

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

Feb 26th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. Tell us about your first job. What did you do and how long did it last?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 13. What do you notice about the characters? Abram? Lot? God?
 - What emotions do you think that Abram is wrestling with after parting with Lot?
2. Pastor Michael talked about Lot being an insurance policy...a family member to be an heir in case God never gave him children.
 - Why does this decision make sense from a secular point of view?
 - How does this decision cause problems and threaten to derail God's promise?
 - How does God interact with this situation? What does this tell you about his character?
 - In light of this, how does their separating impact both Abram and his relationship with God?
3. Read Matthew 10:37-39. Jesus expected his disciples to submit everything, even their lives, to him. Why was that so important to Jesus?
4. What do you think are common things that people hold onto as "faith" insurance policies? Things that they can fall back on if trusting God becomes too difficult or uncomfortable?
 - Saving money is a Biblical concept. At what point though do savings become insurance policies against God?
 - What spiritual insurance policies are you holding onto in your life?

Feb 26th: Abraham: The Insurance Policy

Insurance policies are good things. You never know when an unexpected health issue or a car accident may happen. But they can become dangerous when people take out an insurance policy on God...which is exactly what Abram does early in his faith journey.

- I. Abram brings Lot as an insurance policy if God fails:** In Genesis 12:1, God told Abram to leave his father's household. Yet we are told both in 12:4, and 12:5 that he took Lot with him. Being that it is included twice means that we should pay attention. It begs the question: Why? In that culture it was very important to make sure that when you died, your possessions stayed in the family and not passed on to a group of strangers. God had promised to give Abram children, but that promise was yet to be fulfilled. Lot was available as an heir in case God failed to keep his promise.
- II. Abram's commitment to Lot becomes a threat to God's promises for him:** In Genesis 13:5-7, something unexpected happens. Both Abram and Lot have been blessed with herds of animals, but fights are breaking out over the resources of the land. Lot is essentially taking claim to the land that God has promised to give to Abram.
- III. Abram's decision to release Lot results in God's blessing:** Abram initiates a conversation and the two decide to part ways. Doing so means that Lot will no longer be with Abram and will thus not be available as an heir. The insurance policy is gone. God then appears to Abram (13:14-17) and reminds Abram of the promise, declaring that everywhere that he steps would someday be his.
- IV. Modern Day Lot: Anything (including good things) that we hold on to as an alternative to depending on God:** Abram learned that as long as he held on to Lot, then he would never experience the fullness of God's blessing. In the same way, we often hold onto things as a fall back. If following God's lead ever gets difficult or uncomfortable, then we can fall back on them. Sometimes that may be our possessions. Other times it is ungodly behavior such as violence, insults, or manipulation when God doesn't give us the outcomes and the timing that we want.

Conclusion

Jesus told his disciples to carry up their cross and to follow him. The road of faith is not an easy one. We place ourselves under his lordship and die to our desires. The result is that he becomes more and more alive in our lives. In order to do that, he requires our absolute allegiance. This prompts the big question as to what insurance policies we are holding onto.