

Lot's Wife

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- light-weight posterboard
- pencil
- scissors
- safety pins
- hole punch
- markers



Scriptures

Gen 18:20-21; 19:12-28

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God punishes the wicked; He wants us to focus on Him and not be attracted by the world

Behavioral Objective(s)

To put God first, not television shows, games or toys

Memory Verse

"Come to worship Him." (Mt 2:2)



Bible Knowledge

The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is about 1,285 feet below sea level, making it one of the lowest points on earth. Although the Jordan River empties an average of six million tons of water every day into the sea, it has no outlet. Therefore, it loses water only through evaporation. For this reason plus other geographical factors, there is a very high concentration of minerals and salts in the water and no marine life can survive in it. Today, visitors to the Dead Sea can see many pillars of salt in the water, which serve as good reminders of the fate of Lot's wife.

Sodom and Gomorrah

Sodom and Gomorrah were likely located at the south-east end of the Dead Sea. Archaeological evidence shows that this area was once a fertile, well-watered region with a large population. Whatever remains of these two cities would lie well beneath the waters of the Dead Sea.

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness. Although Abraham had pleaded successfully with God to spare Sodom, God could not find even ten righteous people living there. In fact, the sins of the people covered a great spectrum: the unnatural lusts of the men of Sodom (Gen 19:4-8), their pride, idleness, oppression of the poor, naughtiness and abominations (Ezek 16:49-50). This left God no choice but to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire.



Understanding Your Students

At this age, the students are like sponges. They learn new vocabulary and routines in a heartbeat. And even more important, they have a great desire to learn. Many of the students have likely learned the Lord's prayer at home. But for those who may not know it readily, it is still important to recite it

in class each time during prayer. This is one simple act of worship the children can engage in.

Moreover, it is important to encourage the students to be a part of a family altar. Sometimes, it is difficult for parents to initiate a family altar because of the lack of time, being tired from work or having a non-believing member in the household. We can do our part to encourage some form of it. One idea is to send homework back with the

students after each class. Create a chart where parents have to sign off on each lesson, stating that the child has shared the story with the rest of the family and has recited the simple memory verse. On the chart, some suggestions could be included as to the time of the day this sharing could be done (i.e. after dinner) so as to encourage the family to spend some time worshipping God together (thus less time watching television or engaging in secu-

lar entertainment). This can help develop the students' sense of priorities, that it is important to put God first. Over time, this habit can cultivate the students' spirituality, and as they grow older, it won't be as hard for them to pick up the Bible and read it everyday or pray meaningfully to God every night.



Vocabulary

Destroy

to end something, to make something into nothing or to make it useless



Before You Teach

The Bible does not record much about the personal lives of Lot and his family before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. 2 Peter 2:7 tells us "...and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked, for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds." That indicates that Lot could have felt sorrowful living in a sinful city. However, in Genesis 13:12-13, it says that Lot gradually moved closer and closer to Sodom even though he knew that the men of Sodom were extremely wicked. We have no records of whether Lot and his family worshiped God.

Worshipping God is a very essential element in a Christian life. Each person who worships God

acknowledges that he must put Him first. When we acknowledge the presence of God in our lives, our words and actions will reflect that. This perhaps is what Lot and his family lacked. They might not have felt the presence of God in their lives. They saw the evil in the city for themselves, but still decided to move closer to sin. They knew the destruction of Sodom was imminent, yet Lot wasn't sure he wanted to move and Lot's wife chose to disobey the words of the angels. Even though Lot could have felt fed up with the wickedness of the city, and God was about to punish them for their sin, he had a hard time leaving Sodom. Although Lot was spared when God sent fire from heaven to destroy the cities of the plain, he lost all his possessions and even his wife.

Our worship, no matter how it looks or feels, should be wholehearted. God should be above all else and He should be in every detail of our lives.



