

# LESSON 7

## SODOM AND GOMORRAH



### OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that our God is a merciful and righteous God.
2. To understand that Abraham prayed for the sinful Sodom.
3. To learn how to escape from sins.

### MEMORY VERSE

“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.”

(Exodus 23:2)

### PRAYER

1. Thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His words.
2. May God help us understand that He is a holy and jealous God.
3. Lord, please forgive us of the sins we know we committed and of the sins we don't know we committed.
4. Lord, please also help us flee from sin.
5. May God help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



### Overview

#### 1. The Lord's conversation with Abraham

- The Lord reveals His plan
- Abraham pleads for Sodom
- The Lord agrees to Abraham's request

#### 2. The salvation of Lot's family

- Lot invites the two angels to his house
- The wickedness of Sodom's people
- Lot hesitates in leaving
- The angels save Lot's family
- Lot's wife turns into a pillar of salt

#### 3. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

#### 4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true God: Our God is a jealous God. We must obey and worship Him only.

#### 5. Life Application

- Against the Tide: Understand what it is to love others, to obey God's command, and to think about what would Jesus do in situations.
- Escape!: Understand when to escape from sin and the consequences of sin.
- A World of Sin: Understand that sin is everywhere, but we can pray for this world as Abraham did for Sodom.

#### 6. Activity—In the World, but Not of the World



### Background Knowledge for Teachers

No one seems to be able to find the exact location of Sodom and Gomorrah. Most people believe that the ruins of these two cities lie under the salty waters at the south end of the Dead Sea. One theory suggests that an earthquake caused Sodom and Gomorrah to sink below the water level.



## Reaching Out to Your Students

Peer pressure can be a very influential force in your students' lives. Your students may sometimes resent the restrictions placed on them because they may feel so different from their peers when they are not doing the same things they do. A common argument in a Christian home may be: "All my friends are doing it, why can't I?" What your students need to understand is the fact that when something is wrong, it's wrong, no matter how many people are doing it. This is why some parents ask the more popular question, "If your friend jumped off a bridge, would you jump off, too?" Likewise, if a group of kids starts throwing stones through windows in a neighborhood, would it be okay to follow along just because they're all doing it? It would be wrong regardless of whether one child is doing it or every single person in school is doing it. Many kids swear, cheat, lie, steal, disobey their parents, and so much more. Your students need to understand that they should do what is right, even when others do not. This is what God wants of His children. Help them understand this by sharing a paraphrased version of Ephesians 4:17-19 with them.

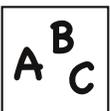


## Opener

5 Minutes

In this lesson, the students will learn that is important not to follow the ways of the world.

To get them ready, ask your students if they have ever been in a situation where they did something wrong just because everyone else was doing it. Some examples could be playing games at church, not picking up their own trash, being mean to others at school, etc. If the students have not been in situations like that, ask them to think of situations where they might be tempted to follow the world (e.g., when their friends have something they want or when their friend has a party on Saturday and they want to go). Remind them that it is harmful to our faith to follow the world, and that today, they will see what happened to the sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah.



## Vocabulary

**sulfur:** a mineral or kind of rock that can catch on fire

### HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

#### Fill In the Blank

1. fifty
2. ten
3. stay at his house for the night

#### True or False

4. False; the angels made them blind
5. True
6. False; she turned into a pillar of salt because she did not listen to the angels and turned back

#### Short Answer

7. Do not look back or stop anywhere.
8. He sent down burning sulfur to burn the two cities and the entire plain.
9. We should pray for our people and run from our sins.



## Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

### FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and tell the students that we will be filling it out as we go through this lesson.

Students, remember in our last lesson, the three visitors with Abraham went toward a city named Sodom.

### Abraham Pleads for Sodom

Our story today begins in **Genesis 18:20**.

God had something to say to Abraham about Sodom. He said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so severe and serious that I will go down and find out how bad things really are."

Abraham stood before the Lord and he said to Him: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? You would never do such a thing and kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked all the same, right? Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

### 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10

The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Then Abraham replied, "May I be so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is forty-five? Will You destroy the whole city?"

"If I find forty-five there," He said, "I will not destroy it."

