



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE WAY
OUT



Don't Look Back

OVERVIEW

When you are driving, what is bigger? The front windshield or the rearview mirror? The windshield is huge because you are supposed to look ahead. The rearview mirror is tiny because you only need a quick glance behind you. If you stare at the mirror too long while driving, you are going to crash.

Life with God is the same way. God has a big future in front of you, but the temptation to keep looking back can stop you from moving forward. Looking back at past mistakes, old relationships, or things God already pulled you out of can wreck your life. Jesus said it in three powerful words: "Remember Lot's wife."

Scripture Passages

Luke 17:32 (KJV)

Remember Lot's wife.

(See Genesis 19:1–29, KJV.)

EDUCATE

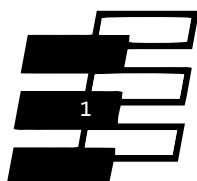
Point 1: Looking back starts small.

(See Genesis 19:1–11.)

Lot's story did not fall apart all at once. It started with small steps in the wrong direction. Lot wanted the best land for himself, so he moved toward Sodom. Little by little, he got closer until he was living right in the middle of the city.

That is exactly how the temptation to look back works. It usually does not hit you all at once. It sneaks in a little at a time.

Why do small choices matter when it comes to temptation? How can little steps lead to big problems?



Lesson 2

Lot wanted a life that looked successful. He cared more about what Sodom could offer than what God had planned for him. The closer he got to Sodom, the more his life started to look like the people around him.

Even when angels showed up to save him, Lot had been living in Sodom so long that he called the evil men of the city his friends. His heart had changed more than he probably realized.

Have you ever felt like you were getting comfortable with something you knew was not right?

Point 2: You cannot move forward while looking back.

(See Genesis 19:12–17.)

The angels told Lot to leave right away. He told his sons-in-law to come, but they laughed at him. His influence was gone. They did not believe him because Lot had spent too much time blending in. He had lost his voice with the people around him.

You cannot talk about God and live like the world at the same time. People will stop listening.

Even when the angels told Lot to run, he hesitated. He had gotten so used to life in Sodom that even when it was about to burn, he still struggled to leave. He was so tied to the world that the angels had to grab his hand and his family's hands and drag them out.

The angels gave one clear instruction: do not look back.

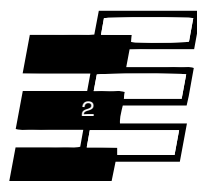
Looking back is dangerous. You cannot move forward while staring in the rearview mirror. When you keep your eyes on the past, your heart will eventually want to go back.

God was giving Lot's family a chance to start over, but they needed to keep their eyes on the things ahead.

Point 3: Looking back can cost you everything.

(See Genesis 19:18–29 and Luke 17:32.)

Even after escaping, Lot begged to stay in a small city nearby instead of heading to the mountains like God told him. Lot was always trying to hang on to something familiar. He wanted to keep a little piece of his old life.



Lesson 2

Lot's wife could not let go. She looked back. And in that moment, her life was over. Jesus told us to remember Lot's wife. He was warning us that looking back can cost everything.

What are some things people look back to that can pull them away from God's plan?

Looking back can mean replaying your past mistakes. It can mean going back to old habits. It can mean refusing to let go of people or situations that God has already called you out of. If you spend all your time looking in the mirror, you are going to miss what God has ahead of you.

Lot lost his home. He lost his wife. He lost his married daughters. He lost his influence. The only reason Lot was saved was because someone had been praying for him. Genesis 19:29 says that God remembered Abraham's prayers and rescued Lot because of them.

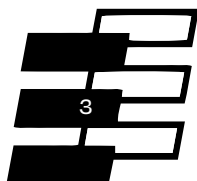
Who is praying for you? Who should you be praying for so they do not get stuck looking back?

Closing

God's plan is in front of you, not behind you. The temptation to look back is really the temptation to go back. God's way leads forward. Your windshield is bigger than your mirror for a reason. Keep your eyes ahead.

ENGAGE

Let's take a moment to pray. Ask God to help you stop looking back at old sins, old habits, and old regrets. Ask Him to help you see the future He has planned for you. You do not have to drive your life staring in the mirror. God's way is better. He is offering you the way out. All you have to do is take it.



DON'T LOOK BACK