

# RELATIONSHIP

BECAUSE LOVE REQUIRES CHANGE

## WEEK 3 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

- **Have you ever looked up at the stars and were just in awe and wonder as to how many there are? Where were you at the time? How did it make you feel about God? Describe that feeling with your group.**

### CONSIDER

- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

### CHRIST

**Read Genesis 4:1-8 as a group.**

- Genesis Chapter 4 is the story of Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve. There are many lessons to be learned from this story, but one of the most important is how we handle disappointment, jealousy, and rejection. Cain was disappointed that God did not accept his offering, was jealous of his brother, and did not handle the rejection he felt in the proper way. As is often the case with God, He will provide a way out. God's desire is that we do not sin and He often gives us a warning if we are headed in that direction. In verse 7, God said to Cain, "if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door". **If sin is "crouching at our door" today, how does God warn us? How does He communicate His will to us?**
- What we see from Cain is also a lack of perspective. He was not able to see God's divine hand in operation. God's rejection of Cain's offering was a great opportunity to learn the true joy of sacrifice and reverence for the Lord. Instead of learning, he took matters into his own hands. Romans 12:19 says, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay' says the Lord." **Is there a time you can remember when you were angry and took matters into your own hands instead of trusting in God to take care of it for you? How did that work out for you?**
- The ice breaker questions in the "Connect" section above asked us to recall a time we recognized the true vastness of the universe when looking at the stars. How many stars we see is a function of where we are at that moment. If we are in the country, far away from the glare of the city lights, we can see many more than we could if we were in the midst of the

bright lights of the city. It's a matter of perspective. We see in the story of Cain and Abel Cain's inability to have the proper perspective about God's infinite goodness. He could only see what was near to him and that limited view caused him to react without the proper perspective of the vastness of God's love and mercy. In Isaiah 55:9, the Lord says, "my ways are higher than your ways". **What can you do in this season to help you gain the proper perspective of God's divine plan in the situations you are dealing with today?**

- One interesting thing we see in the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4 is how many times God asks Cain a question that he obviously already knows the answer to:
  - (vs. 6) Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?
  - (vs. 7) If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?
  - (vs. 9) Where is your brother Abel?
  - (vs. 10) What have you done?

**Why do you think God would ask you a question that He already knows the answer to?**

**Read Genesis 4:9-14 as a group.**

- Verse 9 of Genesis 4 gives us Cain's very familiar response after murdering his brother Abel when God asks him, "Where is your brother?". His response was, "Am I my brother's keeper?". Many believe that God was giving Cain a chance to confess his sins. However, Cain not only didn't confess, but responded almost sarcastically to God. **Would you say that there is value in confessing your sins to God who already knows what your sins are?**

**Read Genesis 4:15-24 as a group.**

- Although Cain clearly had to suffer the consequences of his sin, God is a God of second chances. God still protected Cain against others that may want to harm him (vs. 15), gave him a new land to live in (vs. 16), and a family (vs. 17-24). Since we have all failed and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), God has given us a second chance. **What do you think God wants us to do with our second chances?**

## **CALLING**

- We see in the story of Cain and Abel a clear lack of perspective in knowing and trusting in God and His ways. Make a point in this next season to spend time in God's word and His promises. Memorizing some of these promises is a good start:
  - God is always with us (Joshua 1:9)
  - God is faithful (Hebrews 10:23)
  - God is kind and compassionate (Isaiah 54:10)
  - God has a purpose for each of us (Ephesians 2:10)
  - God gives us power for our lives (2 Timothy 1:7)
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)***
- **Further Study:** Understanding the vastness of God can give us the proper perspective. Take some time to read these scriptures:
  - Isaiah 40:28
  - Psalm 147:5
  - Psalm 8:3-4
  - Luke 12:7