



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

CALLED & CHOSEN 4 THE DECEPTION OF SIN

Genesis 18:15 – Genesis 19:26



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

Repeat together:

Genesis 18:19 *“For I know him, **that he will command his children and his household after him**, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; **that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.**”*

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

God could trust Abraham, but can God trust me -
To leave fear and doubt behind, and from every sin flee?

God plans for my good so I will stay on track;
His blessings are ahead and I am not looking back!

1. INTRODUCTION: In our last lesson we left Abraham and Sarah talking with the three angels who had come to visit. The Lord was speaking through one of the angels, promising Abraham and Sarah that at that very time the following year, God would perform the impossible in 99 year old Sarah, and she would have a baby! The Lord also brought distressing news, that the people of Sodom had sinned so exceedingly that the city must be destroyed. The warning to Sodom is a picture for us, that we must be ready to follow Jesus and leave it all, without looking back when He calls.

ORDER OF SERVICE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’ | |
| 2. Children’s Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

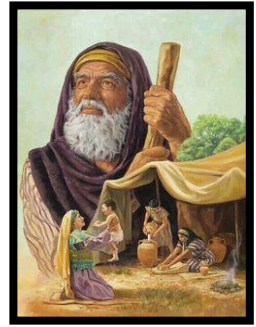
OBJECTS TO BRING: Salt Dough in Sealed Bag with Scripture Label (1 per each child & youth.)

2. GOD SHOWED ABRAM WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO DO

Abraham had prepared food for the three men who came to visit him when he found that one of these men was the Lord! The Eternal, Invisible God of Spirit was speaking through the angel - an appearance of the Lord called a Theophany, who announced that Abraham's wife Sarah, 99 years old and far past the age when she could conceive, would have a baby the next year! Abraham had laughed in joy, but Sarah laughed in unbelief.

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Genesis 18:15-19 "Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh. And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. ¹⁷And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; ¹⁸Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I know him,



that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

Abraham made mistakes the same as you and I, but God saw his heart. God did not hide from Abraham what He was about to do, because God knew that Abraham would command his family to keep the ways of the Lord. This passage carries a strong message for us. Why do we experience confusion? If we command ourselves and our families to follow the way of the Lord, we will not only no longer be confused, but He will reveal His plans to us!

Psalms 25:14 "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."

Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

3. ABRAHAM PRAYED FERVENTLY FOR HIS NEPHEW.

God came to tell Abraham personally that he was to have a son, and also to say that He had come to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah - but Abram's nephew was in that wicked city!

Genesis 18:20-23 “And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; ²¹ I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”

In Genesis 18:24-33 Abraham pleaded with God to spare the city if there were, starting with 50, down to if there were only 10 righteous men. Abraham spoke intimately with God, and God called him His friend. Abraham was no different than you or me; God desires close friendship with you like He had with Abraham.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”



I think Abraham didn't pray just when he wanted something, but liked to talk things over with God as a friend. Can we change the will of God with our fervent prayers? I don't think that is ever possible, but what changes is in our own hearts. The more time we spend with God the more we see things the way He sees. When we develop friendship with God through our prayers because we love Him, our own hearts become in tune with God's own heart like best friends, we think alike, and find ourselves praying according to His will.

1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

4. IF WE CANNOT CHANGE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, THEN HOW CAN OUR PRAYING CHANGE ANYTHING?

From Creation God commanded man to rule the earth. His purpose is for man is to speak with God's authority, to put things in order.

Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image (in the physical image of Jesus), after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."



God knew man would battle against Satan and the 1/3 of God's angels (now called demons) who fell to earth with him. Man must wrestle with this unseen opposition ruling with satanic authority over lost humanity. God's people are to stand in God's will, with faith as their armor, battling in prayer to bring Gods order to earth, so that God's will may be done on earth just as it is in heaven.

Ephesians 6:11-13 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

When we put on faith in Jesus as armor for the battle, and speak God's word in prayer believing, God's will that is contained in His word, spoken aloud, carries such great power that His will is done!

