Bible

Genesis 19:1-7, 9-30

Memory Verse

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).

Parent Study

Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 156-170. Do more research about Purity.

Character Quality

Purity – Freedom from everything that might taint or lower the quality; freedom from sin or guilt.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

Looking Through Nature

Bible Trees

1. Terebinth (Teil) Tree
2. Walnut Tree
3. Willow Trees I
4. Willows II
5. Apricot Tree
6. Locust or Carob Tree
Research

Sodom

“Fairest among the cities of the Jordan Valley was Sodom, set in a plain which was ‘as the garden of the Lord’ in its fertility and beauty. Here the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics flourished. Here was the home of the palm tree, and the olive, and the vine; and flowers shed their fragrance throughout the year. Rich harvests clothed the fields, and flocks and herds covered the encircling hills. Art and commerce contributed to enrich the proud city of the plain. The treasures of the East adorned her palaces, and the caravans of the desert brought their stores of precious things to supply her marts of trade. With little thought or labor, every want of life could be supplied, and the whole year seemed one round of festivity.

“The profusion reigning everywhere gave birth to luxury and pride. Idleness and riches make the heart hard that has never been oppressed by want or burdened by sorrow. The love of pleasure was fostered by wealth and leisure, and the people gave themselves up to sensual indulgence. ‘Behold,’ says the prophet, ‘this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good’ (Ezekiel 16:49-50). There is nothing more desired among men than riches and leisure, and yet these gave birth to the sins that brought destruction upon the cities of the plain. Their useless, idle life made them a prey to Satan’s temptations, and they defaced the image of God, and became satanic rather than divine. Idleness is the greatest curse that can fall upon man, for vice and crime follow in its train. It enfeebles the mind, perverts the understanding, and debases the soul. Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those who are unguarded, whose leisure gives him opportunity to insinuate himself under some attractive disguise. He is never more successful than when he comes to men in their idle hours.

“In Sodom there was mirth and revelry, feasting and drunkenness. The vilest and most brutal passions were unrestrained. The people openly defied God and His law and delighted in deeds of violence. Though they had before them the example of the antediluvian world, and knew how the wrath of God had been manifested in their destruction, yet they followed the same course of wickedness.

“At the time of Lot’s removal to Sodom, corruption had not become universal,

Sodom means “scorch; burnt.”

Gomorrah means (ruined) heap; roots from a word meaning “to chastise (as it piling blows); to gather grain—bind sheaves, make merchandise of.”
and God in His mercy permitted rays of light to shine amid the moral darkness. When Abraham rescued the captives from the Elamites, the attention of the people was called to the true faith. Abraham was not a stranger to the people of Sodom, and his worship of the unseen God had been a matter of ridicule among them; but his victory over greatly superior forces, and his magnanimous disposition of the prisoners and spoil, excited wonder and admiration. While his skill and valor were extolled, none could avoid the conviction that a divine power had made him conqueror. And his noble and unselfish spirit, so foreign to the self-seeking inhabitants of Sodom, was another evidence of the superiority of the religion which he had honored by his courage and fidelity.

“Melchizedek, in bestowing the benediction upon Abraham, had acknowledged Jehovah as the source of his strength and the author of the victory: ‘Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand’ (Genesis 14:19-20). God was speaking to that people by His providence, but the last ray of light was rejected as all before had been.

“And now the last night of Sodom was approaching. Already the clouds of vengeance cast their shadows above the devoted city. But men perceived it not. While angels drew near on their mission of destruction, men were dreaming of prosperity and pleasure. The last day was like every other that had come and gone. Evening fell upon a scene of loveliness and security. A landscape of unrivaled beauty was bathed in the rays of the declining sun. The coolness of eventide had called forth the inhabitants of the city, and the pleasure-seeking throngs were passing to and fro, intent upon the enjoyment of the hour.

“In the twilight two strangers drew near to the city gate. They were apparently travelers coming in to tarry for the night. None could discern in those humble wayfarers the mighty heralds of divine judgment, and little dreamed the gay, careless multitude that in their treatment of these heavenly messengers that very night they would reach the climax of the guilt which doomed their proud city. But there was one man who manifested kindly attention toward the strangers and invited them to his home. Lot did not know their

“...And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it...And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”

Matthew 10:11-15
true character, but politeness and hospitality were habitual with him; they were a part of his religion—lessons that he had learned from the example of Abraham. Had he not cultivated a spirit of courtesy, he might have been left to perish with the rest of Sodom. Many a household, in closing its doors against a stranger, has shut out God’s messenger, who would have brought blessing and hope and peace.

