

# ALWAYS, NEVER, FORGET AND REMEMBER

Genesis 13:5-12  
January 14, 2024  
Pastor Alan Dionson

INTRO:

1. The people of God in the past
2. The people of God in the present

## A. THE DECISION THAT BECAME A DISAPPOINTMENT

1. Abraham decided on a redirection (12:8-10)
2. Abraham took a significant risk (12:11-16)
3. Abraham became remorseful (12:17-13:3)

## B. THE DECISION THAT BECAME A DISASTER

1. Lot was selfish (13:8-11)
2. Lot wanted a shortcut (13:11-12)
3. Lot was shortsighted (13:13; 19:23-28;13:14-16)

CONCLUSION:

How to safeguard your decisions:

1. **Always** look beyond the positive benefits of a decision.
2. **Never** underestimate the impact of negative consequences.
3. **Forget** about pleasing only yourself.
4. **Remember** with greater independence and freedom, there is a greater need for guidance, wisdom and accountability.

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker: *What major decision did you make last year? How did it turn out?*
  
2. Abraham's obedience to God was admirable by leaving his country and his people to the great unknown. But when He finally arrived in Canaan, it was unexpected. Read Genesis 12:8-10 and share your reflections about Abraham's change of direction.
  - *Have you followed God's direction only to find out that there were more obstructions along the way? How did you respond?*
  
  - *Do you trust that God would see you through a plan, or do you decide that maybe—since you were facing adversity—this wasn't the path or place where God wanted you, and so you changed direction?*
  
3. Abraham continued with his redirection and made matters worse. Read Genesis 12:11-16.
  - *How did Abraham's plan to lie about Sarah being his sister backfire?*
  
  - *Would this decision have a lasting impact on their relationship as husband and wife?*
  
4. Abraham was remorseful of his poor decisions while in Egypt, and he returned to Canaan and built an altar to recommit his faith to God. But a conflict between Abraham and Lot was brewing, and they needed to part ways. Read Genesis 13:8-12.
  - *How do you compare Abraham and Lot's characters and the decision-making paradigms they represent?*
  
  - *Abraham gave Lot the right to decide how they would divide the land despite being the rightful decision-maker, an elder, and a surrogate father. Was this a result of Abraham's previous experience in Egypt or his intuitive nature?*
  
  - *Do age and experience play an essential role when making significant life decisions? When is the right time to ask counsel from someone in making decisions for our lives?*

5. Read Genesis 13:13 and Genesis 19:23-28. *In what ways did Lot's poor decision lead to a disaster and the demise of his own family?*
  
6. Last Sunday's message concluded with the following principles for safeguarding our decision. What principle in your life do you need to work on?
  - *Always look beyond the positive benefits of a decision.*
  
  - *Never underestimate the impact of negative consequences.*
  
  - *Forget about pleasing only yourself.*
  
  - *Remember with greater independence and freedom, there is a more significant need for guidance, wisdom and accountability.*
  
7. Close the meeting by praying for one another regarding a significant decision you must make this year.