Matthew 17:19-20 "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

5. ABRAHAM PRAYED IN FAITH BELIEVING FOR LOT

Genesis 18:32-33 “*And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. ³³ And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.*”

Note something there is something very wonderful and powerful in this passage. God knew what He was about to do, and Abraham worked through God's will in his heart, in his communion with God. **When our hearts are in tune with the heart of our God** like Abraham, and like the friends of the lame man, whose faith in God was so strong that they tore a hole in somebody's roof to lower their friend down to where Jesus was, **knowing God's heart, that He would heal him**; our prayers then “availeth much” for we are praying the will of God that He revealed in our heart!

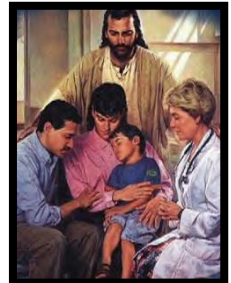


Luke 5:19-20 “*And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*”

Remember that God chose Abraham to lead the nation through whom His Son, the Lord Jesus would be born, because God knew that Abraham would walk in faith believing, and command his family and their families to follow the living God; this is Abraham's faith to move mountains in action!

Genesis 18:19 “*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*”

Praying in the will of God for our families for healing is God's heart, and is the way of the Lord.



6. GOD CAME TO JUDGE THE WICKEDNESS OF SODOM, BUT FIRST HE CALLED LOT TO COME OUT.

God knew the wicked city of Sodom must be destroyed, so He sent angels to bring Lot and his family out safely. God also knows that wickedness on our earth must be destroyed, and He will come to bring the righteous out safely. But the angels found Lot sitting as a prominent man at the gate of this wicked city!



Genesis 19:1 *“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.”*

How about those like Lot, who are messing up big time when Jesus comes? Will they be destroyed? Why would God want to rescue Lot, when here for many years Lot had willfully chosen to live in the midst of open wickedness and sin?

2 Peter 2:7-9 *“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds; ⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”*

The Lord knows that Godly people make mistakes for He knows their hearts, and He rescues them because He loves them! Many feel helpless to come away from sin like Lot, and many feel unable to free themselves from sin like Paul, but He still loves them:

Romans 7:23-24 *“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death.”*

Jesus is faithful and victory will come!

Romans 8:37 *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”*

7. BEING IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES CAN CAUSE PEOPLE TO PANIC AND MAKE TERRIBLE CHOICES.

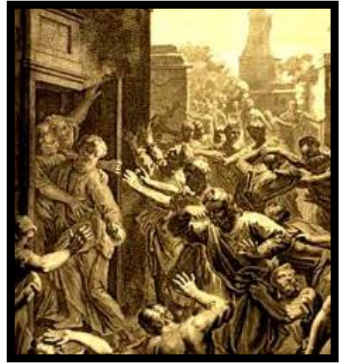
Genesis 19:2-3 *“And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. ³And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.*

The angels did not want to impose upon Lot's hospitality, but Lot knew they were not safe outside, and insisted they stay with him.

Genesis 19:4-5 *“But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: ⁵And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.”*

So horrific was the thought of the sodomites defiling the angels, that Lot panicked and offered his daughters to be used by the men.

Genesis 19:6-8 *“And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, ⁷And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. ⁸Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.”*



When Lot went outside trying to protect the angels, the situation escalated to violence as the men tried to break in the door.

Genesis 19:9 *“And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.”*

8. GOD CREATED ANGELS TO MINISTER TO PEOPLE



Genesis 19:10-11 “*But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. ¹¹ And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.*”

From the beginning of creation, God created angels to minister to the needs of men and these angels were fulfilling their purpose.

Hebrews 1:13-14 “*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? ¹⁴ **Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.***”

Genesis 19:12-14 “*And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. ¹⁴ And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.*”

Mockery is a great tool of the devil used by his followers to intimidate people by insincere sarcasm to do his will. Lot’s sons in law were likely friends of and influenced by these wicked men, presuming the warning of destruction by the angels to be sarcasm.

Genesis 19:15 “*And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; **lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.***”

When the Lord calls His people to rise up and leave this wicked place, only those who follow Him without hesitation will go.

