

Materials I Need:
Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“...He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.” II Peter 2:6

Aim Questions:

1. Why did God have to punish Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. How many righteous people did Abraham expect there might be?
3. How many people were actually saved?
4. What are some examples of bad actions that are punished? Why is that good?
5. Why is it important to choose the right kind of friends? Who should you choose?


Hook:



It Hurts Me More Than It Hurts You (*Discussion*). Have students think of the last time they were punished by their parents. What did the students do wrong? What was the penalty? Do our parents punish us because they enjoy it? Why do our parents punish us? Write some reasons on the board. When grownups do wrong, who punishes them? Why does God punish sin? Do some of the reasons on the board help to answer this question?




What A Bargain (*Activity*). Ask for a student volunteer. Ask him if he will do a job (such as moving chairs or handing out papers) for five pieces of candy. As he reaches for the candy, reduce the offer, asking if he would do the same job for four pieces of candy. Keep reducing the offer until you get down to one candy. Repeat this with two or three different volunteers and jobs. If anyone says “No” before you get to one, send him back to his seat. **DEBRIEF:** Do you think anyone has ever bargained with God this way? Abraham once bargained with God to spare a whole city from judgment! What did Abraham “offer”?



Call It Brimstone (*Object Lesson Part 1*). Bring a small barbeque, briquettes, starter fluid, tongs, and matches (and marshmallows and bamboo shish-kabob skewers if you wish - see part 2). Take students outside, and let them help you light the briquettes. Tell them that you will not be having steak, but that while they listen to the story, they can try to make a connection with what they see in the barbeque. More on this later.

 **Pillar O' Salt (Object Lesson).** Using a clean sheet of white paper, glue (or gluestick) and salt, you can make a pillar of salt. First draw an outline of Lot's wife on the paper. Then follow the outline with glue / gluestick, filling in the open spaces. Next, sprinkle salt over the outline, carefully shifting the salt across the paper and disposing of the excess. You may prepare this in advance of the lesson or tell the story as you make the pillar of salt. Discuss why Lot's wife turned into salt, the importance of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. You may ask about times in their lives when they've disobeyed and the consequences of that disobedience.

 **Bad Company (Discussion).** Ask the students to think about how kids group up at school or in the neighborhood (cliques). Ask them to identify the different kinds of groups. Then ask them about the characteristics of each group. Do your thoughts about other kids have to do with who they hang out with? How does who you hang out with reflect upon you? I Corinthians 15:33 says, "Bad company corrupts good character." Have you seen examples of this truth? Share with the group. Follow up: Who should we hang out with? What did Jesus do?




Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 **Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 19, **1GEN07.GF1**.

 **Hand-made Escape! (Craft).** 🧵 Have this LOOK activity, **1GEN07.GF4**, made up ahead of time to demonstrate who was saved out of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

 **A Terrifying Experience (Role-play).** Tell the story of Sodom and Gomorrah from Lot's perspective of that awful day of destruction. Create a cave-like setting from which to tell Lot's story of escape by draping blankets over objects.

Bible Adventure -

Our Bible Adventure for today is a serious one, but it contains a very important lesson God wants us to learn--the consequence of a life totally given over to sin. We all know how we feel when we are corrected by someone, even our parents, who we know love us. It is difficult to be told you are wrong, but many times it is necessary. If we are wise, we will keep ourselves open to correction. God has a purpose for it, one that is meant for our good.

Our last lesson ended when Abraham was visited by the Lord, who gave the announcement of a son to be born to Abraham and Sarah within a year. Later, God told Abraham that the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah had become so great that all had heard of it. Now, God told Abraham that He was going to see if the wickedness was as bad as people were saying it was. I think we can be sure that God knew just how much wickedness was there, but he was demonstrating to Abraham (and to us, too) that He is not a God who judges rashly or hastily.

Abraham asked God, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are 50 righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of 50 righteous people in it?" Abraham was well aware of God's mercy toward the righteous and sought to protect anyone living in Sodom and Gomorrah who might not be taking part in the wickedness there. But Abraham was unaware of how widely spread the evil was. God's answer to Abraham's question was that if He found 50 righteous people in the city of Sodom, He would not destroy it. Abraham approached the Lord again, this time asking if the city would be saved if only 45 righteous people were found in it. Again the Lord's answer was "yes", He would spare the city for 45 righteous people. What followed between Abraham and God almost seemed like a bargaining session, but was really Abraham's attempt to understand God's thinking on both judgment and mercy. He kept asking if God would spare the city for forty righteous, then thirty, then twenty, and finally ten. For ten righteous people, would the Lord spare the city? I'm sure Abraham was thinking about his nephew Lot and his family, who were living in Sodom.

Were there ten righteous people living in Sodom? God sent two angels to find out. When they arrived at the city gate, who should be sitting there but Lot. The angels went to Lot's home, and Lot fixed a meal for them. Before they had gone to bed, all the men of the city came and surrounded the house. Calling out to Lot, they told him to bring his guests out that they might practice homosexual acts with them. This was in direct violation of God's idea of the family--one man married to one woman. God's Word does not pull any punches when it describes the desparate wickedness of Sodom. It says all the men of the city were there both young and old. Lot went outside to talk to them, to try to talk them out of what they wanted. Then he did a shocking thing. He offered his two daughters to the men to do with what they wanted, if they would leave his two guests alone. The crowd revealed its uncontrolled evil when it turned on Lot, accusing him of judging them. They threatened him and advanced on him to break down the door of the house.

Just in time, the two angels reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. They struck the men outside with blindness, so that they could not find the door. The two angels had seen all they needed to see. They told Lot to gather his family and prepare to leave, because they were going to destroy the city. Lot went and spoke to the young men who were engaged to be married to his daughters. When he told them God had sent the angels to destroy the city, they thought he was joking and would not listen to him. Soon the sun was coming up, and the angels tried to hurry Lot along, knowing that he, too, would be killed if he stayed around. Still Lot hesitated, and the angels went into action. They grabbed Lot by the hand, and his wife and daughters by the hands, and led them out of the city. The Bible says they did this because God was merciful to Lot. Even though he had chosen to live in such a wicked environment, and his witness for God was so weak that it had no effect on those around him, still God honored him for his faith.

