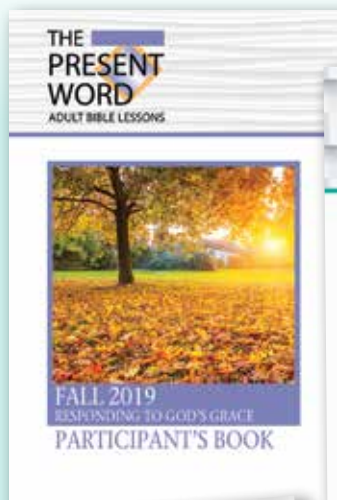


THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS



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THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

The Bible is the primary source of understanding the meaning of the Christian faith and the most effective means of confronting persons with the significant concerns of the gospel.

The God of the Bible, the source of creation, loves us and calls us in covenant through our faith to worship and to do justice.

The Present Word, based on the Uniform Series, is a resource for reading and studying the Bible. Our goals are to

- know the content of the Bible,
- understand the message of the Bible in light of our experiences and relationships,
- be aware of God's self-disclosure, especially God's redeeming love as revealed in Jesus Christ, so that we may respond in faith and love, and
- know who we are and what the human situation means, grow as the children of God rooted in the Christian community, live in the Spirit of God in every relationship, fulfill our common discipleship in the world, and abide in the Christian hope.

The Present Word addresses personal faith, values, human relationships, social responsibility, Christian hope, and the implications of Christian discipleship under the lordship of Christ and in the fellowship of his Spirit.

The same quality, now with an updated look!

FAQ

Why did you update the look of *The Present Word*?

It has had the same design, inside and out, for twenty years. It's time for a refreshing new look!

Are the lessons still based on the Uniform Series?

Yes, and they always will be.

Is the biblical text still printed in the book?

Yes. And now, the New Revised Standard Version text is printed in all three resources—the Participant's Book, the Leader's Guide, and the Worship Leaflets.

Why did you change the name of the books from *Adult Student's Book* to *Participant's Book*?

The word *student* leads many people to think of schooling. Over the years, *The Present Word* has acquired a more conversational style, which is better conveyed by *participant*. The word *adult* was redundant.

What else is new in the *Participant's Book*?

Every lesson begins with a compelling introduction that leads to the Scripture reading for the day. Two sections of the lesson explicate key words and concepts that enable readers to better understand the Scripture. The section "What It Means to Us" offers helpful ways for readers to access the Bible's relevance for today. Finally, "A Look Ahead" offers daily Bible readings for the coming week and a devotional reading for the next lesson.

What is new in the *Leader's Guide*?

The Leader's Guide is much more closely aligned with both the Participant's Book and the Worship Leaflets. Prompts in the Leader's Guide cross-reference related material and activities in the other two resources.

What is new in the *Worship Leaflets*?

Each worship service is based on morning prayer rather than a full worship service. Worship is made of two parts that bookend the Bible study. Prompts indicate when the Bible study occurs in the flow of the morning prayer service. See the Worship Leaflet in this sampler.

SPARED!

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:16–19:29

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled. (Gen. 19:29)

Interviews with people who have survived disasters often share a common theme: “It was awful, but, thank God, we survived!” “Our house is gone, but we are all safe, and we can rebuild.” The feelings expressed are understandable. Often left unexpressed, however, is any consideration about the others, about those who did not escape harm.

The verses for this lesson certainly raise this question for the sensitive reader. Genesis 19 deals with a monumental disaster, namely the destruction of Sodom with all its inhabitants. What may seem inherently unfair to many contemporary Christians is explained somewhat (see below). Though a legitimate concern, this was not the primary reason for the preservation of this story.

These verses are part of a longer story about Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 12–25). In Genesis 12:1–3, God made a covenant with Abraham promising to bless and protect Abraham and his family forever. Because of this covenant, God felt it necessary to explain to Abraham what was about to happen to Sodom and why (18:16–21). The total destruction that befell Sodom was interpreted as divine punishment and was thus justified. Nevertheless, Lot’s family was spared. Why? Because Lot was a part of Abraham’s family. In the saving of Lot, God confirmed and sustained the continuing covenant with Abraham and Sarah.