9. WHEN GOD GIVES YOU DIRECTION DON'T ARGUE!

We think that of course we would just follow God without question if He was so clear that He sent angels to take us by the hand...but how do you know that He has not? **How many times have you received an answer in prayer but questioned God and froze?**

Genesis 19:16-17 *“And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”*

Trust God and obey. It is far better to obey first while trusting in hearing from the Lord than to shrink back and lose His blessing.

Genesis 19:18-20 *“And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD: ¹⁹ Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: ²⁰ Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”*

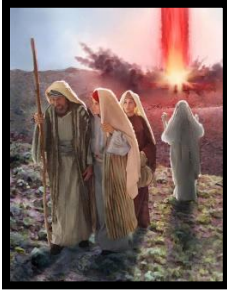


“Yes, I am following You Lord, but maybe we should wait for a few days because what if it isn't You?” If what you hear in prayer is in harmony with the scriptures and God says it is time to go, then go! God is patient with our bad decisions and He does not forsake us, but **instant obedience saves us from loss and heartache!**

Genesis 19:21-23 *“And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. ²² Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. ²³ The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.”*

10. SODOM AND GOMORRAH ARE FACTS OF HISTORY

Genesis 19:24-26 “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. ²⁶ **But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**”



“The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is a certain fact of history. The Genesis account is written in narrative form and alluded to by several other Old Testament writers. **Jesus Himself obviously believed it**¹ and in fact was an eyewitness as the pre-incarnate LORD. **Extra-biblical writings (including tablets unearthed at Ebla) mention Sodom** and even **give specific references to its location along the Jordanian shore of the Dead**

Sea...These five cities had all been situated along the Dead Sea Rift, a major plate boundary....Biblical archaeologist Dr. Bryant Wood of Associates for Biblical Research located city gates, crushed graves, towers, a temple, the water supply, and thick city walls. Uninhabitable since the destruction, the remains were identified by Dr. Wood as Sodom and Gomorrah. Creation geologist Dr. Steve Austin studied the geological evidence, including the fault zone, the burn layer, the bitumen that erupted, and the city’s calamitous fall to its ruin. Together, they have confirmed the truthfulness of the Genesis account.” *John D. Morris PHD*

1. See **Matthew 11:23-34; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12 and 17:28-32.** **2.** Wood, B. 1999. The Discovery of the sin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. *Bible and Spade*. 12 (3): 67-80. **3.** Austin, S. A. Sodom & Gomorrah Parts 1 & 2. *Origins*, produced by Cornerstone TeleVision Network.

1.5 EVIDENCE AT THE BAB EDH-DHRA CEMETERY

We have detailed the evidence that both town sites were destroyed by an overwhelming conflagration. Additional evidence from the cemetery at Bab edh-Dhra demonstrates that the destruction included areas outside the towns, thus involving “the entire plain” (Gn 19:25) and that it “**came out of the heavens**” (Gn 19:24). The destruction of the charnel houses at Bab edh-Dhra was brought about by the roofs first being set on fire, then collapsing, causing the interiors of the buildings to burn. **This is entirely consistent with the Biblical description of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, when “the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens”** (Gn 19:24)...**Dr. Bryant Wood 203**



11. SALT PILLARS OF THE DEAD SEA.



One long held popular theory was that Sodom and Gomorrah were located in the plain south of the Dead Sea and later covered by water as the Dead Sea water level changed over time. The level of the water has receded in recent years and early searches of the area found no evidence to verify this location, however, searches starting in 1973 began to discover evidence of occupied cities in the area southeast of the Dead Sea, with the cities of Bab-Edh-Dhra and Numeira being found in the 1980's. A map of these locations is shown at left.

JEBEL USDUM, ISRAEL



SALT PILLARS OF THE DEAD SEA



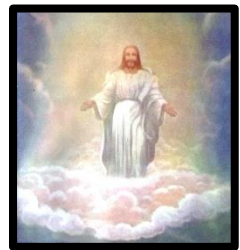
The Hill of Sodom has a salt pillar known as Lot's Wife. Could this be the actual pillar of salt that was Lot's wife? We have seen from Pompeii, how the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius perfectly preserved casts of people caught in the explosion. A sudden fallout of fire and brimstone with heavy salt deposits could very likely have formed a cast of Lot's wife looking back. As salt pillars are very hard, with little rain falling in this region, adding layers over the years from the heavy salt content in the air around the Dead Sea, the salt cast of Lot's wife could have survived as a testimony for us all until today!

