

## 1. Intro

- The story of the beginning of everything helps us understand why things are the way they are today... the good, the bad, and the ugly stuff of life!
- Today, we'll be reading about two of Adam and Eve's sons, Cain and Abel. And we will see if the 2nd generation of humans turned it all around and if things gets better or not!
  - The "sin nature" spread to Adam and Eve's children and they too wrestled with temptations. **We'll see that sin always results in some form of death.**

## 2. Text: Genesis 4:1-16

### Genesis 4:1-5

- God **accepted** Abel and his gift/offering, but God did **not accept** Cain and his gift/offering.
  - Abel brought the gift God instructed but Cain did not.

### Genesis 4:6-9

- Cain let **sin** control him, and it ultimately led him to **murder** his brother.
  - When sin is in control, it always leads to some form of death. In this case, a literal physical death by murder.

### Genesis 4:9-16

- There are always **consequences** for sin.
  - God cursed Cain and gave him consequences for his sin.

## 3. Application

- Cain's sin had consequences. If you're contemplating giving into a certain sin (temptation), know that there will be consequences waiting on the other side.
  - **James 1:12-15** "God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **13** And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.**"

- Cain gave himself over to sin's control; it led him to murder. Is there a sin in your life that you're letting go unchecked?
  - Sin will never truly satisfy. It will always lead to some kind of death.
  - What behavior or activity or substance is trying to take control of you?  
**Consider a month fast** from it in order to reset your dopamine levels and then make a rational decision about how much of your life you will give to that substance or behavior.
  - **Romans 6:12-14** “**Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.** **13** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. **14 Sin is no longer your master**, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.”
  - **Galatians 5:13-18**
    - The Spirit of God leads us to love and serve others, leading to fulfillment and purpose. The sin nature leads us to love only ourselves, leading to emptiness and an empty pursuit of happiness.
- Abel offered God what God instructed and God accepted Him. Cain didn't, and God rejected him. Have you offered to God what He has instructed in order to be accepted by Him?
  - God instructs us to come to Him with the offering of faith in Jesus alone, specifically in His death on the cross to pay God's penalty for our sins. And faith that His rising back to life is our only hope for life with Him after our death.
    - **Ephesians 2:8-9** “**8 God saved you by his grace** when you **believed**. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done**, so none of us can boast about it.”
    - **John 3:16-17** - “**16** For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone who believes** in him will not perish but **have eternal life**. **17** God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”
  - Jesus did all the work to provide salvation! It's only pride like Cain's that tells us we can do something to help ourselves. God won't accept it. God asks that we simply and humbly trust in His plan of salvation through Jesus.