O God of promise, help us learn to trust you and to frame our lives in light of your word as confirmed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gen. 19:1, 15–26, 29

19:1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. . . .

¹⁵When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city.” ¹⁶But he lingered; so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city. ¹⁷When they had brought them outside, they said, “Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.” ¹⁸And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my Lords; ¹⁹your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I die.

²⁰Look, that city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!”

²¹He said to him, “Very well, I grant you this favor too, and will not over-throw the city of which you have spoken. ²²Hurry, escape there, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.” Therefore the city was called Zoar. ²³The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

²⁴Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven; ²⁵and he overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. . . .

²⁹So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled.

Scripture Notes

The city gate served as a seat of government for a city in the ancient world. Lot’s presence there may indicate (along with 19:9) that he held a position of authority in Sodom.

Zoar: From the Hebrew *Tso’ar* meaning “insignificant” or “small.”

Lot’s wife looking back indicated that she did not want to leave Sodom. Therefore, it was fitting punishment for Yahweh to allow her to stay—as just another salt pillar that dotted the landscape around the Dead Sea.

Lot was commended as a righteous man living among the unrighteous in 2 Pet. 2:7–8.

LOT AND SODOM

Today's story opens with Lot, Abraham's nephew, greeting two "angels" at the city gate of Sodom (Gen. 19:1). Lot and Abraham had separated for the sake of family harmony (13:5–13). Abraham settled in Canaan (v. 12). Lot placed his tent among the five "cities of the Plain," Sodom and Gomorrah being the largest (vv. 10–12). The other three were Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar (10:19; 14:2; 19:3). Many scholars think that the ruins of the cities of the Plain now lie submerged beneath the waters of the Dead Sea. These cities were not large; we would have considered them as towns or villages ranging from a few thousand to a few hundred inhabitants. The Hebrew term usually translated as "city" merely means a population center of some sort that has a wall.

As the story begins, Lot is sitting at the city gate, the place where all official business was conducted. He may have been functioning as an official, a matter not at all pleasing to longer-tenured citizens (19:9). Lot's neighbors expressed suspicion and negative feelings about the "men/angels" that Lot had received (vv. 1, 4–5). The people of Sodom had a long-standing reputation as "great sinners against the LORD" (13:13; 18:20).

The two strangers that arrived at Sodom's gate are described as "angels" (19:1, 15). In all the other references to them, they are called "men" (see 18:2, 16, 22; 19:5, 10, 12). At points, even the LORD is counted among them (18:10, 13–14, 17). The Hebrew term translated "angels" basically denotes "messengers" (for example, Gen. 32:4, 7; Deut. 2:25). "Angel" sometimes designates a messenger who has a special relationship with God and does God's bidding. In the Old Testament, these messengers or angels look like human beings. The notion of angels having wings or flitting about like Cupid comes from a much later time.

The men had been with the Lord at Mamre (18:1–2). When they left Mamre, they "looked toward Sodom" (v. 16). Then they became angels or messengers and presented themselves before Lot at Sodom's city gate (19:1). They were to destroy the city and to warn Lot to leave before the destruction.

 **What questions are raised by Lot's experience in Sodom? How do those questions relate to us?**

RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Gospel of Luke (17:26–30) likens the destruction of Sodom to the devastating flood during the time of Noah, each being a time of great wickedness (Gen. 6:5; 18:20). Both describe a severe judgment by God. Both Noah (6:8; 7:1) and Lot (2 Pet. 2:7–8) were delivered by God from the judgment because they were deemed righteous.

In Gen. 18, the LORD decided he should tell Abraham what was about to happen to Sodom (v. 17). Abraham challenges the Lord because of the Lord's righteousness to reconsider the decision to destroy Sodom utterly.

Abraham's line of argument has to do with the question of whether God will recognize and honor the presence of some folk who are maintaining their commitment to God, even though they live among a population that does not. Will God destroy everyone or will the few be spared? Abraham moves from fifty down to ten (18:26–32). At each point, the Lord acknowledges that because of the few, all will not be destroyed. The point is made: God will honor the presence of the righteous if any are found within Sodom.

“Righteousness” in the Old Testament is primarily concerned about correct relationships. Righteousness is not about the presence or absence of sin. God's righteousness has to do with the divine commitment to maintain a relationship with God's people.

