



genesis

part 1: origins

Week 6: Sin & Grace

The story of Cain and Abel is about the reality of life in a fallen world. Sin is a constant nemesis in our daily lives waiting for a moment of vulnerability to consume us. But grace is a constant companion, always there, encouraging us to do what's right and covering us when we don't.

Discussion Questions:

1. If you have siblings, what was the rivalry like growing up? Did it ever get physical?
2. **Read Genesis 4:1-16.** Discuss the contrast between Cain and Abel's offerings. What does their story teach us about the nature of worship? How can we ensure that our worship is genuine, costing us something, rather than mere ritual or religious duty?
3. Cain's name means "To get, to create," and Abel's name means "Vapor, nothingness." How did Cain's name influence his identity? What does God's acceptance of Abel's offering say about his identity? Discuss the importance of rooting our identity in Christ. How does our understanding of identity impact our choices and responses to challenges? Share personal experiences of discovering or reaffirming your identity in Christ.
4. Discuss the role of grace in the story of Cain and Abel. How does God's grace manifest in Cain's life? Have you experienced God's grace in similar ways?
5. What does **vs. 7** (see also **1 John 3:8-12**) tell us about the nature of sin and the choice we have in it? Can you think of instances in your own life where sin was crouching? What are some things that have helped you rule over sin? Is there a sin crouching at the door of your life that you would like the group to pray for (ex. Bitterness, anger, jealousy, lust, etc.)?
6. How does this story point us to God's plan of redemption and to Jesus our "True Abel"?
7. Close your time together by giving thanks for God's grace.