



Week Three – CAIN & ABEL

CONNECT

- What's the best gift you've ever given someone? How did they respond when you gave it to them?
- Have you ever had a major dispute with a sibling or friend? How did you resolve it?
- What are some of the best jobs you've had over the years?

WORD

Genesis 4:1–17 (NIV)

"¹Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"¹⁰The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."¹⁵But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. ¹⁷Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch."

THOUGHT

In this part of Genesis we will look at the building of the family unit. Chapter 4 opens up with the birth of Cain and Abel and goes on to describe both brother's vocations. We also discover the difference between quality and attitude when it comes to giving to God. John Maxwell, in his book, *"The Difference Maker"*, says that attitude can affect the outcome of any situation. Both Cain and Abel made an offering to God but one of them

gave with a heart and posture that was different from the other. This shows that God cares about authentic worship and that when we come to God, we must come on his terms and not ours.

DISCUSSION

1. What questions did this chapter raise for you? Which is most relevant to you?

- What kind of worship offering did God require?
 - Where did Cain get the idea to commit the first murder?
 - What was the mark that God put on Cain?
 - Other _____
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2. Why did Abel's offering please God and Cain's offering didn't?

- God preferred animal sacrifices
 - Abel put more thought and care into his offering
 - Only Abel had Godly faith and motives
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3. What was Cain's motive to murder Abel? (v.8)

4. When confronted by God do you see any repentance from Cain? What's the difference between Godly sorrow and Worldly sorrow? *2 Corinthians 7:10*

5. Why did God protect Cain's life? *James 2:13*

6. How do you view God after seeing how He handled Cain and Abel's situation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- If you have any unresolved issues with friends or family members, ask God for one thing you can do this week to take a step toward reconciliation.
- God loves a "Cheerful Giver". How can you improve the quality of your giving and your attitude toward giving this week?

PRAYER

- Ask God to use you to reconcile friends and family members to God and to each other.
- Ask God to help you to forgive anyone who has offended you, and to seek the forgiveness of anyone that you have offended.