



## Leader's Guide

Week of January 29

### Leader Check-In

Hey leaders! I'm excited for this first week of the new season of Life Groups. I hope you are feeling refreshed and ready for the next 10 weeks. I've been praying and preparing for the past few weeks about Life Groups and trust God for deeper discipleship and growth as we look mainly at the book of Acts this season. I want you to know that I am very open to critique on these Life Group guides, so please never hesitate to talk to me (or email me) about how I can make them better for your groups! May God bless you for blessing your Life Groups with your leadership!

-- Cameron Tate

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## The Big Idea

The message of Sodom and Gomorrah is an urgent call for Christians to be ethical. It is through a consistent Christian ethic that others are won to Christ. Pay attention to how you can encourage your group to live *missionally*, that is: how can we see our hurting neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities as mission-fields. How do we engage a world in crisis? Walk in God's ways and live ethically in sight of others.

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## Getting Started

1. What comes to mind when you think about Sodom and Gomorrah? How does that relate to our world today?  
**\*Leader's Note:** Navigate to the discussion about how S&G in the Bible represent a world in crisis. We are likewise in an age and culture that have ethical standards far from God's standard.
2. What do you think about God's love in relation to Sodom and Gomorrah?  
**\*Leader's Note:** This will take discernment on part of the leader. It's a real issue in the Bible that needs to be dealt with. It will be crucial to point to God's ethical standards as crucial for the wellbeing of humankind. It is out of God's love that

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he deals with evil.

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## Digging In

1. Read through **Genesis 18:16-21**.
2. Where does the “outcry” come from in **verses 20-21**?  
**\*Leader’s Note:** This outcry presumably comes from the people in S&G. There are lots of victims in an immoral society: slaves, sexual victims, robbed, poor, oppressed, etc.
3. What is God’s long-term plan for rescuing these people in crisis? Hint: it’s in **verses 18-19**. Re-read these carefully.  
**\*Leader’s Note:** God chooses Abraham and family to do something through them.
4. For what purpose did God choose Abraham?  
**\*Leader’s Note:** Abraham was “blessed to be a blessing.” From the very beginning (**Gen. 12**) this was God’s stated purpose for Abraham’s life.
5. As Abraham’s spiritual children, why are we chosen?  
**\*Leader’s Note:** We are similarly blessed to be a blessing. Any blessing that God gives us we are to

extend to other people. It is important to share that nothing we have is for our own sake, but always for the sake of others. Always for the sake of a world in crisis.

6. What was Abraham’s response to God supposed to be? God blessed Abraham, what was Abraham supposed to DO? How was he supposed to bless others? Hint: **verse 19**.  
**\*Leader’s Note:** Abraham was supposed to do what is just and right. In short: Abraham was supposed to live ethically. The implication is that we, as his spiritual children need to live ethical lives.
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## Looking Around

1. What are some ways that you see “Cultural Christianity” divorcing ethics from a profession of faith? That is, how are American Christians in general being hypocritical by doing things that are not in line with God’s character?
2. In what ways are you, individually, divorcing ethics from faith in Christ?  
**\*Leader’s Note:** Don’t pressure people to share, but spend some quiet time at least thinking about it. If people want to open up, that’s great! Spend

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time acknowledging it and thanking them for sharing.

3. In what ways can we (as a church or as a Life Group) display ethics to our communities? How can you show your neighborhood a Christian ethic?

**\*Leader's Note:** Remind them of Jeff's story of him and his boys doing yardwork for an elderly lady and how that has opened doors for others.

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## Pray

Read these two passages and pray them. Pray for one another, that you can live ethical lives before all men and women.

**Philippians 2:14-15**

**Matthew 5:13-16**