

Cain Spreads Sin into the World

Genesis 4

Read Genesis 4:1-7.

Cain was jealous over Abel's offering, and God warned him of the sin in his heart.

- How did Cain respond when the Lord did not accept his offering?
- In what ways does a person's selfishness hurt God, themselves and others?

Principle: Sin hurts us and everyone around us.

Read Genesis 4:8-12.

Cain killed Abel and received God's just punishment.

- When could Cain have resisted temptation and ruled over sin?
- What truths about God and sin mean the most to you?

Principle: Sin destroys.

Read Genesis 4:13-26.

God showed mercy to Cain, but sin spread through his family.

- What do you learn about God's justice and mercy as He dealt with Cain?
- How does a seemingly small thought grow to destroy our decisions and attitudes?

Principle: Sin spreads destruction.

Review Genesis 4.

- What about God's response to Cain comforts or challenges you most?

Main truth: Sin spreads destruction but God offers mercy.

Scripture Memory

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." – Genesis 4:7

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Righteous

God is right in all He does. He has always been right and always will be right. All of His words and actions are right. All of His plans are right. God has no sin and is positively perfect. God never lies. He is fair, just and faithful in all He does. We never need to wonder whether God is right, so we can trust God when we do not understand. We do not always see God's righteousness in the world today, but He has promised that His righteousness will prevail. Because God is righteous, He expects us to be righteous. Even the best person cannot be perfectly righteous. But God sees His children as clothed with Christ's righteousness!

To learn more Attributes of God, visit mybsf.org.

A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

How can people know how to please God if they are born sinful?

God's Word shows us what pleases Him.¹ His Word also reveals our sinfulness and need of a Savior because we cannot keep it perfectly.² We see God's instructions in the Ten Commandments³ and all other commands in the Bible. Jesus summarized the heart of His teachings this way: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.⁴

Deuteronomy 30:15-18¹; Romans 3:20²; Exodus 20:1-17³; Mark 12:28-31⁴

Think About It

Why should we even care about pleasing God?

God is the only one truly worth pleasing. His Word reveals His character to us. If we live to please ourselves or others, we please only sinful people. But when we please God, who is perfect, we are satisfied and experience lasting happiness. Pleasing people draws us to sinfulness. Pleasing God calls us to godliness. Our highest purpose is found in loving and obeying God.

How can an old book like the Bible help us know how to live today?

Other books become old, but the Bible is always relevant in every age and to all people. The Bible is the living Word of God. Through the Bible, God speaks to us today. Unless we know the Bible, we can never love and please God as He calls us to do. The Ten Commandments reveal God's character and standards for all people in all times.

Can anyone ever really keep God's commands and please Him?

On our own, we can only break God's Word and cannot please God. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, who perfectly obeyed God's law, God gives us His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to hear and understand God, and desire to please Him. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are able to love and obey God. It always pleases God to see Jesus' character reflected in His children.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.