

SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Resist Mission Drift | Keith Simon | October 18, 2026

Workbook Review

- What is something you understood better from the *Live By A Code* chapter a couple weeks ago?
- What stood out to you as you thought about *Finding Your People* this week?
- What is something you would like to live out going forward?

Opening Question: Look on your phone for a photo of yourself from five years ago. How have you aged in ways you couldn't tell in your daily life?

Sermon Discussion

Genesis 13:8-13 (NIV)

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and
mine, for we are close relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll
go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."
10 Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the
garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot
chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:
12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near
Sodom. 13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

1. Choosing well-watered land wasn't a sin. Lot looked at the land but never looked at the people. Why do you think the biggest spiritual decisions of our lives often "look like logistics" rather than spiritual decisions?

Genesis 13:12 (NIV)

Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

Genesis 14:12 (NIV)

They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

Genesis 19:1 (NIV)

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

2. Lot went from *near* the city, to *in* the city, to *of* the city (sitting in the gate with the elders). How does this illustrate how spiritual drift is often gradual and imperceptible?

Note: In Genesis 14, four kings attack Sodom and carry off everyone, including Lot. Abraham gathers 318 men, chases them down, and rescues Lot and all his possessions. Yet the next time we see Lot, he's sitting in the gate of Sodom.

3. Keith called Genesis 14 Lot's "wake-up call" that went unheeded. What are some "wake up calls" that God might give us? Why is it easy to go back to the way we were after the crisis is over?

4. Keith said spiritual drift gets harder to reverse the longer it goes. What makes turning around more costly the further we go?

2 Peter 2:8 (NIV)
for that righteous man (Lot), living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard

5. Lot was tormented by what he saw in Sodom, but he stayed. What's the difference between being *bothered* by our drift and actually *repenting* of it? How do we "unplug the smoke detector" of our conscience?

Note: When God is bringing judgment on the evil of Sodom and Gomorrah but the angelic visitors tell Lot to flee with them from the city, Genesis 19:16 says "When he (Lot) hesitated…"

Genesis 19:29 (NIV)
So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV)
Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

7. Even with angels in his living room, Lot hesitated. And yet he was led out by the hand because "the LORD was merciful." What does this tell us about God? How does it change things to know that rescue depends on who is coming for us, not on how strong a swimmer we are?

Sharing and Prayer

Keith left us with three questions. Between you and God, think about each of these questions as we pause in between each one.

- **The look:** What choices am I making based only on what looks good for my prosperity without asking what they'll do to my soul and the people I love?
- **The direction:** Am I near, in, or of? What kind of person am I gradually becoming?
- **The warnings:** What wake-up call have I already been given that I absorbed without changing direction?

Silently confess where you've been drifting and thank Jesus for wading into the waters to rescue us.

Now think silently to yourself: How can you actively anchor yourself, or even to allow Jesus to anchor you, so that you don't drift in this phase?

Just as Jesus is praying for us, as Abraham prayed for Lot, as Blake Spataro's father walked the beach praying for him, let's pray for each other.

Break up into groups of 2-3, share where you've been drifting and how you want to anchor yourself, then pray for each other.

What to do for next time...

- Read and answer the daily workbook pages for Principle 6 on *Resist Mission Drift*.