

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Let There Be Light

Genesis: The Story
Begins

Discussion Guide
Week #8

Small Groups
Transforming Community @ RBCPC 

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Genesis Series #8: Count the Cost

Luke 14:28-33 (TNIV)

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Genesis 13:1-12 (TNIV)

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. 3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and the herders of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. 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 was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (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.



Facilitator's Guide

Facilitator's Tips: Learning to Listen Well

According to Robert L. Montgomery, author of *Listening Made Easy*, the ten most common characteristics of a good listener are:

1. Looks at me while I'm speaking.
2. Questions me to clarify what I'm saying.
3. Shows concern by asking questions about my feelings.
4. Repeats some things I say.
5. Doesn't rush me.
6. Is poised and emotionally controlled.
7. Responds with a nod of the head, a smile, or a frown.
8. Pays close attention.
9. Doesn't interrupt me.
10. Keeps on the subject until I've finished my thoughts.

-Adapted from

SmallGroups.com



This week you will begin hearing about a new discipleship resource available at RBCPC:

RBCPC Faith Partners *Growing deeper in faith and friendship*

A Faith Partner is a person you invite into your life, your story, and the things you hold most dear – learning from each other's perspective on faith and life. This relationship stems from a personal invitation: ask a friend, a co-worker, or someone from your small group or Bible study.

Suggested scripture studies and book resources will be updated monthly and posted on the website. Hard copies available upon request. These resources are just suggested – feel free to create your own journey – the greatest value is in the 'partner!'

www.rbcpc.org/faith-partners

Genesis Series #8: Count the Cost

START IT

- Share about a project you started that ended up costing more than estimated?
- What's costly about following Jesus in today's world?

STUDY IT

- Read the Luke passage. What is Jesus saying about building a tower?
- What is Jesus saying about war?
- What is Jesus saying about being a disciple of him?
- Read the Genesis passage. Who is Abram? Who is Lot? What has happened in Abram's story up until this point in Genesis?
- Where were they? What conflict arose?
- How does Lot decide where to go?
- Why would he be tempted to go there?
- What were the people of Sodom like?
- What can happen to someone when they live in a place like Sodom?
- What is important about counting the cost in life? Why is it important to count the cost before deciding to follow Jesus?

LIVE IT

- What feels costly in your life as you follow Jesus?
- What might God be inviting you to sacrifice in order to follow him?

PRAY IT

- To become people who recklessly follow Jesus.