Bible Story

The People of Sodom and Gomorrah Sin

After Lot and his family moved away from Abraham, they went to live in a city called Sodom. Although it was a big city with a lot of people, there was something wrong with this place. The people who lived there did not worship God. That means they did all sorts of things that God did not like. Another city close to Sodom was called Gomorrah. In this city, the people were just as wicked as the ones who lived in Sodom. Everyone did whatever they wanted and they did not care

about God. This made God so angry that He wanted to destroy the two cities.

God Talks to Abraham

God told Abraham His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. When Abraham heard the news, he was scared. Do you know why? (Let students answer.) Abraham was scared because he knew that his nephew Lot lived there with his family. Abraham did not want Lot to be killed.

So Abraham spoke to God and said, "God, I know that you are a fair God. You will not destroy the good people with the bad people. What if there are still some good people living in Sodom? Will

you destroy them too?"

God answered Abraham, "If I find some good people living in Sodom, then I will not destroy the city."

Abraham felt a little bit better. He hoped that there were still some good people left in the city who worshiped God so that Lot and his family would not be killed. But when God looked, He could not find enough good people. He had to destroy the two cities.

Angels Are Sent to Sodom

Then God sent out two angels, who looked like ordinary people, to Sodom. When they got to the city gate, they met Lot, who invited the angels to his house to stay for the night. Lot did not know they were angels because they looked like you and me. Lot was just being nice and asked them to come to his house. The angels went with Lot and ate a big dinner at his house. As the angels got ready to rest, suddenly many men from the city came to Lot's house and knocked on his door.

They said, "We know there are two visitors who are staying with you tonight. Tell them to come out now."

Do you know why they wanted the two angels to come out? They were really, really wicked people. They wanted to hurt the two angels. These men did not love God at all.

The angels said to Lot, "God is going to destroy this place soon. You and your family must leave this place at once so that you will not die."

Lot and His Wife

When Lot heard this, he was not sure what to do. This was his house. He didn't really want to leave it and everything behind. But he also knew that God meant what He said. If He said the city would be destroyed, then it would be destroyed. As it got closer to the morning, the angels talked to Lot again.

"You need to hurry and leave. God is going to kill everyone who lives here because they do not listen to Him."

Lot still did not know what to do. Where would he, his wife and two daughters go if they left this home? When the angels saw that he was still standing in his house, they grabbed Lot, his wife and his two daughters and took them out of the city. They did this because they did not want to see Lot and

his family die.

The angels shouted, "Time is running out. You must run to the hills and save your lives. You must run fast, away from the city before everything is destroyed. And there is one more thing that you must remember: do not look back. Just run as fast as you can away from here and you will be saved."

When Lot heard these words, he knew that he had to run as fast as he could. So Lot and his family ran as fast as they could away from Sodom. And as they were running the sun began to rise up higher into the sky.

Sodom and Gomorrah are Destroyed

Soon, God sent a fire that rained on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was like a big fire storm that burned up everything. Do you know what fire is like? It is hot and dangerous. We don't play with fire because it can hurt us. But God was mad at the people because no one in the two cities listened to Him. They only cared about themselves and did what they wanted, which included many bad things. So everyone was destroyed in this big fire storm and the cities did not look like cities anymore. The buildings were burned, the trees and flowers died and there were clouds of smoke that covered the sky.

Lot's Wife Is Turned into a Pillar of Salt

While God sent this fire storm, Lot and his family were running far away so that they would not have to die. Do you remember what the angels told Lot not to do as they were running? They told the whole family to just keep running and not to look back. They said this because if anyone turned around and looked back at the city, that meant they didn't want to leave the city. Then something terrible would happen to them.

