

Study 2

BATTLE IN THE JOURNEY OF FAITH!

Genesis 13-14

Bible Talk Discussion

What insights or observations from Sunday's talk did you find helpful, interesting or confusing? Note down any questions and see if you can answer them along the way.

Growth Group Discussion

Last week we saw three major promises made by God to Abram: The promise of a land, offspring and blessing.



This week in Genesis 13-14 we get a glimpse at God starting to fulfil some of these promises as well as some obstacles along the way. We'll also get to see how Abram responds to these threats and God's faithfulness.

Read Genesis 13

See the map over the page for Abram's journey in this part of his life



1. Which promises do we start to see glimpses of in this passage? Which promises still seem to be a long way off?

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2. What is the source of the tension in this passage between Abram and Lot? How does Abram resolve this tension?

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3. Do you think that Abram acts in a godly way? Why or why not?

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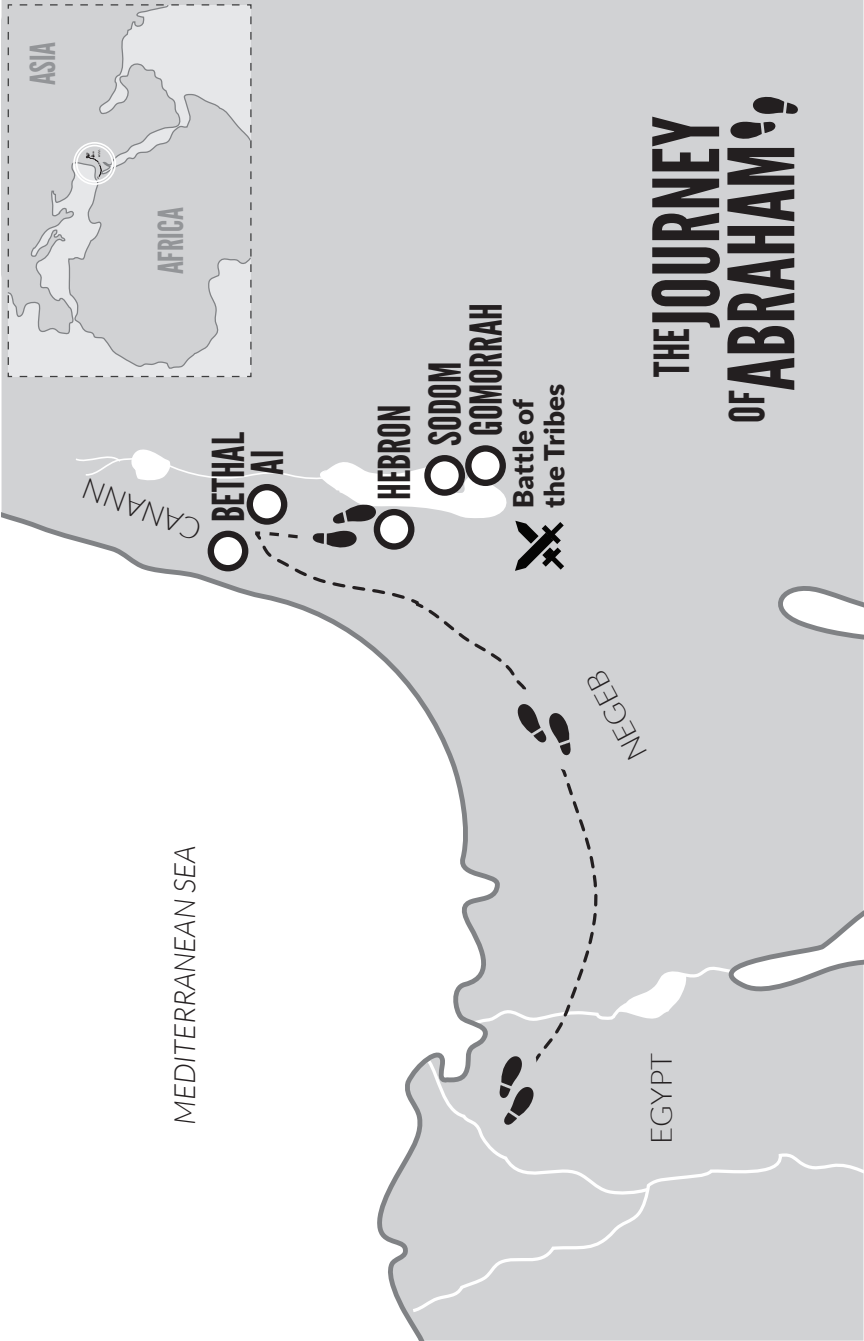
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4. What do you think of the way Lot acted? Are there any warning bells about him in this section?

