

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

September 20-26: Read [Genesis 15 & 19](#) & [Gospel of John 3](#)

Genesis 15

God's calling of Abram appears at the beginning of chapter 12. He was promised land (he was enlarging his wealth), and God's blessing (he felt that), but he wasn't with child yet. That was the third promise that attracted Abram and Sarai to God. It's been many years since they left Haran for Canaan. But the third promise was still unfulfilled. God came to Abram to remind him once again that God's promise will definitely be fulfilled.

Further Study & Discussion

- Abram and Sarai had wealth and land and a lot of servants to help them. They were your typical high-class couple, envy of all who knew them. However, they still had need. It's a good time to talk about the fallacy of the world's promise (money brings happiness).
- God's first words to Abram and Sarai were, **"Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."** Close your eyes and repeat that for yourself. What words come out at you? How are you comforted during this time?
- Abram and Sarai came up with another plan to continue their lineage. However God stopped them and told them to trust in him. Do you have a story about a time you didn't want to wait for God and tried to do things on your own?

Genesis 19

This is the tragic story of Sodom and Gomorrah. Pastor Jin will be preaching on this story in October. The point of the story is that these cities were full of all kinds of sins, and Lot and his family were living inside of it. Their story is our personal stories of living in the midst of sinful culture and how to live rightly. Sometimes, we just need to destroy a part of our lives in order to truly live.

Further Study & Discussion

- Sodom and Gomorrah represents large sins that might be present in our lives. Some are surrounded by it; they live in it. And it's a challenge to get out of it altogether. Do you know a story of someone who might fit this description?
- Lot tried to offer his two daughters to the angry crowd. That's evil. And as a father, he failed completely. How would you explain his side of the story? Is there one?
- Talk about Lot and his daughters after they left Sodom. Even after they left their city of sin, why are they still sinful? How does that apply to us?

Gospel of John 3

As Jesus' fame began to spread, people began to seek him. Most came to receive a miracle, but a few came to inquire about his true identity. Nicodemus was such a man. Belonging to the Sanhedrin (the ruling council), he was a scholar and seeker of the truth. He departs quietly after this conversation, but in 19:38-42, we find Nicodemus revealing himself as one of the secret believers of Jesus.

Further Study & Discussion

- What do you think Jesus meant when he answered, “No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit”?
- Jesus makes a reference to Moses lifting up a serpent in the wilderness (v.14) when he talks about the cross. Read that story in Numbers 21:4-9.