As soon as the angels had them safely out of the city, they said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" Even now, running for his life, Lot had problems just doing what he is told to do. He asked that he be allowed to go to the town of Zoar. They allowed him to do this. By the time he arrived there, God's judgment fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. He rained down burning sulfur on those cities, destroying them and everything in them. Because of God's mercy, Lot and his daughters escaped, but Lot's wife disobeyed the command of the angel not to look back at the city, and was turned into a pillar of salt. Far across the plain, Abraham stood looking at the thick smoke rising up from where Sodom and Gomorrah used to be.

Lot and his daughters did end up living in the mountains, and sad to say, the evil they had been surrounded with for years had influenced them to no good. They made decisions and carried out actions that had lasting effect on the history of Israel. Lot had been declared righteous by God, but by no stretch of the imagination was he living a righteous life. He got more and more comfortable around the wickedness--from living near the city, to moving inside, to sitting at the city gates with the leaders, to having to be dragged away at the last possible moment, he showed a real reluctance to make a meaningful stand for truth. Remember what I Corinthians tells us, "Do not be misled. 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" In other words, if we choose to keep company with those whose minds are set on evil, it's only a matter of time before it rubs off on us. It may seem exciting and fun for the moment, but when the consequences of our actions come crashing down on us, the fun comes to an abrupt stop. Let's use Lot's life as an example of what not to do. God doesn't want us to totally cut ourselves off from non-Christians, but he does want us to be wise in our friendships. Evaluate each one with the question, "Am I influencing this friend for good or are they influencing me for evil?" Get out of those questionable relationships, or you may soon find yourself in hot water (or hot sulphur, as Lot was!)

I hope you are clearly understanding God's reasoning and His actions in His dealings with Sodom and Gomorrah. We know that God hates sin. Because He is holy, He cannot tolerate it in His creation. He must punish it, but He is also merciful. Instead of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah outright, He sent His angels to rescue Lot. The reaction of the people of the city to God's judgment was total rebellion. They pursued their sin with determination and saw the judgment of it as interfering with their freedom to do as they wanted. They did not see it for what it was, an opportunity for them to repent and to restore their relationship with God. Any one of us could end up like those in Sodom and Gomorrah, if we keep saying "yes" to sin.

God didn't give us His Word to restrict us, but to protect us and to protect our relationship with Him. That's why He gave us our families and our government, to protect us. When we break our family rules or break the law, we are punished. This is for our own good. It is for our good when God punishes sin in our lives. Punishment is meant to encourage and direct us *to* God, not *away* from Him. A right relationship with God is the richest treasure we can ever have. Don't be like Lot, playing around the edges of sin, or like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, who had totally given themselves over to it. Be glad God punishes sin. It may be painful at the time, but it results in escaping a punishment that is much more final.




Look:



Condemnation (*Memory Verse Exercise*). Have students cross out the words in the chart that match the descriptions listed. Instruct them to write the remaining words in the blanks to complete this week's verse, **1GEN07.GF2**.



Fire! (*Game*).  Divide students into groups of three. Each group will need a gameboard, **1GEN07.GF3**, different colored game pieces and a die. Players place their game pieces in the center of Sodom and Gomorrah. To exit the center, you must roll a "three," signifying the number of people who escaped its destruction. After exiting the center, players move clockwise the amount of spaces indicated on their next roll. Players may move to the next level whenever a "three" is rolled. The escape from the fiery judgment brought down on Sodom and Gomorrah continues until a player exits and reaches the safety of the mountains. **DEBRIEF:** Who were the only true survivors of God's wrath and judgment on these two cities? Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Does God still feel the same about sin today?




Call It Brimstone (*Object Lesson/Snack Part 2*). Take the class back outside to check on the barbeque. Discuss what it would have been like to receive God's punishment in Sodom. Drop a few briquettes on the grass or in some weeds. Observe what happens. Imagine "burning sulfur" raining down out of the heavens. Does this help us understand the seriousness of God's judgment on sin? Does this also help us appreciate the grace and mercy involved when God "rescues" us through the sacrifice of Jesus?

Options:

1. Sulfur can be used for this demonstration and is available at drugstores. Use extreme caution when dropping a small amount of the briquettes. Use outdoors only.
2. Show some "grace" to the class by allowing them to roast marshmallows over the barbeque. This would be a good time to discuss what God's future judgment will mean to your students. Will it be a time of punishment for them or a time to celebrate God's wonderful provision of a substitute who bore their sins on the cross?



Hand-Made Escape! (*Craft*).  "When he (Lot) hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them." Using the pattern on **1GEN07.GF4**, make connected paper dolls out of butcher paper. Use a strip cut across the width of the paper about 8 inches wide and 40 inches long. Fold the paper in half three times (it will be 8 layers thick). Cut out people with hands and feet at the folds on both sides, and open them up. How many people escaped from Sodom hand in hand, counting the angels? Cut away the extra "people" from your row of paper dolls. Color the remaining six to look like angels, Lot, his wife and his daughters. Color in the figure of Lot's wife with a glue stick. Sprinkle with salt, shaking off excess.

- God Listens (Worksheet/Listening Exercise).** Pass out worksheets, **1GEN07.GF5**, and black, purple, blue, green, orange and red crayons or markers. God listened to Abraham as he begged Him not to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Have students listen and carefully follow these instructions as you read:

Abraham knew God would not punish the righteous with the wicked. He asked God to spare the city of Sodom for the sake of 50 righteous people. Count the people on the worksheet. Then Abraham asked God to spare the city for five less than 50. With a black crayon, cross out five people. Then God agreed to spare the city if He found 40 righteous. With a purple crayon, cross out five more people. Abraham asked, "What if only 30 can be found there?" Cross out ten more people with a blue crayon - leaving 30. Next, God said He wouldn't bring judgment if He found 20 righteous people. Cross out ten more with a green crayon - to leave 20. Abraham spoke once more. He asked God not to destroy the city if He found only ten righteous people. Cross out ten more with an orange crayon leaving only 10. Did God find ten righteous people in Sodom? How many were rescued? Circle this many people with a red crayon.

- One Mixed-Up City (Maze).** Have the students help the angels lead the way out of the city. Starting at Lot's house, they are to find the way to safety through the gate in the outer wall before the sun rises completely, **1GEN07.GF6**.

