



Genesis: look to the stars

12-Oct: God is righteous

Goals of the Series: Genesis is not just a compilation of interesting stories from long ago. The accounts in Genesis are teaching us about the nature of God. We see God's nature on display in how He interacts with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Big Idea/Question: God is righteous. This means that he can not simply turn a blind eye to sin.

GET THEM TALKING

One of the key questions we are asking throughout this series is "what does the passage we are reading teach us about the nature of God"? So what are some characteristics of God that come to your mind?

Setting up the day: One of the characteristics of God that we see throughout scripture is righteousness (Psalm 11:7). But what does that mean? What does it mean that God is righteous? We find the answer to this question when we see the sinfulness (lack of righteousness of man) in the account of Sodom and Gomorrah.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(God is righteous)

Read Genesis 18:16-33 as a group

Vs 20-21 Why did God decide to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?

What does this passage teach us about God's nature?

Answer (Big Idea): God is righteous. This means that he can not simply turn a blind eye to sin. If God were willing to ignore sin he would not be righteous. In fact, one of the ways that we show our sinfulness is in our willingness to ignore sin- in our own lives and those around us.

What was Abraham's argument for sparing Sodom and Gomorrah?

What does it say about God's nature that he was willing to spare the two cities if there were merely 10 righteous people in them?

Answer: God is merciful. 10 people is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the entire population. We will talk more about God's mercy in the video.

Leader Option: At this time you have two options

1. Read through chapter Genesis 19 as a group. I will be summarising the chapter in the video and dealing with the topics of sin, homosexuality, and divine judgment in the chapter.
2. Or if you don't think your group will stay dialed in for reading an entire chapter you can go straight to the video. This may be a good option for younger groups due to attention spans.

VIDEO TEACHING

(How does this point towards Jesus?)

Summary of Gen 19:

What does this teach about us? We are sinful and we have a tendency to ignore sin and accept sin in a crowd. The sin that was highlighted in the chapter was men trying to sexually take advantage of other men. How could something that blatantly sinful take place? It was accepted because everybody else accepted it.

What does this teach us about God? God will not ignore sin even if we do. Why because God is righteous? This means he can not and will not turn a blind eye to unrighteousness.

Gospel Connection: God could not ignore the sin of mankind. It had to be atoned for. The atonement for our sins was accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross.

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Matthew 10:15

Transition to group - The question is are we ignoring the example of Jesus and turning a blind eye to sin, both our own and others?

GROUP DISCUSSION (confronting sin)

What sins are easy for us to ignore and turn a blind eye to?

What sins do our culture ignore and turn a blind eye to?

Leader Note: The above questions are linked. Certain sin issues are ignored because others around us ignore them. We are influenced by culture more than we realize because we all have a tendency to blend in.

Ephesians 4:20-24 That, however, is not the way of life you learned **21** when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

What is Paul telling us to do in this passage?

Answer (doctrine): The moment we believed in Jesus Christ we were made new. We are a new creation. We have been adopted into the family of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit and completely forgiven. We also have been set free from being slaves to sin (Rom 6:17-20). This does not mean that we are not still tempted by sin, but this does mean that through Christ's strength we can have victory. We have to put off the old self and put on the new self.

What did Paul mean when he said: "put off the old self"?

What gets in the way of us "putting off our old self"? What gets in the way of leaving sinful habits, especially ones we had before we knew Christ?

Ephesians 4:29-32 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you

were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

We see in vs 29 that we are instructed “Do not let **any** unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.” Later Paul tells us to “Get rid of **all** bitterness, rage and anger...”. Why is it so important that we do not accept a certain amount of sin in our lives?

Vs 32 - There are clear black and white things God has told us not to do. Christianity isn't just a big long list of don'ts. We are called to follow Jesus' example of what he did. We see a list of some of these things in vs 32. What are some other things that we are called to do as followers of Jesus?