# Youth Worships

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

# WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP ON-LINE!

We are glad to have you worshipping with us this afternoon.

May the Lord bless and uplift our hearts as we offer Him joyful praise!



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## **COME AND WORSHIP**

"How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, even faints

For the courts of the LORD;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

Psalm 84:1-2

- 1. Authors of this Psalm
  - a. Sons of Korah
  - b. They were Levites
  - c. They assisted the priests and attended to the needs of the Tabernacle (Numbers 18:3)
  - d. When the Temple was built, they undertook new roles and responsibilities in caring for the LORD's house (1 Chronicles 23:27-32)
- 2. Love and affection for the LORD's house
  - a. The "Tabernacle" was an affectionate word for the house of the LORD
  - b. The word was retained and used by the Sons of Korah when they served in the Temple
  - c. To them, the Temple was lovely and beautiful
  - d. It was a sacred place where God would dwell
- 3. Longing to be in the LORD's house
  - a. A heartfelt and soul-longing desire to be in the courts of the LORD
  - b. Such was the fervent and genuine love for His house!

### **COME AND WORSHIP**

- 4. Living Relationship with God
  - a. The reason for such a love cultivated
  - b. God was a Living God to them!
  - c. It reflected a real and living relationship with God

Many of us yearn to return to our lovely Church to worship physically. While we persevere and wait, we are challenged to cultivate a relationship with God that is living and palpable! God is more than history recorded in the Scriptures or a concept learnt. We can discover Him to be a Wonderful, Personal and Living God!

Let us grow this love for the Lord and His house. Let us learn to relate to Him through a deeper understanding of His Word.



## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

## YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE - 26 JUNE 2021 (ON-LINE)

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

**Opening Prayer** 

Scripture Text: Genesis 19:1-11

Message:

"I will go down now and see"

Genesis 18:21





## **REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD**

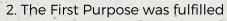
Let us review what we have learned at Youth Worship last week!

YWS MESSAGE - 19 June 2021
"ABRAHAM STILL STOOD BEFORE THE LORD"
GENESIS 18:16-33

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. Two Purposes of the LORD
  - a. To visit with Abraham and Sarah
  - b. To visit Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18:1-15 Genesis 18:16-33



The LORD paid a special visit to Abraham and Sarah

- a. Fellowship with Abraham and Sarah
- b. Faith encouraged and strengthened

#### SAYING FAREWELL TO THE HEAVENLY VISITORS

- 1. Abraham walks with the Heavenly Visitors
- 2. Their face was towards Sodom (and Gomorrah)

Genesis 18:16





#### A PARTING WORD TO ABRAHAM

- 1. Meaningful sharing
  - a. "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?"

Genesis 18:17

b. God shares what He is planning to do

- 2. Commendation of Abraham
  - a. "Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation"

Genesis 18:18a

b. "And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him"

Genesis 18:18b

- 3. An Important Explanation why God had related so much to Abraham
  - a. One reason why God knew (related to) Abraham

"For I have known him, in order that he may

command his children and his household after him" Genesis 18:19a

b. God's knowledge that Abraham would instruct his children

i. "That they keep the way of the LORD"

Genesis 18:19b

ii. "To do righteousness and justice"

Genesis 18:19c

c. Fulfilment of God's Promise to Abraham

i. "That the LORD may bring to Abraham"

Genesis 18:19d

ii. "What He has spoken to him"

Genesis 18:19e

#### **REASON FOR GOING TO SODOM AND GOMORRAH**

1. Outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah

a. "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great"

b. "Their sin is very grave"

Genesis 18:20a

Genesis 18:20b

2. Personally checking it out

a. "I will go down now and see"

Genesis 18:21a

b. "I will know"

Genesis 18:21b

#### THE DEPARTURE OF THE TWO COMPANIONS

1. They made their way to Sodom

Genesis 18:22a

2. The LORD had not moved

#### ABRAHAM STILL STOOD BEFORE THE LORD

- 1. Abraham feared that Judgment would come to Sodom and Gomorrah
  - a. This may not be expressly stated
  - b. But he had gathered that this was why the LORD had come
- 2. Abraham's Approach to the LORD
  - a. "He stood before the LORD"

b. "He came near" (to the LORD)

Genesis 18:22b

Genesis 18:23a



#### THE INTERCESSORY PRAYERS OF ABRAHAM

- 1. A basic premise must first be established
  - a. A rhetorical question raised

"Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" Genesis 18:23b

b. The expected answer

No! God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked!

2. The First Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for fifty righteous people

a. "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city"

Genesis 18:24-26

Genesis 18:24a

b. "Would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?"

c. "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this"

Genesis 18:25a

Genesis 18:24b

d. "To slay the righteous with the wicked"

Genesis 18:25b

e. "Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Genesis 18:25c

3. God's Gracious Response to this First Plea

a. "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city"

Genesis 18:26a

b. "Then I will spare all the place for their sakes"

Genesis 18:26b

4. The Second Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for forty-five righteous people

a. Consciousness of being a mere mortal

"Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes

Have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord"

Genesis 18:27-28

Genesis 18:27

b. "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous;

would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"

Genesis 18:28a

5. God's Gracious Response to this Second Plea "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it" a. Much grace shown b. Much mercy also promised	Genesis 18:28b
6. The Third Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for forty righteous people and Answer from the LORD a. Question	Genesis 18:29
"Suppose there should be forty found there?"	Genesis 18:29a
b. Answer "I will not do it for the sake of forty"	Genesis 18:29b
7. The Fourth Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for thirty righteous people and Answer from the LORD a. Question	Genesis 18:30
"Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?"	Genesis 18:30a
b. Answer "I will not do it if I find thirty there"	Genesis 18:30b
8. The Fifth Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for twenty righteous people and Answer from the LORD a. Question	Genesis 18:31
"Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?"	Genesis 18:31a
b. Answer	
"I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty"	Genesis 18:31b

9. The Sixth Intercessory Prayer of Abraham for

ten righteous people and Answer from the LORD

Genesis 18:32

a. Question

"Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but

once more: Suppose ten should be found there?"

