

WEEK 6

SEARCH AND RESCUE

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Genesis 18:16-33 (NIV)



DISCUSSION GUIDE

On a hiking trail, a unique bond forms among travelers. Sharing the same views, sounds and challenges, hikers connect through common experiences, often driven by a shared love for the journey. These connections become the foundation for opportunities to support and guide one another. These relationships inspire and uplift. Similarly, in life, our shared experiences lay the groundwork for meaningful relationships and become the fertile soil for us to reflect God's love and truth.

We can see this principle in the different lives of Abraham and Lot.

In Genesis 18, Abraham intentionally built connections with strangers, offering hospitality (Genesis 18:1-8), and interceded passionately for Sodom's salvation (Genesis 18:22-33). Abraham's heart for others positioned him as a conduit of God's mercy, even toward a sinful city. His intentional engagement shows how shared moments - whether a meal or a conversation, or interceding on their behalf - can plant seeds of faith.

In contrast, Lot's relationships in Sodom fell short. Living among its people (Genesis 19:1), he shared their daily life but failed to influence them toward righteousness. Even Abraham was convinced that Lot would have had more impact on his neighbors. Despite years in Sodom, Lot's relationships bore no fruit for God's Kingdom. His passivity serves as a cautionary tale: proximity without purpose misses opportunities to reflect Christ's light.

Like hikers on a trail, we encounter people daily - coworkers, neighbors, friends - whose shared experiences offer chances to build trust, and eventually, share faith. Lot's story challenges us to be intentional, using our relationships to point others to Jesus. Are we merely present, like Lot, or actively reflecting Christ, like Abraham? Let's seize everyday moments to cultivate connections that draw others toward God's love, ensuring our relationships bear eternal fruit.

1. What is so powerful about Abraham pleading on behalf of Sodom?
2. Who in your life, other than your family, do you interact with the most? List six of these people by name. Where and why do you interact with them most?
3. What have your interactions regarding faith been like with them? Are they open or opposed to talking about faith?
4. In Matthew 28:16, one of Jesus' final commands to His disciples was the GO. What holds you back from 'going' to share Jesus?
5. What are some practical ways you could build deeper bonds with the people in your life that model the goodness and invitation of Christ?
6. Note a way that you can be praying and/or interacting with each of these six people that can have an eternal impact on their lives.

Prayer

*Ask our Heavenly Father to grow our devotion to our mission of **HELPING PEOPLE FIND & FOLLOW GOD**. May our continued future impact of reaching people for Christ be a marker of The Compass Church that we are all a part of for decades to come.*