

LOT CHOOSES SODOM**Genesis 13 –14****Lesson Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 5:22** - "Abstain from all appearance of evil."**Lesson Aim:** To teach the students to stay away from sinful places.**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): George and his younger brother, Jack, went to Sunday school and church almost every Sunday to study God's Word. Their older brother, Bill, did not go to church at all. One day, Bill asked George and Jack to go with him to a friend's house. At his friend's house, they were going to smoke and drink beer. Do you think George and Jack should go along with their brother? What are some other places that are evil?

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is small in size, but it carries a big warning that will keep us safe, if we obey it. The verse begins with "abstain," which means we should keep away from something. Have you seen a sign that says "Keep Out"? That means we must not go into that place or we will be in trouble. When we abstain from something, we are to keep away from it. The verse goes on to tell us what we are to keep away from—we are to keep away from "all appearance of evil." That means more than that which looks evil; we are to keep away from every kind of evil. When we see people that are living in sin, we should keep away from them. When we see their sinful places, we should keep away from those places--KEEP OUT!! If you obey this command from God, you will keep yourself from many troubles that will bring much sorrow to your life. Stay away from people that are sinning against God. Stay away from their sinful places.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we will learn about a man who did not stay away from a sinful place and, as a result, he got into very serious trouble.

The man who got into trouble was named Lot. His uncle's name was Abraham (Abram at that time). Abraham and Lot lived together. Both had many sheep, and their servants began to be angry with each other because they were using the same land to feed their sheep and there wasn't enough grass to feed the sheep of both Abraham and Lot. Abraham said that they had to move away from each other in order to have peace among the servants. Abraham said he and his servants would go one way and Lot and his servants should go the other way. Abraham gave Lot the privilege to choose which land he wanted for his sheep and for his family.

I. Lot Chose the Land that Looked Luscious (13:10, 11)

The land that Lot chose was by the Dead Sea. It was well-watered and like the garden of the Lord. It was very good land for sheep because it had a lot of grass. But there was one problem with the land – it was close by two very wicked cities called Sodom and Gomorrah. Why do you think Lot chose the best land? (He was selfish.) Why do you think he chose the land that was near two very sinful cities? (He loved the wealth he could get from the land and probably thought he would not be affected by their sinfulness.) People who love money are blinded to the power of sin. They think that they can take care of themselves. The Bible says that those who think they can stand had better watch out lest they fall (1 Cor 10:12). Such people do not have a proper fear of what sin can do to them and their family. Do you think we should be afraid of sin? (Yes!)

WE: We should be afraid of sin because it will cut off our fellowship with God and we will fall into many traps that will hurt us (1 Tim 6:9-10). One way to show that we are afraid of sin is to keep away from sinful places and stay away from people when they are sinning against God.

II. Lot Made his Home Close to Sodom (13:12, 13)

Sodom was full of wicked, sinful people. God was very unhappy with the people of Sodom. But Lot wanted to live close to Sodom. Why do you think Lot wanted to live by these wicked, sinful people? (He was not afraid of sin and it looked like they were having a good time.) Is there fun in sinning? (Yes, there is pleasure in sin for a while – Heb 11:25.) Is the fun worth all the sin? (No, because after the fun in

sinning, there comes a lot of trouble and unhappiness.) Where should Lot have made his home? (He needed to choose a place as far away from Sodom as possible.) He should have stayed away from that sinful place, even though the people looked like they were having fun.

WE: We should do what our memory verse tells us to do and stay away from every kind of evil and from every place that is sinful. Sinful places will only get us into trouble and cause us unhappiness.

III. Lot Got into Trouble by Being in a Sinful Place (14:1-16, esp. 12-16).

An army from enemy nations attacked Sodom and Gomorrah and took the people of these cities as prisoners. They also took Lot and his family as prisoners because they lived in Sodom. Lot's uncle Abraham decided to rescue Lot, because he loved Lot and his family. He gathered an army to go after those men that had captured Lot and his family. He risked his own life, but God enabled him to rescue all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah including Lot and his family and brought them back to their cities. He was sure that Lot was witnessing to those people about God and God's love for their souls. But Lot was not a good witness for God as we will learn in another lesson. He loved money and the pleasures of sin, so he could not be a good witness for God. Abraham did his part in showing the people the mercy of God by saving them from their enemies, but Lot failed to do his part in telling them about their need to repent from sin and turn to God.

WE: We can expect God to let us get hurt when we choose to go to sinful places. God's children will get hurt because of their sin. Why will God let us get hurt for being in a sinful place? (To warn us so that we will learn to get far away from sinful places) We cannot stay in a sinful place, and like it, without getting punished. We must not like sinful places. We must keep far away from them. Did Lot hate the sinfulness of Sodom and stay far away from it? (No, after he was rescued he went back to live in Sodom – Gen. 19.) If you stay in a sinful place, after you have been warned, God will punish you for sinning against His command. You must learn to hate sin and stay as far away from people that are practicing their sinful deeds and keep out of sinful places.

BE (for Action): In our lesson today, Lot chose to live in a land which was very sinful. What things did Lot do wrong? (He was selfish in choosing the best land for himself, and he was foolish in putting his tent closer and closer to Sodom.) What trouble did he get into as a result? (Some kings captured Sodom and took him and his family as prisoners because they were in Sodom.) Do you think God would allow you to get into trouble if you chose to go to some sinful place to have fun with sinful people? (Yes He would because He has warned you by this story from the Bible to stay away from people that are sinning against God in places where sin is planned and practiced.)

Not only did Lot get into trouble, but he caused trouble for others. He put his uncle Abraham in danger when he went out to rescue Lot. He also caused trouble for his own family; they learned to love sin and it ruined their lives.

God warns us to stay away from every thing and every place that is sinful. (Have the students bow their heads. Give them an opportunity to tell God that they will obey His Word and stay away from sinful places and from people when they are living in their sins.)