So Lot listened to the angel and ran as fast as he could. His two daughters listened and ran as fast as they could. And Lot's wife ran as fast as she could but after a while, she started to wonder what was happening to her home and the city she lived in. She remembered what the angels had said, but she didn't think that a little peek would hurt. As she ran, she slowly turned her head and looked back at the city. Oh, oh! Lot's wife did not listen to what the angels had said. As soon as she turned around to look, something horrible happened to her. She turned into a pillar of salt. That means she wasn't a

person anymore. She looked like a tall, large pile of salt. This happened to her because she did not listen to the angels. This happened to her because she didn't really want to leave Sodom. She liked the city even though many bad people lived there. So only Lot and his two daughters ran safely away as the two cities burned in the fire storm.

We Need to Worship God

The next morning, Abraham got up early and went to look at the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah from a high hill. He could see a lot of smoke clouds in the sky. Everything looked like it had been

burned and he could not see any buildings or roads anymore. The cities were gone and all the bad people were destroyed in the fire storm. Abraham was thankful and glad that his nephew Lot was safe. However, Lot's wife loved the city more than God. She looked back and disobeyed what the angels had told her. Then she turned into a pillar of salt.

Today, we learned that God does not like those who do not worship Him. He does not like those who only want to do bad things. We must spend time doing what God likes. Then we will be kept safe.



Check For Understanding

1. **What were the names of the two cities that God wanted to destroy?** (Sodom and Gomorrah.)
2. **Why did God want to destroy the cities?** (Because everyone was wicked, they did bad things, and they did not worship God.)
3. **Why did Abraham ask God not to destroy the cities?** (Because Lot lived in Sodom.)

4. **When the angels told Lot to leave the city, what did he do?** (He wasn't sure if he wanted to leave.)
5. **What happened to Lot's wife when she turned around to look at the city?** (She turned into a pillar of salt.)
6. **Why did Lot's wife turn into a pillar of salt?** (Because when she turned around, it meant she loved the city more than listening to God.)
7. **What can we do to worship God? What kinds of things please God?** (Read the Bible, come to church, pray, obey our parents, tell others about God, give offerings.)



Life Application Story

One Last Game

Michelle Marsh had just finished dinner and was playing a game on the computer. It was a Sunday evening and her mom usually let her play for a little while if she had finished her homework and had had a good week at school. She was so into the game that she lost track of time. Suddenly, Michelle heard her mom's voice calling her.

"Michelle, it's time to read the Bible together and pray."

"Okay," shouted Michelle. "I will be right there." But she had just started this game and she

wanted to finish it before going. So she kept playing. A few minutes later, Mrs. Marsh came to her room.

"Michelle, I asked you to come and join us for Bible reading a few minutes ago."

"I know, I know. I'm almost finished with my game. Just a little longer okay, mom?" said Michelle. She didn't even look up from her computer screen.

Michelle's mom said one more time, "I will ask you one last time to turn off your game. If you don't do it, I will."

Michelle knew her mom was serious but she was so close to finishing that she just kept on playing. Finally, Mrs. Marsh leaned over and turned off the computer.

"Mom," whined Michelle, "what are you doing? I was almost finished."

Although Mrs. Marsh was furious with Michelle,

she did not yell at her. Instead, she sat her down on the bed and talked to her.

"Michelle," said Mrs. Marsh. "You know that we always read the Bible at this time on Sunday night. And besides, you are playing a game that you can always play again next time."

"But it's not the same," explained Michelle.

"Well, what do you think God would think when He sees that you think a game is more important than He is?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

Michelle thought about this question for a moment.

"He wouldn't be happy. But we read the Bible all the time," said Michelle.

"You play the game all the time too, Michelle. You like it a lot so you want to play with it. It is the same with God. Because we love God, we also have to spend time with Him. That is how we show we love Him. And we definitely love Him more than a game. He is the one who made us and gave us all the wonderful things we have."

Michelle began to feel bad that she had wanted to play the game more than she wanted to spend time with God. She learned from many

Bible stories at church how much God loved her and her family.

"You are right, mom. I will remember to put God first. Games can always wait. But God is the best and we should give Him our best," said Michelle.

So Michelle and her mom joined the rest of the family and read the Bible and prayed to God together.

