

# Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 13:1-18

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

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Share about an instance in your life when you were a peacemaker.

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Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

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Here is some context for Genesis 13:1-18.

*We left Abram and his family in the land of Canaan, headed toward the Negev Desert. Abram eventually ended up in Egypt due to a famine (Genesis 12). There, he tried to pass Sarai, his wife, off as his sister. Pharaoh took her in and treated Abram well because of her, and Abram amassed a great number of livestock, servants, and other possessions. Once Pharaoh realized that Sarai was Abram's wife, he gave Sarai back and sent Abram on his way. So Abram and his family are now headed back to Canaan.*

What are your thoughts about the context? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

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Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

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Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

What does the passage say about God?

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Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

*One of the greatest lessons we can learn from the life of Abram is patience. God gave Abram his initial promise when Abram was 75 (Genesis 12:4). We assume it has been at least a few years since then by the time we reach this story in Genesis 13, because Abram has had time to travel to Egypt, survive through a famine, amass great riches, and return to Canaan. In all this time, God still hasn't given Abram a son through which he will become a great nation. When other families are having children starting in their 30s (according to the genealogy in Genesis 11), Abram is now past 75 years of age and still doesn't have a child. Yet he continues to trust that God will fulfill his promise, and he still worships God faithfully.*

*Throughout the Bible, people like Abram are the ones that God uses. They may not be perfect, but they are faithful to follow God. People like Moses, Joshua, Samson, David, and others become great men and great leaders because of their faith in God. You too, can be someone that God uses. It's not about being perfect or rich or famous. It's about being faithful to God.*

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

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As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

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How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

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

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