Preschool–Grade 6

Lot Escapes Sodom and Gomorrah

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Obey God right away and don't look back, because His mercy is pulling us out.
Bible passage: Genesis 19:15–29. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Remember Lot's wife." *Luke 17:32 (KJV)* Bonus: "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments." *Psalm 119:60 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write both verses on the board.

1. Opening game: Right Now! (5–10 minutes)

Give quick, silly instructions: "Touch your nose! Stand on one foot! Point to the door! Sit down!" Watch who obeys right away and who is slow. Then try it once more, saying, "Take your time..." Ask: *What's the difference between obeying right away and obeying slowly? Is slow obedience still obedience?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who lingered when God said hurry, and see how merciful God was to him."

2. Bible story: God Brings Lot Out (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Genesis 19. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Who Lot was. Lot was Abraham's nephew (Genesis 12:5). He chose the well-watered plain of Jordan and pitched his tent toward Sodom (13:10–12), and later he lived in Sodom (14:12). **Look up Genesis 13:13. Exceedingly** means very, very much. Abraham asked God to spare the city, and God said He would not destroy it for ten righteous people (18:23, 18:32). But two angels came to Sodom and told Lot the LORD had sent them to destroy it (19:1, 19:13). Lot warned the men who had married his daughters, but they thought he was joking (19:14).

Hurry! Look up Genesis 19:15. Hastened means hurried. **Consumed** means destroyed.

Mercy. Look up Genesis 19:16. Lingered means waited and was slow to go. Lot was slow, but God was **merciful**, kinder than Lot deserved. The angels took Lot, his wife and his two daughters by the hand and set them outside the city.

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Don't look back. Look up Genesis 19:17. The angel told them not to look behind them or stop anywhere in the plain, but to escape to the mountain. Lot was afraid to go to the mountain and asked to go to a little city nearby (19:18–20). God said yes again, and the city was named **Zoar**, which was little (19:21–22). "I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither" (19:22): God waited until Lot was safe.

The judgment. Look up Genesis 19:23–24. Brimstone is a yellow rock that burns. God overthrew the cities, the plain, the people and even the plants (19:25). **Look up Genesis 19:26.** Lot's wife was walking behind him. She looked back, and she became a **pillar of salt**.

God remembered. Early in the morning, Abraham went back to the place where he had stood before the LORD and saw the smoke go up like the smoke of a furnace (19:27–28). **Look up Genesis 19:29.** God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out (19:29). (Abraham had asked God to spare the city, 18:23–32.)

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The angels hastened Lot (told him to hurry), and Lot lingered (19:15–16). Why do you think he was slow? When are you slow to obey?
2. God took Lot by the hand even though he was slow (19:16). What does that show about God's mercy?
3. "Look not behind thee" (19:17). What kinds of things make it hard to leave wrong things behind?
4. Abraham prayed for Sodom (18:23), and God remembered Abraham (19:29). Who can you pray for this week?
5. Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). What do you think Jesus wants us to remember?

Recall questions

1. How many daughters did Lot take? *(Two, Genesis 19:15)*
2. Where did the angel first tell Lot to escape? *(To the mountain, 19:17)*
3. When did Lot enter Zoar? *(When the sun was risen upon the earth, 19:23)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain: Jesus said "Remember Lot's wife" when He taught about being ready for His coming (Luke 17:30–32). In Psalm 119:60, **made haste** means hurried; **delayed not** means did not wait. Read both verses on the board together. Erase two words and read them again. Keep erasing until the board is empty and the class can say them alone. Then kids say them to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God was merciful to Lot, and He is merciful to us. The Lord is 'not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin and not look back; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: obey the first time, right away, without being asked twice (Psalm 119:60).

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Genesis 12:5: How was Lot related to Abram? *(He was Abram's brother's son, his nephew)*
2. Genesis 19:1: Where was Lot sitting when the angels came? *(In the gate of Sodom)*
3. Genesis 19:15: When did the angels hasten Lot? *(When the morning arose)*
4. Genesis 19:16: Whose hands did the men hold? *(Lot's, his wife's and his two daughters')*
5. Genesis 19:20: What did Lot say about the city he wanted to flee to? *(It is near, and it is a little one)*
6. Genesis 19:22: Why did the angel say "Haste thee"? *(He could not do anything till Lot came there)*
7. Genesis 19:28: What did Abraham see go up? *(The smoke of the country, as the smoke of a furnace)*
8. Genesis 19:29: Whom did God remember? *(Abraham)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your mercy that takes us by the hand. Help us obey You right away and never look back to wrong things. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why God destroyed the cities: answer simply and gently. The Bible says their sin was very grievous (Genesis 18:20); don't go into detail in class. God would have spared the city for ten righteous people (18:32). God is always good and fair, and He made a way out for Lot.

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