

# ORIGINS

## SERMON SERIES ON GENESIS 1-11

**SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 4:1-16** // Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." <sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." <sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup> And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." <sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. <sup>16</sup> Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

### **The Story of Sin** **Genesis 4:1-16**

How does sin work?

I. The beginning of sin

- A. The offerings of Cain and Abel (v. 1-5a; Heb. 11:4)
- B. A failure of worship

II. The act of sin

- A. The selfishness of sin (v. 5b-6, 8; 1 John 3:12)
- B. The dehumanizing nature of sin (v. 7)

III. The end of sin

- A. The misery of an unrepentant heart (v. 9-14)
- B. The common grace of God (v. 15-16; Matt. 5:45)
- C. Jesus' blood cries out (v. 10; Heb. 12:24)

### **APPLICATION GUIDE**

1. How do you see your sin beginning with misplaced worship? What false gods (idols) are at the root of your sin?
2. What are the signs that you are worshipping self? How has your self-absorbed heart hurt others?
3. What are some examples of the dehumanizing effect of sin? How have you seen sin dehumanize you and others?
4. In what ways are you trying to fight sin on your own? How are you empowered by Hebrews 12:24 (the blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel) in your struggle against sin?

## MISSIONARY PRAYER // MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA



Mission to North America (a branch of the Presbyterian Church in America of which CCE is a member) exists to celebrate and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the United States and Canada by coming alongside the local and regional church in Church Planting, Missional Partnerships, and Church Renewal. Prayer is essential to discovering the will and call of God in fulfilling this vision, as well as appropriating the necessary power for carrying out this call.

To receive quarterly prayer newsletters from Mission to North America go to <https://pcamna.org/about-mna/prayerpage/>. Below are just two highlighted areas of the many prayer requests from their most recent newsletter.

Join MNA Metanoia Prison Ministries in praying for:

- More mentors in Georgia and South Carolina. We have many prisoners who are waiting for a mentor, so we pray that God will raise up more men.
- Two new mentor ministries, one at Lockhart Correctional in Texas and the other at Leath Correctional in South Carolina, both women's facilities
- The correspondence ministry, that it will be a blessing to the prisoners and the Corresponding Disciples in our churches.

Pray for the MNA Chaplain Ministries:

- Praise the Lord for bringing the largest number ever of new Chaplains added to the PRCC in 2019, making this the all-time largest number of PRCC/PCA Chaplains.
- Pray for continued protection of our Chaplains' religious liberty. So far, with the Lord's help, we have won every individual battle. Thank the Lord for the victories, but pray he continues to protect us from the evil one.
- As Paul prayed, "pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored," as our Chaplains preach, teach, and counsel in very pluralistic environments.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### What are they?

The Bible is clear that God has designed life to be lived in dynamic relationships of trust and love. For this reason, Christ Church East also meets weekly in homes throughout the city for food, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. While groups meet weekly, they are not defined by a night of the week or a time on the clock. They are a people increasingly living their lives together and learning how to love one another in gospel community.

### How do they work?

Groups are open to people in all seasons and walks of life. Each group provides child care so that the adults can focus on study, sharing, and prayer after a time of food and fellowship. On a regular basis, men and women break out separately to address gender specific needs.

If you are interested in joining a group, fill out a connect card, check the community group box and drop it off at the connect table after the service so that a leader can contact you. You are welcome to try several groups to determine which one might be the best fit for you and your family.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE READING // MARCH 9-15

Day	Date	Read
Mon	3/9/20	Luke 6:12-49, Psalm 148
Tues	3/10/20	Luke 7, Psalm 149
Wed	3/11/20	Luke 8, Psalm 150
Thurs	3/12/20	Luke 9:1-50, Proverbs 1:1-7
Fri	3/13/20	Luke 9:51-11:13, Proverbs 1:8-33
Sat	3/14/20	Luke 11:14-54, Proverbs 2:1-22
Sun	3/15/20	Luke 12:1-13:9, Proverbs 3:1-35