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In fact these are early warning bells which point to the type of life that Lot will continue to live. You can discover how his life turns out in Genesis 19 and it is not a pretty sight! You'll discover that Lot eventually lives a life away that is alienated from God's blessings, alienated from community and alienated from God's right way of living.



5. At the end of the chapter how does God affirm Abram that he acted rightly with Lot?

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Abraham and His World

Genesis 13 begins (v4) and ends (v18) with an altar which is a symbol of worship and fellowship with God. The first altar is located in the far north of the promised land with the second altar at the far south of the promised land.



This is a turnaround for Abram from chapter 12 when he was in Egypt and feared for his life, doubted God's promises and didn't build altars. In chapter 13 Abram builds two altars which signify Abram's return to faith and his proclamation of claiming the land in the name of God.

Bruce Waltke, *Genesis: a commentary*. P219



In chapter 14 we see some more threats emerge to God fulfilling his promises to give Abram the land. It is already occupied by powerful kings who are at war with each other. We'll also get to see how Abram responds in the face of these threats.

Read Genesis 14:1-16

6. In your own words describe what happened in the war. Why did it happen? Who were the main players? Who won?

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7. In verses 5-7 Chedorlaomer and his allies fight a whole bunch of people (including the Rephaim and the Zuzim (Aka Zamzummim) who were giants like Goliath (Deut 2:10-11,20-21). Before they even square up against the five Kings that stopped paying tribute. Why do you think this detail is included? What affect does it have on the way you view the armies of Chedorlaomer?

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8. How many verses are devoted to Abram's defeat of the four kings of the north? Is this surprising from what you know of the four Kings?

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Read Genesis 14:17-24

9. In this passage who's given credit for the defeat of the northern kings?

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10. How does Abram show his faith in response to God defeating the kings?

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At Journeys End



In these chapters, Abraham shows his faith in God who is gracious to him by being amazingly gracious to Lot and to the king of Sodom. In Lot's case Abram gives him far more than he deserves by letting him have first choice of land and then rescues him from the consequences of that choice. Then when dealing with the king of Sodom he also gives him much more than he deserves. In both cases Abram's trust in God brings blessing to two characters who don't earn it, who in fact deserve the opposite. This is how God operates and this can ultimately be seen in the Lord Jesus Christ who trusted his father and went to the cross and brought salvation for people who don't deserve it. If you trust in Jesus then you've been dealt with amazingly graciously. This then frees you up to be gracious as well.



Read Philippians 2:1-11

11. How does having received God's grace in Christ shape you to be gracious and generous in your decision making?

12. How does Abraham and Jesus give us confidence that we don't have to be constantly grasping for things out of a fear of missing out.

Pray

In light of God's grace to us let's pray that we would reflect that graciousness as we interact with those who are close to us and to those who are antagonistic toward us.

- Pray for us as Christians in Australia and the west that we would be able to exhibit God's grace when we interact with people over questions of marriage equality and LGBTQI issues.
- Pray that at Eatons Hill we could be a community that shows grace in generosity to one another.
- Pray that our trust in God would continue to grow so that we can rest in him rather than grasping after things.