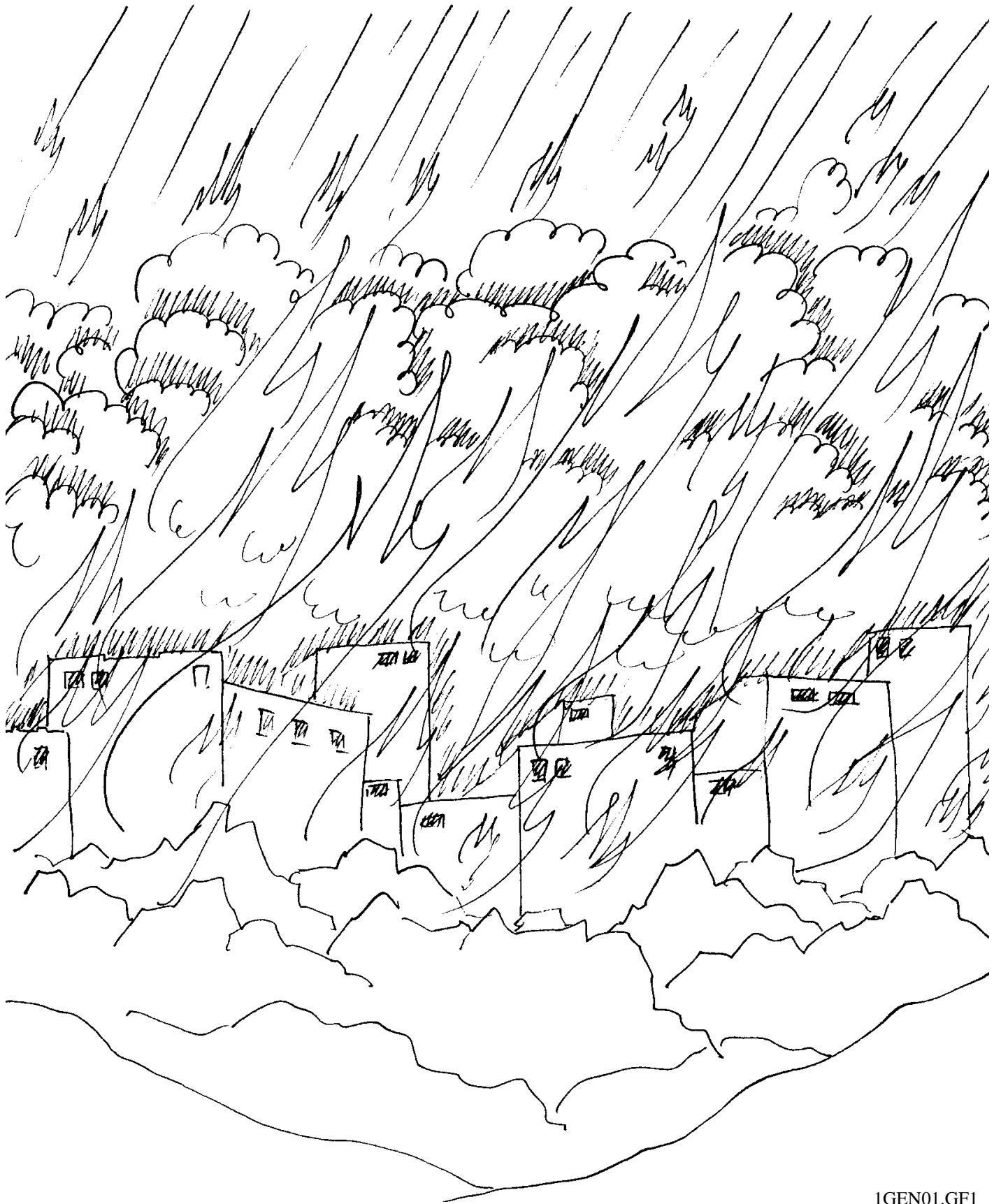
- How Many Righteous? (Card Game).** Use one sheet of cards for each player, **1GEN07.GF7**. Cut cards apart and shuffle. Rules: Play in groups of four. The object of the game is for each player to lay down numbered cards (one of each) in the order that Abraham mentioned them in his bargain with God. Lay down the "Lot" card last. Deal four cards to each player, and put the rest of the cards in the center. A player should have four cards in his hand at all times. At his turn, a player may do two things in order. First, he may lay down a card if he is able (he can do this on his first turn if he has a "50") and replace it with a card from the pile. Then (whether or not he has laid down a card) he may trade one unwanted card for one in any other player's hand. (If play stalls, add one more card from the pile to each player's hand.)



Took:

- ABC Button Banner (Craft).** Have students make a button banner on which to pin their ABC Buttons for the book of Genesis. A take-home kit will be provided for each child when he or she earns the first button. Kits include banner felt, dowel, cording and instructions with suggestions for individual decoration. These are available upon request.
- ABC Buttons (Memory Work).** Give students the Genesis ABC stats on **1GEN01.GF11** and **1GEN07.GF8** in order to earn their buttons. Buttons are awarded to those successfully memorizing the significant action, Bible verse and character statistics for each lesson throughout the book of Genesis. The ABC's for Genesis 18:16 - 20:18 are:
- A. **Condemnation and Destruction**
 - B. **II Peter 2:6**
 - C. **Lot**
- Sin's Pull (Object Lesson).** Follow the directions on **1GEN07.GF9 Pgs. 1 & 2** to show students what the outcome of sin's pull on our lives can do without knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.
- Three Steps Down (Worksheet).** People don't become comfortable with wickedness overnight. Lot's entrance into the lifestyle of Sodom was gradual. How might the small beginnings listed on **1GEN07.GF10** lead to more sin in our lives? How should you handle each situation differently in the beginning so as not to let sin get started? Discuss I Corinthians 15:33.
- Two Judgments (Worksheet).** Compare the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah with what you remember of the judgment in Noah's time. **1GEN07.GF11**.

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed



CONDEMNATION

wife	condemned	cattle	Sodom
sin	Gomorrah	Moab	ashes
made	Ben-Ammi	daughters	example
slaves	going	sheep	ungodly

Cross out the words in the chart that match the descriptions listed below.