Once again Abraham said, "What if only forty are found there?"

God said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

Then Abraham replied yet again, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

God answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham,

He left, and Abraham returned home. In total, Abraham plead for Sodom six times.

What Abraham had just done and the effort he put in tells us something about his character and the kind of person he was:

- 1. Love:** Abraham had compassion for Lot and the people in Sodom, even though the people there were wicked and deserved to be punished.
- 2. Humility:** Abraham demonstrated humility in his tone and word choice while speaking with the Lord. He spoke as if he was only a lowly servant trying not to anger his master.
- 3. Patience:** Both Abraham and the Lord had much patience for each other during that entire time.
- 4. Knowledge of the Lord's heart:** Although humble in his attitude, Abraham still spoke rather boldly or with courage to the Lord in Genesis 18:23-25. Abraham's courage came from his deep understanding of God's mercy and justice, as he pointed out in verse 25.

### Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

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. "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."

But Lot insisted so strongly that the angels, who looked like ordinary men, went with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded Lot's house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can sleep with them."

Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. 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."

You may be wondering, why would Lot offer his daughters instead? Lot's decision to do this was wrong. It wasn't better nor was it right. But we must first understand that Lot was under a lot of pressure from the people's threats. There weren't just a few people pressuring Lot; the group consisted of men of all ages from all parts of Sodom. You

could say that Lot was fighting the whole city on this.

"Get out of our way," the crowd yelled to Lot, "This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them." Now, not only were the visitors in danger, but also Lot, who was not originally from the city.

### God's Miraculous Rescue

But just then, the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. 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.

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, 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."

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the Lord is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

### Lot Is Commanded to Leave

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be destroyed when the city is punished."

When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and led them safely

out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it."

The angel said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." The town was called Zoar, which means "small."

By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then God rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah from the sky. This destroyed all the people in the cities and even the plants in the land. But Lot's wife looked back during this, and she became a pillar of salt.

Early the next morning, Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the Lord. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

So when God destroyed the cities, He remembered Abraham, and He brought Lot out of the danger and destruction.



## Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

### One True God

Our God is a jealous God. This means that He wants us to love, serve, obey, and worship Him only. He is also all-knowing, so He knows whenever we disobey Him. He will punish us if we disobey His commands. The wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah was so great that God destroyed them.



## Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. How many times did Abraham plead for Sodom? How did he plead for the city?** Six times. Abraham asked that God refrain from destroying the city if it had 50, then 45, then 40, then 30, then 20, and finally 10 righteous people.
- 2. The men of Sodom tried to break down the door and take the two angels by force. But what did the angels do to them?** They made them blind.
- 3. What special warning did the two angels give to Lot's family as they fled from Sodom?** Do not look back or stop anywhere.
- 4. How did the Lord destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?** He sent down burning sulfur to burn the two cities and the entire surrounding plains.
- 5. Who disobeyed the instructions of the angels while running away? What happened to this person?** Lot's wife disobeyed and looked back at the city, so she turned into a pillar of salt.



## Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheets to the students, and give them time to complete each one. Guide them as they are completing the worksheets by reading together with them, or checking on their progress periodically.]

### 1. Against the Tide

**1. Why did Kevin feel confused?** *He wants to do the right thing and not get the iPod. However, if he doesn't get it, he will continue to be left out, and have few friends. But at the same time, he knows that if he gets one, it may be harmful to himself because he'll continue to want more materialistic things, and his friendship with Patrick will be hurt.*

**2. What advice would you give to Kevin?** *Don't worry about these things. These worldly objects don't last forever. Soon, the iPod will phase out, and something else will come out that will seem to be the thing that everyone has to get.*

**3. What do you think Jesus would do?** *Jesus would not focus on such worldly things or value these kinds of possessions. They can distract us at church, at home, and at school.*

### 2. Escape!

**1A. What are the school consequences? Which commandment would you be breaking? (Read Ex 20:16.)** *School consequences may vary. But cheating is lying and breaks the ninth commandment of God.*

**1B. What can you do instead? What do you tell your friends?** *Instead of planning to cheat, spend that time to do some last minute studying and do your best.*

**2A. What are the consequences? Which commandment would you be breaking? (Read Ex 20:15.)** *It's a crime. You could get caught and get into a lot of trouble. Your parents/guardians may find out. Stealing breaks the eighth commandment of God.*

**2B. What can you do instead?** *Instead of stealing the candy, ask your mom if you can buy any other snacks. You should remember that she won't let you eat the candy for your own good.*

### 3. A World of Sin

God is sorrowful when people commit sin. However, there are things we can do about it. We need to pray for this sinful world, just as Abraham prayed for the sinful Sodom. Cornelius' prayers and good deeds reached God.



