

Genesis 13

September 25, 2022; 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Rev. Becky Durham, Teacher

Opening Prayer

A candle is lit to recognize God's presence here with us and the illumination of God's Word among us.

Warm Up Questions: Think about a time when you had to make the decision to part ways with someone or something you care(d) about?

Read: Genesis 13

So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. **3** He journeyed on by stages from the Negeb as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, **4** to the place where he had made an altar at the first, and there Abram called on the name of the Lord. **5** Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, **6** and the land could not support both of them living together because their possessions were so great that they could not live together. **7** Thus strife arose between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites lived in the land. **8** Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me and between your herders and my herders, for we are kindred. **9** 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." **10** Lot looked about him and saw that the plain of the Jordan 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. **11** So Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward, and they separated from each other. **12** Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom. **13** Now the people of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord. **14** The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **16** I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. **17** Rise up, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." **18** So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

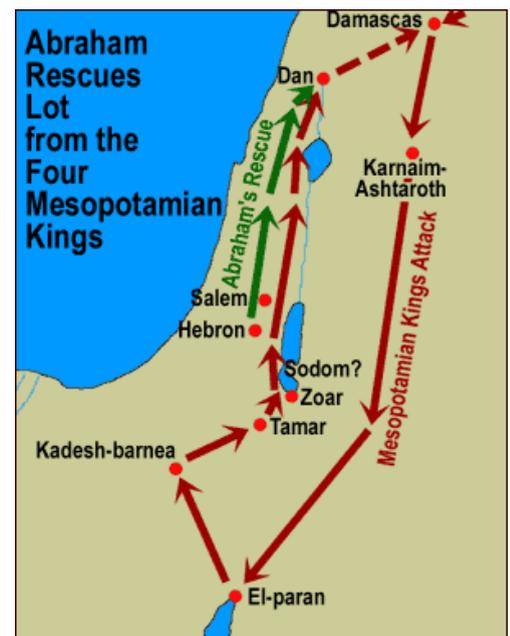
1. What do you notice about this passage?

2. Why was it wise for Abram and Lot to part ways?
3. What do you think about the land Lot chose as opposed to the land Abram got?
4. What does it mean for God to come again to speak to Abram about blessing?
5. How has your own experience of parting ways been similar or different?

What happens next...There's battle in the land between the kings of Mesopotamia and the kings of the Canaanite, tribute-paying vassal cities of Elam, including Sodom and Gomorrah—which are now rebelling against the king of Elam. Sodom and Gomorroah fall in this battle and their cities are sacked. Lot is kidnapped. (summary of Genesis 14:1-12)

Read Genesis 14:13-16

Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner; these were allies of Abram. **14** When Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. **15** He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. **16** Then he brought back all the goods and also brought back his nephew Lot with his goods and the women and the people.



Sharing Joys and Concerns

Closing Prayer