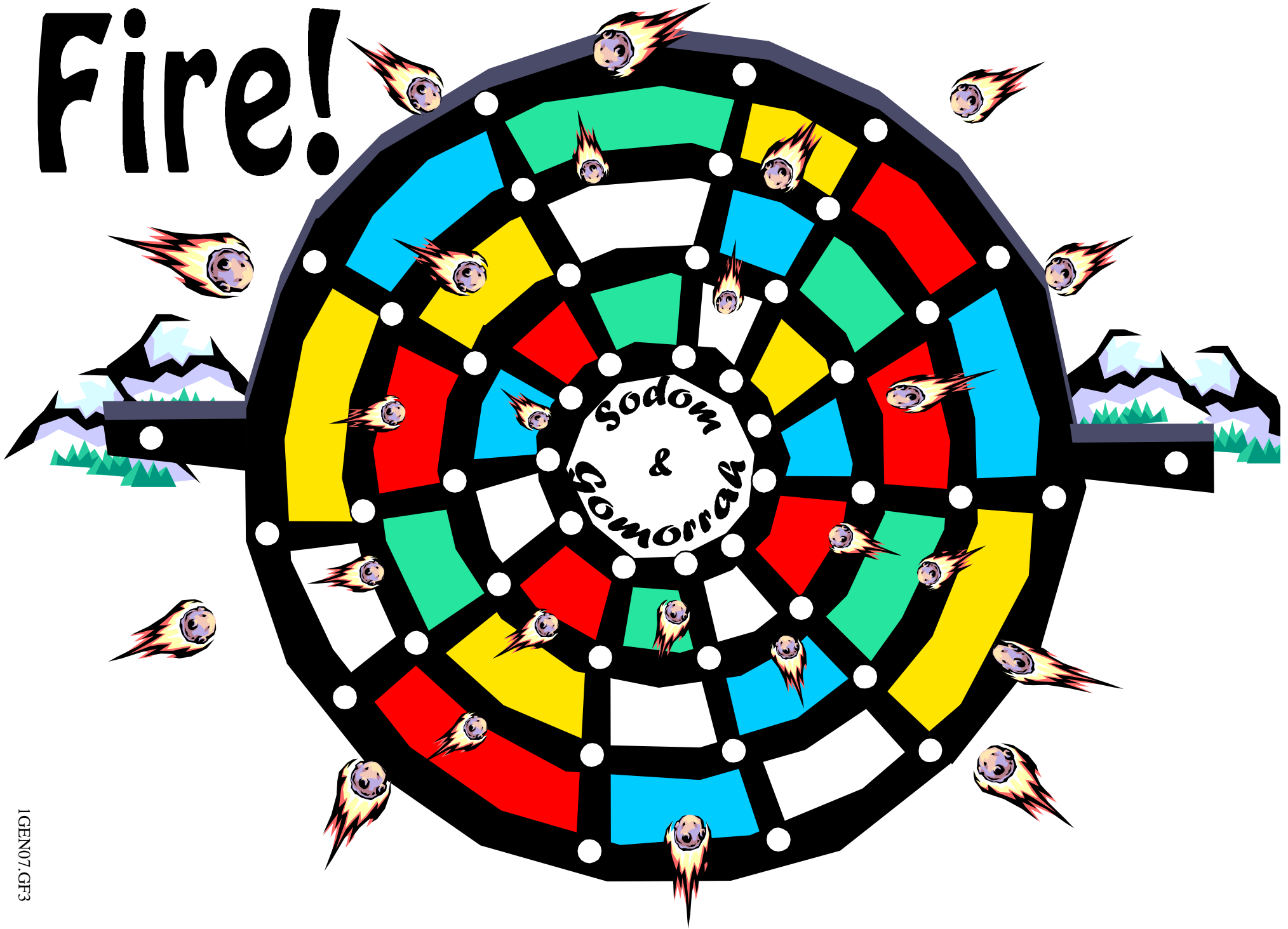
Write the remaining words in the blanks to complete the verse.

1. The people that Lot took with him when he left Sodom before it was destroyed.
2. The reason that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
3. The two sons born to Lot's daughters.
4. Three things that Abimelech gave to Abraham to cover his offense.

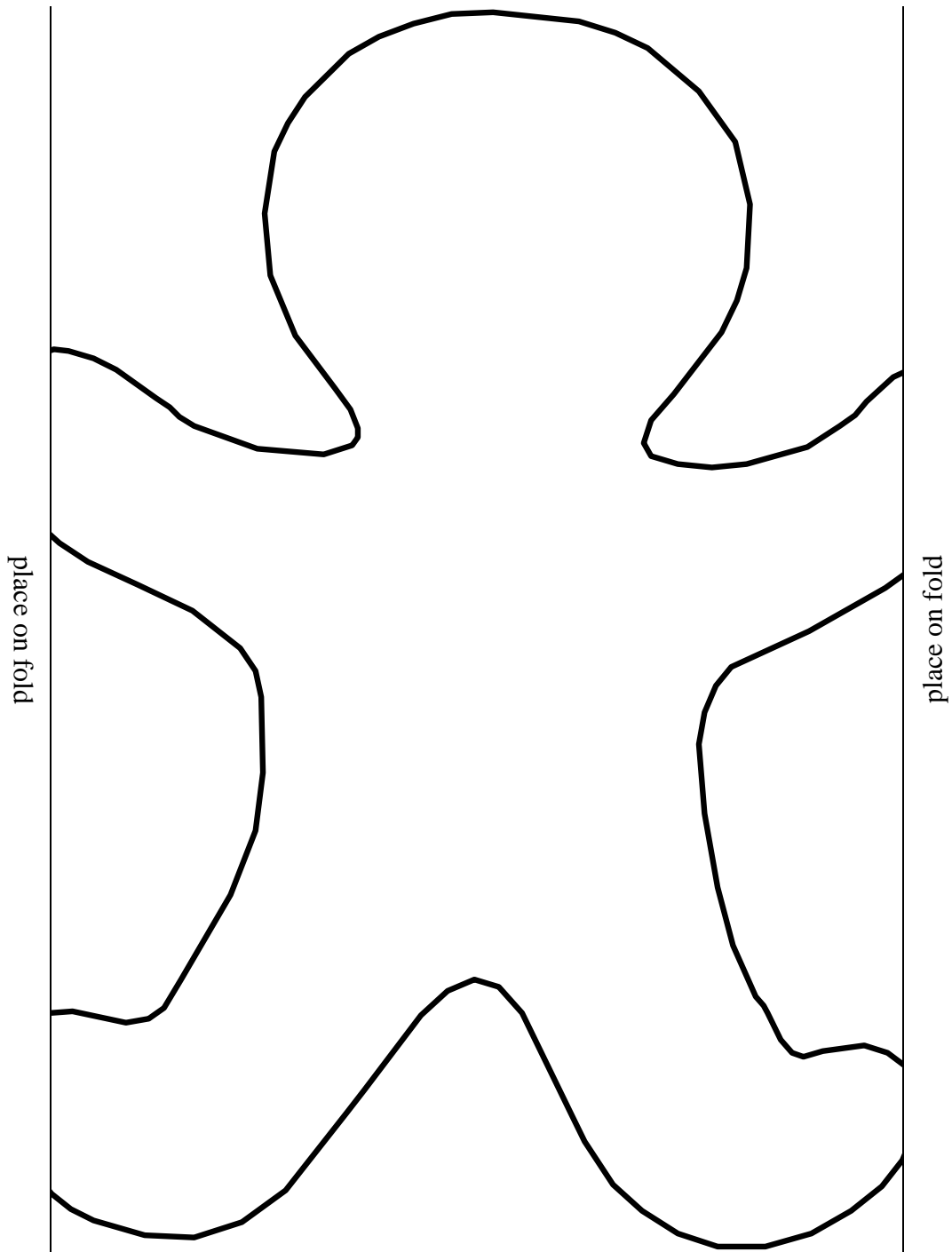
“He _____ the cities of _____ and _____ by burning them to _____, and _____ them an _____ of what is _____ to happen to the _____.”

