



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### Genesis 13:2-17

See passage printed on the back of this page.

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*What does it mean to walk by faith with God, trusting in what he has promised, instead of by sight, trusting in what we can see or makes sense?*

*"God is the subject of the verb."*

*- Fleming Rutledge*

#### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.*

#### GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*HG welcome week - Jan 20  
HG guides begin - Jan 27*

*Next: week of Feb 10*

## Explore + Apply

1. Christians are not people who have all the right answers to the right questions, but are those who journey with God. What does this distinction mean to you? How is 'journey,' as a feature of life with God, consistent — or not — with your experience or expectation of Christianity?
2. On the surface, Lot appears to make a wise and solid choice regarding land, but there are indicators in the text that the opposite is true. What might they be?
3. Ultimately, Lot seeks after blessing and safety apart from God. The Bible teaches that we all do this, lured by the attractiveness of autonomy, feeling that we must possess or can acquire for ourselves what we need. Can you reflect on the ways or places you seek happiness, direction, significance, and safety independent of God?
4. Despite our Lot-like tendencies, God — as he does repeatedly with Abraham — wants to break into our lives with mercy, reminding us of promises made to redeem and renew. If you are a Christian — a 'pilgrim in a strange land,' per this week's sermon — how do you experience God's mercy ongoing as 'food' for the journey?

## Pray

- Pray and listen: How might God reorient our hearts for the 'journey' of life with him, as opposed to reaching a destination under our own spiritual steam?
- Pray "Thy Kingdom come" in your neighborhood, city, nation, and around the world, specifically that more and more people would encounter the life-giving mercy of God, his blessing that enables us to bless others.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

## Genesis 13:2-17

<sup>2</sup> Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup> And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, <sup>4</sup> to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, <sup>6</sup> so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, <sup>7</sup> and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

<sup>8</sup> Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. <sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) <sup>11</sup> So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."