

Small Group Handout - Genesis 4

Genesis 4: 1-7 (NIV)

¹Adam lay with 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." ² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If 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 master it."

What is an offering?

- What are some ways that people make offerings in our society today?

Why are Cain and Abel making these offerings?

- What do you think is the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings?

Scripture teaches us a lot about how we offer worship to God. Read Mark 12:29-30.

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

What does this passage teach us about worship?

- What are some ways you worship God?

From the Genesis passage, what can we infer about Cain's attitude?

Look back at verses 6 and 7. What is God revealing to Cain about his offering?

- Can you think of a time when you identified a difference between what you were offering God, and what He was asking of you?

Genesis 4: 8-16 (NIV)

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today 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."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

How does Cain's response to God show his true heart, and the consequences of unrepentance?

- How do you respond when convicted of sin in your life?
- Are there changes God may be prompting you to make in order to grow in a Gospel-centered response?

What is our community application of this passage?