



WEEK 5: NEXT LEVEL INTERCESSION

The second half of Genesis 18 tells us the story of how God informed Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. His nephew Lot and his family live in that area and Abraham was concerned for their safety, so he pleaded with God to stay His hand. This whole story teaches us about a new level of intercession for others in a way that strengthens our faith and allows us to see the hand of God move.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 18:16-33

OBSERVATION

- Read Ezekiel 22:30. In this verse, intercession is described as a position of faith to “stand in the gap” on behalf of others. What is intercession?
- God chose to reveal His plan for judging the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham. What does this say about Abraham’s relationship with God?
- God tells Abraham that He has heard the outcry of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, meaning that God was not deaf to injustice being committed. Do you ever struggle with God seemingly being slow to correct injustice? What does Revelation 6:9-11 God’s coming judgment?
- Abraham repeatedly speaks to God with both boldness and humility (i.e. verse 27). Do you pray similarly? Do we come to God, confident that we are His friends in Christ but also understanding the magnitude of His holiness?
- Abraham intercedes for Sodom before God; likewise, intercessory prayer is when we plead to the LORD on others’ Why is intercession the most helpful action that we can take for someone? How often do we intercede for others in prayer to God?
- God is willing to spare Sodom for the sake of ten righteous persons, and we know from chapter 19 that ten could not be found. How is this similar to us being spared for the sake of Christ’s righteousness?

APPLICATION

- In the Old Testament, intercession is the role of priests, to mediate between God and people. As Christians, we believe in the priesthood of all believers, which means we are given role of intercession. What areas are we supposed to intercede and pray for?
- Only God can judge and condemn because He is righteous, but He also forgives and saves because He is love (John 3:16-18). Our role as believers in Jesus is to invite people to walk away from God’s judgement and into His forgiveness by inviting them to believe in Jesus. This said, what then is most important intercession we can do for others?
- Like Abraham, our love for others must compel us to pray for the salvation of our family and friends. Would you commit to praying for your loved ones so that they might come to Jesus?
- What are some of the biggest problems of our city that we can intercede for?
- Would you and your group consider taking prayer walks around the city to intercede?

PRAYER

GENESIS 18

16 When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. 17 Then the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? 18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” 20 Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.” 22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” 26 The Lord said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”