

Created for a Purpose

Genesis 4:1-26

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

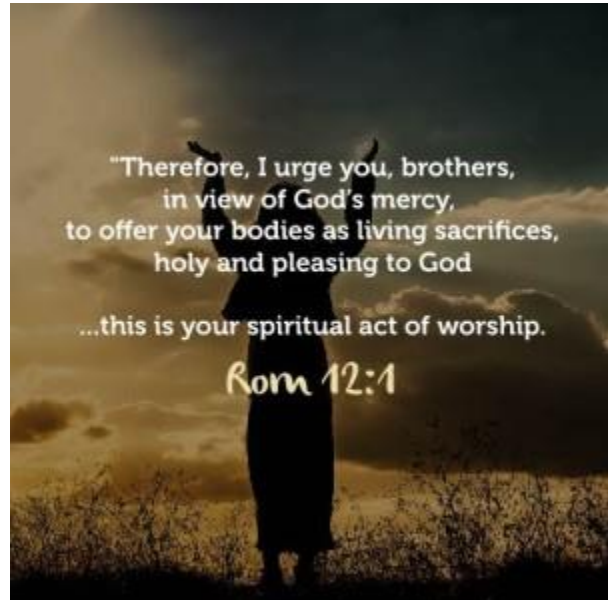
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will be looking at Chapter 4 of Genesis. Cain and Abel both offer sacrifices to God. Cain offers from the crops he has grown and Abel offers from the livestock he is raising. Cain's offering is not pleasing to God the way Abel's offering is pleasing. Cain is overcome by jealousy and pride and it leads him to sin. This week we will consider how we can learn from Cain's mistakes and guard ourselves from pride and jealousy. We must seek to understand how we can offer pleasing sacrifices to God, not blood sacrifices like the Old Testament but sacrifices in the way we live.



Genesis 4:1-26 (NASB)

Cain and Abel

4 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD*." ² Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. ⁴ Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. ⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." ⁸ Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground." ¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to

the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."¹⁵ So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. ¹⁸ Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad became the father of Methusael, and Methusael became the father of Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and *have* livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives,
"Adah and Zillah,
Listen to my voice,
You wives of Lamech,
Give heed to my speech,
For I have killed a man for wounding me;
And a boy for striking me;

²⁴ If Cain is avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

²⁵ Adam had relations with his wife again;
and she gave birth to a son, and named
him Seth, for, *she said*, “God has appointed me
another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain
killed him.” ²⁶ To Seth, to him also a son was

born; and he called his name Enosh.
Then *men* began to call upon the name of
the LORD.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why do you think Cain brought an offering to the Lord?

9. Why do you think that the Lord did not have regard for Cain's offering?

10. Why did Cain kill Abel?

11. Did Cain repent for his sin?

12. What do we see as Cain's line progresses? How does Lamech represent Cain?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. One of Cain's great failures was his pride. How can we guard ourselves against pride? In what area of life is pride most difficult for you?

14. We see Eve turn back to the Lord (4:1). How can repentance help us overcome our sin?

15. Cain became angry when he compared himself with Able and it led to sin. How is comparison dangerous in our lives?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES