

The Mystery of ...

In this game, the students become detectives. Working together, their job is to use a set of clues to accurately recreate a Bible story. The clues relate to (1) main characters, (2) the crime, (3) scene of the crime, (4) related details, (5) punishment, and the (6) lesson for us.

Prior to class, write all the clues on separate slips of paper and seal them in small balloons or envelopes. Also write the six different kinds of clues on a blackboard or chart for everyone to see:

MAIN CHARACTERS:

THE CRIME:

SCENE OF THE CRIME:

RELATED DETAILS:

PUNISHMENT:

LESSON FOR US:

When class begins, explain to the students that a serious crime has been committed. The clues are concealed in the balloons or envelopes, and it is their job, as detectives, to get all the clues, piece them together, and solve the crime. Draw their attention to the kinds of clues that they will be finding.

One at a time the students pop a balloon or open an envelope, look at the clue they have found, and decide what kind it is. They must work together until *all* the clues are gathered and classified. At this point, they must reconstruct the story, accounting for all the clues. Then have them read the story aloud from the Bible and spot the same clues as they read.

Finally, talk about the lesson for us.

Clues to The Mystery of ... Lot's Escape from Sodom Genesis 19:1-29

MAIN CHARACTERS:

(1) Lot, (2) two angels, (3) men of the city, (4) Lot's wife, (5) older daughter, (6) younger daughter, (7) sons-in-law.

SCENE OF THE CRIME:

(1) Sodom, (2) Gomorrah, (3) Admah, (4) Zeboim.

THE CRIME:

(1) "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." – Genesis 19:5, (2) disregard for warnings – Genesis 19:14, (3) commit adultery – Jeremiah 23:14, (4) walk in lies – Jeremiah 23:14, (5) strengthen the hands of evildoers – Jeremiah 23:14, (6) pride – Ezekiel 16:49, (7) excess of food – Ezekiel 16:49, (8) prosperous ease – Ezekiel 16:49, (9) do not aid the poor and needy – Ezekiel 16:49, (10) haughty – Ezekiel 16:50, (11) commit abomination before God – Ezekiel 16:50, (12) sensual conduct – 2 Peter 2:7, (13) lawless deeds – 2 Peter 2:8, (14) sexual immorality, unnatural desire – Jude 1:7.

RELATED DETAILS:

(1) eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building – Luke 17:28, (2) Zoar, (3) the mountains, (4) "For as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard." – 2 Peter 2:8, (5) "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. For we are about to destroy this place." – Genesis 19:12-13, (6) "But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city." – Genesis 19:16, (7) "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." – Genesis 19:17.

PUNISHMENT:

(1) struck with blindness – Genesis 19:11, (2) "Sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven" – Genesis 19:24, (3) never inhabited again – Isaiah 13:20; Jeremiah 49:18, (4) overthrown in a moment – Lamentations 4:6, (5) a waste forever – Zephaniah 2:9, (6) turned to ashes – 2 Peter 2:6, (7) punishment of eternal fire – Jude 1:7, (8) she became a pillar of salt – Genesis 19:26.

LESSON FOR US:

(1) "It will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for" those who reject the apostles' teaching. – Matthew 10:15, (2) "So will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed." – Luke 17:30, (3) "an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly" – 2 Peter 2:6, (4) "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials" – 2 Peter 2:6, (5) "(The Lord knows how) to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment" – 2 Peter 2:6.

In keeping with the mystery theme, the memory verse given to the children for this lesson was created in ransom-note style, from words and letters cut out of magazines.

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