



## GOD RESCUES LOT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 19:1-3 AND 19:12-29

*God affirms His promise, Abraham bows to His authority.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

**A note to the teachers:** Verses 4-11 have been omitted from the reading due to the mature nature of the sexual encounter described. The confrontation the two angels of the Lord have with the townspeople is not critical to Lot's rescue. Please read through this passage and be prepared to refer children, who ask questions about the skipped verses, back to their parents.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**God's judgments are not to be mocked** – When Lot was told the city of Sodom was about to be destroyed, he urged the men who were pledged to marry his daughters to flee with them, but the men did not come and were destroyed with the rest of the city. They passed up the opportunity to be saved. God warned them through Lot, yet they did not heed the warning. It is easy for us to see the wickedness of Sodom because we are outside looking in. But people in the midst of sin and people surrounded by sinning friends are often very blind to it.

**The holiness of God will judge the wickedness of mankind** – God is holy and holds a holy anger toward sin. In the book of Nahum 1:6-7 we get a good description of the wrath of God set against those who do not take refuge in Him.

Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

(Nahum 1:6-7)

**There is salvation and safety from judgment for those who believe** – Lot believed the angels of the Lord and the message that the city is going to be destroyed.

This is evidenced by the appeal he makes to his sons-in-law. The next day the angels urged Lot to hurry and go. (It seems that Lot may have been waiting, hoping the sons-in-law would yet come.) When Lot hesitated, the angels grabbed him by the hand and lead him out of the city! What a comfort to know that God is able to save us in spite of ourselves.

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### WHERE IS JESUS?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Lot left Abraham to venture on his own, choosing to pitch his tent near the sinful peoples of Sodom. Lot gave no objection to Abraham in sending him away. Lot did not seem to mind leaving the man who God promised would be a blessing to all peoples. In spite of Lot striking out on his own to seek earthly blessings instead of the blessing that comes from God, God spared him.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we too can be spared from our sinful choices and our running away from the promises of God to pitch our tents in a world of sin.

Peter uses the story of Lot to encourage us. Peter says,

...if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) - if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

(2 Peter 2:7-9)

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

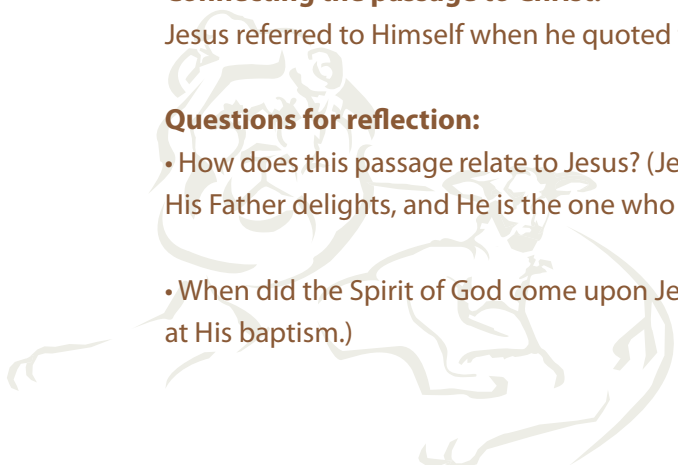
**Bible Passage: Isaiah 42:1-3**

#### Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus referred to Himself when he quoted this passage of Isaiah in Matthew 12:18-21.

#### Questions for reflection:

- How does this passage relate to Jesus? (Jesus is the servant of His Father, He is the chosen one in whom His Father delights, and He is the one who brings justice to the nations.)
- When did the Spirit of God come upon Jesus? (The Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism.)



