

Cultivate Genesis Study
Chapter 13

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 13 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Chapter 13: 1-4.

Despite his sin, the Lord blessed Abram while in Egypt and he returned to Bethel even more wealthy than when he left.

Abram returned to the place and to the altar where he previously worshipped God, and once again, called on the name of the Lord.

1. What is the warning in Revelation 2:5?

2. What is the promise in 1 John 1:9?

Tom Constable said, of 1John 1:9, "Sin incurs a debt to God. But forgiveness cancels the debt and dismisses the charge."

Abram was able to return to full worship of the Lord, once he called on the name of the Lord.

Do you have any unconfessed sin that is preventing you from a full worship of the Lord? _____

He wants no less than a total, debt free relationship with His children. Confession is just agreeing with God that you have acted in a way contrary to His desire. The enemy is the one that wants you to hold on to that sin and be separated from God. Stop now, confess, and let the debt go.

Read Genesis 13: 5-7

God's blessing on both Abram and Lot came with challenges. The land could not sustain them both living together, especially with the Canaanites and Perizzites also living in the land.

The disagreements that arose between Lot and Abram's representatives, was a poor witness to the people living in Canaan. Abram had also failed in his witness, through his lies while in Egypt.

Unity in the body is very important. How we handle disputes and disagreements, as believers, are on display for the world.

Read Philippians 4:1-4

3. What personal message did Paul feel was so important, that he included it in this passage of his letter to the Philippians?

4. Search other verses on unity among believers. Which ones stood out to you and why?

Read Genesis 13: 8,9

Abram is being a peacemaker. Read Philippians 2:3.

He is showing kindness to Lot by giving him the choice of where to go. As the elder, Abram had the right to make the first choice, but he is trusting that God will take care of him, wherever he is.

In verses 10-15, we are shown much about Lot's character. Instead of showing honor to his uncle, he took advantage of Abram's kindness and made a self- focused decision.

Read 1John 2:16

Just as Eve saw that the fruit was good for eating, in Genesis 3:6; Lot made an unwise life choice based on what he perceived as a good land.

Verse 10 declares, *"Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD."*

Lot placed more importance on his physical surroundings than the people he would have to live with. The Sodomites already had a reputation for evil.

Lot had entered a downward spiral. *"Lot pitched his tents"*, in Genesis 13:9. In Genesis 14:12, he was *"living in Sodom"*. And by Genesis 19:1, *"Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom."*

The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges explains that "The wide arches of ancient Oriental city gates, contained recesses which were the resort of leading citizens; and in which business was transacted, bargains made, and justice administered."

Where do you chose to pitch your tent? Who do you choose to spend your time with, either in person or virtually? Where do you place value? Do you need to make any changes?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 27:17

5. How have you, like Lot, been deceived by your eyes in the past? Have you settled for something less than the Lord's best plan for you? How can you prevent that happening in the future?

Read Genesis 13:14- 18

As difficult as it must have been for Abram to have to separate from his nephew, God showed Abram the blessings that He has in store for him and his descendants.

God is faithful to encourage us and remind us of His promises. God told Abram to "walk the entire land" of promise. God had Abram put his feet on all the land that was promised to his descendants.

Read Hebrews 11:8-10

As Lot chose, what seemed good in his eyes, Abram chose to trust God's promises for his future and settled in Hebron. He built another altar to the Lord, that stood as a physical reminder to himself and his neighbors, that he worships the Lord.

7. There are many instances of God's people building altars, in worship of the Lord. Look up the following verses. Who "built and altar to the Lord", in each of them?

Genesis 8:20 _____ Genesis 26:25 _____ 1Chronicles 21:26 _____

1Kings 18:32 _____ Judges 6:24 _____ Genesis 35:7 _____

Exodus 17:15 _____ 1Samuel 7:17 _____

Who built the altar in Revelation 8:3? _____

6. Do you have any physical declarations of faith that shows your neighbors that you worship the Lord?

In December, as I was working on writing these homework questions, we received a Christmas card in the mail addressed to "My neighbors at (my address)"

Upon opening it, we read the following note.

"Thank you for displaying your Nativity for all to see. It is a great reminder what this season is all about."

Our simple decision to place a nativity in our yard, was noticed. We were blessed to have a fellow believer acknowledge that to us. It is an encouragement for us to continue leaving signs of our faith for our neighbors to see. God's timing that day was, as always, perfect.

- Carolann