

Abraham

Read the Word

²² So the men turned from there and went towards Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 18:22-33

Study the word

- 1 Abraham asks three questions in verses 23-25. What do these questions reveal about the state of his heart during this time of prayer?
- 2 Abraham refers to himself as 'dust and ashes' (v27), asking the Lord to not be angry (v30, 32) as he undertakes to speak to Him (v31). What do these phrases reveal about Abraham's attitude to prayer?
- 3 Who decides to finish the time of prayer (v33)? Why is this significant?
- 4 What else can we learn about prayer from this conversation between God and Abraham?

Live the word

Although God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his family are rescued (Genesis 19). In what ways do Abraham's prayer and God's response motivate us to be a people of prayer?

Pray the word

Love God – Praise God for welcoming us to draw near to Him.

Love Church – Thank God that your prayers can build His Church.

Love Ilford – Pray for God to have mercy on our city.

Pray also for the specific needs within your Home Group.