

1. When I make a mess of life, go back to what I was doing when things were right with God.

So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negev. Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. And he journeyed on from the Negev as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. Genesis 13:1–4 (ESV)

1. Go back to the beginning.
2. Learn from my experience.

2. Prosperity is a harder test than scarcity.

And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. Genesis 13:5–7 (ESV)

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18 (ESV)

The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech Lhate. Proverbs 8:13 (ESV)

3. Abram’s solution to conflict — Generosity

Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.” Genesis 13:8–9 (ESV)

1. Take the initiative in solving conflict.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:21 (ESV)

2. Don’t insist on my rights.

3. Be generous

4. The beginning of Lot’s end — Greed

And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among

the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord. Genesis 13:10–13 (ESV)

1. He didn't consider the location of the land.
2. He didn't consider the character of the people in the land.

5. When I feel discouraged, remember who holds the future.

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." Genesis 13:14–17 (ESV)

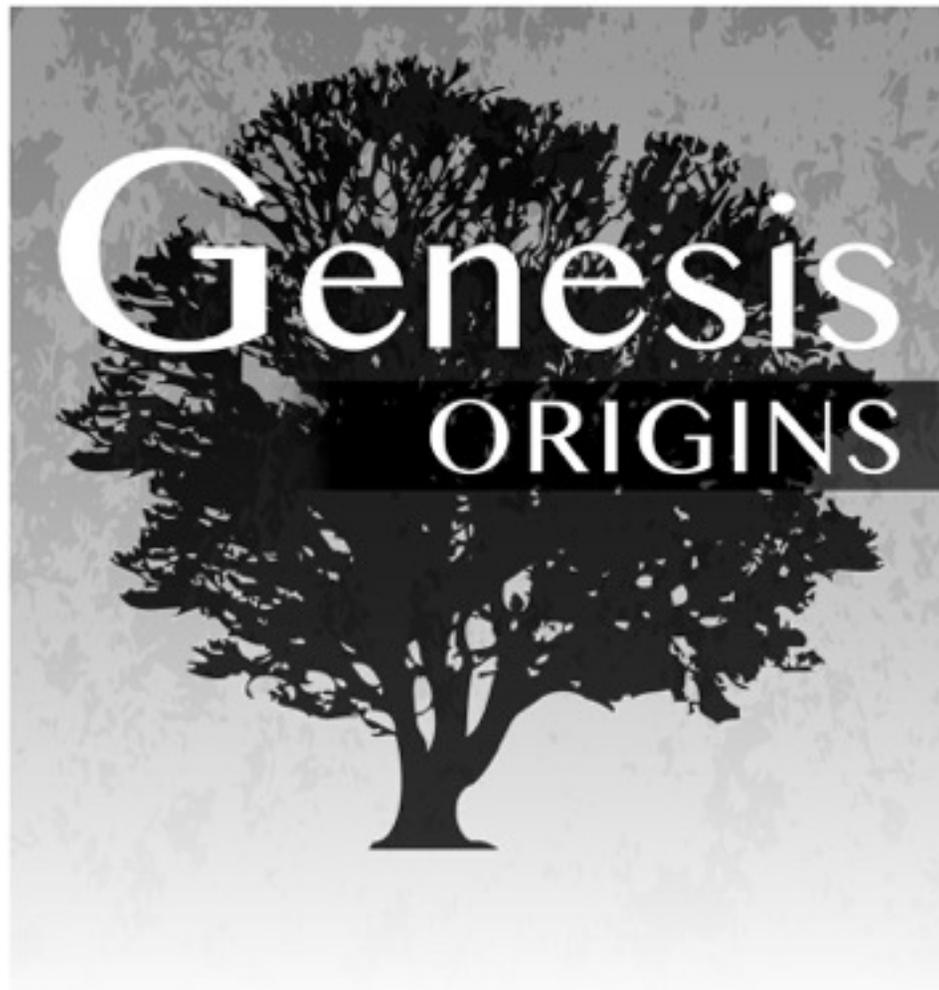
So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord. Genesis 13:18 (ESV)

How can I kill greed and build generosity?

1. Greed starts as small areas of selfishness.
2. Generosity begins as small acts of undeserved kindness.
3. Generosity comes from walking with Jesus.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Philippians 2:5–9 (ESV)

January 10 — Genesis 14 - The Problem of a Lot
January 17 — Genesis 15 - The Original Promise Keeper



Genesis 13 — Generosity



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