



LESSON 2

Prioritizing God

OPEN IT

1. Describe a decision you made that later ended up being a major, life-changing decision for you.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Genesis 13

2. How is Abram described at the beginning of the chapter?
3. What happened that caused Abram and Lot to consider separating?
4. What did Abram offer Lot?
5. What did God say to Abram and what did Abram do in response at the end of the chapter?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: RESPONDING WHEN YOU FAIL

Read Genesis 13:1-4

Abram messed up when he left the land of Canaan and went to Egypt during the famine. It wasn't where God had called him to be and it revealed his lack of faith in God. While he was in Egypt, he took matters into his own hands to provide for his own safety and it led him to sin—lying about his wife and bringing consequences on many people. We aren't that far into God's call on Abram's life and he has already failed. But the failing was only part of it. How did Abram respond?

He could have held his head low and thrown in the towel and said he couldn't do it—he couldn't be the person God was calling him to be. How could God use him if he couldn't even trust God to keep him alive? Well, instead of giving up all hope, Abram left Egypt and he went right back where it all started with God: the last place he had worshipped God, the last place God spoke to him, the place he knew God had called him to be. When Abram failed, he went right back where God wanted him in the first place.

6. When you mess up and fail in following God, what is your initial response? What thoughts cross your mind? What do you tend to feel? What do you think about God when you fail?

7. Read 1 John 1:9. What does this verse say about what we should do when we fail and how God will respond to us? What makes trusting this verse so difficult at times?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✎ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, thank You for Your forgiveness and that You don't give up on me when I stumble and fall. (Confess your own sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness.) Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me when I fall. Amen.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: FAITH FIRST, THEN FEELING

Read Genesis 13:5-13

Abram had failed last time trouble reared its ugly head and here it came again. Now trouble was coming from his own family. Leaving Egypt, Abram and Lot became very wealthy people and had accumulated large flocks and families to the point that the land couldn't support them together, so they had to split up. So Abram told Lot to choose which land he wanted and Abram would take the other. It reminds me of an example from when I was a kid. My friend and I are going to grab a snack and there are two brownies left over and one is clearly better than the other. I wanted the bigger brownie. But, it's rude to say that to a friend so I told him to take whichever one he wanted because that's the nice thing to do. The whole time though I'm secretly wanting him to choose the smaller brownie so I could get what I wanted.

The Bible says that the land near Jordan was good land and Lot claimed that land. And I'll bet that looking at all the land, Abram may have secretly been wanting that land. But he had learned his lesson—he is going to trust God now and put his faith before his feelings.

8. When you're faced with a difficult decision, do you tend to rely more on your faith or your feelings? Why?

9. Why is it dangerous for us to rely heavily on our feelings at times when we are making big decisions in life? When might it be good to rely on our feelings?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, help me have the faith to trust You, even when I'm scared to, or it just doesn't seem to make sense. I know in my head that Your ways are the best, but sometimes I begin to doubt it. Give me the faith that I need to follow You obediently. Amen.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: GOD IS FAITHFUL WHEN WE FAIL

Read Genesis 13:4-17

How cool is it that God reaffirmed His promises to Abram. Imagine being in Abram's shoes at this point in the story. I mean, we all have been at some point. We've screwed up and, at least somewhere deep inside of us, we are wondering if God still loves us or accepts us. We are wondering if God has given up on us, if He'll still use us. I know I've been there! Maybe you're feeling that way right now.

Well, just because Abram messed up didn't mean that God was done with him. God still had big plans for Abram's life, and He still meant to bless the nations through him. And he let Abram know that that was the case. Maybe you've failed too. James 4:7-8 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

If you've screwed up it's not too late. Turn to God, draw near to Him.

10. Read Philippians 1:6. Does this verse encourage you in your walk with Christ? What good work do you think God is doing in your life?

11. If God doesn't give up on us when we fail, what does that tell us about how we should treat others around us?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Thank You, Jesus, for not giving up on me. You've called me to follow You and I've fallen short of Your calling in my life. I know I've messed up. Thank You for not leaving me and that You continue to help me grow. Thank You that You are patient with me when I fail. Thank You that You still choose to use people like me who have fallen. You are a gracious and good God. Amen.

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: GPS: GOD'S POSITIONING SYSTEM

Read Genesis 13:11-14, 18

We learned in chapter 12 that Abram didn't fully trust God to follow through on His promises. He brought Lot as a backup plan to grow a nation, he left the land of Canaan and went to Egypt, he lied about his wife, Sarai. And now God is stripping back all the things that are preventing Abram from having full faith in God. He has brought Abram back to the land, He has separated him from Lot, and now look where Abram is—between Bethel and Ai. If you look at a map, you see that Abram is literally smack dab in the middle of the Promised Land. He is exactly where God wanted him to be!

Can we take a second to recognize that God is doing an awesome thing here in Abram's life, even though in the midst of it, Abram may have been disappointed to lose Lot and lose the good land that Lot chose. God is at work, leading and guiding Abram exactly where He wants him to be. God is chipping away at Abram's heart to get rid of everything that might prevent Abram from trusting God.

12. Why do you think it was important for God to separate Abram and Lot? Do you think there's any real significance to the lands they ended up in?

13. What has God used in your life to strip away all the barriers that prevent you from trusting in Him? How have you seen God position you perfectly for what He is calling you for?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

Jesus, help me understand what You are doing in my life and where You are leading me. What things in my life are preventing me from seeing Your call for me and preventing me from trusting You? Would you please help me identify these barriers and remove them so I can be right where You want me to be? Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church.
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