

My Family Account

Series: What 2 Live 4

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Scripture: Genesis 25:1-11

⁵ Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. ⁶ But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.

⁷ Altogether, Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. ⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, ¹⁰ the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. ¹¹ After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

Genesis 13:1-18

¹ So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ² Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

³ From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier ⁴ and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷ And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

¹⁰ Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring ^[a] forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Group Session

Opening Questions

Discussing the Scripture & Life

(Life-Changing Lessons are in bold type.)

1. Have the group read the Genesis 13 passage silently. What do we learn from this passage about family? (Abraham willingly sacrificed the best land to Lot. This is the first snapshot of today's sermon.)
2. We learned that **To have a great family account, I must sometimes sacrifice for others.** What type things do we already sacrifice for our families? (Make sure both men and women share. It may help families to hear the other's perspective.)
3. Read Ephesians 5:25. What does this say about the level of sacrifice we should consider for our spouse (or family)?
4. When is the last time we thanked another family member for their sacrifice? Why is this important?
5. In the second snapshot, Abraham rescues Lot in a time of trouble. **Family members do battle for one another.** In what ways can we do battle for our family members? What about our extended family? What is our responsibility to them?
6. **My family account should help them avoid the mistakes I've made.** In what ways can we accomplish this?
7. One comment from the sermon was, "The sin I excuse in moderation, my children may practice in excess." Do you agree with this? How could it come about (the cause)? How does this make us as parents feel about living holy lives?
8. **My family account should prepare them for when I'm no longer around.** In today's time and economy, this puts a lot of pressure on us. If we consider areas other than financial, in what ways can we prepare our family for when we are no longer around? What are we doing to pass along our faith?

Closing Challenge

What are some commitments you want to make to your family as a result of today's sermon?