



A Home for Humanity Pt. 2

My Brother's Keeper

LifeGroup Discussion Guide
for the week of 3/10/2018

CONNECTION

- [1] Do you believe our culture in America has become more violent?
How is it different now from when you were a child?

If you are under the age of 25, did you experience a sense of not being safe during your school years? How did hearing about violence impact you?

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION

Violence is a powerful force that can be contagious (Proverbs 16:29, NIV), learned (Proverbs 3:31, NIV), reproducing (Matthew 26:52, NIV) and infiltrates like a predator (Genesis 4:7, NIV) into our lives...

- [2] According to Jesus (see Mark 7:14-23 NIV) and James (see James 4:1, NIV), where does the battle to overcome violence take place?

Violence does not begin with standing armies, generational ethnic hatred, longstanding social inequities. Violence is as close as our own hearts
—Andy Rau.



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APPLICATION

Pastor Rich explored Biblical insights into the roots of violence through the story of Cain and Able...how feeling disconnected from God led to a murder.

- [3] In the murder of his brother, Cain followed a definite sequence: Feelings of separation->rejection->anger-> leading to negative behavior. Can you think of an example of how this same pattern can work its way into our own relationships?

Our relationship with God is the foundation for peace in our heart and the antidote for violence...

- [4] What is the impact on our relationship with God when we try to earn His love and acceptance through our good works? How does this lead to feelings of disconnection and anger?
- [5] How can choosing to believe that God has already accepted us help us escape the performance trap and lead us to feelings of peace and connection with God?
- [6] God gave Cain an opportunity to repent and turn to Him for connection and acceptance but he would not change his attitude. What are reasons Christians might struggle with accepting God's grace?

REFLECTION

Jesus calls us to be brave in a violent world (Mathew 10:28 & John 16:33 NIV). How as Christians can we lead the way in changing our culture of violence and model a life of peace?



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