

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 4:1-26

Think about your past week. How has God answered prayer or worked in your life? What prayer requests do you have? Write them here. Then take time to pray about your requests and ask him to open your heart for today's study.

Read today's passage. Jot down your initial impressions of the passage.

Here is some context for Genesis 4:1-26.

It's been just a few short years since the creation of humans, and we've already gone downhill. Adam and Eve committed the first sin in Genesis 3, and humans have gone from eating fruit from a tree against God's command to murder in this passage. Once sin entered the world, it became so easy for humans to fall into sin. This causes a barrier to develop between self and others as well as between self and God.

What are your thoughts about the context? Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Then summarize the passage in your own words.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

This passage starts to provide some expectations for those who follow God. God expects that if we follow him, we will give him our best and our first fruits, not the leftovers. He also expects us to be honest with him when we sin. Humility and remorse are much better responses to sin than deceit and denial.

This passage also details some of the bloodline of Adam and his descendants, which continues in Genesis 5. God protects Cain from those who might kill him, but he also gives Adam and Even another son, Seth. Through Seth's line, God would bring about his plan to establish a people for himself and eventually to bring a Messiah to earth to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our sin.

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Write your thoughts here. If you have any questions, write those as well. You may find answers in future lessons, or you may want to find another Christian that you can ask.

Use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your own life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.