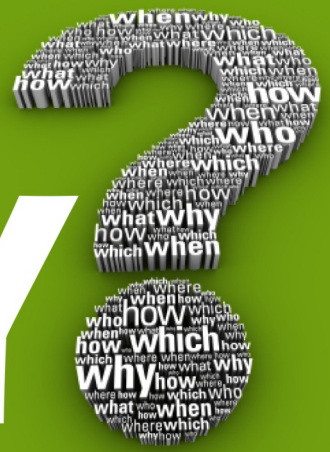
The big WHY



July 11, 2010

Genesis 18:20-26, 32

[20]Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous [21]that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

[22]The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. [23]Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? [24]What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? [25]Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

[26]The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

...[32]Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

2 Peter 3:8-9

[8]But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [9]The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passages: Genesis 18:16-19:29

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. What does this story tell you about God?
3. What, if anything, does this story tell you about why we are here today in this culture and day?
4. Does 2 Peter 3:8 encourage you about your current life situation in anyway? How?
5. In Matthew 11:23-24 Jesus speaks about Sodom. What do you think about what he says, and does it apply to us in any way today?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for one another as you seek to be Christ-followers in your family, job, world, and the culture around us. Be specific as you feel you can in your requests, and pray for each other throughout the week about this.

   [Note: if you're not in a Community Group and are doing these questions devotionally, find a couple of friends who would be willing to join you this week in praying for each other].

Check out our community groups online, or e-mail communitygroups@eastridgechurch.org!