

Life Lesson 10  
*Sodom and Gomorrah*  
Text: Genesis 18 and 19

Introduction

Do you like to have company? It's exciting to have visitors -- especially visitors from far away. None of us, though, have ever had visitors like Abraham had. They came from a very long way -- from Heaven!

The Story

Abraham sat by his tent door one day. He looked up and saw three men coming. As they came closer, he saw that they weren't men at all. Two were angels, and the third was the Lord Himself in human form. Can you imagine how excited Abraham must have been? He invited them in and fixed the very best things he had for lunch for them.

As they were talking, the heavenly visitors asked Abraham, "Where is Sarah?"

"She is in the tent," he replied.

"By this time next year she will have a little son," the visitor said.

Sarah was in the tent, but she was listening at the tent door. When she heard what was said, she laughed.

"I'm old enough to be a grandmother," she thought. "Can a woman who is ninety years old have a child?"

The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for God?"

*Is anything too hard for God? No--God can do anything He pleases. Things that are impossible to us are no problem at all to God. He is omnipotent. That means "all-powerful."*

He showed His great power by what happened next in our story. The Lord decided to tell Abraham what He was preparing to do.

"The city of Sodom is so wicked that I am going to destroy it," the Lord told Abraham.

The city of Sodom! That's where Abraham's nephew, Lot, lived.

"But, what if there are 50 righteous people living there?" Abraham asked Him. "Will you spare the city if there are 50 good people there?"

"If there are 50 righteous people there, I will spare the city," the Lord answered.

Surely Lot and his family could have influenced a few friends and that told at least a few people about God. Surely there were 50 with Lot's family and servants and friends. But -- maybe not.

"What if there aren't quite 50 people," Abraham asked "Would you destroy the city if there were 45 good people?"

"If there are 45 righteous people living there, I will spare the city."

Abraham still felt uneasy. He kept asking God to lower the number until, at last, God said that if there were just ten righteous people living in Sodom, He would spare the city.

Abraham felt better. With just Lot's family there was bound to be at least ten righteous people.

But, when the angels journeyed to Sodom, they found a terrible, horrible place. It was so wicked, it made God feel ill. That's because He is a holy God. He will always judge evil, and the time had come for the city of Sodom to be judged.

The angels told Lot what God was going to do, and told him to get his family and get out of Sodom -- pronto! Lot went to his married daughters and begged them to leave with him. They didn't believe him. His sons-in-law thought that he was just kidding. Isn't that sad? He believed in God, but hadn't been living the right kind of life. When he told others about God, they didn't take him seriously.

Lot begged and begged, but no one paid any attention to him. At last, because God is very merciful, the angels took him by the hand. They led him with his two young daughters who still lived at home, and his wife out of the city to safety.

"Go to the mountains where you will be safe," the angels told them. "And whatever you do, don't look back!"

Lot and his wife and daughters started off with great sadness. Maybe his wife didn't really believe what the angels said would happen. She turned to look back at her home, probably wishing she was back there.

One moment she was a live woman, turning to look back. The next moment she was a pillar of salt. She was like a statue of a woman, not human at all.

Can you imagine how horrified Lot and his daughters must have been? They realized now that God was serious, and they hurried off to safety.

About that time, God sent His promised judgment of Sodom and the neighboring city, Gomorrah. There was a great storm, but there was no rain. Instead, fire and brimstone fell from the sky. The cities were burned up, and the people burned alive, because of their great wickedness.

### The Life Lesson

The people of Sodom didn't take God seriously. They thought that because they weren't judged right away, they would get by with their sin. God will always punish sin. It may not be today or tomorrow, but God will always judge sin. That's because He is holy and righteous.

I'm glad that God is also a God of love. He knew that all sin must be punished. He knew that we are all sinners. That makes us hopeless doesn't it? He loved His people enough to come to earth and live a perfect life, without one single sin. Then He paid the penalty for our sin. He bore the judgment that our sins deserved. In our hearts we are all just as bad as the people of Sodom and

Gomorrah. We deserve to perish in fire and brimstone. Jesus took the fire of God's wrath for us. He took the judgment so that we can be forgiven.

## Review Questions

Who were Abraham's visitors?

*Two angels and the Lord, Himself.*

Why did Sarah laugh when the angel said she would have a baby?

*Because she was an old lady.*

Is anything too hard for God?

*No, God can do anything.*

What does "omnipotent" mean?

*Having all power.*

What did the Lord tell Abraham He planned to do?

*He would destroy Sodom.*

Why did God plan to destroy Sodom?

*Because the people were wicked.*

Who lived in Sodom?

*Lot and his family.*

God said he would spare the city if there were how many righteous people living there?

*Ten.*

Why wouldn't Lot's daughters and sons-in-law believe him when he warned them to leave the city?

*They thought he was kidding.*

What happened to Lot's wife when she looked back?

*She turned into a pillar of salt (a salt statue).*