“Every act of life, however small, has its bearing for good or for evil. Faithfulness or neglect in what are apparently the smallest duties may open the door for life’s richest blessings or its greatest calamities. It is little things that test the character. It is the unpretending acts of daily self-denial, performed with a cheerful, willing heart, that God smiles upon. We are not to live for self, but for others. And it is only by self-forgetfulness, by cherishing a loving, hopeful spirit, that we can make our life a blessing. The little attentions, the small, simple courtesies, go far to make up the sum of life’s happiness, and the neglect of these constitutes no small share of human wretchedness.

“Seeing the abuse to which strangers were exposed in Sodom, Lot made it one of his duties to guard them at their entrance, by offering them entertainment at his own house. He was sitting at the gate as the travelers approached, and upon observing them, he rose from his place to meet them, and bowing courteously, said, ‘Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night.’ They seemed to decline his hospitality, saying, ‘Nay, but we will abide in the street.’ Their object in this answer was twofold—to test the sincerity of Lot and also to appear ignorant of the character of the men of Sodom, as if they supposed it safe to remain in the street at night. Their answer made Lot the more determined not to leave them to the mercy of the rabble. He pressed his invitation until they yielded, and accompanied him to his house.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 156-159)

Purity was an unknown virtue in Sodom.

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Review

1. Who came to visit Sodom? (Genesis 19:1)

2. Who showed courtesy and hospitality to these strangers? (Genesis 19:1-2)

3. What happened? (Genesis 19:3-7)

Like Abraham, Lot watched for opportunities to help weary travellers.
**Nature**

**Terebinth (Teil) Tree**

The word for terebinth means “a strong hardy tree.” The children of Israel practiced idolatry under the terebinth tree because it threw a black, thick shadow. Sinners seek darkness. The wicked men of Sodom came searching for the strangers after dark to do them harm.

The terebinth bears small clustering blossoms and red berries. Usually the fruit is the size of a pea and one variety has fruit four times that size. Oil is produced from these berries by crushing them like olives. Every part of the tree contains a fragrant, resinous juice. This tree produces turpentine which oozes out of the branches when it is cut.

The terebinth is a deciduous tree, looking similar to an oak, especially when leafless. The compound leaves are like an ash’s leaves, but smaller and reddish-green in color. It is common to see it in rocky places, and on hillsides, growing as a solitary tree, seldom in thickets or forests. It is a tree of large size and long life. Lot was like the solitary tree on the hillside in Sodom. He provided protection for visitors from the wicked inhabitants.

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**Reinforce**

1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Invite a family that you do not know home for lunch after church on Sabbath.

3. Hand out Second Coming tracts in a city.

4. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, *Children’s Bible Activity Book* for this quarter. Say your memory verse!

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**Remind**

1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When inviting someone into your home at night, think about how Lot saved his own life by his invitation.

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**Remarkable Parent Food**

“If parents would fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to be their strength, they would not fail of receiving His blessing in their households.”

*(1 Bible Commentary 1093)*
Day 2
Read Genesis 19:9-11
Patriarchs and Prophets 159

Research
Visitors

“He had hoped to conceal his intention from the idlers at the gate by bringing the strangers to his home by a circuitous route; but their hesitation and delay, and his persistent urging, caused them to be observed, and before they had retired for the night, a lawless crowd gathered about the house. It was an immense company, youth and aged men alike inflamed by the vilest passions. The strangers had been making inquiry in regard to the character of the city, and Lot had warned them not to venture out of his door that night, when the hooting and jeers of the mob were heard, demanding that the men be brought out to them.

“Knowing that if provoked to violence they could easily break into his house, Lot went out to try the effect of persuasion upon them. ‘I pray you, brethren,’ he said, ‘do not so wickedly,’ using the term ‘brethren’ in the sense of neighbors, and hoping to conciliate them and make them ashamed of their vile purposes. But his words were like oil upon the flames. Their rage became like the roaring of a tempest. They mocked Lot as making himself a judge over them, and threatened to deal worse with him than they had purposed toward his guests. They rushed upon him, and would have torn him in pieces had he not been rescued by the angels of God. The heavenly messengers ‘put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.’ The events that followed, revealed the character of the guests he had entertained.

