



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

11/12 November 2017

Vol. 39, No. 46

Abram and Lot Separate

Genesis 13

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Baptism (10:30 a.m.)
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Noel Pabiona
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagsamba sa Panalangin
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Erik Dizon
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



Abram and Lot Separate

Today's Message (11/12 November 2017) /
Genesis 13

JUST LIKE ABRAM,
OUR FAITH WILL BE
TESTED. CHOOSE
TO LIVE BY FAITH
AND NOT BY
SIGHT TO MAKE
YOU TRUST GOD
WHOLEHEARTEDLY
AND BELIEVE THAT
HE WILL PUT THE
PIECES TOGETHER
BEAUTIFULLY.

Abram's life is the story of a man whose faith was always tested. Someone once said that "faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted." Up to this point, God was constantly testing his faith. Abram was very much like us: struggling daily whether to "trust God completely" or "lean on his own understanding." He failed in Egypt because he resorted to his own schemes instead of trusting God. In today's passage, we will see Abram slowly growing in his faith in God based on his response to another test that involved his nephew. We can learn a lot from this story by understanding the basis of their choices and the consequences.

1. **RECOMMITMENT TO GOD**

- **Return** to Bethel (*v. 3, Genesis 12:8*)
 - We're not expected to make the right choices all the time. When we fail, God gives us the opportunity to retrace our steps, recover and recommit ourselves to follow Him.

2. **REMEDIAL TEST**

Abram's faith was tested (again) through a situation that involves Lot.

- **Scheming** in Egypt. In Egypt, he succumbed to fear and attempted to represent Sarai as his sister in order to avoid potential trouble with the Pharaoh.
 - **Famine** forced Abram to go to Egypt (*Genesis 12:10*)
 - **Fear** pushed Abram to give away Sarai (*Genesis 12:11-13*)
- **Separation** from Lot

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Doxology
Worship through Fellowship
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Worship in the Word
Pastor Noel Pabiona
Response Hymn
Benediction



Abram and Lot Separate

Today's Message (11/12 November 2017) /
Genesis 13

- **Fights** among herdsmen caused the separation (v. 7)
- **Faith** made Abram give way to Lot (vv. 8, 9, 12)
- The **foundation** of their choices show their character
 - Lot's choice was based purely on **sight** (v. 10). It brought him closer to Sodom (v. 12b) who were "wicked, great sinners against the Lord."
 - He was willing to forsake family for fortune
 - He chose to live near Sodom vs. separation from the world. He will suffer the consequences of this choice later.
 - Abram's choice was based purely on **faith** (vv. 12, 14). "He settled in the land of Canaan..." God blessed him for this: (v. 15) "all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever."

3. **REWARD** FROM GOD

Matthew Henry said, "The prospects seen by faith are more rich and beautiful than those we see around us."

- **Property**: The Promised Land. "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are."
 - No land of his own (future)
- **Posterity**: The People of Israel
 - No child of his own (future)

4. **RESPONSE** FROM ABRAM (V. 18)

- Praise and worship: "...he built an altar to the Lord."

CONCLUSION

Just like Abram, our faith will be tested. Choose to live by faith and not by sight to make you

- Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust God wholeheartedly
- Romans 8:28: Believe that He will put the pieces together beautifully ■

For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6 (NIV 1984)

We return to this timeless promise and fulfillment of the birth of the prophesied Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is the proper recognition and declaration of Who He is that puts into perspective how we ought to celebrate this wonderful season—in the context of home, country, and as a spiritual community.

On December 16 and 17, we will gather as a GCF family for a Special Christmas Celebration. By retelling the wonderful story of His birth, expressed in music, prayer, fellowship, and the proclamation of His Word—we will altogether worship Emmanuel, God with us. Please take note of the schedule for that weekend:

- **December 16, Saturday:** 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Auditorium B (in place of the regular Traditional Worship Service)
- **December 17, Sunday:** 10 a.m. to 12 noon *and* 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Auditorium B (two services only, in place of the four regular Sunday Worship Services)

Please invite your family and friends. We pray that these special worship services will touch the hearts of those who do not yet have a spiritual home like GCF, and those who have yet to personally encounter Christ.