## Activity

### In the World, but Not of the World

10-15 Minutes

**Objective:** To help the students practice upholding God's commands in a world that believes differently.

#### Instructions

1. Ask the students to come up with ideas or things that are "in" or that are popular or trendy among their friends, and write them on the board. (See samples below if they are not able to come up with anything.)
2. Divide the class into groups of three or four.
3. Assign one of the items listed on the board to each group.
4. Each group is to act out a situation where one member is faced with two decisions: follow the trends of the world or obey the commandments of God. Ask each main character to voice aloud the decision process.
5. Rehearse.
6. Present.

#### Sample Ideas

- Having the new and latest electronics (mobile and gaming devices, video game software, etc.)
- Wearing the latest fashion or latest trend in clothing
- Always getting the latest music
- Downloading movies
- Swearing

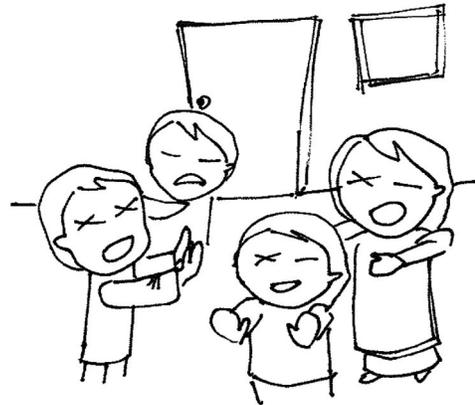
### Sodom and Gomorrah: A Sequence of Events

**1** How many times did Abraham plead for the city of Sodom?

\_\_\_\_\_ times

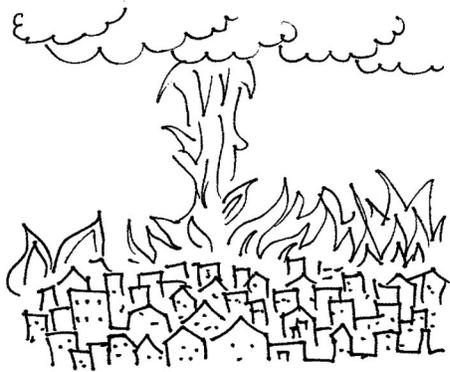


**2** Men from all over the city were after the angels that were in Lot's home. How did the angels make these men stop?



**3** After the angels said the city would be destroyed, what were the angel's instructions for fleeing the city?

"Run for your lives! Don't \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_."



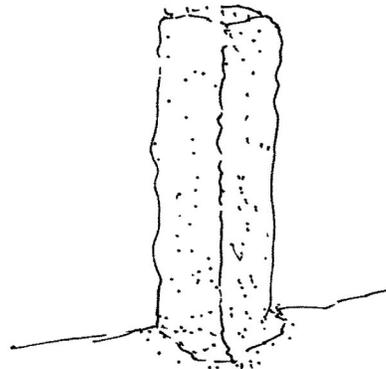
**4** Lot could not keep up with all the running. Which city did Lot end up fleeing to?

\_\_\_\_\_

What does the city's name mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

**5** After the sun had risen the next day, God rained burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. What happened to Lot's wife?



## Against the Tide

**Objective:** To understand what it means to love others and obey God's command, and to think about what would Jesus do in situations.

**Instructions:** Read the story below and answers the following the questions.

"What's the big deal about an iPod!" Kevin said to himself as he walked by a group of boys making exclamations on how cool Brian's iPod was. Brian always seemed to have a lot of friends around him during recess. But Kevin did not think it was important to be popular in school, as long as he had his friends. Kevin enjoyed being with Patrick, Daniel, and Paul. They always had lunch together.