‘They smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.’ Had they not been visited with double blindness, being given up to hardness of heart, the stroke of God upon them would have caused them to fear, and to desist from their evil work. That last night was marked by no greater sins than many others before it; but mercy, so long slighted, had at last ceased its pleading. The inhabitants of Sodom had passed the limits of divine forbearance—the hidden boundary between God’s patience and His wrath. The fires of His vengeance were about to be kindled in the vale of Siddim.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 159)

These Sodomites did not have purity of heart. They were rushing headlong into destruction but did not know it. They are an example to us of a person that

“Into the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”
Titus 1:15

Lot had the courage which is the basis of strength of character. He risked his life for his unknown guests.
persists in sin. The day comes when they are betrayed into a fateful iniquity which is only the natural result of the life they have led. Habitual sins seek expression. Sometimes one consideration represses them, sometimes another; but these considerations are not constant, while the passion is, and must therefore one day find its opportunity—its opportunity not for that moderate, guarded disguised expression which passes without notice, but for the full exercise of its very essence. So it was this night in Sodom. Young and old came together eager to practice wickedness. No further proof was needed by heaven. “They declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves” (Isaiah 3:9).

This incident shows us something about the manner of God’s judgment of people. The angels did not call Lot outside of the city and ask him who was wicked. No. There was a much surer way of detecting character than by any process of questioning “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16).

In an ordinary way, as ordinary men would naturally come into the city before nightfall, the angels proceeded to give the people of Sodom an opportunity to act in their usual way. It is in this way that we all are judged—by the seemingly insignificant circumstances in which we act without reflection, without considering an impending judgment.

First Lot’s character was judged. He was found to be hospitable, diplomatic, and self-sacrificingly courageous. But the other inhabitants of Sodom showed by their actions that they were ripe for judgment.

**Review**

1. What did the Sodomites threaten to do? (Genesis 19:9)

2. How did the angels save Lot? (Genesis 19:10-11)

3. What happened to the wicked men? (Genesis 19:11)

“They declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.”

Isaiah 3:9
Nature
Walnut Tree

“I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded” (Song of Solomon 6:11). Solomon probably had an orchard of walnuts. They make lovely shade. King’s gardens had paths that wandered among these beautiful trees, and where in the autumn, the nuts might be picked. The beauty of such a scene reminds us of the cities of the plains. They were “as the garden of the Lord” in its fertility and beauty. But the people lacked purity of character. They bore only the rotten fruit of corrupt minds.

There are several species of walnut trees which are valued for their nuts and wood. The most common species that produce walnuts is the English walnut. They are large, spreading trees that grow as high as 100 feet (30 meters). They have gray bark, large leaves, and soft wood. The English walnut bears clusters of small flowers. These are called catkins. After the flowers, the tree produces walnuts.

Black walnut trees grow in forests, and are hardy trees. They are grown mainly for their lumber. The wood is dark, purplish-brown, with a fine grain and luster. It is especially used for interior finishing, furniture, and gunstocks. This wood has become rare.

The rich production of these trees reminds us of the riches of the cities Sodom and Gomorrah. The riches caused idleness among their people and made the hearts hard. When the angels of destruction came they meant to do them harm.

Remind
1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When polishing furniture, think about how black walnut makes good hardwood furniture. The people of the plains developed hard hearts toward God.

Reinforce
1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Visit a furniture store and look at walnut furniture.

3. Serve walnuts with breakfast or make a casserole dish with walnuts in it.

4. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, Children’s Bible Activity Book for this quarter. Say your memory verse!
Remarkable Parent Food

“The inhabitants of the Noachian world were destroyed because they were corrupted through the indulgence of perverted appetite. Sodom and Gomorrha were destroyed through the gratification of unnatural appetite, which so benumbed the intellect that they could not discern the difference between the sacred claims of God and the clamor of appetite. The latter enslaved them, and they became so ferocious and bold in their detestable abominations that God would not tolerate them upon the earth. God ascribes the wickedness of Babylon to her gluttony and drunkenness.” (3 Testimonies 162)

