

Genesis 18 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Three Men Visit Abraham

18 And the Lord appeared to him by the ^ooaks¹ of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. ^PWhen he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord,² if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a ^qlittle water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that ^fyou may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—^ssince you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs³ of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is ⁱin the tent." ¹⁰ The Lord said, "I will surely return to you ^uabout this time next year, and ^vSarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now ^wAbraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² ^xSo Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ^y"After I am worn out, and ^zmy lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ ^aIs anything too hard⁴ for the Lord? ^bAt the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it,⁵ saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The Lord said, ^c"Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be ^dblessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have ^echosen⁶ him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and

justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”²⁰ Then the Lord said, “Because^f the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave,²¹ ^gI will go down to see whether they have done altogether^z according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, ^hI will know.”

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

²² ⁱSo the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham ^jstill stood before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, ^k“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, ^lso that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! ^mShall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶ And the Lord said, ⁿ“If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, ^o“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, ^p“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.

Please discuss:

- 1. What is Abraham doing step by step in the story? Please make a list of actions.**
- 2. What do we learn from him about hospitality?**
- 3. How do you relate it to camp’s culture?**

בראשית פרק יח

א וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה, בְּאֵלֵי מִמְרָא; וְהוּא יָשֵׁב פֶּתַח-הָאֵהָל, כַּחַם הַיּוֹם. ב וַיֵּשֶׂא עֵינָיו, וַיֵּרָא, וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים, נֹצְבִים עָלָיו; וַיֵּרָא, וַיִּרְץ לִקְרֹאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל, וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ, אַרְצָה. ג וַיֹּאמֶר: אֲדֹנָי, אִם-נָא מִצְאָתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ--אֵל-נָא תַעֲבֹר, מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ. ד יִקַּח-נָא מַעַט-מִים, וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם; וְהִשְׁעֵנוּ, תַּחַת הָעֵץ. ה וְאִקְחָה פֶתַח-לֶחֶם וְסִעַדוּ לְבַכְּם, אַחֵר תַּעֲבֹרוּ--כִּי-עַל-כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם, עַל-עַבְדְּכֶם; וַיֹּאמְרוּ, כֵּן תַעֲשֶׂה כַאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ. ו וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה, אֶל-שָׂרָה; וַיֹּאמֶר, מִהָרִי שְׁלֹשׁ סָאִים קָמַח סֹלֶת--לוֹשִׁי, וְעֵשִׂי עֵגוֹת. ז וְאֶל-הַבָּקָר, רֹץ אַבְרָהָם; וַיִּקַּח בֶּן-בָּקָר רֶךְ וְטוֹב, וַיִּתֵּן אֶל-הַנֶּעֱר, וַיִּמְהַר, לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ. ח וַיִּקַּח חֲמָאָה וְחֵלֶב, וּבֶן-הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, וַיִּתֵּן, לַפְּנֵיהֶם; וְהוּא-עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ, וַיֹּאכְלוּ. ט וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו, אֵיךְ שָׂרָה אֲשֶׁתְּךָ; וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה בְּאֵהָל. י וַיֹּאמֶר, שׁוּב אֲשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ כַּעַת חַיָּה, וְהִנֵּה-בֶן, לְשָׂרָה