



LIFE GROUP STUDY NOTES

Wednesday 19 June 2014

TITLE: STRONGER TOGETHER

TEXT: Genesis 13:5–13

5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

The story of Abraham and Lot has powerful lessons for members of God's family today. Let's take a fresh look at it, in light of last Sunday's transforming word.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. Read the passage, verses 1–13. How were Abraham and Lot related?
2. What made it difficult for these two "brethren" to continue in the same space? Was it a legitimate challenge (v6)?
3. What sorts of challenge also threaten our coexistence as "brethren" today? Discuss the irony of the blessing that may divide families, ministries and churches.
4. As a "solution" to their mutual challenge, where did Lot choose to go (see vv10–11)? Knowing the rest of the story, how wise was Lot's decision to settle near Sodom?
5. How liable are we to making errors of judgment in our attempt to resolve challenges? How good are your choices?
6. Was it necessary for these two "brethren" to actually separate to the extent they did? Was there any way of resolving the problem without going to extremes and placing lives at moral and judgment risk?
7. How aware are you of the dangers of spiritual isolation from your brethren? What are you going to do about it?