Day 3
Read Genesis 19:12-14
Patriarchs and Prophets 159-160

Research
Warning

“The angels revealed to Lot the object of their mission: ‘We will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it.’ The strangers whom Lot had endeavored to protect, now promised to protect him, and to save also all the members of his family who would flee with him from the wicked city. The mob had wearied themselves out and departed, and Lot went out to warn his children. He repeated the words of the angels, ‘Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city.’ But he seemed to them as one that mocked. They laughed at what they called his superstitious fears. His daughters were influenced by their husbands. They were well enough off where they were. They could see no evidence of danger. Everything was just as it had been. They had great possessions, and they could not believe it possible that beautiful Sodom would be destroyed.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 159-160)

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”
II Corinthians 5:11

“We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us.”
II Corinthians 5:20

Lot’s children were not pure.
Review

1. What did the angels ask Lot? (Genesis 19:12)

2. Where did Lot go? (Genesis 19:14)

3. How did they respond? (Genesis 19:14)

“We hanged our harps upon the willows.”

Willow roots from a word meaning
“to braid; intermix;
to traffic (as if by barter);
surely, mingle (self).”

Nature
Willow Trees I

The Israelites hung their harps on the willows as described in Psalm 137:2. We are told of this: “They were brought into subjection to Babylon, and scattered throughout the lands of the heathen. In affliction many renewed their faithfulness to His covenant. While they hung their harps upon the willows, and mourned for the holy temple that was laid waste, the light of truth shone out through them, and a knowledge of God was spread among the nations. The heathen systems of sacrifice were a perversion of the system that God had appointed; and many a sincere observer of heathen rites learned from the Hebrews the meaning of the service divinely ordained, and in faith grasped the promise of a Redeemer.” (The Desire of Ages 28) Trials often bring people to repentance of their sins. Lot had been among the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah as a witness, but they had no repentance for their wicked ways.

The willow has many family members, about 300 kinds. Their branches are slender with narrow leaves that taper to a point and have finely toothed edges. Some willows have small, oval shaped leaves. The smallest tree is about 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) high while the largest is more than 120 feet (37 meters) high.

Willows usually grow near water. They are sometimes planted in damp soil so their roots take up water and dry the soil. The roots interlace to form a tough network that holds the soil together and prevents soil erosion. Willows also provide shade and wind breaks. As the roots of the willow hold the soil, so the father of a family should hold his family together spiritually. Lot had failed in this by living in wicked Sodom.

The twigs of the willow are soft and easily bent. Because of this, twigs are woven into baskets and wicker furniture. The willow is a very useful tree.

“And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.”
Leviticus 23:40
Remind

1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When putting the bread in a basket on the table, think how useful the basket is, like the willow tree. Are you useful as you help your parents?

3. When you sit on Father’s lap, think about how the willow tree’s roots hold the soil together. Did Lot hold his family together spiritually?

Reinforce

1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Weave a basket.

3. Find a willow tree and study its shape and leaf structure, or find pictures of it.

4. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, Children’s Bible Activity Book for this quarter. Say your memory verse!

Remarkable Parent Food

“The Sodomites had passed the boundary of mercy, and no more light was granted to them prior to their destruction. Had the warning gone through these cities of the plain, and had they been told just what was to come, who of them would have believed it? They would no more have accepted the message, and God knew it, than the sons-in-law of Lot.” (1 Bible Commentary 1093-1094)

Research

Delay

“Lot returned sorrowfully to his home and told the story of his failure. Then the angels bade him arise and take his wife and the two daughters who were yet in his house and leave the city. But Lot delayed. Though daily distressed at beholding deeds of violence, he had no true conception of the debasing and abominable necessity for God’s judgments to put a check on sin. Some of his children clung to Sodom, and his wife refused to depart without them. The thought of leaving those whom he held dearest on earth seemed more than he could bear. It was hard to forsake his luxurious home and all the wealth acquired by the labors of his whole life, to go forth a destitute wanderer. Stupefied with sorrow, he lingered, loath to depart. But for the angels of God they would have had perished in the ruin of Sodom. The heavenly messengers took him and his wife and daughters by the hand and led them out of the city.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 160)

It is hard for men who have lived a worldly life, even in the face of disaster, to resign themselves to loss. They are

“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”
Romans 12:19
tempted to wait hoping to rescue something. It is better to start over stripped and bare of all that has made life pleasant in obedience to God.

