



It's easy to rush through life without pausing to understand our meaning and purpose. But to have a life worth living requires answering the Big Questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

The universe, life, order, meaning, gender, marriage, languages... everything we experience today started somewhere. In this series, we'll examine the beginning of human history and the Bible's answers to some of life's biggest questions.

Week Six: Sin and Civilization

Text: Genesis 4:1-26

When Adam and Eve chose to ignore God's word to them and go their own way, they discovered the truth that failure to acknowledge and obey God leads to sin and death. The horror of that reality was demonstrated when their first-born son murdered his brother. Soon after we see that as civilization progresses, humanity deteriorates. Although society develops agriculture, the arts, technology it will not eliminate sin or its consequences. But the brokenness around us is addressed as God's people preserve and prioritize the worship of God.

Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?

- Read Genesis 4:3-4; Hebrews 11:4; 2 Samuel 24:21-24; Malachi 1:13-14. What was the difference between Cain's offering and Abel's? How do these offerings reflect the value each man places on his relationship with God?
- Read Genesis 4:19-24. What do you notice about the progress of civilization and the deterioration of humanity at the same time? Reflect on our advanced technology, education, and government. Have these advancements changed the propensity of humans to sin against each other?

What are you going to do about it?

- What are some things in your life that reflect the value of your relationship with God? What sorts of offerings and sacrifices do you make out of devotion and love for Him?
- God tells Cain to do right or be controlled by sin. (See Genesis 4:6-7) What is the difference between “mastering sin” and “doing right”? Consider any areas where sin seems to be taking control in your life. How can you gain strength to do what is right? (See Ephesians 6:10-18)

How can others in this group help you or pray for you?

- By the third generation of the line of Adam/Eve through Seth, public worship became a priority. (See Genesis 4:26; Psalm 116:17-18; Acts 2:46-47) Why is regular, public worship of God necessary to keep from being pulled away from our devotion to God?
- Consider Tim’s question for us all: “How will I emerge from this pandemic, as a follower of Christ?”
 - a. Will my commitment to corporate, public worship be greater or diminished?
 - b. Will my service to and with the Body of Christ be a higher priority than before, or will I become more isolated and self-protective?
 - c. What choices can we each make now in pursuit of that future?

Memory Verse:

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?
But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door;
it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Genesis 4:7

How can we help our community?

Winter Storm Response

In the midst of the winter storms this week, God is at work. We've been so encouraged at all the stories rolling in of how you've been loving your neighbors and opening your homes. As the snow begins to melt, we face a new set of challenges—fallen tree limbs, cars not starting, burst and flooding pipes, and more. Let's continue to act together and serve each other. There's no better time to reach out to your neighbors.

Below you can request help, discover ways to volunteer, learn about our warming center, and find helpful resources.

<https://www.hcbc.com/disaster-relief/>