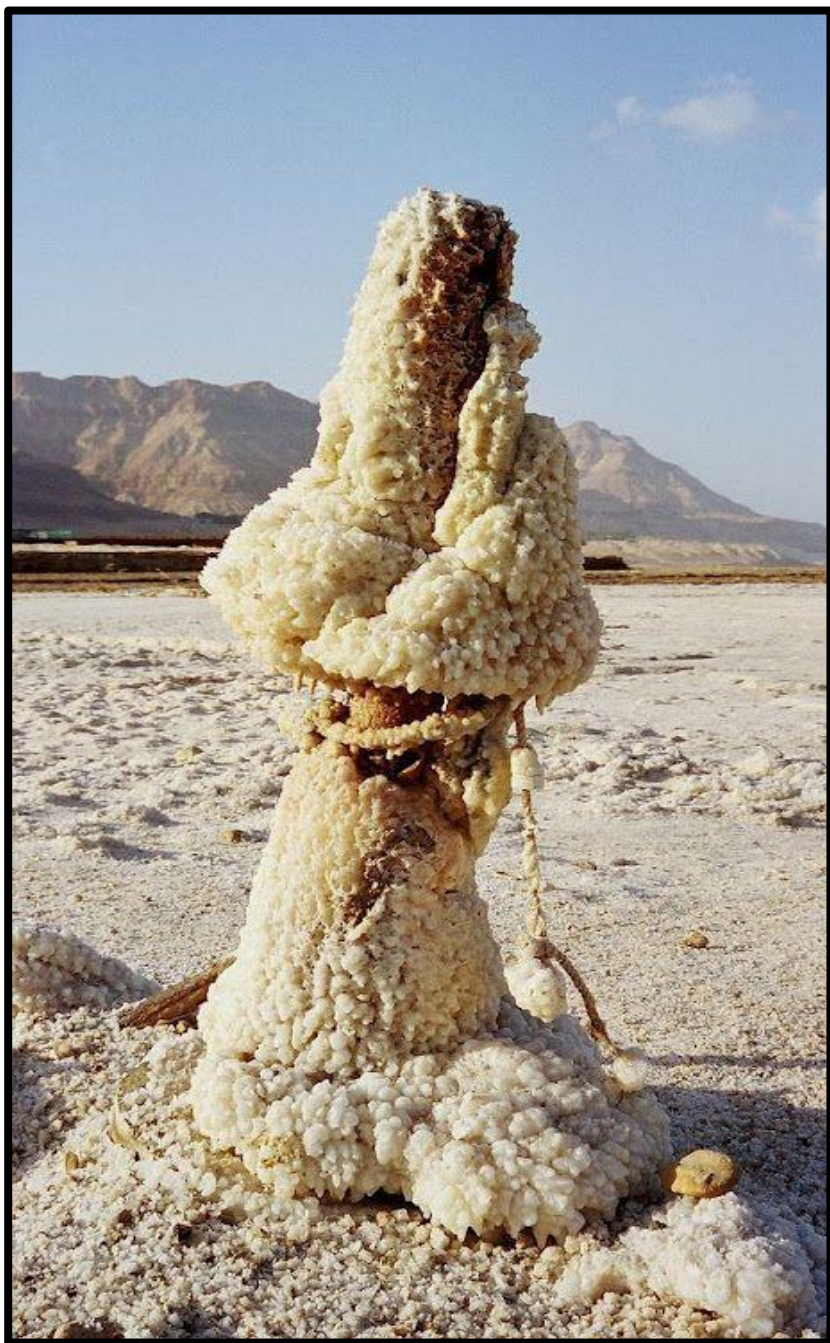
12. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. God wants to trust me to love Him and love my family enough that I will command the ways of my family to follow Him.
2. Fear keeps me from letting go of words & ways that harm me.
3. My whole duty in life is to fear and obey God, and He will show me the secrets of His promises.
4. When I pray fervently, Jesus becomes my friend and I learn about His heart, so I pray from my heart according to His will.
5. My prayers do not change God's will, my prayers battle the darkness, so that God's will is done on earth as it is in Heaven!
6. Abraham prayed in faith for Lot, and God came to save him.
7. Jesus will call us up out of this wicked earth to be with Him in Heaven, before the wickedness on earth is destroyed by fire.
8. When we stay too long in a bad place, things get worse until we panic and make poor choices with terrible consequences.
9. God created angels to take care of us, but be aware that 1/3 of God's angels joined Satan & try to deceive us to sin against God.
10. When God gives you clear direction, don't argue!
11. Sodom and Gomorrah are very real historical cities.
12. When God answers your prayers and tells you what to do, don't look back and doubt or you will become paralyzed with fear!

