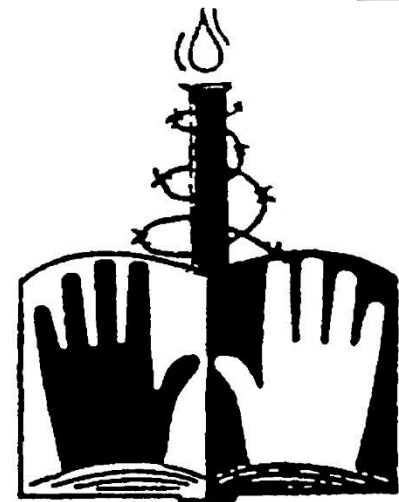


Re-reading the story of Sodom

An Ujamaa Bible Study



- 1. Listen to Genesis 19:1-13. This story has often been used to address the issue of homosexuality. In groups of two, share how this story been used to address the issue of homosexuality in your context?
- Let's study the story more carefully. Is this a story about homosexuality, or a story about hospitality?

- 2. This story is part of a larger story which begins in Genesis 18. The story begins with three 'strangers' visiting Abraham.
- Re-read Genesis 18:1-8. How does Abraham receive these strangers?

- 3. On the same day, in the evening, two of these strangers leave Abraham's home and journey towards Sodom (Genesis 19:1-3).
- Re-read Genesis 19:1-3. How does Lot receive these same strangers (who are described as both 'angels' in 19:1 and 'men' in 19:5)?

- 4. The men of Sodom, in contrast to both Abraham and Lot, do not receive the men/angels with hospitality. Instead, they insist on sexual violence against these strangers. Re-read Genesis 19:4-5. Why do they choose to use sexual violence against these strangers, intending to rape them?
- 5. Re-read Genesis 19:6-9. What is Lot's status in the city of Sodom? What does his status among the men of Sodom (19:9) tell us about why the men of Sodom threaten to use sexual violence against him?

- 6. In what situations/contexts in our societies do men rape men? Why do men rape other men?
- 7. Are men who rape men 'homosexuals'?

- 8. From the biblical text it is clear that Lot recognises that these are heterosexual men, for he 'offers' his virgin daughters to them (19:8). While Lot's treatment of his daughters as his property to do with as he wants is unacceptable, what it makes clear is that Lot recognises that the men of Sodom are intent of using sex to abuse and humiliate. The larger narrative (Genesis 18 & 19) offers a stark contrast between caring hospitality and violent sexual domination. Indeed, this is how other biblical texts understand this story.
- See how the OT understands this story: Isaiah 1:7-17; Ezekiel 16:49-50. See how Jesus understands this story: Luke 10:10-12/Matthew 10:14-15.
- According to these biblical texts, what is the 'sin' of Sodom?

- 9. Is Genesis 18 & 19 a useful resource for dealing with 'homosexuality'? What will you take away from this Bible study?

The 3 CBS processes/movements

**CBS begins with the
reality, experience and resources of the community ...
'community-consciousness'**

SEE

**In-between we re-read the Bible,
slowly, carefully and closely
using the critical resources of biblical scholarship ...
'critical consciousness'**

JUDGE

**=
Thematic-semiotic (in-front-of-text)
Literary (on-text)
Socio-historical (behind-text)
Thematic-semiotic (in-front-of-text)**

**... and ends with the
reality, experience and resources of the community ...
'community-consciousness'**

ACT