Also, kindly take note of our schedule for the succeeding Sundays of December:

- **December 23, Saturday** (Traditional Service with Christmas Eve Sermon): 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Auditorium B
- **December 24, Sunday** (Christmas Eve Services): 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. *and* 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Auditorium B (two services only)
- **December 30, Saturday** (Traditional Service with New Year's Eve Sermon): 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Auditorium B
- **December 31, Sunday** (New Year's Eve Services): 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. *and* 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Auditorium B (two services only)

Blessed Holidays, GCF Family! ■



THE GCF LIFE JOURNEY APP

Be empowered to live a radically different life by engaging with the Bible. Through our GCF Life Journey app, you can Receive, Reflect and Respond to God's Word daily through your mobile device. Download now!



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Ablaze Devotional

**Jesus replied, "I assure you:
Unless someone is born
again, he cannot see the
kingdom of God."
- John 3:3 (HCSB)**

Every time we witness a baptism, we celebrate someone's profession of faith. More so, we witness once again Christ's triumph over sin and death. Baptism is both a profession and a celebration of our union with Christ. It is a public witness to the reality of Christ's sacrifice for the ransom of many. We are born again, united in His life, death, and resurrection.

This is what being born again means—entering into a new reality, a new way of life which God has prepared for us who believe. God opened our eyes to see the goodness and beauty that restores the image we bore in the beginning. In receiving and experiencing God's forgiveness, we are welcomed into the His kingdom, becoming God's new creation. We now live with a new kind of humanity embodied in the life of Jesus. In our obedience, we now reside in the reality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19*).

The life we now live, we live with the same trusting faithfulness of Jesus (*Galatians 2:20*). The God of all nations has called us to His presence, empowered and enabled us to love Him and to love what He loves—His creation.

Let it be our prayer that we are able to receive the heart that God is creating in us and for us. As we receive from Him, may our hands be open to give, in prayer and in service. May we always find the face of God in all that we do. May our lives be living witnesses to what it means to be truly born again, to be new creation ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD

Workshop on 2 Timothy for Bible Teachers
November 16-18 at GCF, Reg.: PhP 1,000
Tickets are available at the lobby every Sunday
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information



LIVING HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING AND UNCERTAINTY

A talk by Dr. Yoyit Roldan for Cancer Patients
Nov. 26 (Sun.), 12-3 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall
Contact **0917 532 1921** to register



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

featuring "He Shall Be Called"
December 16 (Saturday): 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
December 17 (Sunday, **two services only**):
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 nn. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Election Days: December 9 and 10 (Sat. and Sun.)
For information regarding the elections, please
contact Ms. Grace Mosquera, 632 1354 loc. 329.

Would you like to read our weekly church bulletin on your mobile device? Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby and we will send it to you.

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of October 29, 2017 -

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| General Fund | 7,750,539.28 |
| Missions Fund | 1,149,985.50 |
| Designated | 316,570.00 |

Total **9,217,094.78**

- Week of November 5, 2017 -

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| General Fund | 1,538,829.15 |
| Missions Fund | 146,350.00 |
| Designated | 80,500.00 |

Total **1,765,679.15**

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and faithfulness by two anonymous donors, the Baslbad family and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Three years ago, Tim Sosmeña started learning Japanese because of a desire to pursue a higher level of education in Japan and befriend Japanese people. It never occurred to him that he would be ministering to some Japanese people here. God's work can certainly be mysterious most of the time, but His work never fails to amaze.



Today, Tim co-leads a ministry for international students, welcoming them to a community. They aim to extend God's love by accompanying them to worship services and fellowshipping with them. In the last few years, they were able to minister to four Japanese students who studied here and have since returned to their home countries. They are presently ministering to a young Japanese couple and two Korean students.

Tim praises God for how steadfast His love is. His grace is ever abounding both in how this ministry is sustained and in that more foreign students are led to them so that they can extend His love to these internationals ■

You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to lifejourney@gcf.org.ph.

ON THE COVER: Portrait of a Bedouin man holding a lamb (pixabay.com). Bedouins ("desert dwellers") are a nomadic people who have been wandering around northern Africa, the Arabian peninsula, and the Levant for almost 2,000 years. Their way of life provides clues to the kind of life Abram and his kin probably lived when they sojourned in the same region 4,000 years ago. [Consider praying about this:](#) The Joshua Project estimates that at least 45 missions workers are needed to jumpstart evangelistic efforts among the Bedouins (pop.: 2.2 million), of whom only 0.17% are professing Christians.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.
At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up
Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up
Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.
at Green Meadows Subdivision

NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men aged 21-30
Tentatively scheduled on Sundays, 3-5 p.m. at GCF

YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18
Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6th flr.)

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **11/12 November 2017**, and I attended the **8 a.m.**, **10:30 a.m.**, **3:00 p.m.**, **5:30 p.m.** or **6:00 p.m. (Sat)** (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.