

Bible Study
Genesis 13
Abram and Lot Separate

I. Open in Prayer: Pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word.

II. Read Scripture Twice:

Mark up the passage; underlining, highlighting etc. key words and phrases

III. Summary:

Abram and Lot are challenged by the abundance of their prosperity. Abram invites Lot to choose his part of the land.

IV. Study Questions:

1. As Abram leaves Egypt, he retraces his steps. Where does he go? What is the significance in this?

2. What is the impetus for Abram and Lot separating? Is an abundance of wealth typically considered a challenge? How is this foreshadowed in God's warning in Duet. 8:10-14?

3. Who would typically get first choice of the land? Why is Abram willing to forfeit the privilege of his authority?

4. What criteria does Lot use to determine his decision? What doesn't he consider in his evaluation?

5. How does Abram's choice demonstrate he's learned something about what it means to live by faith?

6. Read Luke 4:1-13. How does it relate? _____

7. Can you think of situations where you've had the opportunity to seize what looks tempting, but chose to trust the Lord to provide His blessing according to His timeline?

8. In verses 14-17 God reiterates His promise to Abram. What is different about the promise this time around?

9. How does Abram respond? _____

V. Application:

It is difficult to trust God in the nitty-gritty details of life. Can you think of a time when the Lord invited you to trust Him in a situation that went against common sense? Did you trust Him in that? If so, how did it turn out for you? Did you balk at the choice? Take a moment to pray, and offer any regrets or thanksgivings that come to mind as you reflect on that situation.

Surrendering our “rights” to have our way or our say in a situation is really challenging. What does Jesus’ teaching and life show us about God’s heart in this regard? Can you think of a time when you insisted on “exercising your rights” even if it came at the expense of others? Ask the Lord to increase your faith so that you can live into His call to let go when He asks.

In Deuteronomy 8, God warns about the “temptation of plenty.” In times of blessing, is it easy to lose sight of your dependence upon the Lord? What’s one thing that could help reframe the Giver as more precious than the abundance of gifts?

Just as Abram’s initial response in faith (traveling to Canaan) resulted in the first blessing, his willingness to trust God’s provision and timing resulted in this clarified blessing. Is there an area in your life where you’re hoping for God to be clearly at work? Reflect for a moment and see if you’ve been invited to respond to Him in faith in some way. Is there a way your faith can be expressed through obedience to His call?

Abram and Lot Separate

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. **2** Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. **3** And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, **4** to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD. **5** And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, **6** so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, **7** and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

8 Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.” **9** Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.” **10** And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) **11** So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. **12** Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. **13** Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **16** I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. **17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” **18** So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks^{of} of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.