



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 4, 2015

The Rescue

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 14

Genesis 14 opens with the alliance of four kings of the North East battling against the five kings of the South, including Sodom, where Lot now lived. The South fell to the ferocious army of the North East, who took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, which included Lot and all his possessions.

In Genesis 13, we learned that when trouble started brewing between Abram and Lot's servants, Abram gave Lot the first choice of the land. Lot mindlessly took the greener part of the land that is near Sodom. Abram, on the other hand, remained in the dessert but instead of longing for the luscious fields near Sodom, he had entrusted to God his family and continued in believing in God's promise to him. After Lot had separated from Abram, God repeated His promise that He was giving Abram the sprawling land of Canaan in all directions. Abram built an altar for the Lord, an expression of his heart of worship to God.

Proverbs 3:7 gives us a warning ***Don't assume you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!*** This is not wisdom that Lot followed because in Genesis 14, we see Lot residing inside Sodom and because of this he got caught up in the war. And when Sodom fell, he and his possessions were taken.

Psalms 1:1 ***Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,*** further in verse 6 ***For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous ,but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*** This should be a reminder for us that we should not be compliant in our spiritual walk but instead strive to be righteous. It is only when we remain righteous in God's eyes that we will receive His protection and experience His faithfulness in our lives.

When Abram heard what happened to his nephew, instead of blaming Lot 's predicament as a consequence of his choice, he and his army pursued over 200 miles travel to rescue Lot from the captors. It was going well out of his way from Hebron to Dan and further up to Damascus to get Lot back, but Abram was determined and he succeeded and crushed the enemy.

Abram did not dilly dally but instead immediately acted by putting together a group of his faithful and trusted men to go and find Lot. Abram could have easily left Lot to rot as a prisoner, he could have easily lay blame on Lot, but because he loved Lot he knew that he needed to do this. After rescuing Lot, he did not stop there but continued on until he was able to rescue all.

Abram went the extra mile. He did not stop at the first camp but went on until he completed his goal. This is grace. This is what it means to become a blessing to others. When we want to be a blessing to others, we go out our way, out of our comfort zone and out of our convenience. We believe God has blessed us not be comfortable but to comfort others. We bless others intentionally even if we are tired, broke, afraid or hurt. We freely bless even those who hurt us. We bless even when we may think that they don't deserve it, for we know the truth that we ourselves neither deserve God's blessings, but He chose to bless us, anyway.

When Abram returned, he received the blessing from Melchizedek, the King of Salem and a High Priest. He blessed him and said: ***"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand."*** (Genesis 14:18-20) Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the booty. There was no Mosaic Law of tithing yet then, but Abram gave not as an obligation but with a heart of gratitude to God.





Abram also did not take anything for himself from Sodom, as testament to what he said to its king. *“I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”* (Genesis 14:21-24) Abram may have a right to accept the king’s gifts but he was focused on giving God all the glory. When you are secure in God’s promises and satisfied in His blessings, you will be able to bless others for God’s glory. Like Abram, let us be a blessing for the right reason. Blessed people, bless people. God blesses people who will be a blessing to others as they have been blessed. The motion to bless others is an outflow of a blessed person. He has so much that he has to give it away, and all for the glory and honor of God.

If we live in the center of God’s will, we can be certain that it will be God who will fight our battles for us. Abram may or may not have the best soldiers but because God was with Him, he was victorious. Likewise, we have our own battles to fight but if we fight the battle depending only on our own strength and resources, we will fail. We have to learn to live in the center of God’s will, to depend on Him to fight our battles for us.

APPLICATION:

Patently 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 14 . What are your insights? What is God’s message for you through the story of Lot?

	<p>Personal: Move! Describe how Abram moved when he heard that Lot was taken captive. What are the characteristics of Abram do you find in these verses? What is the lesson that this passage is teaching you on how you should act in your own life?</p> <p>Remember! Who is God to you? Write down as many attributes and characteristics of God that you can remember and are true to your life. How is your relationship with God? Do you have an intimate relationship with Him? Do you trust God to fulfill His promises in your life?</p>
	<p>Family: Bless! Do you feel you are blessed? As a family list down all the blessings that you have received from God, whether they be big or small, list down ALL your blessings. How do you share your blessings to others?</p> <p>Also make a list of all your trials and struggles as a family. Compare the two lists side by side. Talk about God’s faithfulness in your life. How have you shared God’s faithfulness to others?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: How are you becoming a blessing to others? One way is to share the gospel with those who have not yet come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Make a list of the people you want to share God’s gift of salvation with.</p> <p>How are you growing as a Christian? Are you complacent with your walk or are you continually striving to become more and more like Christ? Do you immerse yourself in His word?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Look back at the list of people you want to share the gospel with. Make an effort this week to invite them to our Weekend Encounter on October 31 and Novemeber 1. Pray for our church event and for the people who will come to attend.</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.