GROUP PRAYER:

Our Father in Jesus Christ, we praise you and worship you today for your goodness and mercy, and for your word that reveals to us your love and how we should live. Thank you for your word, that confirms the findings of archeologists, that confirm the truth of your word! Jesus, may we keep your word before our eyes everyday so we may know, you, who are the same God yesterday, today and forever, and grow to love you more and more each day like you love us! Help me to listen for your voice every day in prayer, so that I will recognize when it is you speaking to my heart and trust you to be the Lord of my life, so that when I find myself in times of trouble, I will not doubt your voice, but obey and follow you instantly. I offer up my whole heart so I may follow your way and bring you glory until you come! **In Jesus name, Amen.**





LOT'S WIFE, DEAD SEA, ISRAEL



LOT OBEYED GOD, SO HE ESCAPED FROM SODOM WITH HIS DAUGHTERS, BUT HIS WIFE DID NOT OBEY; SHE LOOKED BACK AND BECAME A PILLAR OF SALT

15. OBJECT LESSON: Don't Look Back & Get Stuck in Sin!

Before class, prepare the display plate & the dough to make salt pillars:

2 cups Salt, 1 cup Cornstarch, 1 ½ cup Cold Water

Mix ingredients in saucepan, stir over medium heat until mixture thickens.

Allow to cool then divide dough into the number of pillars needed for your class.

Make copies of the picture and scripture below.

Glue the picture to center of a small paper plate & glue the scripture in front.



Here is a portion of salt dough for each of you to make into a pillar of salt like Lot's wife, while we talk about what happened to her.

Lot and his daughters obeyed and did not look back, but perhaps Lot's wife was afraid to leave everything behind, so she disobeyed. She looked back on the burning city and froze into a pillar of brimstone & salt!

Isn't that how we are sometimes when we choose not to sin, but wish we could be part of the fun? When we become frozen with indecision, we are unable to go either forward or back! Lot left all the riches and excitement of the city behind, and the Lord saved him because he made a decision to listen to God's voice and obey!

Hebrews 11:25 *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin."*

We face choices to make every single day. God desires for every one of us to choose to follow Him because He loves us so much, and has a wonderful future planned for every single one of us!

Deuteronomy 30:19

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Display your pillar as a reminder to make the choice every day to follow Jesus, and show Him that you love Him by hearing and obeying His voice; remember to always CHOOSE LIFE!

Abraham's nephew Lot chose to live in a wicked city.
The city of Sodom was so wicked, God had to destroy the city.
God commanded Lot to take his wife and daughters,
To flee from the wicked city and **DON'T LOOK BACK!**
Lot and his daughters obeyed God and ran from the city,
But Lot's wife did not obey God;
She stopped to look back and became a pillar of salt.



**If I keep looking back at sin my life will be frozen, but
When I make the decision to follow Jesus, I will be safe & free!**

Directions:

1. Color and cut out the picture...don't forget the fire!
2. Glue picture to a colored background.
3. Spread glue evenly on Lot's wife & cover with salt (shake off excess).
4. Display as a reminder to trust in God and don't look back!