II Peter 2:6

Fire!

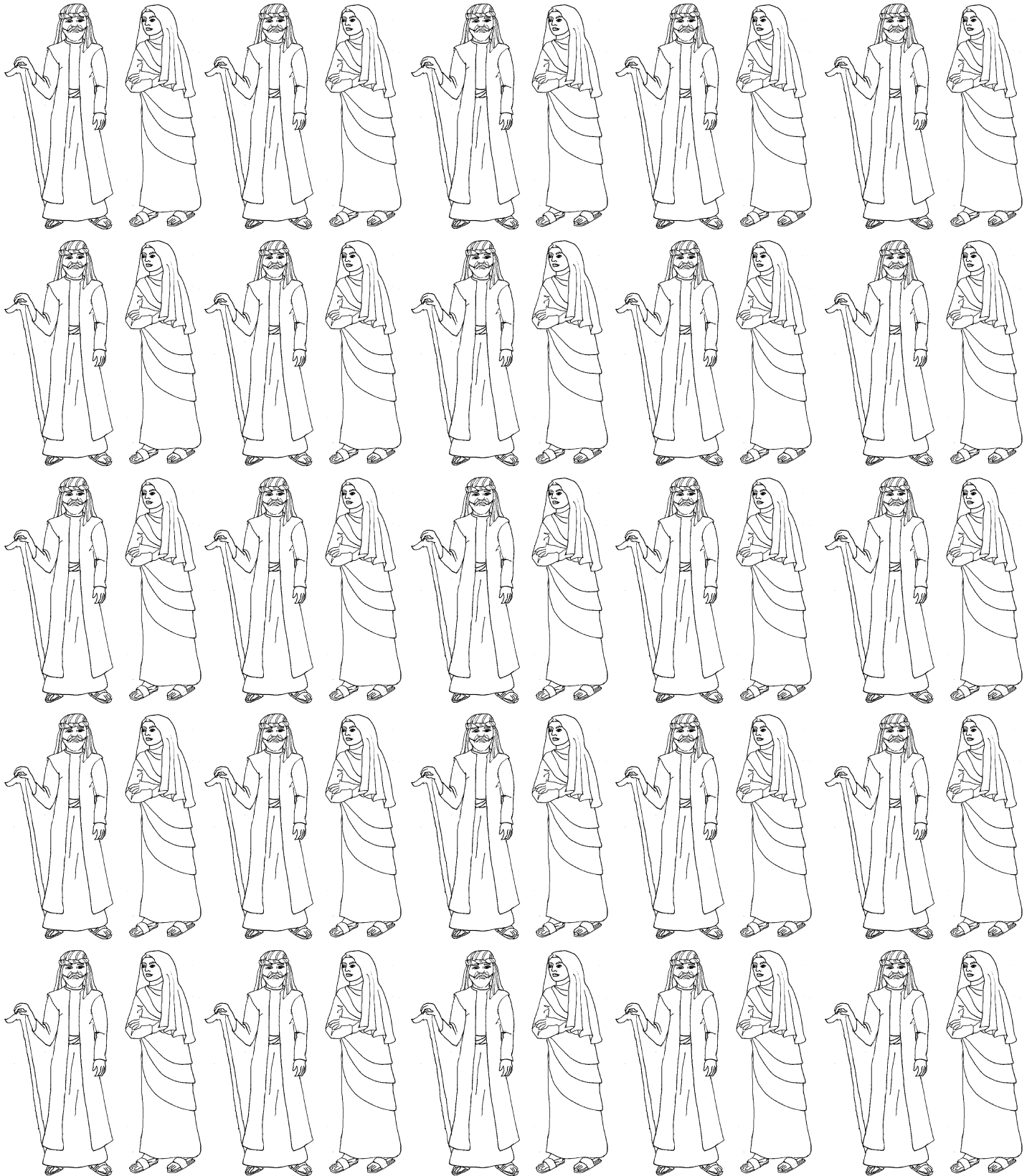


Hand-Made Escape!



