

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 13:1-18

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 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? 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 else strikes you about this passage?

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? 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.