Please note: The Lord purposely entered into a discussion with Abraham. The Lord willingly engaged in a risky consideration about divine and human responsibilities one to the other. The Lord signals a willingness to engage in the questions with us.

The angels/messengers clearly warned Lot of the coming disaster, but Lot could not convince his sons-in-law to take the warning seriously (19:14). So they refused to leave Sodom and missed deliverance. In fact, force had to be used to bring Lot, his wife, and his daughters out of the city (v. 16). Even then, Lot's wife refused the instructions given by the angels, and she was left behind as a salt pillar at the outskirts of the town she was so reluctant to leave (v. 26).

 **How can sparing a few over the many be justified? What other questions must be asked in determining what is just?**


WHAT IT MEANS FOR US

The basis for this dramatic scene is God's promise to Abraham. Since God intended to make a great nation of Abraham and Sarah, and thereby to bless all the nations of the world (18:17–18), it was essential to explain to Abraham what was about to happen to Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 19). The judgment on Sodom was not a capricious act on God's part. Not at all! It was in response to the “outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah” and their “grave sin” (vv. 20–21). But the Lord chose to inform Abraham of what was to occur to assure Abraham that his nephew, Lot, would be preserved. Or, in other words, the purpose is to affirm once again the divine promise repeatedly given to Abraham and Sarah (12:1–3; 13:14–16; 17:1–9).

The humans in this account are quite prepared to enter a discussion with God about what is going on. They are not portrayed as those who merely accept things without question. Questions of “why” and “how” are not ruled out of bounds by God. Being in a relationship with others requires honesty and openness. God seeks that with Abraham and, through the angels, with Lot as well. Humans do not always receive the responses they desire from God, but nonetheless, they are invited to voice their concerns.

God's promise to Abraham did not mean that Abraham or his family would not face difficulties in their lives. What it did mean was that they should always attempt to interpret their experiences in light of God's commitment. Though the destruction of Sodom was terrible (though not without justification: 18:20–21; 19:13), it was to be understood within the context of God's relationship with Abraham. This story was remembered because it illustrated how—even during great destruction—God preserved those to whom a divine promise had been made.

As we live, move, and have our being in the world, we are assured that the God who makes eternal promises to his people will keep and fulfill those promises. Such is the promise we have in Jesus Christ. Even when we fall, as we all do, God in Christ reaches down to pick us up. Let us live confidently in the grace of God and testify with our words and our deeds to the gracious mercy of God.

 **How does the person and work of Jesus affect the message of today's passage about Lot and Sodom?**

A LOOK AHEAD

DAILY BIBLE READINGS			
M	Sept. 2	The Nazarite Vow	Num. 6:1–5, 13–15
T	Sept. 3	“O LORD, You Answered,”	Ps. 99
W	Sept. 4	Hannah Is Childless	1 Sam. 1:1–8
T	Sept. 5	The Yearly Sacrifice	1 Sam. 1:21–23
F	Sept. 6	Dedicated to the LORD	1 Sam. 1:24–28
S	Sept. 7	Hannah Is Rewarded	1 Sam. 2:18–21

DEVOTIONAL READING

Ps. 99

- ¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- ² The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
- ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!
- ⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵ Extol the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.
- ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.
- ⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
- ⁹ Extol the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy.

SPARED!

MAIN IDEA

In the saving of Lot God's continuing covenant with Abraham was confirmed. God's faithfulness is sure and certain.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:16–19:29

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled. (Gen. 19:29)

PREPARING TO LEAD

- Provide Bibles, Participant's Books, Worship Leaflets for lesson 1, name tags, and pens.
- Search Google Images for "Lot and Sodom." Plan to show the picture to the group.
- The lesson begins and ends with the morning prayer found on the Worship Leaflet.
- If you plan to sing the hymn suggested in the Worship Leaflet, arrange to have an accompanist or choir member lead the singing.
- If appropriate, provide simple refreshments; ask volunteers to bring refreshments.
- Read and reflect on lesson 1, "Spared!" (Participant's Book, p. 1).
- Be able to tell the story of Lot and Sodom from memory.
- Be able to summarize the meaning of "righteousness" as the character of the relationship between God and human beings.
- Review the lesson plan below and decide which questions and activities you will use.

