

Genesis 17 – 18
Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *What is your go to food or snack to feed guests?*

Tell them: Last week we saw Abraham gets some visitors: The Son of God and two angels. This week we see what happened after these visitors left Abraham's tent in Genesis 18:16 – 33.

What do we learn about Abraham in these passages?

- 1. Abraham was hospitable (Gen. 18:1-8) Ask them:** *How did Abraham participate in the hospitality? What things did he do for his guests? Ask them:* *What are your requirements that you feel like you like before you can be hospitable? Do you need your house to be clean, have the right food? Why?*
- 2. Abraham was an intercessor – Ask them:** *How did Abraham intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah? Ask them:* *In what way did Abraham press his luck?*

Ask them: *How much do you gravitate to intercession? Tell them:* If you don't know much about intercession, it is simple, all you have to do is to pray God's Word for those around you, leaders, teachers, police officers, the poor, neglected, and oppressed, etc. We intercede because we are little Christians. And Christ is an intercessor. Romans 8:34 says - *"Who is the one who will condemn? Christ is the one who died (and more than that, he was raised), who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us."*

Tell them: *Pastor Michael said this portion of a sermon from Charles Spurgeon. Let's look at it again: "If they [lost sinners] will not hear you speak, they cannot prevent your praying. Do they jest at your exhortations? They cannot disturb you at your prayers. Are they far away so that you cannot reach them? Your prayers can reach them. Have they declared that they will never listen to you again, nor see your face? Never mind, God has a voice which they must hear. Speak to Him, and He will make them feel. Though they now treat you despitefully, rendering evil for your good, follow them with your prayers. Never let them perish for lack of your supplications" - Charles Spurgeon*

Ask them: *Who is it who can change people?* (only God through the Holy Spirit, and his people can participate through prayer.) **Ask them:** *So, if we see a need for change in people how do we best help?*

- 3. Abraham was a friend of God - Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that “when you’re a friend of God, the Lord reveals things to you about His plans and purpose. Amos 3:7 - *“Certainly the sovereign Lord does nothing without first revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.”* “Unlike serving, intercession and being a prophet of sorts can be a lonely and solitary endeavor when you have seen God’s plan and purpose.” **Ask them:** *In what way might this make intercession and being a friend of God less appealing?*

Genesis 19

Tell them: Lot is considered a believer, but his life is revealed to be different from Abraham’s. Let’s take a look at how different he is:

- 1. Lot was hospitable** – Tell them: This is similar to Abraham but his hospitality was different. **Ask them:** *Did you notice the differences between how Abraham cared for his guests and how Lot cares for his?* **Ask them:** *Why did Lot invite the angels to his home?*
- 2. Lot was practical** – Tell them: Pastor Michael told us that intercessors aren’t practical. **Ask them:** *What do you think he meant by that?* **Ask them:** *What does Lot’s offer to the men at the door reveal about his morality?* **Tell them:** Lot knew the Lord but didn’t fully trust Him. He felt it was his job to protect the messengers of the Lord yet didn’t realize they didn’t need his protection.
- 3. Lot was a friend of the world** – **Tell them:** Lot consistently chooses self-protection and self-benefit over surrender. **Ask them:** *In what way do his actions reveal his self-protection?* (He didn’t choose wandering with tents while waiting for the Lord’s promises to be fulfilled, he chose the comforts of the city. He didn’t want to risk going where the angels told him to go but chose another location that would be more comfortable for him because it was closer.) **Ask them:** *Do you tend to make corrections to the things life throws at you in the name of comfort or preference? In what ways do you need to accept things more in an attempt to trust the sovereignty of God?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said: “Worldliness is not about where you live, but where your heart lives.” **Ask them:** *What do you think he might have meant by that when it comes to the life of the church?*

Things to Consider:

- 1. Tell them:** Pastor Michael asked the question: Do you lack hospitality? He told us to ask the Lord to help open our home to others. **Ask them:** *What are some ideas on how to be more hospitable?* **Tell them:** He said we should invite folks to conversation about God. The creation of our home groups allows for this opportunity, perhaps more than when we were meeting together on Sunday. **Ask them:** *Is the Lord bringing to mind people who you might invite to your house or your house church?*
- 2. Tell them:** Next, he asked us if we lack compassion? If so, he told us to ask the Lord to open our hearts for others and intercede for them. **Ask them:** *Does anyone have some people who are coming to mind for intercession? Would you be willing to share those intercession needs with the group?*
- 3. Tell them:** Next, he asked us if we lack contentment? **Ask them:** *If you don't feel comfortable, I understand, but if you would like to confess to the group so we can pray for you, does anyone struggle with contentment? Where worldliness is interfering with your closeness and friendship with God?* **Tell them:** Let's all ask the Lord to open our eyes to the wickedness of the world but trust His justice and His timing.

Tweetable Quotes and things to ponder:

1. Intercession is about compassion, persistence, and trust. Compassion for the person prayed for, persistence in the petitioning, and trust in God's purposes and timing.
2. Worldliness is not about where you live, but where your heart lives.
3. Worldliness is about where your heart resides, on this Earth or in the now and not yet Kingdom of God.