אֲשֶׁתְּךָ; וְשָׂרָה שָׂמַעַת פֶּתַח הָאֵהָל, וְהוּא אַחֲרָיו. יא וְאַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה זָקְנִים, בָּאִים בְּיָמִים; חֲדַל לִהְיוֹת לְשָׂרָה, אַרְחַ כְּנָשִׁים. יב וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה, בְּקִרְבָּהּ לֵאמֹר: אַחֲרַי בְּלִתי הִיתָה-לִּי עַדְנָה, וְאֲדֹנָי זָקֵן. יג וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֶל-אַבְרָהָם: לְמָה זֶה צִחַקְךָ שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר, הֲאֵף אֲמַנָּם אֶלֶד--וְאֲנִי זָקְנָתִי. יד הֲיִפְלֵא מִיְהוָה, דְּבַר; לְמוֹעֵד אֲשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ, כַּעַת חַיָּה--וּלְשָׂרָה בֵן. טו וַתִּכְחַשׁ שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר לֹא צִחַקְתִּי, כִּי יֵרָא; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא, כִּי צִחַקְתָּ. טז וַיִּקְמוּ מִשֵּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַיִּשְׁקֹפוּ עַל-פְּנֵי סֹדֶם; וְאַבְרָהָם--הֵלֶךְ עִמָּם, לְשִׁלְחָם. יז וַיְהוֶה, אִמְרָה: הֲמִכְסֶה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה. יח וְאַבְרָהָם--הָיָה יְהִי לְגוֹי גָדוֹל, וְעַצוֹם; וּבְנִכְוֹ-בּו--כָּל, גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ. יט כִּי יִדְעֵתִי, לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא אֶת-בְּנֵיו וְאֶת-בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו, וְשָׁמְרוּ דֶרֶךְ יְהוָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט--לְמַעַן, הִבִּיא יְהוָה עַל-אַבְרָהָם, אֶת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּר, עָלָיו. כ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, זַעֲקַת סֹדֶם וְעַמָּהּ כִּי-רָבָה; וְחַטָּאתָם--כִּי כְבֹדָה, מְאֹד. כא אַרְדֵּה-נָא וְאַרְאֶה, הַכְּצַעֲקָתָה הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עֲשׂוּ כָּלָה; וְאִם-לֹא, אֲדַעָה. כב וַיִּפְּנוּ מִשֵּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים, וַיֵּלְכוּ סֹדְמָה; וְאַבְרָהָם--עוֹדְנוּ עֹמֵד, לַפְּנֵי יְהוָה. כג וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם, וַיֹּאמֶר: הֲאֵף תִּסְּפָה, צְדִיק עִם-רָשָׁע. כד אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיקִים, בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר; הֲאֵף תִּסְּפָה וְלֹא-תִשָּׂא לְמַקוֹם, לְמַעַן חֲמִשִּׁים הַצְדִּיקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּה. כה חֲלָלָה לְךָ מַעֲשֵׂת כַּדְּבַר הַזֶּה, לְהַמִּית צְדִיק עִם-רָשָׁע, וְהִיָּה כַּצְדִּיק, כְּרָשָׁע; חֲלָלָה לְךָ--הַשֵּׁפֵט כָּל-הָאָרֶץ, לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט. כו וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אִם-אֲמַצָּא בְּסֹדֶם חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר--וְנִשְׂאָתִי לְכָל-הַמָּקוֹם, בְּעֵבוֹרָם. כז וַיַּעַן אַבְרָהָם, וַיֹּאמֶר: הִנֵּה-נָא הוֹאֵלְתִי לְדַבֵּר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי, וְאֲנֹכִי עֹפֵר וְאֹפֵר. כח אוֹלֵי יַחֲסֹרוּן חֲמִשִּׁים הַצְדִּיקִים, חֲמִשָּׁה--הַתְּשֻׁחִית בְּחַמְשָׁה, אֶת-כָּל-הָעִיר; וַיֹּאמֶר, לֹא אֲשַׁחִית, אִם-אֲמַצָּא שָׁם, אַרְבָּעִים וְחַמְשָׁה. כט וַיִּסֹּף עוֹד לְדַבֵּר אֵלָיו, וַיֹּאמֶר, אוֹלֵי יַמְצָאוּן שָׁם, אַרְבָּעִים; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַעֲשֶׂה, בְּעֵבוֹר הָאֲרָבַעִים. ל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא יַחֲרֵ לְאֲדֹנָי, וְאֲדַבְּרָה--אוֹלֵי יַמְצָאוּן שָׁם, שְׁלֹשִׁים; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַעֲשֶׂה, אִם-אֲמַצָּא שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים. לא וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה-נָא הוֹאֵלְתִי לְדַבֵּר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי--אוֹלֵי יַמְצָאוּן שָׁם, עֶשְׂרִים; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית, בְּעֵבוֹר הָעֶשְׂרִים. לב וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא יַחֲרֵ לְאֲדֹנָי, וְאֲדַבְּרָה אֶךְ-הַפְּעֵם--אוֹלֵי יַמְצָאוּן שָׁם, עֶשְׂרָה; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית, בְּעֵבוֹר הָעֶשְׂרָה. לג וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוָה--כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה, לְדַבֵּר אֶל-אַבְרָהָם; וְאַבְרָהָם, שָׁב לְמַקְמוֹ.