In the angels’ pulling Lot and his family out of impure Sodom by the hand we see that even the salvation of righteous men must be credited to God’s mercy and not to their own merit.

Many that are convicted about their spiritual state and the need for change put off that work.

“And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire.”
Jude 23

Review

1. What did the angels have to urge Lot and his family to do? (Genesis 19:15)

2. What did the angels finally do? (Genesis 19:16)

3. Why did Lot not want to leave Sodom? (Patriarchs and Prophets 160)

“The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.”
Job 40:22

“...They shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.”
Isaiah 44:4

Nature Willows II

In early spring, willows develop upright clusters of tiny, yellowish-green flowers. (Early in the lives of Lot’s family, he should have taken them away from Sodom to develop.) These clusters have a name. They are called catkins because they look like a cat’s tail. The female flower develops a flask-shaped pod that breaks open and releases tiny seeds with white, silky hairs. You might have seen them float through the air finding a place to plant themselves. These seeds do not hesitate to leave their home. How Lot and his family could have taken a lesson from them.

Most willow lumber comes from the black willow. The wood is mainly used for boxes, crates, and wicker furniture. The black willow has rough, dark bark.

The basket willow’s young shoots are the ones used to weave baskets and wicker furniture.

The white willow is a popular decorative tree. Its leaves are silky and white on the inside. The crack willow gets its name from the fact that its brittle twigs break off in strong winds. The weeping willow has graceful, drooping branches. (How the angels must have wept over Sodom and its wicked inhabitants. “Lot returned sorrowfully to his home and told the story of his failure.”) Then there is the furry pussy willow whose twigs are wonderful for decorations.
Remind

1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When petting your cat, notice its tail and the next time you see catkins you will see a resemblance.

3. When asked to leave a friend’s place, do not hesitate, but quickly obey your parents. Think about Lot and his family.

Reinforce

1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Next time you are around willows in the spring, gather some of their catkins.

3. Read a story of how angels saved people on other occasions. (Daniel 6)

4. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, Children's Bible Activity Book for this quarter. Say your memory verse!

Remarkable Parent Food

Read The Great Controversy, pages 511-513.

“Escape for thy life; look not behind thee neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”

Come up higher!
Rest not in self and the world for that is symbolized by staying in the plain. Reach toward heaven, for that is escaping to the mountain, short of which we must not stop.

Research
Hesitancy

“Here the angels left them, and turned back to Sodom to accomplish their work of destruction. Another—He with whom Abraham had pleaded—drew near to Lot. In all the cities of the plain, even ten righteous persons had not been found; but in answer to the patriarch’s prayer, the one man who feared God was snatched from destruction. The command was given with startling vehemence: ‘Escape for thy life; look not behind thee neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.’ Hesitancy or delay now would be fatal. To cast one lingering look upon the devoted city, to tarry for one moment from regret to leave so beautiful a home, would have cost their life. The storm of divine judgment was only waiting that these poor fugitives might make their escape.

“But Lot, confused and terrified, pleaded that he could not do as he was
required lest some evil should overtake him and he should die. Living in that wicked city, in the midst of unbelief, his faith had grown dim. The Prince of heaven was by his side, yet he pleaded for his own life as though God, who had manifested such care and love for him, would not still preserve him. He should have trusted himself wholly to the divine Messenger, given his will and his life into the Lord’s hands without a doubt or a question. But like so many others, he endeavored to plan for himself: ‘Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: O, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.’ The city here mentioned was Bela, afterward called Zoar. It was but a few miles from Sodom, and, like it, was corrupt and doomed to destruction. But Lot asked that it might be spared, urging that this was but a small request; and his desire was granted. The Lord assured him, ‘I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for which thou hast spoken.’ Oh, how great the mercy of God toward His erring creatures!

