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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Answering Atheists Series: Lot's Daughters

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching addresses Lot's troubling offer of his daughters to the mob outside his house in Genesis 19. It recognizes the moral question raised by the account and seeks to explain how the episode relates to Lot being described as righteous.

The teaching follows the arrival of two messengers in Sodom and Lot's insistence that they stay in his home. When the men of the city surround the house and demand the visitors, Lot goes outside, closes the door behind him, and rebukes their wicked behavior.

The teaching interprets Lot's offer as a deliberate attempt to redirect the mob rather than a sincere intention to surrender his daughters. It argues that Lot understood the mob's stated demand and expected his response to provoke anger toward himself.

Genesis 19:9 is central to this explanation. The men accuse Lot of acting as a judge and threaten to treat him worse than his visitors. The teaching reads this shift in their attention as evidence that Lot put his own safety at risk to protect those inside.

The teaching connects the episode with Abraham's earlier appeal concerning the righteous in Sodom. It presents Lot's actions as a test of his character, followed by the messengers pulling him inside and striking the men outside with blindness.

The conclusion portrays Lot's actions as selfless protection of his household and guests. This guide follows the teaching's interpretation of his motives and its appeal to the sequence of events, which it uses to explain an initially disturbing passage.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The teaching acknowledges the moral difficulty of Lot's offer.
- Two messengers arrive in Sodom and enter Lot's home.
- The men surrounding the house demand the visitors.
- Lot goes outside and shuts the door behind him.
- Lot tells the men not to act wickedly.
- The teaching interprets the offer as a deliberate diversion.
- The mob's threat shifts toward Lot in Genesis 19:9.
- The teaching connects the event with Abraham's appeal for the righteous.
- The messengers rescue Lot and strike the men outside with blindness.
- The conclusion emphasizes the teaching's interpretation of Lot's selflessness.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The city where Lot receives the messengers is _____.
2. Lot is visited by _____ messengers.
3. Lot closes the _____ behind him when he goes outside.
4. Lot tells the men not to act _____.
5. The messengers strike the men outside with _____.
6. The earlier appeal for the righteous in Sodom is made by _____.

Challenging

1. Lot prepares a feast and bakes _____ bread for the visitors.
2. Abraham's appeal is narrowed down to _____ righteous men.
3. The mob accuses Lot of becoming the _____.
4. The teaching says the mob's attention shifts toward hatred and _____ against Lot.
5. The teaching interprets Lot as trading his own _____ for that of the people inside.
6. The teaching presents the event as a _____ of Lot's righteousness.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What moral difficulty does the teaching acknowledge at the beginning of the account?
2. How does the teaching explain Lot's responsibility for both his guests and his daughters?
3. What does the teaching infer about Lot's intention when he makes the offer?
4. Why is the mob's response in Genesis 19:9 important to the teaching's interpretation?
5. How does the teaching connect Abraham's appeal with the messengers' visit to Sodom?
6. How does the conclusion use the rescue of Lot to support its emphasis on selflessness?

ANSWER KEY - GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Sodom
2. two
3. door
4. wickedly
5. blindness
6. Abraham

Challenging

1. unleavened
2. ten
3. judge
4. anger
5. safety
6. test