Questions to Think About

1. **Did Michelle want to turn off her game?** (No, she wanted to finish it first before spending time with God.)
2. **What are we telling God when we choose to spend time with Him?** (We love Him and want to worship Him.)
3. **What is something you like to do a lot of?** (Let students respond.)
4. **If your parents tell you it's time to read the Bible or pray to God, will it be hard for you to stop doing that?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 1

How Can We Worship God?

Look at the pictures on the left. Draw lines to match them to the words on the right. These pictures show us the things we can do to worship God. By doing these things, we are telling God we are putting Him first in our lives. Be sure to discuss each item of worship since they are things the students should be doing.



Activity 2

Who Do We Worship?

Our story tells us about Lot's wife, who liked other things better than God. Color in the picture according to the numbers to find the answer to the sentence, "We can only worship _____ (God)." We should not care more about other things. We should put God first.



Activity 3

I Love God Badge

Materials:

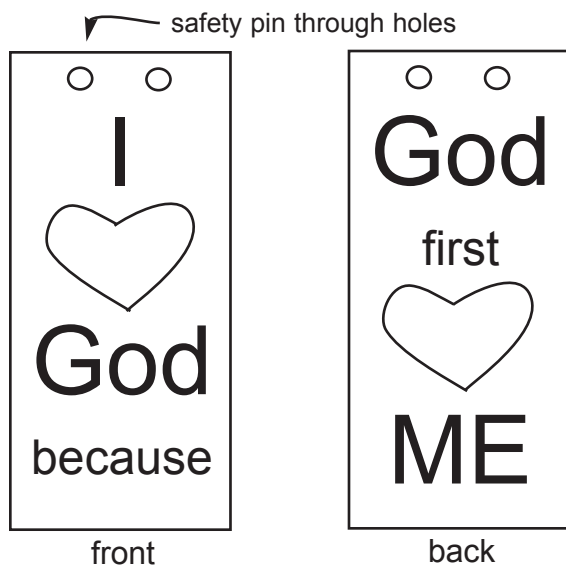
1. light-weight posterboard
2. pencils
3. markers
4. safety pins
5. hole punch
6. scissors

Directions:

1. Cut posterboard into 1 1/2 inch by 4 1/2 inch pieces, one for each student.
2. Punch two holes near the top of each piece.
3. Ask students to write the letter "I" near the top.
4. Then outline a heart shape under the "I". (You may wish to use felt or ready-made heart shapes or heart stickers.)
5. Write the words "God" and "because" under the heart shape. See picture below.
6. Then turn the posterboard over and write the

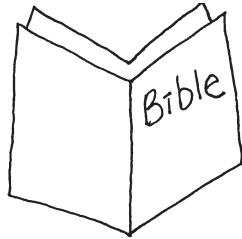
words "God" and "first" near the top.

7. Outline another heart shape under those words.
8. Then write "ME" under the heart shape.
9. Students can decorate and color their badge.
10. Put a safety pin through the holes and attach the badge to the students' clothing.
11. When others see their badge, they will naturally want to know what the rest of the sentence is. Encourage the students to tell others to flip their badge over so they can see the students love God because God loves them.



Activity 8:1

How Can We Worship God?



