?
 - What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.
- The weather is beginning to change, work together as a group to plan a block party where your group can meet and bless the neighborhood that you meet in each week.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
 - Consider putting together a care package for them! Supply a list of items people can bring. Have kids draw cards/notes. Etc!
- Have a potluck with food from a specific country, pray for that country, the churches there, etc. Check out prayercast.com for country prayer info!

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?