

Discussion Guide

Series: *Origins Wk 3: Cain & Abel*

January 19, 2025

Big Idea



Sin has consequences that we journey through life with, but we do not journey through them alone, God is with us, protecting us and loving us.



Icebreaker

Share some about the “origins” of your family. Maybe, where were your father &/or mother’s families from? What did your parents/caregiver’s do for a living? How about your grandparents (where from/what do)?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Genesis 4:1-4a (ending with “... of his flock.”). What do you see as the differences between Abel’s offering and Cain’s offering? At the root there are differences in their a_____ and the q_____ of their offerings. This shows us that (fill in the blanks): *The Lord desires our v_____ b_____*. What kinds of questions does knowing this cause you to ask yourself when it comes to things like your time, talents, and treasures (money/resources)?
2. Read Genesis 4:4b-5 (starting with “*The LORD looked...* ”). What do we learn about God here? Does He care about what we offer Him and the how & why behind what we offer Him? Fill in the following blanks: *The Lord k_____ our m_____*. Read Mark 2:8. Jesus, being God, had the ability to see & know what? What are we to do knowing this & why? (Read Psalm 51:10 to help you in answering that).
3. Read Genesis 4:6-7. In what ways does God show care for Cain here? Recap the image of sin portrayed in this set of passages. How does seeing sin in this way make you feel & why? What sin is ‘*crouching at your door*’ or ‘*what sin have you already let in the door*’ (you may not be ready to share this with the group but confess it to God 1st and then maybe consider one or two people from the group you trust enough to tell and tell them, asking them to pray for you. Why? Read James 5:16).
4. Read Genesis 4:8-14. What things do we see in this reading that are the result of Cain’s surrender to his crouching sin (anger)? What, in the past, have been some of the unfortunate results of your giving into sin? What could be the negative result(s) of your entertainment of your current crouching sin (on you, others, God’s heart)? Is it worth it?
5. Read Genesis 4:13-15. In the end we realize that (fill in the blank): *God is a m_____ God*. Why can we conclude this from this passage? What does God’s mercy mean when it comes to the consequences of your sin (i.e. Will they necessarily go away? What does God promise here to Cain that you can find hope in? What does this indicate to us regarding what is in the heart of God, ultimately, for you?, etc.)?



Concluding Question

Read Romans 8:1-4. What is the good news of this set of passages? How should we live considering, or responding to, these passages?



Prayer

Sometimes in January, at the start of a new year, people make a 1st time or renewed commitment to spend time with the Lord, only to see that fade as the month/year goes on. Let’s battle in prayer against that on the behalf of anyone who made such a 1st time or renewed commitment...that they would remain disciplined and diligent by the power of the Lord and their participation with the Holy Spirit!