“Again the solemn command was given to hasten, for the fiery storm would be delayed but little longer. But one of the fugitives ventured to cast a look backward to the doomed city, and she became a monument of God’s judgment. If Lot himself had manifested no hesitancy to obey the angels’ warning, but had earnestly fled toward the mountains, without one word of pleading or remonstrance, his wife also would have made her escape. The influence of his example would have saved her from the sin that sealed her doom. But this hesitancy and delay caused her to lightly regard the divine warning. While her body was upon the plain, her heart clung to Sodom, and she perished with it. She rebelled against God because His judgments involved her possessions and her children in the ruin. Although so greatly favored in being called out from the wicked city, she felt that she was severely dealt with, because the wealth that it had taken years to accumulate must be left to destruction. Instead of thankfully accepting deliverance, she presumptuously looked back to desire the life of those who had rejected the divine warning. Her sin showed her to be unworthy of life, for the preservation of which she felt so little gratitude.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 160-162)

This is a demonstration of what will happen to all that have not cooperated with God in purifying their hearts.

If Lot had not delayed perhaps his wife would have been saved. Unbelieving relatives put off their day of salvation on account of the laxness of the saints.
Lot’s wife did not have purity of character. She had a divided mind. She had good impulses as she went with the angels part way. She saw what she ought to do, but she did not do it with a fixed mind. Other things divided her thoughts and diverted her efforts. This will be the response of many people who suppose themselves to be far along on the path that leads to life! Christian, you have run well. What now hinders you? If your conscience now tells you that in your life are practices that may very well end in moral disaster, then an angel has taken you by the hand and bid you flee. To delay is dangerous.

“"In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot’s wife.”
Luke 17:31-32

If we crave the best of both worlds we shall probably lose both.

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
Matthew 6:21

“A fool returneth to his folly.”
Proverbs 26:11

Review

1. What request did Lot make? (Genesis 19:18-20)

2. What city did Lot flee to? (Genesis 19:22)

3. Explain what happened to Lot’s wife. (Patriarchs and Prophets 161)

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”
Proverbs 25:11

Nature
Apricot Tree

The apricot tree is called “golden apples.” It is thought that when the word “apple” is used in the Bible it might mean apricot.

Apricots have pits and are smaller than peaches, with a smoother skin. Some even have a blush on one side. Fresh and dried apricots are used in jams, pies, and puddings. The kernels are bitter, but some varieties have sweet kernels that can be eaten like almonds. Lot’s experience was like the bitter apricot pits. Abraham’s was like the sweet apricot pits.

The apricot tree may grow 30 feet (9 meters) tall. They grow best in a dry, mild climate. (Children develop best spiritually in a country environment, not in a city like Sodom.) Apricot trees blossom in early spring, so fruit production is poor if there is a spring frost, which is common. The apricot is native to eastern Asia.
Most apricot trees are grown by grafting buds onto the roots of plum, peach, or apricot seedlings. When the tree is about one year old, they are transplanted from the nursery. (Lot’s family had become grafted into Sodom and did not want to leave.) Apricot trees are pruned more than most fruit bearing trees. Larger fruit is produced by thinning some fruit from the tree when the fruit is about 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) in diameter. Most apricots are harvested by hand.

**Remind**

1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When having a nice country walk, think how much more pleasant it is in the country than in a city.

3. When breathing the **pure** mountain air remember Lot’s wife who preferred the comfortable life-style of the city to the **pure** air of country life with its opportunities to develop **purity** of character.

4. When driving through a city where there are monuments of famous people think of Lot’s wife.

**Reinforce**

1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Serve apricots at a meal. Discuss the fruits of Lot’s life in a city.

3. Look for pictures of the salt rock formations in the area of the Dead Sea, which is believed is where Sodom and the other cities of the plains were.

4. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, *Children’s Bible Activity Book* for this quarter. Say your memory verse!

**Remarkable Parent Food**

“When the Lord sees His people restricting their imaginary wants, practicing self-denial, not in a mournful, regretful spirit, as Lot’s wife left Sodom, but joyfully for Christ’s sake, then the work will go forward with power.” (6 Testimonies 104)
Day 6
Read Genesis 19:23-29
Patriarchs and Prophets 162-165

Research
Consumed

“The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.” The bright rays of the morning seemed to speak only prosperity and peace to the cities of the plain. The stir of active life began in the streets; men were going their various ways, intent on the business or the pleasures of the day. The sons-in-law of Lot were making merry at the fears and weak-minded warnings of the old man. Suddenly and unexpectedly as would be a thunder peal from an unclouded sky, the tempest broke. The Lord rained brimstone and fire out of heaven upon the cities and the fruitful plain; its palaces and temples, costly dwellings, gardens and vineyards, and the gay, pleasure-seeking throns that only the night before had insulted the messengers of heaven—all were consumed. The smoke of the conflagration went up like the smoke of a great furnace. And the fair vale of Siddim became a desolation, a place never to be built up or inhabited—a witness to all generations of the certainty of God’s judgments upon transgression.

