

13 DRIFTING INTO DANGER

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 19:12-26

CENTRAL truth

Today we'll read about Lot, a guy who started out enjoying God's promise but slowly drifted from God because of his nearness to Sodom, a city famous for its sinfulness. Surrounded by sinfulness, Lot's family became numb to the dangers of sin, to the point that they struggled to believe God would actually punish sin, even when He sent angels to warn them. **Sin is a dangerous force that God will always address—even while showing mercy.**

key question

Look up **Philippians 3:13-14**. How do Paul's words here show us a better way than how Lot's wife reacted to Sodom?

When Lot's wife looked back, it was clear she treasured her sin and her city. She didn't want to accept God's mercy. But when Paul considered his former life before he encountered God's mercy, he didn't look back with longing. He knew his treasure was ahead, in Jesus! In this regard, we need to be more like Paul and less like Lot's wife. We need to know that sin is a dangerous, numbing force and that our merciful God has much better in store for us than sin ever could provide.

keep in mind

- As students work through the week's Daily Devotions, they will encounter a troubling passage involving sexual assault. In Genesis 19:1-12, the men of Sodom insist Lot allow them to rape his angelic guests, and Lot offers them his virgin daughters instead. Do not let this passage dominate your discussion; if students bring it up, gently redirect their attention to the Central Truth of the session. Invite them to speak with you or another leader one-on-one if they have questions or need to process strong feelings.
- Sometimes when we encounter stories about God's wrath and judgment, we falsely characterize God as a mean guy. Intentionally point out God's mercy upon mercy: promising Abraham that He would show mercy, sending His angels to investigate Sodom's sin, warning Lot and his family, and having His angels physically remove Lot and his family. This is a story of mercy just as much as a story of judgment!

application

How can we train ourselves to notice sin's danger rather than become numb to it?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students can develop a real-life understanding of spiritual drift, the danger of sin, and the gift of God's mercy. They can consider where they're prone to "look back" and instead seek to "look ahead."

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders can help students view truths about Lot, Lot's wife, and the city of Sodom as it applies to their lives. Where are students believing that sin is better than mercy?

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