

# MOVE FORWARD

## The Potholes on the Road

Genesis 13-14

### The Pothole of Difficult Relationships.

So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. (Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the LORD **again**. Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. So **disputes** broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.) (Ge 13:1–7, NLT)

#### **Navigational Observations:**

##### **(1) Own it yourself rather than blame someone else.**

So disputes broke out **between** the herdsmen of **Abram and Lot**. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.) (Ge 13:7, NLT)

***It's not all about you; but some of it is about you.***

##### **(2) Deal with it, rather than ignore it.**

Finally Abram **said** to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen." (Ge 13:8, NLT)

***What goes unsaid goes unsaid!***

##### **(3) Be gentle rather than power up.**

Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's **not allow** this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are **close relatives**!" (Ge 13:8, NLT)

***When you power up in a conflict, it only makes the conflict more overpowering!***

##### **(4) Be open-handed rather than tight-fisted.**

"The whole countryside is open to you. **Take your choice** of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left." (Ge 13:9, NLT)

***The Navigational Principle: In order to move forward in the face of difficult relationships, we must seek God's heart and trust God's hand.***

### The Pothole of Difficult Decisions.

#### **Two-Dimensional vs. Three-Dimensional Decision Making**

Lot took **a long look** at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) (Ge 13:10, NLT)

#### **Navigational Observations:**

##### **(1) Look up to God before you look around at options.**

Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. Abram settled in the land of Canaan... (Ge 13:11–12, NLT)

**(2) Look past the immediate green pastures to the potential dangers.**

Lot moved his tents to a place *near Sodom* and settled among the cities of the plain. But the people of this area were extremely *wicked* and constantly *sinned* against the LORD. (Ge 13:12–13, NLT)

**(3) Look for God’s next step rather than sin’s next settlement.**

After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, “*Look as far as you can see* in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! *Go* and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.” So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built *another altar* to the LORD. (Ge 13:14-18, NLT)

***The Navigation Principle: In order to move forward in the face of difficult decisions, we must seek God’s heart and trust God’s hand.***

**The Pothole of Difficult Trials.**

About this time *war broke out* in the region. King Amraphel of Babylonia, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Kedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim (Ge 14:1, NLT)

The victorious invaders then plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and headed for home, taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. *They also captured Lot*—Abram’s nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned. But one of Lot’s men escaped and reported everything to Abram the Hebrew, who was living near the oak grove belonging to Mamre the Amorite. Mamre and his relatives, Eshcol and Aner, were Abram’s allies. (Ge 14:13, NLT)

***Navigational Observations:***

**(1) Deal with them, don’t just avoid them.**

When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he *mobilized*... (Ge 14:14, NLT)

**(2) “Trust” your way through them, don’t just “force” your way through them.**

When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his *household*. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer’s army until he caught up with them at Dan. (Ge 14:14, NLT)

**(3) Do what is best for people, not what is easiest for you.**

There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer’s army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. Abram *recovered all* the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions and all the women and *other captives*. (Ge 14:15–16, NLT)

**(4) Give glory to God, rather than grab spoils for yourself.**

Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you.” Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered. (Ge 14:19–20, NLT)

***Navigational Principle: In order to move forward in the face of difficult trials, we must seek God’s heart and trust God’s hand.***

**Are You Ready To Take A Step And Move Forward Today?**