Preschool–Grade 6

# Lot Escapes Sodom and Gomorrah

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

**Main point:** Obey God right away, and don't look back.
**Bible passage:** Genesis 19:15–29. Read it before class.
**Memory verse:** "Remember Lot's wife." *Luke 17:32 (KJV)* Bonus: the angel's words "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee" (Genesis 19:17).
**You need:** a Bible, a yellow paper circle for the sun, masking tape or a chair, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** mark one corner of the room "Zoar" with tape or a chair. Put bookmarks in your Bible at Genesis 19:16 and Luke 17:32.

## 1. Opening game: Eyes Forward (5 minutes)

Kids line up on one side of the room facing the other side. Stand behind them. Say, "Walk to the wall. Don't look back!" As they walk, try to make them turn around: clap, call out "Look at this!" or make a funny noise. Anyone who looks back goes to the start again. Then ask: *Was it hard not to look back?* Say: "Today we will hear about a family that God told, 'Look not behind thee,' and about God's great mercy."

## 2. Bible story: God Brings Lot Out (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 19, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

**Lot** was Abraham's nephew, the son of Abraham's brother (Genesis 12:5). Lot lived in a city called **Sodom** (14:12). The people of Sodom were very wicked. They did very bad things against God (13:13). God was going to **destroy** Sodom and another city called **Gomorrah** (19:13, 19:24). But God sent two **angels** to Sodom to get Lot and his family out (19:1, 19:12).

Early in the morning, the angels told Lot to hurry. They said, "Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters." That means, "Get up! Take your wife and your two girls!" (19:15). But Lot **lingered**. That means he waited and was slow to go (19:16).

So the angels took hold of Lot's hand, and his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters. They brought them out of the city (19:16). Why? **Read Genesis 19:16 from your Bible.** Point to the words "the LORD being merciful unto him." Say: "**Merciful** means God was kind to Lot, kinder than he deserved."


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*The story continues:* Outside the city, the angel said, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee" (19:17). That means, "Run for your life! Don't look back!" He told them to run to the mountain. Lot asked to go to a little city nearby instead, and the angel said yes (19:18–21). That little city was called **Zoar** (19:22).

The sun was up when Lot came into Zoar (19:23). Then the LORD rained **brimstone** (burning rock) and fire from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah (19:24). The angel had said, "look not behind thee" (19:17). But Lot's wife, walking behind him, **looked back**, and she became a **pillar of salt** (19:26). That is why Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).

Early that morning, Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD and prayed for the city (18:22–23). He looked toward Sodom and saw the smoke going up (19:27–28). Abraham had prayed for that city (18:23). And God **remembered** Abraham, and sent Lot out safe (19:29).

## 3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What did the angels tell Lot to do in the morning? *(Arise, and take his wife and his two daughters, Genesis 19:15)*
2. What did Lot do instead of hurrying? *(He lingered, 19:16)*
3. Why did the angels take their hands and bring them out? *(The LORD was merciful unto him, 19:16)*
4. What did the angel say not to do? *("Look not behind thee," 19:17)*
5. What was the name of the little city Lot ran to? *(Zoar, 19:22–23)*

## 4. Memory verse: Don't Look Back Verse (5 minutes)

Write *Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17:32* on the board. Explain: "Jesus said this. He wants us to remember that the angel said, 'look not behind thee,' but Lot's wife looked back." Kids stand in a line facing forward and say the verse together, taking one step forward on each word. Then add the bonus: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee" (Genesis 19:17). **Thy** means your; **look not behind thee** means don't look back. Say both, stepping forward, three times: normal, whisper and loud. Nobody turns around!


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## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God was merciful to Lot. God is merciful to us too. He does not want anyone to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it, and we don't look back. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
*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:** when a parent or teacher asks you to do something right, do it right away, the first time. Don't linger!

## 6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Sodom and Gomorrah word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/sodom-and-gomorrah-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/sodom-and-gomorrah-craft), or **Escape to Zoar:** kids make groups of four and hold hands, like the angels held Lot's family by the hand (Genesis 19:16). Stand in "Zoar" holding the yellow paper sun down low. Say, "Escape for thy life!" The groups walk quickly to Zoar without letting go and without looking back. When every group is in, lift the sun high: "The sun was risen when Lot entered into Zoar!" (19:23). Ask one question from part 3, and play again.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your mercy. Help us obey You right away and not look back. 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 the people were very wicked and their sin was very grievous (Genesis 13:13, 18:20). Abraham asked God to spare the city, and God said He would not destroy it if ten righteous people were found there (18:32). God is always good and fair, and He was merciful to Lot.


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