LESSON 19

ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR SODOM



Aim: **To teach the children that God is merciful, but sin demands judgment from a holy God.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 18:16-33; 19:1-29; Ezekiel 33:11**

Memory Verse: **Genesis 18:25**
"Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the children to put up a hand if they had visitors in their homes during the week. Let them tell the class what the visitors came for.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. **Show Picture 18.** God's messengers visited Abraham and brought some good news. They said Abraham and Sarah would have a son of their own. But they also brought some sad news. It was so sad that they wondered if they should even tell Abraham (18:17).
2. Abraham accompanied the visitors a little way on their journey. **Show Picture 19**. They could see the city of Sodom. While two of them walked on towards the city, the chief messenger stayed behind to talk to Abraham. He spoke about the city of Sodom, which had become so wicked that God said he would destroy it (18:20-22).
3. Abraham remembered that Lot lived near this city and so he pleaded with God about it.
   Dramatise the following story with the help of an adult or a child:
   Abraham: Lord, if there are 50 people who follow you in Sodom, will you still destroy it?
   Special messenger: No, Abraham. If among all the people who live in Sodom I find 50 people who are righteous and who obey my commands, I will spare the whole city.
   Abraham: Lord, suppose there are only 45 people ...?
   Continue in this way through 40, 30, 20 and 10. (Children love repetition in a story.)
   God's answers show that he is indeed merciful, but he also judges sin because he is holy. Everybody in Sodom would have been spared even if there had been only 10 righteous people among them (18:23-33).
4. Two of the heavenly visitors went to Sodom, where Lot welcomed them into his house. But the townspeople behaved very wickedly (19:1-11). **Do not go into the detail of their request or Lot's offering his daughters instead. For this age group, it will do to say that the people of Sodom wanted to harm Lot's visitors.**

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5. The visitors told Lot and his family to prepare to leave. Lot's sons-in-law refused to go. Like the people of Noah's time, they laughed at the idea that God's judgment would come (see Lesson 5; 19:12-14).
6. At daybreak, Lot and his family were hurried away. Lot still wanted to delay, but the city was being destroyed (19:15-16). Lot's wife stayed too long because her heart longed more for Sodom than for God, and that cost her her life (19:17, 24-26).

Instil the Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

God cannot let sin go unpunished, but he loves us so much that he will go to great lengths to save us. Abraham asked God to spare Sodom for the sake of 10 righteous people. God could not find even 10, so his special messengers saved Lot and his family from the city before it was destroyed.

God still sends us warnings in his Word, the Bible (Ez 33:11). We need to listen; we should turn to God and away from evil.



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