

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

# Let There Be Light

## Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide  
Week #9

## Genesis Series #9: What Was Sodom's Sin?

### Genesis 19:1-13 (TNIV)

1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. 2 "My lords," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning."

"No," they answered, "we will spend the night in the square." 3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. 4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." 6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him 7 and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof." 9 "Get out of our way," they replied. "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. 10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. 11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. 12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, 13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

## **Facilitator's Guide**

### **Facilitator's Tips: Sharing Ownership in the Group**

First Corinthians 12:7 says that God gives every believer spiritual gifts for the common good of the body. But if your small group is like most, it's led by just one person—you! Not that you're probably complaining, but that's a huge burden. Aside from that, it's also keeping everyone else from growing in their gifts.

The load usually falls on one person because many leaders feel like the only way to get things done is to do it themselves. And it doesn't occur to group members to volunteer because they don't know that taking on a responsibility is part of being a full member of God's family. This contributes to group members thinking they don't have any spiritual gifts because they've never had a chance to experiment.

So tactically, how do you motivate people to step up to the plate and discover their gifts in the process?

1. Read through Acts 2 as a group and talk about that community's demonstration of all five purposes of the church (for more information on the purposes, [click here](#)). Just as that community brought the purposes into their homes—not just into the temple—so should all five purposes be going on in your group. And this requires group "load sharing."
2. Deal with shared ownership in a developmental way. Take into account people's spiritual age. If they're seekers—not even sure if they believe in Christ—don't ask them to do anything. Just welcome them in the group. If they're new believers, give them a small role. Don't overwhelm them. If you've got mature believers, you can dump the truck on them. They can certainly handle it.

Also take into account your small group stage. If your group is brand new, give people baby-step responsibilities. Perhaps you can have a potluck and let everyone bring something. The balance here is that you don't want people afraid to show up next week because they feel overwhelmed with responsibility. If your group has been together for a while, you can nudge people a little more to take on something bigger. A good first step would be to pass out a sign-up sheet for helping with the group's worship time.

3. Don't expect people to go it alone. Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. You can ask a couple of people to team up to host a social evening for your group. Or ask two people to share the job of coordinating the prayer list. Teaming up makes it much less scary for people.

The best time to ask people to take on a role is right after a great group meeting. Nine out of ten will say yes to a responsibility if you ask them then. Ask them to do it for the next three weeks—not forever. Or ask people to coordinate one project. If you ask members for help and the room goes quiet, don't just drop it. Follow up with people after the meeting.

If you're nervous to ask for help, remember the Holy Spirit will be right there with you every step of the way.

*-Adapted from SmallGroups.com*

## Genesis Series #9: What Was Sodom's Sin?

### START IT

- What's a social issue that you care about that gets overlooked by others?
- What's shocking about injustice? How do you normally respond to injustice?

### STUDY IT

- Read the Genesis passage. What's the story? Make observations.
- Why did the angels go to Sodom? How does Lot recognize them?
- How does Lot interact with the angels?
- What did the people of Sodom want to do with the angels? Why?
- Can you cite other historical examples of injustice that happened without society at large stopping or condemning the actions?
- How do the angels respond?
- Why might God want to destroy Sodom?
- What makes it hard to understand the part of God that would destroy a city?
- What does God instruct his people to do when witness to injustice?
- What does this passage teach us about the heart of God?

### LIVE IT

- What social issue or injustice breaks your heart?
- What would it be like to share your concern with others in your life, inviting them to care, too?
- What's challenging about standing up for justice?

### PRAY IT

- To become people who are unafraid of fighting injustice