

3

ABRAHAM PLEADS FOR SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Theme : One faithful person can make a difference

AIM:

To teach the importance of intercessory prayer.

TEACHER PREPERATION:

What is intercessory prayer?

The Greek noun for intercession is "enteuxus." The verb to intercede means to petition or speak on behalf of others. It is one of our greatest privileges as a believer to take place of another and ask God for forgiveness and mercy on their behalf.

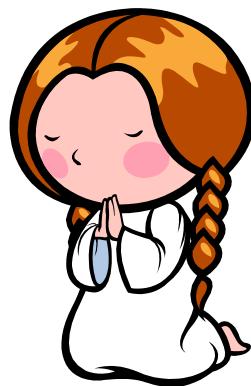
INTRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. Have the children count off by twos. Let each pair sit together for a few minutes identifying prayer requests they may have. The children should pray for one another in their pairs. After the exercise, ask the children how they felt praying for their fellow students. How did they feel when their fellow students prayed for them?
2. Provide a world map. Have the students identify areas in which other religions dominate. Pray for those countries or regions where Christianity is not a major religion or even allowed.

3

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To teach the importance of intercessory prayer



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Theme : One faithful person can make a difference

Genesis 18:16-33

¹⁶ When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

¹⁷ Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?

¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous

²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?

²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the

wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

²⁶ The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

³⁰ Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

³¹ Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

³² Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Intercession

Praying to God on behalf of others

Introduction

When you pray with your family, who do you pray for? Do you just pray for yourself or do you pray for others as well?

There was a young man who kept a notebook for all the people he prayed for. He would write them by name and keep a list. As prayers were answered, he crossed the names off. After some time, the young man looked back and was amazed at the amount of prayers God had answered!

Do we pray continuously for those around us? Or do we just pray for ourselves? In today's lesson, we learn about a faithful Abraham praying for the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Bible Exploration

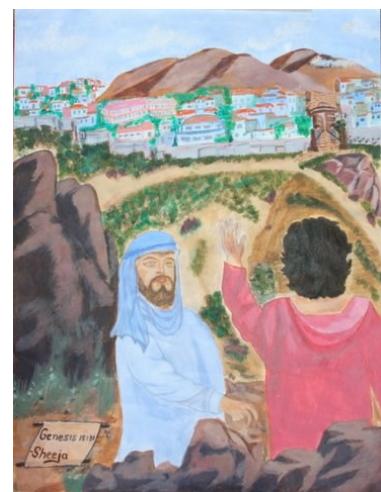
Intercession In Practice

Youcef Nadarkhani, an Iranian Christian pastor, was 'sentenced to death' in 2010 for practicing Christianity in Iran. Pastor Youcef was offered freedom if he were to renounce Christianity, but he refused. People all over the world prayed for the pastor. International response poured in from all over the world to release Nadarkhani. Pastor Youcef was finally released from jail on January 7, 2013. God makes impossible things possible when we intercede for others.

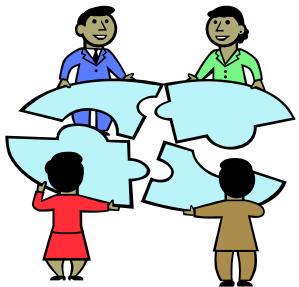
In lesson 1, we learned about Abraham and Lot dividing land between themselves. Lot chose to live in the land of Sodom which looked prosperous but the people in the city were very wicked. Because of their wicked ways, God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. However, God confides this message to Abraham. Why did God communicate this important information to Abraham? It was because Abraham's special relationship with God. Abraham is also known as 'God's friend' (James 2:23).

Abraham pleaded with God to save the people of Sodom & Gomorrah. Why did Abraham plead for the wicked people of Sodom & Gomorrah? He was deeply concerned for his nephew Lot. He pleaded with God six times for the sake of the righteous people. God heard Abraham's prayer and was willing to spare the city from destruction even if there were only 10 righteous among them. God destroyed the land because there were not even 10 good people in the city. But in an answer to Abraham's prayer, God rescued Lot and his family.

Many times, we are too focused on our own problems and needs that we forget to pray for others. But God has commanded us to pray for others including our nation's leaders, and even other countries. This is all part of God's plan for the extension of His kingdom and it opens the way for God to work in the lives of people and the nations. (Remember that there are still many nations that do not allow Christianity to enter their countries.)



Sheeja Mathews, St. Peters, NJ



Activities

Write your name on the spaces below.

Write someone else's name starting with each letter vertically. Take a few moments to pray for each person that you identified.

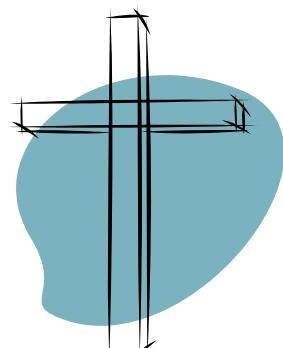
We should pray for others.

Let's Review



1. All nations on earth will be blessed through _____.
2. Who said "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" and to whom?
3. How many righteous people in Sodom did Abraham finally ask God to spare the city of Sodom for?

Values For Life



We are called to pray for those around us. Prayer is very powerful. It is our ability to communicate to the Creator of this world. Our all powerful and mighty God wants to hear from us. During this special time, when we speak the prayer requests of friends and family, God is listening.

Faith In Action

- I will make it part of my routine to pray for others.
- I will put others first in my decisions and actions.



Memory Verse

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone

1 Timothy 2:1



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be considerate for the people around us. Let us not to be selfish but bring them to You in prayer.