



**GENESIS**

*Grace from the Beginning*

**18/19 November 2017**

Vol. 39, No. 47

## The Rescue of Lot and the Blessing of Abram

*Genesis 14*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Testimony

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Elder Dan Cura*

Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda

Tawag sa Pagsamba

Pagsamba sa Pag-awit

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Patotoo

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos

*Pastor Sam Rendal*

Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

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



# The Rescue of Lot and the Blessing of Abram

Today's Message (18/19 November 2017) /  
*Genesis 14*

GOD WORKS  
THROUGH  
LIFE'S  
EVENTS AND  
CHALLENGES  
TO REVEAL HIS  
PLANS AND TO  
EXPOSE MEN'S  
HEARTS.

## INTRODUCTION: SETTING THE STAGE IN WORLD EVENTS (VV. 1-10)

The first ten verses serve as an introduction to this chapter and our study for today. We are introduced to the first war ever recorded in Scripture. A war between four eastern kings and five southern kings.

Kings of Mesopotamia (East)	Kings of Southern Canaan (West)
Amraphel king of Shinar	Bear king of Sodom
Arioch king of Ellasar	Birsha king of Gomorrah
Kedorlaomer king of Elam	Shinab king of Admah
Tidal king of the Goiim	Shemeber king of Zeboiim
	The king of Bela

As you will observe, this war was simply an international power struggle for control over a strategic commercial land-bridge between Mesopotamia and Egypt.

This event also teaches us that world events and personal circumstances, good or bad, work as a platform for laying out God's plans in our life.

We cannot ignore the events and circumstances we are in. We need to understand them in the light of what God is allowing to unravel before us—to see His hand and His will to shape our decisions and actions, guided by His Word.

**REMEMBER:** *God works through life's events and challenges to reveal His plans and to expose men's hearts.*

In Genesis 14:1-24, we will learn the folly of Lot and how Abram demonstrated courage and conviction.

## 1. THE CONSEQUENCE OF A DEFECTIVE DECISION (VV. 11-12)

- **They Captured Lot's Person:** What a sad commentary on the poor decision of Lot in Genesis 13.
- **They Captured Lot's Possessions:** All that Lot had gained by taking advantage of Abram and rejecting the promises of God was lost in an instant.

## 2. THE CONVICTION OF A DEDICATED MAN (VV. 13-14)

Abram hears of Lot's captivity and sets out an army and a rescue party.

### Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Sam Rendal*

Response Hymn

Benediction



# The Rescue of Lot and the Blessing of Abram

Today's Message (18/19 November 2017) /  
*Genesis 14*

- **A Man of Prominence:** "Abram the Hebrew." This is the first use of "Hebrew" in the Bible.
- **A Man of Prosperity:** He armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants.
- **A Man of Prudence:** He trained his servants: Abram was a man who walked in faith, yet he was also a prudent man.
- **A Man of Perseverance:** He went to pursue as far as Dan.

### 3. THE COMPETENCE OF A DISCIPLINED LEADER (VV. 15-17)

Abram leads his army to victory over the Eastern Kings.

- **The wisdom to act effectively (v. 15)**
  - He divided his forces against them by night. Abram had military wisdom.
  - Abram was a man of faith but he was also a man of wisdom.
- **The willingness to give back generously (v. 16)**
  - Abram also brought back his brother Lot and his goods.

### 4. THE CONSECRATION OF A DEVOTED FOLLOWER (VV. 18-20)

**The Entrance of Melchizedek.** This is the first recorded appearance of the priest of the Most High God (Hebrew: "Kohen El Elyon"). Melchizedek means "The King of Righteousness." He is the King of Salem.

- **A Communion with God (v. 18)**
- **A Commendation from God (v. 19)**
- **A Connection to God (v. 20)**

### 5. THE COMMITMENT OF A DEPENDENT SERVANT (VV. 21-24)

- **The Encore of Abram:** He already rescued Lot to show his faith in God and he now continues with another act of faith!
- **He thanked God with his possessions (v. 20b)**
- **He thanked God for His provisions (vv. 22-23)**

## CONCLUSION

1. There are consequences to our decisions, good or bad. For Lot, his decision brought him to his own loss—morally and materially. For Abram, his decision to rescue Lot brought him blessing and honor.
2. We need to restore our brother, for the sake of honoring the Lord, even if it means our own discomfort.
3. This narrative provides us with a beautiful illustration of the salvation of God.
4. Our ultimate source of blessing is God.
5. Living the life of faith is trusting God alone as our source for everything.

REMEMBER: *God works through life's events and challenges to reveal His plans and to expose men's hearts.*

I pray what is exposed is your love for Christ seen in your obedience and your total faithfulness to Him and to Him alone ■

Welcome to GCF Greenhills Christian Fellowship, also known by some as “Girls Christian Fellowship.” Kidding aside, we praise the Lord for the vibrant ministry we have among the women and girls of this church. Allow me to introduce some of our ministries among the most active people of the church.

