

# Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact. To get plugged in email: impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Willing and Abel (#2 of 11) July 2, 2017

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.
- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God is asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?
- 2) What in Sunday's sermon resonated with you? What impacted you? Was did you find interesting or compelling?
- 3) Read Genesis 4:1-16. What do you find incresting about this story. What questions does this story raise for you?
- 4) Compare and contrast Cain and Abel. What similarities and what differences do you see? In what ways do you resemble these two brothers?

- 5) What does v. 7 tell us about the nature of sin? What implications does this have for us? How does community help?
- 6) Read Hebrews 11:6. How do we please God? Why is this hard to accept in some ways, and why is this such good news?
- 7) Read Hebrews 11:24. In what way does this passage help us understand that Jesus is a True and Better Abel. What steps is God asking you to take today?



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# **SEQUOIA NOTES**Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

## Willing and Abel?

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor July 2, 2017



John 5:39-40, Luke 24:27

### • The Old Testament is Jesus concealed. The New Testament is Jesus revealed.

Genesis 4:1-4 Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the Lord's help, I have produced a man!" <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. <sup>3</sup> When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift.

Hebrews 11:4 "It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts."

- Abel gave as a <u>response</u> to salvation but Cain gave as a <u>means</u> to salvation.
- Worship that God accepts is by faith.

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Genesis 4:4-7: The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. <sup>6</sup> "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? <sup>7</sup> You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

### Sin is seeking to control us.

Genesis 4:8-11 One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him. <sup>9</sup> Afterward the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?" <sup>10</sup> But the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!

Hebrews 11:24 "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."

#### Jesus is the true and better Abel.

Big Idea: By trusting in the <u>blood</u> of Jesus we are <u>forgiven</u> and made <u>righteous</u>.