Preschool–Grade 6

Lot Escapes Sodom and Gomorrah

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: When God says go, go now and don't look back. His mercy takes us by the hand.
Bible passage: Genesis 19:15–29. Students read it out loud themselves. Background: Genesis 13:10–13; 18:20–33; 19:12–14.
Memory verse: "Remember Lot's wife." *Luke 17:32 (KJV)* and "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." *Luke 9:62 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Genesis 13:10–13, 18:20–33, 19:12–29 and Luke 17:28–33. Write both memory verses on the board.

1. Opening game: Ten Seconds (5–10 minutes)

Say: "You have ten seconds to leave your house, and you can't come back. Write down what you would grab." Count down out loud. Students share their lists. Ask: *What was hard to leave? Did anyone think about turning back?* Read Luke 17:31: Jesus said that in the day He comes, the man in the field should "not return back." Say: "Today we will meet a family that was told to leave and not look back."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Background (tell it): Lot, Abraham's nephew, chose the well-watered plain and "pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Genesis 13:10–12), but "the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly" (13:13). Abraham pleaded with God for the city, and God said He would not destroy it for ten righteous (18:23–32). Two angels told Lot to bring his family out, but his sons in law thought he was joking (19:12–14).
Read out loud: Genesis 19:15–29. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **hastened** (19:15): hurried; **consumed** (19:15): destroyed; **lingered** (19:16): delayed, was slow to go
- **the LORD being merciful unto him** (19:16): God showed him kindness he didn't earn; **without the city** (19:16): outside it
- **look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain** (19:17): don't look back and don't stop anywhere in the valley
- **magnified thy mercy** (19:19): made Your mercy great; **thither** (19:20): there; **accepted thee** (19:21): said yes to your request
- **overthrow** (19:21, 19:25): destroy; **Zoar** (19:22): named after Lot called it "a little one" (19:20); **brimstone** (19:24): a yellow rock that burns
- **gat up** (19:27): got up; **as the smoke of a furnace** (19:28): thick, rising smoke

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3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The angels "hastened" Lot and he "lingered" (19:15–16). Why do people linger when they know God is telling them to move? What makes you linger?
2. "The LORD being merciful unto him" (19:16): God pulled Lot out even while he was slow. How have you seen God's mercy pull you out of something?
3. "Look not behind thee" (19:17). Lot's wife looked back (19:26). What does "looking back" look like for someone who has turned from sin?
4. Lot asked for the little city instead of the mountain, and God said yes (19:18–21). What does that tell you about how God listens?
5. God "remembered Abraham" (19:29). Abraham's prayer mattered for Lot (18:23–32). Who is praying for you? Who are you praying for?
6. Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32) while He taught about being ready for His coming (17:28–33). How do you stay ready?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Luke 9:62: **put his hand to the plough** means started the work of plowing a field; **looking back** means turning around instead of keeping the furrow straight; **fit** means ready and suited.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Luke 17:32 this week; keep working on Luke 9:62 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "God's mercy took Lot by the hand. The Lord is 'not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin without looking back, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. Where is God telling me to move right now, and am I lingering?
2. What is one thing I need to leave behind and not look back at?
3. Write a short prayer thanking God for His mercy and asking Him for strength to keep going forward.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: when God's Word shows you something to do, do it the same day. Don't linger.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your mercy that takes us by the hand even when we are slow. Help us obey You right away and never look back. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks what Sodom's sin was or why God destroyed the cities: stay with what the Bible says in class: the men of Sodom "were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly" (Genesis 13:13) and "their sin is very grievous" (18:20). Don't go into detail; encourage them to ask their parents or pastor. God would have spared the city for ten righteous (18:32), and He made a way out for Lot (19:16, 19:29).

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