Next Monday, Kevin found out that two of his friends also got iPods over the weekend. The two of them flashed their iPods to everybody they knew. Suddenly, crowds began to gather and swarm around Daniel and Paul. Patrick and Kevin did not even have a chance to talk to them at all that day. For the first time, Kevin and Patrick had lunch by themselves.

"Show-offs!" Patrick said the next day, "I don't see why Daniel and Paul want all that attention." Kevin agreed with his friend. Kevin had learned at home and at church that he did not have to be like everybody else to feel accepted. He remembered what the Bible said about not imitating the world or loving the things of the world. "At least, we're friends," Patrick told Kevin. At first, it seemed like Patrick was Kevin's best friend because they did everything together. But soon, Kevin felt like all they talked about was Daniel and Paul's iPods. One day, Kevin was at Patrick's house and he accidentally overheard Patrick talking to his mom in the kitchen. Kevin found out that in reality, Patrick wanted to have an iPod, too, but his mom could not afford it. Patrick complained to his mom: "But, I just want my friends to like me. They all have one!"

Kevin quickly walked into the living room. He thought to himself, "Would my friends like me more if I had an iPod?" He pictured himself showing up in school the next day with an iPod in his hand, and feeling like "One of Them."

He would no longer feel different or left out. He imagined how he could be friends with Daniel and Paul again, and maybe even become friends with Brian! He imagined they would be eating lunch together and laughing. But suddenly his imagination took a weird turn. They were laughing at someone he knew. Kevin saw himself laughing at Patrick because he was so "old-fashioned."

Suddenly, Kevin was scared. "How could I be so cruel to Patrick?" Kevin asked himself. "He's my good friend." Now, there were two voices talking in his head. One little voice said: "Be careful, if you get one of these iPod, you will continue to want everything else they have in order to fit in."

The other voice protested: "It's just a little thing. It's not like it's a sin! Who says we can't have an iPod anyway? Some other church kids have it, too." Kevin felt confused. He knew that if he asked his grandparents about getting a iPod, they would definitely buy it for him. But did he really want one?

### Questions

1. Why did Kevin feel confused?

2. What advice would you give to Kevin?

3. What do you think Jesus would do?

### Escape!

**Objective:** To understand when to escape from sins and the consequences.

**Instructions:** Read each scenario and fill in the blank boxes.

During lunchtime at school, your friends are writing some cheat notes on their arms so they can look at them in case of a pop quiz. They tell you to do it too because you didn't study much last night either.

What do you do?

You write cheat notes.

What are the school consequences? Which commandment would you be breaking? (Read Ex 20:16)

You do not write cheat notes.

What can you do instead? What do you tell your friends?



When your mom takes you to the supermarket to shop, you always see this candy that you really like. However, your mom won't let you eat that candy, because it will cause cavities. You remember how all of your friends at school bring that candy to eat during snack time. They keep saying how good it tastes and how you should try it, too.

What do you do?

You steal the candy.

What are the consequences? Which commandment would you be breaking? (Read Ex 20:15)

