

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 4:1-26

As a group, share something about your past week. For example, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. Share the best and worst moments of your week (highs and lows). Write prayer requests here. Open with prayer for these requests and for God to open your hearts to this week's study.

What is the one thing that always make you angry immediately?

Read today's passage. Discuss your initial impressions of the passage. Write any major points here.

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? Discuss the context as a group. Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Have someone summarize the passage in their own words, and use this space to record that summary.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions as a group. Write notes in the space provided.

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? Discuss as a group. What questions do you have individually or as a group? Discuss potential answers.

As a group, use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your 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.