**Genesis: Back To the Beginning**

**Cain and Abel**

**Genesis 4:1-16**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1: Hebrews 11:4 (TPT)**

Faith moved Abel to choose a more acceptable sacrifice to offer God than his brother Cain, and God declared him righteous because of his offering of faith. By his faith, Abel still speaks instruction to us today, even though he is long dead.

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**Day 2: Proverbs 14:12-13 (MSG)**

There’s a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak.

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**Day 3: 1 Peter 1:18-19 (TPT)**

For you know that your lives were ransomed once and for all from the empty and futile way of life handed down from generation to generation. It was not a ransom payment of silver and gold, which eventually perishes, but the precious blood of Christ—who like a spotless, unblemished lamb was *sacrificed for us*.

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**Day 4: Psalm 37:8 (NLT)**

Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper— it only leads to harm.

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**Day 5:** **Matthew 5:22-24 (TPT)**

But I’m telling you, if you hold anger in your heart toward a fellow believer, you are subject to judgment. And whoever demeans and insults a fellow believer is answerable to the congregation. And whoever calls down curses upon a fellow believer is in danger of being sent to a fiery hell.So then, if you are presenting a gift before the altar in the temple and suddenly you remember a quarrel you have with a fellow believer,leave your gift there in front of the altar and go at once to apologize with the one who is offended. Then, after you have reconciled, come to the altar and present your gift.

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**Digging Deeper**

**1-5. Cain and Abel and their worship**. Cain (‘acquisition’) was a type of a natural man of the earth. His religion was of works, destitute of saving faith, a sense of sin and need of atonement (cf. ‘the way of Cain,’ Jude 11). How mistaken Eve was concerning her first child, when she said, ‘With the help of the Lord, I have brought forth a man.’ Eve may have thought that Cain was to be the fulfillment of the promise of Gen. 3:15, but ironically, instead of getting the Savior she got a murderer, illustrating the ignorance in which she was plunged because she trusted Satan for knowledge. When Eve gave birth to a second child, she named him Abel (‘vanity’), perhaps in recognition of the seriousness of the curse. Cain and Abel stand as the prototypes of the division between the godly and ungodly that was to be perpetuated throughout man’s history on earth. Though much has been made of the difference between the offerings, the principal reason God rejected Cain’s offering was because it was not offered in faith (Heb.11:4). Even at that early period in God’s redemptive program, true salvation is demonstrated to be by faith (‘without faith it is impossible to please God.’ Heb 11:6.)

**6-7. The Lord’s plea with Cain.** Just as God sought out Adam and Eve when they fell, God sought Cain. Cain, however, as a prototype of fallen man refused God’s offer of reconciliation, preferring to pursue his own solution. Cain’s actions reveal the plight of regenerate man, compounding sin upon sin in his rebellion against God. Rejection produced rivalry, which produced hatred and finally murder. In Cain, sin ran its full gamut, beginning with alienation from God, and proceeding to alienation from other men, nature, and even oneself.

**16-24. The first civilization.** Cain left the place of God’s manifested Shekinah presence above the cherubim eastward of Eden (3:24) and went out from the Lord’s presence,’ 16, taking up residence in the land of Nod (‘wandering’). Departure from God’s presence always involves the absence of divine guidance. *The New Unger’s Bible Handbook.*

**1. How does Cain represent carnal man? How have you witnessed the pattern of this man in yourself or someone else?**

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**2. How does Cain respond to God differently than Adam did when his sin was found out?**

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**3. The further Cain went down the path of alienation from God the further he walked from redemption. Could he have made a choice that would have turned things around? If so, what, when and how?**

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**4. What is God revealing to you through this passage that could impact you and others?**

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**Discussion Guide**

1. Summarize the events of Genesis 4:1-8.

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1. Describe how the punishment of Cain relates to the concept that God’s plan continues even when we, through our sin, work against it. What is the implication for us?

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1. What are some reasons Cain sinned? What is the implication for us?

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1. Read Genesis 4:6-7, Ephesians 4:26-27, and Matthew 5:22, and answer the following questions.
	1. What is the danger of harboring anger?

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* 1. What are some potential actions we cannot take if we harbor anger?

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* 1. Describe situations where anger is appropriate.

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1. Why do you think Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd?

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1. Read Genesis 4:4. Why is it that God looks at the man before the offering?

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1. Read Jude 11. What is the “way of Cain?”

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1. What can you say about the patience of God as it relates to the story of Cain and Abel?

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1. Summarize what Jesus teaches us about dealing with sin between fellow believers from Matthew 18:15-17.

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