

## Session 5

### Title: Diminished by carnal choices: The Family of Lot



The Bible says that Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7). However, the choices that he and his family made has a great deal to teach us. Lot had Abraham for an example, the one who trusted God and walked with God as he was led to the Promised Land. However, did Lot and his family likewise fulfill God's purpose for their own lives, or did they get stuck? Let us glance through and understand from the cross weave of the tapestry of Lot's family.

#### Summary of the Video:

In Genesis 12:4 it says that Abraham left Haran with his family, including Lot. We learn that Abraham in his journey not only left Haran at the word of the Lord, but he also leaned on the Lord. Lot, although did not have a personal call from the Lord, he too left along with Abraham. However, unlike Abraham he got stuck in his journey. Sometimes when we move without having a call of God or when we do not understand the call of God and we move, we can get stuck in our journey. It can also be inferred that he did not really trust the Lord for his own journey, although he was in proximity of Abraham's life journey, and his faith was feeble.

The Bible tells us that Abraham and Lot grew strong. Their herds had increased to an extent that they could not coexist any longer and there started quarreling among their herdsman. Abraham, being sensitive to his relationship with Lot, advised that they must part ways (Genesis 13). He was willing to compromise and sacrifice for the sake of peace. Lot chose a land for himself, but it is the Lord who chose Abraham's lot of the land because he entrusted himself to the Lord.

This is a common reality today, as many families have conflicts and are divided when it comes to wealth. Many migrant families become materialistic and lose focus of their God given purpose and plan. Let us learn from some of the mistakes that happened in the life of Lot and his family that caused them to get stuck in their journey.

Here are three learning points in the acronym L-O-T:

**L – Lusting with his eyes.** What seemed prosperous from the outside attracted Lot to make his choice. Similarly, we also as families sometimes get into petty quarrels when we get stuck, caught in the lust of things that really do not matter in the long run and miss the greater purpose of God for our lives. Even when God moves people from one place to another, we need to understand God always has a plan and purpose for it and we need to live by it rather than just carried away by the benefits it may appear to bring.

**O – Obsession over earthly wealth.** Lot was so focused on the lushness of the land that he apparently completely discounted the sinful reality of the people who lived there. We know that later God destroyed the land because of the sinfulness and wickedness that city was infested with. Sometimes the obsession over earthly wealth can blind us to the reality around us.

**T- Tagged along rather than Trusting God.** Lot had journeyed all along with his uncle Abraham and he had a good opportunity to observe and learn the path of faith and trusting the Lord firsthand. However, it seems from the choices he made that he did not discern God's purpose for his life and trust the Lord for his decisions, but simply tagged alongside his uncle without observing and learning much. This can be a good example to reflect the way many today make decisions based on what is popular or based on what others are doing, rather than discerning God's purpose and plan. This can end up weakening our faith and we can get stuck.

So, the consequence: The very place that Lot chose became the cause for their crisis. Lot's sons-in-law refused to escape and mocked at him. Sadly, Lot's wife became the pillar of salt. Later Lot and his two daughters fled and took refuge in the mountains. It is a painful account to read the way the person who chose a lush green land to settle down had his family disintegrated and had to hide in a cave. Bible tells us that the two daughters of Lot, out of fear, made the choice to cheat their own father into an incestuous relationship to produce a future generation for themselves. What a tragic consequence to the whole family of Lot.

### **Gain Insight & Apply:**

Making a choice is a very crucial yet a daily experience in one's life. The Word of God talks about making a choice. In Deuteronomy 30: 19, the Lord says He has set before us life and death, blessings and curses. He admonishes us to choose life. Let us consider what we have just learnt in the light of the following questions:

1. What can we learn from the choices made by Lot and his family? Discuss as a family.
2. How did these choices impact Lot's family? Discuss as a family.
3. We learnt the importance of keeping the purpose of God in the center of our lives, and we also read about some of the mistakes made by Lot. So, when faced with the need for migration for various needs like job or family need, how would you respond differently? Discuss as a family.
4. How can we come alongside each other as family members when faced with difficult decisions to be made?

### **I WILL STATEMENT:**

The Lord has sovereignly designed our lives for his glory and charted out a plan for our lives according to His grand purpose. In Acts 17: 26-28, the Word of God reminds us that the Lord has set our boundaries and habitations, and He wants His people to seek Him. He is not a God

afar, but in Him we live and have our being. So, when we keep Him in the center of our lives, He beautifully directs our path. Write down as many “I will” statements to correspond to the actions you have decided to take as a family from the above reflection in making God part of your choices as you pursue His grand purpose for your lives.

**Prayer:**

*Father, we learnt that keeping Your purpose and plan as the center of all the choices and decisions we make in our lives is pivotal for us. Lord, if any of us are in a terrain that is leading us away from You, help us to come back to the place where You want us to be so that You will be glorified through our family life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!!*

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