



Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 20, 2015

## Now you see it, No you don't

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 13

**“Faith is to believe what we do not see. The reward of this faith is to see what we believe.” — Augustine**

After being sent out of Egypt for lying to Pharaoh about Sarah, Abram decided to bring his family back to Bethel—the place where he first encountered the promise of God—and to build an altar to the Lord. We liken this to Abram “returning” to God after a period of disobedience and unfaithfulness, after he trusted Pharaoh and his riches for his protection. This reminds us that no matter where we find ourselves in our walk with God, we always have the option of going back to Him (Joel 2:12-13).

Both Abram and Lot were blessed with riches, particularly livestock, gold and silver. While they were settled in Bethel, contention began to arise between Abram’s and Lot’s herdsmen because there were too many livestock between the two of them for the land to support, so the two decided to part ways. Although Abram is the older of the two, he let Lot have the first choice of land. This showed humility on the part of Abram, allowing Lot the first choice gave him the opportunity to pick the better option of the land. Lot, after seeing with his human eyes that the Jordan Valley was well watered, chose to move his possessions there and settled near Sodom; while Abram, on the other hand, settled in Canaan.

We also see here that Abram has learned his lesson and no longer looked at the promises of the land but rather he had learned to focus on the promises that God had given to him. The land that was left to Abram did not seem promising and rich but because God was faithful to His Word, Abram and his possessions flourished and were never in lacking.

Sodom had seemed like the better choice, but that proved to be a double-edged sword as the men of the city were wicked and sinful. We see later in Genesis 19:24 that God ends up judging Sodom and destroying the city. Lot only saw the beauty of the area with his human eyes, he failed to see what God could do. Meanwhile, although Canaan was not as abundant as Jordan Valley, it was where God wanted Abram to settle in the first place. Despite Abram’s wavering faith in Egypt, he ended up in the center of God’s will. The Lord promised Abram in Genesis 13:15 that ***all the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.*** God intended for Abram to not just be a sojourner in Canaan, but to become the owner. In this situation, Abram looked beyond his circumstances—he looked to God—and proved his faith by obeying him; because God already promised to bless him.

Like Lot, we tend to see things through our human eyes – we do not see beyond the trials and the struggles. We become blinded by the promises of worldly riches. We fail to keep our focus on God, we fail to trust in His promises. Let us instead, follow the example of Abram and keep our eyes fixed on God.

In faith, Hebrews 11:9-10 says that Abram ***went to live in the land of promise ... for he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*** Our human eyes tend to see only what is in front of us, but we are called to be like Abram and look for the place that God is building for us. We should not invest our lives here on Earth, but look toward heaven, where the Lord is preparing something greater for us. We read in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

that *this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the thing that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*





Isaiah 40:26 reminds us, *Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their hosts by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.* If our God knows each star by name, then we should not doubt that He is capable of blessing us in spite of our situations. He can turn our barren circumstances—our Canaan—around.

To know God completely means to give everything up. Are we willing to give up everything for Him, even though our eyes only really see the “here” and “now?” Much like Abram was willing to surrender his life of comfort to follow where God was leading him, the apostle Paul chose to give up his influence as a Pharisee for the sake of knowing Christ. In Philippians 3:7, he says *whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* What are we giving up or holding onto that prevents us from knowing God completely?

**APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Read Genesis 13.

	<p>Personal: Are we at a crossroad in our life where we find ourselves choosing between trusting God completely and trusting our own “instincts” and understanding?          Is there some area in our life that God is telling us to surrender to Him completely?          What are the things that are hindering you to walk by faith?          When do you pray? Do you praise God only when things are going your way? Do you also praise Him in times of trials?</p>
	<p>Family: How are we as a family walking by faith? Do we walk the talk? Do we live out our faith? Or is our faith merely lip service?          What are the instances that we are walking by faith? How has God shown His faithfulness because of our obedience?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do others see our faith in God by the way we live? Is our life a proof of God’s faithfulness and fulfilled promises?          Are we able to testify of God’s faithfulness and goodness to others?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: God’s desire is for everyone to know of His great love and mercy. What are you doing in order to share this to others?          God commands “ Go and multiply! Go and make disciples” Have you responded “yes Lord!” What are you doing to obey His command?</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.