

Genesis 14

House Church and Community Group

Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *When was a time you were really lost and where were you?*

Tell them: In Genesis 13, we saw Lot choosing the world and himself, and we saw Abram choosing God and His promises. Now this week, we moved on to Genesis 14. **Ask them:** Does anyone want to quickly recap Genesis 14?

Tell them, if needed: When Abram and Lot split up to go their own way, Lot went towards Sodom. Now in chapter 14 we see Sodom, Salem, and three other nations being attacked by four eastern nations who conquer them and take Lot and his family as prisoners of war. So, Abram decides to rescue them. Explaining the spiritual lesson behind this rescue, Pastor Michael talked about how Abram's intervention in Lot's perilous situation was spiritually prompted. He said it this way:

1. **The spiritual person understands the difference between poor choices and peril.** **Ask them:** *What is the difference between a person's poor choices and peril?* **Tell them:** People often talk of tough love and not rescuing others from their choices. **Ask them:** *How do we know when tough love is unfaithful and rescue needs to be made?*
2. **Tell them:** The next point Pastor Michael made was that **God uses our connection to one to seek justice for the many.** **Tell them:** He said that God often gets our attention on a problem through a personal connection to it. Abram's relationship to Lot was used to right a greater wrong. **Ask them:** *Do you have any connection to a greater wrong that might be happening right now in your world? How might you act on that connection? Can we all find a connection to the greater wrong of prejudice in our country?* **Tell them:** Let's take a look at Galatians 3:28, which mentions a connection between us and Abraham: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise."* (Galatians 3:28–29, NET) **Ask them:** *Going back to Pastor Michael's point that God uses our connection to one to seek justice for the many, how does this verse connect us to the plight of the people in our country who may be experiencing injustice?*
3. **Tell them:** The next point is that **Love and justice should be our motivation, not personal profit.** **Tell them:** Let's look at Genesis 14:21-23: *"Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, 'Give me the people and take the possessions for yourself.' But Abram replied to the king of Sodom, 'I raise my hand to the Lord, the Most High God, Creator of heaven and earth, and vow that I will take nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal. That way you can never say, 'It is I who made Abram rich.'"* (Genesis 14:21–23, NET)

Ask them: *Why does Abram say he won't profit from what he did for the kings?* **Tell them:** We see this idea in the new testament spelled out in Philippians 2:3, "[Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.](#)"

Ask them: *We might not seek financial profit when we help others, but what are some other perks of helping people that might become a motivation for our help? (ex. applause, love, attention, appreciation, self-love)*

Tell them: When we do anything for what we get out of it, we are living selfishly, and you cannot love while you are being selfish. **Ask them:** *What do you think of that idea?*

- Tell them:** Next, Pastor Michael said that **both the rescued and rescuer need reminding of God's provision.** **Tell them:** In this case the rescuer was Abram and the rescued was Lot and the other prisoners. Melchizedek knew it was the most High God who saved them and not Abram. **Ask them:** *How do we usually feel when we win?* **Tell them:** When we win we can feel like we did it, but nothing happens without God willing it. Remembering this prevents us from hero worship and self-adoration.
- Tell them:** The final point is that **Godly leadership trusts the Holy Spirit.** Pastor Michael said, "Abram took a financial moral stand for himself alone, not for the others with him. Godly leadership does not command decisions that should be made by others, but rather trusts the Holy Spirit to convict and guide the conscience of others. The godly leader is not private or silent about their convictions but all the while offering grace to those who may not have the same convictions without condescension or guilt trips, etc. **Ask them:** *How might this idea play out in relationship to our children, spouses and friends? (In what way might we have to trust the Holy Spirit in their lives?)*

Tell them: Next, Pastor Michael gave us four application questions. Let's take a look at those:

- Tell them:** We already answered the first question. **What issue of justice is God leading you to intervene on someone else's behalf?** But Pastor Michael did suggest that Matthew West's Song on injustice, *Do Something*, might be inspirational. So I have the lyrics here to read and for us to think about:

I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now, thought
How'd we ever get so far down, and
How's it ever gonna turn around
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"
He said, "I did, yeah, I created you"

If not us, then who
If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something,
If not now, then when
Will we see an end
To all this pain
Oh, it's not enough to do nothing
It's time for us to do something

I'm so tired of talking about
How we are God's hands and feet
But it's easier to say than to be
Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves
It's alright, "somebody else will do something"
Well, I don't know about you
But I'm sick and tired of life with no desire
I don't want a flame, I want a fire and
I wanna be the one who stands up and says
"I'm gonna do something"

- Ask them:** *What do you think about those lyrics?*
2. **Tell them:** Someone once said that if you keep doing the same thing you will get the same result. And then asked the question, is that enough? I think this thought applies to the last question and this next one. **What relationship needs attention in your life, where you need to *stop* rescuing them from little things - ie. Their bad choices?** **Tell them:** It's not biblical to be the Holy Spirit in other people's lives, but it is biblical to rescue them when you see someone in peril or suffering from injustice. **Ask them:** *What is the difference between rescuing from a bad choice and saving them from peril?*
 3. **Ask them:** *Knowing that we can be His hands and feet, **How can we remember and remind ourselves (and others) that God is the ultimate rescuer and provider?***
 4. **Tell them:** The final question is this: **How will you grow in godliness and trust in the Holy Spirit this week when you want to fix someone else?** **Ask them:** *Who do you feel compelled to fix? Why do we feel so compelled to fix people when it isn't our job?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, "There is a delicate balance between fighting for justice and rescuing people in peril, between discerning what's not peril or injustice and what is.

Tell them: Pastor Michael said, "Whether in the personal choices of loved ones or national unrest, we need **justice-minded grace givers** to point to the True Provider and Rescuer - Jesus, the Son of God. **Ask them:** *When you are lost, who do you trust to lead you back home? When others are lost or are facing injustice, are you available to help and then not be the hero but point to who rescued you?*

Tweetable Quotes and Memorable Words: Tell them, here are a few quotes that you can tweet this week to encourage others in the fight for justice and the letting go of rescuing those who need to work it out themselves:

1. What issue of justice is God leading you to intervene on someone else's behalf?
2. Love and justice should be our motivation, not personal profit.
3. Whether in the personal choices of loved ones or national unrest, we need justice-minded grace givers to point to the True Provider and Rescuer, Jesus, the Son of God.

Remind them: Next week to prepare for church, remember to read Genesis 15 -16. The church website has a Bible study for those chapters already posted! So, take advantage of this resource to connect your daily quiet time with the sermon.