#### Lesson: Genesis 19-21

The world is filled with billions of people. Billions of individual souls going about their everyday life on a billion different personal journeys. Can you imagine God being intricately involved in each one of our 7+ billion lives? Well, we know God is omnipresent- present everywhere at the same time, but it might still be hard to comprehend that God would be present in the details and specifics of our full and complicated lives. Well, in these chapters we get a glimpse of how intricately involved God is in the lives of His people: From the biggest to the most minute matters; from those who don't know God and those who are rebellious, to the followers of God. He is involved in it all because it all matters. Every single one of our stories from the beginning of man to the present day is part of God's redemptive plan for mankind. Nothing is done outside of God's control and no detail is unimportant.

God heard the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin, and God intervened, "For we will destroy this place, because of the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it" (Genesis 19: 13). God allowed the cities to be destroyed but before He did so, God also intently watched over everyone's actions and reactions in order to provide a path for the most righteous outcome.

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We see this when the men of the city surrounded Lot's house in order to harm the guests in his home (Genesis 19: 4-5). The result of this was that the guests, who were angels sent by God, saw the evil in the city first hand and was subsequently justified in destroying it. The evil actions of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah unfolded as a lesson for generations to come. We now have this example of the consequences of evil and wickedness. This is how God weaves His messages. This is why He is involved in the details.

We also see how Lot's integrity saved him, because Lot took actions to protect the guests in his home against the people of the city (Genesis 19: 6-8). Lot was also looked upon favorably by God because of God's faithful servant Abraham "God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain" (Genesis 19: 29). The care God showed for Lot also depicts how personal God's involvement is in our lives. God considered Abraham's bond with Lot and saved Lot because of Abraham.

God continuously watches over Abraham as He does with all of us. God also oversees our interactions with each other. When Abimelek king of Gerar took Abraham's wife without knowing she was married to Abraham, God intervened, "God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman" (Genesis 20:3). Through God's very specific guidance and influence, Abimelek had the conviction in his heart to not touch Abraham's wife and to return her to Abraham (Genesis 20: 4-7). After this Abraham and Abimelek had a relationship of understanding that offered them both some security and comfort.

Finally, when the son that God promised Abraham and Sarah was born,

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whose name is Isaac, we see God's hand clearing a way and making a path for the redemption of mankind. The decisions and actions of Sarah, Abraham, Hagar, and many others, along with God's divine involvement, has placed us where we are today.

<u>Take-away:</u> God is closely involved in each of our lives/ God's intricate involvement leads to our redemption/ Our interactions with each other is overseen by God, He influences us for good and convicts our hearts to do the right thing/ Our decisions and actions have led us to where we are today, which is exactly where God intended.

Notes:

# Devotional

# Genesis 19-21

What are examples of God's intricate involvement in your life (from small details to big) which have led you where you are today? How has God weaved your life with others in the world for a great purpose?

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How has your life interacted with someone else's in a way that was life-changing?
How has your life intersected with someone else's in such a way that you saved them a lot of heartache and pain or even saved their life?