Genesis 18:32a

b. Answer

"I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

Genesis 18:32b

#### END OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE LORD AND ABRAHAM

1. The LORD went His way

2. Abraham returned to his place

#### **VITAL LESSONS**

1. Abraham's Example of Prayer

a. Praying for others whole-heartedly

b. Perseverance

c. Personal faith and humility

- 2. God's Response
  - a. Patience
  - b. Kindness
  - c. Grace and Mercy
- 3. Our Challenge
  - a. To have a deeper faith
  - b. To have a heart of compassion
  - c. To persevere in prayer
  - d. To have appropriate humility



## **REFLECTION**

#### Written by Lorraine Lai

We learnt at Youth Worship last week about how Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah.

#### The heart of the intercessor

The intercessor empathises deeply and genuinely. Abraham prayed persistently for Sodom and Gomorrah not because he had anything to gain from it but because he genuinely felt for the two cities that God had decided to destroy.

Why did Abraham feel so deeply for these people whom he didn't even know? Surely, he knew that Sodom and Gomorrah deserved the judgment they were about to receive. But that was Abraham's heart of compassion. To me, Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked cities in ancient history. However, to Abraham, these cities were thriving with life- from parents, children, grandparents, shepherds, tradesmen, merchants, livestock. His nephew Lot lived in Sodom.

Abraham's heart of compassion is something that I am challenged to have. Cultivating such a heart requires me to look beyond my own circumstances and to see that every hurting person is someone's friend, someone's loved one.

#### Interceding with an understanding of God's character

Abraham prayed recognising the righteousness of God (Genesis 18:24-25). He first began with a rhetorical question which he answered himself. He knew that God was a righteous Judge of all the earth. This Judge could and would spare the city for even 10 righteous people. Abraham prayed specifically for the people- from 50 righteous, down to 45, 40, 30, 20, 10.

Abraham prayed humbly. There was an unmistakable consciousness that he was nothing before a great God! Abraham's humility was reflected in how he saw himself in relation to God. He saw himself as dust and ashes (Genesis 18:27). Each time he prayed for Sodom and Gomorrah, he was acutely aware that his requests could incur God's wrath and thus he pleaded, "Let not the Lord be angry" (Genesis 18:30, 32). Such was Abraham's heart of humility. He prayed from a position of lowliness, knowing that God did not even have to hear his pleas.

Abraham's great regard for God and his understanding of God's character is an example for me. Not only did Abraham know his place as someone lowly, he also had a good understanding of God's Person. He not only knew God to be a righteous Judge, Abraham fully trusted God's judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah. I am challenged to pray with the same humility as Abraham and with the same heart of trust in God's character!



## POETRY CORNER

#### **GOD'S SPECIAL PROTECTION**

A severe famine had struck Canaan badly; Many made plans to flee to another country. Abram and Sarai were among those who fled; They didn't think they were doing anything bad.

They fled to Egypt which seemed to have food;
They thought that this move to Egypt was good.
Abram realised that Sarai was very beautiful;
What if Pharaoh seized her? That would be awful!

They decided that they would lie their way through;
They were prepared to speak what was not really true.
They were husband and wife but pretended to be siblings;
They did not feel that they were really badly sinning.

If only they had sought the Lord's special protection;
They would not need to go through this confusion.
God, nevertheless, made sure they were not harmed;
If only they had greater faith, they would not be alarmed!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Genesis 12:10-20; Psalm 105:14-15

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1

#### Youth Worship (On-Line)

Thank God for all who have given their time and energy to sustain the Web Ministry, allowing us to continue in our Worship. May we recognise our souls' need for the Lord and His Word, and seek to set aside our Saturday afternoons for the Lord!

The Youth Worship Video Message will be available on our Bethany Website from 2:45pm on Saturday.



2

#### YW Newsletter (26 June 2021)

The Word of God is living and wonderful. In our study of the historical accounts of Abraham, we are learning truths about God and faith that are relevant and applicable to us today. Joel Tan shares with us how he is personally challenged to walk before the Lord and be blameless.

Read his reflection in this week's YW Newsletter:





## YWS NEXT WEEK



#### 3 July 2021

Message: "Escape for your life"

Text: Genesis 19:12-29

The perversity of the people of Sodom was unimaginable. The Angels' horrendous experience during their visit validated the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah. Their sin was very grave indeed!

In the light of their wickedness, we can understand God's judgment to destroy the twin cities. Yet, our God is both Just and Merciful. God remembered Abraham and his prayer for the ten righteous men in Sodom. The Lord knew that Abraham had his dear nephew Lot in mind. The beauty of God's Mercy was manifested in the way that Lot was spared from the destruction.

Let us seek to comprehend God's Judgment through the careful study of the Scriptures



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