God Listens

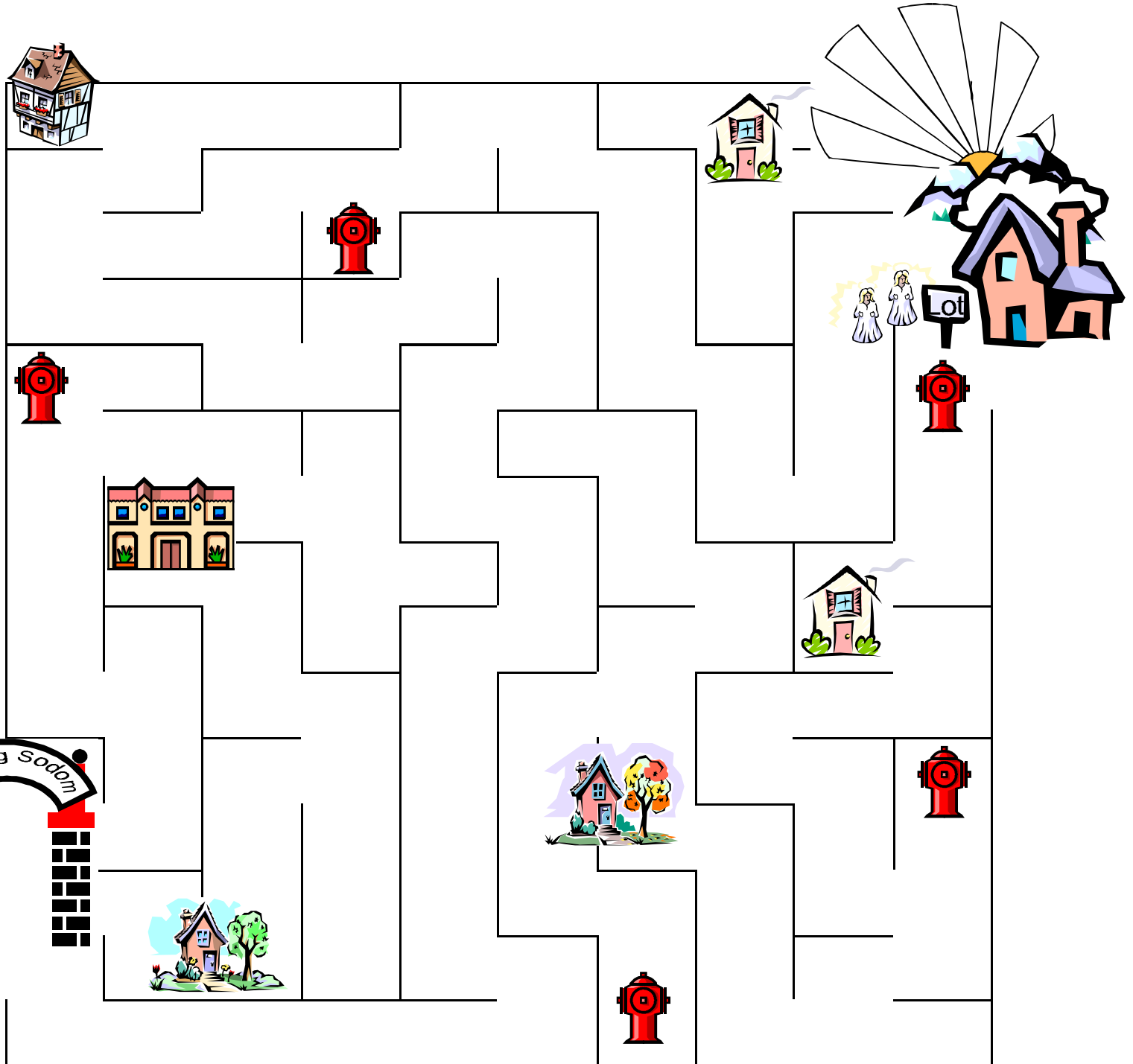
God listened as Abraham begged Him not to destroy the city of Sodom. Listen very carefully as the teacher reads, and follow the instructions you hear.



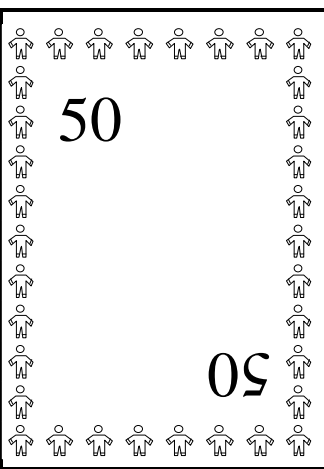
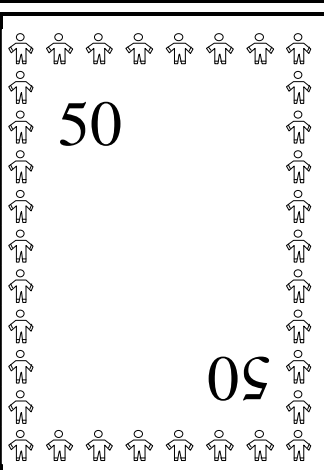
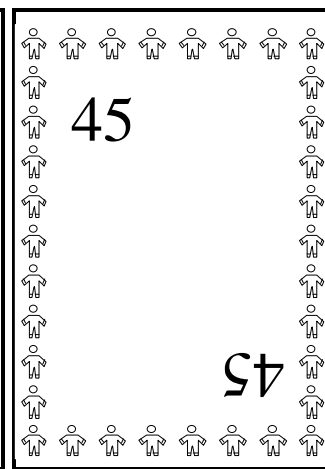
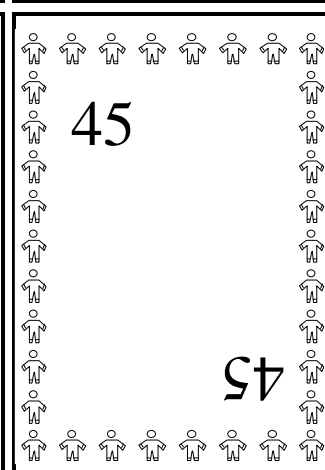
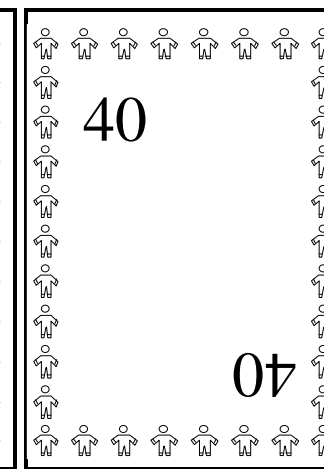
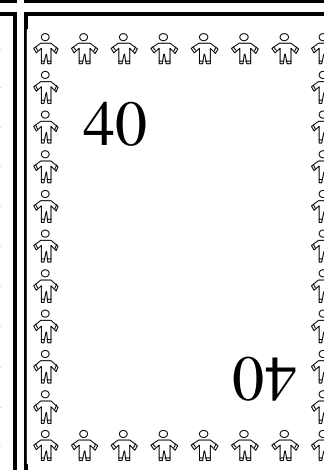
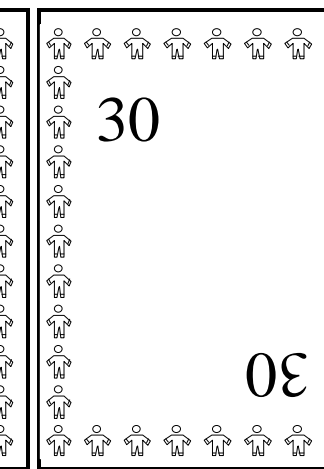
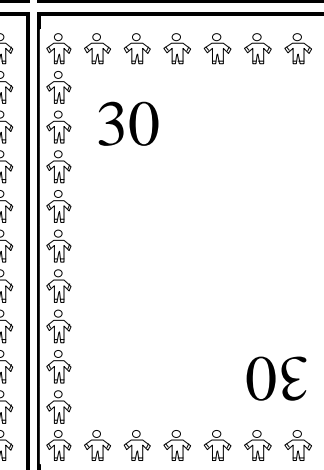
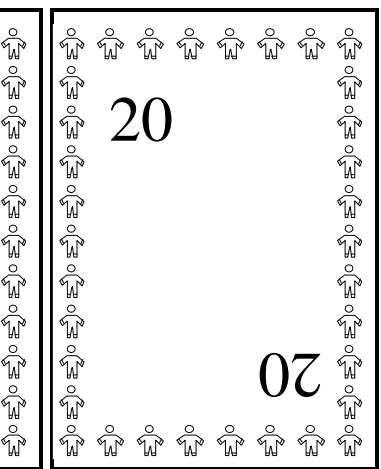
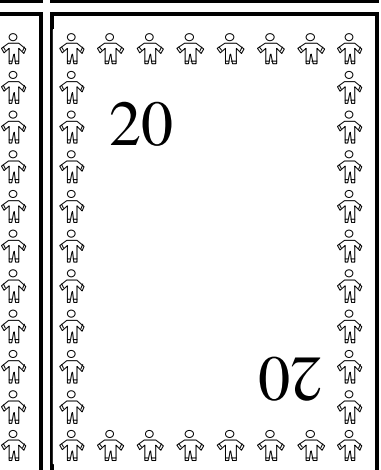
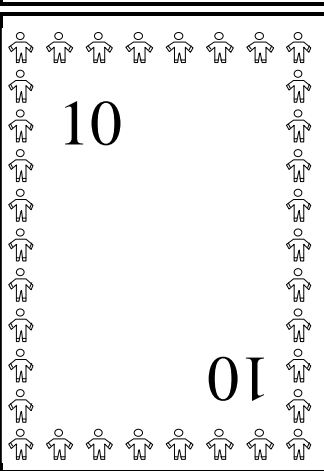

