

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

GENESIS 18:16-33

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

We're called to **DO** what is right, (18:16-21)

God's righteousness & justice Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14; 1 John 3:7

his call on us Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17; Proverbs 21:3

↑ **SEEK** what is right, (18:22-33)

God's plan Isaiah 61:8; 30:18

our concern Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Psalm 106:3; Rom. 12:2

↑ and **APPEAL** to what is right.

when questioning God... example of Job

...appeal to God's character Genesis 18:27, 30, 32; Exodus 32:12-13



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's a *random* question to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer:

If you were an action figure, what two accessories would come in your box?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. We've all probably questioned God at some point. This is exactly what Abraham did in Gen 18. After hearing that God was planning to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, he questioned God and tried to negotiate pardon for Sodom. Throughout his bargaining, Abraham wasn't disrespectful. Rather, his questions showed his concern for upholding God's reputation for righteousness and justice. In all his negotiating, Abraham's chief concern was to know, "Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (**Gen. 18:25 NIV**). **Read Genesis 18:16-33.**
2. *Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
3. Previous chapters in Genesis established the utter wickedness of Sodom, setting the state for its destruction in Genesis 18. **Read Genesis 13:1-13 and 14:8-16, 21-24.** Discuss the following questions:
 - How did Lot's decision in Gen. 13 affect his life?
 - How did Abraham demonstrate his loyalty to Lot?
4. God's "righteousness" refers to his "rightness" in all things. His "justice" is his action that accord with his "rightness" to always do what is right. — **Read Psalm 9** (especially **9:7-8**). Discuss the following questions:
 - How does the psalmist describe God's rule?
 - How is God's righteousness and justice seen in the psalmists' praise?
 - God chose Abraham "to do righteousness and justice" and to teach his descendants to keep the way of the Lord. In what ways does your life reflect God's righteousness and justice?



BIBLICAL FAITH IS...

believing God's Word

and **acting** upon it

no matter how I feel

because **God promises** a good result.






(—and he keeps all his promises!)

WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

OUR MISSION We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to become at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

-  1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
-  2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
-  3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
-  4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
-  5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Psalm 9:7-10 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

7 But the LORD sits	F O R S A K E N V R R I
enthroned forever ; he	K N O W A L N A S I N G
has established his	U T P R J T T M I G E W
throne for justice , ⁸ and	P T P J H T H E T H C O
he judges the world with	R R R U G T R U S T G R
righteousness ; he judges	I O E S P E O P L E S L
the peoples with	G U S T R O N G H O L D
uprightness . ⁹ The LORD	H B S I S E E K S U F J
is a stronghold for the	T L E C J U D G E S E L
oppressed , a stronghold	N E D E T T H R O N E O
in times of trouble .	E S T A B L I S H E D R
¹⁰ And those who know	S N A H S T I M E S W D
your name put their trust	S F O R E V E R M S T O
in you, for you, O LORD ,	
have not forsaken those	
who seek you.	

life groups Study Guide (continued)

- How can you better demonstrate God's righteousness and justice to others?
5. Abraham's first question was concerned with God's justice, asking if he would destroy the righteous with the wicked (Gen 18:23). He bargained with God, lowering the number of righteous needed to spare the city, showing faith in God's mercy. Despite Sodom's destruction due to a lack of 10 righteous people, God's mercy actually exceeded Abraham's intercession.

Discuss his negotiation with God:

- How does Abraham display an understanding of God's righteousness & justice?
- What does the destruction of Sodom show about God's justice?
- What does it show about God's mercy?

Taking It Home

Pastor Josh noted that when Abraham negotiated with God, he did not do so based on what he could bring. He did not say, "God, if you spare Sodom, I'll offer extra sacrifices." Instead, Abraham negotiated based on who God is. He appealed to aspects of God's character: His justice and righteousness. By doing so, Abraham showed that he understood what is important to God. God is not afraid of our questions; He wants to talk with us and hear our struggles. But when we approach God, we should "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (**Matt. 6:33** ESV).

Discuss the following as you wrap up:

- How can a fuller understanding of the character of God enhance your prayer life? Does thinking about who God is change the way you pray? In what ways?
- Do you know anyone—in your church or in your family—who demonstrates these facets of God's character? Have you ever known them to question God? What could you learn from their experience?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests; just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from Grigoni, Michael R., et al. Abraham: Following God's Promise. Lexham Press, 2012.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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JOURNEY UNCHARTED

Sunday, October 20, 2024

PART 6

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<https://wawasee.today>