“The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God’s mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins.

“The Redeemer of the world declares that here are greater sins than that for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Those who hear the gospel invitation calling sinners to repentance, and heed it not, are more guilty before God than were the dwellers in the vale of Siddim. And still greater sin is theirs who profess to know God and to keep His commandments, yet who deny Christ in their character and their daily life. In the light of the Saviour’s warning, the fate of

Those who
“burned in their lust one toward another” were burned up by fire and brimstone.
Romans 1:27

The sin was unnatural; therefore God punished it by supernatural means. God’s justice is by degree and kind according to the crime.

The destruction of Sodom is a pattern of the ruin of Israel—Deuteronomy 29:23 of Babylon—Isaiah 13:19 of eternal fire—Jude 7.
Sodom is a solemn admonition, not merely to those who are guilty of outbreaking sin, but to all who are trifling with Heaven-sent light and privileges.

“Said the True Witness to the church at Ephesus: ‘I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent‘ (Revelation 2:4-5). The Saviour watches for a response to His offers of love and forgiveness, with a more tender compassion than that which moves the heart of an earthy parent to forgive a wayward, suffering son. He cries after the wanderer, ‘Return unto me, and I will return unto you‘ (Malachi 3:7). But if the erring one persistently refuses to heed the voice that calls him with pitying, tender love, he will at last be left in darkness. The heart that has long slighted God’s mercy, becomes hardened in sin, and is no longer susceptible to the influence of the grace of God. Fearful will be the doom of that soul of whom the pleading Saviour shall finally declare, he ‘is joined to idols:

“Even so Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”
Jude 7

let him alone’ (Hosea 4:17). It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the cities of the plain than for those who have known the love of Christ, and yet have turned away to choose the pleasures of a world of sin.” (Patriarchs and Prophets 162-165)

Purity of life is what God’s people need today.

“Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up.”
Malachi 4:1

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
Hebrews 10:31

Review

1. Describe what happened to the cities of the plain. (Genesis 19:24-25)

2. Who was responsible for Lot being saved, besides the two angels? (Genesis 19:29)

3. Why will it be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the cities of the plain than for those who have known Christ and turned away? (Patriarchs and Prophets 165)
Nature

Luctus or Carob Tree

The carob tree is a dark evergreen tree that grows in countries along the Mediterranean Sea. The carob has brown, leathery pods that contain a sticky pulp. People often use carob in place of chocolate. After being roasted and ground, it can be used as chocolate is used.

“And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey” (Matthew 3:4). John the Baptist ate a very simple diet of locusts and wild honey. Country living is simple but much more healthful, as Lot learned and as John the Baptist practiced.

The carob tree grows to a height of about 50 feet (15 meters) and has small red flowers. Its pods range from 4 to 10 inches (10 to 25 centimeters) long and are slightly curved like horns. The pulp is fed to cattle, horses, pigs, and can even be eaten raw by people. In the story of the prodigal son, the Greek word for “husks” means “little horns.”

Lot finally ended up in a cave in the mountains in very poor conditions, like that of the prodigal, who brought his circumstances upon himself by poor choices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carob pods are 50% sugar.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carob seeds were once used by jewelers as the carat weight.</td>
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“And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.”

Luke 15:16

Remind

1. As you work together as a family, let your chores remind you of your lesson.

2. When eating a carob treat, think about Lot, the prodigal son, and John the Baptist. Which would you like to be like?

Reinforce

1. Look for trees! Use your tree guide book to identify them.

2. Make a carob dessert for a treat at a meal.

3. Find illustrations of a carob tree and its pods.

4. Study more about Lot’s sons Moab, and Benammi. What is their history?

5. For individual activities, stories, and poems, use the booklet entitled, *Children’s Bible Activity Book* for this quarter. Say your memory verse!

Remarkable Parent Food

Read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 166-170.
Day 7

Review—Sodom and Gomorrah

1. Sodom
2. Visitors
3. Warning
4. Delay
5. Hesitancy
6. Consumed