

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 18:20-19:29

Think about your past week. How has God answered prayer or worked in your life? What prayer requests do you have? Write them here. Then take time to pray about your requests and ask him to open your heart for today's study.

Read today's passage. Jot down your initial impressions of the passage.

Here is some context for Genesis 18:20-19:29.

When we left off last week, Hagar, Sarai's servant, had just born Abram a son, Ishmael (Genesis 16). This son was not the son God had promised Abram, but Abram and Sarai had taken things into their own hands to get a son for themselves. This didn't go as expected, because human feelings and discontent created strife between Sarai and Hagar.

Thirteen years later, when Abram was 99 years old, God came again to Abram and again repeated his covenant to give Abram a son through Sarai (Genesis 17). God even changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. This time, God also established circumcision as a sign of his covenant. All males eight days old and older must be circumcised. So Abraham and all in his household were circumcised that day.

A short time later, while Abraham was still 99 years old, three men visited Abraham (Genesis 18). These were not ordinary men. One of them was the Lord, and the other two were angels. Abraham immediately invited them to rest, and he offered water to wash their feet and food to eat. He arranged for Sarah and his servants to prepare a feast for the men. They casually asked him where his wife Sarah was, and one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son" (Genesis 18:10). After almost 25 years of waiting, Abraham finally had a timeframe for when his son would be born! However, Sarah was in the tent nearby and overheard the conversation. Her response? She laughed! She was skeptical that this would or could happen. The Lord called her out on this and once again promised that Sarah would bear a son.

As the men got up to leave, they looked toward Sodom, and the Lord decided to reveal to Abraham what he was about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah. That's where we pick up the story today.

What are your thoughts about the context? Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Then summarize the passage in your own words.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Write your thoughts here. If you have any questions, write those as well. You may find answers in future lessons, or you may want to find another Christian that you can ask.

Use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your own life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.