

The With-God Journey

Date: January 22, 2023

Title: Blood Cries Out

Text: Genesis 4:1-16

Description: Can we really love God if we don't love others? Can we really love others if we don't love God? This week, as we continue our series, *The With-God Journey*, we'll discover why a *with-God life* is inseparable from a *with-others life* through the tragic story of Cain and Abel. But even amidst life's greatest tragedies, relational conflicts and injustice, God offers us redemptive hope.

Small Group Questions

1. Many Christians long to have a "biblical family." Think of some of the families of the Bible, including Adam and Eve's family. What are these families in the Bible like?
2. Read Genesis 4:1-5. Why do you think Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's was not? (Read Hebrews 11:4 for a New Testament perspective on this question.) What does this story teach us about giving to God?
3. Read Genesis 4:6. How does Cain respond? Old Testament scholar and translator, John Goldingay, paraphrases this verse this way: "It made Cain very angry and he went into a huff." When have you been in a "huff"? Were you able to cool down and be corrected? Why is being in a "huff" so damaging to a with-God life?
4. Anger is a major issue the New Testament addresses. Read Matthew 5:21-26 and James 1:20-21. What lessons can we learn about not allowing anger to get control of our lives?
5. Read Genesis 4:7. This is the first time the word "sin" appears in the Bible. What is sin? In what ways does sin "crouch" or "lurk" at your door?
6. Read Genesis 4:8-10. Just as Abel's blood cries out from the ground, what other cries do we hear in our world today? How can we respond?
7. Just as Abel's blood cries out, so does the blood of Jesus. Read Hebrews 12:23-25. Why does Jesus' blood "speak a better word" than Abel's?
8. Pastor Tim Keller says, "Jesus is the true and better Abel who, though innocently slain, has blood that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for acquittal." Close in prayer by thanking God for the life and work of Jesus. Intercede on behalf of the cries of the world. Pray for one another.