LEADING THE LESSON

Opening Worship

1. Gathering

- Make class members and guests feel welcome with a warm greeting.
- Distribute Bibles, Participant's Books, Worship Leaflets for lesson 1, name tags, and pens.
- Agree on and review simple ground rules and organization (for example, time to begin and end; welcoming of all points of view; confidentiality; and so on).
- Encourage participants to bring their Participant's Books and Bibles.
- Are there ways that you can make the learners more comfortable?

2. Morning Prayer 1

Worship Leaflet, lesson 1

- Invite the participants to turn to the Worship Leaflet.
- Enlist volunteers to lead portions of morning prayer.
- Set a prayerful tone by lighting a candle or keeping a brief silence.
- Begin with the Call to Worship and end after the morning hymn/psalm.
- Move immediately to Bible Study.

Teaching Tip
If you enjoy the Bible story, so will your learners. Let your own humor, imagination, and playfulness enrich the story. Give them a role in the storytelling. Invite them to make sound effects, join in motions, make facial expressions, or repeat key repetitive phrases. Encourage them to use their imaginations and pretend that they are there at the scene. Give lots for them to imagine—tell them about the tastes, sounds, smells, and textures. Help them enter into the mood of the story.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gen. 19:1, 15–26, 29

19:1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. . . .

¹⁵When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city.” ¹⁶But he lingered; so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city. ¹⁷When they had brought them outside, they said, “Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.” ¹⁸And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my Lords; ¹⁹your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I die.

²⁰Look, that city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!” ²¹He said to him, “Very well, I grant you this favor too, and will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. ²²Hurry, escape there, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.” Therefore the city was called Zoar. ²³The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

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Scripture Notes

The city gate served as a seat of government for a city in the ancient world. Lot’s presence there may indicate (along with 19:9) that he held a position of authority in Sodom.

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Lot’s wife looking back indicated that she did not want to leave Sodom. Therefore, it was fitting punishment for Yahweh to allow her to stay—as just another salt pillar that dotted the landscape around the Dead Sea.

Lot was commended as a righteous man living among the unrighteous in 2 Pet. 2:7–8.

Bible Study

3. Scripture reading

Participant's Book, p. 2

- Show a picture from Google Images. Invite volunteers to tell what they remember about the story based on the picture.
- Invite the group to read Genesis 19:1, 15–26, 29 in unison or responsively, with a leader and the group reading every other verse.
- Option: Invite the group into a prayerful, reflective reading of the Scripture:
 1. Read Genesis 19:1, 15–26, 29 aloud.
 2. Invite all to reflect for a few minutes in silence.
 3. After reflection time, invite all to listen for a word or phrase as the passage is read again and to reflect on that word or phrase in silence.
 4. Read the passage a third time, asking all to offer a silent prayer following the reading.
 5. Invite volunteers to share the word or phrase that spoke most deeply to them.

4. Lot and Sodom

Participant's Book, p. 3

- Share observations, reflections, and insights about “Lot and Sodom.”
- Avoid getting bogged down in a discussion on the sins of the citizens of Sodom.
- Share these key points:
 1. The men in Genesis 18:22, God's angels, are headed toward Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy the cities because of the wickedness of the people. The people of the cities refused to act with justice and mercy and treated the poor with great disdain.
 2. Like Abraham (18:1–7), Lot immediately offers hospitality to his visitors.
 3. Abraham's intervention for Lot in Sodom marks his second such intervention for his family member. The first was going to battle for Lot when he was captured during a rebellion against ruling kings (Gen. 14).
- Discuss:
 1. Why is it important to remember the story of Lot and Sodom?
 2. What questions are raised by Lot's experience in Sodom? How do they relate to us?

