WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: Standing Between
Key Scripture: Genesis 18:22 NIV
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/standing-between
Date + Speaker: March 23, 2025 | Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: What's one thing you would want to change in your community or the world around you?

The Big idea: Abraham stands before the Lord, interceding on behalf of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. This teaches us that intercessory prayer is not about praying for our own needs but rather standing in the gap, carrying God's burden, and praying for others, trusting that God will act on their behalf. It highlights how praying for others reflects God's grace, patience and sovereignty in answering our prayers.

Discussion:
1. Genesis 18:22 shows Abraham standing before the Lord as he intercedes for Sodom. What does it mean to stand "in the gap" for others in prayer? How can this practice be meaningful in your own life, whether for loved ones or the world around you?

2. Genesis 18:23-25 highlights Abraham's boldness in asking God to spare the righteous. How do you approach God with boldness in your own prayers? What is the balance between asking for God's intervention and trusting in His will?

3. Even in his boldness, Abraham shows humility in recognizing God's authority. How do you balance confidence and humility when asking for something important in your life?

4. In Genesis 18:28-32, Abraham repeatedly asks God to spare Sodom if a certain number of righteous people can be found. What does this persistence in prayer teach us about God's patience and our role in interceding for others?

a. How do you typically respond when someone asks you repeatedly for something? Do you find patience challenging?

5. Genesis 18:26-32 shows God's gracious responses to Abraham's requests.
   a. How do you experience God's grace in your life when you pray or ask for something?
   b. What are some ways you've seen God answer prayers in unexpected ways?
   c. What does graciousness look like in your interactions with others? How do you practice being gracious?

6. Genesis 18:33 notes that after speaking with Abraham, God left, and Abraham returned home. What does this tell us about the relationship between God and Abraham? How can we develop a deeper relationship with God through prayer, trust, and conversation?

Diving Deeper:

7. How can the example of Abraham's intercession in Genesis 18 inspire you to stand between God and others in prayer, especially for situations or people that seem beyond hope? What is one step you can take to pray more persistently for someone or something in your life?

8. How does the story of Abraham's boldness and persistence in prayer challenge you to be more courageous and confident in your own relationship with God? What might be holding you back from approaching God boldly in prayer?

9. Reflecting on the idea that it's not just about God meeting our needs, but about us serving His purposes, how can you use intercessory prayer this week to serve God and fulfill His will? What specific action or prayer can you take today to align with God's heart?