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# SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

## ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

### PLENTY OF TIME

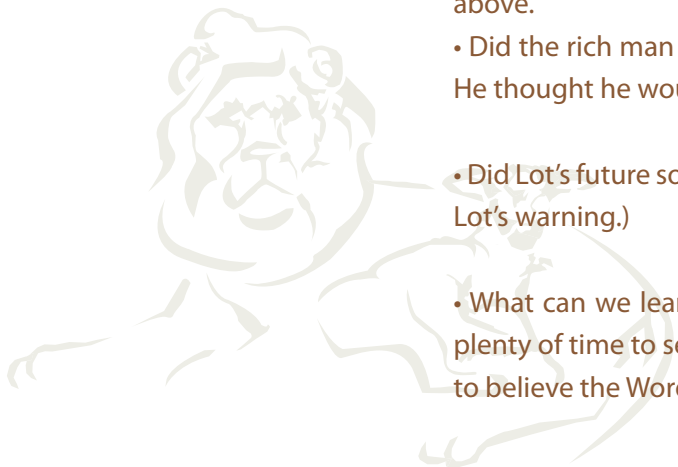
Read the following story from the New Testament then ask the following questions.

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

(Luke 12:16-21)

Compare the story of Lot's future sons-in-law in Genesis 19:14 with the parable above.

- Did the rich man in the parable realize he was going to die? (No, he had no idea. He thought he would live for many years.)
- Did Lot's future sons-in-law think they were going to die? (No, they did not believe Lot's warning.)
- What can we learn from these two stories? (We should not think that we have plenty of time to serve God. Only God knows how long we will live. Also, we need to believe the Word of God given to us, the Bible, and follow what it says.)



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### MAN OVERBOARD

Ask the class "What are the 8 steps to rescue a man who falls overboard on a boat?"

1. Shout "Man Overboard!"
2. Throw a life preserver to the person in the water.
3. Stop the boat, check your compass direction and turn 180 degrees. (Just backing up could cause a propeller injury.)
4. Choose one person to keep their focus on the swimmer at all times.
5. Drive the boat into the wind for better control.
6. Tie one end of a long rope onto the boat rail and a loop in the other end.
7. Throw the rope to the swimmer and pull him in.
8. Send a rescuer in only as a last resort, making sure that the rescuer wears a life preserver.

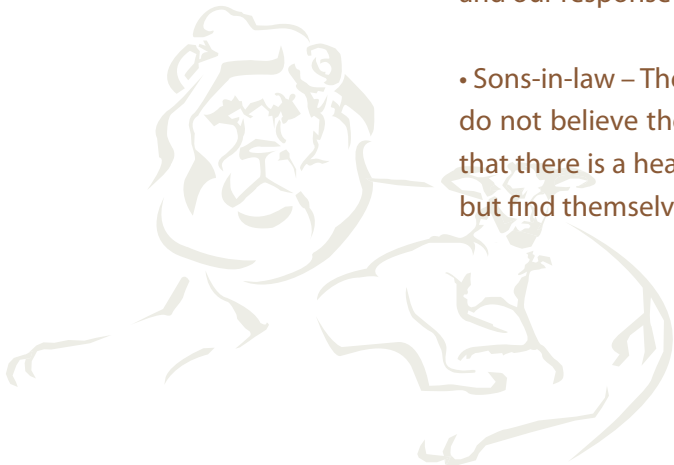
See how well the class does with this exercise then ask them about the angels' rescue of Lot to save him from the destruction of Sodom.

Ask them where the following people made a mistake in this rescue attempt:

- Sons-in-law – They thought Lot was joking and did not believe, then ended up dying in Sodom.
- Lot – Lot hesitated and, if it were not for the angels grabbing him, he may have died as well.
- Lot's wife – She left with Lot but did not listen to the warning and looked back at Sodom and was turned into a pillar of salt.

How are these three characters and their response to the angels warning like us and our response to God's call to repent of our sin and trust in Jesus Christ?

- Sons-in-law – They are like the people who hear that Jesus rose from the dead but do not believe the story. They also do not believe that there will be a judgment, that there is a heaven or there is a hell. They will go on doing whatever they want but find themselves destroyed in the end.



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- Lot – Lot is like the Christian. The Bible tells us that it is God who saves by his own initiative. If it were not for God coming to save us we would remain in our sin, doing what we want. Some of us are just like Lot, thinking we have more time to respond, but God has a way of grabbing hold of us and drawing us to the safety of His Son.
- Lot's Wife – Lot's wife is like the person who tries to be a Christian, but the temptations of the world lures them back. They try to follow the Lord, but they are enticed by the pleasures and curiosities of the world and eventually fall away.