5. Righteousness

Participant's Book, p. 4

- Ask the group to brainstorm things they know about righteousness.
- Share observations, reflections, and insights about “Righteousness.”
- Share these key points:
 1. There appears to be a parallel of the flood story in Genesis 6:5–9:17 with Genesis 19:29. In the flood story, God remembered Noah, who was a righteous man (6:8–9). In 19:29, God remembered Abraham, who was a righteous man, and saved Lot.
 2. In 19:3, unleavened bread is bread baked without yeast. By serving unleavened bread, Lot demonstrated he was a righteous man, unlike the men of Sodom. See 2 Peter 2:7–8.
 3. The capacity of one to save others underlines Paul's argument about the righteousness of God (Rom. 3:21–26).
 4. God's faithfulness and mercy endure even in the midst of wickedness.
- Discuss:
 1. How can sparing a few over the many be justified? What other questions must be asked in determining what is just?
 2. What assurance does it give you that God spared Lot and his family because of the covenantal promise to Abraham?
 3. What promises has God made to you in your baptism? How assured are you in God's promises to you?

6. What It Means for Us

Participant's Book, p. 5

- Share observations, reflections, and insights about “What It Means for Us.”
- Here are some optional ideas to explore today's Scripture:
 1. Discuss: How does the person and work of Jesus affect the message of today's passage about Lot and Sodom?
 2. Create a top ten list of the biggest fears people have today. Discuss how God's faithfulness and mercy shown to Lot and his family offer hope and peace to us amid today's fears.
 3. Identify the highs and lows of the last few years, praising God for being present during all those times.
 4. Write a note of appreciation to a specific person that you know has been praying for you regularly.
 5. Develop a project to help those in your community or church who have been affected by disaster, believing in the righteousness and mercy of God.

Closing Worship

7. Morning Prayer 2

Worship Leaflet, lesson 1

- Invite the participants to turn to the Worship Leaflet.
- Enlist volunteers to lead the remaining portions of morning prayer.
- Begin with Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, say the Lord's Prayer, and end with the Dismissal.
- Extinguish the candle.
- Bless the participants. This can be as simple as saying "God bless you, (*name*)" as each person leaves.

A LOOK AHEAD

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T	Sept. 3	"O LORD, You Answered,"	Ps. 99
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F	Sept. 6	Dedicated to the LORD	1 Sam. 1:24–28
S	Sept. 7	Hannah Is Rewarded	1 Sam. 2:18–21

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS DURING THE WEEK

Send an email:

1. That offers a brief reflection on the lesson, such as, "What promises has God made to you in your baptism? How assured are you in God's promises to you?"
2. That looks ahead to the next lesson, asking them to reflect on times God has answered their prayers.

WORSHIP LEAFLETS

Normally printed at 8.5" x 11", reduced to fit sampler.

MORNING PRAYER

THE PRESENT WORD

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

WORSHIP LEAFLETS

SPARED!

*Responses are in bold.

Responses clearly marked!

OPENING SENTENCES

O LORD, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The LORD's unfailing love and mercy never cease, fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.

MORNING HYMN OR PSALM

When morning gilds the skies
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Familiar hymns or psalms to lift praises to God!

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

When you begin the day,
O never fail to say,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
And at your work rejoice,
to sing with heart and voice,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

SCRIPTURE READING

19:1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground. . . .

¹⁵When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city." ¹⁶But he lingered; so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city. ¹⁷When they had brought them outside, they said, "Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed." ¹⁸And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords; ¹⁹your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I die. ²⁰Look, that

Genesis 19:1, 15–26, 29
city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" ²¹He said to him, "Very well, I grant you this favor too, and will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. ²²Hurry, escape there, for I can do nothing until you arrive there." Therefore the city was called Zoar. ²³The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

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²⁹So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had settled.

BIBLE STUDY

To be led using the Participant's Book, p. 3, and Leader's Guide, p. 3.

Fully integrated with the Participant's Book and the Leader's Guide!

Closes with prayers of gratitude and pleas for God's help!

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
and we will live this day in joy and praise.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you for
the beauty of your creation . . .
the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .
the sustaining love of family and friends . . .
the fellowship of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray for
those who govern nations of the world . . .
the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .
all who work for peace and international harmony . . .
all who strive to save the earth from destruction . . .
the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

Group members offer their own prayers!

Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer.

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all.

Amen.

Includes two versions of the Lord's Prayer!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray (*select a version of the prayer*):

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen.

Be blessed as you go into the week!

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W. Eugene March

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Unit III, "Jesus Teaches about True Worship"

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