

DESTRUCTION OF SODOM

Genesis 19

Lesson Memory Verse: I John 1:9a - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."

Lesson Aim: To teach the students that God punishes sin, but if they confess their sins to God, He will forgive them.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Danny told a lie to his parents. He had told them that he was going to the park, but instead he planned to meet a friend and go downtown with him. When Danny's father found out that his son had lied to him, he told Danny that he must be punished. How would you feel if you were Danny? (Give the students time to answer.)

Danny ran to his father and said, "I am sorry that I lied. Please forgive me." Danny's father said, "You are forgiven, and I will not punish you, but someone must be punished." Danny's father took off his belt and gave it to his son and said, "You must punish me for your sin." Danny did not want to do it, but his father said, "You must, because your sin must be punished." Danny's father took the punishment for the sin of lying his son had committed. This is what Jesus did for us. Jesus Christ took the punishment for all of our sins. Now all we have to do is hate our sins and confess them to God, and He will forgive us. If He does punish us, He does it to help us hate our sins.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse for today tells us about confessing our sins to God. Confessing our sins to God means that we name our sins and tell God exactly what we did that was sinful. When we confess our sins, we should be sorry for them just like Danny was when he confessed his sin to his father. When you do this, God will forgive you for whatever sins you have confessed. If you try to hide your sins, you will not be forgiven, and you will have to pay the punishment yourself. God knows everything that you do, so it is better for you to confess your sins to God and ask Him to forgive you before He has to punish you.

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. Today we will learn how God punished the people in Sodom for their sins because they did not hate them and confess them to God.

Two weeks ago, we learned about Lot living near the sinful city of Sodom. Because Lot lived near this sinful place, he got into trouble when the city was attacked by some enemy soldiers. He and his family were taken captive, and his uncle Abraham had to rescue him. Lot should have learned his lesson, but he did not. Instead, he went back, and soon he actually began to live in the city of Sodom. He was so much like the people that he even became one of their leaders in that city. He did not hate the sins of Sodom, but he liked living in that wicked place.

It is very dangerous to live in sinful places and to make sinful friends. Why? (It is easy to begin to enjoy those sinful places and be like those sinful people.) That is what happened to Lot and his family. Finally, God decided to destroy Sodom for its sin, but He sent two angels to tell Lot to get out of Sodom before He would do it. Lot had a difficult decision to make because he loved Sodom and did not want to leave it.

I. Why God Punished Lot and the City of Sodom

A. They sinned against God (Gen 18-20).

1. The people of Sodom loved their wickedness.
2. Lot loved the life of Sodom (cf. 1 Jn 2:15-16).

WE: We must not love sinful places. If we do, we are already sinning against God. We will soon start to practice the sins of those places, and God will have to punish us.

B. They held onto their sin (Gen 19:1-16).

1. The men of Sodom would not repent and confess their sins to God (19:1-11).

- a. Several men of Sodom tried to hurt the angels that were staying in Lot's house (19:4-5).
- b. Lot tried to reason with them, but they threatened to break down his door to get at the angels (19:6-9).
- c. The angels rescued Lot and punished the men of Sodom with blindness (19:10-11a).
- d. The men of Sodom did not repent and confess their sins to God; they still tried to find Lot's door so they could get at the angels (19:11b).
- e. If the people of Sodom had repented and confessed their sin to God, they would have been forgiven, and their city would not have been destroyed (cf. Gen 18:23-33).

WE: If we hold onto our sins, God cannot forgive us, and we will be punished.

2. Lot's sons-in-law would not repent and confess their sins to God (19:12-14).
 - a. Even though Lot did not want to leave Sodom, he did believe God was going to destroy Sodom.
 - b. Lot tried to warn his sons-in-law, but they would not listen to him. They just laughed at Lot.

WE: We must not change our attitude toward God and His warnings, even when people laugh at us for believing God.

3. Lot, his wife and their two daughters would not repent and confess their sins to God (19:15-16).
 - a. They were very slow in leaving the city they loved.
 - b. The angels had to take hold of Lot and his wife and their two daughters and pull them out of the city.

WE: We must repent and confess our sins when they are made known to us. If we love sinful places and keep sinful friends, we are no better than Lot or the sinful people of Sodom. God will have to punish you just as He punished them.

II. How God Punished Lot and the City of Sodom

A. Lot was punished in several ways (19:17-26, 30)

1. His sons-in-law laughed at him when he tried to warn them that God would destroy the city of Sodom.
2. He must have lost his daughters that were married to these sons-in-law when the city was destroyed.
3. He lost his home and all his things and had to live in a cave (19:30).
4. He lost his wife when she disobeyed the angels and looked back at the city of Sodom when God was destroying it. As a result, she became a pillar of salt (19:26).
5. He feared to live in the little city of Zoar, so he left it to live with his two daughters in a cave (19:30).

B. Sodom was completely destroyed by fire and brimstone (19:24-25).

1. Gomorrah, a sister city, was also destroyed.
2. The fruitful plain was destroyed so it would no longer produce any crops.
3. The people that lived in these cities were destroyed.
4. The crops were destroyed.

WE: We must hate our sins and confess them to God. If we do not, God will punish us for our sins. He may even destroy our lives if we insist on keeping our sins. It is very dangerous to love our sins and refuse to confess them to God.

BE (for Action): If you plant a tomato seed, what is going to sprout and grow? (A tomato.) If you plant a dandelion seed, what is going to sprout and grow? (A dandelion.) If you plant sin in your life, what is going to grow in your life? (Sin.) How can you get rid of sin in your life? (Turn away from your sins by asking Jesus to save you from your sins and help you stay away from them. If you already have accepted Jesus, then tell God about your sins and ask for His help to stop them – 1 Jn 1:9.)

Today we learned that God punishes sin if we do not confess it. He burned Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone because they loved their sins and would not turn away from them. Every unsaved sinner that does not hate his sins and ask Jesus Christ to be his Savior will also be burned in the Lake of Fire. Every saved sinner (Christian) that does not hate his sins and confess them to God will be punished by God. That punishment is not in the Lake of Fire, but there will be serious problems that will come into his life. God will seem far away from him in this life and he will lose his rewards in heaven.

Danny's father took the punishment for Danny's sin. Jesus Christ took the punishment for everyone's sins when He died on the cross. Do you believe this? We should thank Jesus over and over for His great sacrifice to save us from our sins.

If you need to be saved, now is the best time to do it. If you need to confess your sins to God, do it now.

While all the children have their heads bowed, ask the children who want God's help to raise their hands. Deal with them after class.

NOTE: Be sure to tell the Christian children to confess their sins to God as soon as they know they have sinned. It is never wise to wait until Sunday, or even until bedtime, to confess one's sins. Tell them to do it right away.