

Faith Takes the Path the Eyes Cannot See

Genesis 13-14:24

Student Devotion

Not every open door is from God. Not every opportunity is meant to be taken. Some paths sparkle up front but lead to collapse. Others look small at first, but carry the weight of faithfulness and blessing.

Genesis 13 and 14 tell the story of two men who stood in the same land, faced the same decision, and walked in very different directions. Lot chose by what looked impressive. Abram chose by faith in the promise of God. One followed what his eyes could see. The other trusted the God he could not yet see.

This is not just a story about grazing land. It is a story about trust, character, and how faith learns to wait on what God has promised, even when the world is shouting, “Take what you can get.”

This week, we learn what it looks like to walk by faith in real life.

Day 1: Go Back to the Last Place You Worshiped

“He journeyed on... to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 13:3–4, ESV)

Think About It:

Abram had just come out of Egypt—richer, but not better. His time there had been marked by fear and failure. But now he returns to the last place he walked closely with God. He goes back to the altar. He calls on the Lord again.

This is where restoration starts. Not with striving. Not with performance. But with worship. Abram does not try to press forward in his own strength. He begins again where he last met God.

We often think of repentance as walking away from something. That is part of it. But it is also walking *toward* someone. Back to the altar. Back to the place where we remembered who God is and who we are.

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Worship reorients the soul. It quiets fear and re-centers faith. God does not demand perfection from His people. He invites them back.

Pray It:

Lord, thank You for meeting me with mercy when I return. Help me stop trying to earn my way back and simply worship You with a surrendered heart.

Do It:

Think back: where were you when your heart felt most in step with God? What habits, places, or people helped shape that season? Rebuild one altar this week—return to a rhythm that leads you back to worship.

Day 2: Let Go When God Has Already Promised to Give

“Then Abram said to Lot... ‘Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me.’” (Genesis 13:8–9, ESV)

Think About It:

Abram had every reason to claim first rights. He was older. He had received the promise. He had been the one called by God to this land. But instead of asserting his authority, he offers Lot the first choice.

Abram does not fight to get ahead. He doesn’t manipulate or strategize. He knows that God’s promise does not need to be protected by pride. It only needs to be trusted.

Lot, on the other hand, makes a decision entirely based on what he sees. He lifts his eyes and chooses what looks prosperous. But the greener land leads to greater trouble.

Abram releases what looks better because he believes God will give what is best. That is not weakness. That is trust.

Pray It:

God, give me the confidence to let go of what I don’t need to cling to. Help me believe that what You’ve promised cannot be taken by anyone else.

Do It:

Where are you holding tightly to something out of fear or pride? Write it down. Pray over it. Then tell God you’re choosing open hands and quiet trust.

Day 3: Wait Until God Tells You to Look

“The Lord said to Abram... ‘Lift up your eyes... for all the land that you see I will give to you.’” (Genesis 13:14–15, ESV)

Think About It:

Lot lifted his eyes to choose what looked good. Abram waited until God told him to look. There’s a difference between reaching for what looks appealing and receiving what God gives in His time.

God expands Abram’s view right after Abram takes the humble path. He tells Abram to look in every direction. Everything he sees will one day belong to his descendants. The land Lot grabbed is nothing compared to the land God gives.

When you wait on God, you may feel like you’re missing out. You may watch others move ahead. But waiting in faith is not wasting time. It is training your heart to trust God’s timing, not your own impulse.

Faith looks when God says, “Look.” Faith moves when God says, “Move.” And faith receives what God gives instead of chasing what the world offers.

Pray It:

Lord, I want to see what You want me to see. Help me resist the urge to grab what looks good. Teach me to wait for what is truly good.

Do It:

Write this down and repeat it when you feel rushed: “I will not lift my eyes unless the Lord leads.” Let that be the filter for your next decision.

Day 4: Rescue People Who Wouldn’t Rescue You

“When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men... and pursued.” (Genesis 14:14, ESV)

Think About It:

Lot chose Sodom. He moved toward compromise. He acted in self-interest. Now, in chapter 14, he is caught in the crossfire of a war and taken captive. Abram could have stayed out of it. But he doesn’t.

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Abram rallies his men and rides into battle to rescue Lot.

This is what covenant loyalty looks like. It shows up even when people have made foolish decisions. It protects instead of pointing fingers. It risks comfort for the sake of someone else's freedom.

Abram doesn't let Lot's choices harden his heart. He lives like a man shaped by the mercy of God.

Faith is loyal. It does not stand back when someone needs help. It takes courage and compassion into the fight.

Pray It:

Father, help me love the people who've made mistakes. Give me a heart that is loyal and strong, not bitter and distant.

Do It:

Is there someone you've given up on? Someone you think deserves the mess they're in? Pray for them today. Ask God if it's time to step toward them again.

Day 5: Say No When Saying Yes Costs Your Integrity

"I have lifted my hand to the Lord... that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap... lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'" (Genesis 14:22-23, ESV)

Think About It:

After Abram's victory, the king of Sodom tries to reward him. But Abram refuses. He wants no part in Sodom's corruption. He will not let anyone else claim credit for what God alone is doing in his life.

This is a line many people are afraid to draw. The offer is tempting. The reward looks good. But hidden inside is a hook. Accepting the offer would tie Abram to Sodom's story. So he walks away.

Faith trusts that the favor of God is worth more than the approval of people. Faith believes that blessing is not a reward from the world. It is the result of obedience.

Abram doesn't grab what he can get. He holds to what God already promised.

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Pray It:

Lord, help me recognize offers that are not from You. Give me the courage to walk away from anything that could compromise the story You are writing in my life.

Do It:

Think about a door that has opened recently. Does it align with God's character and your convictions? If not, take a step back. No opportunity is worth losing your integrity.

Conclusion: The Road of Faith Is Not the Flashiest, But It Holds

Lot chose by sight. Abram trusted by promise.

One moved quickly and lost more than he gained. The other walked slowly and received everything God intended. One tied his future to a city filled with corruption. The other placed his hope in a God who never fails to keep His word.

The world teaches you to chase what looks good. Faith invites you to trust what God has already said.

You may be standing at a fork in the road today. You may be deciding between what looks easy and what feels costly. You may feel like walking by faith puts you behind.

But in the end, God vindicates those who trust Him.

So choose the path that doesn't impress the world. Choose peace over pride. Choose trust over control. Choose what God says over what looks better.

The path of faith may not shine on the surface. But it will stand when everything else collapses.

See you Sunday.