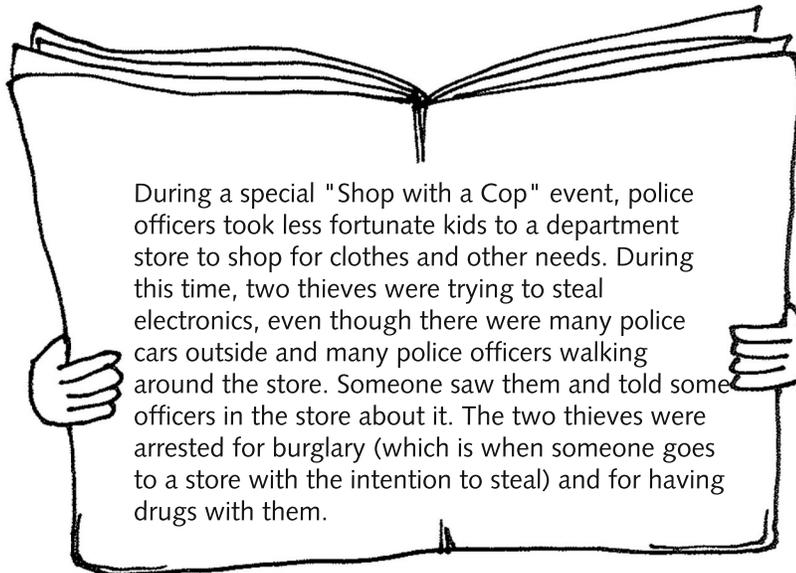
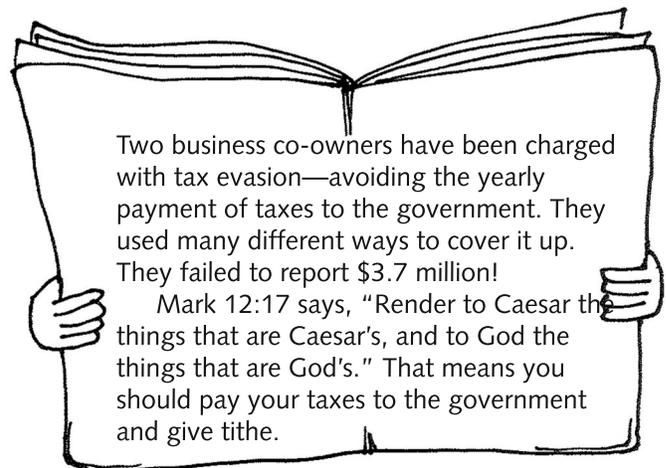
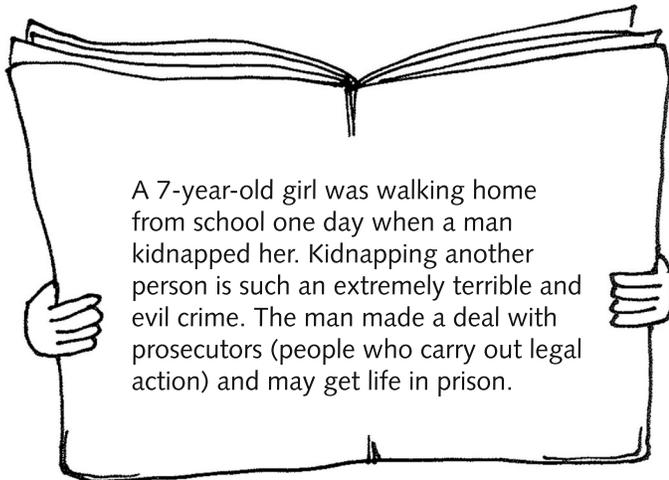
You do not steal the candy.

What can you do instead?

## A World of Sin

**Objective:** To understand that while sin is everywhere, we can pray for this world like Abraham did for Sodom.

**Instructions:** Read each news summary below and answer the questions that follow.



As you can see, there are so many sins in this world. How sorrowful do you think God is when people do these kinds of things?

Can we do anything about these things?

We need to \_\_\_\_\_ for this sinful world just as Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ for the sinful Sodom.

Read Acts 10:1-8 – this is a short passage about a man named Cornelius. What can we learn from Cornelius?

E2 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 7—Sodom and Gomorrah

# Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Bible Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Reading:** Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

**Prayer:** Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

## What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Exodus 23:2)**

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fill In the Blank

1. Abraham tried to save the city where his nephew lived. He asked the Lord the first time, "Will you not spare the place for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_ righteous people in it?"
2. Abraham continued to plead for Sodom. At last, before the Lord left him, Abraham reduced the required number of righteous people to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When Lot saw the two angels arrive at the city, he got up to meet them and bowed down, asking them to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### True or False

4. The men of Sodom tried to break down the door and take the two angels by force. But the angels made them deaf.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Lot was afraid that he would not have enough time to reach the mountains, so he asked the angels if he could instead flee to a small town nearby called Zoar. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt, because she listened to the angels. \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer

7. What special warning did the two angels give to Lot's family as they fled from Sodom?
8. How did the Lord destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?
9. What can we learn from Abraham's pleas? What can we learn from Lot's escape? List two teachings.