

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families



## The Blood Cries Out

SENIOR PASTOR BRIAN JONES

HEBREWS 12:24 KJV *(You have come) to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

HEBREWS 12:24 NLT *You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.*

GENESIS 4:10 KJV *And he said, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."*

The concept that innocent blood cries out from the earth and speaks into the ears of the Judge of all the earth, is a repeated theme in the Bible. Every life is precious to the Lord. When life is unjustly taken, it moves God. He cannot ignore it. It speaks to Him, and the Spirit that searches the mind and the deep things of God intercedes and speaks about it. In this way, the blood cries out. One commentator said the word for cry (Hebrew *tsa'aq*) is used for human expressions of the most desperate, extreme need. Paraphrased, God tells Cain in Genesis 4:10, "The rivers of your brother's blood desperately cry to Me from the ground for revenge." Another commentator said that the omniscient God saw Abel's blood being shed, and was so moved by the slaying of this innocent righteous man, that He could not stop thinking about it. So the voice of Abel's blood cried out for justice and for punishment of this horrible crime. The blood cried and the Lord answered. The voice of the blood was satisfied. Cain was judged, and justice was served. However, our text today states that the blood of Jesus speaks of better things than the blood of Abel. Surely it is a loud and forceful voice that moves God more than the blood of Abel. When the blood of Jesus was shed at Calvary, it shook the earth and rent the veil in the temple. Surely it still speaks today. The question is: "What is it saying, and do I hear the blood speaking over my life?"

## Application

The blood of Jesus cries, "Forgiven!" The blood of Jesus cries, "Redeemed!" The blood of Jesus cries out, "Justified!" The blood of Jesus cries out, "Son of God!" And when the blood of Jesus is applied to our lives through repentance and baptism in Jesus' name, it cries out over us. Its voice is heard in heavenly places, and it should be heard by all those washed in it. The blood of Jesus is louder than the voice of condemnation and shame. It is louder than the voice of your past failures. The blood speaks of our new identity in Christ. Remember, to reject what the Lord's Word declares about our identity, is to rebel against the Word of God. It can also be the result of false humility.

## Discussion

1. Why did the Lord not accept Cain's sacrifice?
2. What was the result of Cain approaching God his own way?
3. How did the blood of innocent Abel speak to God?
4. How does the righteous and innocent blood of Jesus speak to God and us today?
5. How does the revelation of the blood speaking impact how we see ourselves?

## Prayer Focus

Pray that God's people hear the voice of the blood over their lives.

Pray that God's people see themselves through the blood.

Pray binding and casting out the voice of the enemy (shame, condemnation, failure).

Declare that God's people will never be ashamed.