Who are we going to be like? God, through His Word, is giving all of us a warning and tugging on our arms. His call to us, just like to the disciples, is "Come, follow me."

### OBITUARY

#### Supplies:

clip an obituary or newspaper story of a man who recently died unexpectedly

Tell the story to the class and then share the scripture for today.

Ask the class the following questions:

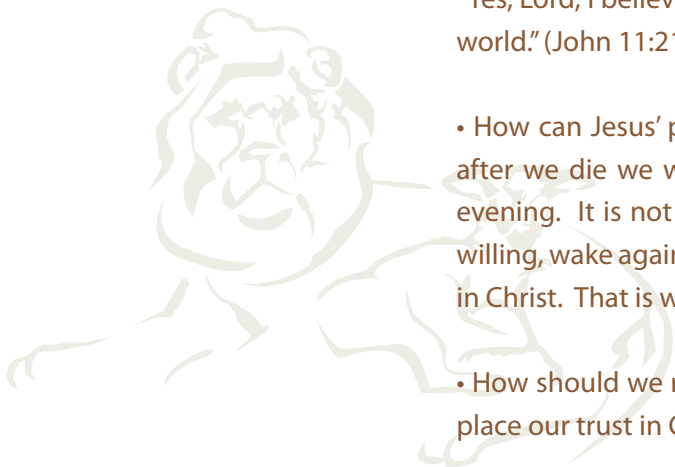
- How many of us are going to die some day if the Lord does not return first? (All of us)
- How many of us know how long we will live? (None of us)

Read the promise Jesus gave Martha at Lazarus' death to encourage her.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (John 11:21-27)

- How can Jesus' promise encourage us? (It is an amazing promise to know that after we die we will live again. In fact, it is very much like going to bed in the evening. It is not a frightful thing to fall asleep because you know you will, Lord willing, wake again in the morning. Death is like that for Christians who are trusting in Christ. That is why scripture sometimes refers to death as falling asleep.)

- How should we respond to the call of Jesus to believe? (We need to repent and place our trust in Christ.)



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## PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

## IN CLASS PROJECT

### Supplies

- paper
- colored pencils

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of the destruction of Sodom.



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### FOR OLDER GRADES

**Supplies:**

- paper and pencils

Read the warning Lot gave the sons-in-law in Genesis 19:14 and note their response. Read the following New Testament warnings. How should we respond to them? Are they as dire of a warning to us as Lot's warning was to the son-in-laws of Sodom?

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

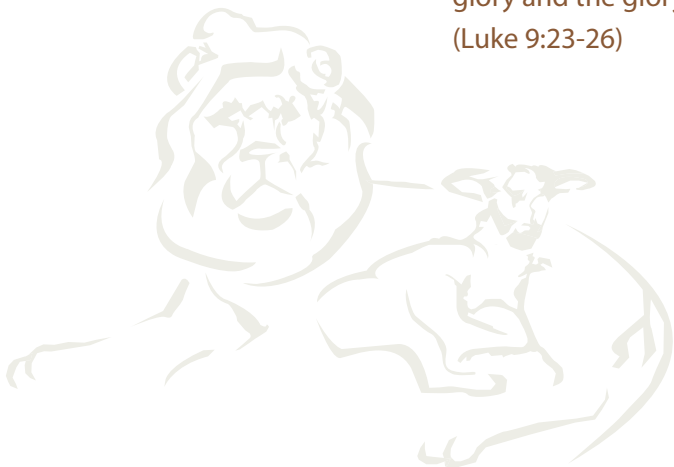
(Galatians 6:7-8)

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 5:19-26)

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

(Luke 9:23-26)



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### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Angels** – In this passage we see one of the many appearances of angels. Angels are beings created by God. They are often used as God's messengers and have great power. They seem to have the ability to travel from heaven to earth. Hebrews calls them ministering spirits. Hebrews 12:22 tells us there are thousands upon thousands of angels. Psalm 91 tells us that God sends His angels for our protection and He sent an angel to guard the Garden of Eden after the fall.

Perhaps the greatest service angels provide is their continual worship of God before the throne. When we die and go to heaven we will join with the angels and sing, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (Revelation 5:15)