## NAOMI WOMEN

Last October 30, the Naomi members visited GRACES Home for the Elderly in Quezon City. Eighteen Naomi Women, two daughters of their daughters, sister Mina Tanchi, Pastor JP, myself, and my family gave an afternoon of treat and blessing to 51 senior citizens. The ladies led in a fun game, songs, and dance. Pastor JP gave an inspirational message for everyone. Then the ladies distributed adult diapers, toiletries and other goodies. It was refreshing to see our Naomi Women ministering. It was even more a blessing for us to witness that most of our Naomi Women are senior citizens themselves. Naomi Women know that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Naomi Women is our support group for widows. If you are a widow or know someone who is, invite her to join this ministry. Our servant leader here is Tess Lavarias.

## S.U.P.A.MOMS AND S.H.E.

**Single, Unique, Powerful, Admirable, Moms**—these are courageous women who, though not widows, singlehandedly raise their children. They desire to provide a support group for single women bringing healing, restoration, and renewal through the power of the

Holy Spirit. They will journey with any single woman who is willing to be empowered and mentored as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our servant leader here is sister Bing Regalado.

**SHE (Sisters Helping & Encouraging)**, on the other hand, aims to gather young single women professionals in GCF and be a like-minded spiritual support group that meets quarterly. Here issues about one's relationship with God, the single life, ministry, work and relationships can be discussed. Our servant leader here is Ingrid Nieto.

## THE WOMEN MINISTRY

These three special groups are part of the Women Ministry of the church. We also have more than 30 Growth Groups where you can **GROW** in your faith and become more like Christ. As the microcosm of the church, we want to see the Growth Group to model the qualities of the New Testament Church in Acts 2:42-47.

Grow in God's Word as you study together and apply God's Word.  
Grow in Relationships as you join in fellowship and in accountability.  
Grow in Outreach as you participate in evangelism, missions and community outreach.  
Grow in Worship as a lifestyle by exercising the spiritual disciplines and by serving in the ministry.  
Contact any of our core women leaders Susan Sosmeña, Mina Tanchi, Tess Eleazar, Grace Reysio-Cruz or Wawa Ponce. You may also contact me (0918 942 7350), our Growth Group leaders or our Ministry Assistant Marj Jo (0917 532 1921) for any inquiry ■

# Ablaze Devotional

**I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery. - Exodus 20:2 (CJB)**

It seems odd at first glance, but what we know as Ten Commandments are actually Ten Statements in the original Hebrew language. The first statement then is this: God introducing Himself as “the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of slavery.”

In the first pages of the Bible, we see God as Creator of the universe. It would have been impressive to obey a God with such power. But God, in His wisdom and love, revealed Himself as the Great Redeemer. He is a personal God whose mission is to redeem people from bondage and slavery. Not just a God who is powerful to create, but a God who is mighty to save.

By telling that He freed the Hebrews from slavery, God made clear that He cares deeply about humanity. God made Himself known as a God who cares for His creation. This is the foundation on which all the other nine statements stand. By redeeming a people, He is creating a community that lives and carries out the message of freedom to all of His creation.

Freedom for all God’s creation—this is God’s mission. He has shown us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ how to live in freedom. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (*Galatians 5:1*). In Christ, we are freed from our bondage to sin. In Christ, we are made anew to enjoy in Him and join Him in proclaiming freedom to those who are yet to be freed.

May God’s redeeming and transforming love be the one at work in our day-to-day lives ■

## 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



### LIVING HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING AND UNCERTAINTY

*Organized by Life in Technicolor Support Group*  
*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.



### GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE

December 3, 2017 after the 10:30 a.m. service at Auditorium B | *Open to all official members of GCF included in the church roster*

*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.*

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

*November 2017*

	November Budget	Received, Nov. 1-15
General	7,514,328	3,366,003
Missions	825,500	254,805

  

	Jan. - Nov. Budget	Received, Jan. to Nov.
General	91,848,066	71,291,355
Missions	9,080,500	8,782,094

### Flower Ministry

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and faithfulness by two anonymous donors, the Basild family and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given in thanksgiving for God’s mercy on the complete recovery of Capt. Chris Omar Garcia.*

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



## Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



Aia Diaz enjoys hearing stories—whether through watching movies, reading books or social media posts. But what she appreciates and finds most interesting is listening to real stories from the people she meets.

Aia was blessed to have been part of the Youth LIVE camp staff since 2016. Hearing stories about not just pain and heartaches but also joy and blessings from campers and fellow camp staff filled her heart. From her experience, she learned that listening to other people's stories lightens their burdens, creates fruitful relationships, and opens one's eyes to how amazing and active God is in the lives of His people.

As surely as we can cast our burdens to the Lord we should also be able carry each other's burden (*Galatians 6:2*). Aia says that one of the ways people can love God and love others is by listening. Not just to "hear them out" but by actively doing it through prayers and encouragements. It is when people genuinely take the time to listen to each other's stories that they start to feel cared for and loved ■

*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](mailto:lifejourney@gcf.org.ph).*

**ON THE COVER:** A tourist looking on a wall of salt inside a cave in Mount Sodom, a 720-foot hill southwest of the Dead Sea in Judea (*Wikimedia*). The region around the Dead Sea, as mentioned in Genesis 14, have been annexed by different empires in ancient times. Kings of small territories and city-states usually paid tribute to larger empires, such as those that flourished in Mesopotamia and Persia.

# 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](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://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 **18/19 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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*).

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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.