



Study #18

Questions for Genesis:

The Curse upon Cain (4:9-16)

^{NAS} **Genesis 4:9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. ¹¹ "And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² "When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴ "Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

DAY 1

1. Read Genesis chapter 4:9-16. What would you say is the main point of this passage? What title would you give to this passage?
2. Why do you suppose God asks the question that He does in verse 9? What do you think is going on in the heart of God that fuels His question?
3. Describe Cain's response to God's initial question in verse 9? What is wrong with Cain's response? How should his response have been different?
4. God eventually declares to Cain that "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground." What does this reveal about the character of God? How might this passage minister to those around the world who are suffering persecution under the enemies of the cross (think Isis, for example)?

DAY 2

5. What does chapter 4:9-16 reveal about the consequences for Cain's sin (You should identify at least five consequences)?
6. Why does Cain respond that his "punishment is too great to bear"? Is Cain's response an indicator of repentance? Why? Why not? What is your understanding of biblical repentance?
7. How do you understand God's response in verse 15? What does this verse reveal about God's dealing with Cain?

Day 3

8. What does it mean that "Cain went out from the presence of the Lord"?
9. What does this passage reveal about the character of God?
10. In what ways does this passage minister to you personally?

Options for teenage adults and children

Assigned teens should pick one option and come ready to share. Teens are free to use their creativity and come up with a different idea! Please allow your parents to assist you as you prepare for Care Group. This is a great opportunity for the family to work together in an effort to bless the Care Group.

Another option is to give the teen some time during the Care Group meeting to prepare one of the following and then have one of the teens present to the entire group.

- Take the time to rewrite the Cain story from the perspective of one of their parents. Share your story with your Care group.
- You have been asked to share a devotion entitled "Going out from the presence of the Lord." Your passage is Genesis 4:9-16. Prepare your 6 minute message to share with your family and Care group.