



05

GENESIS 4:1-12

THE FIRST MURDER



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Have you ever realized you've picked up on a friend or family member's mannerisms, language patterns, or habits? We tend to emulate those around us. In a tragic turn of events, Adam and Eve's son—the one they probably thought was God's promised rescuer—fell right into Mom and Dad's pattern of sin. Genesis 4 is a haunting echo of Genesis 3, culminating in the first ever murder. Sin makes big promises, and we're often tempted to indulge in our sin similarly to how we're tempted by a plate of our favorite cookies. But just as one cookie tends to lead to more, when we feed sin, it grows. Sin is dangerous because it always leads to death and destruction.



CENTRAL **truth**

Sin is dangerous because it always leads to death and destruction.



EXPLORE

scripture

GENESIS 4:1-12

GENESIS 4:1-5

1 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the LORD’s help.” **2** She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain presented

some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD. **4** And Abel also presented an offering — some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

GENESIS 4:6-8

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? **7** If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door.

Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” **8** Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

GENESIS 4:9-12

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s guardian?” **10** Then he said, “What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! **11** So now you are cursed,

alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood you have shed. **12** If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE GENESIS 4:7

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

GENESIS 4:1-8

DWELL

When New Testament writers like John and the author of Hebrews talk about Cain and Abel, they make it clear that Cain had a heart issue. We all do! But just like all of us, Cain was still responsible for his choices and his actions. When God confronted Cain about his sin, Cain didn't follow God's words. The sin grew to astronomical proportions, and the result was the first murder.

← How does God teach about sin in this passage?

↔ How can this text help you be less defensive when a trusted person lovingly points out your sin struggles?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out Genesis 4:7 on a piece of paper. Then, "take a picture" of it with your mind and try to say the verse to yourself a few times without looking.

PRAY

Ask God to help you believe what He says about sin. Ask Him to surround you with people who understand the danger of sin so you can protect one another against letting it grow.

day 2

GENESIS 4:9-16

DWELL

Just as God did in the garden of Eden, God approached the sinner with a question. It seems it is always important to God that sinners consider what they've done so that they can actually recognize its terribleness. It would be a dangerous thing for sinners to continue thinking their sin wasn't a big deal! Cain's consequences left him without any doubt that sin is a big deal, but notice that even within this, God showed His kindness by protecting Cain from being killed by another.

↔ What parallels would the original audience notice between this narrative and what happened in Genesis 3?

→ What does it say about God that He is always pursuing sinners?

MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 4:7 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Praise God for how He grieves sin yet cares about sinners. Ask God to help you see how you are always invited to talk with Him about your sin.

day 3

GENESIS 4:17-26

DWELL

Away from God's presence, Cain began to "be fruitful and multiply." Unfortunately, Cain's great-great-great-great-grandson followed in his footsteps by becoming a murderer, too. The situation could have felt pretty hopeless, but the narrative jumps back to let us know that Adam and Eve had another son, Seth. Eve credited the Lord with this gift, and by the time Seth had his own son, people began to call upon the name of the Lord. He was their only hope for rescue and life.

↓ What does the growing sinfulness of humans in the days of Adam and Eve teach you about humanity?

↻ How can you look to God more often as your true Rescuer and source of life?

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words to Genesis 4:7, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but when something is weird, it helps us remember!

PRAY

Praise God that you are invited to join in with generations of people who have called upon the name of the Lord! He is our only hope in a world bent toward sin.

day 4

GENESIS 5:3-13

DWELL

Genesis 5 zooms in on the line of Seth, and it begins with a reminder that humans were created in God's image. Of course, our ability to fully bear God's image was broken in the garden. This underscores humanity's need for the child God promised in Genesis 3:15. With every new son in the genealogy, it's as if we're looking: *Is this the one? Is this?*

↑ What does this passage teach about humanity?

↪ How can these teachings inform how you interact with and think about others?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of Genesis 4:7 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Praise God for creating humans with dignity—then sending His Son to rescue them from sin.

day 5

GENESIS 5:14-25

DWELL

Seth's genealogy continues with the same old thing: a guy grows really, really old and dies, but not before he has some kids. That's the pattern until Enoch. Enoch walked with God in such a way that God spared him from death! He simply took him. Hebrews 11:5 helps us see that Enoch was a man of faith. He must have believed God's words and shaped his life around them in a remarkable way.

↻ What do you think it means to “walk with God”? What are some examples?

➔ How does Enoch's life inspire you to walk with God?

MEMORIZE

Tell a friend or family member that your memory verse this week is Genesis 4:7, and explain what it means. Then, invite that person to randomly quiz you at some point today to see if you can remember the verse.

PRAY

Ask God to help you see how you can walk with Him more closely.

