**Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 19:1-29**

**Bible Story Number: 1010220**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God had already changed Abram’s name to Abraham. As a sign of the covenant, Abraham and his entire household were circumcised. He was ninety-nine years old.

God made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

God told Abram to leave his country and go to the place God would show him. Abram obeyed.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 19:1-29**

This is what the Bible says.

Two angels, who appeared in human form, arrived at the city of Sodom. Lot, Abraham’s nephew, saw them and invited them into his home. They said that they would stay in the city square. However, Lot insisted that they stay at his home and they agreed.

After they had eaten the evening meal at Lot’s house, the men from the city surrounded the house and called out to Lot. They said, “Where are the men who came to you tonight?” Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!”

Lot went out to speak to them and closed the door behind him. He told them no and pleaded with them. He even offered his two daughters to them and told them they could do whatever they wanted with them, but not to do anything to these men who had come under the protection of his roof.

They kept pressuring Lot and began to move forward to break down the door. Then the angels reached out and pulled Lot back into the house. Then they struck the men of the city with blindness so they could not find the door.

The angels asked Lot if he had anyone else in the city—children, sons-in-law, or anyone who belonged to him. They told him to get them out because they were sent by God to destroy the city.

Lot went out and found the two men who were pledged to be married to his daughters. He told them to hurry and leave the city because God was going to destroy it. They thought he was joking.

At dawn, the angels told Lot to hurry, to take his wife and daughters and leave. They warned them that they would be killed along with everyone else if they didn’t leave. Lot hesitated. The two angels grabbed Lot, his wife and their two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city.

Outside the city, the angels told them to flee to the mountains to escape the destruction. They told them not to look back and not to stop in the plain. Lot said that they couldn’t make it to the mountains and asked if they could go to a nearby city, Zoar. The angel agreed to his request but warned them to hurry. The angel said he could not do anything until Lot reached safety.

By the time Lot had reached Zoar the sun was up. Then God rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. Everything was destroyed, the towns, the people and even the vegetation. But Lot’s wife disobeyed what they had been told and looked back. She became a pillar of salt.

The next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had talked to God and he looked down toward the plain where the cities were. He saw a dense smoke rising. It was like the smoke from a furnace. God had completely destroyed the cities of the plain. But God remembered Abraham and rescued Lot before the cities were destroyed.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Where did the angels stay when they went to the city?
* Why did the men of the town approach Lot’s house?
* How did Lot respond?
* What did the angels do to prevent the men of the town from breaking down the door to Lot’s house?
* What warning did the angels give to Lot?
* How did the angels convince Lot to leave?
* What happened to Lot’s wife? Why?
* Who was saved from the destruction when the cities were destroyed?
* How did Abraham learn about the destruction of the cities?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.