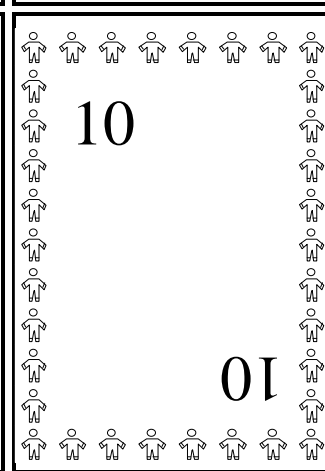

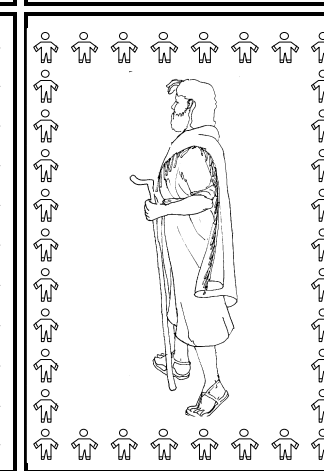

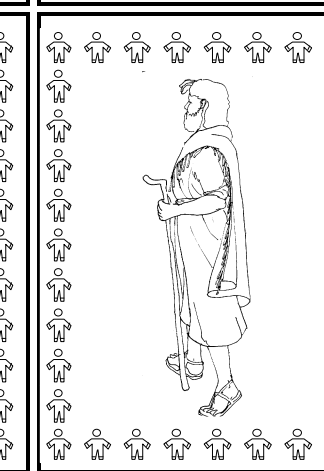

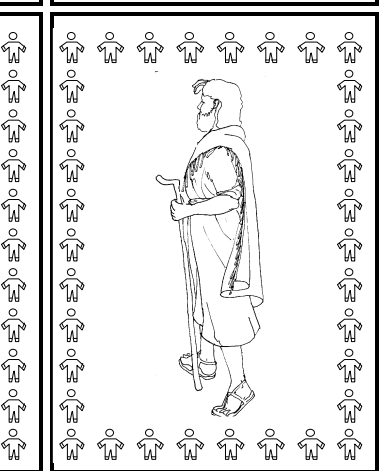






One Mixed-Up City

Help the angels lead the way out of Sodom. Start at Lot's house. Find the way to safety through the gate in the outer wall before the sun rises completely.

“...He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what would happen to the ungodly.”
I Peter 2:6



HOW MANY RIFLES?

 <p>50</p>  <p>50</p>	 <p>45</p>  <p>45</p>	 <p>40</p>  <p>40</p>	 <p>30</p>  <p>30</p>	 <p>20</p>  <p>20</p>
 <p>50</p>  <p>50</p>	 <p>45</p>  <p>45</p>	 <p>40</p>  <p>40</p>	 <p>30</p>  <p>30</p>	 <p>20</p>  <p>20</p>
 <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	 <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	 <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	 <p>10</p> <p>10</p>	 <p>10</p> <p>10</p>

ABC Buttons

Action - Bible Verse - Character

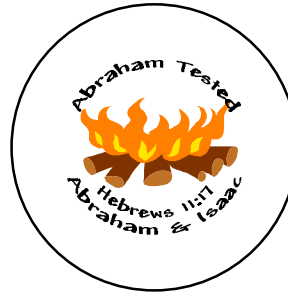
You've been working hard! You're well on your way to earning all 15 ABC buttons for Genesis. Keep it up, there's only 3 more buttons to go after this!

#7



- A. Condemnation & Destruction
- B. II Peter 2:6b "He condemned the cities of Sodom & Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly."
- C. Lot

#8



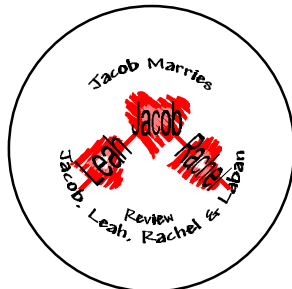
- A. Abraham Tested
- B. Hebrews 11:17 "By faith, Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.'"
- C. Abraham & Isaac

#9



- A. Stolen Blessing
- B. Genesis 26:4 "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed Me, and kept My requirements, My commands, My decrees and My Laws."
- C. Isaac, Jacob & Esau

#10



- A. Jacob Marries
- B. Review Memory Verses
- C. Jacob, Leah, Rachel & Laban

#11



- A.. Jacob Becomes Israel
- B. Genesis 35:10 "God said to him, 'Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel.' So his name was Israel."
- C. Jacob

#12



- A. Sold Into Slavery
- B. Genesis 39:2 "The Lord was with Joseph, and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master."
- C. Joseph & His Brothers

