

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 4: Second Chances

Lesson 7: Never Look Back

The Cave of Wisdom

The Burning Bush: Don't let the past destroy your second chance

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of "The Past". Our past can lift us up or tear us down. The choice is ours. When we fail God, he is faithful to forgive us and give us another chance. But if we focus on the failure, the constant looking back will blind us to the direction we are going.

Second Chances: Clinging to the past good life

Scripture: Genesis 19: 16-17; 26 and Isaiah 43: 18-19. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were having a merry old time. They had defeated their enemies, celebrated wildly, and lived for the flesh of life. These people were so bad that God's wrath was poured out on them in the form of burning sulfur raining down on the cities. A second chance was offered to the people, but they desired more the "good times". In Isaiah 43: 18-19, God pleads with his people to "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" If we keep our focus to the future and seek

God's working, He will show us the way forward to the dream He has for us.

Biblical Character: Lot and his wife (Lldeth)

Let the good times roll! Lot chose the soft life of the fertile land of the plains with great cities. There would be no more living in a tent for Lot. No, he would make his soft bed in a nice house in the city of Sodom. Lot was so comfortable, that God had to send two angels to drag him out of the city to safety. Do you cling to the past this way? Can you "give it up and move on"? If not, you may already be turning into a pillar of salt! Have you noticed that salt easily disappears? A little water, a little wind, a passing animal; so many things can cause the salt to disappear. The world eats away at it until nothing is left. The dream is gone.

Show the video: "Sodoma y Gomorra" from Youtube.com

Modern Character(s): Britney Spear

Fame and fortune often turns people into "salt" which the world wears down. Look at the life, so far, of music artist Britney Spears. Fame came at a young age. Older and with two children, her life seemed to crumble ... like salt.

Show the video: “Britney Spears interview 1999 on Rosie” and “Britney Spears Crying in ABC Interview”. Note the change from a sweet 16 year old to a frustrated, world worn artist. Turning into “salt” is not a fun process.

The Tribe: If we cling to our past life, it will blind us to what God is providing for us in the future.

Craft: “Pillar of Salt Shaker” See Appendix 8 Craft for instructions on this craft. The members are to place this craft on their desk at home to remind them that “looking back” can turn one to salt.

Recreation Activity: “Walking Backwards” – Have students try to negotiate and obstacle course walking backwards. Put turns and objects in the path. At an obstacle, point out “oops! I didn’t see that!” Walking backwards is much like looking backwards while trying to go forward. You can hit a lot of obstacles.