

FOUNDATIONS IN PRAYER

SESSION SIX INTERCESSION FOR OTHERS

When God created humans, it was for a special purpose. We were created to be priests that mediated between God and the created order. We were supposed to reflect the love and glory of God into creation, and the praises and prayers of the creation up to God. This is what God intended for us when he placed Adam and Eve in the garden to tend it. This was fractured by the fall, suddenly it wasn't high on anyone's priority list to worry anything about God's glory nor the needs of the creation. However, throughout salvation history, God has been at work to restore this priesthood.

In Genesis 12, God appeared to Abraham and promised to make him a great nation. He promised him that through him, all nations on the earth would be blessed. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. God's ultimate purpose was of course to bring the messiah through Abraham's family line. Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of God's promise to bless all the nations through Abraham. However, Abraham was also supposed to be a blessing to others in his lifetime. In this passage, God gives Abraham an opportunity to play that role of being a blessing to others, by interceding on behalf of Sodom.

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QUESTIONS

Read: Genesis 18:17-33

1. What reasons does God give for telling Abraham that he intended to destroy Sodom?
2. What do you think God wanted to achieve by inviting Abraham, a man that God had set apart to be an agent of blessing to the nations, into Sodom's situation? What does this teach us about our role when a city or a people are in rebellion against God? How does God want us to pray?
3. Why does God mention in verse 19, about Abraham commanding his children and his household to keep the way of the Lord? How is this related to the situation of Sodom's impending destruction?
4. What actions did Abraham take after God told him that he was going to Sodom to see whether the things he had heard about Sodom were true or not?
5. What does Abraham call upon as a basis for asking God not to destroy Sodom? (verse 25). What does this teach us about how we should pray?

Read: Genesis 19; 2 Peter 2:6-8

6. What was the result of Abraham's prayer? Who was saved who would not have survived if Abraham had not interceded for Sodom? What does this teach us about intercession?