

Bible Study Discussion Guide

Counting the Stars — Small Steps, Deep Compromise

Icebreaker

1. Have you ever found yourself gradually getting comfortable with something you initially knew you should be cautious about? What happened?

Bible Study & Discussion

2. Read Genesis 19:1–16. Lot’s movement toward Sodom happened gradually—first near Sodom, then living in Sodom, and eventually sitting at the city gate. What do you notice about this progression? Why do you think small compromises can be harder to recognize than major acts of disobedience?

3. Read 2 Peter 2:7–9. Peter calls Lot “righteous,” even though Genesis records some deeply troubling choices. What does this teach us about the difference between being righteous by faith and living a faithful life? How should this affect the way we think about our own failures and compromises?

4. Genesis 19:14 says that Lot’s sons-in-law thought he was joking when he warned them about God’s judgment. What does this tell us about the influence our lives have on the credibility of our words? Where might there be a disconnect between what we say we believe and how we actually live?

5. Read Genesis 19:15–22. Even after God provided a way of escape, Lot lingered and then tried to negotiate where he would go. Why do you think it can be difficult to let go of things we know that are unhealthy or sinful? What are some ways we can help one another respond more quickly when God exposes an area of compromise?

6. Compare Abraham and Lot in Genesis 18–19. Abraham stood outside Sodom and interceded for the people, while Lot became increasingly entangled within Sodom. What does this contrast teach us about the difference between engaging the culture and becoming entangled with it? How can Christians remain close enough to people to love and reach them without losing their distinctiveness?

Practical Application

Where am I “pitching my tent” right now? Is there an area of life where I am intentionally staying close to something I know could pull me away from God?

What small compromise am I currently minimizing? What am I telling myself—“It’s not that bad,” “I can handle it,” or “It’s just this once”?

Is there anything my family, friends, or coworkers are learning from my example that I would not want them to imitate?

What might God be asking me to leave, change, confess, or surrender?

Where do I need to remember God's mercy rather than simply feeling condemned by my failure?

Closing Thought

The sermon ends with a powerful balance: don't underestimate the power of small compromises, but don't underestimate the mercy of God either. The goal isn't to leave the group simply determined to "try harder." It is to recognize the small steps, bring them honestly before Christ, and respond when God calls us to leave them behind.

