

Bible Passage: Genesis 18

CHRIST CONNECTION: God is good to judge sin, and He always does what is right. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and Jesus gives life to everyone who trusts in Him.

Key Passage phrase: My eyes have seen the Lord. Isaiah 6:5

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

There is something inside of each of us that longs for justice. When your family or community is impacted by an atrocity, there is an innate wiring to every person that desires to see those responsible be punished. Where does this come from and what should we do with this?

Our desire for justice comes as a result of our being made in the image of God. We learn from Scripture that God formed each of us (Ps. 139:13) and created us in His image (Gen. 1:27). Being created in the image of God and by the hand of God leaves us with certain characteristics informed by our Creator.

So, what should we do? Should we respond to every act of sin with an act of justice? Should we point and scream when another image bearer demonstrates her sinful nature? Should we ignore evil acts and simply “let God take care of it”?

Genesis 18 speaks to some of this. As God began to unfold His plan to punish the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham stepped in. Abraham knew firsthand just how sinful these people were, how distorted their views of the world were, and how extreme their culture had turned out as a result. Yet, he pleaded for God to show mercy.

It’s likely that there were people Abraham knew and worried about. It’s clear that Abraham didn’t want those who followed God to be punished along with those who did not. But it seems there was something in Abraham that desired God to show mercy to other sinners because he knew his own great need for God’s mercy as well.

When we see that the ground is level at the foot of the cross, our desire for justice is often—at least in part—overcome by a desire for mercy. When we see ourselves in need of the same mercy as the offender we have in our sights, it may likely change how we think and pray.

Ultimately, God is the judge who discerns where there is mercy. Scripture reminds us, “What should we say then? Is there injustice with God? Absolutely not! For he tells Moses, I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion” (Rom. 9:14-15).

TERMS TO KNOW

Justice: order that God seeks to reestablish in His creation where all people receive the benefits of life with Him. Justice is the central ethical idea of the Old Testament.

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WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. Help children transition in and feel welcome.

**** Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.*

BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Genesis 18 and tell the following Bible story.

GOD IS GOOD TO JUDGE SIN

SAY: *When Abraham was old, God appeared to him. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing by his tent. He welcomed them, and he gave them food and water. The men told Abraham that his wife Sarah was going to have a baby.*

The men got up to continue their journey, so Abraham walked with them for a while. They looked out over the city of Sodom, and God decided to tell Abraham about His plan.

God said, "I have heard about this city. The people living there are evil. Their sin is very serious. I am going to go see how bad they really are."

The men turned and went toward the city. Abraham asked, "God, will you destroy the good people and the evil people? What if there are good people in that city? Surely you will save the city for the good people. You are the judge of all the earth. Won't you do what is right?" God said He would save the city if He found 10 good people living there.

Then God went on and Abraham went back to his tent. The next morning, Abraham saw smoke where the city had been.

Christ Connection: God is good to judge sin, and He always does what is right. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and Jesus gives life to everyone who trusts in Him.

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CRAFT

COLOR WITH A MARKER BUNDLE

Make bundles of washable markers by taping three different colored washable markers together. Make enough for each child to have one. Distribute construction paper to the children and show them how to draw with the marker bundles. Guide children to trade bundles so they can draw with other colors.

SAY: *Let's count how many markers are in a bundle. We have three markers in each bundle. In the Bible story, Abraham looked up and saw three men. Abraham welcomed them. God told Abraham that He was going to the city of Sodom to see how bad the people really were. God is good to judge sin, and He always does what is right. God judged Sodom. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and Jesus gives life to everyone who trusts in Him.*

ACTIVITY

FORM GROUPS OF THREE

Place classroom items such as blocks, washable markers, and crayons on a table. Make sure to include at least three of each item. Hold up three of the same type of classroom item, guiding children to count the items aloud with you. Then, invite children to make additional sets of three items and lay them nearby.

SAY: *We heard the number three in our Bible story. When Abraham was old, God appeared to him. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing by his tent. The men told Abraham that his wife Sarah was going to have a baby. They also said the city of Sodom was going to be judged because the people living there were evil. God is good to judge sin, and He always does what is right. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, and Jesus gives life to everyone who trusts in Him.*

SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

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CLOSING ACTIVITES

Before doing closing activities, please have the children help you clean up the toys and materials that have been used today. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today's **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don't want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Leave toys set up on tables so they can be sanitized.
- 2) Use sanitizing spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.