

Bible Study Questions

Genesis: The Story Begins – Life Outside Eden

Focus

Outside Eden, where sin and evil continues to multiply, the only way back to God is to call on His name and to put your trust in His 'serpent crusher' who shed His blood for us.

Read

[Genesis 4](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on Genesis which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in Genesis; the Pentateuch; the Old Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the main characters in this section?
 - Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. Review Genesis 3:15. In what ways do we see this verse beginning to be worked out in chapter 4? How is this verse ultimately fulfilled in Jesus?

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2. What does Cain's reaction of anger reveal about his heart and why it seems that his offering wasn't accepted by God? What does that teach you about your worship of God? (Cf. Hebrews 11:4)
3. Read 1 John 3:11-18. How does this shed light on who Cain is? Also, how does it help us to understand some of the application we should take from Genesis 4?
4. Verse 7 presents a vivid picture of sin's danger. How can you take sin more seriously in your life?
5. In what ways do you see God's grace and mercy in this chapter? Why is it important we notice that in a chapter like this?
6. What do the names 'Cain' and 'Abel' (as well as, 'Enosh') mean? How do they help us understand one of the critical lessons of this chapter? Which name better describes you right now?
7. According to Sunday's sermon, in what ways is Jesus
 - Unlike Cain? (cf. Hebrews 2:11-12)
 - Unlike Abel? (cf. Hebrews 12:24)
 - Unlike Lamech? (cf. Matthew 18:21-22)
8. What would it mean therefore to 'call on the name of the Lord Jesus'? (cf. Romans 10:9-13)

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?

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2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?