Sin's Pull



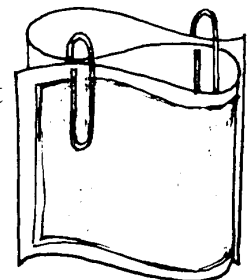
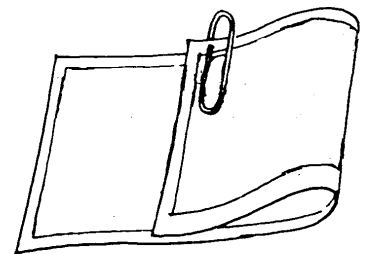
You will need:

Picture above, cut out

2 metal paper clips, 1 black and 1 white

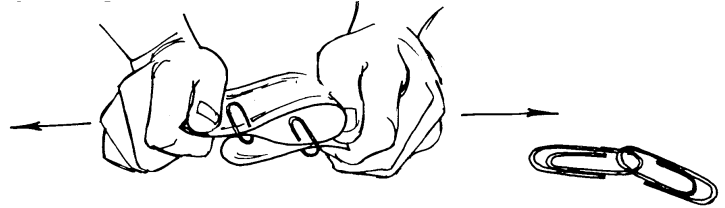
1 large red rubber band (approximately 3 1/2" diameter)

1. Hold the picture of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah towards the students. Review with the students God's desire for their holiness and how He wanted them to repent of their sinfulness.
2. Fold the right side of the picture over about a third of the way (the city will be mostly covered). Do not crease the fold. Clip the two layers of the picture together, with the top of the white paper clip at the top of the picture. As you do this, explain that the **white paper clip** represents God's standard for our lives (to be holy and obedient to His Word). (Show the black paper clip.) Explain that the **black paper clip** represents the pressures of sin that the city of Sodom and Gomorrah brought about in Lot's life.
3. Turn the picture over, and fold a third of the other side, still without creasing your fold. Slide the black paper clip onto the top of the picture, but clip only two layers together. Both of the paper clips should be next to the outside edges of the picture.

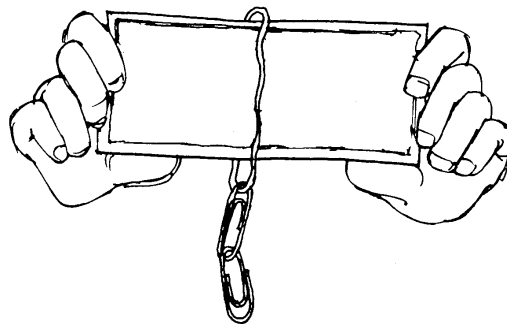


Sin's Pull continued

4. As you explain the pull that sin and sinful friends can have on our lives, hold the edges of the picture, and pull them quickly but firmly apart, saying something like, "It won't be long before sin or sinful influences will take hold of our lives and hurt our relationship to God."

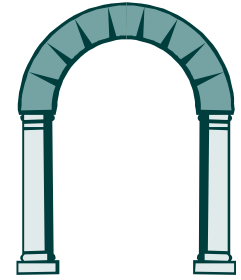
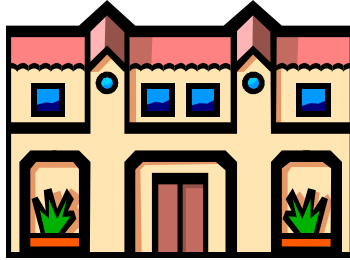
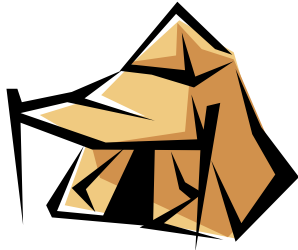


5. If you have clipped the picture properly, the clips will leap into the air and fall to the ground, attached to each other. Show the clips to the class.
6. Now do the trick again, but after Step 2, introduce Jesus Christ represented by the **red rubber band**. Explain to the class that when Christ came into the world to die for our sin, the power of sin was destroyed once and for all.
7. After Step Two, slip the rubber band around the picture. The rubber band should be big enough to hang loosely. Finish clipping the picture as usual, and pull apart the edges as before, showing sin's pull on our lives. This time, the clips will be linked to each other and to the rubber band. Explain to the class that when we trust in Christ as our Lord and Savior, it doesn't mean that we will never feel the pull or pressures of sin and sinful influences. Rather, sin's power has been removed and God is able to keep us safe from sin's path.



Three Steps Down

People don't become comfortable with wickedness overnight. Lot's entrance into the lifestyle of Sodom was gradual.



Lot "...pitched his tents near Sodom."
Genesis 13:12

Lot "...was living in Sodom."
Genesis 14:12

"...Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city."
Genesis 19:1

How might these small beginnings lead to more sin in our lives?
The first one is done for you.

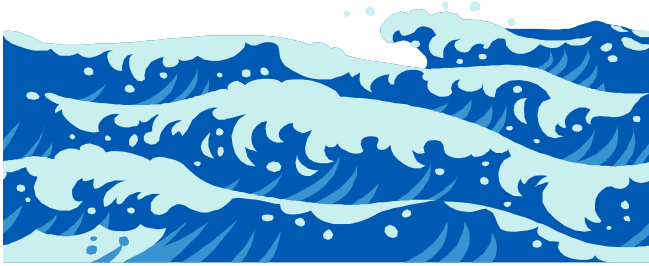
You hear a dirty joke, and you stick around for the punch line.	You laugh at dirty jokes.	You tell dirty jokes.
You notice that someone needs help, but walk on by.		
You notice someone is copying your answers during a test and do nothing.		
Your mom asks what you did all day, and you leave out one thing.		
You borrow a pencil and decide not to give it back.		
Your mom reminds you about your chores. You do them poorly with a bad attitude.		

How should you handle each situation differently in the beginning so as not to let sin get started?

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'
1 Corinthians 15:33

Two Judgments

Compare the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah with what you remember of the judgment in Noah's time.



What righteous man was warned of the judgment ahead of time?

Genesis 6:13

Genesis 18:17

How wicked were the people?

Genesis 6:5

Genesis 18:20,21

What area was involved in the judgment?

Genesis 7:23

Genesis 19:24,25

How many people escaped?

Genesis 7:13

Genesis 19:16

What deadly thing came out of the sky?

Genesis 7:12

Genesis 19:24

What was seen in the air afterward?

Genesis 9:13

Genesis 19:28