▷ pray



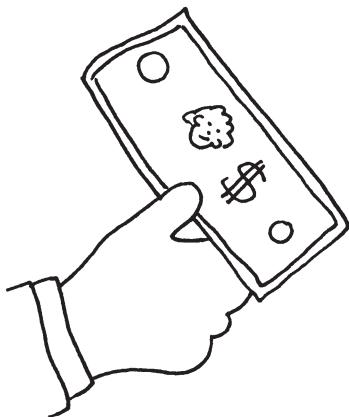
▷ go to church



▷ sing hymns



▷ say grace



▷ give to God



▷ read the Bible

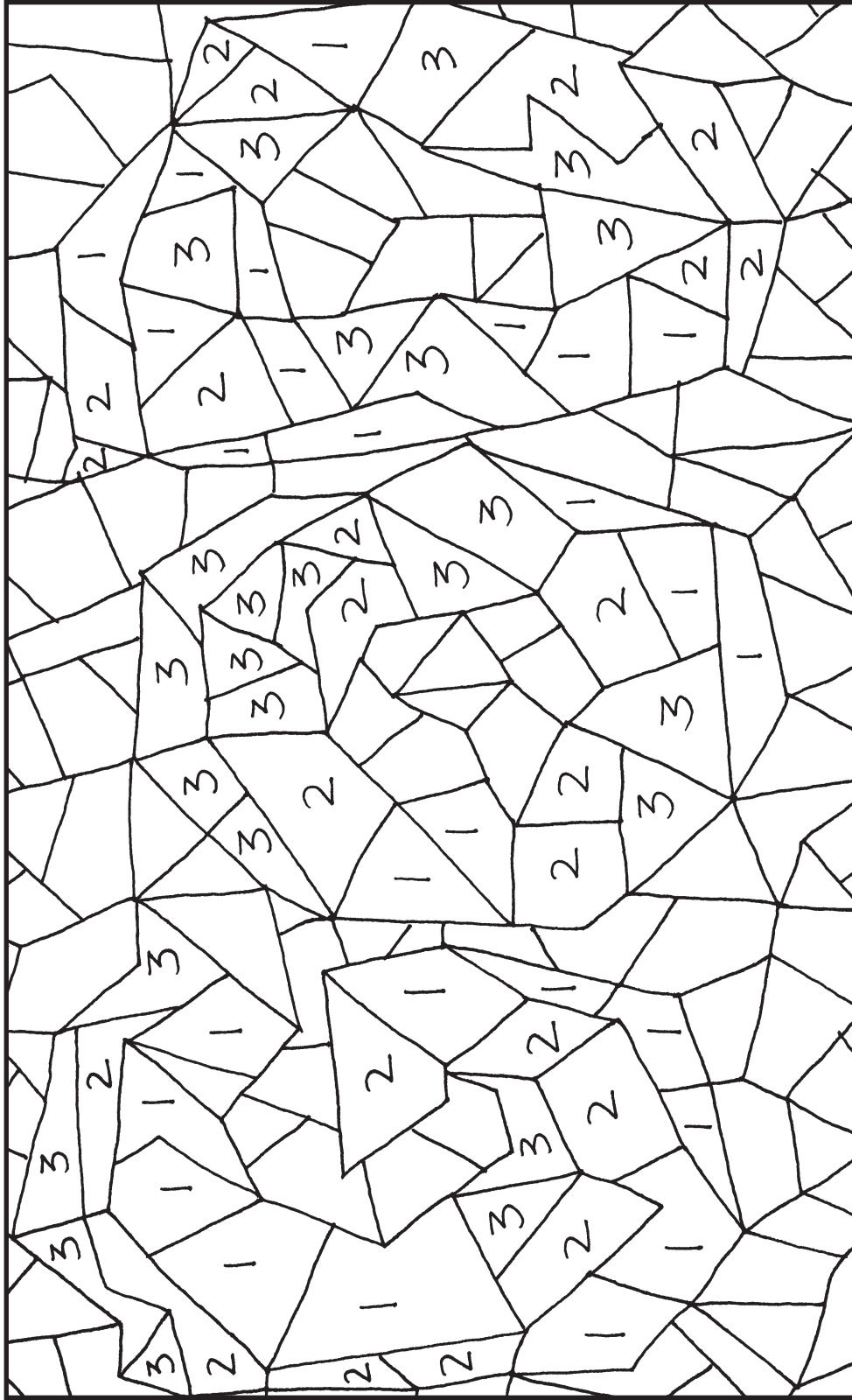
Who Do We Worship?

3 GREEN

2 BLUE

1 RED

Color



We can only worship _____.